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THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)

VOLUME I—1946

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 21st January, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi, at Eleven of the Clock, being the First Day of the meeting of the Sixth Legislative Assembly, pursuant to Section 63-D(2) of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Secretary of the Assembly: Order, order The following Message has been received from His Excellency the Governor General:

"In pursuance of the provisions of sub-rule (2) of rule 3 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I, Archibald Percival, Viscount Wavell, hereby appoint Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Bart, G B E, K C.I E, M L A, to be Chairman of the Legislative Assembly with effect from the morning of Monday, the 21st January, 1946.

NEW DELHI;
The 12th January, 1946.

(Signed) *WAVELL,*
Viceroy and Governor General.

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official) then proceeded from his seat in the Chamber and ascending the steps stood before the Chair, where, he made the oath of allegiance.]

Mr. Chairman (Sir Cowasjee Jehangir): In order that this, the first meeting of the Sixth Legislative Assembly, may be fully constituted, Members will now take the oath or make the affirmation of allegiance to the Crown in the manner prescribed in the order in which their names are read out by the Secretary.

[The Chairman then occupied the Chair, and the following Members took the oath or made the affirmation of allegiance.]

MEMBERS SWORN:

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall, K.C.S.I (Member for Railways and War Transport),
The Honourable Dr. B. R Ambedkar (Labour Member);
The Honourable Dr Sir M. Azizul Huque, C I E. (Commerce Member);
The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member);
The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal, K.C I E (Member for Planning and Development);
The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands, K C B., M B E (Finance Member);
The Honourable Sir John Thorne, K C I E, C S.I (Home Member);
The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari, K C.I E., C S.I. (Member for Information and Broadcasting);
The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh, C S I, C I E. (Member for Industries and Supplies);

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, M.L.A. (Madras City· Non-Muhammadan Urban);
Sri N Narayanamurthi, M.L.A. (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
Sri V Gangaraju, M L A. (East Godavari and West Godavari *cum* Kistna· Non-Muhammadan Rural);
Prof N. G Ranga, M L.A. (Guntur *cum* Nellore· Non-Muhammadan Rural);
Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, M L.A. (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural);
Sri V C Vellingiri Gounder, M L A. (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot Non-Muhammadan Rural);
Sri R Venkatasubba Reddiar, M.L.A (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput· Non-Muhammadan Rural);
Sri T V Satakopachari, M L A. (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
Sri S T Adityan, M L A (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevelly: Non-Muhammadan Rural);
Sri A. Karunakara Menon, M L.A (West Coast and Nilgiris Non-Muhammadan Rural);
Mr Muhammad Rahmat-ullah, M L A (North Madras· Muhammadan);
Mr M J Jamal Moideen Saib, M L A (South Madras· Muhammadan);
Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, M L A (West Coast and Nilgiris· Muhammadan);
Mr R C Morris, M L A (Madras· European);
Sri M K Jinachandran, M L A (Madras· Landholders);
Sri T A Ramalingam Chettiar, M L A. (Madras· Indian Commerce);
Dr G V Deshmukh, M L A (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban),
Mr M R Masani, M L A (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban);
Mr Sukhdev Udhowdas, M L A (Sind· Non-Muhammadan Rural);
Mr G V Mavalankar, M L A. (Bombay Northern Division· Non-Muhammadan Rural);
Mr Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, M.L A (Bombay Southern Division Muhammadan Rural),
Sjt N V Gadgil, M L A (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural),
Sjt B S Hirav, M L A. (Bombay Central Division· Non-Muhammadan Rural),
Shri D P Karmarkar, M L A (Bombay Southern Division· Non-Muhammadan Rural),
Mr M A Jinnah, M L A (Bombay City· Muhammadan Urban),
Mr Mohammad M Killedar, M L A. (Bombay Northern Division Muhammadan Rural);
Mr. H G Stokes, O B E, M L A (Bombay· European);
Mr. Manu Subedar, M L A (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce),
Sardar N G Vinchoorkar, C B E, M L A. (Gujrat and Deccan Sardars and Inamdars Landholders);
Mr Vadilal Lallubhai, M L A. (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association· Indian Commerce);
Shri Sarat Chandra Bose, M L A (Calcutta· Non-Muhammadan Urban);
Mr Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay, M L A (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban);
Babu Debendra Lal Khan, M L.A. (Burdwan Division· Non-Muhammadan Rural);

Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal, M L.A. (Presidency Division Non-Muhammadan Rural);

Mr. K C. Neogy, M.L A. (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural);

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee, M.L A. (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural),

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, M L.A (Calcutta and Suburbs. Muhammadan Urban),

Sir Hassan Suhrawardy, O B E , M L A (Burdwan and Presidency Divisions Muhammadan Rural),

Mr Tamizuddin Khan, M L A (Dacca *cum* Mymensingh Muhammadan Rural),

Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad Ismail Khan, M L A (Bakarganj *cum* Faridpur Muhammadan Rural);

Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee, M L A (Chittagong Division Muhammadan Rural);

Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah, M L A (Rajshahi Division Muhammadan Rural);

Mr Geoffrey W. Tyson, C I E , M L A (Bengal European);

Mr C P Lawson, M L.A (Bengal· European);

Mr M A F Hirtzel, O B E , M L A (Bengal· European);

Sjt Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury, M L A (Bengal Landholders);

Mr Ananda Mohan Poddar, M L A (Bengal Mahajan Sabha: Indian Commerce),

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, M L.A (Cities of the United Provinces· Non-Muhammadan Urban);

Mr Krishna Chandra Sharma, M L A (Meerut Division Non-Muhammadan Rural),

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal, M L A (Agra Division Non-Muhammadan Rural);

Sjt Seth Damodar Swroop, M L T (Rohilkund and Kumaon Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural);

Pandit Govind Malaviya, M L A (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions· Non-Muhammadan Rural);

Shri Sri Prakasa, M L A (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions· Non-Muhammadan Rural),

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadan Rural);

Sirdar Jogendra Singh, M L A (Fyzabad Division Non-Muhammadan Rural),

Mr Muhammad Ismail Khan, M L A (Cities of the United Provinces· Muhammadan Urban),

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, M L A (Meerut Division· Muhammadan Rural);

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, C I E , M L A (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural);

Khan Bahadur Hafiz M Ghazanfarulla, O B E , M L A (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions· Muhammadan Rural);

Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, C I.E , M L A (United Provinces Southern Divisions· Muhammadan Rural);

Khan Bahadur Raja Mohammad Amir Ahmad, M L A (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions· Muhammadan Rural);

Mr Arthur Cecil Inskip, C B E , M L A (United Provinces· European);

Maharaikumar Dr Sir Vijaya Ananda, M L A (United Provinces· Landholders);

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, M L A (Ambala Divisions: Non-Muhammadan);

Raizada Hans Raj, M L.A (Jullundur Division· Non-Muhammadan);

Diwan Chaman Lall, M L A (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan),
Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, M L.A (East Punjab Muhammadan),
Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, M L A (East Central Punjab Muhammadan);
Hafiz Mohammad Abdullah, M L A (West Central Punjab Muhammadan),
Nawab Sir Syed Muhammad Mehr Shah, M L A (North Punjab Muhammadan),
Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj Syed Sher Shah Jeelani, M L A. (South-west Punjab Muhammadan),
Sardar Mangal Singh, M L A (East Punjab Sikh);
Sardar Sampuran Singh, M L A (West Punjab Sikh),
Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia, M L A. (Punjab: Landholders),
Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, M L A (Darbhanga *cum* Saran Non-Muhammadan),
Mr B B Varma, M L A (Muzaffarpur *cum* Champaran Non-Muhammadan),
Sri Bhagirathi Mahapatra, M L A (Cuttack *cum* Puri Non-Muhammadan),
Sri Jagannathdas, M L A (Balasore *cum* Sambalpur Non-Muhammadan);
Mr Ramayan Prasad, M L A (Patna *cum* Shahabad Non-Muhammadan);
Mr B P Jhunjhunwala, M L A (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Santhal Parganas Non-Muhammadan),
Babu Ram Narayan Singh, M L A. (Chota Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadan),
Mr Muhammad Nauman, M L A (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan),
Choudhury Md Abid Hussain, M L A (Bhagalpur Division Muhammadan),
Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman, M L A (Tirhut Division Muhammadan),
Mr. Madandhari Singh, M B E, M L A (Bihar and Orissa Landholders);
Mr P K Salve, M L A (Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadan),
Seth Govind Das, M L A (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions Non-Muhammadan),
Seth Sheodas Daga, M L A (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions· Non-Muhammadan),
Mr G B Deni, M L A (Central Provinces and Berar Landholders),
Mr P B Gole, M L A (Berar Non-Muhammadan);
Mr P. J Griffiths, C I E, M L A (Assam European),
Mr M Asaf Ali, M L A (Delhi General),
Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, M L A (Ajmer-Merwara General);
Khan Abdul Ghani Khan, M L A (North-West Frontier Province· General),
Sir George Spence, K C I E, C S I, M L A (Secretary, Legislative Department),
Sir Gurunath Bewoor, K C I E, M L A (Secretary, Posts and Air Department),
Mr B N Banerjee, C S I, C I E, M L A (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department),
Sir Pheroze Kharegat, C I E, M L A (Secretary, Agriculture Department);
Mr A C Turner, C S I, C I E, M B E, M L A (Government of India Nominated Official);
Mr S H Y Oulsnam, C I E, M C, M L A (Secretary, Education Department),
Mr P Mason, C I E, O B E, M L A (Government of India Nominated Official),
Mr H Weightman, C I E, M L A (Secretary, External Affairs Department);

Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan, M.L.A (Government of India. Nominated Official);

Mr. A T Naqvi, O.B.E., M.L.A. (Government of India Nominated Official);

Mr. B. R. Sen, C.I E , M.L.A. (Government of India Nominated Official),

Mr H V V. R. Iengar, C.I.E., M.L.A (Government of India Nominated Official),

Mr B C. A. Cook, O.B.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official);

Mr. S C Joshi (Government of India· Nominated Official);

Mr. E S. A. Krishnamoorthy, M L A (Government of India: Nominated Official);

Lt -Col Dr J. C Chatterjee, M.L A. (Nominated Non-Official);

Mr S Guruswami, M L A (Nominated Non-Official);

Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan Bhattacharya, O B.E., M L.A. (Nominated Non-Official);

Chaudhri Sri Chand, M L A (Nominated Non-Official);

Khan Bahadur Sharbat Khan, C I.E , M L A (Nominated Non-Official);

Raja Bahadur Ramchandra Mardaraj Deo, M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official);

Captain Sardar Harendra Singh, M L.A (Nominated Non-Official);

Colonel Kumar Shri Himmatsinhji, C.I E , M.L A. (Nominated Non-Official).

Mr. Chairman: If any Honourable Member has come late he may come to the table and take the oath of allegiance.

(There was no such Member)

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Information promised in reply to a supplementary question to Starred Question No 279, asked by Mr H A Sathar H Essak Sait, on the 12th August, 1943

DAMAGE TO GHULAM MOHIUDDIN KHAN'S GARDEN

In the Court of D Falshaw, Esquire, I C S , President, Improvement Trust Tribunal, Delhi

Land Acquisition Case No. 19 of 1943

In the award No 277/493
Reference under section 31(2) of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894

The Governor General in Council

versus

Hafiz Ghulam Mohd s/o Abdul Rehman, 2 Misbah Uddin husband, 3 Amir Ali son mortgagee, 4 Ahtasham-ul-Haq, mortgagee, heirs of Must Ahmadi Begum, 5 Mst Kulsum Begam d/o Abdul Rehman Waqfi Sabilullah under the management of Ghulam Mohd Mutawalli Sayyads of Delhi

This is a reference under section 31(2) of the Land Acquisition Act.

A piece of land situated in Sadhoran Kalan has been acquired on behalf of the Improvement Trust in pursuance of its scheme for an 80 ft West Circular Road A portion of the land acquired admittedly belongs to Hafiz Ghulam Mohd etc while the ownership of the remaining portion of the land measuring 4 bighas 10 biswas is disputed between Hafiz Ghulam Mohd , etc , on the one hand and the Government on the other The position of the Government is that the land in dispute forms part of khasra No 207 which belonged to the Government and formed a pre-existing road, it being alleged that at some time during the past Hafiz Ghulam Mohd etc or their predecessor had encroached on Kh No 207 to the extent of the land in dispute On the other hand the position of Hafiz Ghulam Mohd. etc to whom I shall refer as the respondents, is that there had been no encroachment and that the land in dispute forms part of khasra No 199 At the instance of the respondents Lala Amir Chand, the Tahsildar of Delhi, was appointed as a Local Commissioner to carry out measurements at the spot and report His report was in favour of the respondents. On the other hand the Government has relied on the evidence of R S L Om Prakash, Land Acquisition Collector and Lala Kali Ram, a Tehsildar of the Improvement Trust, who have stated that they carried out measurements at the spot and came to the conclusion that the land in dispute formed part of khasra No. 207 According to the *Shajra Kishtwar*

prepared at the time of the Settlement of 1908-9 Kh No 207 consisted of a long strip of land measuring 132 gathas along the north western side and 134 gathas on the south eastern boundary its width being variable The only measurements shown are on the north-eastern and south-western sides, the respective measurements being eight and seventeen gathas The local commissioner found that these measurements were correct at the spot but he found that the measurements of some of the other khasra numbers in the vicinity did not tally with those as shown in the *Shajra Kishtwar* in which it was clear that at some time or other in the past mistakes had been made In the southern boundary of kh No 219 for instance which was shown as measuring 39 gathas there was a difference of seven gathas, and in the case of northern boundary of kh No. 209 the figure 49 gathas is entered in the field book and shajra, where as at the spot the measurement was found to be only 39 gathas Moreover in the case of kh No. 192, i.e , the respondents' land, the southern boundary of the portions marked D and C in the map C 2 were shown as 51 gathas whereas at the spot it measured only 45 gathas In the circumstances as there appeared to be at the most a difference of two gathas in the width of kh No 207 where the encroachment was alleged to have taken place, and it was evident that the respondents had been in possession of the land for a very long time, the Tahsildar came to the conclusion that no encroachment was proved to have taken place From the larger scale plan on the file it would appear that at its widest point the alleged encroachment was of five gathas or 41'-3" On the other hand the Government witnesses based their arguments on the fact that the south-western corner of kh No 222 and the north eastern corner of kh No 208 were fixed points for the purpose of taking measurements as there were very old boundary walls existing on these points At the same time R S L Om Prakash admitted that mistakes had been made regarding the measurements in the past and that he had not measured the southern side of the portions marked C & D of kh No 199, while L Kali Ram admitted that he had measured the southern sides of C & D and that his measurements did not agree with the measurements in the Revenue records, and he made the further admission that if the measurements in the Shajra were correct a portion of the path fell in khasra No 199 The question is somewhat difficult owing to the mistakes previously made in the measurements of the boundaries and the fact that some indication of the width of kh. No 207 at about its middle point was not previously included in the records, but on the whole I am of the opinion that the Government has failed to prove that any encroachment has taken place, and I accordingly hold that the respondents are the owners of the land in dispute and are entitled to receive whatever compensation is awarded for it A date may now be fixed for reference under section 18 of the Land Acquisition Act and the parties should be informed The Government will pay the costs of the respondents Pleader's fee Rs 30

(Sd.) D. FALSHAW,
President, Improvement Trust Tribunal, Delhi.

Announced
Dated 15th March 1945

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 85, asked by Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani, on the 3rd November, 1944

PROGRAMME FOR POSTWAR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Strength of Planning Organisation under Central and Provincial Governments (14-4-1945)

I CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

Planning and Development Department
Honourable Member
Secretary
1—Joint Secretary
2—Deputy Secretaries
1—Under Secretary
2—Assistant Secretaries
1—Adviser on Mineral Development
1—Economist
1—Industrial Adviser
1—Assistant to the Industrial Adviser
5—Deputy Industrial Advisers
3—Assistant Industrial Advisers

Home Department
1—Officer on Special Duty (Reorganisation of Services)

Education, Health and Lands Department
3—Deputy Education Advisers
3—Assistant Education Advisers
1—Liaison Officer, U. K
1—Liaison Officer, U S. A
1—Assistant Secretary
(Posts sanctioned but not yet filled).
1—Dairy Development Adviser to the Govt of India
1—Fruit Development Adviser to the Govt of India
1—Fisheries Development Adviser
1—Inspector General of Forests (part-time)

War Transport Department.

1—Chief Controller of Road Transport and Development
1—Consulting Engineer (Roads)
1—Controller of Road Transport
1—Assistant Consulting Engineer (Roads)
1—Engineer Officer
1—Assistant Secretary

Labour Department.

1—Superintending Geologist
1—Geologist.
9—Assistant Geologists
1—Geo-Physicist
1—Mining Engineer
1—Assistant Mining Engineer
} Geological Survey of India

1—Consulting Engineer for Waterways and Irrigation
1—Chairman, Central Technical Power Board
1—Hydro-Electric Member
1—Utilisation Member
2—Part-time Members
1—Project Officer—Grade 'A'
1—Project Officer—Grade 'B'
1—Project Officer—Grade 'C'
1—Secretary and Treasurer
} Central Technical Power Board.

Posts and Air Department.

1—Officer on Special Duty.
1—Engineer Officer
1—Scientific Assistant to the Chief Inspector of Aircraft
} Civil Aviation

Information and Broadcasting Department

1—Chief Engineer, All-India Radio
1—Officer on Special Duty, All-India Radio

Commerce Department.

1—Joint Secretary
1—Additional Under Secretary.

Finance Department.

1—Additional Secretary
1—Deputy Secretary.
1—Under Secretary.

Defence Department

1—Director.
3—Assistant Adjutant Generals
3—Deputy Assistant Adjutant Generals.
9—Staff Captains
1—Officer Supervisor
9—Service Resettlement Liaison Officers

Railway Department (Railway Board).

1—Member Engineering (Part-time).
1—Officer on Special Duty.
1—Director Rail-Road Co-ordination
1—Senior Deputy Director, Finance, Rail-Road Co-ordination.

Food Department.

1—Officer on Special Duty.
1—Research Officer
2—Technical Assistants.

External Affairs Department.
Supply Department.
War Department.
Industries and Civil Supplies Department.
Department of Commonwealth Relations.
} No separate staff for planning

II. PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

Madras

1—Commissioner for Post-war Reconstruction (Part-time)
1—Secretary to Government
1—Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies.
1—Assistant Secretary
1—Special Officer
1—Road Development Engineer
1—Assistant Engineer.
1—Special Officer.
1—First Class Health Officer
1—Assistant Surgeon
2—Entomological Assistants

1—Reconstruction Commissioner and Secretary to Govt.
1—Deputy Secretary.
1—Assistant Secretary (Reconstruction Deptt.)
3—Taluka Planning Officers
1—Superintending Engineer
6—Executive Engineers (including Under Secretary)
15—Deputy Engineers
1—Special Officer Reconstruction Finance
2—Special Officers in Bombay Educational Service
1—Special Officer for electric grid
3—Senior Assistant Engineers
2—Deputy Directors of Agriculture in Class I
11—Bombay Agricultural Service Officers in Class II
1—Mechanical and Transport Engineer
2—Land Improvement Officers
11—Survey Engineers
5—Dry Farming Officers
1—Accounts Officer
1—Divisional Forest Officer in Class I
3—Sub-Divisional Forest Officers in Class II.
1—Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies

Bengal

1—Commissioner
1—Secretary
6—Special Officers

United Provinces

Agricultural Department

2—Secretaries to Govt (Part-time)
3—Indian Agricultural Service
14—U.P Agricultural Service, Class I
70—U.P Agricultural Service, Class II
1—Ex-cadre post

Animal Husbandry.

1—Director, Animal Husbandry Department
1—Cattle Development Officer, Class I.
1—Fisheries Development Officer, Class I.
1—Assistant Fisheries Development Officer, Class II
1—Poultry Development Officer, Class II.
1—Ghee Marketing Officer, Class II

Rural Development

10—Divisional Superintendents

Co-operative Irrigation.

1—Special Development Chief Engineer

Punjab

1—Secretary to Government (Also special staff under certain Heads of Departments)

Bihar.

1—Development Commissioner

Central Provinces and Berar—(8-12-44.)

1—Post War Reconstruction Commissioner.
Also O.S.Ds in Education, P. W and Agricultural Developments.

Assam.

1—Post War Reconstruction Commissioner (Part-time).

North-West Frontier Province.
1—Commissioner and Secretary for Post war Planning in the North-West Frontier Province and Tribal Areas.
1—Colonization Officer.
2—Executive Engineers
3—Two Assistant Engineers (S D Os)
1—Assistant Conservator of Forests.

Orissa.
1—Secretary to Govt for Post-war Planning and Reconstruction
1—Special Engineer

Sind.
1—Development Officer (Part-time)

Baluchistan.
1—Special Officer, Post-war Planning

Delhi.
3—Special Officers (for Public Health, Education and Poultry).

Ajmer-Merwara
1—Post War Reconstruction Officer (Part-time)

Coorg
1—Part-time Secretary to Post-war Reconstruction (General) Committee

Note.—Ministerial and Inferior staff have not been included

This information has naturally taken time to collect and is not therefore entirely up-to-date and certain additional Officers have no doubt since been appointed for full time or part-time work in connection with post-war development planning

Information promised in reply to supplementaries to Starred Question No. 238, asked by Mr Manu Subedar, on the 10th November 1944

Rise in Prices of Milk, Meat and Cattle

Enquiries made from various Provincial Governments and local administrations to show that rural transport in most of the places was affected to some extent by shortage of cattle but not seriously dislocated except perhaps in a few places A summary of the replies received is appended

It appears from the figures available that the *aman* crop in 1944-45 was 1 75 million tons less than that of the bumper crop of 1943-44 This smaller crop is stated to be due not to shortage of plough cattle but to unfavourable weather conditions, in particular inadequate rainfall in September—October 1944

Summary of the replies received from the Provincial Governments on the question whether rural transport in the Provinces has been dislocated by shortage of cattle.

1 *Assam.*—Rural transport not seriously dislocated What has happened is that the demand on the existing cattle has increased, especially in areas where military units were concentrated

2 *Bengal.*—Adversely affected by general shortage of cattle, but not dislocated

3 *Bihar*—Does not seem to be seriously dislocated

4. *Bombay.*—Not dislocated to any appreciable extent

5 *C P. & Berar*—Though rural transport has not been seriously dislocated it has become very expensive owing to the all-round rise in prices and the difficulty in obtaining iron and steel for wheels, tyres, axles, etc

6 *Madras.*—Owing to war conditions the demand for bullock power for road traffic purposes has considerably increased This increased demand has been met to some extent by an increase in the number of work bullocks as well as by the working of more dry cows Inspite of this the number of work cattle available is not sufficient to meet the increased demand in full but has prevented serious dislocation of transport The Madras Government estimate that dislocation or reduction in bullock transport amounted to about 20 per cent to 40 per cent, consequent upon the shortage of cattle and high prices demanded for them

7 *N. W. F. P.*—Not seriously affected The transport in the hilly tracts is generally by mules and pack ponies and in the plains by camels, lorries and tongas

8 *Orissa.*—Not dislocated in the districts of Koraput, Ganjam and Sambalpur, but shortage of cattle felt in the districts of Cuttack, Balasore and Puri where some dislocation of transport has taken place

9 *Punjab.*—Not appreciably affected but due to high prices it has at times been found difficult to purchase cattle for the purpose.

10 *Sind.*—Dislocated to some extent

11. *United Provinces.*—From statistics available it appears that there has been an increase in the number of work cattle but this increase has not kept pace with the enormous increase in transport due to war conditions. The Provincial Government are not aware of any serious shortcomings in rural transport, if there has been any dislocation it is due to the prevalence of high prices for bullocks which renders replacement difficult This has to some extent been offset by making greater use of male buffaloes for draught work.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS

1 *Ajmer-Merwara.*—Affected to 40 per cent in Beawar Sub-Division; in other areas not much

2 *Baluchistan.*—No dislocation Villages being situated at long distances from the market places transport is mostly by lorries for which special coupons are issued

3 *Coorg.*—Dislocated to some extent in South Coorg on account of high prices of cattle and shortage of cattle due to cattle mortality

4 *Delhi.*—Dislocated to the extent of about 20 per cent

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No 48, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 10th November, 1944

EXPLORATORY AND PROSPECTING LICENCES TO BRITISH AND AMERICAN FIRMS *re* POTENTIAL OIL RESOURCES

(a) The following further information may be added to make the statement up-to date

ASSAM

Name of company	District	M. L. or P. L.	Area	Period and date of commencement	Royalty	Surface rent
1. The Assam Oil Company, Ltd.	Lakhimpur	M. L.	2 areas of 4 sq. miles each.	25 years from 1st January 1942.	5% on the wellhead value subject to a minimum of 0-8-0 per 40 gallons.	Rs. 2-1-0 per acre per annum.
2. Ditto .	Do. .	M. L.	¼ sq. mile	Ditto .	Ditto .	Ditto.
3. Ditto .	Do. .	P. L.	2·7 sq. miles.	2 years from 3rd November 1943.	Ditto .	Re. 1.

(b) Yes The answer to the second part is in the negative

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 302, asked by Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee, on the 18th November 1944

ATROCITIES BY SOLDIERS IN CHITTAGONG DISTRICT

(a) and (c). Several cases of the nature referred to by the Honourable Member have come to the notice of Government

(b) (i) Government are not aware of any such incident having taken place

(ii) Yes, but the facts of the incident are as follows:

The house of Abdul Rahman of Agrabad was looted by about 12 men, who, it is thought, were soldiers, on the night of 9-10th of October 1944 It is estimated that cash and ornaments to the value of Rs 14,000 and not Rs 25,000 as mentioned in the question, had been stolen. One sepoy, named Bhai Lal, from whom some of the stolen property was recovered, was convicted by civil court and sentenced to 5 years' rigorous imprisonment.

(iii) As regards this incident, there was, no doubt, some looting in one part of the bazaar, but there is no evidence to show that military personnel were involved in it. On the other hand, a military lorry carrying military personnel was stopped in another part of the bazaar while returning from duty a little later, and attacked by civilians They were only able to get clear after a Naik had fired two rounds in the air in self defence The Naik concerned was tried by the Civil authorities in this connection and was acquitted

(d) The culprits as stated in parts (b) (ii) and (iii) above, were awarded punishments according to the nature of the offence committed As regards the last part of the question, deterrent punishments are inflicted on offenders whose guilt is proved, and the local Commander and his officers have taken all possible steps for the maintenance of discipline among the troops under them.

Information promised in reply to parts (c), (d), (f) *and* (g) *of Starred Question No.* 306, *asked by Mr K C Neogy, on the* 13*th November* 1944

REORGANISATION OF INCOME-TAX SERVICES

(c) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative The second part does not arise

(d) As regards the first part of the question, attention is invited to the proceedings of the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee held on the 26th January 1927 As regards the second part, attention is invited to page 90 of the Income-tax Enquiry Report, 1936, a copy of which is in the Library

(f) As regards the first part of the question a statement containing the information required is enclosed The reply to the second part is in the negative

(g) Yes, 7 new officers, who do not belong to Bengal, have been posted to the Bengal Income-tax Department in supernumerary posts of Income-tax Officer created for the purpose In Bengal, as in other Income-tax Departments, a large number of retirements is expected in the near future almost simultaneously, a large number of officers having been recruited simultaneously round about 1920 With a view to meeting the possible simultaneous loss of officers, these supernumerary officers have been recruited on the results of the competitive examination conducted by the F P S C for the Indian Audit and Accounts and allied Services and by selection from similarly qualified Secretariat Assistants, all selections having been made by the F P S C The appointments previously held by these 7 persons are as follows

(1) Statistician, Agricultural Department, Punjab
(2) Assistant Progress Officer, Textile Commissioner's Office, Government of India, Ballard Estate, Bombay
(3) Assistant, Legislative Assembly Department, New Delhi
(4) Civilian Gazetted Officer, 205, I B Ü D, 3 Res Base, Honson
(5) Lecturer in History, Demontmorency College, Shahpur, Sadi
(6) Assistant Controller of Military Accounts, Central Command, Meerut
(7) Assistant in the Commerce Department, Government of India, New Delhi

It will however be appreciated that their appointments were not made on the basis of their previous experience of Income-tax Their duties will be the same as those of other Income-tax Officers and it is expected that they will be absorbed in due course, after training, as Class II Grade III Income-tax Officers These appointments will not affect any substantive rights that the Examiners of the categories mentioned in (C) may have But, if, after their training, it is found that they are superior to these Examiners, they may be preferred for absorption into the permanent cadre under the reorganised scheme

Examiners

2 with 5 years service in the Department
1 with 8 years service in the Department.
10 with 10 years service in the Department

Examiners officiating as Income-tax Officers.

4 with 5 years service in the Department
1 with 8 years service in the Department
48 with 10 years service in the Department

Information promised in reply to a supplementary question to Starred Question No. 412, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 15th November 1944

POWER ALCOHOL INDUSTRY

The proposal was not agreed to by the Government of India.

As regards the development of power alcohol industry in India an Industrial Panel has been constituted under the Department of Planning and Development to submit a report. The plans for the development of the industry will be formulated after the Panel has submitted its report.

Information promised in reply to parts (a) *and* (c) *of Starred Question No. 58, asked by Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, on the 9th February 1945*

RICE AND *ATTA* DETERIORATED IN GOVERNMENT GODOWNS

(a) The total quantity of rice and *atta* reported to have become unfit for human consumption during the year 1944 is 4,753 tons and their total value is Rs. 16,38,450-9 0.

(c) Since the formation of the Food Department the Central Government have sanctioned an expenditure of about Rs. 87·66 lakhs for the construction of storage accommodation for 190,250 tons of foodgrains.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 140, asked by Mr Manu Subedar, on the 12th February, 1945

EMPLOYEES IN CERTAIN CONTOL ORGANIZATIONS

(a) The required information is given below —

(i)	148
(ii)	548 (excluding Ordnance Factories)
(iii)	185
(iv)	232
(v)	110
(vi)	45
(vii)	32
(viii)	215

Figures against (i) and (viii) pertain to the Department of Industries & Civil Supplies only, while those against (v) and (vi) include figures pertaining to Co mmerce Department also

(b) By transfer from other Departments of Government of India or Provincial Governments, promotion from within the Department direct recruitment from the trade, etc and release from Army service

(c) For the duration of war or less period as may be necessary

(d) No

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 181, asked by Mr K C Neogy, on the 14th February 1945

FOODSTUFFS OFFICIALLY DECLARED UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION IN BENGAL

(a) Approximately 3 2 lakhs mds of foodstuffs stored in Bengal were found to be unfit for human consumption upto the end of 1944

(b) A quantity of about 1 lakh maunds was destroyed, 1 5 lakhs maunds sold to starch manufacturers in Calcutta and the remaining 0 7 lakh maunds sold in the district for cattle consumption Inspectors appointed in Calcutta to see that the quantity sold for starch manufacture was actually used for this purpose and the District Magistrates took steps to ensure that foodstuffs sold as animal food in the districts were not used for human consumption

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Information promised in reply to part (a) of Starred Question No 292, asked by Mr T S Avinashilingam Chettiar, on the 19th February, 1945

EXPENDITURE ON FOREIGN EVACUEES

Statement showing the expenditure incurred on the non Indian evacuees in the war out provinces from the commencement of war upto end of October 1944

	Name of Province	Amount	Remarks
		Rs	
1	Madras	3 55 729	
2	Bengal	4 38 103	Thus expenditure is upto March 1944
3	Bombay	1 05 21 700	Approx
4	C P & Berar	85 340	
5	Bihar	12 116	
6	U P	8 59 782	
7	Punjab	546	
8	Assam	8 41 983	
9	N W F P	8 920	
10	Sind	32 291	
11	Orissa	5 697	
12	Central Areas (A G C R)	No transaction during the period 1942 to 1945 (up to the end of Oct) Figures for the preceding period not readily available as expenditure was not booked separately	
	TOTAL	Rs 1 30 66 993	

Information promised in reply to part (a) of Starred Question No 377 asked by Sardar Mangal Singh on the 20th February, 1945

PAUCITY OF SIKHS IN HIGHER POSTS OF SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

(a) The percentages of gazetted posts in Ordnance Factories on the 31st January 1945 were as follows

Anglo Indians	1 60%
Parsees	Nil
Indian Christians	42%
Sikhs	1 27%

N B —The percentages on the 1st November 1944 as already given included both gazetted and non gazetted staff carrying pay from Rs 500 upwards

Information promised in reply to Starred Question Nos. 393, 394 and 395, asked by Sri K. B. Jnnaraja Hegde, on the 20th February 1945

GRANT OF PENSION TO CERTAIN WORKERS OF CORDITE FACTORY, ARAVANKADU

No 393 —(*a*) Six.

(*b*) Yes A memorial in the form of copy of resolutions of the last annual conference of the Labour Union of the Cordite Factory has been received

(*c*) I understand that a resolution to this effect was passed.

(*d*) No Superintendents of Factories have no powers to grant pensions. The Standing Instruction No 143 referred to relates to the rules under which special pensions may be granted to workmen with over 35 years' service.

(*e*) The proposal will be examined on merits

DISCRIMINATION AS REGARDS ALLOWANCES OF SUPERVISORS AND CHARGEMEN IN CORDITE FACTORY, ARAVANKADU

No 394 —(*a*) (*i*). Yes.

(*ii*) No distinction is made between Anglo-Indian Supervisors and Indian Supervisors nor between Anglo-Indian Chargemen and Indian Chargemen, all of whom are entitled to the rates of pay and allowances of the grade in which they are employed irrespective of race

(*b*) The rates of pay for Indian and Anglo-Indian Supervisors and Chargemen in the Cordite Factory, Aravankadu, are as follows :—

Supervisors—

A grade	Rs 155 to 200	(Annual increments of Rs. 5, 7-8-0 or 10 are allowed according to the quality of work of each individual.)
B grade . .	Rs 105—5—150	
C grade	Rs 61—3—70—5—100	

Chargemen—

Old Scale—Rs. 200—10—300, after 5 years 350, for old entrants, *i e*, for men who entered Ordnance Factories service prior to 28th September 1931.

Revised Scale —Rs 170—10—250—E B.—40/4—290 for new entrants (men entering service after 27th September 1931).

(*c*) Does not arise.

INADEQUACY OF QUARTERS FOR WORKERS IN CORDITE FACTORY, ARAVANKADU

No. 395 —(*a*) Workmen recruited from the neighbourhood of the factory and already living there are usually not provided with quarters and they very rarely ask for accommodation. Approximately 1,370 employees live more than two miles away from the factory There is no unsatisfied demand for quarters from such workmen and about 100 quarters are lying vacant at present

(*b*) No. Absence without leave upto six days is condoned if, on return to duty, a workman gives satisfactory explanation of his absence.

(*c*) and (*d*). Do not arise.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 457, asked by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, on the 21st February, 1945

MALPRACTICES AT ELECTIONS TO SHAHDARA (DELHI) MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE

(*a*) A general election in the Shahdara Municipality was held on the 5th January and succeeding days

(*b*) and (*c*). Seven perons were arrested by the police on the 5th, 6th, 8th and 9th January under the orders of the magistrate who was acting as Presiding Officer at the polling station for impersonation and were sentenced to imprisonment till the rising of the court

(*d*) Two election petitions were preferred to the Deputy Commissioner One of these was subsequently withdrawn On the other (being a petition by Mr Rattan Lal against the election of Chaudhri Hukam Singh) proceedings are still pending A copy of the petition is laid on the table

(*e*) The election petition does not contain any allegations of misconduct on the part of any officials, and the question of holding an enquiry into the conduct of any officer does not arise.

Before the Honourable Deputy Commissioner, Delhi

Rattan Lal S/o L. Nanak Chand Vaish, Businessmen of Mohalla Thakur Dwara, Electoral Roll No 1123, Ward No 2, Bara Bazar, Shahdara

Petitioner

Versus

Ch. Hukam Singh S/o Bharat Singh, Shahdara. *Respondent*

Election petition of the said Rattan Lal under R 73 of the Shahdara Municipality Electoral Rules, 1943 against the return of the said Hukam Singh.

SIR,

The petitioner respectfully sheweth as follows :—

1. That the petitioner was a candidate for the Municipal Election held on 6-1-45 in Shahdara or Electoral Ward No. 2.

2 That Ch. Hukam Singh respondent and one Sham Dutt were the rival candidates for the seat.

3 That Ch Hukam Singh got 489 votes while your petitioner got 484 and the third candidate Sham Dutt got 327.

4. That Ch Hukam Singh was thus declared on the said date (6-1-45)

5. That if there were three more votes for the petitioner, he would have been elected

6 That your petitioner contends that the election of Ch. Hukam Singh is invalid on account of the following corrupt practices among others :—

(i) That several persons on behalf of Hukam Singh with his connivance impersonated some voters, entered in the Electoral Roll, who had died before the date of election.

(ii) That Hukam Singh put up several bogus persons to vote in the name of the real voters who actually did not or could not go to vote.

(iii) That 7 ballot papers are missing In all 1,307 ballot papers were issued but only 1,300 were recovered from the boxes and no paper was rejected or invalidated.

(iv) That there were about 9 tender ballot papers entered in the Tender Votes list but the corresponding ballot Papers were not rejected.
3 of the tender votes were of males and 6 of females.

(v) That there was double voting by at least one Puran Chand whose name appeared twice in the Electoral Roll at No. 840 and 841

That in view of the above corrupt practices committed by the respondent it is respectfully prayed that the election of the respondent may be declared void and your petitioner may be declared as duly elected.

N B —Your petitioner is prepared to furnish surety for expenses, etc., for any amount either now or hereafter as both as the Deputy Commissioner may be pleased to direct

(Sd) Rattan Lal,
Petitioner.

Dated the 11th January 1945.

Through Tara Chand Mathur,
B.A. (Hons) LL B ,
Advocate, Delhi

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 480, asked by Mr Lal Chand Navalrai, on the 22nd February, 1945

ASSOCIATION OF NON-GAZETTED SUPERIOR STAFF (INCOME-TAX), SIND

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative, the second part does not arise

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The Association is required to send copies of all such amendments to the Central Board of Revenue in order to secure that the conditions laid down by Government in regard to the recognition of such associations are not violated, a copy of Government's Departmental instructions on the subject is attached

(*e*) Yes , but a Government Servants' Association is not a 'Trade Union' and the recognition of the former is subject to different conditions. The Central Board of Revenue have informed the Association that they have no objection to the amendment in question It is however open to Government not to approve of the election of individual outsiders as office-bearers of the Association if considered necessary

(*f*) Does not arise in view of my reply to part (*e*) of the question.

Instructions regarding the recognitson by the Central Government of Associations of its employees other than Associations of Industrial employees

INSTRUCTIONS

PART (A) —Associations of Government employees serving in the departments of the Central Government and in the Chief Commissioners' Provinces other than those in the Police and Prisons Departments.

1. Government is prepared to accord official recognition to associations of its employees which comply with the conditions set out below.

2 The association must ordinarily consist of a distinct class of Government employees.

3. Every Government employee of the same class must be eligible for membership of the association

4. Ordinarily Government will not object to persons who are not in the active service of Government being office-holders of the association, but Government reserve the right in particular cases to refuse recognition to associations of which all the office-holders are not either in the active service of Government or honourably retired officers belonging to the same class of Government employees as the association represents.

5. Representations from such associations, whether made orally by deputation, or presented in writing, may be received by Government officers notwithstanding any thing contained in the rules relating to the submission of petitions and memorials by Government servants:

Provided that—

(a) No representations or deputation will be received, except in connection with a matter which is, or raises questions which are, of common interest to the class represented by the association; and

"(b) Nothing in these instructions affects the discretion of the Governor-General, the Chief Commissioner, the Head of a department or any other officer of Government to receive or not to receive a deputation from any association"

6. Recognition is accorded for the purpose of enabling the employees of Government to communicate their needs to Government or to Government officers, and it may be withdrawn by Government if an association adopts other methods of ventilating those needs

7 Government may require the regular submission, for its information, of copies of the rules of the Association and the annual statement of its accounts and of lists of its members.

8 Government may specify the channel through which representations from the association shall be submitted and the authority by whom deputations may be received

9 The officer who is empowered to grant leave to a Government employee will, so far as is possible, grant casual leave to an employee who is a representative of a recognised association to attend duly constituted meetings of the association The grant of such leave will be subject to the exigencies of the service, of which the officer in question shall be the sole judge

10 (1) In these instructions, unless the context otherwise requires, "Government" means the Central Government and includes a Chief Commissioner or a department of the Central Government.

(2) A department of the Central Government may issue subsidiary instructions regarding the recognition of associations of classes of Government employees subordinate to it

(ii) The following should be substituted for Part B of the instructions:—

PART (B).—Associations of employees in the Police and Prisons Departments in the Chief Commissioners' Provinces.

The instructions in Part (A) shall be applicable to association of employees in the Police and Prisons Departments in the Chief Commissioners' Provinces with the addition of the following clauses to instructions 2 and 7 and the substitution of the following instruction for instruction 4 and of the following proviso for proviso (a) to instruction 5

Instruction 2 —The association shall also consist of such distinct rank or ranks of employees as Government may prescribe: provided that Government may accord recognition to particular associations of specified ranks of employees in the Police Department of which specified ranks of employees in the Excise Department are also members.

Instruction 4 —No person who is not in the active service of Government or an honourably retired officer belonging to the same class of Government employees shall be an office-holder of the association

Instruction 5 —Proviso (a) No representation or deputation will be received on questions of discipline or of promotion affecting individuals; but representations or deputations may be received in connection with a matter which is, or raises questions which are of common interest to the class represented by the association

Instruction 7 —No rule of the association shall be valid until it has received the approval of Government and Government may from time to time require the modification of a rule or proposed rule in a particular manner.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Questions Nos. 18 and 19, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 22nd February, 1945

Appellate Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax and Income-tax Officers

No. 18.—(a) to (e). Statements containing the information are enclosed.

Parts (a) and (b).

	Sanctioned strength of Appellate Asst Commissioners				Number actually employed as Appellate Assistant Commissioners				Additional Appellate Assistant Commissioners appointed				Number of Additional Appellate Asst. Commrs. appointed during 1944-45	No. of appeals filed				Proportion of appeals to the total No of assessments in percentages			
	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44		1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
Madras	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3		.	1*	1†	*Nil*	3449	3904	4245	5175	5·6	6 7	7 6	7 9
Bombay	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5			1‡	1‡	2	7023	7958	7303	9698	7 1	6 9	6 2	6·6
Bengal	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1 (a)	1 (a)		..	*Nil*	3494	3285	2470	2515	5 0	5·0	4·1	3 0
Calcutta (Central)						*Nil*							*Nil*	.	25	40	75	.	15·0	9 4	16·0
Bombay (Central)						*Nil*							*Nil*	155	197	277	142	29	28·0	42	13
United Provinces	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	..	..			*Nil*	3319	3036	3331	4009	11·3	10·2	7·9	6·8
Central Provinces	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	..	..	.		*Nil*	1835	1951	1819	2529	14·8	15·2	9·3	9·7
Punjab	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4		..	.	1 (b)	1 (c)	7140	5597	5604	8090	8 7	7·8	8·3	10 7
Bihar and Orissa	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	.	1 (d)	1 (e)	.	1	3718	3912	3698	5124	17	20	18	20
Assam	The A. A C, Dacca (Bengal) is the A.A C. for the Province												*Nil*	198	240	150	255	2·9	3 6	2 2	2·3
Bangalore	Collector is *ex-officio* Appellate Assistant Commissioner												*Nil*	10	6	10	10	·5	0·3	0 6	0·6
Coorg	Revenue Assistant Commissioner is the Appellate Assistant Commissioner												*Nil*	2	1	5	10	1·0	0 5	3·0	4 0

*From 1-6-42 to 31-8-42
†From 7-7-43.
‡From 1-7-42 to 31-5-43
(a) For 3 months
(b) From December 1943.
(c) From September 1944
(d) For 6 months.
(e) For 9 months.

	Sanctioned strength of Income-tax Officers				No. actually employed as Income-tax Officers				No. of additional Officers entertained during the course of the year				No. of I T Os. who have passed the Departmental Examination completely by the Hgr Std.	No. of Income-tax officers who have not passed the Departmental Examination and the period during which they have been functioning with powers of assessment	
	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44			
Madras	47	50	46	49	47	50	46	49	2	1	4	6	44	6	throughout the year 1944-45.
Bombay	69	87	89	93	69	87	89	93	6	10	5	6	77	24	1 from 1-11-1938, 1 from 18-12-1941, 1 from 24-12-1942, 1 from 6-11-1939, 1 from 1-8-1942, 1 from 8-8-1944, 1 from 6-4-1939, 1 from 13-1-1943, 1 from 15-9-1944, 2 from 1-10-1940, 4 from 24-8-1943, 1 from 22-10-1944, 2 from 1-9-1941, 1 from 1-9-1943, 1 from 23-10-1944, 1 from 1-12-1943, 1 from 1-11-1944, 1 from 5-11-1944 and 1 from 6-11-1944.
Bengal	68	75	76	80	68	75	76	80	..	..	4	25	69	6	1 from 6-10-1941, 1 from 24-5-1942, 1 from 7-9-1942, 1 from 9-2-1942 and 2 from 17-6-1942
Calcutta (Central)	..	5	5	5	..	5	5	5	..	..	..	..	4	*Nil*	
Bombay (Central)	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	..	..	..	..	9	3	1 for 4 years and 2 for 2 years.
United Provinces	34	35	39	42	34	35	39	42	..	..	.	.	42	5	1 from 23-12-1943, 1 from 12-6-1944, 1 from 13-6-1944, 1 from 9-8-1944, and 1 from 6-11-1944
Central Provinces	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	.	..	..	.	All	..	
Punjab	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	44	..	..	..	9	41	25	3 between 2 and 2½ years, 4 between 1½ and 2 years, 4 between 1 and 1½ years, 11 between 6 months and 1 year and 3 less than 6 months.
B. & O.	18	18	18	24	18	18	18	24	..	..	6	5	23	5	2 for 9 months in 1943-44 and 3 for 11 months in 1944-45.
Assam	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	..	..	..	2	All	*Nil*	
Bangalore	Treasury Officer is also the Income-tax Officer											*Nil*	*Nil*	..	
Coorg	Ditto.											*Nil*	*Nil*	..	

Income-Tax Officers for Excess Profits Tax Assessment Work

No. 19.—A statement containing the information is appended *Parts (a) to (c).*

	No. of I.T.Os. engaged in the work of assessment of Excess Profits Tax, during 1944-45	No. of officers who are already confirmed as Income-tax Officers	No. of officers who are officiating as Income-tax Officers	No. of officiating officers who have not passed the Departmental Examination completely	No. of Excess Profits Tax cases		No. of arrear cases at the end of financial year		Amount involved in arrears	
					1942-43	1943-44	1942-43	1943-44	1942-43	1943-44
									Rs.	Rs.
Madras	7 (2 from 17-10-44 only)	6	1	*Nil*	458	815	69	165	51,07,400	1,52,33,800
Bombay	17	13	4	*Nil*	2050	2145	340	735	Figures not available.	
Bengal	24	4	20	*Nil*	1158	1206	238	588	2,27,33,000	5,04,15,000
Calcutta (Central)	4	1	3	*Nil*	99	105	231	284	2,02,22,000	2,42,48,000
Bombay (Central)	12	5	7	3	111	119	72	88	14,77,000	39,60,000
United Provinces	6	5	1	*Nil*	508	830	264	705	Figures not available.	
Central Provinces	2	1	1	*Nil*	205	395	90	219		
Punjab	7	7	.	*Nil*	575*	1252*	172	455	27,08,000	83,25,000
B. & O.	4	1	3	*Nil*	453	728	194	345	1,50,000	29,15,000
Assam	Figures included under Bengal				25	61	43	71	1,87,706	15,88,193
TOTAL	...	..	..	.	.		1713†	3655	..	...

*Includes arrears brought forward from previous year.
†30th June 1945 unsettled cases for all C. A. Periods ended before 1st April 1944 were 4220.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 532 (b), asked by Mr Lalchand Navalrai on the 28th February, 1945

ANNUAL REPORTS OF SUPERVISOR OF RAILWAY LABOUR, CALCUTTA

†*Statement I showing the number of cases in which fines were inflicted and the amount of fines inflicted on the Railway Staff, during the years 1941 42, 1942 43 and 1943 44 under the Payment of Wages Act*

Name of Railways	1941 42		1942 43		1943-44	
	No of Cases	Amount	No of Cases	Amount	No of Cases	Amount
1. Bengal and Assam	1,108	756 12 6	1,081	756 11 0	922	792 3 0
2 *Bengal and North Western	589	533 7 0				
3 Bengal Nagpur	2,386	1,581 8 0	2,880	2,295 10 0	3,661	3,126 10 0
4. Bombay, Baroda & Central India	2,038	2,762 1 6	2,102	1,842 14 6	2,663	2,741 0 2
5. East Indian	6,203	4,597 4 6	3,624	2,721 12 6	4,248	3 123 1 0
6. Great Indian Peninsula	2,119	1,674 3 0	2,640	2,095 14 0	3,887	3,065 5 0
7. Jodhpur	127	40 10 0	102	31 7 0	139	46 12 0
8 Madras & Southern Mahratta						
9 Nizam's State	1,573	779 1 2	37	21 12 0	2,384	1 303 14 0
10 North Western	510	272 3 0	205	131 13 0	168	105 9 0
11 *Rohilkhand and Kumaon	323	211 4 0				
12 South Indian						
13. Sarai Light	312	216 3 3	339	201 14 6	409	321 13 0
14 Bikaner State	129	74 6 0	320	91 3 0	253	58 13 0
15 Darjeeling Himalayan	6	2 7 0	7	5 7 6	438	403 0 0
16 Dibru Sadiya	27	9 1 0			70	44 6 3
17 Sahabdara Saharanpur Lt.						
18 Ahmedpur Katwah						
19. Martin Light Rlys.	3	2 4 0	...		11	14 7 6
20. Bankura Damodar River						
21 Bengal Provincial	2	1 1 0	11	2 10 0	8	3 7 0
22 Burdwan Katwa						
23 Dehri Rohtas Lt.	1	0 14 0			5	3 11 6
24 Jagadhri Lt	1	0 2 0	2	0 10 0		
25 Jorhat Provincial	4	2 10 0				
26 Kalighat Falta						
27 Matheran Hill Lt.	5	2 0 6				
28 Tezpur Balipara			3	1 15 0	7	6 8 0
29 Madras Port Trust	6	3 0 2	6	3 11 4	9	3 0 0
30 Calcutta Port Trust	62	44 8 0	50	25 11 0	150	101 14 0
31 Bombay Port Trust	63	97 15 0	284	149 9 0	314	169 11 0
32 Oudh and Tirhut			276	184 8 0	277	154 13 0

* *Bengal and North Western and Rohilkhand and Kumaon Railways were amalgamated on the 1st January, 1943, into the Oudh and Tirhut Railway*

†*The statement gives figures only in respect of staff on Railways otherwise than in factories.*

STATEMENT II

Irregularities detected in the working of the Hours of Employment Regulations during the years 1941-42, 1942-43 and 1943-44

Nature of irregularity	1941-42				
Working outside rostered Hours.	No exact number of irregularities has been given by the C. O. (R) & S R.L. in the report for [illegible]	Occasional cases	261	Occasional cases	179
Non-Display of rosters and regulations.	Ditto . .	645		397	
Violation of provision relating to period of Rest.	Ditto . .	Habitual cases Occasional cases	206 154	Habitual cases Occasional cases	151 124

Information promised in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 543, asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, on the 28th February, 1945

CLERICAL STAFF OF CENTRAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, KASAULI

(c) The pay in the new scale was fixed in accordance with the rules. A representation was made to the Director by some clerks for an increase in pay but the request was not granted as it was not admissible under the rules.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 551, asked by Mr. K. S. Gupta, on the 28th February, 1945

AIR SURVEY BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

(a) A certain number of air photographs have been taken for the Archaeological Survey of India by R. A. F. photographers under training at various times in 1945.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(c) The megalithic and other sites recently discovered in the Madras area were discovered by ground survey and not by air survey. It is the intention of the Archaeological Survey to proceed with the survey and with the necessary measures of preservation.

Information promised in reply to a Supplementary question to Starred Question No. 661, asked by Mr. Manu Subedar, on the 5th March, 1945

MICA COMMISSION

The Factories Act, 1934, does not apply to mica factories. These factories do not satisfy the definition of "factory" as given in Section 2(j) of the Act, nor have the Provincial Governments concerned extended the provisions of the Act to these factories by special notification der Section 5(1) of the Act.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Questions Nos. 49 and 51, asked by Sardar Mangal Singh, on the 5th March, 1945.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS DEPARTMENT.

No. 49.—Statement showing the number of appointments made in the Department of Commonwealth Relations and its attached and subordinate offices since 1934 carrying a pay of Rs. 100 p. m. and above, and the number of Sikhs, Christians, Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians and Parsis employed therein. (The Department proper and some of its subordinate offices came into being only since 1941).

Nature of appointment	Total No. of appointments made	No. of Sikhs	No of Indian Christians	No of Europeans and Anglo-Indians	No of Parsis	Designation of Sikhs so employed	Remarks
Department of Commonwealth Relations							
Permanent	45	2	1	3	..	1 Assistant.	
Temporary	..	..	..	..	..	2 Stenographers.	
Office of the Central Refugee Officer Northern Zone, New Delhi							
Permanent	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Temporary	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Office of the Central Refugee Officer, Eastern Zone, Calcutta							
Permanent	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Temporary	29	..	..	..	..	..	
Office of the Central Refugee Officer Southern Zone, Madras							
Permanent	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Temporary	9	..	2	..	..	..	
Office of the Central Refugee Officer, Western Zone, Bombay							
Permanent	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Temporary	6	..	..	..	..	..	
Office of the Chief Refugee Administrator, Burma Refugee Organisation, Assam, Shillong							
Permanent	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Temporary	17	1*	10	6	..	*Medical Officer	
Office of the Chief Refugee Administrator, Burma Refugee Organisation, Bengal, Mahimagunj							
Permanent	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Temporary	142	..	3	1	2	..	
Polish Refugee Camp, Kolhapur							
Permanent	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Temporary	4	..	1	..	..	..	
Polish Children's Camp, Jamnagar							
Permanent	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Temporary	5	*1	1	1	1	*Public Health Inspector.	
British Evacuee Camp, Coimbatore							
Permanent	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Temporary	23	..	2	13	..	..	
Protectors of Emigrants, Madras/Bombay/Calcutta/Karachi/Mandapam and Tuticorin							
Permanent	6	..	1	..	..		These offices came under the Administration of the Central Government from 1-10-44, prior to that they were under their respective Provl. Govts.
Temporary	3	..	..	2 (part-time)	..		
Office of the High Commr. for India in Australia							
Permanent	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Temporary	7	..	..	2	..	..	
Office of the Representative of the Govt. of India with the Govt of Burma, Simla							
Permanent	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Temporary	4	..	..	..	1	..	
Office of the Representative of the Govt. of India in Ceylon, Colombo							
Permanent	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Temporary	4	..	..	..	..	..	
High Commissioner for India in South Africa							
Permanent	2	..	..	1	..	..	
Temporary	13	..	..	9	..	..	
Agent of the Govt. of India in Ceylon							
Permanent	2	..	..	..	..	..	
Temporary	9	..	1	..	..	..	

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER FOOD DEPARTMENT

No. 61

(a) 715
(b) 38
(c) 9
(d) 14
(e) 5

All appointments were made on a temporary basis. A list showing the names and designations of Sikhs as on 31st May, 1945 is laid on the table of the House.

List of Sikhs holding appointments carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above in the Food Department and all the offices under its administrative control.

Assistant Directors—4.

1.	Mr Mohan Singh	A.D. Storage.
2.	Mr. Mohindar Singh	A. D. Statistics.
3.	Mr. G B Singh	A. D. (Purchase).
4	Mr. Trilochan Singh	A. D. (Purchase).
1.	Mr. Arjan Singh Jhandu	Tech. Officer (Storage).
1.	Mr Ajit Singh	Superintendent.
1.	Mr B. S. Lalia	Assistant Progress Officer.
2.	Mr Sarmukh Singh	Assistant Progress Officer.
1.	Mr M. M. Singh	Junior Analytical Chemist.
1.	Kurnal Singh	Asstt. Veterinary Officer.
1.	Rai Bahadur Col. Dina Nath	Regional Food Commissioner.
1.	Mr. N. D. Rikhi	Director of Movements.

Non-Gazetted Staff.

1.	Mr. Trilok Singh	Asstt.-in-Charge.
2.	Mr. Gojindar Singh	Assistant.
3.	Mr. Khushal Singh	Do.
4.	Mr. Charan Singh	Do.
5.	Mr. Tirath Singh	Do.
6.	Mr. Atma Singh	Do.
7.	Mr. Jangshir Singh	Do.
8.	Mr. Darshan Singh	Do.
9.	Mr. Gurbachan Singh	Do.
10.	Mr. Jagjit Singh	Do.
11.	Mr. Bhupindar Singh	Do.
12.	Mr. Rameshwar Singh	Do.
13.	Mr. J. C. Singh	Do.
14.	Mr D S. Bakshi	Do.
15.	Mr B. S. Bedi	Do.
16.	Mr. Kartar Singh I	Do.
17	Mr. Kartar Singh II	Do.
18.	Mr. Indar Singh Suri	Do.
19.	Mr. Baljit Singh	Do.
20.	Mr. M. S. Killadari	Head Clerk (R. F. C., U. P.).
21.	Mr. Mehtab Singh	Assistant (S. C. I.'s Office).
22.	Mr. T. S. Malhotra	Stenographer.
23.	Mr. Sohan Singh Kohli	Do.
24.	Mr. Dayal Singh	Do.
25.	Mr. Amar Singh	Do.
26.	Mr. Lal Singh	Sub-Overseer (I/C in D. F. III).

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 718, asked by Pandit Nilakantha Das, on the 7th March, 1945

PRIVILEGE OF MAKING SALT ENJOYED BY COASTAL VILLAGERS OF KAKATPUR THANA

(a) Yes, under the Delhi Pact.

(b) No. Manufacture of salt on a factory basis by a co-operative society formed in the area under the aegis of the Provincial Government has, however, been recently started and as a consequence some villages in the Kakatpur Thana have been brought within the scope of that scheme. The Pact therefore ceases to benefit the residents of those villages which fall within the limits of such a factory.

(c) Yes, subject to the restriction indicated in answer to part (b).

Information promised in reply to parts (a), (b) and (c) of Starred Question No. 743, asked by Mr. Manu Subedar, on the 7th March, 1945

FACTORIES ERECTED AT GOVERNMENT COST, ETC.

Statement relating to fatories with which the Supply Department is concerned

Factories erected in India, wholly at Government Cost, before War	Factories erected in India, wholly at Government Cost, during the War	Factories erected partly at Government cost	How many extentions of existing factories have Government Financed and which are they	How much money have Government spent on items (a) and (b).
	(a)(i)		(b)	(c)
Ammunition Factory, Kirkee Cordite Factory, Aruvankadu Metal & Steel Factory, Ishapore. Gun & Shell Factory, Cossipore Rifle Factory, Ishapore. Gun Carriage Factory, Jubbulpore. Mathematical Instrument office, Calcutta.	Civil Maintenance Unit No 4, Tata Aircraft Ltd., Dum Dum, Bengal Civil Maintenance Unit No. 5, Tata Aircraft, Ltd., Barrackpore, Bengal. Civil Maintenance Unit No 6, Tata Aircraft, Ltd , Poona, Bombay. Civil Maintenance Unit, No. 12, Tata Aircraft, Ltd., Santa Cruz, Bombay. Civil Maintenance Unit No. 18, Tata Aircraft, Ltd., Lucknow, U. P. Civil Maintenance Unit No. 10, Ramraytolla, Howrah, Bengal. Civil Maintenance Unit, No. 16, Sion, Bombay. Tool Steel Plant at Tatas. Conversion of "s s. Hilda" as Floating Repair Workshop, Bombay. Mazagon Dock Southyard, 2 Bay scheme Buildmg and machinery. Parachute Factory, Sialkot. Clothing Factory, Sialkot. Parachute Factory, Cawnpore. One reclaim rubber factory in Bombay. One reclaim rubber factory in Calcutta.	Finishing Mills at Sctob M/s Alcock Ashdown & Co, Karachi—New slops for ship repairs Poonch House, Lahore Parachute Fy , Lahore. Clothing Fy., Agra Clothing Fy., Bombay. Clothing Fy., Madras. Clothing Fy , Secunderabad Clothing Fy., Calcutta. Clothing Fy., Delhi Clothing Fy , Ahmedabad Tyre retreading and repair factory, Bombay Tyre retreading and repair factory, Calcutta. Tyre retreading and repair factory, Delhi. Tyre retreading and repair factory, Madras. Bata Shoe Co. Factory, Batapur Teleprinter Pack Fy., 4/4, McLeod Road, Lahore.	Civil Maintenance Unit No. 1, B & A. Railway, Workshops, Kanchrapara, Bengal Civil Maintenance Unit, No. 2, S. I Rly Workshop, Golden Rock, Trichinopoly, Madras Civil Maintenance Unit, No 3, U P Govt Central Workshop and C A R. E , Cawnpore. Civil Maintenance Unit, 9, Indian Survey & Air Transport Ltd., Dum Dum, Bengal Civil Maintenance Unit, 17, Textile Machinery Corporation, Ltd , Belghurria, Bengal Civil Maintenance Unit, No 20, De Havilland Aircraft Co., Ltd , Karachi Alcock Ashdown & Co , Bombay. Extension of machine shop Herman & Mohatta Ltd , Karachi. Expansion of ship repair facilities Cochin Harbour Works—Provision of buildings, plant & machinery Shalimar Works Ltd., Calcutta—Provision of machinery. Garden Reach Workshop, Calcutta—Provision of machinery. Indian Gen. Navigation & Rly. Co., Calcutta—Provision of machinery.	

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

2523

Factories erected in India, wholly at Government Cost, before War	Factories erected in India, wholly at Government Cost, during the War	Factories erected partly at Government Cost	How many extensions of existing factories have Government Financed and which are they	How much money have Government spent on items (a) and (b)
		(a) (xx)	(b)	(c)
	Government Stabilised Bleaching Powder Factory at Rishra, Calcutta.		Hughes Dock Crane	
	One Diesel Plant.		Hughes Cock Workshop—Provision of machinery.	
	Hydrogen Plants at Rishra (Calcutta) and Bangalore.		Pneumatic system for Hughes Dry Dock	
	Branch H. & S. Factory, Cawnpore		F. X Kally, Bombay—Provision of machinery.	
	Branch H. & S. Factory, Cossipore.		Larson and Tourbro, Bombay—machinery	
	Branch H. & S. Factory, Madras		H I. Dixon, Bombay, machinery.	
	Branch H. & S. Factory, Amritsar.		Ahmadi Shipyard, Bombay—machinery.	
	Government Silk Filature, Kollegal (Madras).		Art Flooring, Bombay—machinery	
	The Kankanhalli Filature in Mysore.		Scindia Steam Nav., Vizag,—machinery.	
	Government Sawmills, Khandwa (C. P.).		Scindia Steam Nav, Bombay—machinery.	
	Government Sawmills, Seoni (C.P.)		Braithwait Burn & Jessop, Bombay—machinery.	
	Government Sawmills, Ghorpuri.		Mackennes Ltd, Bombay—machinery	
	Government Sawmills, Jhelum		Turner Morrison & Co, Bombay—machinery	
	Government Sawmills, Bombay.		British India Eng. Works, Karachi—machinery.	
	Government Sawmills, Calcutta.		J. Stevenson, Bombay—machinery	
	Government Sawmills, Chheharta.		Bhavnagar Port—machinery.	
	Medical Store Depot, Factory, Chheharta (Amritsar).		Dredging of Kasara Basin, Bombay	
	'D' Class Cable Factory, Calcutta		Expansion of ship repair facilities	
	H. E. Factory, Kirkee.		Shapurs Dock & Eng Co, Bombay—Provision of machinery.	
	New Fuze Factory, Lucknow.		Reconditioning & repair work to Moghul Dock entrance Carstairs & Comming, Karachi—Provision of machinery.	
	New Case Factory, Ambernath.			
	Ordnance Factory, Khamaria.			
	New Shadow Factory, Cawnpore.			
	New Steel, G. & S. Factory, Cawnpore.			
	New Ordnance Factory, Kasm.			

New Ordnance Factory, Muradnagar.
New Instrument Factory, Dehra Dun.
Duplicate Aircraft Instrument Repair Shop, Calcutta.
Bren Gun & Tap Factory, Hyderabad.
Benzol/Toluene Plant, Jamshedpur.

Benzol/Toluene Plant, Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., Hirapur.
Benzol/Toluene Plant, Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd , Kulti.
Crude Benzol Plant, Loyabad
Crude Benzol Plant, Bhowra.
Crude Benzol Plant, Lodna.

Vizagapatam port Trust—Provision of machinery.
Extension to Dry Dock, Vizag.—Building and machinery
Modern Mechanical Eng. Works, Bombay—Provision of machinery.
Extensions to Clothing Factory, Shahjahanpur
The Dunlop Cos'. factory at Shahganj, Calcutta.
Firestone Co.'s Factory at Sewree, Bombay.
Temporary hide godown in N. W. Tannery of M/s. Cooper Allen & Co., Cawnpore.
Expansion projects of M/s. Ford Motor Co.
M/s. General Motors involving capital expenditure.
Extensions to Main Harness & Saddlery Factory Cawnpore.
Mysore Silk Filatures, Mysore
Mysore Spun Silk Mills, Channapatna.
Vellum Parachute Silk Co , Bangalore.
Mr. Nandalal Bose, Nadia.
Babu Sudhansu Bhusan, Murshidabad.
M/s S & S. Co. Ltd , Somepara, Murshidabad.
Babu Jatindra Mohan Chandra, Murshidabad.
Babu Benukar Mukherjee, Murshidabad.
M/s. Silka Ltd , Murshidabad.
Moulvi Abbas Ali Baswas, Murshidabad.
Babu Nagendra Nath Banerjee, Murshidabad.
Babu Nandalal Das Murshidabad.
The Silk Syndicate, Murshidabad.

How many extensions of existing factories have Government Financed and which are they	How many extensions of existing factories have Government Financed and which are they	How much money have Government spent on items (a) and (b)
(b)	(b)	(c)
The Bengal Silk Mills Co. Ltd., Murshidabad.	Bombay Electric & Tramways.	
Motullah Biswas, Murshidabad.	Braithwaite & Co.	
Mohd. Lutfal Haq Biswas, Murshidabad	B. A. Ansari	
Govt. Sawmills, Chalakundi (Extension to Herbert Sawmill owned by Mr. E. J. Kuruvilla of Anamallies Timber Trust Ltd.)	Cannaught Iron Works.	
	Calcutta, Tramways.	
	Gresham Craven.	
	G. E. Co.	
	Gramaphone Co., Dum Dum.	
	Gramaphone Co, Lahore.	
	Garlic & Co.	
Extension to Medical Store Depot.	Godrej & Boyce.	
Factory Madras at Royapuram.	Guest, Keen Williams, Ltd.	
M/s. Venesta Ltd. Managing Agents	Golam Hussain.	
M/s Octavius Steel Co., Ltd., Calcutta.	Electric Welding Manufacturing Co	
Indian Copper Corpn. Ltd., Ghatsila, B N Rly.	Hindustan Bicycle Co.	
	H. M. Security Press.	
Tata's Wheel Tyre & Axle Plant, Jamshedpur	H. E. H. Nizam's Mint.	
	Indian Standard Metal.	
M/s Tata Agrico Ltd, Jamshedpur.	Indian Scientific Inst	
	Indian Sowing Machine, Lahore.	
M/s. McGregor & Balforda Heat Treatment Centre, 11, Clive Street, Calcutta.	Jessop & Co, Dum Dum.	
	Jay Engineering Works.	
	J. Hardaker & Co.	
Cooper Engineering, Satara.	Kumardhubi Engineering Works.	
Britannia Eng. Co., Titagarh.	Khosla & Co.	
India Machinery Co., Dasnagar.	Kapur Art, Lahore.	
Jessop & Co, Ltd., Dum Dum.	Keymer, Baghshaw & Co.	
Mysore Kirloskar Ltd., Mysore.	Lawrence & Mayo.	
Ammunition Factory, Kirkee.	Master of Mint, Bombay.	
Cordite Factory, Aruvankadu.	Metal Box & Co., Calcutta.	
Metal & Steel Factory, Ishapore.	Metal Box. & Co., Bombay.	
Gun & Shell Factory, Cossipore.	Mogregor & Balfour.	
Rifle Factory, Ishapore.	Modern machines.	
Gun Carriage Factory, Jubbulpore.	Maya Engineering Works.	
	Malik Electric Works, Bombay.	
M. I O., Calcutta.	National Emporium.	Amount spent on factories mentioned in column1—about 346 lakhs.
Ordnance Factory, Amritsar.	National Radio, Engineering Co.	
Ammunition Factory, Kirkee.	Oriental Metal Pressing.	
Metal and Steel Factory, Ishapore.	Port Commissioners, Calcutta.	
Cordite Factory, Aruvankadu.	Port Engineering Works.	
B. N Railway.	P. Orr & Sons.	Amount spent on factories mentioned in columns 2-4—about 4,008 lakhs.
E. I. Railway.	P. W. D. Workshops, Madras.	
B. & A. Railway.	Steel Products, Ltd.	
B. B. & C. I. Railway.	Richardson & Cruddas, Bombay.	
G. I. P. Railway.	Rawalpindi Engineering Works.	
B. N. W. Railway.	Saxby & Farmer.	
Jodhpur Railway.	Sarayu Sugar Factory.	
N. W. Railway.	Texmaco.	
S. I. Railway.	Venesta & Co.	
B. S. Railway.	William Jacks, Calcutta.	
General Motors.	William Jacks, Bombay	
Indian Standard, Wagon.	William Jacks, Madras.	
Telegraph Workshops, Alipore, & Jubbulpore.	William Jacks, Lahore.	
	Wolver Hampton Works.	
M. & S. M. Railway.		
N. S. Railway.		
R. K. Railway.		
Acme Manufacturing Co.		
Allumunum Co.		
Angus Engineering Co.		
Allen Berry Co.		
Associated Manufacturing Co.		
B. I. E. C. Co.		
Associated Inst., Lahore.		
Britannia Engineering Co.		
Burn & Co.		
Bombay Telephone & Co.		

Information promised in reply to parts (a) and (b) of Starred Question No. 760, asked by Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava, on the 7th March, 1945

INSISTING ON PRODUCTION OF TICKET AT RESERVATION OF ACCOMMODATION

No. 760.—(a) Yes, the Station Supdt. stated that no accommodation could be reserved without details of tickets held No mention was, however, made of tickets for the journey from Amritsar to Delhi having to be bought at Delhi Shahdara, or of their being available at that station.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative.

Tickets for a journey from a particular station can be purchased only at that station. If a 1st or 2nd class ticket is required from a station other than that at which the purchaser is living, a requisition for the ticket required, giving full particulars, and sufficient money to cover the cost of tickets, reservation fee and postal charges, should be sent well in advance to the Station Master of the station from which the journey is to commence The Station Master will arrange for the issue of a ticket, etc , and send the same by registered post.

In the case of through passengers travelling from foreign railway stations desiring to reserve accommodation from Junction stations on the North Western Railway, the production of tickets with the application for reservation is dispensed with, but ticket numbers have to be intimated as soon as possible The detailed prodcedure is given in para (*v*) of rule 62 of the general rules in the N W Ry. Time and Fare Table, in force from October, 1944, a copy of which is in the library of the House.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 764, asked by Mr. Muhammad Nauman, on the 7th March, 1945

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN ESTABLISHMENT BRANCH STAFF SECTIONS ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No. 764.—(a) It is not clear what the Honourable Member means by the words "in the same way," occurring in this part, but if he is asking why the vacancies were not filled on 50 : 50 basis, he is referred to my reply to part (c) of his question No 763. Since the over-all percentage prescribed for Muslims on the E. I. Railway has already been attained in its Establishment Branches, it is no longer necessary to reserve for Muslims 50 per cent. of the vacancies occurring in the Establishment Branches of that Railway.

(b) The information available in regard to the Establishment Branch of the Howrah Division shows that 10 permanent and 49 temporary vacancies occurred during the period referred to. While permanent vacancies were filled by four Muslims and six Hindus, the temporary vacancies were filled by 17 Muslims and 32 Hindus.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 766, 767 and 768, asked by Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee, on the 7th March, 1945

APPOINTMENT OF NON-MUSLIMS AS COMMERCIAL INSPECTORS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No. 766.—(a) Government understand that the staff, numbering 24 of whom six were Muslims, appointed as Commercial Inspectors, pending selection by the Traffic Selection Committees in May, 1944, and January, 1945, were drawn entirely from among those attached to the Headquarters office and were not called from District Offices. These men were promoted temporarily as a measure of administrative expediency and on the condition that it did not involve the permanent supersession of senior staff.

(b) 32 Muslims and 117 non-Muslims were recommended by the District Selection Committees and 13 Muslims and 50 non-Muslims were recommended by the Headquarters Office for the posts of Commercial Inspectors in connection with the selections held between January, 1944, and January, 1945. As regards the second portion, the number of non-Muslims temporarily promoted was 28.

MUSLIM EMPLOYEES AND PROMOTIONS TO HIGHER POSTS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No. 767.—(a) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to the appointment of Commercial Inspectors mentioned in his Question No. 766. From the reply given to that question it will be seen that the facts are not as stated by him in this part of the question.

(b) In view of the reply to part (a), I do not consider any useful purpose will be served by collecting the details asked for.

ALLOWING UNQUALIFIED CANDIDATES TO APPEAR FOR SELECTION FOR POSTS OF TRACERS, ETC., ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No. 768.—(a) No standing orders of the nature referred to are traceable as having been issued by the B. & A. Railway.

(b) Does not arise.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 775 and 776, asked by Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan, on the 7th March, 1945

NON-RECOMMENDATION OF MUSLIM STAFF FOR POSTS OF JUNIOR PERSONNEL INSPECTORS, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No 775 —(a) If the Honourable Member means that the staff recommended by Lucknow and Lillooah Workshops to the Headquarters Office for selection were not examined by a preliminary Selection Board the reply is that no such examination was held Government are informed, however, that all eligible non-technical staff employed in the Lillooah and Lucknow Workshops were considered by the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Lillooah and the Works Managers, Charbagh and Alambagh Workshops, irrespective of the community to which they belonged and that the most suitable men were recommended to the Headquarters Office for selection.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

NON-RECOMMENDATION OF MUSLIM STAFF FOR POSTS OF JUNIOR PERSONNEL INSPECTORS, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No 776 —(a) *and* (c) The attached statement gives the required information. It will be observed therefrom that the staff recommended for the post of Junior Personnel Inspector possessed either practical experience of Establishment work or an adequate knowledge of rules and regulations and had acquired knowledge pertaining to labour affairs

(b) None of the eligible non-technical Muslim employees possessed similar qualifications

Particulars of employees recommended by the Lillooah and Lucknow Workshops for the posts of Junior Personnel Inspectors in Grade Rs 200 (revised)

Substantive post	Grade	Academic qualifications	Departmental and special qualifications	Remarks
Head Clerk, Pay Bill Section (Lillooah).	200—10—250 (Old EI) 200—10—220 (1938) 180 (1934).	*Nil*	Has rendered 24 years' service of which approximately 8 years were spent in the Pay Bill & Establishment Sections, and Time Office, possesses a thorough knowledge of rules and regulations.	He withdrew his name eventually.
Assistant Yard Master (Lillooah).	100—10/2—120 (Revised)	Read upto B Com.	Has adequate knowledge of rules and regulations of the railway. Was in daily contact with labour staff not only in his own office, but withthe Wagon Repair & Carriage Repair Shops.	Selected as suitable after (i) passing a written test *re* establishment rules etc and (ii) appearing in interview in the Headquarters Office.
Incharge, Establishment Sec. (Lucknow Loco.).	200—10—250 (Old EI). 200—10—220 (1928). 180 (1934)	Matriculate	Worked as incharge, Establishment Section in the Construction Branch of the Engineering Department for 2½ years and thereafter as Head Clerk, Establishment in the office of the Works Manager (Loco) for about 10 Years. Qualified in Establishment rules and regulations Acquired requisite knowledge pertaining to labour affairs.	Not selected.

Information promised in reply to part (b) of Starred Question No. 787, asked by Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani, on the 7th March, 1945

MUSLIMS IN CERTAIN POSTS IN METALS DIRECTORATE OF THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL, MUNITIONS PRODUCTION, CALCUTTA

No. 787—(b) Of the six Technical Assistants in the Metals Directorate, three are graduates in Physics and Chemistry and the other three are Arts Graduates. Moreover, two of them had previous experience of the manufacture of tin containers and of the working of a Cotton Mill. Five of the men spent an appreciable time in other duties in the D. G. M. P. involving experience in metals before being made Technical Assistants. The sixth was recruited directly as such in the light of three years' practical experience.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 792 (b) and 793, asked by Mr. Muhammad Nauman, on 7th March, 1945

ANTI-MUSLIM ATTITUDE OF EMPLOYMENT OFFICERS (WORKSHOPS), EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No. 792.—(b) Particulars of some of the representations are given below :—

Shop	Name and Ticket No.	Nature of representation
Lillooah . .	Dil Mohd. 187H, Fitter, Millwright Shop.	Application for extension of service or reappointment.
Lillooah . .	Niyajoo, 1633L . . .	Application for 3rd extension of 12 months' service
Jamalpur . .	Din Mohammad, 3381 Forge Shop.	Application for alteration of his recorded age.
Charbagh . .	Mohammad Hussain, 2124 .	Application for alteration of position on the seniority list.
Charbagh . .	Abdul Wahad, 2669 . .	Appeal against removal from service and re-employment at Rs. 22 as against old pay of Rs. 25.
Alambagh .	Mohd. Farooq, Trade Apprentice, T. No 232 Shop "A".	Appeal against removal from service.
Alambagh . .	Baqridi, Tempy. Cooly	. Appeal against removal from service.

MUSLIM CHARGEMEN IN LILLOOAH WORKSHOP

No. 793.—(a) The required particulars of Chargemen are as follows :—

Category	Number permanent (including provisional).		Temporary against—			
			Permanent vacancies		Additional posts	
	Muslims	Non-Muslims	Muslims	Non-Muslims	Muslims	Non-Muslims
Technically trained Chargemen.	6	76	4	1	...	1
Non-technically trained Chargeman	1	2	2	7	3	9

(b) No, though due to the embargo on confirmations, those in temporary employemnt on 1st June, 1942, cannot be confirmed. Those eligible have, however, been given the benefits of permanent service in accordance with the rules.

(c) 9 vacancies of technically trained Chargemen occurred in the Lillooah Workshops during the period referred to, 8 of which were filled.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 795, 796 and 797, asked by Dr. Habibur Rahman, on the 7th March, 1945

REVERSION OF SENIOR MUSLIM HEAD TRAIN EXAMINERS AT BADARPUR

No 795.—Only one case occurred during 1944-45 in which a Muslim senior Train Examiner who was appointed to officiate as Head Train Examiner at Badarpur was reverted to his original post on being found unsuitable for the higher post. The next senior Train Examiner who is a non-Muslim on the list was appointed to replace him. Both the employees referred to were given officiating promotion in turn in the order in which they stood on the seniority list, and therefore it was not considered necessary to hold Selection Committee.

SUPERSESSION OF MUSLIMS AT PROMOTION TO POSTS OF JUNIOR TRAIN EXAMINER IN BADARPUR DISTRICT

No. 796.—(a) *and* (c) Government are informed that during the year 1944-45, only one Muslim Assistant Train Examiner was superseded by a non-Muslim when promotions to the grade of Junior Train Examiner were made. Both of these employees were examined personally by the District Mechanical Engineer on 18th December, 1944, and the Muslim Assistant Train Examiner was not considered suitable for promotion.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

TRAINING OF NON-MUSLIM FITTER COOLIES AS TRAIN EXAMINERS IN BADARPUR DISTRICT

No 797.—(a) and (b) Two non-Muslims, one Assistant Fitter and one Fitter Cooly were sent to Katihar for training as Train Examiners after being thoroughly tested by the District Officer. Muslims senior to those selected, being illiterate, were not considered suitable, as Train Examiners are required to possess some knowledge of English

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Information promised in reply to part (b) of Starred Question No. 798, asked by Mr. Badri Dutt Pande, on the 7th March, 1945

RESTRICTION ON BOOKING OF LICHI AND MANGO FRUITS FROM MUZAFFARPUR RAILWAY STATION

No. 798—(b) It has been ascertained that the reasons for the imposition of the restriction on the booking of lichies and mangoes were as follows :—

The Commercial Committee of the Indian Railway Conference Association in their resolution No C/558 made out a list of articles not to be accepted for booking as parcels. In regard to articles not included in this list, they prescribed certain conditions, *e g*, the maximum weight per package not to exceed 2 maunds ; the number of packages in one consignment per consignor per day not to exceed 5 Fresh fruits not being included in this list, could be accepted provided these conditions were fulfilled

The General Manager, O & T. Railway, has, however, in a circular dated 6th April, 1945, authorised exemption of fresh fruits from the operation of these conditions and this traffic is now being accepted for booking by passenger train

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Information promised in reply to part (d) of Starred Question No. 812, asked by Mr. Manu Subedar, on the 8th March, 1945

ADULT LITERACY

No. 812—(d)

Department	Action taken
I. Commonwealth Relations Department .	Peons and daftries are encouraged to learn Hindi or Urdu and English in their spare time
II. Education, Health and Lands Department.	The Adult Education Section of the Central Advisory Board Library affords educational facilities to inferior servants by lending books.
(i) Archaeological Department . . .	Efforts are made to make the illiterate employees pick up a working knowledge of at least one Indian language.
(ii) Delhi Polytechnic	There is an Adult Education Centre at the Polytechnic. Primers, stationery, etc. are distributed to the menial servants. The instruction work is done by Volunteers from among staff and students.
(iii) Imperial Library, Calcutta . .	Members of staff are encouraged to read books by lending them from the Library free of charge.
(iv) Imperial Record Department . . .	The inferior staff are permitted to use the facilities afforded by the Library of the Central Advisory Board of Education.
(v) Office of the Director-General, Indian Medical Service.	In the office of the Imperial Serologist, Calcutta, inferior servants are being taught by clerks of that office.
(vi) Office of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India.	At Karachi Air Port, the Assistant Air Port Health Officers have instructed the inferior staff to read numbers on aircraft and to ask simple questions in English and understand the replies. The Madras Port Health Department are now providing primers and slates to the inferior staff and regular lessons are given every day for an hour.
(vii) Survey of India	In the case of superior service personnel the departmental training given in the lower grades has the effect of increasing their literacy. In the case of inferior staff every encouragement is given to them to acquire and increase literacy in the course of the programme of their duties.
(viii) Zoological Survey of India . .	The inferior staff are encouraged to learn English by holding out to them prospects of promotion.

Department	Action taken
III. External Affairs Department . .	The inferior staff have been encouraged to join literacy centres opened by the New Delhi Social Service League.
IV. Labour Department . . .	The Department have engaged a school teacher to give lessons in the mother tongue (Urdu and Hindi) and English to the inferior servants and also to teach them how to discharge their official duties efficiently. The teacher takes classes in the evenings on alternate days. Books are supplied by the Department.
V. Office of the Military Secretary to the Viceroy. H. E	Cinema shows and theatricals are provided for the benefit of the staff. A proposal to start a night school is under consideration.
VI. Political Department	The inferior servants have been urged to join literacy centres opened by the New Delhi Social Service League.
VII. Railway Department	Night Schools have been provided by Railways and the adult staff are encouraged to attend them.
VIII. War Department	Peons and Chowkidars are encouraged to improve their proficiency in reading and writing by the prospect of promotion as Daftry after passing an examination. The Municipal authorities have been approached to provide primary school facilities in the areas where peons and chowkidars mostly live

Information promised in reply to part (a) of Starred Question No. 821, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 8th March, 1945

CLOSING OF BENGAL COTTON MILLS DUE TO COAL SHORTAGE.

Statement showing closure of Cotton Mills in Bengal for Coal shortage during January 1945

No. 821—(a)

Serial No.	Name of Mills	Period of stoppage of work	Remarks
1	Messrs. Acharya Profulla Chandra Cotton Mills Ltd.	Nil	These mills were not completely closed but worked only 9 hours daily.
2	Messrs. Bengal Laxmi Cotton Mills Limited.	Nil . .	Mills were not completely closed Only their dye-house was closed from first week in January to 15th February and work in the dye-house restarted from the third week of February.
3	Messrs. Dunbar Mills Limited	6th January 13th January 20th January 27th January	Mills were closed on the four working days owing to lack of fuel.
4	Messrs. Mohini Mills Limited	Nil. . .	These mills did not completely close during January owing to lack of fuel but had to close their bleaching Section for 11 days during the month.
5	Messrs. Rampoorla Cotton Mills and Company.	. . .	These mills were apparently not completely closed although there was loss of production.
6	Messrs. Siddeshwari Cotton Mills Limited.	Nil. . .	The mills remained half closed due to lack of coal from 1st to 8th January and had to close down fully because of disorder of the engine up to the 18th January, 1945. The Mills were restarted fully on the 19th January and were completely open for the remaining 12 days of the month.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 885, asked by Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, on the 9th March, 1945

COLLECTION OF EXCISE DUTY ON ARECANUT IN CERTAIN AREAS

No. 885—(a) The excise on arecanut was imposed with effect from the 1st April, 1944, and a l nuts cured on and after that date became liable to duty. As betel-nuts are harvested and cured a different times in different parts of the country, the question of liability for duty was one, fo

determination separately in each area in accordance with facts For the convenience of the trade, however, and in order to ensure uniformity throughout the country, Collectors were ordered not to charge betel-nuts which were proved to have been harvested before the 1st March, 1944.

(b) Separate particulars in respect of duty collected on stocks held on the 31st January, 1944, in South Kanara are not available

(c) and (d) Representations were received from certain areas in the Madras Collectorate. The Collector was authorised to refund duty collected in those areas where he was satisfied that the harvesting of betel-nuts was generally completed before the 1st March.

(e) No representations have been received in regard to the condition imposed in the orders referred to in the reply to parts (c) and (d) of the question

(f) Orders have been issued as indicated in the reply to parts (c) and (d).

(g) The Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, and the Central Excise Rules, 1944, which govern arecanut taxation, were first published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary*, dated 28th February, 1944

(h) Yes.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 908, asked by Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan, on the 12th March, 1945

REVERSION OF MUSLIM DISTRICT TRAIN CONTROLLERS (CALCUTTA), BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No. 908—(a) Government are informed that of 2 officiating District Train Controllers reverted in 1944 on account of incompetency, one was a Muslim The following is the position regarding each of the qualifications claimed to be possessed by the Muslim employee :—

(i) He had not passed all departmental examinations, but sufficient to qualify for the post he held.

(ii) He had completed theoretical and practical training only in regard to control duties.

(iii) He had officiated as District Train Controller for about 1½ years and not 3 years

(iv) He had been approved for appointment as District Train Controller.

(b) Does not arise

(c) The District Train Controller in question was dealt with in accordance with the Discipline Rules and given a full opportunity for submitting his defence.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 926, asked by Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan, on the 12th March, 1945

CLOSING DOWN OF THE BAILLY MUNITIONS FACTORY, NAGPUR

No. 926—(a) Owing to a change in the production programme, the Factory was closed on 1st November, 1944, and the dispersal of the Production Staff caused some of the quarters to become vacant. A skeleton staff, however, remained in occupation of some of the quarters to look after the machinery and plant pending receipt of a decision from H. M. G. regarding the future of the Factory.

(b) There was no avoidable loss of revenue as pending H M. G's decision in this matter the vacant quarters could not be permanently allotted to the railway staff

(c) 540 units of staff quarters were built in connection with this Factory. These quarters, except those occupied by the skeleton staff, referred to in reply to (a) above, were partly occupied by railway staff but the remainder were not, as the staff were apprehensive of the possibility of their subsequent ejectment should H. M. G. decide to re-open the Factory

(d) As it has since been decided not to re-open the Factory, the railway staff have been asked to occupy all the quarters available

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Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 962, asked by Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hedge, on the 13th March, 1945

PRICES OF RICE, WHEAT AND BAJRA IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS.

No. 962—(a) A statement is laid on the table of the House

(b) The disparities in purchase and selling prices in Dharwar and Bijapur are chiefly due to the varying cost of transport within the districts

(c) In Madras districts, Collectors take steps to find suitable storage accommodation, if necessary, by requisitioning. Four Assistant Entomologists have been appointed in the province for inspecting grains.

For the proper care of stored grains in Bombay districts, godown keepers, godown managers, godown Inspectors and district Distribution Superintendents have been appointed. An Assistant Director of Civil Supplies (Districts) has also been appointed whose duty is to inspect the godowns in the province outside the city of Bombay and to advise Collectors regarding the proper storage of grain. Besides, non-official Godown Committees have been appointed in each district to inspect godowns and to suggest improvement in storage, wherever necessary

(d) There are District Food Councils in Malabar, Kanara, Bellary and Nilgiris which ordinarily meet once a month. In the districts of Belgaum, Dharwar, Bijapur and North Kanara there are (1) District Price and Supply Advisory Committees and the Standing Committees, (2) Taluka Price and Supply Advisory Committee for each taluka and (3) Rationing Advisory Committee for each rationing area. The District Price and Supply Advisory Committees meet once a month and their standing committees meet generally once a week. The Taluka Price and Supply Advisory Committees and the Rationing Advisory Committees ordinarily meet once a month.

Statement showing Purchasing and Selling Prices of Rice, Wheat and Bajri

Name of Districts (1)	Purchase Price Rice (2)	Purchase Price Wheat (3)	Purchase Price Bajri (4)		Selling price Rice (5)	Selling price Wheat (6)	Selling price Bajri (7)
Madras—							
Malabar	9 10 4	9 3 0 (Pool price)	(a) See footnote below			11 7 1	*
South Kanara	9 12 2	9 3 0 (Pool Price)				11 0 2	*
Bellary	N. A.	9 3 0 (Pool price)				N.A.	*
Nilgiris	N.A.	9 3 0 (Pool price)				N.A.	*
Coorg	...	N.A.				8 14 0	*
Bombay—							
Belgaum	...	12 0 0	7 4 0	(i) Rationed towns	12 9 10¼ to 13 8 0	9 4 6 to 13 1 8	7 13 10 to 8 8 0
				(ii) Rural areas (Retail)	10 13 0 to 14 6 8	13 14 2	8 0 6 to 10 3 8
Bijapur	...	10 15 4 (1st quality) 10 5 1 (2nd quality)	6 8 6	(i) Rationed towns	13 9 4 to 18 1 5	12 1 5 to 12 12 10	6 15 10 to 7 5 5
				(ii) Rural areas (Retail)	...	11 10 4	6 14 6
Dharwar	10 0 9 to 10 11 8	11 15 11	7 7 5	(i) Rationed towns	10 11 8 to 24 4 7†	11 5 3 to 13 3 0	...
				(ii) Rural areas (Retail)	9 9 9 to 10 7 2	12 13 5	7 14 5
Kanara	11 12 3 to 12 2 3 (small gram)	N A.	N.A.	(i) Rationed towns (Retail)	13 1 0 to 16 6 6	13 4 6 to 15 2 0	...
				(ii) Urban areas (Retail)	13 4 6 to 15 10 0	15 10 0	8 9 6
				(iii) Rural areas	12 8 0 to 14 13 6	16 0 3	8 9 6

(a) No bajri supplied to Malabar, South Kanara, Nilgiris and Bellary

Hence prices ranged between floor and ceiling prices given below :—

	Floor price	Ceiling price
Malabar	No floor price	8-5-2 to 9-6-0
South Kanara	No floor price	8-12-0 to 9-12-0
Nilgiris	No floor price	No markets.
Bellary	5-14-0 (village site) 6-7-3 (Market centres)	7-8-0 to 9-2-0

N.A.—Not available. * Actual selling prices not available. Collectors have been instructed to fix prices at half Madras measure cheaper than the price of second sort rice, raw or boiled whichever is lower.

† Varying according to quality.

Information promised in reply to a Short Notice Question, asked by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, on the 13th March 1945

CASES OF PROFITEERING AND HOARDING AGAINST EUROPEAN TRADING CONCERNS

STATEMENT I

Number of cases under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance detected against European Trading Concerns and challaned in courts.....40

STATEMENT II

Number of cases under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance in which an offence is suspected against European Trading Concerns and in respect of which enquiries are in progress, and have not yet been challaned ....26.

STATEMENT III

Names of firms convicted and the sentences awarded to them.

S. No.	Names	Sentence
	(BOMBAY CIRCLE)	
1.	M/s Ralli Brothers	Fined Rs 201, *plus* 1 day's simple imprisonment.
2.	M/s. Ralli Brothers (2nd case)	General Manager, Manager and salesman fined Rs 1,000, Rs. 200 and Rs. 100, respectively.
3.	M/s Volkart Brothers	Fined Rs. 10,000.
4.	M/s. J. L Morison, Son & Jones, Ltd.	Fined Rs. 2,000.
	(CALCUTTA CIRCLE)	
5.	M/s. Anglo Swiss Watch Co.	Proprietor and salesman fined Rs. 200 and Rs. 100, respectively.
6.	M/s. Frank Ross and Co.	Fined Rs. 200
7.	M/s. Frank Ross and Co. (2nd case)	Fined Rs. 500.
8.	M/s. Thackers Spink & Co.	Manager and salesman fined Rs. 500 and Rs. 200, respectively.
9.	M/s. British Indian Engr. Stores	Proprietor and salesman fined Rs 300 and Rs. 200, respectively.
10.	M/s. Jubilee Stores	Fined Rs. 20.
11.	M/s J. Ezra	Fined Rs. 500.
12.	M/s. K. J. Watsons	Fined Rs. 200.
13.	M/s. R. Goldberry	Fined Rs. 500.
	(LAHORE CIRCLE)	
14.	M/s. Smith and Campbell	Sales lady and cash clerk fined Rs. 75 and Rs. 125 respectively.
15.	M/s. King and Co.	Fined Rs 50.
16.	M/s. K. Macdonald & Sons	Fined Rs 1,000.
17.	M/s. Wengers	Fined Rs 500.

STATEMENT IV

Names of firms acquitted on prosecution.

S. No. Names

1. M/s. Asquith and Lords Ltd , Bombay.
2. M/s. Thackers, Ltd.

NOTE.—The above statements are in respect of British India for the period from the 16th October 1943, the date of the promulgation of the H. & P. P. Ordinance, to the 31st March 1945.

Information promised in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 991, asked by Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh, on the 14th March 1945

OFFICERS IN TRAINING AT STAFF COLLEGE, QUETTA

The remaining 8 officers domiciled in India came from the following Provinces and States :—

Punjab	4	Bikaner	1
Bombay	1	Kashmir	1
Rampur	1		

Information promised in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 1001, asked by Mr. Ram Narayan Singh, on the 14th March 1945

LAND ACQUIRED FOR AERODROME NEAR GAYA

(c) The position on the 12th June 1945 was as follows :—

	Zamindars Rs.	*Tenants* Rs.
Amount already paid	26,184 8 0	1,33,671 14 0
Amount under disbursement	12,017 10 0	54,593 5 0
Further sums due for payment (approximately)	89,000 0 0	24,000 0 0
Totals	1,27,202 2 0	2,12,265 3 0

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 1032, *asked by Lala Sham Lal, on the 15th March* 1945

DUTIES OF CONTROLLERS ON CERTAIN RAILWAYS

(a) (i) Section Controllers on the three railways named regulate the movement of trains and distribution of stock on the sections, and obtain information from stations regarding the stock position, relief arrangements, etc. On the G. I. P. Railway, Section Controllers also order goods trains, while on the North Western Railway they arrange trains in consultation with Deputy Controllers.

(ii) Deputy Controllers generally supervise and guide the Section Controllers, watch the movement of important trains and take over a section in the event of an accident. The ordering of trains on the East Indian Railway is done by Deputy Controllers.

(iii) Chief Controllers are responsible for the general supervision of the control office.

(b) Yes, on the busy sections of the Bombay and Bhusaval Divisions of the G. I. P. Railway, where it is necessary to relieve Section Controllers of considerable writing and other clerical work.

(c) On the G. I. P. and N. W. Railways.

(d) On the North Western Railway stock is allotted by a special Stock Controller under the supervision of the Chief Controller; on the G. I. P. Railway the Chief Controller, where one is provided, is responsible for this work, otherwise the Deputy Controller; and on the East Indian Railway, stock is not allotted by Controllers.

(e) Except in the case of Chief Controllers on the East Indian and North Western Railways, where they are treated as supervisory staff, the Controllers are classified as 'continuous' workers under the Hours of Employment Regulations and work for six to eight hours a day in accordance with requirements.

Information promised in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 1096, *asked by Mr. Piare Lall Kureel, on the 19th March* 1945

CIVILIAN GAZETTED OFFICERS

(c) It is regretted that no record of applications received nor of applications rejected is kept.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 1097, 1098, 1099, 1101 *and* 1111 (c), *asked by Sri K. B Jinaraja Hegde, on the 19th March* 1945

EXCISE DUTY ON BETEL NUTS IN CERTAIN MADRAS DISTRICTS

No. 1097.—(a) *and* (b). Attention is invited to the reply to part (a) of question No. 885.

(c) No duty was collected on betel nut harvested before 1st March 1944 in the districts of Coimbatore and Nilgiris. As regards South Kanara, Malabar, and Coorg, no separate figures are available.

(d) Declarations of stocks of cured nuts made to the Central Excise Officers on or before 1st April, 1944 and the accounts maintained by the curers, dealers, banks and co-operative societies were taken as the basis for determining whether the betel nuts were cured before 1st April 1944.

(e) No. But declarations of stocks of betel nuts on 1st April 1944 were obtained from curers, dealers, etc.

(f) Attention is invited to the reply to parts (c) and (d) of question No. 885

PRE-EXCISE CERTIFICATES FOR BETEL NUT GROWERS AND TRADERS IN SOUTH KANARA DISTRICTS

No. 1098.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

EXCISE DUTY ON BETEL NUTS IN SOUTH KANARA DISTRICTS

No. 1099.—(a) Where after scrutiny it was found that certificates of exemption had been erroneously granted the certificates were cancelled and duty amounting to about Rs. 30,000 was demanded. These claims are being reviewed by the Collector in the light of the General Orders referred to in the reply to parts (c) and (d) of question No. 885.

(b) No.

(c) Approximately Rs. 4,500.

(d) Attention is invited to the reply to parts (c) and (d) of question No. 885.

RESTRICTIONS ON BETEL NUT CULTIVATION AND CURING IN CERTAIN MADRAS DISTRICTS

No. 1101.—Growers cultivating less than ten acres and curers curing less than 100 maunds are not obliged to maintain accounts; but the local officers have advised them in their own interests, to keep a simple record of their disposals in order to assist them in accounting for their products when making their declarations to the Excise Officer at the end of the curing season.

LANDS REQUISITIONED FROM RYOTS AT KUMBLA, SOUTH KANARA DISTRICT

No. 1111.—(a)

Rice	394 maunds.
Betel nuts	850 maunds.
Coconuts	224,000 numbers.
Pepper	92 maunds.

Information promised in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 1123, asked by Mr. Manu Subedar, on the 20th March 1945

PREFERENCE GIVEN BY SUPPLY DEPARTMENT TO FOREIGN PRODUCTS

Statement.

The value of the imported drugs purchased during the period 1st November 1943 to the 31st August 1944 was Rs 1,17,78,435 approximately. Due to various difficulties, including the non-availability of priced invoices in certain cases, it is not possible to supply figures showing the value of imported drugs during the remaining periods of the financial years 1943-44 and 1944-45.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 1124, 1125 and 1126, asked by Shaikh Raffuddin Ahmad Siddiquee, on the 20th March 1945

CERTAIN A CLASS MUSLIM GUARDS REVERTED TO B CLASS IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No 1124—(a) and (b) Government are informed that only one such Muslim Guard was detailed to attend the senior Assistant Station Masters' Refresher Course in May 1944 and was reverted to Grade II in August 1944. The question of sending such staff for Refresher Courses after 45 years, age is being examined.

A CLASS NON-MUSLIM GUARDS SENT FOR REFRESHER COURSE IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No 1125—(a) It is not a fact

(b) Three non-Muslims were sent for the Refresher Course during the period referred to.

CERTAIN A CLASS MUSLIM GUARDS REVERTED TO B CLASS IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No. 1126—(a) and (b) There was only one Muslim Guard affected, as stated in the reply to Starred Question No 1124 He joined the E I Railway as a Grade II Guard on the 2nd March 1922, and was posted to officiate as Grade I Guard from the 9th June 1943 He has not passed all the departmental examinations and the reward of Rs 20 which he received on one occasion was in connection with good work in recovering a bale of goods. He was reverted to a Grade II Guard's post because he was found unfit to fill the higher post.

Information promised in reply to part (b) of Starred Question No. 1138, asked by Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, on the 21th March 1945

SENIORITY OF MUSLIMS RECRUITED IN KARACHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

(b) Government understand that due to a misapprehension in regard to certain orders, clerks in Grade I on the Karachi Division were being shown against permanent posts in accordance with their seniority reckoned from the date of appointment and not in order of communal rotation This resulted in a few temporary Hindu Clerks, Grade I, being promoted to Grade II against long-term vacancies and certain Muslim clerks who were temporary against permanent vacancies being only posted to officiate in Grade II in normal leave vacancies. The seniority of the staff affected is being refixed in accordance with the correct procedure and no further action is considered necessary

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Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 1142, asked by Mr. Muhammad Ahsan, on the 20th March 1945.

BLOCK SIGNALMEN ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

(a) Appointments to the category of Block Signalmen on the Bengal and Assam Railway are taken into account for the purpose mentioned

(b) The required information is as follows:—

	1942		1943
Hindus	49	Hindus	27
Muslims	3	Muslim . . .	1
		Indian Christian . .	1

(c) Yes, in view of the technical nature of the work, the posts of Block Signalmen are normally filled by promoting experienced Switchmen. Such promotions, however, are treated as direct appointments for the purpose of adjustment of the communal quotas.

(d) No; as stated in reply to Shaikh Raffuddin Ahmad Siddiquee's Starred Question No. 1127, asked on 20th March 1945, the reservation of communal percentages in direct recruitment is not required to be observed in respect of individual categories but in respect of the railway as a whole.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 1150 *and* 1151, *asked by Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan, on the* 20*th March* 1945

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT SELECTION BOARDS, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No. 1150.—(*a*) *and* (*b*). No Selection Boards were held for promotion to the District and Assistant Medical Officer grades during the years 1943 and 1944 As regards the posts of Assistant Chemists and Laboratory Assistants (senior and junior) only one selection was held on 15th December 1944, and the Selection Board consisted of four Hindus and 1 Muslim.

(*c*) A very senior non-Muslim doctor was promoted as District Medical Officer temporarily. The only Muslim doctor who possesses foreign degrees has also been promoted temporarily as a District Medical Officer on the Bengal and Assam Railway.

IGNORING MUSLIM CLAIMS FOR CLERICAL GRADE PROMOTIONS IN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No 1151.—(*a*) Government are informed that promotions to Grades 'D', 'E' and 'F' of the clerical cadre of the Medical Department of the B &A. Railway are made on the basis of seniority and without the assistance of Selection Boards. The promotions referred to were also made in accordance with seniority except in the case of two Muslims, who though junior in service to certain non-Muslims, were temporarily promoted to 'D' Grade for administrative convenience.

(*b*) The number of non-Muslims promoted to Grades 'F', 'E' and 'D' is 1, 9 and 6 respectively, and that of Muslims is *nil*, 1 and 6 respectively. The reply to the latter portion does not arise in view of the reply to part (*a*)

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 1154, *asked by Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava, on the* 20*th March*, 1945

RESTRICTION ON BOOKING OF GREEN FRUITS FROM MUZAFFARPUR RAILWAY STATION

The Honourable Member is referred to the information laid on the table of the House in reply to part (*b*) of Starred Question No 798, asked by Mr. Badri Dutt Pande, in the Legislative Assembly on the 7th March 1945

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 1163, *asked by Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee on behalf of Dr. Habibar Rahman, on the* 20*th March* 1945

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN ESTABLISHMENT SECTIONS AT CHITTAGONG, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

(*a*) No There are 10 Muslims in the Establishment Section of the Traffic Department and 2 in the Administration Department Government are informed that the majority of the existing staff in the Establishment Sections of the Departments referred to are employees taken over from the late A B Railway Company and that owing to the disturbed conditions in the Chittagong area, the B & A. Railway Administration have had to confine their recruitment to Chittagong itself and have found it difficult to obtain Muslim recruits against the reservation prescribed for them

(*b*) The information required is tabulated below :

Name of the Office	Number of staff communitywise				Total
	Hindus	Muslims	Anglo-Indians	Other Minority Communities	
Traffic	21	10	1	1	33
Engineering . . .	4	...	...	...	4
Signal	4	...	...	...	4
Electrical . . .	3	...	..	...	3
A R. P. . . .	4	..	..	...	4
Administration .	17	2	1	1	21

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 1165 [parts(a) to (c)], 1166, 1167 *and* 1168, *asked by Mr. Muhammad Nauman, on the* 20*th March* 1945

PROMOTIONS TO LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE, EAST INDIAN AND BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAYS

No. 1165.—(*a*) The table below gives the required information :

Railway	Hindus	Muslims	Anglo-Indians	Christians	Sikhs
B. & A.	43	6	21	1	1
E. I.	35	3	37	..	1

(b) The procedure for selecting senior subordinates to gazetted ranks differed on railways prior to November 1944. Since then, however, a uniform procedure is being followed as indicated in Railway Board's letter No. E44PM12, dated 10th November 1944, a copy of which was placed on the table of the House in reply to part (b) of Lala Sham Lall's Starred Question No. 1130 asked on the 20th March 1945. According to this letter, selections are being made with the help of properly constituted Boards. Further, railway administrations have been asked to review the cases of staff previously approved in accordance with the procedure prescribed in this letter.

(c) On the B. & A. Railway, Selection Committees were not held in all cases prior to July 1944. The Selection Boards held during the period referred to in Part (a) of the question on the E. I. Railway included one Muslim Officer, while on the B. & A. Railway Selection Committees convened after November 1944, were constituted in accordance with the Railway Board's instructions issued during that month.

A CLASS GUARDS ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No. 1166.—(a) Of 575 Guards Grade I (the proper classification being Grades I & II and no Classes A & B) employed on the East Indian Railway on 31st December 1944, 113 were Muslims.

(b) 14, of whom 4 were Muslims.

(c) The total number of guards promoted from Grade II to Grade I as on 31st December 1944 was 348, of whom 78 were Muslims. Separate figures for promotions during 1944 are not available.

(d) The reply to both parts of the question is in the affirmative so far as annual reports relating to direct recruitment are concerned No reports in regard to vacancies filled by promotion are required to be submitted as the orders regarding reservation of communal percentages apply only to vacancies open to direct recruitment.

APPOINTMENTS TO LOWER GAZETTED RANK

No. 1167.—(a) 782 subordinates, of whom 216 were Muslims, were appointed during the period referred to, and eight subordinates, three of whom were Muslims, were promoted to the Lower Gazetted Service on the O. & T Railway

(b) 530 vacancies in the subordinate cadre were advertised. Generally, advertisements are inserted in at least six of the following newspapers —

The Searchlight
The Indian Nation
The Christian Layman
The Statesman
The Pioneer
The Leader
The Ittihad, Haq, Mashraque, Aj, Bharat and Gyanshakti.

(c) Appointments to subordinate services against vacancies referred to in (b) above were made through the medium of selection committees. A major portion of the remaining 252 vacancies were reviewed later by a Selection Board

As regards the Lower Gazetted Service, the vacancies, which were confined to the Accounts Department, were filled either by the transfer of suitable persons from other railways or by selections made by the Financial Adviser and Chief Accounts Officer with the approval of the General Manager of the Railway. No selection committees were appointed for filling Lower Gazetted Service vacancies during the years in question. In this connection Honourable Member's attention is invited to Railway Board's letter No. E. 44PM12, dated 14th November 1944, a copy of which was placed on the table of the House in reply to part (b) of Lala Sham Lall's Starred Question No. 1130 asked on the 20th March 1945.

(d) *and* (e). So far as subordinate staff are concerned, the principles and practice adopted in regard to setting up of selection committees and maintaining approval lists of candidates for filling vacancies are detailed in the rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff as contained in Appendix II to the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. As regards the Lower Gazetted Service, the question does not arise in view of the reply to part (c).

OFFICERS AND SUBORDINATES IN FOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT, OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

No. 1168.—(a) 81.

(b) 21.

(c) Partly by direct recruitment and partly by transfer from other departments.

(d) 18 and 3 respectively.

(e) In October 1944, posts of Inspectors and Depot Store Keeper were advertised and 5 Muslims and 2 Hindus were appointed after proper selection. The latter part does not arise.

(f) 4 Hindus.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 1169, 1170 and 1171, asked Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury, on the 20th March, 1945

RESIGNED MUSLIM GUARDS NOT REPLACED BY MUSLIMS IN HOWRAH DIVISION EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No. 1169.—(a) *and* (b). The actual position, so far as vacancies caused by the resignation of persons appointed in temporary vacancies are concerned, is that the existing orders require all such vacancies to be treated as fresh vacancies for purposes of communal representation.

(c) Yes, some vacancies were filled by direct recruitment.

(d) The following table gives the required information :

	Number of vacancies	Number of persons appointed against these vacancies who are still in service	
		(Muslims)	(Non-Muslims)
Grade I .	12	2	9
Grade II .	64	9	38

MUSLIM WIRELESS OPERATORS IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No. 1170.—(a) *and* (b). The posts of Wireless Operators on the E I Rly. were filled by promotion of Signallers already in service and not by direct recruitment. The reservation of communal percentage therefore did not apply in these cases Fifteen posts of Wireless Operators were sanctioned for the Howrah Division during the period refered to, for which twenty Signallers were trained as Wireless Operators Of these two are Muslims.

MUSLIM WIRELESS OPERATORS IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No. 1171.—(a). Yes, but as stated in my reply to the Honourable Member's question No. 1170, reservation of communal percentage did not apply in making appointments to Wireless Operators posts.

(b) So, far, only seven non-Muslims, in accordance with their seniority have been promoted and posted as Wireless Operators on the Howrah Division. Other qualified Signallers, including Muslims, will be promoted in their turn.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 94, asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, on the 20th March 1945

CLERKS AND SORTING POSTMEN IN CALCUTTA POST OFFICES

(a)

Name of office	Clerks	Sorting postmen
(i) Rash Bihari Avenue	9	2
(ii) Narkildanga	4	1
(iii) Hasting's	5	...
(iv) Garden Reach	6	1

(b) *and* (c). The general principle followed, subject to funds being available, is that where post offices have not less than five clerks in addition to a postmaster, the postmaster is an officer of the the selection grade On this principle, selection grade posts are justified for the Rash Bihari Avenue, Hastings and Garden Reach Post Offices, and these have since been sanctioned.

Information promised in reply to part (a) of Starred Question No. 1202, asked by Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan, on the 21st March 1945

TERMS FOR WOMEN DOCTORS IN CENTRAL MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Statement showing details regarding pay, allowances, etc., of women doctors and men doctors of corresponding rank employed on the staff, on the Government General Hospitals in the Centrally Administered Areas

Name of Area	Women	Men
Delhi . .	Rs. 50/- p.m plus messing allowance @ Rs. 1/8/- per diem, with free furnished quarter free water and electricity upto 15 units (House Surgeons)	Same as for *Women* (House Surgeons).
Ajmer . .	Rs. 200—10—300—15—450 *plus* war allowance as per scale sanctioned by the Government from time to time (Assistant Surgeons)	Rs. 200—10—320—15—500, *plus* war allowance as per scale sanctioned by the Govt. from time to time (Asstt. Surgeons).
Coorg. .	(i) 65—7½/2—110—10/2—170 p. m. *plus* dearness Rs., 12/- p m (ii) 65—7/2—100—8/2—124—9/2—160 *plus* dearness Rs 12/- p.m. (Sub-Asstt. Surgeons)	Same as for *women* (Sub-Assistant Surgeons)
Baluchistan .	150—10—200 with rent free quarters. (Doctors with licentiate's qualifications)	Rs 55.—3—100 *plus* general compensatory allowance Rs. 21-14-0 with rent free quarters (Doctors with licentiate's qualifications)

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 1228, asked by Mr. Anang Mohan Dam, on the 21st March 1945

DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO DELHI SCHOOL TEACHERS

No 1228.—(b) No.
(b) Does not arise.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question Nos. 1334, 1235 and 1237, asked by Mr. D. K. Lahari Chaudhuri, on the 21st March 1945.

ELECTRIC CONNECTION APPLICATIONS FROM WESTERN EXTENSION AREA, KAROL BAGH, DELHI

Nos 1234.—(i), (ii), (iii) *and* (iv) Enquires have been made The information desired is not readily available. Its collection over a long period of four years will involve expenditure of time and labour which would not be commensurate with result

REFUSAL OF ELECTRIC CONNECTIONS IN DELHI

No. 1235.—(a) Yes, in view of the expanding needs for operational purposes, sanctioned of the electrical connection to private houses, had in some cases to be withheld, on account of the necessity for the conservation of the electric energy and the material available.

(b) In these abnormal times some hardship is bound to be caused to some people by such measures as have necessarily to be taken to conserve energy and material which are in short supply Premises cannot be therefore connected with the supply mains for the reasons that they are equipped with electric installations and internal wiring. For marriages and other domestic ceremonies temporary electricity connections are frequently sanctioned to avoid undue to hardships. The Govt. have however, recently withdrawn Electricity Control Order in respect of domestic connections.

(c) Informal scheme of kerosene oil rationin has been introduce, wherein provision has been made for the issue of kerosene oil to families living in unelectrified quarters.

LACK OF STREET LIGHTING IN WESTERN EXTENSION AREA, KAROL BAGH, DELHI

No 1237 —(a) This is not true of the older portions of Karol Bagh but in the areas developed since 1937 the municipal authority concerned (the Delhi Municipal Committee) has not yet taken over or brought into use the street lighting equipment which was provided by the Delhi Improvement Trust.

(b) There have been some cases of accidents in the past, but it cannot be assumed that all of them were die to the absence of street lighting though the want of illumination might have been a contributing cause in some cases

(c) The want of street lighting may have facilited the operations of criminals to some extent. But the thefts are mainly due to openness of the neighbourhood which has not been fully built up and careless habits of householders.

(d) By the expression "Karol Bagh Road" presumably the Hon'ble Member refers to the Link Road on which lights were provided some time ago, as the Hon'ble Member has himself mentioned. Road No. 34 (Pusa Road) and Block No. 62 of Western Extension Area were taken over recently by the Delhi Municipal Committee for maintenance No electric bulbs are in short supply, the street lighting in Karol Bagh as well as most parts in Delhi and New Delhi has been insufficient The position will be remedied as soon as the Municipalities are in receipt of fresh consignments.

(e) The various municipal services in the Western Extension Area have not yet been over for maintenance by the Delhi Municipal Committee because the areas have not completely built up It is expected however, that the municipality will shortly take over parts of the area when it may be possible to take over the street lamps and bring them in

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 1238, 1941 *and* 1242, *asked by Mr Ananga Mohan Dam, on the 21st March* 1945

PERMITS ISSUED IN DELHI TO CONSUMERS OF CLOTH, ETC.

No. 1238.—*Statement showing the names of dealers in whose favour permits for cycles were issued during the month of February 1945*

Serial No.	Name of the dealer	No. of cycles issued	Stock on 1st March, 1945
1.	Continental Cycle Co , Jama Masjid, Delhi	1	3
2.	Hem Chand, Jama Masjid, Delhi	13	9
3.	Imperial Cycle & Motor Company, Delhi	32	14
4.	P. D Kalaso, Chandni Chowk, Delhi	14	2
5.	P. D Gupta, Paharganj, Delhi	15	1
6.	E. S. Pearey Lall, Kashmere Gate, Delhi	256	86
7.	Shankar Lall & Sons, Delhi	2	24 (Hercules)
8	Sardar Cycle & Motor Company, Delhi	..	3
9	S M. Abdulla, Sadar Bazar, Delhi	10	1
10.	L. N. Gupta, Delhi	...	3
11.	Mistri Ghisa Singh, Delhi	..	9 (Hercules)
12.	Ennaths Cycle Shop, New Delhi	6	18
13.	Laxmi Cycle Stores, New Delhi	21	25
14.	New India Traders, Faiz Bazar, Delhi	1	60
15.	Calcutta Cycle Supply Company, Delhi	....	25
16.	M. A. Moon, Chandni Chowk, Delhi	....	16
17·	Broadway Stores, Delhi	..	23
18.	New Delhi Cycle Mart, Delhi	.	1
19	New Popular Cycle Mart, Delhi	..	13

Statement showing the names of dealers in whose favour permits for watches were issued during February, 1945

Serial No.	Name of the dealer	Stock in hand on 1st February, 1945	Permits issued during the month of February	Balance in hand on 1st March, 1945
1.	Messrs. Lodhi & Company	810	318	492
2.	Messrs. Swastika Watch Company	462	81	381
3.	Messrs. S M. Rafi	100	16	84
4.	Messrs. Balkishen Das Watch Co.	71	40	31
5.	Messrs. Geneva Watch Company	15	11	4
6.	Messrs Laxmi Narayan	230	69	161
7.	Messrs Cook & Calvey	12	7	5
8.	Messrs. Jama Watch Company	388	72	316
9.	Messrs Imperial Watch Company	129	32	97
10.	Messrs. Jaffer Watch Company	22	18	4
11.	Regal Watch Company	170	48	122
12.	Messrs. Kanahya Watch Company	106	48	58
13.	Messrs. Duke Watch Company.	75	28	47
14.	Messrs. Ram Nath and Company	5	4	1
15.	Messrs. G. B. Watch Company	32	23	9
16.	Messrs. Simon Watch Company	65	10	55
17.	Messrs. Fine Watch Company	16	10	6
18.	Messrs. Central Watch Company	6	4	2
19.	Messrs. Munuddin Watch Company	3	1	2
20.	Messrs. Murari Lall Watch Company	3	2	1
21.	Messrs. Star Watch Company	3	1	2
22.	Messrs. G. S. Khanna, Cantonment	12	1	11
	TOTAL	2,735	844	1,891

Statement showing the names of dealers in whose favour permits for woollen cloth were issued in the month of February, 1945.

Serial No.	Name of Dealers	Total number of Permits	Remarks
1.	Messrs. M R. Idrees and Company	155	
2.	Messrs. M. Idrees Barry and Company	212	
3	Messrs. Sohan Lal	23	
4.	Messrs. Siri Ram	12	
5.	Messrs. Sharma Bros.	8	
6.	Messrs. Padam Chand Jagdish Pershad	7	
7.	Messrs. Loke Nath Ram Saran Dass	5	
8.	Messrs Ghasali and Sons	1	
9.	Messrs. Suraj and Company	5	
10.	Messrs. Asmat Bros.	29	
11.	Messrs. Rahmat Elahi Mohd, Bilal	14	
12.	Messrs. Karachi Cloth House	124	
13.	Messrs. Mohan Bros	36	
14.	Messrs. Pershotam Lal Sunder Lal	72	
15	Messrs S. Khalil and Sons	204	
16.	Messrs. Bandi Bros.	516	(Tweed)
17.	Messrs. Riazuddin and Sons	361	
18.	Messrs. H. Rashid Ahmed (K.B.)	206	
19.	Messrs. Roy Bros	188	
20.	Messrs. Diwan Chand Kanaya Lal	24	
21.	Messrs. Rankur and Company	86	
22.	Messrs. Ragho Mal	61	
23	Messrs. Great Eastern Stores	3	
24.	Messrs. Jokhi Mall	77	
25.	Messrs Eddie	85	
26.	Messrs. Phelps	140	
27.	Messrs. B. Leela Ram and Sons	172	
28.	Messrs. Style	80	
29.	Messrs Ram Pershad and Company	188	
30.	Messrs Devi Chand	6	
31.	Messrs. S. C. Sharma	3	
32	Messrs. Textile Mills Stores	88	
33.	Messrs Mohd Umer and Sons	8	
34.	Messrs. S Rahman and Company	29	
35.	Messrs. Fair Price Shop, Sadar Bazar	157	(Tweed)
36.	Messrs. Cheap Jamy	7	
37.	Messrs. Hargobind Bros.	38	
38.	Messrs. Nand Lal Har Naram	17	
39.	Messrs. Kapadia and Company	3	
40.	Messrs. Associated Clothers	7	
41.	Messrs. Glamour	8	
42.	Messrs. D. M. C. Co-operative Stores	5	
43.	Messrs. Loke Nath	35	
44.	Messrs. Thakur Dass Permeshri Dass	17	
45.	Messrs. Shahabuddin Abdul Ghafoor	21	
46.	Messrs. Gauri Shanker	11	
47.	Messrs. Royal Stores	16	
48.	Messrs. Bhagwan Dass	1	
49.	Messrs. Gulzari Mal Jhabbo Mal	½	
50.	Messrs. Dwarka Nath	4	
51.	Messrs. V. Raj and Company	2	
52.	Messrs. M. S. Ghani and Sons	2	
53.	Messrs. Uttams	2	
54.	Messrs. Gurdhari Lal	2	
55.	Messrs. Umrao Singh Alopi Pershad	1	
56.	Messrs. Mohd. Ibrahim M. Siddiq	2	
57.	Messrs. Jagat Naram	1	
58.	Messrs. Jwala Nath	2	
59.	Messrs. Janki Dass	7	
60.	Messrs. Other Woollen Dealers	319	
	TOTAL	3,916	

Low Pay to Trained Graduates in Higher Secondary Schools in Delhi

No. 1241.—(a) No. Honours graduates of British or Indian Universities who have got administrative or teaching experience of a specified number of years can become Principals of Higher Secondary Schools in Delhi.

(b) Yes. Because the responsibilities of a Principal of a Higher Secondary School are obviously greater than those of a teacher.

Appointment of Outside Teachers in Delhi Schools

No. 1242.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes, but only in cases where residents of Delhi possessing the requisite qualifications were not available.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 1262, 1263, 1271, 1272, 1273 *and* 1277 (a)(ii), *asked by Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, on the 22nd March* 1945

Need of Public Bonded Warehouse in North Kanara District

No. 1262 —(a) and (b) —There are several private bonded warehouses in North Kanara District and these adequately meet the requirements of the trade. If at any time the need is felt for more private bonded warehouses or a public bonded warehouse the Collector of Central Excise, Bombay, would be prepared to consider applications for licences from suitable persons. The decline in the tobacco trade in the South Kanara District cannot, however, be attributed to insufficient bonded warehouse accommodation in North Kanara District since traders in the latter District are now bringing tobacco in bond from such large centres as Sangli, Kolhapur, Nipani, Ellore and Beswada instead of from the South Kanara District.

Wetting of Tobacco by Bonded Warehouse Keepers in Mangalore

No. 1263.—(a) Certain varieties of tobacco warehoused in Mangalore are capable of being used both for chewing and for the manufacture of snuff. When assessment of such tobacco is claimed at the rate for chewing tobacco, which is lower than the rate applicable to snuff tobacco, the warehouse officer requires that it should first be treated with water in order to render it unfit for manufacture into snuff. Duty is charged only on the net weight of the tobacco at the time of clearance.

(b) This procedure is permissible under rules 143 and 159 of the Central Excise Rules.

Access to Water Resources within Requisitioned Lands at Kumbla

No. 1271.—(a) In the interest of military security, persons wishing to enter areas which are declared "protected places" to take water for irrigation purposes are required to obtain permits. The Revenue Divisional Officer was instructed to issue permits in consultation with the military authorities.

(b) Compensation will be paid in cases where an interference with irrigation facilities has occurred.

Grievances re Compensation, etc., of Occupiers of Requisitioned Lands at Kumbla

No. 1272.—(a) Work in connection with requisitioning began in August, 1944 and the areas which completely evacuated and handed over to the military authorities by the 1st February, 1945.

(b) and (c) A sum of Rs. 1,07,439/7/5 was paid in cash in advance. Under the instructions issued by Government, Collectors are authorised to make advance payments even where an agreement cannot be reached in regard to the amount of compensation.

(d) Such compensation as may be admissible will be paid by Government.

Grievances re Compensation, etc., of Occupiers of Requisitioned Lands at Kumbla

No. *1273.*—(a) and (b) Compensation is assessed in accordance with the principles laid down in section 19 of the Defence of India Act.

(c) The compensation varies according to the quality of the land.

(d) Out of the total compensation of Rs. 1,58,198/2/9 (recurring and non-recurring) to be paid in advance, a sum of Rs. 1,07,439/7/5 has been paid in cash and the balance kept in deposit. From this it appears that the majority of occupiers and owners of the lands have accepted the compensation offered to them.

(e) An arbitrator has been appointed in one case. For other cases arbitrators will be appointed when the Collector reports that their appointment is necessary.

POWER OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO WITHHOLD IN INDIVIDUAL CASES OF PENSIONS, ETC., OF INDIAN RANKS

No. 1277 (a)(ii) —There were no similar provisions in the 1923 and 1928 editions of the Regulations. The approval of the Secretary of State was obtained in view of the additional power needed to meet the situation at that time

Information promised in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 1337, asked by Sri K B Jinaraja Hegde, on the 26th March 1945

RATION PER ADULT LABOURER IN CERTAIN AREAS

(c) Cardamon Estates too, enjoy this concession.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 1396, asked by Mr. Ram Narayan Singh on the 27th March 1945

KING'S PREROGATIVE TO STOP WAR COMPENSATIONS, ETC., IN RESPECT OF CERTAIN INDIAN PERSONNEL OF INDIAN FORCES

The powers conferred on the Government of India are not derived from any particular Royal Warrant but from the inherent power of the Crown to prescribe such conditions as it may think fit to govern its gifts and bounties within which category pensions fall.

In view of what I have stated above, parts (a) —(c) of the Honourable Member's question No 1396 do not arise, but I might explain that the Government of India now possess rule-making powers in respect of Indian commissioned officers, Viceroy's Commissioned officers and Indian other ranks of the Indian services King's commissioned officers of the Indian Army, of whom there are a certain number of Indian officers, fall within the rule-making powers of the Secretary of State.

Part (d) of the question does not arise nor are the sections of the Acts quoted relevant to the issue.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 1419, asked by Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan, on the 28th March 1945

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE PAID TO CERTAIN TICKET INSPECTING STAFF ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

(a) and (b) On detailed investigation it is learnt that there were only four cases, on the Asansol and Moradabad Divisions, in which ticket inspecting staff were allowed travelling allowance on the basis of the current orders owing to mis-apprehension in some cases and to doubt as to the interpretation of rules in others. These cases have since been settled.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 1427, asked by Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, on the 28th March, 1945

INTER-DIVISIONALLY WORKED PASSENGER TRAINS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

(a) Yes, certain selected through passenger trains are worked by Guards inter-divisionally.

(b) In the event of a shortage of night-vision failed Guards, who normally work as Luggage Guards, senior Guards, Grade II, are sometimes deputed for the purpose.

(c) No, the trains are ordinarily worked by Grade III, Guards of the Lahore Division and it is only in cases of emergency that senior (and not the most junior) Grade II, Guards are utilized in their place

(d) The reply is in the negative ; the senior Grade II, Guards of the Delhi Division are deputed to work as Luggage Guards and also incharge of trains On very rare occasions they may be called upon to work long hours.

(e) No, unless their action involves a deliberate breach of discipline.

(f) The telegram or the subsequent reminders referred to cannot be traced as having been received in the General Manager North Western Railway's office. In view of the reply given to parts (c) and (d), the Administration do not consider further action n

Information promised in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 1434, *asked by Mr. N. M. Joshi, on the28th March* 1945

INSTRUCTIONS AUTHORISING RAILWAY ADMINISTRATIONS TO REDUCE AN EMPLOYEE TO LOWER POST

Government are informed that 50 petitions were filed in respect of alleged illegal reductions or deductions from wages during the period referred to and only 3 of these were decided in favour of the petitioners.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 1437 *and* 1438, *asked by Sardar Sant Singh, on the* 28*th March* 1945

TRAINING FOR SECTION CONTROLLERS' JOBS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

No. 1437.—(*a*), (*b*) and (*f*). The Selection Board at the Headquarters of the North Western Railway, at the time of interviewing Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters, Grades I to III, for promotion to Grade IV, also interviews Guards and Yard Foremen who have passed the P-I Course and such commercial staff who were originally drawn from Transportation staff and have had adequate Transportation training and experience. From all these categories, a list is drawn up of persons considered suitable, provisionally, for Section Controllers' duties. The men so selected are given training in a Control Office and are required to appear for a final examination at the end of the course After qualifying in Control duties, the staff are tried in short term vacancies of Section Controllers on their respective Divisions, and it is the duty of the Divisions to determine the suitability or otherwise of the staff for promotion as Section Controllers For this purpose they may hold such written or oral tests as they consider necessary before making final recommendations The staff considered suitable by the Divisional Superintendents, for promotion as Section Controllers are sent before the Headquarters Selection Board for *final* selection.

(*c*) and (*d*) I understand that in view of the deterioration of efficiency of Control staff on the Karachi Division, the Divisional Superintendent, Karachi, found it expedient to convene a Selection Board in November, 1944, preceded by a written test, to determine the fitness of staff for promotion as Section Controllers

(*e*) The cases of the 12 candidates who refused to sit for the written test, who, it may be explained, had not been considered suitable for promotion by a previous Selection Board held in the Divisional Office, Karachi, in August, 1944, were duly considered by the Divisional Superintendent, Karachi, on the basis of the results obtained by them at the selection in August, 1944, but they were not recommended as suitable candidates to be considered by the Headquarters Selection Board No penalty such as withholding of promotion, was inflicted on them. The last portion does not arise.

PROMOTION AS SECTION CONTROLLERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

No. 1438.—(*a*) Selection was made from amongst the staff who were eligible and had qualified in Course P-I and Control. In making the selection due consideration was given to various factors including practical experience, though the latter would not be considered the sole determining factor.

(*b*) The statement below given the required information.

(*c*) The instructions issued by the Railway Board on the subject of appointment and training of Control staff provide for ensuring efficient control arrangements on railways.

Information promised in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 1439, *asked by Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, on the* 28*th March* 1945

NEW EXPERIMENT RE TICKET CHECKING ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

(*c*) No, although results were not as goods as had been hoped. This scheme was introduced as an experiment with the object of combating the evil of ticketless travel in accordance with a suggestion made at a meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways It was, however, withdrawn as it was found that the work done by the Train Supervisors could by arrangement be equally well performed by other existing staff. The question of any loss does not arise.

Information promised in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 1444, asked by Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, on the 28th March, 1945

RECRUITMENT TO POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS ACCOUNTANTS' CADRE

Statement showing the scale of pay and actual pay drawn by the S. A. S. borrowed officials before and after coming over to the P. & T. Accountants' cade

Name of S. A. S. officials borrowed from the P. & T. Audit Department	Before tansfer to the P.&T. Accountants' cadre		After transfer to the P. & T. Accountants' cadre.		
	Scale of pay	Actual pay	Scale of pay	Actual pay	Spl. pay, if any
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs	Rs.
1. Mr. S. K. Gupta	220—20—500	240	220—20—500	240	20
2. Mr. S C Mondal	60—8—140—6—230	208	220—20—500	220	20
3. Mr. G O. Mukerjee	60—8—140—6—230	230	220—20—500	240	20
4 Mr S K Rudra	60—8—140—6—230	208	220—20—500	220	*Nil*
5. Mr. N. Nagaratnam	40—8—100—5—175	175	190—20—310—15—400	190	20
6. Mr. M L Bhargava	50—8—140—5—200	148	200—20—500	200	20
7. Mr. Raghunath Saran	50—8—140—6—200	104	200—20—500	200	20
8 Mr. T Raghunathan	40—8—100—5—175	175	190—20—310—15—400	190	*Nil*
9. Mr. Pampathy Banerjee	220—20—500	300	220—20—500	300	*Nil*
10. Mr. V. Ramamurthy	45—8—75—5—145—5—165	75	150—15—375	150	20
11. Mr. N. Ramachandran	45—8—75—5—145—5—235	75	150—15—375	150	*Nil*
12. Mr. K. S Deshpande.	45—8—75—5—145—5—165	75	150—15—375	150	*Nil*
13. Mr. Nagarathan	40—7—75—6—135—5—175	120	190—20—310—15—400	190	30
14. Mr. S. K. Sen Gupta	60—8—140—6—230	146	220—20—500	220	30
15. Mr. Profulla Chandra Roy	40—5—90	60	175—15—400	175	*Nil*

Information promised in reply to part (d) of Starred Question No. 1469, asked by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, on the 29th March 1945

AREA UNDER IRRIGATION IN BALUCHISTAN

(d) Yes, the amount advanced was Rs. 17,200.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 1480, asked by Mr. A. Satya Narayana Moorty, on the 29th March 1945

FOODSTUFFS DESTROYED IN BENGAL

10,012 maunds of foodgrains of the value of Rs. 1,33,747 are reported to have been destroyed in Bengal in 1944.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 1511 (d) and 1512, asked by Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, on the 2nd April, 1945

MILITARY PUNISHMENT OF REDUCING TO LOWER RANK FOR CERTAIN CORPS

No. 1511.—(d) The case referred to in the letter quoted by the Honourable Member in part (d) of the question is not covered by the answers to parts (a) to (c) thereof Subedar Lekh Raj, to whose case the letter relates, was holding the substantive rank of Jemadar in the 2/9th Delhi Regiment. In 1919 he was attached to No. 9 Labour Corps in which he was granted the *local* rank of Subedar *without* pay and allowances of that rank. The grant of local rank does not entitle the holder thereof to the pay of that rank. Subedar Lekh Raj was not therefore entitled to the pension of his local rank, but was discharged on the pension of his substantive rank of Jemadar. There is no case for the revision of the orders contained in the letter.

REFUSAL TO REVISE CASES TURNED DOWN BY AUTHORITIES AT GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

No. 1512.—I have since seen a copy of the communication from the Controller, which was referred to by the Honourable Member in part (b) of his question, but I am unable to agree that it affords an instance of the allegation made in part (a) of the question.

As the Honourable Member must doubtless be aware, a time limit existed for the consideration of claims arising out of disabilities alleged to be attributable to the Great War. This date was the 1st July, 1932. Officers Commanding were, however, vested with discretion to investigate and forward claims *received for the first time* after the prescribed date, provided they were satisfied that special reasons existed justifying such a course.

This ex-Sowar's claim, to which the Controller's communication refers, was first considered and rejected by the authorities at Army Headquarters in 1917. He next appears to have first petitioned in January, 1943, about 10½ years after the prescribed date from which claims became time-barred. It is now nearly 28 years since the case was rejected in 1917 and Government do not, therefore, proposed to take any action in the matter.

The Honourable Member can rest assured that not only do pension claims receive sympathetic consideration but that in considering such claims, Government invariably keep before them all the orders bearing on the subject. I would, however, explain that clause II of rule 79, Pension Regns., India, Part III, promulgated by amendment No. 13 of October 1941, relating to the entertainment of claims and to which particular rule the Honourable Member is probably alluding, lays down a limit to the amount of arrears which may be sanctioned and does not affect the time bar prescribed for the consideration of Great War disability pension claims

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions No. 1546 and 1547, asked by Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee, on the 3rd April 1945

LADY TICKET COLLECTORS APPOINTED IN ALLAHABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No. 1546.—(*a*) Four.

(*b*) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the latter portion, three advertisement were issued during 1944. Applications from Muslim ladies were received only in response to the last, and of the three ladies who so applied, only one appeared for the interview.

(*c*) The only Muslim lady candidate who appeared before the Selection Board was not considered suitable.

APPOINTMENTS MADE IN GRAIN SHOPS IN ALLAHABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No. 1547.—(*a*) and (*b*) The required information is as follows:

Community	On pay upto Rs. 50		On pay from Rs. 51 to Rs. 100		On pay from Rs. 101 upwards	
	By direct recruitment	By promotion	By direct recruitment	By promotion	By direct recruitment	By promotion
Muslims	10	3	1	18	...	2
Sikhs	...	...	...	1	...	...
Scheduled Castes	2	1	...	2	...	...
Hindus	19	11	...	51	...	1
Total	31	15	1	72	×	3
Grand Total	46		73		3	

(*c*) No.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 1560, asked by Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, on the 3rd April 1945

NON-GRANT OF CERTAIN ALLOWANCES TO RAILWAY BOOKING CLERKS.

(*a*) Yes; on the North Western Railway, Guards, who have not been brought under the Hours of Employment Regulations, are allowed a full day's pay, in addition to any mileage earned, for one or more journeys commenced or finished on Sundays or on holidays granted on account of New Year's Day, Christmas Day, King Emperor's Birth Day and Good Friday. Booking Clerks are entitled to their periodic rest in accordance with the Hours of Employment Regulations.

(*b*) Goods and Parcel Clerks employed in certain transit sheds are allowed transit allowances for days during which they perform transit duties. Booking Clerks at junction stations have not to work under the same difficult conditions as Goods and Parcel Clerks doing transit duties and are not eligible for an allowance.

(*c*) Does not arise in view of the reply to (*a*) and (*b*) above.

Information promised in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 1561, asked by Mr. Satyanarayana Moorty, on the 3rd April 1945

RECENT TRAIN ACCIDENT NEAR KARACHI

The Sind Government have advised the N. W. Railway Administration that a Magisterial Enquiry into the Jungshahi accident will be held.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 1945, asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 4th April, 1945

PAYMENTS TO CONTRACTORS FOR SILT CLEARANCE AT CHANDRAWAL AND WAZIRABAD, DELHI

(a) Yes, except that the figure for 1943-44 was Rs 19,700

(b) Owing to increase in the cost of labour and the fact that unusually extensive silt clearance works were undertaken in 1944-45, the expenditure for that year was Rs 54,476.

(c) No. Fresh tenders were called for

(d) No. Silt is removed when dry as well as while still wet, depending on what is most convenient Silt removal is paid for at different rates depending on whether it is wet or dry.

(e) No. The rate paid during 1944-45 was annas eight per hundred c ft. for dry or semi-dry silt and annas twelve per hundred c ft for wet silt for each additional chain

(f) Does not arise.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No 1627, asked by Mr. S. K. Hosmani, on the 4th April 1945

MALPRACTICES BY CANDIDATES AT ELECTIONS TO SHAHDARA MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE

A reference is invited to the reply to Question No 457 asked by Mr Muhammad Azhar Ali on the 21st February, 1945 The arrests and convictions were in respect of one of the wards (Ward III) only There are recognised methods by which a municipal election can be challenged and there can be no question of disqualifying any candidate except in accordance with the prescribed procedure

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Information promised in reply to a Supplementary Question to Starred Question No. 1636, asked by Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, on the 5th April 1945

JOINT STOCK BANKS APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

" Eligible assets " are assets which are eligible for rediscount and for advances by the Reserve Bank under the Reserve Bank of India Act and are enumerated in S 17 thereof They do not cover all the assets that banks can possibly furnish but they do include all assets which central banks are usually authorised to discount or advance against

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Information promised in reply to Supplementary Question to Starred Question No 1644, asked by Mr Sri Prakasa, on the 5th April 1945

DETENTION OF MR BRIJ KISHEN CHANDIWALA OF DELHI

Statement

1. Newspapers published in Delhi are not being provided to Mr Brij Kishen Chandiwala. The question of providing these to him was taken up by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, with the Punjab Government but they expressed themselves unable to allow this special concession, Delhi newspapers not being on their approved list.

2. Mr Brij Kishen Chandiwala is in a satisfactory state of health except that he has got four local sores (Dermal Leishmaniasis) on the right hand and the right fore-arm for which he is getting proper treatment

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 1659, asked by Mr. S. K. Hosman on the 5th April, 1945

PROTECTION OF TRAVELLING PUBLIC FROM HARRASMENT BY POLICE AT JUMNA BRIDGE, DELHI

Government do not think that the public are harrassed If however, any person has a complaint to make regarding the behaviour of the staff employed for checking passengers and goods at Jumna Bridge, it is open to him to represent the matter to the proper authorities If in any case the person concerned is in doubt to whom he should make his complaint—the staff at the Bridge includes not only officers of the Delhi Police but members of the Enforcement Staff working under the Director of Civil Supplies and officials of the Delhi Municipal Committee—the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi will always receive complaints and transmit them to the proper quarter

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 1669, asked by Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait, on the 6th April, 1945

COAL AND CHROMIUM MINES IN BALUCHISTAN

(a) Coal is found and is estimated to be present in considerable quantities at Shahrig.

(b) The coal mines are divided into 11 leases, 7 of which are leased to private companies, viz. Messrs Mullick Willayat Hussain, F. B Patel, R. S. Tikamdas, the Monok Colliery Company, K. B Sardar Ghulam Mohammad Khan Tarin, while 2 are managed by the Baluchistan Administration and the remaining 2 are vacant The chrome mines have been leased to Baluchistan Chrome Company, Limited, and Messrs B D Patel and Company

(c) Royalties received from the Coal and Chrome mines during the year 1944-45 amounted to Rs 22,279-14-0, while the net profit from the working of the Baluchistan Administration's leases during the year 1943-44 was Rs 4,140

Information promised in reply to parts (b) and (c) of Starred Question No 1672, asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, on the 6th April, 1945

COMPLAINT OF SHORT WEIGHMENTS AT RAILWAY GRAIN SHOP, MALAKWAL

(b) and (c) Government are informed that the Grain Shop Manager, Cash Memo Clerk and one cooly of the Malakwal Grain Shop are under trial under Sections 408/411/414 I P C

Information promised in reply to parts (b), (c), (d) and (e) of Starred Question No. 1674, asked by Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, on the 6th April, 1945

LOW WAGES OF COOLIES AT ARAVANKADU CORDITE FACTORY

(b) No Our enquiries show that the wages paid to unskilled workers employed outside the factory are generally lower than the figures mentioned in the Question.

(c) The number of coolies employed on 0-9-0 a day on 7th April 1945 was 736, and consisted of 732 men and 4 women with less than six months' service The number of coolies employed on 0-6-0 a day on the same date was 121 comprising 23 boys and 98 women with less than six month's service. All coolies employed at the factory received in addition dearness allowance at the rate of Rs. 11 P.M which has since been raised to Rs 14 P.M

(d) Some coolies working in the Stores section have to shovel coal. For this work they were and are supplied with protective clothing. No suspension of the issue of such clothing was ordered, but, for a period last year, issues were prevented as we could not get the cloth. The practice of providing black sarees for women coolies was discontinued when the factory ceased to employ women on handling coal. Now that some women are again required for this work, protective clothing in the form of sarees will be issued to them when so employed.

(e) None. It is not customary for coolies to resign their employment. Normally those who wish to cease work at the factory do so without giving notice and no action is taken to retain them in employment against their will.

Information promised in reply to parts (a), (b) and (c) of Starred Question No. 1695, asked by Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, on the 9th April, 1945

GROW MORE FOOD CONTRIBUTION GIVEN TO MADRAS GOVERNMENT

(a) The amounts spent on the Grow More Food schemes during 1944-45 in the districts of the Nilgiris, Malabar and South Kanara are as follows :—

	Rs.
The Nilgiris	3,753
Malabar	20,073
South Kanara	10,580

(b) and (c). No tube wells or surface wells were sunk in these three districts during 1944-45 out of the grant sanctioned by the Government of India. Nor was any expenditure incurred in these districts on emergency irrigation schemes.

Information promised in reply to part (a) of Starred Question No. 1696, asked by Mr. A. Satyanarayana Moorty, on the 9th April, 1945

COCOA BEANS IMPORTED FROM CEYLON

Only 61 cwts. of Cocoa beans were imported into India from Ceylon during the months of January and February, 1944.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 1707, *asked by Dewan Abdul Basith Chowdhury (on behalf of Dr. Habibur Rahman), on the 9th April,* 1945

BAN ON FISHING AT OKHLA BY PROFESSIONALS OF VILLAGE OKHLA

(a) Professional fishermen are allowed to fish everywhere except in the protected waters, as this would have a harmful effect on fish breeding and in the last report on the general fish supply.

(b) Yes Representations have been made by and on behalf of the professional fishermen to various officers. They cannot be allowed to fish in the protected waters for the reasons stated in reply to part (a) of the question and hence no further enquiry has been made in the matter. The other part of the question does not arise.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 1716 (b) *and* (c)] *and* 1717 (a) *and* (c), *asked by Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan on the 9th April,* 1945

FISHING AT OKHLA

No. 1716. (b) Yes. The issue of daily as well as annual permits is now more strictly regulated than before

(c) The criterion for the grant of annual permits is that their number is not so great as to have a harmful effect on fish breeding. The Delhi Anglers Association is consulted only in doubtful cases. Without particulars of the cases in mind, it is not possible to answer the last part of the question.

LICENCES FOR FISHING AT OKHLA

No. 1717. (a) According to particulars specified 30 applications from Central Government servants were received of which 19 were accepted and eleven rejected. As regards the latter part of the question, the Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to part (c) of his question No. 1716. The general conditions for the great war renewal of licences apply equally to Government servants and to others.

(c) Ex-Members of the Delhi Anglers Association can apply direct for a permit in the same way as anyone else and such applications are dealt with on their merits.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No 135 *asked by Mr Badri Dutt Pande on the* 9th *March* 1945

TERMS, PAY, ETC, OF CERTAIN OFFICIALS OF VICEREGAL ESTATES TRANSFERRED TO CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Serial No	Name and designation of the official transferred from the Viceregal Estates	Terms and Conditions on which he was employed in the Viceregal Estates	Pay at the time of transfer from Viceregal Estates	Pay given on transfer to C P W D	Status on transfer	Present rank and pay in Central P W D	
						Rank	Pay
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
			Rs				
1	Mr Hussain Ali, Sanitary Overseer	Pay in the scale of Rs 80—7—255 *plus* rent free quarters	241	Same pay and scale as in cols (3) and (4)	Sanitary Overseer	Since retired	
2	Mr Shiv Saran Das, Building Supervisor	Pay in the scale of Rs. 200—10—400 *plus* rent free quarters	340	Same pay and scale as in cols (3) and (4) *plus* Sub Divisional allowance of Rs 50 p ms.	Sub Divisional Officer	Since dead	
3	Mr B G Mathur, Building Supervisor	Pay in the scale of Rs 200—10—400 *plus* rent free quarters.	290	Same pay and scale as in cols (3) and (4).	Building Supervisor	Since retired	
4	Mr B C Banerjee, Building Supervisor	Pay in the scale of Rs 200—10—400 *plus* rent free quarters.	200	Ditto	Ditto	Sub Divisional Officer	Rs. 280 *plus* Rs. 50 p m Sub Divisional allowances.
5	Mr Mohan Lal, Draftsman	Pay in the scale of Rs 60—5—150 *plus* rent free quarters.	130	Rs 200	Senior Draftsman	Senior Draftsman	Rs 210
6	Mr Madho Naram, Sub Overseer	Pay in the scale of Rs 75—4—150 *plus* rent free quarters	135	*Same pay and scale as in cols (3) and (4)	Subordinate	Subordinate	Rs 135
7	Mr P N Chatterjee, Electrical Supervisor	Pay in the scale of Rs 200—10—400 *plus* rent free quarters	400	*Same pay and scale as in cols (3) and (4)	Electrical Supervisor	Since retired	

* Was transferred on the same pay at his own request

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

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Information promised in reply to Unstarred Questions Nos. 139 *and* 140, *asked by Mr. S. K. Hosmani, on the* 9*th April*, 1945

DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN EUROPEANS AND INDIANS AS REGARDS FISHING AT OKHLA

No 139 —(*a*) No There is no racial discrimination in connection with this matter.
(*b*) No No enquiry is considered necessary as there is no discrimination.
(*c*), (*d*) and (*e*). No

DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN EUROPEANS AND INDIANS AS REGARDS FISHING AT OKHLA

No 140 —(a) No
(*b*) Does not arise

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 1747, *asked by Mr Lalchand Navalrai, on the* 10*th April*, 1945

ARREST OF MR J. T. SHAHANI, ETC , AT POONA

(*a*) Mr Shahani and his son were arrested on 21st January, 1943 His wife's brother, Mr Malkani, was arrested on 26th August, 1943 The arrests were made under rule 129 of the Defence of India Rules, 1939, and under the orders of the District Superintendent of Police, Poona.

(*b*) No An order under section 239 of the Cantonments Act, 1924, was served on Mrs. Shahani on 26th March, 1943, directing her to remove herself from the cantonment within seven days of the receipt thereof She left the cantonment on the 30th March

(*c*) Government's information is that Mr Shahani does not own a shop or a residential house in the cantonment area The shop is rented in the name of "Modern Book Stall" of which Mr. Shahani is the proprietor

(*d*) Yes The shop was placed out of bounds for troops

(*e*) After their release from jail Mr Shahani and his son were not permitted to enter the cantonment, as an order under Section 239 of the cantonments Act was in force against them. The ban on Mrs. Shahani, excluding her from the cantonment was, however, removed in October, 1944 and she managed the shop with the assistance of her daughter.

(*f*) The Area Commander informed the Collector of Poona on the 18th June, 1945 that he had no objection to Mr. Shahani being allowed to return to Poona, provided he gave an assurance that he would conduct his affairs in a manner non-objectionable to the military authorities

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 1750, *asked by Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury, on the* 10*th April*, 1945

INSPECTORS AND HEAD ASSISTANTS IN INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT UNDER PUNJAB COMMISSIONERSHIP

(*a*) *and* (*b*) The statement below gives the information required :

Community	Permanent Inspectors					Permanent Head Assistants				
	Gr.	F.A or I.A.	Mat.	Non-Mat.	Total	Gr	F.A. or I.A.	Mat.	Non-Mat.	Total
Hindus	10	5	3	1	19	2	1	21	3	27
Muslims	12	2	1	...	15	...	1	8	...	9
Sikhs	1	...	2	.	3	...	1	4	...	5
Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 1762, *asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, on the* 10*th April*, 1945

COMPENSATION MONEY TO INHABITANTS OF VILLAGES OF AKHOLIA AND CHUNARUGHAT

(*a*) As regards Akholia 80 per cent. of full compensation was paid in December, 1944. As regards Chunarughat about half the total amount of compensation was paid before June, 1945. Payment would have been completed in both the projects, had it not been held up by derequisitioning proceedings initiated for restoring the lands to the original owners.

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

(*d*) I regret that in the absence of the name of the individual I am unable to answer this part of the question

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Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 1778 (*b*), 1779 (*b*) *and* 1780 (*c*), *asked by Mr. N. M. Joshi, on the* 11*th April*, 1945

TRAIN CLERKS RECRUITED THROUGH NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SERVICE COMMISSION

No. 1778.—(*b*) 75, but the resignations of 65 only were accepted.

TRAIN CLERKS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY PROMOTED AS GUARDS

No. 1779.—(b) The number of Train Clerks promoted from Grade I to Grade II, Grade II to Grade III and Grade III to Grade IV is 132, 21 and 2, respectively.

SHORTAGE OF TRAINS CLERKS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

No. 1780.—(c) No. Trains Clerks are not normally required to work extra hours for a long period, temporary shortages in this category being met by utilising relieving staff of other categories.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 1785, *asked by Sardar Mangal Singh, on the* 11*th April*, 1945

EUROPEAN LADY'S HIGH HANDEDNESS AT AMBALA CANTONMENT RAILWAY STATION

(*a*) *and* (*b*) Enquiries were made covering not only the 24th March (the date of the news-paragraph published in the *Daily Ajit*) but from the 13th March to the 24th March but no such incident as mentioned could be traced to have occurred at Ambala Cantonment station.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, I lay on the table a statement showing the Bills which were passed by both Chambers of the Indian Legislature during the Budget Session, 1945, and which have been assented to by His Excellency the Governor General under the provision of sub-section (1) of section 68 of the Government of India Act, as continued by section 317 of the Government of India Act, 1935:

Statement

(1) The Indian Tea Control (Amendment) Act, 1945.
(2) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Act, 1945.
(3) The Factories (Amendment) Act, 1945.
(4) The Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1945.
(5) The Indian Merchandise Marks (Amendment) Supplementary Act, 1945.
(6) The Repealing and Amending Act, 1945.
(7) The Indian Army (Amendment) Act, 1945
(8) The Indian Air Force (Amendment) Act, 1945
(9) The Indian Patents and Designs (Amendment) Act, 1945
(10) The Mines Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act, 1945
(11) The Aligarh Muslim University (Amendment) Act, 1945

POINT OF ORDER *RE* DROPPING OF QUESTION HOUR

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I rise on a point of order. I should like to draw your attention to paragraph 31 of the Manual where it is laid down that it is obligatory that the first hour should be available for questions; and that provision is not being followed today. From the circular that has been issued to us I gather that it is not going to be followed for a whole fortnight I think that is going against the law In the circular that was sent out to us, it is said that it was not possible to do anything until a President is elected When everything else can be done without a President, including the issue of circulars, I do not see why this too cannot be done I should like to draw your attention to sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Government of India Act where it is said·

"While the office of President is vacant, the duties of the office shall be performed by the Deputy President, or, if the office of Deputy President is also vacant, by such member of the Council as the Governor General may in his discretion appoint for the purpose," etc.

So the provision of the law is very clear, that some one could have functioned as President and prevented the deprivation of a valuable right which the Members have the right of interpellation,—for a whole fortnight. I therefore think that you might give your ruling on the subject so that this may not be repeated. We may be helpless today but we do not want to be helpless for-ever

Mr. Chairman: Has the Government Member anything to say on this point?.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): Sir, it is a matter for the Chair to decide, but, I understand, the Chairman cannot decide anything out of the Chair. He can only decide matters in the Chair but cannot decide anything outside the Chair.

Shri Sri Prakasa: That seems to be a conundrum. The Chairman performs all the functions of the President when he is in the Chair.

Mr. Chairman: The position is this:

In Rule (4) on page 119 of the Manual of Business and Procedure, you will find that—

"The Deputy President and any Chairman of the Assembly and any person appointed by the Governor-General to preside over the Council in the absence of the President shall, when presiding over the Assembly or the Council, as the case may be, have the same powers as the President when so presiding, and all references to the President in these rules shall, in these circumstances, be deemed to be references to any such person so presiding."

When I am presiding I cannot admit questions; the President only can admit questions Therefore questions could not be admitted

Shri Sri Prakasa: I was pointing out to section 22, sub-section (3), of the Government of India Act, according to which the Governor General can in his discretion appoint a person to act as President There is neither a President nor a Deputy President at the moment . .

Sir George Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department): May I say that the section which the Honourable Member has just been reading is in Part II of the Act which is not in force

Shri Sri Prakasa: If you will kindly read the Manual of Business and Procedure, under the heading 'The President', Chapter III at page 7, you will find that the Government of India Act, 1935, is really in force in this matter

Sir George Spence: Government of India Act, 1935, Ninth Schedule

Shri Sri Prakasa: Ninth Schedule is part of the Act

Sir George Spence: Section 22 is not in the Ninth Schedule

Shri Sri Prakasa: Then what happens?

Mr. Chairman: I am sorry that the Honourable Member is inconvenienced by not having a question hour, but according to the rule I have read I am unable to admit questions Until your President is elected, I am afraid you will have to have patience That is according to the rules, and I am very sorry I cannot do anything to help my Honourable friend in this matter We all regret at the entertaining hour having been deleted from the agenda

Maharajkumar Dr Sir Vijaya Ananda (United Provinces Landholders): Does it mean that you will not admit adjournment motions and so on.

Mr. Chairman: It does not mean that

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): You can now decide about the questions ....

Mr Chairman: I am presiding as Chairman I have ruled that the Chairman cannot admit these questions I regret it, but you will have to have some patience.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Will you kindly tell us why after the President is elected, the official side wants ten more days

Mr. Chairman: The President must have time to consider these questions. They will be printed and placed before your President when you have elected one

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know who is to decide the amount of time the President will need?

Mr. Chairman: He will decide that himself.

Shri Sri Prakasa: The office has already decided this for him.

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions. Non-Muhammadan): The Government of India have got their own Press. They can print the questions within two days.

Mr. Chairman: We are following the same procedure as we did in 1935

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

WHITE PAPER ON CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S POLICY *re* PARTICIPATION OF STATE RAILWAYS IN ROAD MOTOR TRANSPORT

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport) Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the White Paper on the policy of the Central Government in respect of the participation of State Railways in Road Motor Transport together with a statement showing the progress made in the formation of Joint Companies in the various parts of India

I am doing this in fulfilment of the undertaking given in the last Session to keep the House informed of progress in this matter

"WHITE PAPER"

The policy of the Central Government in respect of participation of State Railways in road motor transport

1 *Objects.*—(1) The aim of the policy outlined in this Paper is briefly to ensure the best use of the dual means of rail and road transport each being used to its best inherent advantage, complementary to the other; avoiding, on the one hand, artificial restriction of the number and range of road passenger vehicles, and, on the other, the economic waste as for instance in the duplication of services which is a corollary of competition solely for gain, for which the community must pay and which would be apparent not only in possible bankruptcy of road concerns and in depletion of railway earnings, but also in slowing up of road and railway development The attainment of these objects will be sought by any promising means Working agreements between the road and railway interests as to routes, rates and fares will be essential in any case, more especially where the road and railway are parallel But experience has shown that adherence to such agreements when the two services are entirely distinct and separate is difficult to ensure and that disputes frequently occur in practice Such agreements are no substitute for the close co-ordination which can be obtained from discussion on common ground in the Board room of a Company. The opinion of the Government of India is therefore that the most promising and comprehensive method of co-ordination is to be found in some fusion of financial interests, replacing the element of gain as the main incentive in competition by healthy rivalry on the basis of service and supplementing control by Transport Authorities with those mutual adjustments which naturally follow from pooling of financial interest

(2) The essence of the plan is the same whether both means of transport are privately owned as in the United Kingdom or, as in India, one is owned by the State Were both means owned by separate compartments of the State, that is, if Provincial Governments owned and ran road transport, the need for effective co-ordination would be still greater.

(3) The method of co-ordination to which this Paper mainly refers is the formation of road transport Companies, primarily for passenger traffic, in which the existing operators, the Indian Government Railway serving the locality, and, where it so wishes, the Provincial Government hold between them a large part of the capital invested in the enterprise. Shares will where margin exists be offered for public subscription also.

2. *Constitutional position of the Central Government* —The executive authority over motor transport is Provincial; and all road transport Companies, however owned, will be subject to control in accordance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, by the Authorities in the Provinces constituted in the Provinces under that Act. But the terms on which Indian Government Railways negotiate with Provincial Governments and existing operators, and subject to which Central Government money is invested in these concerns, are the responsibility of the Central Government. It is desirable therefore that the Central Government should define its policy in these matters. The definition in this Paper is as precise as the circumstances permit. Since, however, the arrangements made in any particular case must accord with the policy of the Provincial Government concerned, and must depend upon negotiations with existing operators; there must be elasticity in adopting the general policy to particular cases.

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

3. *Extent of the interest of the Central and Provincial Governments* —It is not intended that Railways should normally hold a dominating interest in these companies, but if their participation is to be effective for example in offsetting losses of short distance passengers travelling by rail, and if the railways are to have a due voice in the use of the public money which they have invested the interest of railways must be substantial; that is not less than 25 or, normally more than 45 per cent. Where the Provincial Government so desires, or where existing operators and the public do not take up the shares offered, railways may take a larger interest. Certain Provincial Governments wish to participate also and will of course themselves indicate the extent of their interest.

4. *The inclusion of existing operators.*—(1) The basis of the scheme is the replacement of competition for gain by mutual co-operation. It is the wish of the Central Government that existing operators should be fairly treated in pursuance of the policy of co-ordination; but it would defeat

the object in view were they to remain in large numbers in competition both with the railway an with the new road company. It is, therefore, the intention that existing operators should, i addition, to being absorbed, where suitable, into the establishments of the Companies be give prior option over the public in taking up shares in the new Companies.

(2) There is general agreement that, as the provider of passenger transport in the future, the small individual owner of one or a few buses will rarely find a useful place except perhaps on isolated routes. Therefore, whether or not railways participate, amalgamation of the existing operators or their elemination by more efficient concerns is inevitable. The operator of the past, who has during the war earned good money from the use of his vehicle and from the employment of himself and his family, must recognise that in any case his future interest will be that of a shareholder in a Company and as an employee of that Company, and that if, in the future, there is no effective road rail co-ordination his Company may find its earnings seriously reduced In assessing what is a "square deal" with the present operators, it is necessary to forget the profits of today and to have regard to the conditions of the past and the prospects of the future The general plan is that subject to the policy of the Provincial Government each existing operator should have first option to invest in the shares of these Companies up to an amount approximately equal to his existing or potential assets in the Vehicles covered by his permit.

(3) The authorised capital of these Companies will have to be determined on long range considerations including the proportionate holding permitted to the different parties. But the called up capital money at any time will be based upon commercial considerations after a careful survey of requirements. If the capital of the existing operators is only partly called up their returns during the earlier years may be small and the question of the proportion of capital to be called from the different parties might be left to be decided at the first general meeting of the Company.

5. *Assessment of assets of existing operators.*—(1) It is the intention that the vehicles and other assets of existing operators should, wherever they are suitable, be taken over on cash payment. For the convenience of existing operators these payments would be offset against the share capital subscribed by them. In the event of the assets of any permit holder exceeding the value of the shares offered to him (for example if he held substantial assets in a workshop), the excess could be covered by the issue of debentures in lieu of cash should the Company so decide.

(2) The following scale of valuation of vehicles and other assets is proposed :—

(a) *Vehicles.*—In the case of a new and unused vehicle, the actual cost to the owner including the cost of the body, subject to a maximum in the case of the chassis of the controlled price in force at the time. In the case of other vehicles, the presentday controlled price of the chassis *plus* the value of the body, new at present day prices, less depreciation at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum on the declining values from the date of first registration with a margin of Rs. 500 either way as an allowance for the condition of the vehicle It would of course rest with the Company to decide whether the vehicles were worth taking over.

(b) *Gas plants*, fitted would be separately valued.

(c) *Spare parts and new tyres and tubes* would be valued at cost to the owner subject to a maximum of the controlled price obtaining at date of the transaction.

(d) Other assets taken over by the Company would be valued by negotiation.

(3) In order to help existing operators and because of the shortage of vehicles, the Companies should normally take over vehicles with one year's expectation of useful life before seeking new ones. In border line cases if the operator elects to sell the vehicle in the open market he should be permitted to do so without objection or forfeiting his option on shares. But an operator who elects to sell a good vehicle outside the Company at a scarcity price cannot also elect to come in as a shareholder.

(4) Any disputes arising out of the valuation of assets as above would be referred to arbitration under the orders of the Provincial Government

6 *The question of "Goodwill"* —Section 59 (1) of the Motor Vehicles Act provides that a permit shall not be transferred from one person to another, except on the death of permit holder, or with the permission of the Transport Authority The majority of the rules made by Provincial Governments under that Act contain, it is believed, the further provision that, before sanctioning transfer, the Transport Authority may call upon both parties to state what payment or other consideration has been attached to the proposed transfer The object of these provisions was to prevent trading in permits and the Act and rules thereunder do not recognise that a permit has any sale value. At the same time, the proviso to Section 58 (2) gives preference to the renewal of an existing permit over the grant of a fresh permit to a different person. It can be argued therefore that a permit carries with it some right of continuance and is therefore of some commercial value On the other hand, by consenting to transfer the permit to the Company the holder does not exclude himself from the right conferred by the permit to ply for hire, but retains it jointly with other shareholders Moreover, the Railways and the Provincial Government, where the latter participate financially, bring for different reasons a valuable asset of goodwill to the merger. Thus it might also be argued that the claims of the three parties in respect of the goodwill which they bring to the business might reasonably be considered as cancelling out. Nevertheless, the Central Government recognise that there may, in certain circumstances, be justification for some payment to existing operators as compensation for disturbance of business. The question whether there is justification for such payment and of its amount must be determined by the Provincial Government concerned in the light of the conditions prevailing in each Province and on the circumstances of each case. The Central Government desire to deal reasonably with the operators and are in principle prepared to invest Railway finance in a company in which provision has been made for reasonable payments to existing operators on this account.

7. *Restriction of share option to genuine regular operators.*—The policy in bringing existing operators into these Companies is to give preference to the old established persons or concerns, i.e., mainly those in the business prior to 1942, or to those who have been operating pre-1942 permits transferred to them, in accordance with the original conditions. There are also a few newer but regular Bus Companies whose claim to the option to take up shares should normally be recognised.

8. *Offer of shares to the public other than existing operators.*—Subject to a reasonable holding being reserved for the railway participating and, if desired, for the Provincial Government, shares offered to existing operators, but not taken up, and any other margin in the share capital, should be available for public subscription subject normally to a limit of say Rs. 5,000 being held by any one individual, preference being given to the applicant for a small number of shares.

9. *Promoters of Companies.*—Where possible, the preliminary work of organising and promoting the Company should for the sake of uniformity be undertaken by officials, in consultation and collaboration with one or more persons selected from among the existing operators on the route or area concerned, who may be suitable to fill the position of Managing Director or General Manager. Where a suitable person is not available from among the existing operators who elect to be first option shareholders, then with the consent of the Provincial Authorities concerned and after negotiation with the qualified existing operators, some other suitable person experienced in motor transport operation may be selected, as General Manager, on a salary basis, to organise the Company. He may also, if considered necessary, be appointed to the Board of Directors on holding qualification shares as prescribed in the Articles *vide* also paragraph 11.

10. *Employment of existing owners and their present employees.*—In staffing these Companies preference should be given to those who are already directly employed in providing transport on the route or in the area concerned, and who are qualified and fit persons to be so employed.

11. *Direction of Companies.*—Normally there might be six Directors on the Board of a Company, or seven in the case of Companies which appoint a Managing Director. Non-rotating Directors will be the Provincial and Central Government representatives and also the Managing Director where appointed. Experienced operators in the area served who take up shares should be considered for seats on the Board. Indian Government Railway Directors will accept no fees.

12. *Management of Companies.*—Companies promoted hereafter will be managed by Managing Directors or General Managers, having road transport experience, preferably on a salary basis, under the Board of Directors. Wherever possible, the Managing Director or General Manager will be selected from experienced operators in the area concerned, to whom some additional shareholding may be permitted to ensure identity of interests but this should in no case be permitted to exceed 15 per cent. except where justified by the number of valid permits held.

13. *Managing Agents.*—Managing Agencies will not be employed hereafter. Cases where railways, or Provincial Governments in conjunction with railways have carried negotiations with any road transport interest to a stage where they stand committed to a Managing Agency, and where such promoters are unwilling to modify the arrangement, will be reported by Railway Administrations to the Railway Board before agreements are concluded

14. *The Monopoly Question.*—(1) It is the view of the Central Government that competition on the basis of gain will inevitably result in uneconomic duplication. They think therefore that the new joint Companies must in time have a monopoly of the type of road transport on the routes, or in the area, covered by their permits. The extent to which the Companies will operate on branch as well as on main routes will depend on the conditions of the permit imposed by the Transport Authorities. In some cases those authorities may consider that, for the present, certain or all branch routes should be operated by different concerns. In other cases they may require the Companies to operate the less remunerative routes as well as the main routes. This is a matter for evolution and experience. But in any case the joint Companies should have a monopoly on the routes and of the type of traffic (passenger or goods) covered by their permit. The management of the Companies by a Board representative of the Province and the Railways, whose main interest is good service, and of the other shareholders whose main interest may be expected to be profit earning, coupled with real competition on the basis of service will it is believed provide the necessary incentive to efficient operation and to close co-ordination of services in the interest of the public. What it is necessary to avoid is the domination of these Companies, or of any other road transport concerns, by any single financial interest. The proposals in this paper are designed to prevent that.

(2) There remains the not unnatural fear that the Companies will with monopolies, become so strong as to ignore the public interest, and that the Transport Authorities will be powerless to insist on the provision of better service, since the only redress under the Motor Vehicles Act is the suspension or cancellation of permits, which does not help the travelling public As far as the railways participating are concerned, the intention is that the Companies should give optimum service. Nevertheless, it is desirable to provide by amendment of the Motor Vehicles Act that the permits should be drawn in a fuller form giving the Transport Authorities power to levy fines for non-performance of the services specified in or under the provisions of the permit. In the ultimate resort it would be open to the Transport Authorities to grant additional permits on the same routes to other concerns, and to refuse to renew the permit on next date of renewal. Such non-performance is however inherently improbable.

15. *Effect on bullock-cart transport.*—Grave apprehension has been expressed in the Assembly and elsewhere that, in the post-war development of road motor transport, bullock-carts will be put out of business and rural economy seriously disturbed. This matter is primarily one for Provincial Governments to study in drawing up their plans for road and road transport development.

REPORT ON PROGRESS OF RAIL-ROAD CO-ORDINATION

Madras—

The Madras Government have adopted a policy of forming tripartite rail-road companies in the Madras Presidency and desire that all operators should be afforded opportunity to associate as shareholders, given priority for suitable employment and appropriate compensation in respect to their existing road interests. Future development on a zonal basis is visualised, but where two or more well-established companies are operating in the same area mutual exchange of routes is considered the appropriate solution. The Madras Government propose to participate financially to the same extent as the railways in companies in which a controlling State interest is to be acquired, but where substantial road undertakings which have demonstrated their ability as operators are parties to a merger they are to be permitted the controlling interest, the Provincial Government shareholding being correspondingly reduced.

Negotiations have recently been concluded with Messrs. T. V. Sundaram Iyengar & Sons, Ltd., for the flotation of a company to operate in the Madura District of the Madras Presidency. Other operators in the area have been invited to associate and those who have not so far intimated their desire to do so will be given further opportunities after the company commences operation. The agreed shareholding is—

Madras Government	15 per cent
Operators	55 ,,
South Indian Rly.	30 ,,

The affairs of the company will be managed by a board of directors including a managing director. Existing staff will be absorbed and suitable employment will be found as far as possible for other operators who associate.

Further negotiations are being undertaken by both the M. S. M. and S. I. Railways, now that a basis for association has been established.

Bengal—

The present Government (as also the previous Ministry) have accepted in principle the desirability of financial participation by railways in road undertakings with the object of co-ordinating the activities of the two services in the public interest. The Government do not propose to participate financially in such undertakings although they have reserved the right to acquire a nominal shareholding and desire to be represented on the boards of directors. Parity of shareholding as between the railways and operators will be the normal division. Management by existing suitable operators, where available, is favoured and the selection of promoters will be made by the Government. Existing operators will be given preference for employment in rail-road companies.

Negotiations are proceeding between the East Indian Railway and the Asansol Bus Syndicate for the formation of a company to operate in West Bengal. Practically all the local bus operators are members of the Syndicate, and it is hoped to devise methods to take care of their financial interests.

Negotiations are also being conducted in the Midnapore area between the B. N. Railway and promoters suggested by the regional transport authority, but these have not reached an advanced stage. Other negotiations are in progress in Bengal between the B. A. Railway and selected promoters for the formation of companies to operate on routes radiating from the Calcutta industrial area. In addition, proposals are under examination for the flotation of a company to provide railway collection and delivery services both in Calcutta and adjoining areas.

Bombay—

The Bombay Government have given close consideration to the proposals for the co-ordination of road transport and railways in the Presidency, and have expressed themselves strongly in favour of unified control and orderly development. The Province has been divided into 11 zones and promoters acceptable to the majority of the operators as ascertained by personal contacts have been selected. Shareholdings are to be divided between operators (including promoters), the Bombay Government and the railways in the ratio of 35 per cent., 35 per cent. and 30 per cent.

Assets of existing operators will be taken over on valuation and, in addition, compensation to the extent of Rs. 1,000 per permit will be paid to those whose permits are acquired. The management and staff of new companies will be recruited, as far as possible, from existing operators and their employees.

Permission to issue the required capital has been given by the Examiner of Capital Issues and all 11 companies are likely to be registered during the month of January 1946.

United Provinces—

The United Provinces Government are anxious to see road transport fostered in the public interest with a minimum of delay and they accept co-ordination with railways on the basis of financial fusion, as the best method of developing rationalised transport as in the Province. Their policy which has been notified in a press communiqué, favours the formation of tripartite companies with the shareholding divided between operators (including promoters), the Provincial Government and the Railways in the ratio of 49 per cent., 5 per cent. and 46 per cent. The new companies are to give preference to existing operators and their staffs in the matter of employment and existing operators will be permitted to invest to the extent of existing or potential interests in road transport up to a maximum of Rs. 10,000 per stage carriage permit and Rs. 7,500 per public carrier permit. An *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 500 has been suggested for operators who do not desire to associate but are prepared to sell their assets and surrender their permits to the new companies, but the possibility of extending the compensation payment to all classes of operators is now under review by the Provincial Government. The Province has been divided into 7 zones in

each of which a separate company is to operate The promoters were selected by the Provincial Government on the recommendations of Regional Transport Authorities As far as possible, selections have been from suitable existing operators or people connected with transport in the Province

Central Provinces and Berar–

The Government of the Central Provinces were early to recognise the necessity for and the desirability of associating road and rail services to provide planned, co-ordinated and regulated transport. Negotiations for investing in two companies in this Province had reached and advanced stage prior to the Assembly debates in which the principles governing railway association were discussed.

The C P Government, whilst considering an application in respect to the flotation of a limited liability company, under the managing agency system, to acquire and develop the assets of an existing road transport undertaking, had proposed that the two State interests should acquire a 51 per cent. shareholding divided equally between them, and after negotiations with the promoters a settlement on this basis was reached The same principle was applied to another transport company already operating in the Province. In the latter company a block of shares which remained to be taken up was made available to the railways and an arrangement was concluded in terms of which the State interests were to acquire a 51 per cent. shareholding with the expansion of the issued capital

After the Assembly debates the Hon'ble Member for War Transport made a personal visit to the summer capital of the Province to ascertain whether it would be possible to modify the proposals to permit of other operators being associated and the managing agency system eliminated. On the latter point it was found to be the considered opinion of the C P Government that negotiations with the promoters of the new company had been carried to a point from which it was not possible to recede, whilst so far as the existing company was concerned there could be no possibility of dispensing with the managing agency system unless this was voluntarily relinquished On the other hand, the C P Government supported the proposal that opportunity should be provided for other operators to associate as shareholders and employees The Central Government's proposals for taking over existing assets at valuation and for paying compensation where justified on a basis to be determined on the merits of each case were also approved. The two firms of managing agents were found willing to come to terms in respect to all proposals other than relinquishing the managing agencies.

At a later stage, after the matter of managing agencies had been referred to the Standing Finance Committee, in accordance with the undertaking given by the Hon'ble Member for War Transport Department, endeavours were made to curtail the period of office of the managing agents, but unfortunately without success

Negotiations are now in progress for the formation of a third company to operate in the Bilaspur-Raipur and Drug districts in the eastern part of the Province The managing agency system will not apply to this company.

Railway investments in the two former companies amount in the aggregate to Rs 2,04,000 Details of these companies are given :—

Name	Hd. Qrs.	Area of operations	Present issued capital	Proposed issued capital	Present Railway investment	Ultimate Railway investment	Managing Agents
The C. P. Transport Services, Ltd.	Nagpur	Northern C.P.	75% of 30 lakhs	(a) 30 lakhs.	Lakhs 5·73	Lakhs 7·65	M/s F. M. Chinoy & Co.
The Provincial Transport Co. (Formerly Nagpur Omnibus Co.)	,,	Southern C.P.	10 lakhs.	(b) 50 lakhs	3·47	12·75	The Mechanical Transport (1942) Ltd.

(a) Reserved for other operators Rs. 10,80,000.
(b) Reserved for other operators Rs. 17,56,800.

Punjab—

The Punjab Government whilst acknowledging the necessity for active co-ordination between road transport and railways, believe that this can be achieved without financial fusion and contemplate the provincialisation of road transport in the Punjab. They have, however recently intimated they have no objection to railways acquiring an interest not exceeding 15 per cent. in road transport undertakings operating exclusively on national highways running parallel to the N.W. Railway.

Orissa.—

The Provincial Government have adopted the policy of railway fusion with road undertakings and accept generally the principles enunciated in the Assembly. They propose to acquire

a 26 per cent. interest in companies formed in the Province, and to permit 25 per cent. to railways, the balance being left to operators (including promoters) and the public. All negotiations are to be carried out by the railway. At the moment schemes for the formation of three companies are under active examination. The following are the details :—

1. Sambalpur-Meramandeli (passenger & goods service).
2. Khurda Road-Berhampur (passenger service).
3. Kondupada-Amarda Road (passenger & goods service).

Assam—

The Provincial Government have adopted the principle of rail-road fusion restricted to parallel and feeder routes. The Provincial Government propose to participate and whilst they have not defined the share they desire to acquire, they have stated they consider the combined holdings of the Central and the Province should not exceed 45 per cent., the remainder being left to operators and the public. The interests of existing operators are to be safeguarded by granting to them first option to invest in the shares of the companies to the extent of their existing or potential vehicle assets, and the former are to be taken over at valuation. Preference will be given to suitable existing operators in selecting managers and staff for the Companies.

The B. A. Railway propose to negotiate the formation of three companies in the Assam Valley and one in the Surma Valley as soon as the Assam Government haver eached a decision as to whom the work of promotion is to be entrusted.

Bihar—

The Bihar Government have recently found it possible to reconcile their policy with that of the Central Government. It is not the intention of the Government to participate financially in companies which may be formed, although they desire to be represented on rail-road company Boards. They propose parity of shareholding between the railways on the one hand and operators and general public on the other. Promotion is to be initiated by the railways who are required to associate with them in this work as many of the leading operators as possible. Negotiations are to be undertaken immediately a detailed examination of the traffic position has enabled the most economic method of administration and operation to be determined. The railways will adhere to the principles of the "White Paper" in respect to the employment of existing operators, the acquisition of assets on valuation and the payment of compensation for business disturbances where justified by the merits of individual cases.

Sind—

This Government have decided on the formation of tripartite companies in which they propose to take a 16 per cent. shareholding, allowing 38 per cent. to railways, 38 per cent. to operators and 8 per cent. to public subscribers. They also are in agreement with the Centra Government's policy of protecting existing operators. Negotiations are in progress for the formation of a company to operate between Karachi and Hyderabad. The first managing director has been selected by the Provincial Transport Authorities with the agreement of other operator on the route.

N.-W. F. P. —

The attitude of the present Government towards rail-road co-ordination has not yet been clearly defined, but there is a proposal afoot for an algamating all the operators in the Province into one company in which the Provincial Government will acquire a share and possibly permit a share to the N.-W. Railway. Full consideration will be given to the interests of existing operators if and when this company is formed.

AMENDMENT OF INDIAN AIRCRAFT RULES

Sir Gurunath Bewoor (Secretary, Posts and Air Department) : Sir I lay on the table a copy of the Posts and Air Department Notification No 26-V (14)/44., dated the 6th December 1944, relating to an amendment of the Indian Aircraft Rules 1937 under sub-section (3) of section 5 of the Indian Aircraft Act, 1934.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS & AIR

New Delhi, the 6th December, 1944

NOTIFICATION

No. 26-V (14)/44—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 and sub-section (2) of section 8 of the Indian Aircraft Act, 1934 (XXII of 1934), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937, namely :—

After Part XII of the said rules, the following shall be inserted, namely :—

"*Part XII A*.—Emergency Provisions. 133A. The Joint Flying Control Regulations for the Royal Air Force and the United States Army Air Force as may from time to time be prescribed by the South East Asia Air Command, shall, with effect from the 1st December, 1944 apply to all aircraft for the time being in or over British India and shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in the preceding Parts of these rules."

Sd. (M. D. BHANSALI),
Secretary to the Government of India.

NOTIFICATION UNDER DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS AND PESTS ACT.

Sir Pherozе Kharegat : (Secretary, Agriculture Department) : I lay on the table a copy of the Education, Health and Lands Department Notification (Agriculture) No F 16-I/45-A, dated the 16th April, 1945, under the proviso to Section 4D of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914

No F 16 I/45 A

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH & LANDS

New Delhi, the 16th April, 1945

NOTIFICATION

(AGRICULTURE

In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 4A and 4D of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914 (II of 1914), the Central Government is pleased to direct that with effect from the 1st June, 1945, the following further amendments shall be made in the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Education, Health and Lands, No F 50 13 (20)/ 39 A, dated the 20th November, 1940, namely :—

I In the preamble to the said notification, and in rule 1 of the said Rules, after the words "North West Frontier Province", the words "the Province of Madras" shall be inserted

II In the *Note* below the Schedule annexed to the said rules, clause (d) shall be re-lettered as clause (e) and before clause (e) as so re-lettered the following clause shall be inserted namely :—

(d) in the Province of Madras, by the Entomologist to Government of Madras, Coimbatore, or such other Officer as may be authorised by the Provincial Government in this behalf

sd/ (P M KHAREGAT),
Additional Secretary to the Government of India.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) : I lay on the table a copy of the Summary* of Proceedings of the fifth meeting of the Standing Labour Committee held at New Delhi on the 27th June, 1944

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH LABOUR CONFERENCE

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) : I lay on the table a copy of the Summary* of Proceedings of the Sixth Labour Conference held at New Delhi on the 27th and 28th October, 1944.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) : Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the Summary* of Proceedings of the Sixth meeting of the Standing Labour Committee held at New Delhi on the 17th March, 1945.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittor : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : On a point of information. May I know why it has taken so long to place these papers which were ready on the 27th of June, 1944 and on the 27th and 28th of October, 1944 on the table of the House ? Why were they not placed in the last Assembly Session ?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar : I cannot give an answer, but I will look into the matter.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S PARTICIPATION IN OPERATIONS IN INDONESIA AND INDO-CHINA

Mr. Chairman : I have received a number of adjournment motions, the first three of which are from Prof. Ranga. They all concern the same subject, and I would suggest that he should take up No. 3 for consideration which is the most comprehensive.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I agree to that.

*Not printed in these Debates, but copies have been placed in the Library of the House. *Ed. of D.*

Mr. Chairman : The adjournment motion runs as follows :

" That the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a specific urgent matter of public importance, namely the failure of the Government of India to refuse to co-operate with the British Government in their violent operations in Indonesia and Indo-China even after the war with Japan was over "

Has the Honourable Member got the required sanction of the Governor-General ?

Prof. N. G. Ranga : I have not got it, Sir

Mr. Chairman : All right, sit down. Notice of a similar adjournment motion was given by another Honourable Member (No. 8 on the list) and he took the precaution to get the sanction of the Governor-General. I trust that the Leader of the House will have no objection to Prof. Ranga moving his adjournment motion today which is very similar to the one which has already received the sanction of the Governor General

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House) : No objection

Mr. Chairman : All right. Has the Honourable Member leave of the House to move this adjournment motion ?

Some Honourable Members : Yes, yes.

Mr. Chairman : This adjournment motion will be taken up today. It is 12-30 now. We go on working still Quarter Past One. I presume the work on the agenda will be finished by lunch time. Usually adjournment motions are taken up at Four of the Clock, but the Rules provide that with the concurrence of the Government Member who is in charge of the subject, the time can be changed. If it is convenient, may we take up this adjournment motion after lunch soon after the work on the agenda is finished ? That will obviate Honourable Members going home and coming back again If the Honourable Member in charge or the Leader of the House has no objection to that course, I suggest that we adopt it.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall : It will be quite convenient from the point of view of Government.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi : General). It is not quite certain where the convenience will be. We have to adjourn before lunch We have to come back at 2-30 Instead of coming back at 2-30 we can come back at 4 If the House feels that we should come back after lunch at 2-30, I have no objection To my mind there is no particular convenience so far as the question of coming back is concerned.

Mr. Chairman : May I point out that I cannot definitely say when the work on this agenda may be finished. It may be finished in quarter of an hour. If that is so, we will go on to the adjournment motion immediately which will then be allotted two hours, and fifteen minutes to each speaker. That is the procedure that I suggest. If the House agrees it will be so.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall : I would like to be clear. If we finish before lunch, we shall take up the adjournment motion at say 2-30 or whatever time the Chair appoints. If we do not finish the business of the House till after lunch, then we shall take up this adjournment motion immediately after the finishing of the business.

Mr. Chairman : That is exactly the position.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall : But we shall not take up this adjournment motion before lunch ?

Mr. Chairman : I suggest we may take it up before lunch if the work i finished by then.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall : That would be rather inconvenient from the point of view of Government.

Mr. Chairman : If that is the position we shall finish our work and adjourn an we shall come at 2-30 P.M. and continue with the adjournment motion.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYS

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, 11 members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year, 1945-46, and for the year commencing 1st April, 1946"

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, 11 members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year, 1945-46, and for the year commencing 1st April 1946"

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur, Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Who is the President referred to?

Mr. Chairman: President of what?

Shri Sri Prakasa: The President is to prescribe the manner of voting.

Mr. Chairman: I will do so straight away.

The question is:

"That this assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, 11 members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year, 1945-46and, for the year commencing 1st April, 1946."

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With duo respect I should have moved "the Honourable the Chairman." May I make that amendment now if permitted?

Shri Sri Prakasa: No amendment can be moved without notice.

Mr. Chairman: Is there any objection?

The motion was adopted

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such maner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, six non-official members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year, 1945-46, and for the year commencing 1st April, 1946."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, six non-official members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year, 1945-46, and for the year commencing 1st April ,1946."

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): The Chair has not declared the decision of the House.

Mr. Chairman: The "Ayes" have it.

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, in such manner as may be approved by the Chairman, of 14 non-official members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for the remainder of the financial year, 1945-46, and for the financial year, 1946-47"

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, in such manner as may be approved by the Chairman, of 14 non-official members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for the remainder of the financial year 1945-46, and for the financial year, 1946-47"

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs, Muhammadan Urban): Is this in order to pass a resolution for two financial years or for the balance of one financial year and the whole financial year again?

Mr. Chairman: What is the objection? Where is the point of order?

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I should like to have your guidance on the matter as to whether we can go from the 31st March to 1st April until we have reached that date. The new year begins then.

Mr. Chairman: I can assure the Honourable member that the accounts of both years will not be mixed up. The House can approve of any motion that an Honourable Member makes before the House. In this case the Honourable Member desires that certain members of the House should form a committee and that committee should do the work of the present year and the next year. I do not see any point of order in that.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General): I should like the Honourable Member to explain the scope of the Standing Committee. You will remember that once upon a time we had rather a comprehensive committee and then it was dropped. Now that you are resuming the old practice, I should like to know what exactly the scope of this Committee is going to be.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The scope of the Committee is the same as of that which sat in the past. But it is open to the Committee when it meets to suggest amendment which I would be very glad to consider.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Will this Committee cover the entire financial field or will it be confined only to block grants or things of that sort?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Specific items of expenditure will be brought before the Committee.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Will it cover the entire field?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Voted field.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Of course.

Mr Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): We cannot have things as they have been in the past. We are here to change many things. How are the members of this Committee expected to follow the trend of finance if only the voted field is given to us. Now that the war is over, why could not the Finance Committee have information on the non-voted field also?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I think this would be much better discussed by the Committee itself after it is appointed.

Mr. Manu Subedar: This House ought to know what it is doing. Our vote is being asked for in support of the measures. We ought to be quite clear about what we are going to support. We do not what a wishy-washy Finance Committee which sat in the past. I submit with all respect that it is not possible for any man to get hold of the whole picture of the finances of India unless all the non-voted items are also given to us by way of information. I agree that our vote may not be asked on these items as it is not provided in the present consititution, but I do not see why the information should be withheld.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): As far as I remember an assurance was given by the late Finance Member last year that it will be done so, as desired by Mr. Manu Subedar.

Mr. Chairman: The question is . . . .

Mr. Manu Subedar: Won't you permit us to have an explanation from the Honourable Member ?

Mr. Chairman: I cannot give the explanation. It is for the Honourable Member . . . .

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: The outgoing Finance Member had given the assurance What is desired is this, that the present Finance Member may also give the same assurance

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I will certainly carry out the assurance given by the previous Finance Member but I should like to see its terms before I commit myself

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The Honourable Member may just as well postpone the consideration of this motion for the simple reason that we do not know what we are to vote about. We must know what the scope of this committee is going to be. If it is going to be just a sort of eyewash, we do not want it. We will vote it down.

Mr. Chairman: Will the Honourable the Finance Member consider the proposal to postpone it till tomorrow ?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Certainly

Mr. Chairman With the permission of the House this matter will be taken up on the agenda tomorrow

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport Sir, I beg to move ·

" That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight members to serve on the Standing Committee for Roads which has been constituted to advise the Governor General in Council in the administration of the Central Road Fund and such other questions relating to roads and road traffic as may be referred to it during the remaining months of the financial year, 1945-46 "

Mr. Chairman: The question is .

" That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight members to serve on the Standing Committee for Roads which has been constituted to advise the Governor General in Council in the administration of the Central Road Fund and such other questions relating to roads and road traffic as may be referred to it during the remaining months of the financial year, 1945-46."

The motion was adopted

Mr. Chairman: I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees, namely

	Date for nomination	Date for election
Standing Finance Committee for Railways .	22nd January	24th January
Central Advisory Council for Railways . .	24th January	29th January
Standing Committee for Roads .	24th January	30th January

The nominations for the Standing Finance Committee for Railways will be received in the Notice Office up to 3 P M on the 22nd January and the election will be held between the hours of 2-30 P M. and 5 P M on the 24th January

The nominations for the remaining two Committees will be received up to 12 noon on the dates which I have mentioned for the purpose and the elections will be held between the hours of 10-30 A M and 1 P M

The elections which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris : Muhammadan) : May I just point out with regard to the first Committee, *viz.*, the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, the election is posted for the 24th and that happens to be the day on which the Honourable the President of the Assembly is to be elected I think it would be very inconvenient for the members to have this election also on the same day and I suggest that the date should be changed

Mr. Chairman : The election of the President will be over in the morning and after that Honourable Members can vote but I would certainly like the House to consider the point

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : I support the Honourable Member's suggestion that the election of this committee should be postponed to another date The Presidential election might take some time.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall : From the point of view of the Government we have specially asked that this election may be put on early in order to get the committee constituted at the earliest date possible There is quite a large amount of business before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways which we have to get through, if possible, before the Railway Budget There was no session of the Assembly and therefore no session of the Standing Finance Committee in the autumn. We have not been able to get through the usual business between the two Budget sessions, and therefore want to get this Committee constituted as early as possible I think I am right in saying that on the 25th and 26th the House is not sitting and on the 28th.....

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : The voting can take place even on a day when the House is not sitting

Mr. Chairman : Will it be convenient to have the voting on a date when the House is not sitting ? I think there may be difference of opinion on this point.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan : It will suit better than the election of the committee on the same day when the election of the President takes place.

Mr. Chairman : 25th is a holiday but the House is not sitting on the 26th. Will that meet the convenience of the Government ?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall : That will meet the convenience of the Government but it should be held as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman : If the House is not sitting the Honourable Members will have to come here for the voting

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : Will it make much difference if we have it on the 28th ?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall : We want to get down with the work of this Committee at the earliest possible moment There is a very large volume of work and there have been persistent complaints in the past that we have not given time to digest the very large volume of papers that is put before it I think that will be supported by members of past committees I do suggest that we try to gain those three days Otherwise the Committee will . . . .

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan : So far as my party is concerned we are agreeable if the hours of the election are so arranged that after the election of the President we should start this election for this Committee but the two elections should not go on simultaneously.

Mr. Chairman : That, I think, has been provided for by the time I have read out—that it will be clearly understood that the election will not take place until the new President is in the Chair You will not ask Honourable Members to vote during the Presidential election on the 24th ?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall : I think it is for you, Sir, to fix the time-

Mr. Chairman : I have fixed 2-30 to 5 P. M. and I presume that the new President will be elected by 2-30 P M.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan : That will suit us.

Mr. Chairman : Then the time will remain as I have fixed.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member). Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938

CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member) Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898

PROFESSIONS TAX LIMITATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member) Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Professions Tax Limitation Act, 1941.

Mr. Chairman: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Professions Tax Limitation Act, 1941."

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

PROVIDENT FUNDS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member). Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Provident Funds Act, 1925

Mr Chairman: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Provident Funds Act, 1925"

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I introduce the Bill

INDIAN OILSEEDS COMMITTEE BILL

Sir Pheroze Kharegat (Secretary, Agriculture Department) Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended by a Committee specially constituted for the improvement and development of the cultivation and marketing of oilseeds and of the production, manufacture and marketing of oilseed products

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended by a Committee specially constituted for the improvement and development of the cultivation and marketing of oilseeds and of the production, manufacture and marketing of oilseed products."

The motion was adopted

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

PHARMACY BILL

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam (Secretary, Education Department): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the profession of pharmacy.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate the profession of pharmacy."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

Mr. Chairman: That finishes the agenda: we shall meet again at 2-30 P.M. to discuss the adjournment motion.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Chairman (Sir Cowasjee Jehangir) in the Chair

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S PARTICIPATION IN OPERATIONS IN INDONESIA AND INDO-CHINA

Prof N G Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr Chairman, I move that the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a specific urgent matter of public importance, namely, the failure of the Government of India to refuse to co-operate with the British Government in their violent operations in Indonesia and Indo-China even after the war with Japan was over

Sir, there was a time when this country was dragged into a war, an unwanted war, without this Legislature being consulted They said that we are faced with a terrible emergency and that they had no time to convene this House and consult it Indeed, some of them even said that they had no necessity whatsoever, constitutional or otherwise, to consult this House before they committed this country to that war That was a war, as it was said by the British, between the Fascists and the Democrats but today there is another war on It is also a world war but it is an unspoken war and an undeclared war This is a war between the Haves on the one side and the Have-Nots on the other Teh Have-Nots are trying their best all the world over to get some justice for themselves They are trying to free themselves and once again this Government has plunged this country in this war without consulting this Legislature Sir, repeatedly demands have been made in this House that the Indian troops should not be taken abroad for warfare for the use of British Imperialism and not so long ago a definite assurance was given by this Government that Indian troops would not be taken outside India for military operations without consulting this House In fact, it was because Indian troops were taken outside India some time in 1939 that my party had decided to boycott the sessions of this Assembly as a protest against that undemocratic action by this Government and this time our troops are being used in a most unholy manner in the most disgraceful and disgusting war that is going on there in Indonesia

Why are our troops taken over there? So far the Government of India have not come out with any sort of explanation It was only the British Government who made a statement They said that they had some moral obligations towards the Dutch Government, mind you, not towards the Indonesian peoples and that they had to go in there in order to release a few thousands of prisoners of war who were taken there by the Japanese in their war camps So far as this country is concerned, even this Government cannot lay claim to any sort of moral obligations of theirs towards the Dutch Government, not to speak of the peoples of Indonesia and for the prisoners of war to be released, is it necessary for the Government of India to send their troops and keep them in Indonesia for more than three months in order to release them?

How many of those prisoners of war were Indians? If it is said—it does not matter whether they are Indians or not, they are innocent people, men, women and children who are kept there as prisoners of war in unjustified detention by the Japanese and it is the humanitarian duty of this Government to go to the rescue of these people and to aid the British in releasing them, then why is it that the United States of America troops are not there in Indonesia in these unholy operations? It must be because the United States of America is not at all satisfied about the *bona fides* of Great Britain in sending her troops If it is not found necessary by the United States of America, which is strong in her resources in men and money, to go to Indonesia and to fight on the side of the Dutch or on behalf of the Dutch or for the sake of the Dutch against the Indonesian peoples, why should it be considered necesary for India to send her troops at all to this country?

The truth of the matter is that the British Government is anxious to prop up Dutch Imperialism in Indonesia also French Imperialism in Indo-China The peoples of these countries are up in arms against the return of these Imperialists The British Government wants to reinstate these Imperialists—hated and unwanted as they are —and the Indian Government has only decided to toe the line with British Imperialism in order to play the game of the Imperialists It is an

unholy thing indeed for the Indian Government to have done this, because we in our own country are slaves and our troops are being taken over to these countries in order to keep those peoples in continued enslavement. This is not the first time that the Government of India has done this sort of thing But why is it that the Government of India has not refused to allow their troops to be sent to these countries in order to put down the democratic rights of those peoples ? Is it because of any sort of constitutional disability ? Yes, for all outward purposes they are supposed to be only a slave government of British Imperialism Quite true But they have put up a sort of show that they have the right and the power to declare war on behalf of India against the Axis powers independently of British Imperialism and if they had done so in the past, why is it that at least now the Government of India has not tried to refuse to co-operate with British Imperialism ?

Then, again, where is the question of emergency at all. The war with Japan was over some time in August and there is no necessity even for this slave government to have continued to use our troops against the struggle for freedom of other peoples And why should our troops be used against the other peoples ? For what purpose ? Is there any national or international justification for this ? Nothing whatsoever We have been trying to bring about good relations between this country and the other Asiatic countries Leader after leader of our people have been trying to establish Asiatic co-operation and comradeship Of course, it is not to the taste or the interests of the British Government that there should be this comradeship and Asiatic Federation They have already queered the pitch in Burma by having taken our troops there, by having defeated their king and destroyed their independence and afterwards by having established their own Imperialism for several decades and naturally the Burmese do not have any great love for our people And it was seen to the bitter experience of Indians how bitterly the Burmans were disliking the Indians when poor Indians had to trek their way over that weary road from Burma to India on the triumph of Japanese We are trying to establish good relations with Indonesians and Indo-Chinese Indonesian leaders have invited Pandit Jawahar Lall Nehru to go over there Pandit Nehru has offered to go there, but it was this Government which refused the passport or even permission for him to go out to that country in order to help these people to find peace as well as freedom in their own country The British Government has been saying that the free republic government of Indonesia has not gained effective control over the extremists, but why is it, it has not allowed Pandit Nehru to go there in order to bring peace between the extremists and the moderates and help them to establish their own freedom and release these people ?

It is not even as though the Indonesian leaders are unwilling to release those prisoners of war They themselves have offered to release these people But that did not satisfy the British Government The British Government had other motives and therefore it has stuck to that place

Then, Sir, is it the humanitarian thing to destroy towns after towns with the latest war materials as well as war machinery and create blood baths and broadcast carnage all over Indo-China in order to release a few prisoners of war ? The British Government was hurt, the *Izzat* of the British Government was hurt when a military General was murdered by some irresponsible or some patriotic Indonesian The British Government did not like it It must wreak its vengeance on these people, it must teach them a lesson and show to them, however weak they may be as a result of this war, that they were still strong and that they had the most murderous machinery of war in their hands and they would destroy these people and teach them a lesson. Is their temper different from that wretched temper displayed by General Dyer at Amritsar ? They gave them an ultimatum of 24 hours and then they released their carnage on people who were generally nonviolent and who were unarmed Their process of warfare was to kill people, destroy towns and destroy men, women and children They made such a hullabaloo when Hitler was bombing over London and they began to shed crocodile tears over the death of a few chickens and the destruction of a few kitchens. But here in Indonesia they were raining bombs of death on unarmed masses and unarmed women. Did they shed tears over them ? Are they repentant or ashamed of themselve

[Prof. N.G. Ranga.]

for what they have been doing in Indonesia ? In all these things Indians are taken in, and what for ? In order to strengthen the British Imperialism I wish to warn this Government that unless it makes up its mind immediately to withdraw all Indian troops, it will stand self-condemned before the bar of world public opinion. Every country in the world is ashamed of its own inability to prevent this Government and British Government from playing this International debauchery. I appeal to this House to pass this adjournment motion and censure this Government and teach it a lesson in international humanity.

Mr. Chairman : Motion moved :

That the Assembly do now adjourn."

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India · Nominated Official) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hope the House will be kind to me today for two reasons In the first place, because this is the first time I have had the honour to address it and I am sure I shall need the indulgence of Honourable Members and secondly because I have some points to lay before them which may be of interest and help to clear up misconception,—and undoubtedly this is a subject on which there is a good deal of misconception

Sir, I would ask the House to cast their minds back to August of 1945 At that time the Allied Governments and the Allied military staffs were all considering how best they could win the war Nobody knew that the Japanese were on the point of collapsing At that time the plans which were being made were naturally very secret but I can now tell you what they were Burma had just been conquered, by the help of Indian troops very largely, and the next step was to be the conquest of Malaya. That, of course, the Japanese did not know and it was, in fact, one of our strong points that they did not know where we would strike next After that the proposal was that gradually by a series of war-like operations General MacArthur should take over those territories which used to be under the Dutch flag which were then in Japanese occupation I used the word gradually and I said by a series of war-like operations and that is rather important In the end, things turned out quite differently The Japanese collapsed suddenly and we had to conquer not gradully and not by a series of operations but simultaneously all those countries And that explains what might seem a paradoxical fact that we actually needed more troops and more ships for a peaceful occupation than we should have needed for that series of operations which had been contemplated before

At the same time, while this was being planned, discussions were in progress for the transfer of these territories that we are talking about from the command of General MacArthur to the command of Admiral Mountbatten And I would like to emphasise that that transfer was not a transfer from an American Command to a British Command but from one Allied Command to another Allied Command Admiral Mountbatten is the Supreme Allied Commander in South-East Asia and General MacArthur is also a Supreme Allied Commander Both of them have under their command troops of all nations,—British, Chinese, French, Dutch and Indian—and both of them are subject to the orders of what is frequently referred to as the Allied High Command, that is to say, the Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington And when these territories were eventually conveyed from one Command to the other, it was done simply because it was the most convenient way of carrying out our objects

The objects with which the occupation of Java was undertaken came from the Combined Chiefs of Staff They were not British objects but Allied, they were objects to which no one at the time could have taken exception They were, in the first place, to rescue the Allied prisoners of war and internees and I should add that among these prisoners of war and internees, whose number was some 200,000, were included Indians and Indonesians as well as Dutch and other Allied nations and secondly to disarm Japanese troops.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan) How many were Indians ?

Mr. P. Mason : I am afraid I do not know. Those were the two objects with which the Allied troops were moving forward I should like to emphasise that there

were no special decisions taken for that movement forward, because in any war it naturally follows that the moment victory is achieved, the armies which have been fighting move forward to occupy the territory of the defeated. This happens automatically. Now, at that time had the Government of India protested, had we said, we are not going to allow our troops to go forward and that the rest of the Allies could go and occupy those territories, I do not know.....

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi . General): Did the Honourable Member say that the Government of India protested ?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir, I said had we protested,—if we had protested,—I think we should have been subject to very serious criticism at that time. I suggest we should have been told that Indian troops are good enough to fight and have fought better than any one else and are they not good enough to go forward and occupy the territory of the defeated ? I think that would have been said against us. That however is merely an opinion We should certainly have been accused, and rightly too, of lack of humanity in leaving these large numbers of people defenceless At any rate there was no question of attempting to consult any legislature, I am sure, in any country in the world There was no question of consulting any legislature on such a matter in any of the other Allied countries; the armies simply moved forward as fast as possible

It was with these two objects we went into Java at that time and I think there could have been no objection to that But when we went into Java, we found there a very different situation from what we expected I should like here to draw the attention of the House to some dates which I think are very significant On the 7th August, the Japanese in Java declared the independence of the Indonesian Republic , on the 8th August, Tokyo announced that Japan was ready to accept Allied terms On the 15th the arrangements that I was speaking about, the transfer of command from General MacArthur to Lord Louis Mountbatten, were completed, but it was not till the 29th September that the first Allied troops arrived in Java. They arrived in very small strength and it was not for another ten days or a fortnight that we had there any strength really worth the name There are a number of deductions to be drawn from these dates, I mentioned I think every one would draw the first deduction, that is from the proximity of the first two dates, that is, 7th, declaration of Indonesian Republic and 8th, Japanese surrender I do not see how any reasonable man can fail to draw the deduction that the declaration of independence of the Indonesian Republic was a last act by the Japanese intended to cause as much embarrassment as they could to the Allies. The next significant date is the transfer from one Allied command to another, and the last one is the actual arrival of troops. That delay of nearly two months was due to our lack of ships, due to the fact that we had to occupy these countries simultaneously, as I explained before and that delay was used by the Japanese to very good advantage They distributed weapons and modern equipment to every one they could persuade to accept them They set up bands of young men rather on the model of the Nazi Youth movements, but with this difference that these bands had no discipline as the Nazis had, and they supplied arms and equipment to these bands and that was the reason why we found the situation quite different from what we had expected Our troops had moved in with these two military objects and no other object. The question of to whom we should hand over when those objects were achieved had never been raised or considered. But when we got there, we found these bands dominating the countryside, looting peaceful inhabitants, massacring prisoners of war and their own people also, and the situation was such that we could not get into the interior to rescue prisoners of war, nor could we reach even many of the Japanese troops There are large numbers, some 30,000 Japanese troops in East Java alone, whom we are not able to reach. It became clear at a very early stage that the Indonesian leaders were not in a position to control these bands At first Dr Soekarno and later Dr Sharir were quite unable to control them Now Dr Sharir is helping us to control them

As a result of this altered situation, it became apparent that the original military problem with which we had gone into Java has split itself into two problems military and political. The political problem was not primarily ours, it was primarily that of the Dutch and Indonesians. All we could do was to act as an

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intermediary to help either party to reach a settlement and all that we could do was to promote such conditions as would best help peaceful discussions to take place.

The military problem had become one of disarming these lawless bands of terrorists in order to make it possible to reach the prisoners of war and to reach the Japanese Now, Sir, I should like to emphasise that that military problem of disarming these bands would have had to be done by some one, if it had not been done by ourselves. As I said before, Dr Shair is most anxious that we should carry it out and in fact his Indonesian peace preservation corps or what is locally known as TKR is helping us to do this at present I should also like to emphasise that from the beginning Admiral Mountbatten's orders to the troops were absolutely definite on two points, first that there should be no reprisals whatever for the excesses that were committed by terrorists,—and some of them are of the most shocking description,—that there should be no reprisals, and secondly that only the minimum force necessary was to be used when force became necessary As an example of that, bombs have never been dropped and air action has never been taken without giving warning to the inhabitants and the inhabitants have always been given an opportunity to get away

The military task that was set, of carrying out these two objects, has not yet been completed, because as I said there are still large numbers of Japanese in the interior of the country and there are still large numbers, unknown numbers, of prisoners of war in the interior whom we have not yet been able to reach The position is one which I do not think any of us like, and when I say any, I mean neither the Government of India nor His Majesty's Government nor the Government of the United States The recent declaration of policy by the United States might well have come from His Majesty's Government or from this Government (Interruption) I am not giving way We do not like the position, but we are there as a result of the fact that India has emerged victorious from a great war, as a great power and it is because of her greatness that she finds herself in this position. We do not, as I say, like this position We all want to get our troops away as quickly as we can There is no difference in policy in this matter As soon as the military objects are completed, the troops will be withdrawn

Sir, I have tried to explain the sequence of events and the means by which we found ourselves in Indonesia It was not a sudden decision to send out troops out of the country It was the natural consequence of victory, a military task which I venture to suggest it would have been harmful to have refused I hope, therefore, that in spite of the fact that we do not like the position, the House will all agree that there has never been any stage at which the Government of India could honourably have said " we wish to withdraw and leave other people to do this task which is necessary in the interests of world security "

Diwan Chaman Lall : Sir, I come back to this House after an absence of 15 years to find my very great regret that the complexion of this House, particularly as far as the Treasury Benches are concerned, remains exactly the same as it was in the past My Honourable friend Mr. Mason, I believe he is the War Secretary, has given us an explanation of which the Government of India and every man responsible ought to be thoroughly ashamed What does my Honourable friend plead ? He says that they went into Indonesia for the purpose of rescuing prisoners of war and of disarming the Japs May I ask my Honourable friend whether it is not a fact that the moment they went into Indonesia the first thing they did was to utilise the Japanese troops in order to suppress the Indonesians themselves ? My Honourable friend shakes his head He has given us some facts of which he does not apparently know the details Let me give him some of these details which will convince him that what I am saying is absolutely correct. Is it not a fact that in the month of September when the Allies landed in Indonesia the first thing that happened when they landed was that they immediately demanded the restoration of law and order through the Japanese military force ? Is that a fact ? Will my Honourable friend deny that ?

3 P M

Mr. P. Mason: I shook my head not to deny that we used Japanese troops but to deny that they were used to suppress the Indonesians.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Were they used for a picnic? It means they were used not for the purpose for which they were used but they were used merely because they happened to be there and were merely cooling their heels and you did not know what they ought to be doing What an absurd argument. It is not only an absurd argument but from the factual point of view it is a false argument. Is it a fact—I ask my Honourable friend again—that these troops were utilised for the purpose of mopping up the Indonesian nationalists? Is it a fact that the Japanese were actually armed, instead of being disarmed, with this very object in view and that they went into action and swooped down upon the Indonesians? My Honourable friend has not seen all the facts, he has not read even the literature on the subject, he has not seen any of the reports connected with this But he can take it from me that every Indonesian in this country and outside knows perfectly well that the moment British troops went in and I am sorry to say that Indian troops were also part and parcel of that contingent—the first thing they did was to ask that the Japanese military authorities in charge should be utilised for the purpose of suppressing the Indonesian nationalist movement And this happened immediately they landed there Now what actually happened was this The Japanese battalion in Batavia as a result of this was reinforced and,—I am quoting the actual words of the order,—"asked to deal with possible disorders by Indonesian nationalists" Does my Honourable friend know this? This order was passed The Japanese troops were reinforced and they were asked—according to the exact terms of the order—to deal with possible disorders by Indonesian nationalists Now my Honourable friend knows perfectly well that when the General in charge—I believe his name is Sir Philip Christison—my Honourable friend will correct me if I am wrong . . . .

An Honourable Member: Was he Philip drunk or Philip sober?

Diwan Chaman Lall He probably was sober but there are other Philips who are not, some of them are drunk with power This Sir Philip Christison said that the object of going to Batavia was (i) to rescue the prisoners and (ii) to disarm the Japanese troops Immediately he issues this statement he starts utilising the Japanese troops in order to wage war against the Indonesians At the same time he said, "We have no interest in the internal politics of this country" Before that the Dutch Colonial Minister Professor Logemann had made a very important declaration He had said, "We pledge our word not to uphold the capitalist and imperialist empire . The word of Holland that a free Indonesia will be built must be believed" This is what the Colonial Minister had said But the moment a third man comes in and makes this declaration that he is not going to interfere in the internal politics of the country he is superseded by Admiral Lord Mountbatten who made a declaration belying all that had been said, because it was he under whose orders Japanese troops were being utilised against the Indonesians About the landing of these troops he said that they would remain there until such time—not when the capitalist and imperialist regime disappears—but until such time as the lawful Government of the Netherlands East Indies (an imperialist and capitalist government, by the way) is once again functioning.

The whole object and policy behind it was not to disarm the Japanese who were being utilised and given arms in order to fight the Indonesians, but the whole object was to re-establish the Dutch Government in these colonies, to re-establish the power of the Dutch capitalist and imperialist nation My Honourable friend belongs to another imperialist and capitalist nation, he knows all about how to suppress nationalist movements, as they have been suppressed in my own country, he knows how to sympathise with others, equally situated, who are wanting to suppress the nationalist movement in Batavia The whole object has been to try and bring about a state of affairs, even with the assistance of the hated Japanese against whom you fought the war to utilise even these Japanese for the purpose of suppressing the nationalist movement in Indonesia I do not think there could be anything more shameful and disgraceful in the history of this country and in the actions of this Government than to permit Indian troops to be utilised for this purpose. It is a shameful thing. I as a Punjabee shudder when I mention the fact that it was a Punjabee regiment that was utilised by my Honourable friend over there for the purpose of suppressing the Indonesians and who were actually

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let loose upon the Indonesian nationalists who were wounded and murdered and forty of whom were arrested. I am afraid my Honourable friend's information is very incorrect and incomplete It is only another instance of the utter inefficiency of my Honourable friends sitting there on those Benches. Their left hand does not know what their right hand does.

Now, Sir, I may at this stage—since my Honourable friend does not know what Indonesia stands for—remind him of one thing I know perfectly well why their sympathies lie with Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, and the Government she stands for When Lord Mountbatten says he wants to re-establish the old Government, what does he mean ? The old Government in Indonesia means the same state of affairs as we have in India We have got two Indias here, Indian India and the Princes' India. There also they have some Indonesian rulers and the territory which belongs to the Dutch There they have a Governor General as we have, unfortunately, a Governor General in this country. The Governor General there has four or five hand-picked advisers like the *Jee-Huzoors* who sit on and adorn those Benches The system is exactly like what prevails in this country and that is what Lord Mountbatten with the assistance of the Indian troops and the Japanese troops is wanting to re-establish in Indonesia And he does not stop even at the utilisation of the Air force for murdering and butchering innocent women and children My Honourable friend says that due warning is given What sort of warning does he give ? The buzzing of the aeroplane that passes over a village and destroys it or the warning that they gave to Hiroshima and Nagasaki ? Is that the warning that my Honourable friends are giving ? I think it is a most disgraceful chapter that Indian troops should be utilised for this purpose and that my Honourable friend over there should stand up to justify action of this nature Let me remind my Honourable friend of some thing which happened not very long ago , I think even his memory is sharp enough to remember this recent instance Does he remember such a thing as the Atlantic Charter ? I notice that he is quite silent , he does not shake his head now. Does he remember the Teheran Conference ? Does he remember what happened at the Teheran Conference ? Let me remind him At that conference it was said, a declaration was made by Mr Winston Churchill, by the three powers, to the effect that they were now determined to end tyranny, slavery and oppression and wherever they found these things they were prepared to end them. Is my Honourable friend helping to end tyranny and oppression by being a party and making India a party to that tyranny and the oppression of a brotherly nation, a nation which originally was inhabited by the citizens of this country and later on came to be conquered by the co-religionists of my Honourable friend the Quaid-e-Azam, a nation which has ties both of religion and culture with us ? Are we going to allow our troops without the permission of the people, knowing the feeling of the country against such action, to be utilised as butchers and murderers and for suppressing the liberties of other people ? I think it is a most disgraceful state of affairs. My friend should have come here in sackcloth and ashes, in a repentant mood, and said, "It was not my job; I am sorry to say it was done by Lord Louis Mountbatten who happened to be the Commander at that time and he utilised these troops without the permission of the 'Government of India " But there was a time when the Government of India should have protested against such action ; they could have joined us in saying that India will not be a butcher of little nations round about, that India stands for the freedom of all nations But my Honourable friends, as I said, have not changed The years go by and they remain exactly where they are They do not change their complexion, they do not change their habits, because it is a deep-rooted evil They have learnt to suppress the people of India They know how to utilize their machinery for the purpose of oppressing the people of India and keeping them in slavery They are helping others to do exactly the same thing, because they think the possibility is that if Indonesia is free—the same thing is happening in Indo-China—the result would be that all these nations would rise up as one and get rid of the domination of the Western Powers, the capitalist powers of the West, and put an end to imperialism in the East and in the Far East

Most remarkable of all the arguments that my Honourable friend has raised on the floor of the House reminds me of an article on the 10th of January which was

published in one of the local newspapers, the paper which usually reflects the opinions of my Honourable friends sitting on the Treasury Benches—the *Statesman*— and the argument that the *Statesman* raised about this matter was this :
The reason why freedom was guaranteed by Japan to Indonesia was that Indonesia might then become a bulwark for Japan when Japan later on in the years to come rises up and becomes a great power again, and Indonesia may be able to give commercially fair terms to Japan when Japan rises up again. I am afraid such arguments are not arguments which are advanced by responsible editors or responsible men although they appeared in editorials but these are mere arguments for the purpose of throwing dust in the eyes of the public in order that the real issue should be forgotten

And what is the real issue ? The real issue is this that we are determined now to see that Indian troops are never again utilized for the purpose of robbing others of their liberty, and we are determined to see that the Government of India gives us a guarantee that the last Indian soldier remaining on Indonesian soil or in Indo-China. is brought back to his own country and is not made the policeman or the hangman of other people's freedom I submit that my Honourable friends should apply their minds to that particular issue and give us a guarantee that in future this sort of thing will not happen for a single day or for a single moment, and our Indian troops will not be utilized for this purpose My Honourable friend sitting on my right in one of his speeches in Bombay said that one of the most dangerous things that you have to face if you are going on in this fashion, will be a colour war

Mr. Chairman : Honourable Member's time is up. Please wind up your year speech.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is that what my Honourable friends are leading us to ?

Do you want a colour war, or do you want to do the right thing by all these countries and withdraw your troops ? You have no business to be there Dr Soekarno is not a pro-Jap who does not want the liberty of his nation He was the man who was imprisoned for four years by the Dutch Government, he was the man who was kept in internment since 1936 He is the man who is fighting for the liberty of his country and you are the people who are trying to deny that liberty I submit the time has come when you should give a guarantee to this House that at the earliest possible moment every soldier will be withdrawn from these territories and Indian troops will never again be utilized for the scandalous and nefarious purpose for which they have been sent to other lands.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs : Muhammadan Urban) : Mr Chairman, a maiden speech deserves the indulgence of the House and if I commit any faults I hope I shall be forgiven.

Sir, I have heard many speeches in my time but none so unconvincing as that of the spokesman on behalf of the Government It is surprising he did not read the adjournment motion that was put before the House He tried to put up a camouflage before us and forgot Indo-China altogether Supposing I were to admit that all his arguments were correct in relation to Indonesia, he had perhaps no defence to put up in regard to Indo-China.

Mr Chairman, Sir, the behaviour of the Government of India, which I consider is a subordinate Government of the British Government in Great Britian, is disgraceful to the last degree To use the Indian soldiers for the purposes which my Honourable friend from Lahore has described is to use them as mercenary marauders Not only as an Asiatic but even as Muslim, I would advise gentlemen who act as the men on the spot of the Government at Home, to realise that the war has left even some of the bigger States very weak, and put them on the downward path If they have any sense, then Great Britain has to seek new alliances and friendships. Coming to terms with America on the one side and Russia on the other and to go about the world trying to crush under their heels the liberties of smaller nations and especially of Muslim nations in the world, is something that might hurt the British Empire irretrievably

Mr Chairman, Sir, why did they use Indian soldiers in Indonesia ? All the arguments used in justification of the behaviour, whether of the Indian Commander-in-Chief or of the folks in England, go to prove that the division of the world after the war, which we are told has ended—although it is not going to end in India till

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about the 1st of April—is still the main object. We are still at war; all the rules of the war are still in existence. Of course, in some places cannons are not being fired, but in some places in Indonesia and in Indo-China they are using every weapon of war, and I shall not be surprised that if Dr Abdur Rahim Soekarno refuses to listen to them they might even bring about his downfall by an atomic bomb, because the mentality left by the war is 'damn the whole world; we must secure possession of every source of wealth, we must possess every means of making ourselves rich' The manner in which General MacArthur is behaving in Tokyo is as disgraceful as Lord Louis Mountbatten's behaviour in Indo-China

Many arguments have been used, Mr Chairman, but one rather important has been left out In case the Indonesians become free, in case the Indo-French people in Annam and Cambodia become free, our friends here and in England are mortally afraid that the conflagration will spread further It might go to Malaya, it might come to Burma, and who knows "*Ahimsa parmo dharma*" may not be our policy when that time comes

Sir, you will perhaps understand me better when I say [illegible] *buddhih*" It is at moments like this that wisdom runs away These colonial people possessing powers, as they are called, with their possessions, played false to the possessed They ran away at the first sight of the spectre Sir, that is cowardice to the last word They ran away and left these unarmed people to the tender mercies of the Japanese, whose cruelties and atrocities are being broadcast every day from every broadcasting station in the British Empire and of the victorious powers Sir, it is not right It is not fair Therefore I ask whether they have any sense of democracy left in them. Queen Wilhelmina is supposed to have made a public declaration while she happened to be in London That declaration is perhaps forgotten Whether she has forgotten it or the wiseacres in Whitehall have forced her to do it I do not know But it may be that the Indonesians today may not succeed I am satisfied in my own mind that Queen Wilhelmina and her Van Mooks and other officials, if they do not leave Java and Sumatra they will have to drown themselves in that portion of Indonesia It is not possible now to listen to arguments of that type that have been inflicted on this House by the spokesman of the Government We can see through them Where is the use of using an argument that does not convince? As my friend from Lahore has explained, we remain unconvinced The utterances made by Lord Louis Mountbatten or General Christenson or any of the other Generals or officers whether in Indonesia or Indo-French China, *viz*, "We have nothing to do with the local politics of the country" "We have come to save our own nationals and our white friends" and all talks of saving Indians and Indonesian prisoners are to my mind all moonshine

Mr Chairman, Sir, we understand these arguments They have been placed before us for donkeys' ears Whenever there is a case there are two sides to it and the Government always runs away with its false arguments and tells us, 'Listen to it or we shall bludgeon you into it'. That situation has now come. Sir, could I appeal to Honourable Members sitting there who have perhaps the ear of the great "Marshal" Viceroy of this country that there is something like the honour of the soldier My brothers have been used in a war which was not of my making They could have been used to better purpose Could His Excellency the Governor General and could His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief save us the disgrace of acting as their henchmen, of acting as their agents in trying to crush the liberties of people? I do not mind if Queen Wilhelmina and her Generals come and crush the Indonesians That will be their own business But to go and crush them with Indian troops is something else There may be some Australians or English troops there too, but I do not know But the division of the world by the three, whether at Teheran, or Moscow or Cairo or Quebec or Casablanca, was very clear to us. America was given China and Japan, Great Britain retained India, and Russia perhaps the rest of the world They will not interfere with each other's business Talking of Joint Allied Combined Chiefs of Staff—nothing of the sort! It is a piece of big humbug The Englishman cannot enter Japan nor can he enter the conquered territories of Budapest. Therefore, Sir, this is the Englishman's baby which he is asking the Indian to carry. He should be ashamed of himself and in our shame he

should not feel proud and he should not fell like a slave driver who can send a Gurkha or a Sikh or a Muslim to these parts of the world. Sir, can we even at this late hour induce our friends to our left to behave in a manner which will be in keeping, in dignity at least with the principles enunciated by these great conquering victorious nations ? I wonder what would have happened to victory had that atomic bomb not been there !

Sir, it is now too late in the day to work under a camouflage Let them come out openly and freely because what they are doing in Indonesia can be seen in a sort of reflex action in Iran 'I wont get out because Russia does not get out' and secretly Russia is being asked to remain where she is. So that 'I remain where I am' The same trouble can be seen in Egypt, in Palestine, in Syria, and in the whole of North Africa. I scratch the back of the Frenchmen and he scratches my back because I happen to be part of the British Empire Therefore, it is a dirty game of the conquering powers to suppress liberties not only in Asiatic countries but perhaps in the countries of Europe In some places they have commercial interests. In some places they have political and economic interests and in some countries they have purely racial interests The white man must rule supreme and the white man insists that his prestige must be kept high and above that of other people. Sir, I do not think that policy shall have an eternal character to it It may or may not succeed but so far as this House and the representatives of India, Muslim or Hindu, are concerned, it shall be our duty to see that that policy is broken to pieces.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Though this is my first appearance in this House, I consider it my duty to raise my voice of protest, not only on behalf of the Congress Party in this House, but on behalf of the wider Indian public outside this House, against the atrocities that are being committed and are being perpetuated by the Government of India outside India borders. I call it atrocities deliberately—a word which the Government of India seem to be fond of when talking about others. Of course, they have not the eyes to see the atrocities they commit They have not the ears to hear the portests that are being levelled against them and against their conduct from far and near. The British Government, whose agent the Government of India is today, talked and talked again and again of their moral obligation towards the Dutch—moral obligation of one Western exploiter towards another in order to perpetuate colonial domination over the subject countries of the East ! I was startled to hear the Honourable Member who spoke on behalf of the Government of India earlier this afternoon talking of terrorism The representative of a Government and an administration which is based on terrorism talks of terrorism of others ! Let us not be deceived by the smooth promises which the so-called democracies held out to us from the year 1939 onwards We were told both during the first World War and also in the course of the second World War which has just ended that, if Indians fought in the fields of France or in the deserts of Mesopotamia or in the rocky height of Sicily, they would be achieving freedom for India. Those words will not deceive us any longer. We know what the British Government has been fighting for since the year 1939. We know what the Dutch Government has been fighting for ever since the year 1939. And we know what the Government of India has been fighting for with the use of Indian troops ever since the second World War ended last year. They have been fighting not only for perpetuating their own domination over India but also to perpetuate the domination of French imperialists, Dutch imperialists and American imperialists— the whole gang and brood of imperialists occupying portions of these eastern countries. May I ask the Government, what is the moral obligation the Government of India have in this matter ? If the Government of India feel that they have any moral obligation, their moral obligation is to the people of India ; and the people of India have declared with one voice their sympathy with and for the people of these countries in the East.

Then, Sir, a further thing has been said by my Honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lall. He said that what is now being enacted forms one of the most disgraceful chapters in Indian history. I entirely agree. Of course, that is not our history. The real Indian history is different, because it records that India has never willingly

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dipped her hands in her neighbour's blood. India to day does not want to dip her hands in her neighbour's blood. It is the imperialists represented by the British Imperialistic Government in England and their agents in India including the Government of India, who have compelled India to dip her hands in her neighbour's blood; and we in this House, whether on this side of the House or those to my left, both the party which I represent and the party which my Honourable friend, Mr. Mahomed Ali Jinnah, represents, we demand that every single Indian soldier and every single Indian seaman be withdrawn from Indonesia and Indo-China If the Government of India feel—I know, Sir, they are not feeling it today but they are bound to feel it tomorrow, they will be compelled to feel it tomorrow — if the Government of India feel that they have to represent the people of this country, I warn them, as to what their real moral obligation is, and to whom it is and ask them to discharge their moral obligation by withdrawing the last Indian soldier and the last Indian seaman from Indonesia and Indo-China

Sir, I do not want to detain the House longer today, but, before I resume my seat, I desire to warn the Government of India, who are today in alliance with British Imperialists, French Imperialists, Dutch Imperialists and American Imperialists— I desire to warn the Government of India that they stand before the bar of history that all their present pomp, their present glitter and the circumstance of their present proud position, all these will avail them not; that their words will be critically examined and their acts as critically judged; and that, if they refuse to listen to the voice of this House, history will record against them its most awful censure. I desire to warn them that the East is coming to its own, that the East will come to its own. Let them read the signs of the times and behave accordingly.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City Muhammadan Urban) Mr Chairman the real issue that appears to be before the House is this: What has the Government of India done with regard to the situation that has developed in Indonesia both from the point of view of military and political objectives. Sir, I expected even from the military department, the War Department, if you like, of the Government of India, which is represented by the Honourable Member who spoke, to give us some intelligent account of what the Government of India has done I understood that the object and the obligation of the various nations was that they must go—they have won the war, Japan has collapsed— they must go to the rescue of the prisoners of the various countries that were there That is that And their next business was to disarm the Japanese and see that they were promptly removed from Indonesia. Now if that was the object, namely, to rescue war prisoners and to see the Japanese off from Indonesia, I should have thought that either the Dutch forces or the Government, whichever was responsible there, would have easily managed that, because even according to the Honourable Member's own statement, the Indonesians were independent There was constituted government, there was a Republic, a Ministry. I should have thought that any member of the United Nations, to start with the Dutch, would have at once said "We are very glad that you have got your freedom and liberty. We are very glad that the Japanese have given you this freedom and independence. We bless you and we bless your republic and we want now only one thing and that is, secure the war prisoners and see that the Japanese are liquidated as quickly as possible and taken back wherever they should be Was that ever suggested by the Dutch authorities? Was that ever suggested by the British when they went there and was it refused? I am really shocked when I hear the Honourable Member saying that India must play a very great part, as she has played in the world war—fought as well and better than anybody else— and therefore it is befitting our dignity and our honour that our troops should be sent there to do what— to destroy the independence, the freedom and liberty of the republic that was established there. You justify it with a great amount of falsehood which you have spread. Why not admit it if you can? And if you cannot, why do you not keep quiet? Why do you not keep quiet instead of coming here with a speech of this character, which is full of falsehoods, from top to bottom? There is not one word in that statement of facts, which is true— not one word. Why do you not admit that the policy is not yours, because what can you do? You can have no policy. Why do you not keep quiet or frankly admit it? We know and the world

knows, except the Honourable Members and the criminals who are persecuting and prosecuting this disgraceful policy in Indonesia. The policy is clear. The Dutch want to re-establish the imperialistic Dutch domination, to bleed the Indonesians for another unlimited period, having done so already for 150 to 200 years and the British policy, which is quite obvious, is to share in partnership to bleed and exploit the Indonesians by re-establishing the Dutch Imperial domination there That is the view that I think any intelligent man must take, in spite of the camouflage, in spite of the confusing reports, in spite of the manoeuvres and machinations, in spite of the statements of British statesmen Even Members of Parliament are rebelling against this dishonesty and camouflage that is being practised there to hide the real issue But you go on as usual If my words can go to the British nation, I say that every Englishman who has got any sphered of honour ought to shudder at being a party to the operations that are being carried on there brutally. They say "We have done nothing". I suppose the reports coming from there are censored, but even the reports that are coming are revealing. You say "No reprisals" You keep saying "No reprisals" You make declarations saying "No reprisals". But what are your actions? Your hands are covered with blood and brutality. I do not know whether it is possible for the British nation to put pressure upon Parliament I do not know whether the collective conscience of Parliament would rebel, as it ought to, in the name of justice, in the name of freedom in the name of humanity and in the name of the solemn declarations that the nations have made from time to time that they stand for democracy But whatever that may be, so far as the Government of India is concerned, I am sorry to say that the representative of the War Department has thrown no light as to what they have done. Honourable Members here sitting, Members of the Executive Council perhaps will enlighten us, apart from the military operations, on the political aspect of the issue What has this great Executive Council of the Governor General done? Have they any opinions? Did they collectively put their heads together? Have they expressed their opinion anywhere, to anybody, collectively or individually?

An Honourable Member: They never do.

Mr. M A. Jinnah: Has the Viceroy and Governor General discussed this matter with you or not? If so, what was the result of it and what conclusion did you come to and what views have you expressed to His Majesty's Government? I know you have no power But are we not entitled to know that you, as the Government of India, the Executive Council of the Governor General, owe a duty to this country, and you are under a moral obligation and it is your business to see that the feelings and sentiments and opinions of the people of this country are at least represented to His Majesty's Government truly and faithfully? What have you done? Sir, I read in the newspaper a few weeks ago that His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General has made representations to His Majesty's Government that Indian troops should not be utilised in Indonesia. Is that true? It has not been contradicted yet. Is it true? Why do you not say 'yes, we have made representations and we shall persist that it is the feeling of the people of India that Indian troops should not be employed there'? Unless that is made clear on the floor of this House, that you have made representations, or if not, that you will make representations at once unless you give me an undertaking on the floor of this House that you will do it—and you know that there is universal feeling throughout India that it is a disgrace and a slur upon the honour of our soldiers who are called upon to fight for what, against those who have been struggling for their freedom and independence—therefore, unless you give me an undertaking that you will make the strongest representations to His Majesty's Government and do your best to see that Indian troops are immediately withdrawn, I shall persist that this motion should be adopted as a censure upon the Government of India.

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (Leader of the House): I am grateful to my Honourable friend, Mr. Philip Mason, Philip the Sober, for his clear and able maiden speech and of the other maiden speeches to which we have listened, I can only say—"Some maidens!"

[Sir Edward Benthall]

Mr Mason has made perfectly clear that the objects for which British and Indian troops were sent to Indonesia and Indo-China were the evacuation of the Japanese troops and the rescue of the Allied prisoners and internees. These were the objects assigned by the Allied High Command—these and no more This followed as one of the inescapable consequences of the termination of hostilities so suddenly. To suggest that the Government of India should have objected at that juncture to the use of Indian troops for those purposes and that they should have resiled from their duties as one of the Allied Nations charged with restoring order in a shattered world at that moment is unreasonable Since the task was assigned to an Allied Force containing Indian troops, honour necessitated its fulfilment and I venture to suggest that we should rightly have been censured if we had not allowed our troops to go and apprehend the Japanese and to succour our own prisoners of war The conscience of the Government of India in that matter is perfectly clear.

An Honourable Member Is there any conscience ?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall Having entered these countries at the instance of the Allied Nations, we find ourselves now unexpectedly in a position of great delicacy It is a position which is as distasteful to the Government of India as it is to His Majesty's Government (*An Honourable Member* "Then why don't you quit the place ?") or to any other of the Governments of the Allied Nations So far as the Government of India is concerned, we are anxious to see the Indian troops withdrawn from these countries just as soon as our obligations there can be fulfilled or the troops can be honourably withdrawn or replaced (*An Honourable Member*. "After the domination is complete ?") The Government of India does not lag behind public opinion in this matter

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I interrupt ?

Mr. Chairman : Does the Honourable the Leader of the House wish to give way?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall : No Sir.

(Interruptions)

An Honourable Member : Until the domination is complete, you cannot withdraw ?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall : If there are further interruptions Sir, perhaps I may be given a little more time. I was saying that the Government of India does not lag behind public opinion in this matter

Diwan Chaman Lall : What happens to your honour then ?

Mr. Chairman : The Honourable Member has only fifteen minutes.

An Honourable Member : He is talking of honour !

Mr. M. Asaf Ali : May I put a question ?

Mr. Chairman : It is no use The Honourable Member will not answer any question (Interruptions) The Honourable Member does not give way You can only put questions if the Honourable Member is prepared to give way.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall : The adjournment motion before the House refers to the violent operations of the British So far as the troops there are concerned, the operations are in no way intended to be violent and the instructions to the troops are, generally speaking, not to fire unless they are fired upon and our object is to maintain so far as possible peace non-violently. The troops there have shown the most magnificent discipline and restraint and their actions in that respect have been superb. All rumours to the contrary are completely unfounded. They have shown an impartiality which, as I shall show you in a minute, has been thoroughly appreciated by the Indonesians themselves and they have had occasion to suppress Dutch-employed Indonesians who have been guilty of attempting reprisals.

A point has been made that Japanese troops have been used to suppress Indonesians That is completely incorrect The Japanese troops have been used in static jobs to protect the lives of internees who are being attacked by bands of terrorist in Indonesia. My friend, Mr. Chaman Lall, referred to monstrous tyranny. That is precisely what the Japanese were used for— to prevent the monstrous tyranny of terrorists endeavouring to kill the internees (Interruption).

As regards the political aspects of this question, I desire to face right up to the facts. In the course of the war, before the present complications were ever thought of by any one, the Allied Nations made routine arrangements for the military administration of civil affairs in territories recaptured from the Germans and the Japanese. It was at that time naturally understood that in the ordinary course the administration would be handed back to the lawful government as soon as the military administration was no longer necessary In the meantime a new situation has arisen and the natural aspirations of the Indonesian peoples have come to the surface. The position in Indonesia is in a state of flux and is still in a state of great disorder. The task of the occupational forces is now impartially to maintain the degree of law and order necessary not only to fulfil the military objects but also, as it has turned out, to allow negotiations between the Indonesians and the Netherlands Government to take place, negotiations which the Indonesians themselves have recognised to be necessary with the Netherlands Government

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division : Muhammadan Rural) : Which is the lawful Government you recognise ?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall : The lawful Government was at that time the Dutch Government

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan : When you went there ?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall : I have very little time left It was the Dutch Government and now a new situation has arisen Dr Sharrar himself, the leader of the Indonesian Nationalists, speaking at a Press Conference on 26th December last emphasized that the Allied Forces in Java were carrying out duties imposed upon them by the United Nations and he called upon the Indonesians to play their part in helping to fulfil these tasks. Since then moderate elements of the Indonesian Nationalist Movement have been co-operating efficiently with the Allied Forces in rounding up the Japanese and in safeguarding the prisoners of war and internees. The Mayor of Batavia has written to General Christison, the local Allied Commander, deploring the violence and disorders which were going on in Batavia and offering the co-operation of his police force and also the T K R , that is the Indonesian Preservation Corps, to put an end to the disorders Political tranquillity is necessary if the military objects of apprehending the Japanese, of whom there are still 30,000 in Indonesia, and of rescuing the balance of the
4 P.M. prisoners of war and internees are to be effected In order to assist in reaching a political settlement the British Government has, as you must have noticed in the newspapers, sent a Special Ambassador, Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, who will use his special knowledge and experience to help the parties to arrive at a helpful solution.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : Has it ever been made clear. . . . . .

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall : I am very sorry but I cannot give way.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : It is a most extraordinary thing. . . . . .

Mr. Chairman : The Honourable Member does not wish to give in

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : It is the most extraordinary thing and I protest against it that the Leader of the House should not allow me to put one single question during the course of his speech. This is unheard of.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall : I am perfectly willing to hear the question if I am given extra time.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division : Muhammadan Rural): If he does not do that, we shall not hear him

Mr. Chairman : With the consent of the House, I propose to give the Honourable the Leader of the House five minutes extra if he will answer one or two questions.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : I only wanted to understand clearly whether it has ever been made clear to Dr. Soakarno or the Prime Minister of the Republic that the Dutch Government and the British Government are willing to negotiate and come to a settlement with them on the basis of their independence and freedom being

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall : I am not fully informed on that point. I have no more information than the Honourable Members have in the papers

Mr. M. A. Jinnah : Then, do not use our Indian troops

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall : From what I have said, from the quotations that I have made from Dr. Shahriar's own statements, it is quite clear that the British and Indian troops are not there to suppress the Indonesian independence. They are not there for that purpose On the contrary, their impartial attitude is welcomed by the Indonesian leaders at the present moment. That is a perfectly correct statement To withdraw prematurely and to wash our hands of the responsibility could do nothing to help and much to prejudice the chances of a peaceful settlement. I just ask Honourable Members to consider the consequences if we walked out of the country at this moment

Sir, one of my Honourable friends opposite—I think Professor Ranga—observed that the United States of America and the world was against the policy which is being followed in Indonesia at the present time. I will quote you extracts from the recent communique of the United States Government on the subject :

"The United States recognise that the primary responsibility for arriving at agreement lies with the Netherlands Authorities, as representatives of the territorial sovereign, and the Indonesian leaders Such a settlement can be attained only through a realistic, broad minded and co-operative approach on the part of all concerned and a will to reconcile differences by peaceful means Extremist or irresponsible action or failure to present and consider specific proposals can lead only to a disastrous situation."

That expression of opinion by the United States Government is exactly in line with the views of the Government of India. It recognises the moral obligations to both sides. I appeal to this House to consider this question with the moderation and balance demanded of India's high place in International affairs The use of Indian troops in Indonesia is distasteful to the country and distasteful to the Government of India, but it does at least give us a right to intervene on the side of moderation. Nevertheless, I assure the House and the world outside once again that the Government of India's desire is to see the troops withdrawn at the earliest possible moment consistent with our obligations. In the case of Indo-China, in answer to one speaker opposite, the troops have, in fact, either been withdrawn or will be withdrawn in the course of the next few days. In the circumstances, Sir, I suggest that the best course really is to await the result of the negotiations which are now going on between the Indonesians and the Dutch with no compulsion on either side because the successful outcome of these negotiations will be the quickest way of getting Indian troops out of Indonesia.

Several Honourable Members : The question be now put.

Mr. Chairman : The question is :

"That the question be now put"

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman : The Honourable Mover has the right to reply. Does he wish to exercise that right ?

Prof. N. G. Ranga : No.

Mr. Chairman : I therefore put the question ; the question is :

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 22nd January, 1946.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 22nd January, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr Chairman (Sir Cowasjee Jehangir) in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN.

Mr. Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, M.L.A. (Gaya *cum* Monghr. Non-Muhammadan)

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

TRIALS OF INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY OFFICERS

Mr. Chairman: As I said yesterday, we have received a large number of adjournment motions The next one is from Prof Ranga which runs as follows

"That the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a specific and urgent matter of recent public importance, namely, the institution of the trial of some of the Indian National Army officers after the emergency of war is over and before ascertaining the opinion of the House"

I find that in the second ballot a Resolution has been drawn, No 1, by Pandit Govind Malaviya, which is substantially the same as this adjournment motion I should like to know from the Honourable the Leader of the House whether he has any proposal to make

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House) I may point out that the Honourable Mover of this adjournment motion does not appear to be present in the House

Mr. Chairman: Somebody from his party will answer for him

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General) This is a motion of the Party and any one of us can answer for it.

Mr. Chairman: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House state the position of the Government?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Government would have no objection at all to this adjournment motion being moved today on the understanding that the Resolution is not moved subsequently But if that undertaking is not given, the Chair would be perfectly correct in ruling this out of order

Mr. Chairman: The Resolution has been tabled by Pandit Govind Malaviya. Is the Honourable Member present here to give that undertaking?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Before an answer is sought, I should just like to say one word As a matter of fact, it is a very delicate and difficult question Personally I am not very anxious that this should be dealt with in an adjournment motion You cannot go into the subject thoroughly I do not think the Government will be able to place their case before us in as effective a manner as they should and so far as we are concerned, we have *got to* say a great deal about it I should certainly prefer, I speak subject to what my Leader might so I should prefer a day set apart for a fuller discussion

Mr. Chairman: Don't speak subject to anything

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I should certainly like to have a day set apart for a full dress debate on the subject The difficulty is this This adjournment motion deals only with one aspect of the question, whereas the Resolution is more comprehensive But it may or may not be reached

Mr. Chairman: You have simply got to say whether you want the adjournment motion or the Resolution.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I want a whole day set apart for the Resolution. But I do not want that my non-official day should be cut into.

Mr. Chairman: The position is this The Honourable the Leader of the House has given two alternatives to you, the option of either moving the adjournment motion or the Resolution As a matter of fact this adjournment motion is out of order because a Resolution on the same subject is on the agenda I am trying to meet your convenience Please answer which would you like, the Resolution or the adjournment motion

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We would prefer the Resolution But the difficulty is that the Resolution may not be reached, it is low down on the list

Mr. Chairman: The Resolution is the first in the list for 4th February

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadan Rural). It is quite possible that the Resolution moved on 31st January might be continued on 4th February and in that case this Resolution about I N A , might not be reached on that day.

Mr. Chairman: You have got to take your chance of moving it on 4th February. It is the first in the list and it is quite likely it will be moved. Take your choice I am prepared to meet the wishes of the House

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab Sikh) This Resolution might not be reached at all

Mr. Chairman: It is the first on the list and it will be discussed on 4th February.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The Resolution which will be moved on 31st January might be taken over to the 4th February and this Resolution might not be reached at all

Mr. Chairman: There is very little chance of that Kindly consult and let me know.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I think it will be fair either to have a whole day set apart for this Resolution and it must be debated—we must know that it is going to be taken up or we move the adjournment motion and take our chance on the 4th February

Mr. Chairman: If I admit the adjournment motion it must be clearly on the understanding that this Resolution will not be moved

Diwan Chaman Lall: (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan) Sir, on a point of order, the adjournment motion is perfectly in order today and so is the Resolution The rules say that it will not be in order if there is a Resolution previously appointed The words are "previously appointed" And if notice of the adjournment motion was given previous to the Resolution the question of "previously appointed" does not arise The question of its being barred out would arise on the point of whether the one was prior or the other was prior. Priority of time is essential in regard to this If this was given earlier it is in order and it does not bar our discussion of the adjournment motion, even though later on a Resolution has been tabled and has been ballotted for and a day has been appointed I therefore submit that we would be within our rights from the purely constitutional point of view in moving our adjournment motion today as well as the Resolution later on which has already been tabled and ballotted for and for which a day has been appointed

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, Rule 12 (iv) is clear on this, namely,—

"The motion must not anticipate a matter which has been previously appointed for consideration, or with reference to which a notice of motion has been previously given"

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural) Sir, we should like to know whether it will be discussed in the form of an adjournment motion or in the form of a Resolution and whether it will be on an official or a non-official day But we should discuss only once.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) The simple question seems to be whether Government are prepared to allot an official day for the discussion of this subject.

Mr. Chairman: The position, so far as I am concerned, is this. There is an adjournment motion and there is a Resolution, on substantially the same subject Therefore, according to the rules, if the subject is on the agenda and is to be discussed, no adjournment motion can be moved But the Honourable Leader of the House has given the Mover of the adjournment motion as well as of the Resolution the option of moving one or the other If you are not prepared to take a choice between them I will have to give a ruling

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions. Non-Muhammadan): A third thing is also possible, namely, the Leader of the House can give one full day for discussion in respect of the Resolution and the adjournment motion I should like to know whether he is prepared to give us one day for this

An Honourable Member: An official day or a non-official day?

Seth Govind Das: Any day would do

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: In view of the fact that it stands No 1 on the agenda for the 4th February, it is quite unnecessary to give a day.

Mr. Chairman: I think we have discussed it sufficiently now If the Congress Party or the Leader of the Opposition desires to have it in the form of a Resolution it is quite possible to do so. If no undertaking is given that the Resolution will not be moved if the adjournment motion is admitted, I will understand what to do.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta · Non-Muhammadan Urban): Do I understand you to say that I have to exercise my option here and now?

Mr. Chairman: Yes, I have to give my ruling and I want to meet your convenience As Leader of the Opposition I want to have your views one way or the other

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: After listening to the discussion I may tell you that I am in favour of moving an adjournment motion.

Mr. Chairman: Is there an undertaking given that the Resolution will not be moved?

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: That is a matter which, I submit with great respect, does not arise now If by reason of moving the adjournment motion the Resolution drops, then, of course, you will give your decision accordingly.

Mr. Chairman: No, that must be understanding, otherwise I must rule the adjournment motion out of order

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Before you rule it out of order I wish to make one submission If I send notice of an adjournment motion, another Member may send notice of a Resolution simply to defeat my purpose

Mr. Chairman: He can, that is possible

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Is it your view that though the Resolution has been tabled subsequently, it has the effect of defeating the adjournment motion?

Mr. Chairman: That is so

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: My decision is that we shall move the adjournment motion

Mr. Chairman: Then do you give an undertaking to the effect required?

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: No I regret it is not possible for me to give any undertaking of the kind you ask for

Diwan Chaman Lall: Sir, I rise to a point of order The point of order that I raised before seems to have been lost sight of in the subsequent discussion According to Rule 12(iv) on page 124 of the Manual .

Mr. Chairman: I have heard that point of order and I think we have discussed it long enough I personally have gone out of my way to try and meet the convenience of Honourable Members Ordinarily I would have ruled it out of order straightaway, but after this discussion and no undertaking being given I must rule the adjournment motion out of order.

POLICE FIRING ON STUDENTS IN CALCUTTA AND OTHER CITIES

Mr. Chairman: The next adjournment motion of which notice has been received stands in the name of Maharajkumar Dr Sir Vijaya Ananda, who wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the recent indiscriminate and uncalled-for firing resorted to by the police on innocent students in Calcutta in particular and in several cities all over the country in general

What has the Honourable Member got to say about this? I would like to hear him first

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda (United Provinces Landholders) As we all know the firing resorted to by the Police on innocent students is such a matter that I would like this House to discuss it on an adjournment motion So many lives were lost and Government have not done anything to compensate the families It is a matter of great vital importance and I would very much like this House to discuss it

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member) I am aware of the importance of the matter so far as it relates to Calcutta, but what has happened in "other cities all over the country" I do not know I submit, Sir, that it is purely a matter of provincial concern The action was presumably taken under Chapter IX of the Criminal Procedure Code which confers certain powers on Magistrates and Police for the dispersal of unlawful assemblies Those Magistrates and Police are entirely under the orders of the Provincial Government and I submit that the Governor General in Council has no concern in this matter

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether the military were also called in and whether any action was taken by the military? If it is so, then it would be the responsibility of the Governor General in Council

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, Sir I referred to Chapter IX of the Criminal Procedure Code which confers powers on the local authorities to call in the military in aid of the civil power If the military was called in, it was by the local civil authority which is entirely under the control of the Provincial Government

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I submit that the military are not under the control of the Provincial Government They may have been called in in aid of the civil power in the province, but they are controlled by the Governor General in Council, and therefore the responsibility of the Governor General in Council arises

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Might I add a remark on that, Sir? If my Honourable friend stresses the part taken by the military, may I say that there is no mention whatever in this adjournment motion of any military forces whatever

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member deny the fact that military was called in? There may not have been any mention of that in the adjournment motion, but does he deny the fact that the military was called in?

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: The Honourable the Home Member said that it was a provincial matter I submit that this is an all-India matter because it involves not only one type of students, but all types of students—Hindus, Muslims and others—and in view of the fact that there is Section 93 Government in Bengal, how are the people to ventilate their grievances? How are they to say that the Government should stop this cruel way of firing on students?

Seth Govind Das: My question is still unanswered

Mr. Chairman: I think we have discussed it sufficiently

Sardar Mangal Singh: I want to know whether the action was taken under the Defence of India Rules or under Section 144. How was the procession banned? If action was taken under the Defence of India Rules, then the motion

is quite in order Will the Honourable the Home Member inform the House about this?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have no information about this except what appeared in the newspapers, and if I make an assertion or denial I might be wrong My objection is that it is entirely a matter for the local authorities

Mr. Chairman: Following the previous rulings on this point, I must rule it out of order.

SHOOTING OF I N A PRISONERS

Mr. Chairman: The next adjournment motion is by Mr Satya Narayan Sinha, namely this Assembly do now adjourn to discuss an urgent matter of public importance, namely the shooting of many I N A prisoners in the different detention camps of this country

An Honourable Member: Mr Sinha is not present in the House

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division Muhammadan Rural) If the Honourable Member is not present in the House, then I submit the motion cannot be taken up

Mr. Chairman: The point is that the adjournment motion is not going to be taken up immediately If it is in order, it will be taken up some time later in consultation with the Leader of the House, and therefore if the Honourable Member is not present it is not his fault

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: But how do you know that the Honourable Member wants to move it?

(By this time Shri Satya Narayan Sinha had come)

Mr. Chairman: I have just read out adjournment motion No 6 standing in your name It is rather vague Has the Honourable Member anything to say about it? What are the facts?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran Non-Muhammadan) I want to move this adjournment motion There has been shooting in Calcutta and other places

Mr. Chairman: There must be a definite point What has Government Member to say in this connection?

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India Nominated Official) I think that the facts are really rather different from those that one might suppose from this wording There have been no shootings in many camps all over the country There have been two instances In one case a man was trying to escape from a camp through the barbed wire He was challenged by the sentry He did not answer, but continued to try to escape He was challenged again but he continued to try to escape, and after the third challenge the sentry fired and wounded him He is now in hospital and as soon as he is out of hospital, a court of enquiry will be held and the matter will be fully enquired into The orders to the sentry were however that he should act in that way, and the sentry acted in accordance with the orders I suggest that that is not a grave matter of public importance, and it is also in a way *sub judice* because it is to be enquired into by a Court of enquiry

The second case, which has been reported in the press, happened at Nilgunj That was a serious incident in which a number of people were killed On that a court of enquiry has been held and as a result of that court, two officers are to be court-martialled I suggest that that is not a subject for debate because anything that is said in this House would, I think, prejudice those officers in their defence

Mr. Chairman: I take it that there were two cases only both of which have been explained The second one is *sub judice*

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I say a word in this connection If a court of enquiry has been held and if a Court Martial has not proceeded on the basis of the court of enquiry, the matter is not *sub judice* It would be absurd to say that the matter is *sub judice*, and it would be equally absurd to say that it would prejudice the case of officers who are to be court-martialled My Honourable friend is aware of the precedent in this very House when actually a case was proceeded with in a Court of Law, namely the Meerut Conspiracy Trial, and although the case had been handed over to the Court and arrests had been made, yet this House allowed an adjournment motion which was discussed on the floor of the House

Mr. Chairman (Sir Cowasjee Jehangir) On the facts placed before us, I am afraid I must rule this out of order

DEMAND OF SECURITY FROM NATIONAL HERALD OF LUCKNOW

Mr. Chairman: The next adjournment motion is from Maharaj Kumar Dr Sir Vijaya Ananda He submits that "the action of the Government of the United Provinces in demanding a security from the *National Herald* of Lucknow so soon after the resumption of its publication is by any showing arbitrary and high-handed and cuts at the root of the freedom of the Press in the country"

He thinks it is appropriate that the House should take it up and deprecate and censure in no uncertain terms the action of the local Government As the matter is one of urgent public importance he appeals to the House to judge the issue on its merits He believes that this affects India's freedom so closely that the House cannot afford to let it pass without a word of condemnation

I am afraid the adjournment motion is not properly worded But it does not matter I see this was done in Lucknow Will the Honourable the Home Member place the facts before the House?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I am afraid I cannot "place the facts" I know no more about it than the Honourable Mover Action has presumably been taken under the Press Emergency Powers Act and the only authority that has power under that Act is the Provincial Government

Mr. Chairman: The same point as before?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The same point as before

Mr. Chairman: Following previous rulings, I must rule this out of order

USE OF INDIAN TROOPS IN INDONESIA AND INDO-CHINA

Mr. Chairman: I have received a notice from Shri Mohan Lal Saksena who wishes to move the adjournment of the business of the House on the first day of the forthcoming session of the Assembly to consider an urgent matter of public importance, *viz.*, to censure the Government of India for permitting the use of Indian troops in Indonesia and Indo-China to suppress the national governments there and to re-establish the imperialist hold of the European powers.

This has been discussed yesterday and it is finished

FORCED REALIZATIONS UNDER NATIONAL SAVINGS DRIVE

Mr. Chairman: The next motion is in the name of Babu Ram Narayan Singh who wishes to adjourn the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the deliberate failure of the Government of India in not stopping the forced realization, by official agency, of money from the general public in the name of National Savings drive even though, as a result of the constant and country-wide agitation against it, the very House gave a clear verdict against it during its last session

From the very fact of the wording of the adjournment motion, it is out of order It was discussed in this Honourable House

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadan): My point is that this realization has been going on in spite of the decision of the House at its last Session

Diwan Chaman Lall: It is a matter of urgent public importance

Mr. Chairman: It is not. It has been discussed thoroughly in this House

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I make a request? These matters involve not only matters of principle but of grave importance to the House and when you are in a mood to rule a particular motion out of order, you may be pleased to hear us

Mr. Chairman: I am always prepared to hear you

Diwan Chaman Lall: In regard to this matter, there are certain things about which we must satisfy you It must be of public importance it must be a specific matter it must be of recent origin Those are the points on which we have to satisfy you and if we do so then obviously a motion, if the other things are satisfactory, must be ruled in order and not out of order The motion before you is a motion which relates to a specific matter It is a motion which is of public importance and it is a motion which is of recent origin, namely, since the passing of the previous resolution on the floor of this House, certain things have happened which we were unable to bring to the notice of this House until today That is what gives it importance from the point of view of its recent origin I submit when we have satisfied you that it is a matter of public importance, of recent origin and a specific matter, I cannot see how it can be ruled out of order merely because a resolution relating to something similar was debated on the floor of the House We are not debating that resolution We are debating something which has happened, since it was passed

Mr. Chairman: I have understood you The position is perfectly clear This very resolution was discussed at great length in this Honourable House and the only contention is that the same sort of thing is happening again Well that is not a matter of urgent public importance I must rule it out of order

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SIGNING OF BRETTON WOODS FINANCIAL AGREEMENT

Mr. Chairman: The next adjournment motion is from Sardar Mangal Singh who says that on the opening or any subsequent day of the coming Session he wishes to move that the business of the House be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite and urgent matter of public importance, *viz* the sending of authorisation by the Government of India to India's Agent General in U S A to sign the Bretton Woods Financial Agreement, without any previous reference to this Assembly as promised by the Government spokesman during the last Budget Session

Well a day has been allotted to discuss the Bretton Woods Agreement and the Honourable the Finance Member has already notified it

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) There are two issues involved One is that this Government decided that India should join Whether on the merits of the case it was wise or proper is one contention for which they may be censured and that is covered by the resolution which you mention which Government are bringing up But the other thing which has been made clear on an adjournment motion, on which I have myself given notice, is that even if this House ultimately agrees that the action taken was all right so far as it was desirable for India to be an original member of the Bretton Woods Fund and Bank, even then it was wrong for this Government to disregard the undertaking to this House not to have called an earlier Session, not to have waited till after this House met and in the absence of the people and at the back of the representatives of the people to have taken that action It was an affront to the privileges of this House that this irresponsible Government should go behind our back There are therefore two aspects and we are entitled to condemn them for one or the other or for both

Mr. Chairman: You can condemn Government under both aspects during the discussion but under Rule 4 paragraph 48 of the Manual, I cannot rule that anything that anticipates a matter previously fixed for consideration is in order. I rule it out of order.

REJECTION OF RAILWAYMEN'S FEDERATION DEMANDS TO RETRENCHMENT

Mr. Chairman: The next adjournment motion is also in the name of Sardar Mangal Singh who wishes to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, *viz*, the rejection by the Railway Board of the demands of the Railwaymen's Federation regarding retrenchment of the Railway personnel.

I would like the Honourable Member in charge of Railways to give me his opinion.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport) I would like to know whether the Honourable Mover is going to move this It seems to me that it is not a matter of such urgent public importance as to require an adjournment of the House in view of the fact that the whole subject will come up in the course of the Railway Budget in the very near future

Mr. Chairman: Does the Honourable Member press for moving it?

Sardar Mangal Singh: Yes, I do.

Mr. Chairman: He does press it But I would like to know more facts before I give my decision From the statement made by the Honourable the Railway Member I cannot rule it is out of order I take it that retrenchment has taken place since then It is perfectly true that Honourable Members will have an opportunity of discussing this matter at the Railway Budget, but as a matter of fact the House will have an opportunity of discussing everything during the Session in one Budget or the other

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural) This matter will not be the only matter which will be debated for two days On the general discussion there will be so many things on the railway budget that this matter will not find even five minutes

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no particular objection to the matter being discussed

Mr. Chairman: I admit this adjournment motion Now when should it be taken up?

Sardar Mangal Singh: Frankly speaking, I was not expecting my motion to come up However, I submit that it should be taken up at 4 o'clock or after lunch

Mr. Chairman: It is the Leader of the House, who under the rules has to express an opinion in the matter Ordinarily it would come up at 4 o'clock which might be inconvenient to the House since there is very little business to be done I therefore suggest 2-30 P.M.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Anything to meet the Honourable Member's convenience!

Mr. Chairman: The adjournment motion will be taken up at 2-30 P.M. and, as every Honourable Member knows, will last for two hours and each speaker will get fifteen minutes

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE—*contd.*

Mr. Chairman: The next item on the list of business is the further consideration of the election of the Standing Finance Committee which we postponed till today Would the Honourable the Finance Member like to make a statement?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member) Before I move the motion, I think it would be convenient for the House if I said a word or two on the discussion that took place yesterday on the same motion I have looked up the debate, to which reference was made by Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, and I have acquainted myself with the assurances which were given by my predecessor on that occasion Briefly the assurances were these: that he would be willing to discuss with the members of the Standing Finance Committee the possibility of extending the scope of the Committee with a view

to bringing into consideration not merely all specified and particular demands for new expenditure put forth by the spending departments, but to cover such questions as the system of financial control, the system of contracts in the Supply Department, bribery and corruption and waste and he said that he would be prepared to have discussions on those subjects, whether they related to voted expenditure or non-voted expenditure But he did not give any undertaking to submit any specific proposal of non-voted expenditure to the committee He discussed the question with the Committee during the session and some useful work was done If this Committee is appointed I will certainly carry on on the lines of my predecessor's assurance in this regard After all, as Finance Member I am the last person to seek to clip the wings of the Standing Finance Committee As I think Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad said on the last occasion, when it was debated, the Standing Finance Committee is the second line of defence of the Finance Member and I need quite a lot of defence in some of the spending departments

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) May I ask the Honourable Member whether he proposes to help this Committee to have its own non-official President and what is the position in England—whether it is the Chancellor of the Exchequer who presides over this Committee or whether one of the non official members of that Committee is allowed to become its chairman?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: There is no such Committee in England

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What does he propose to do here in this country? On previous occasions our late-lamented friend Mr Satyamurthi pressed it very hard on Government the advisability of allowing this committee to have its own elected non-official chairman I would like to know the attitude of the Honourable the Finance Member in regard to this matter

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Speaking from the point of view of my own convenience I would welcome it I doubt, however whether it would be as useful as it is now But, as I said, speaking from the point of view of my own convenience, nothing would please me better

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural) The Standing Finance Committee is on a different footing from the Standing Finance Committee for Railways The Standing Finance Committee for Railways was created under the Convention of 1924 and general Finance Committee by the executive action of the Governor General in Council As Sir Malcolm Hailey pointed out in 1921—I will just quote his words—"it (the Standing Finance Committee) is in pursuance of a decision at which we ourselves have arrived and which we believe will be of advantage to us and the Assembly" As to its functions, this has been the subject of discussion ever since the Standing Finance Committee was first established in the year 1921 Sir Malcolm Hailey who moved for the establishment of the Committee gave three distinct objects and powers of the Standing Finance Committee These powers were enlarged in the following year, when they were put in the form of a resolution to this House I have always thought from my experience of several years that this Standing Finance Committee examined all the proposals of the spending departments But during the time of one of the predecessors of the Honourable Member the procedure became entirely different It was this that whenever any proposal was put before the Committee by any department, then the Finance Member instead of leaving it for examination by the Standing Finance Committee (which as I called at that time was his second line of defence) he himself became a party to the proposal and argued with the Standing Finance Committee, as though the proposals were his own He took the place of the departments themselves This I objected to at that time But I believe that the Standing Finance Committee is really an advisory Committee as pointed out by Sir Malcolm Hailey to the Assembly The idea was that when proposals come up for discussion some committee should

[Sir Zia Uuddin Ahmad]

examine all this material before it is placed before the Assembly This is the position which has been accepted But the difficulty which will now arise is entirely of a different nature During wartime a number of proposals came to us which we did not have the opportunity to examine in detail and when we were assured that they were necessary for the successful prosecution of the war, we accepted the proposals and the House also accepted them Now that the war is over the position is different Proposals for expenditure in the name of reconstruction will come in and we will have to make our recommendations on them without knowing whether the Assembly will accept the policy If expenditure is in pursuance of new policy, which the Assembly had never examined before, then the members of the Standing Finance Committee will be in a difficult position But taking up a definite example, I hear that there is such a thing as a Policy Committee which the Assembly does not know of The proposals of the Policy Committee have not been examined by us The departments which initiated these new policies will come forward with definite proposals of expenditure and the Standing Finance Committee will be in difficult position They would be at a loss to know whether they should or should not recommend a very big expenditure on a certain item and indirectly secure the consent on a new policy This is a thing which I think requires the consideration of the Honourable the Finance Member

Mr. Chairman: May I draw the Honourable Member's attention to the fact that we cannot have a debate on the finances of this country on this motion The point is whether the Standing Finance Committee should be appointed or not—whether it is advisable to appoint it or not That is the point

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The point we are discussing is the function of the Finance Committee

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural) The point is whether voted items only or non-voted items also may come before the Committee

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member may continue

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The Government have initiated a Policy Committee and whenever new items of expenditure come in, the Finance Committee should have the opportunity to examine not only the question of expenditure but also the matter of policy, whether the policy is correct and they should be able to tell the Legislative Assembly whether they do or do not agree with the policy Therefore in this regard the powers of the committee should be extended, not only to discuss whether a particular item of expenditure is justified or not but also whether the policy under which the item is brought before the committee should or should not be recommended to the Assembly

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, as an old member of the Standing Finance Committee, who has been on it for several sessions I feel that the question before the House, as to whether the Committee should be elected or not, can quite conveniently be answered by the fact that this Standing Finance Committee has done a great deal of useful work I admit, Sir, that it has had its limitations, that there are a number of subjects which can come before it which have not come to it and that in many cases the opinion of the Committee has been regarded as almost taken for granted. But I feel that we are entering into a new era with an Assembly which is more virile than the last and which consists of representatives who are strong and who have strongly formed opinions, so that they will be able to bring on the Honourable the Finance Member himself and his department a very great deal of pressure, pressure which the Honourable Member, although he may be very stalwart, will not be able to resist If we forego this privilege as it is now, with all its limitations, I think we shall be foregoing a right which belongs to this House and which can be made a strong weapon for the good of the country and for the upkeep of the privileges of this House.

A question has been raised by an Honourable Member opposite as to whether the Chairman should be a non-official or whether, as now, he should be the Finance Member I have no particular opinion as to who the chairman should be, but I do definitely feel that as the order of things stands now, it is very necessary that the Finance Member should be present there in some capacity or other (*An Honourable Member* "He is sure to be there") I am coming to that The first point is this that as things now stand the Finance Member has charge of the finances of this country and he is in charge of the spending departments After all, we have to recognise the fact that under the present constitution the Standing Finance Committee is an advisory committee and it is not an executive committee It has no power to order expenditure Who that comes, it will be another matter, but so long as the function of the committee is advisory, it seems to me that it is really meant as a representation from this House to watch over the proposals made by the Finance Department and also to restrict expenditure where necessary The members of the Committee are able to give to this House their opinion as to whether the Finance Department has been true to its stewardship, whether it has been discharging its obligations and its duties in the best interests of the country That being so, I feel that the time has not come at present to have a non-official chairman, because the person in charge of the finances should be there to receive advice, and, I may perhaps add to a certain extent guidance from the members of this committee Sir, I support the proposal that the House should proceed to elect the Standing Finance Committee and that at the present time it is not necessary to press the second point

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) Sir, I would most earnestly request you not to regard this as a futile debate This is an issue of the privileges of this House, it is an issue in which what is involved is the manner in which Members of this House can first understand the affairs of this country and carry out the oftrepeated demand that non-official Indians will be associated After all this is being done under the 1919 constitution and this does not go very much further than purely association, but even in this association, are we not entitled to make suggestion, as I did last time? In response to that suggestion, I evoked from the then Finance Member a very full assurance which we got I would therefore respectfully submit to you to bear with us and not to regard this as a futile debate None of us is taking up this point merely as a dilatory or obstructive measure We want to be clear as to the functions which I regard as the most important constitutional function of this House It is a question over which this House has shown itself extremely sensitive, right from March, 1922 and later in 1928, and as you desire that we should all be brief, I will not go into it—otherwise I would prove to this House that this is not a new subject This is a subject on which Members of this House of all parties have been extremely keen What is it that we want after all? My first suggestion was that we want full information—the whole picture We want full information on the voted as well as the non-voted subjects, we do not want a page in the accounts of India in which is put down 437 crores and then a line is drawn and then this 437 crores is taken as the total! I say this is an affront to the representatives of the people It is true that under the old constitution we are not called upon to vote on it, and even if we vote against it, no notice is taken of it. But I say that the Government have taken an undue and unfair advantage against the non-official Members of this House all these years in not disclosing the particulars of the non-voted items It is true that the constitution gives you the protection that on certain topics you need not come to us for our vote, but the constitution never gave you the permission—in fact I cannot imagine any constitution which entitles the executive to withhold relevant and full information from the representatives of the people with regard to the monies collected from taxes and revenues and spent away No constitution in the world you can claim will give you this power, which, as I say, has been purely an abuse of power by this irresponsible executive in the past.

[Mr Manu Subedar]

We are entitled—and I raise this point specifically—to the fullest information on every non-voted item, the fullest information on every new proposal with regard to non-voted items, the fullest information regarding policy, as my honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad mentioned. In fact, the last Finance Member did say and did give an undertaking that he will ignore the differences between voted and non-voted expenditure and he was prepared not to emphasise this difference I welcome the assurance which the Finance Member has given us this morning as far as it goes, and as he tried to be very brief, I assume that he has not exhausted all the items covered by his assurance I assume that he will carry out verbatim what his predecessor has said

May I point out one more thing? Sir Jeremy Raisman said with regard to this subject that it has taken a somewhat flexible form the function of the Standing Finance Committee has been enlarged during the last year and it has taken a somewhat flexible form in other words, this is one of the living organisms attaching to this body—a question of the privileges of this Assembly, and it has been flexible as the last Finance Member said We want it to be more flexible, we want this Finance Member to give us an assurance that he will also not emphasise and not take notice of the difference between voted and non-voted, and give as complete information on the non-voted heads as is given with regard to the voted heads

I do not want to make a threat, but I do say and I submit it with all humility and purely in the parliamentary spirit and not as a political issue—I do say that if you do not give us full information of what you are going to spend money upon and what you have been spending money upon, how do you expect us to vote supplies? Why should we vote any supplies to you at all? How do you expect us to co-operate with you and give us the authority which, as representatives of the people we possess, to collect monies from this country? Why should we not drive you, as we have done in the past over and over again, to collect by ordinance in spite of us? And, if it is the desire of Government that we should co-operate, why should we co-operate unless we get this assurance, which is, I submit, the right of an elected assembly? It is the right of the elected representatives to have the fullest information placed before them I trust the Finance Member will revise the assurance given to us and will give us a full assurance, as I am now asking

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Sir, I am glad that the Honourable Finance Member has read out to a certain extent the assurance given by his predecessor in office on a cut motion moved by my party We have been watching for a long time that the expenditure was going up by leaps and bounds, the matter which came up before the Finance Committee was the appointment of certain clerical staff, which amounted only to a few thousand rupees, while lakhs of rupees were spent on the officers who were imported from outside or were foreigners in this country who could not get jobs elsewhere

Then if the salary became non-voted, no vote of the House could be taken
12 NOON We knew our difficulties that the money could not be voted here but there was no bar to those matters being examined by the Finance Committee The Finance Committee could examine the expenditure and say whether a particular person should be appointed on a particular job or not. It is not for the Government to appoint officers and then come before the Finance Committee or the House and say—so much is required for the clerical staff This is what we have been seeing in connection with the Supply Department There our accounts have been going up very high There was no control. For this purpose a retrenchment committee was suggested by us but it was not acceptable to the Honourable the Finance Member on the ground that it will put a high pressure on the highly over worked personnel of the Finance Department but he gave this assurance to this House—that although he may not appoint a

retrenchment committee he will examine every item before the Finance Committee and he will deal with the matter quickly. We have not come to normal conditions yet and it is time therefore that the Finance Committee who are the representatives of this House should sit quietly in a small place and examine each and every item and see whether it is essential for the administration of the country or not I do not think that the Government should be allowed a free hand to say this—that on a particular post a person should be brought whose salary is non-voted.

Many times we have seen that a person is carrying ordinarily a salary of Rs 1,500 or something like that and at once he is brought to a place which carries double the salary. Then the Government says—because this man's salary is non-voted therefore he must come up and occupy the position and we have got no voice to say whether a man on lesser pay could be brought in this post or not This is going on under the guise of non-voted heads. I think a great deal of expenditure has been increased and we want to put a stop to this matter and I think the Honourable the Finance Member should give explanation to the Finance Committee on each and every item—whether a person whose salary is non-voted should be brought to a particular place or not and why not a person whose salary is votable We saw a great anomaly last time The salary of the Chief Commissioner for Railways who has just retired, was votable while the salary of his subordinates was non-votable We could say whether a particular man should be turned out or not We could say that a man's salary could be reduced We found that the Chief Commissioner's salary was votable but we could not touch any member of the Railway Board or even the Secretary of the Railway Board All these anomalies are there and I think they should be removed and a practice must be adopted by the Finance Member by which one day there will be no difference between voted and non-voted grants I think this ought to be the function of the Finance Committee and if we receive an assurance on this point, we are prepared to have this Standing Finance Committee

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General) When I raised this question yesterday, I really did not want a full dress debate on the subject I wanted the Honourable the Finance Member to make up his mind about the functions, powers and the procedure which the Standing Finance Committee should adopt and follow. The history of the Standing Finance Committee, as Sir Zia Uddin Ahmed pointed out, is a very sorry one You, Sir, as an old member of the House, remember that the Standing Finance Committee came into existence in 1922 It's objects were to scrutinise all proposals for new votable expenditure in all departments of the Government of India, to sanction allotments out of lump sum grants, to suggest retrenchments and economy in expenditure and generally to assist the Finance Department of the Government of India by advising on such cases as may be referred to it by the Government This was the original plan which Sir Malcolm Hailey had in view and which in 1922, was expected to be put into operation Later in 1923 it appears that this proposal was not considered practicable and therefore certain amendments were proposed by the Government which did not seem to satisfy the House at that time. Still the Standing Finance Committee came into existence and continued to function. I need not go into the entire history and point out the various changes which were made from time to time but I remember quite distinctly that in 1927 or perhaps in 1928—I am speaking from memory—we had a big quarrel with Sir James Grigg over the whole thing and at that time Sir James Grigg did something which was not very creditable. He actually dropped the whole idea and the Standing Finance Committee ceased to exist. The annual motion for the Standing Finance Committee was never brought up. The trouble arose more or less in this way. I remember as a member of the Standing Committee that the proposals which used to be put before us related to specific new items. Sometimes these items covered a few lakhs, sometimes not more than 12 lakhs out of crores and crores. Sir James Grigg felt a little annoyed that we took a lot of time and we criticised the policies behind the items but the reason why we criticised the

[Mr M. Asaf Ali]

policies were quite clear. An item by itself may be a very small one but it may involve a policy which may eventually bring about a tremendous amount of expenditure. Take the All India Radio I believe the original grant that was brought before us for examination did not go beyond a few lakhs but what is happening today? It may easily be running into crores Similarly Civil Aviation. The original grant for this was about 80 lakhs at that time relating to landing grounds and so on and now it is running into crores There may be policies behind even small items which may eventually burden the country with tremendous expenditure It is not therefore merely a question of the few items that are brought before us for examination We must go fully into the whole system and we should be in a position to offer such advice as we think is necessary. Of course, eventually everything will come before the House and the House will either vote for or against it; vote the whole thing down or otherwise. I quite realise that the object of the Standing Finance Committee, as explained by the Honourable the Finance Member, is that he should have a nucleus in the House and familiarise this nucleus with the policies behind the expenditure which the Government is going to incur and create, as he says, his second line of defence. I do not know which his first line of defence is going to be.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The Finance Department itself.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I take it, the final line of defence will always be the Governor General's veto Now, why go on with it? Let us devote our attention to this question here and now in the House Why not give to the Standing Finance Committee as much power as possible? Give this Standing Finance Committee some scope for work, so that finally it should be the voice of the House which must guide your policies. Then, you will have no trouble. But if the Standing Finance Committee's power is going to be confined to a few items of expenditure here and there and for the Finance Member is going to tell them either to accept or reject his proposal and he finally sticks to his guns, then you know what the result is going to be. But if you really want effective working of the Standing Finance Committee, its powers and functions should be as wide as possible They should really cover the entire field. I entirely agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar that not only votable expenditure but even non-votable expenditure should come before the Committee. We should be able to examine everything We know where our powers are limited The constitution is limited, but surely this constitution is going to be scrapped as quickly as possible. If you wish to anticipate a bit, why not begin to act from now onwards Deal with this House as if it were a responsible House and not deal with this side of the House as an irresponsible section of the House After all, it is our voice that is going to count. Therefore, why not treat us as such?

Now, the Honourable the Finance Member may easily ask us What is it that you are going to propose? I do not wish to propose anything in particular. I am only placing before you certain suggestions and I am leaving it to you to think these matters out I believe Sir James Grigg had some kind of a model in view. He was thinking in terms of the practice in the House of Commons. I suggest that the Honourable the Finance Member may look into that question carefully and see if he cannot model the Standing Finance Committee along those lines I do not remember the exact details at present, but if he will be so good as to look into the whole question from this point of view, I am perfectly certain that the purview of the Standing Finance Committee will become co-equal with the Finance Department I am not suggesting that they will lay down the whole policy and you will accept it, but their advice should be accepted by you as far as possible.

Mr. Chairman: The question is . . . . .

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know, Sir, whether the Finance Member is going to enlarge this assurance as requested from this side of the House or whether he is going to remain content with the very meagre and unsatisfactory expressions of it?

Mr. Chairman: Does the Honourable the Finance Member want to address the House?

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan). May I add a few words to what my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar has said? It is a very important matter. I realise that the Honourable the Finance Member has given the same assurance, I take it, as was given by his predecessor. But what the House wants to know now before it begins to participate in the election of the Standing Finance Committee is whether the Honourable the Finance Member is going to throw open almost every item of expenditure that comes before the Finance Department for scrutiny by the Standing Finance Committee? I myself had been a member of the Standing Finance Committee and had no difficulty generally in the olden days. But we are in a different mood at the present moment And what we would like is that the Honourable the Finance Member should also turn over a new leaf. Let him give an assurance to the House that every item of expenditure that comes before the Finance Department will be thrown open to the Standing Finance Committee for its scrutiny, so that proper check can be had of the items of expenditure proposed by the Standing Finance Committee There is no other method. The method of the House of Commons is an entirely different one. There the whole House resolves itself into a Committee and goes into various items of expenditure. The only method that we have here is the Standing Finance Committee and no other except the limited method we have on the floor of the House when the Finance Bill comes up and the Budget is presented I would suggest to the Honourable Member to take that into consideration in view of the new period that is before us and to let the House have an assurance that everything that the Finance Department wants in the way of expenditure will be placed before the Standing Finance Committee for its proper scrutiny.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I am more anxious than anybody else to have all the help I can and all the co-operation I can of the Members of this House in dealing with this year's budget I will give the assurance that, so far as it is practicable and so far as it lies within my own authority, there will be no discrimination between the discussion of non-votable and votable items But the assurance that is sought of me is so wide that I do not know what it is going to lead to. It is quite impracticable for a Committee to examine every item of expenditure that is examine in detail by scores of officers every day That is not done at home in the United Kingdom and it cannot be done here I am thinking of my successor. I do not want to hamstring him with a procedure which I know to be impracticable. I am thinking more of my successor and of others who will come in the course of the next few months I will very willingly consult the Members of the Standing Finance Committees as to the extent to which we can work out a procedure along with the lines which the Honourable Members have in mind. Beyond that, I do not think it will be fair to my Department or to the Committee itself or to my successor to go.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, in such manner as may be approved by the Chairman, of 14 non-official members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for the remainder of the financial year 1945-46 and for the financial year 1946-47."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That the non-official members of the Assembly do proceed to elect, in the manner required under Rule 51 of the Indian Legislative Rules, eight Members to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the non-official members of the Assembly do proceed to elect, in the manner required under Rule 51 of the Indian Legislative Rules, eight Members to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts"

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Chairman may direct, eight non-official members to serve on a Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of War Transport is concerned, other than those within the purview of the Standing Committee for Roads, for the period comprising the unexpired portion of the current financial year and the whole of the next financial year 1946-47."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Chairman may direct, eight non-official members to serve on a Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of War Transport is concerned, other than those within the purview of the Standing Committee for Roads, for the period comprising the unexpired portion of the current financial year and the whole of the next financial year 1946-47."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I move

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Chairman may direct, ten non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects, with which the Labour Department is concerned, for the remaining period of the current financial year and for 1946-47"

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Chairman may direct, ten non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects, with which the Labour Department is concerned, for the remaining period of the current financial year and for 1946-47"

The motion was adopted

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR POSTS AND AIR DEPARTMENT

Sir Gurunath Bewoor (Secretary, Posts and Air Department) Sir, I move

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the Chairman may direct, five non official members to advise on subjects dealt with in the Department of Posts and Air during the unexpired portion of the year 1945-46 and the whole of the year 1946-47"

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Chairman may direct, five non-official members to advise on subjects dealt with in the Department of Posts and Air during the unexpired portion of the year 1945-46 and the whole of the year 1946-47"

The motion was adopted

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Mr. R. N. Banerjee (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department) Sir, I move

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Chairman may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee for Commonwealth Relations Department during the unexpired portion of the current financial year and the whole of the next financial year 1946-47"

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the Chairman may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee for Commonwealth Relations Department during the unexpired portion of the current financial year and the whole of the next financial year 1946-47."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Sir Pherozе Kharegat (Secretary, Agriculture Department): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Chairman may direct ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Agriculture for the unexpired portion of the current financial year and for the next financial year"

Mr. Chairman: The question is

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Chairman may direct ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Agriculture for the unexpired portion of the current financial year and for the next financial year"

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO GOVERNING BODY OF INDIAN RESEARCH FUND ASSOCIATION

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam (Secretary, Education Department): Sir, I move

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Chairman, two persons from among their numbers to sit on the Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association"

Mr. Chairman: The question is

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Chairman, two persons from among their numbers to sit on the Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association"

The motion was adopted

Mr. Chairman: I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary in connection with the following Committees, namely:

	Date for nomination	Date for election
Standing Finance Committee	24th January	29th January
Committee on Public Accounts	24th January	30th January.
Standing Committee for the Department of War Transport.	24th January	31st January
Standing Committee for the Labour Department.	28th January	31st January.
Standing Committee for the Department of Posts and Air.	28th January	1st February.
Standing Committee for the Commonwealth Relations Department.	28th January	1st February.
Standing Committee for the Department of Agriculture	29th January	4th February.
Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association.	29th January	4th February.

The nominations for all the eight Committees will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 A M and 1 P M

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Chairman (Sir Cowasjee Jehangir) in the Chair.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

REJECTION OF RAILWAYMEN'S FEDERATION DEMANDS RE RETRENCHMENT

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I move that the House do now adjourn. Before I proceed to speak on this motion I wish to refer to a news paragraph in today's *Hindustan Times* in which the position of my party has been completely misrepresented. It says:

"Whatever their professions during the elections, the two Akali members, Sardar Mangal Singh and Sardar Sampuran Singh, have been given back seats on the Government side of the House."

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, has this any connection with the adjournment motion?

Mr. Chairman: What is the Honourable Member's reason for making allusion to this?

Sardar Mangal Singh: When I speak I think it is my right to make the position of myself and my party clear in this House. This is a complete misrepresentation of our position. We are sitting on the Opposition Benches. I am not responsible for the fact that we are given seats in this part of the House. We are sitting on the Opposition Benches but here the mischievous insinuation is that we fought the elections on different issues but having come here we have joined the Government side.

Mr. Chairman: I think the House has understood the position that you want to make clear. It is clear that while moving the adjournment motion you are certainly not a member of Government or sitting on the Government Benches. And there are no Government Benches in this House, it is a circular House, not like the House of Commons where you are divided. I think it is clearly understood by all that you are not sitting on the Government Benches. You are in a portion of the House where you have been given accommodation and not on the Government Benches. I think you might now proceed to the adjournment motion.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Can we take it as your ruling that there are no Government Benches in this House?

Mr. Chairman: There is no clean division here as in the House of Commons; it is a circular House.

An Honourable Member: Is it a very unclean division?

Mr. Chairman: I hope Honourable Members will come to the unclean division very soon.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Thank you, Sir, you have made the position clear. I would not have mentioned this but for the fact that the press representative who has the privilege of coming here has made this statement. I hope he will rectify the mistake. Our position is that in all political matters we are with the Congress, in matters pertaining to our community we will take our decisions from the Akali party. I think the press representative concerned has done a great injustice to us by mentioning that we have now joined the Government Benches.

Sir, on the motion before the House I shall mention only the salient facts of the case and leave the details to my other friends who are better able to deal with the subject. The position is that the Government's retrenchment plans affected about three lakhs of men, out of which 70,000 will go to the army demobilised personnel and the rest will be temporary staff which will be retrenched in due course. As against this decision the Railwaymen's Federation have presented their demands. They were finally classified in their meeting held on the 3rd October and they framed sixteen demands which were presented to the Railway Board. The principal of them are (i) reduction of the hours of work.

I may inform the House that the International Labour Office has recommended 40 hours per week in order to absorb the surplus staff in all countries. The Railwaymen's Federation have been very moderate; they have asked for 42 hours. That is the principal demand and if that is accepted the need for further retrenchment will be very much reduced. Demand No (ii) was that work done through the contractors should be taken over by the department itself so that the profits may go to the department and the department may be able to employ more men in their factories. No (iii) was that the schemes of manufacture of locomotives and stock may be taken in hand immediately. No. (iv) is the reopening of the lines which were stopped during the war and further construction of the railway lines which are intended in connection with the post-war plans of the Railway Department These are the principal demands and to my mind they are quite reasonable. These demands were presented to the Railway Board who considered them and rejected all of them straightaway Then the Railwaymen's Federation did not go away and make preparations for a strike; they wanted to settle this question by amicable and peaceful means. Then when they were rejected by my Honourable friend, Sir Edward Benthall, they went to the Labour Department whom they asked to appoint an adjudicator to settle the points at issue The Labour Department instead of deciding the points said they neither accepted nor rejected them but suggested another meeting between the representatives of the Railwaymen's Federation and the Railway Board I am told, Sir, that this meeting was held on the 5th of December, and in this meeting again the Railway Board did not modify their previous attitude The intention of the representatives of the Railwaymen's Federation to settle this question by negotiation is further shown by the fact that they reduced their demands or rather boiled down their demands to three points These were discussed on the 5th of December at the meeting held between the Railway Board and the Railwaymen's Federation The leaders of the Railwaymen's Federation submitted these three points for the consideration of the Railway Board·

(i) Suspension of retrenchment schemes;

(ii) Implementation of the post-war reconstruction schemes; and

(iii) Revision of the scales of pay.

The whole dispute was reduced or boiled down to three points, but the Railway Board took up a bureaucratic attitude and they said no to all these demands.

After 5th December the Railwaymen's Federation again went to my friend, Dr Ambedkar, the Honourable Member for Labour Department. They again applied that an adjudicator should be appointed to settle this dispute I understand that the Labour Department is still sleeping or rather, if I may say so, the Honourable Member is still fiddling while these poor railwaymen are being retrenched day by day I submit the position is this If the Labour Department or the Government of India or any Honourable Member from the Government Benches will get up now and assure this Honourable House that an adjudicator will be appointed immediately to settle these points, then I am in a position to withdraw the motion, but if, as has been done already, they go on rejecting the demands or putting off the evil day, then I am sorry, Sir, that I will press the motion to a division to censure the attitude of the Railway Department and the Labour Department which they have taken up in this matter The demands of the Railwaymen's Federation are quite reasonable and they are supported by the public opinion in the country A few weeks ago, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel have all issued public statements that Government should accept the demands of the railwaymen for the appointment of an adjudicator to settle the points.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member has one and a half minute more

Sardar Mangal Singh: I will put it to the Honourable the Railway Member. If their position is right, if their position is reasonable, if their case is sound, why is he afraid of going to the court of adjudication? That is the whole point.

If the Government of India are not prepared to take up that position, then I commend this motion to the House, and I would request all sections of the House to censure the Government on this point. Sir, I move.

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved.

That the Assembly do now adjourn "

Mr. S. Guruswami (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. Chairman, Sir. In the first place I should like to ask the indulgence of the House for my first maiden speech in any legislature when I have to speak on a subject with which I am vitally connected in my capacity as the General Secretary of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation.

Sir, I rise to support the motion so ably moved by Sardar Mangal Singh. In doing so I have to make certain things quite clear It was not left to me to draft the motion in the terms in which it was drafted because the demands of the Federation are indivisible They do not constitute demands relating to retrenchment separately, they do not constitute only demands relating to other burning matters on which we feel very strongly Therefore, for the information of this House I am bound to state that the position of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation is that for two and a half years we have been negotiating and negotiating, begging, pleading memorialising, asking the help of the Labour Department, invoking the public opinion, to support our demands for revision of dearness allowance on the basis on which the Rau Committee appointed by the Government of India gave a direction and to revise the scales of pay that are in existence and as a preliminary measure to abolish this so-called new scales of pay that were introduced in 1931

Up to September 1945 the position of the Federation was that we were pressing on these two vital issues, namely, denial of justice by the Railway Board in regard to the primary demands for revision of scales of pay, and dearness allowance, not on the basis on which we asked, but on the basis of the findings of a committee appointed by this Government and not implemented by them Well, the war ended The All-India Railwaymen's Federation co-operated in the war effort and they found themselves faced with a new situation, namely, that this postponement of the question of revision of scales of pay was a device and a manœuvre to get themselves into a position where they will find surplus labour and will be able to whittle down the demands of the workers What else? In the first place, a mood of complacency was sought to be created by saying that there was no retrenchment I admit, Sir, that there has not yet been very large scale retrenchment, but there has been retrenchment Today 3,26,000 workers out of 8,48,000 men are treated as untouchables, classified as 'temporary men' who are denied the privileges which the permanent men enjoy, and are liable to be discharged as and when it pleases the department which is represented by Sir Edward Benthall They have created a caste system in this temporary class There is what is known as 'B' category in which men are recruited against so called permanent vacancies Their numbers are increasing It is stated to be of the order of 100,000 out of which 70,000 will be reserved for ex-servicemen Even if the traffic does not go down, if it continues at the present dimensions, the position is that the Railway Board have committed themselves to a policy of displacing these 70,000 men who are now classified as 'B' They say, they need not necessarily go, we will take them into another category which is known as category 'C', recruited for temporary purposes The position of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation is this: We are not against giving employment to ex-servicemen They deserve to be helped, but we are not prepared to accept the position that one man who is already employed should go in order to make room for an ex-serviceman because this Government is bankrupt and unable to provide more employment for the people who have fought for them That is the position which I want to make perfectly clear I am not making any irresponsible statement I would draw the attention of the Members of this House to a document which the International Labour Office prepared for

the recent conference which met at Paris a few months ago. They have said that if you try to put ex-servicemen in the place of those who are already in service, you are creating a social antagonism which is undesirable for the country. The solving of the problem of employment for ex-servicemen should not be at the cost of those in employ On page 111 it is said

"Job competition between demobilised soldiers or repatriated persons and displaced war workers would foster unreal social antagonisms and tend to destroy the unity of purpose with which the employment adjustment of the transition period should be approached"

They also provide that in respect of those who might become unemployed it is the obligation of the State to see that they are maintained during the period of their absorption in the post-war reconstruction During the war we thought we were going to get a new era in India. We are now faced with the prospect of an indeterminate number to be retrenched They will not say how many are to be retrenched They say that they will start it bit by bit

And what are the terms to the discharged? The Finance Department must be most censured for the way they have given their directions to the other Departments They have said for men on daily rated employment, that they should be given one day's pay for every month's service and for monthly rated men 20 days pay as bonus for every completed year of service as the measure of bonus for retrenchment We do not accept this proposition. We say it is the obligation of the State to maintain the unemployed We have given a sixteen pointed programme by which this so-called surplus can be reduced In a full year 30/35,000 normal vacancies occur We do not mind if the future vacancies are thrown open for giving employment to 70,000 ex-servicemen but we protest against the discharge of any man in service to make room for these 70,000 although we are equally interested in their welfare.

Then there is the question of the revision of pay Sir Edward Benthall in one of his Budget speeches gave high tribute to the railwaymen for the services rendered during the war and said that immediately after the cessation of hostilities there would be a revision of pay That question has been delayed and delayed Not only that, we said that at least as a token of your *bona fides* abolish the new wretched scales of pay which were based with reference to 1931 without consultation of organised labour and in the teeth of opposition. Therefore the position of the Railwaymen's Federation is this that we have suggested constructive alternatives by which this retrenchment could be avoided There are thousands of men who are treated as essentially intermittent workers who are asked to work 84 hours per week There are thousands of men who do not get their weekly rest days As regards the demand for a 40-hour week, let me point out that in Lillooah the standard working week, long before the International labour organisation came into existence, was 42 If that standard was extended to other workshops and other branches of Railway work many thousands could be employed without retrenchment They say we are very sorry for the retrenched We are following the directions of the Finance Department and giving them the discharged personnel terms This won't do I rise on behalf of the Federation which I represent to protest against the policy of the Finance Department, against the policy of the Labour Department, and against the policy of the Railway Board in dealing with this question They have a joint responsibility to do justice to the workers We have been patient We do not want to threaten a strike We know the consequences of a general strike We know our obligations to society for efficient transport We have done our duty during the worst period of the war and also during the famine in this country We are not sorry for what we did but what we ask is let us accept the principle of settling our differences by arbitration and negotiations and where negotiations fail by the appointment of an adjudication authority That is the least that we have asked If it is shown by the arguments of the Member opposite that we are in the wrong, we are not afraid to abide by the findings of that adjudication What more can we say than this that we shall subject ourselves to the verdict of public opinion, to the verdict of an impartial enquiry and not to the arbitrary decision of a Government which is undoubtedly irresponsible.

[Mr. S. Guruswami]

Therefore, I do not want to take any more of your time except to say this that the demands of the Federation do not pertain only to retrenchment but also to the question of revision of wages and the abolition of the new scales of pay Some General Managers have been good enough to say that the new scales of pay should be dropped They even suggested a bonus of three months' pay to be given I do not know what the Government is going to do with regard to that Whatever it is, the position of the Federation is that we have negotiated and negotiated We have tried to get on We want no strike but it is the attitude of the Government which is creating a position of despair. We appeal to the representatives of public opinion assembled here to give a clear verdict on the adjournment motion and avoid the danger of an adjournment of the business of the Railways by a general strike or any other strike With these words, I thank you, Sir, for the response you have given me

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa Muhammadan) Mr Chairman, Sir, while I have nothing to say against the demands that have been made by the Railwaymen's Federation, I have only to say that they are only similar to the manifesto issued by organisation of the Congress It looks so nice, full of good promises, but when it comes to facts, the authors will have to think over how they have to escape Now, Sir, I have only to inform this House what this Railwaymen's Federation has done and how they have been behaving with the Mussalmans The Railwaymen's Federation's position is that of the Congress, which somehow or other claims a representative capacity of all the nationals living in this country whereas by methods known and unknown they have always tried to suppress and subdue the rights and privileges of Muslim employees of Railways all over and all through I would like to know whether the Secretary, Mr S Guruswami, who was very vocal in the House for the first time today has the courage to tell me whether he ever supported the claims of the Mussalmans to 33 1/3 per cent share in the Railways services in India

Mr. S. Guruswami: I may state for the information of the Honourable Member that some of our affiliated unions have supported his claim and we are not interested in those who are not employees of the railways But once they are employees of the railways we are here to support every Mussalman and we are prepared to go on a general strike if one Mussalman is retrenched

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I agree that may theoretically be true as in the like manner the Congress has been proclaiming trusteeship for Muslims I know you have some Mussalmans in your fold in the same manner as the Congress organisation has a few, and I would now seek the indulgence of the House to give me an opportunity to ventilate the feelings of the Muslim nation without interruptions I carried on the conversations and negotiations with those in charge of joint labour unions a few years ago and none of them were prepared to concede to the demands of the Muslim representation of 33 1/3 per cent in Railways.

Mr. S. Guruswami: On a point of information I must state that no negotiations took place with the All-India Federation in regard to the demand stated by the Honourable Member.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I am not giving way It was done with the Bengal Assam Railway Union This was done with your President of other Federating Unions and no one at any stage was prepared to concede to include in the list of demands the Muslim demand of 33 1/3 per cent share in the Railway services and that they should be made up here and now

(At this stage Mr Guruswami rose in his seat)

Mr. Chairman: Order, order

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: They were not even willing to concede to the resolution of 1934 of the Home Department which gave Mussalmans 25 per

cent representation I know that the Federation has been opposing the question of fixing a quota in the promotions to keep down the Mussalmans because they have a bigger slice for the other nationals of this country in view

Now, Sir, we do not form the Government as yet and we have every sympathy for such demands which might be made on the present Government with regard to retrenchment, or with regard to the opening of new lines or with regard to finding new works for their employees and certainly it is an obligation of a State to maintain the unemployed and to keep the workers satisfied by providing such conditions of service as would be necessary and as would be possible I think my friends here do realise that no Government in the world can maintain an army which it raised during war time and no railway in the world can maintain those employees whom they recruited for certain emergencies during the war conditions That is a position which my friends should appreciate fully Of course that aspect has nothing to do with me as we do not form the Government

3 P.M.

I have been having some negotiations during my stay in Calcutta for one month with all the General Managers of the railways and I had to point out that the Muslims were only anxious that their quota should be made up here and now and this was an issue which invoked a certain amount of resentment on the part of the Bengal and Assam Railway Union and other labour unions, which are branches of Railwaymen's Federation The Honourable Member for the War Transport happens to be a representative of Government here and he can tell you that what has happened actually is that during the emergency of war through manipulation of non-Muslim officers the Muslim quota was done away with in the name of efficiency and urgency What now we the members of the Muslim League plead for is that when retrenchment has to come up our quota should be made up here and now and on that line I have had negotiations with the different General Managers of railways in India I have written a letter to the Honourable Member in charge and I had to stress that whatever might have been said in the past here is a time when the Muslim quota should be made up at once To illustrate it more fully I would say this Supposing the Bengal and Assam Railway for their normal work employed 60,000 men before the war During war time their number actually has swelled up to a lakh and 20,000 For their normal work again this Railway administration plans to maintain about 90,000 people Our quota on the B. and A Railway is 45 per cent and if they propose to have 90,000 on that line, they have got to show 45 per cent to the Muslims here and now, that is the Muslim personnel must be nearly 41,000

The Honourable Member who spoke last, Mr S Guruswami, said that he was not going to call a strike In fact for whose sake he had to abandon the idea of a strike I was the man who gave the lead that Muslim employees cannot be camp followers of a Hindu organisation that we cannot bear the attitude of Railwaymen's Federation any more If he has got the aspiration to call for a general strike, there will be war against the administration, and also against the Muslims and we will see what Railwaymen's Federation can do It was my lead that has cooled down Mr Guruswamy and brought him and his friends to their senses and he has now come forward with this adjournment motion in this House to gain cheap popularity for his organisation As I said in the earlier stages that I have full sympathy with the demands of better conditions of service for all Railway people If we are the Government or when we form the Government, as the Qaide Azam has always said Pakistan means freedom for both the Hindus and the Mussalmans, we never mean freedom for the Muslims alone, then we will certainly improve condition of service as much as we can and if we can extort out of this bureaucratic government any concession here and now I would be certainly happy provided we Muslims share it At the same time, I want to say that if there is any honesty in this organisation of Railway men's Federation, they ought to look to the demands of the Muslims and not insist on the issue that theirs is a joint union of the railway employees and the All-India Railway Muslim Employee's League

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman]

should not be recognised on the plea of this Muslim organisation being a communal union. He has gone to the Labour Department but he has never pressed that department that the other organisation of Muslims should be recognised in the same manner as his Railwaymen's Federation It he has done anything he has tried to say that Muslim organisation should not be given recognition by Government and Railway authorities.

Coming to the question of retrenchment, once again, I must confess that I am not in a position to say what actually the proposal of the Government is but I was told by many General Managers that they have no programme so far of retrenchment on a very big scale. Of course the Honourable Member in charge will be the best man to tell this House what he has to say I only impressed upon the General Managers that so far as the Muslims are concerned we want that our quota in Railway services and different Railways should be made up here and now We have been beguiled for many decades and we were told that the quota was meant for recruitment in the first instance Now here is an opportunity when the wrongs done may be made good to my nationals If there is any honesty of purpose behind my Honourable friend Mr. Guruswamy and his friends in the Congress group I hope he would come forward and support me in my demand We do not want to encroach on the rights of other people We do not want any more than our legitimate and proper share and if my Honourable friend and his friends are prepared to support us in that, I have no doubt in my mind that in all such things which are meant for the good of all the employees concerned, we will certainly be a party to them With these remarks, I resume my seat

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) Mr Chairman, in the morning when this adjournment motion was admitted I did not think that the Labour Department would have to come into this debate in order to explain its position But when the debate opened I found that two of the speakers who have supported the motion have come down somewhat heavily on the Labour Department Their charge was that although the dispute has been going on for some considerable time, the Labour Department has not played the part which it is expected to play in this dispute Sir, I admit that the Labour Department has a considerable amount of responsibility in this matter It is a department which has been established in order to see that the working classes do get their dues and if the Labour Department can be found to have failed in its duty, it would undoubtedly be deserving of the censure that is moved But I am sorry to say, Sir, that my Honourable friend, Sardar Mangal Singh,—who in the first instance alluded to the responsibility of the Labour Department and said in a somewhat, if I may say so, slighting manner, that the Labour Member was either sleeping or fiddling—was completely unaware of the facts of the situation and has certainly not informed himself of what the Labour Department has done in this matter I think it would therefore be desirable that I should place before this House some very relevant facts with regard to this matter

First time when the Labour Department came to know that there was such a dispute between the Railwaymen's Federation and the Railway Board was on the 5th October, 1945, when a letter was sent by an official of the Indian Railwaymen's Federation forwarding a number of resolutions that had been passed at a session of the Railwaymen's Federation After that letter a second letter was received by the Labour Department on the 10th October, 1945 In that letter a request was made that the Labour Department should move and appoint an adjudicator in order to decide upon the terms mentioned in the resolution Now, Sir, it will be admitted that before any such grave step as that of the appointment of an adjudicator is taken, it is the duty of the Labour Department to bring the two parties together and to induce them to meet in a formal manner, discuss the various outstanding questions, reduce their differences as far as they possibly can and agree to each other's demands. That duty, I am glad to say, the Labour Department immediately performed

and they induced the Railway Department to meet the representatives of the Indian Railwaymen's Federation and to discuss points of dispute Honourable Members might be aware that after the discussion had taken place between the Railway Department and the Indian Railwaymen's Federation a communique was issued by the Railway Department stating that a meeting had taken place and certain matters which were matters of dispute were discussed between the two parties Now that thing happened as late as the 5th of December, when this communique was issued Certainly from the 5th of December up to today it cannot be said that an unduly long delay has happened or an unduly long delay has been brought about or that there has been any dilatorness on the part of the Labour Department that they did not move in this matter as soon as they ought to have done

But there is one other point to which I would like to draw the attention of the House. It cannot be said—and I think Mr Guruswami ought to be in possession of this fact—that the negotiations have not been concluded Negotiations are still going on and I may tell the House that it has been agreed between the Railway Department and the Federation of Indian Railwaymen that a small committee of the Indian Railwaymen's Federation be appointed in order to carry on further negotiations with the Railway Department The date fixed for that meeting is towards the end of January 1946 The end of January 1946 has not yet come There is still time for negotiation . .

Shri Sri Prakasa: 'Towards the end' has come

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes, but that is a matter which I am afraid I cannot accept

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan) May I interrupt my honourable friend for a minute? Is it a fact that the demand for the appointment of an adjudicator has been definitely turned down by the Government?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am coming to that The point I was making was this that there can be no question of the appointment of an adjudicator unless the Labour Department is fully satisfied that the last attempt for a mutual settlement between the two parties has failed, and what I am pointing out to my honourable friend is this that an opportunity still exists, an opportunity is still provided, and it is for the Railwaymen's Federation to inform the Railway Department what will be the exact date on which they will meet the Railway Department .

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my honourable friend once again whether it is a fact that the Government have denied to the Railwaymen's Federation any information regarding the number of people that they have decided to retrench, and secondly, whether they have refused to appoint an adjudicator, and thirdly whether they are still continuing to retrench men? I think about 10,000 have already been retrenched Where then is there the further question of negotiation when the Government has taken up this point of view?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think my honourable friend forgot, when I got up to intervene in this debate, that I said I would confine myself to the question of adjudication The rest of the question as to how many will be retrenched, whether they will be retrenched, if retrenched how they will be dealt with, all that is a matter which I am sure will be dealt with by my honourable colleague who will reply after I have finished As I said, I am only discharging the responsibility that falls on the Labour Department The point that I was making was that unless and until the Labour Department is satisfied that there is no further room for settlement, it would be impossible, it would be unfair and quite contrary to established procedure for the Labour Department to intervene and say "We shall appoint an adjudicator" The point I was making, therefore, is this that this motion, at any rate that part of the speech of my honourable friend who accused the Labour Department of not having stepped in at the right moment, is certainly too premature, and I

[Dr. B R Ambedkar]

think if he will bear in mind the facts I have disclosed, he would himself voluntarily withdraw the statement that he made that the Labour Member was fiddling I certainly was not

Then let me come to the other side of the question It is true that under the Defence of India Act the Government does possess the power to appoint an arbitrator under rule 81 of the Defence of India Act. But I think it is only fair to mention that although this is an emergency legislation, we are not altogether precluded from observing such canons of judicial consideration from exercising the powers that we possess under rule 81, that is, arbitration For the purposes of arbitration we must have a dispute in existence As I have said, at the present moment there is no dispute, the matter is under consideration Secondly, before any adjudication is made, we must be satisfied that the dispute relates to terms and conditions of employment for instance, that the dispute relates to hours of work, to wages, and to points of that kind What is the point that is at dispute between the Railway Department and the Indian Railwaymen s Federation' I am sorry to say that the Railwaymen's Federation has certainly not conducted its case in the way in which it ought to have conducted it They certainly have gone and done a great deal of harm to themselves The point I would like to make in this connection is this what is the point on which the Railwaymen's Federation is stressing all through' Is it a point that relates to hours of labour' Is it a point that relates to wages' I say definitely that the points of dispute do not relate to either of these two points It is quite true that the Railwaymen's Federation has passed a number of resolutions many of which refer to hours of work and to conditions of labour But we have got to make a distinction between what are called fundamental points of dispute and points which are merely tagged on If one were to examine the resolution that has been passed by the Railwaymen's Federation, we find that the gravamen of their complaint is that the railways shall not reduce a single workman Questions relating to hours of labour and questions relating to wages are just tagged on—they are not the points of difference In order to substantiate what I am saying, the fundamental point of dispute between the railways and the Indian Federation of Railwaymen is the question of retrenchment, the question is as to how many persons will be employed and how many will be discharged I would like to point out one or two other circumstances

The first is this as I said, in their letter of the 5th of October 1945, they had put forward some fifteen or fourteen demands A conference was arranged between the Labour Department and the President of the Indian Railwaymen's Federation, Mr Giri, in order to assess and find out what exactly were the points which they regarded as fundamental, and I should like to tell the House that although there were fifteen resolutions, only three points were placed before the Labour Department for consideration The rest of them were regarded by the Railwaymen's Federation as matters of no consequence Again when a formal meeting was brought about between the Railwaymen s Federation and the Railway Department, even the three points that were raised before the Labour Department were dropped, and the only point that was taken up was the question of retrenchment With all respect to the gentlemen who have spoken and to the President of the Railwaymen's Federation, I must confess my utter inability to understand how, for instance, a question as to how many people should be employed by a particular department, can be treated as a justiciable dispute I am waiting, as I said, for the President of the Railwaymen's Federation to evolve out of the negotiations with the Railway Department some point which might be regarded as justiciable, so that the Labour Department may find it is worth while to intervene and to persuade that an adjudication be made Sir, I think that a censure motion is not deserved.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I should like to say, at the outset, that the Railway Department does fully appreciate the anxiety of the workers in the Railways who apprehend that they may come under discharge and I

welcome the opportunity once again of giving some information to the House on this subject But first I think I should draw the attention of the House to the terms of the adjournment motion before the House They are the rejection by the Railway Board"—it has nothing to do with the Labour Department though I am very glad to have had their position very clearly explained—of the demands of the Railwaymen's Federation regarding retrenchment of the railway personnel" A great deal of what has been said in the earlier speeches related to post-war scales of pay I was reluctant to interrupt a maiden speech but I think a very great deal that has been said today has been irrelevant to the subject of the adjournment motion The second speaker, Mr Guruswami, referred to the different classes under which railwaymen are classified—the different categories. There are in our minds three categories at the moment. You might call them A, B and C A is the permanent men in permanent railway posts and they really hardly come seriously into this discussion Then there is the class of temporary men in permanent posts, class B Now the Government of India—not the Railway Department alone but the Government of India as a whole—gave an undertaking at an early stage of the war that 70 per cent of permanent vacancies would be reserved for ex-service men after the war That is a definite undertaking by Government which we have to endeavour to fulfil Any service man who has had, I think, six months service in the army can claim to be considered under the terms of this undertaking and so far as the Railways are concerned, I think the number of temporary men in permanent posts is likely to be about 70,000 But I must point out that there have been in the course of the war no less than 1,50,000 railwaymen in the Defence of India Units They are classified as railwaymen and a proportion of them will, of course, qualify for filling up the 70,000 posts, so that to that extent railwaymen will benefit But the demobilization of the army will, of course, be spread over a very considerable period and the displacement of the 70,000 will therefore be correspondingly slow This class of men in the B category should have every chance of employment either in permanent posts or in temporary posts or in new work and it is in the latter, in creating new work in which we have placed great hopes I shall refer to that again in a minute Then, lastly, there is the third category of temporary men in temporary posts On the Railways you must always have a large number of temporary men employed, men who are employed temporarily for various reasons It may be that they are employed on a section of the railway where there are seasonal demands and where you cannot keep a number of men idle when the seasonal demands are not there They may again be employed on specific jobs which come to an end when the work ceases The man who takes on the job knows, of course, that he is temporary and again, in war time in particular, there are posts on the Railways created for work for other departments In war time we have had at one time up to 20,000 men on munitions alone It has nothing to do with railway work It is purely war time work for other departments Naturally owing to the increase of traffic and the large increase of work for other departments and so on, we have had a large number of temporary men during the war and many of them have had quite short service If and when the traffic falls off and we cannot create work to take its place, it stands to reason, I think, that we cannot keep on men for whom work cannot be found But for the time being it is evident that the traffic is holding up fairly well and we have not found it necessary to dispense with a large number of men When they are dispensed with, they are given a bonus They are given a continuance of their grain shop concessional rates, they are helped in finding employment and when any considerable body of men is involved, then their position is discussed carefully with the Unions

Now, Sir, that is the general position in which we find ourselves Now, what is the subject of the adjournment motion—the rejection by the Railway Board of the demands of the railwaymen regarding retrenchment As my Honourable friend, the Labour Member, has pointed out, the All-India Railwaymen's Federation's demand is that not one single man shall be retrenched

[Sir Edward Benthall]

from the railways A few minutes ago you heard an Honourable Member, Mr. Guruswami, stand up and say—if a single Mussalman is retrenched we will bring the railwaymen out on strike I think my Honourable friend was really rather carried away in the heat of the moment It is not reasonable to expect that the Railway Department or any other department of Government or any employer can give a permanent undertaking that not one single man shall be retrenched when there is no work What employer on these benches could give such an undertaking as regards his own employees? And yet, that is the issue on which it is sought to adjourn the House

Now, the Railway Board have been very sympathetic to the demands of the railwaymen We do appreciate the problem, we have discussed it carefully with them and we are prepared to go on discussing it From the end of the war to the end of November, 8,377 men have been discharged out of 14,278 posts which have been scheduled as surplus Now, most of these 8,377 men were munition workers discharged after the end of the war when it was no longer necessary to carry on munition work or aeroplane repairs in the railway workshops

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural) They were employed only during the war?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall I think the largest number affected was employed at Golden Rock workshops in Southern India where they were doing aeroplane repairs

I will show you what we have been able to achieve so far in our go-slow policy In November 1,696 posts were surplus Of this, we succeeded in absorbing 1,339, so that in November 357 only were discharged out of a force of 850,000 railwaymen In December 2 464 posts were declared surplus and we have succeeded in absorbing 2 058 so that only 406 men in the whole of India were discharged in spite of the situation arising out of the end of the war

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: What is the basis of these discharges?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Absence of work You cannot keep them if there is absolutely nothing for them to do

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: In this line particularly or in the factory?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The two things are really synonymous I should like to say this that my Honourable friend Mr Guruswami, when he was speaking, said that if his schemes were adopted, unemployment or discharges can be reduced That means they will not be eliminated altogether Therefore, what he said was not in accord with the undertaking which he gave to my Honourable friend Mr Nauman In fact, my friend knows in his mind, as he has indeed said, that this is an extremely difficult problem which can only be handled by the most careful co-operation between the railways and their men

I have no time to go into details—I should have an opportunity in a month's time—but we are endeavouring to adopt many what we call alleviations to assist the railwaymen to find extra work Several of the 16 points which the Honourable Mover, Sardar Mangal Singh put forward have been adopted and in any case they are all having most careful attention I repeat that we are following this question with the closest sympathy Mr Nauman referred to a point upon which he has written me That will have close consideration My Honourable friend Mr Guruswami recognises how difficult the position is and I am certain that in his heart too he recognises that it is a position which cannot be solved by direct action in the way of strikes or anything like that which will only create *less* employment The only way to solve this is by pursuing the line which we have been pursuing and by getting together in a co-operative spirit I welcome Mr Guruswami's arrival in Delhi because he will keep us in

close touch and help us jointly to solve this problem What I have said will, I hope, go a long way to meet my Honourable friend, the Mover He has asked for adjudication, but I think he will really appreciate that the point at issue on the adjournment motion is whether or not a single man should be retrenched I think my Honourable friend must candidly admit that that is not really a point for adjudication I hope he will do so and ask the leave of the House to withdraw the motion for adjournment

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural) May I ask, Sir, one question? Is it not a fact that a large number of new works are being opened and a very large number of these persons who are being retrenched have got a very great chance of employment At least two General Managers have told me that there is great likelihood for their employment They have said that nearly every person will be re-employed and they will give them first priority

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If I might have leave to reply, I say Yes The Railwaymen's Federation has said 250,000 men are under sentence of death Others have said 326 000 men and the figures keep on growing

Diwan Chaman Lall That is your figure.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have said that that figure bears no resemblance to the facts The Railwaymen's Federation have asked us how many men are going to be dispensed with We cannot make a guess All I can say is that we are doing our best, on the one hand, to go slow with disbanding railwaymen and, on the other hand to create work We are going ahead, with the maximum activity, to create work, as I said in my speech and I hope to be able to say more about that when we come on to the Railway Budget I do think that what we are doing and are trying to do will go a long way to create a great deal of employment

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (Cities of the United Provinces Non-Muhammadan Urban) Sir, on behalf of my Party I rise to support the adjournment motion which the Honourable Member Sardar Mangal Singh has moved regarding the retrenchment policy with regard to railwaymen by the Government of India Before I proceed with the actual retrenchment policy and demobilisation policy in general I would like to say a few words about the rattling and roaring speech that I have heard from Mr Nauman He has accused the secondor of the motion by saying that his speech was more like a Congress manifesto, thereby throwing an unreal and false hint that the Congress talks tall but does not do anything, to achieve its objective Well, Sir, I do not know if the Honourable Member has, for the last twenty-five years, stopped reading even the current history of this land Had he kept his mind and his eyes open, he would have seen that the Party of which I am one of the insignificant members is not a Party which delights in throwing diatribes and escape the consequences That way we are not clever We say what we do and we do what we say Therefore, it was rather ungracious on his part to say that we, the members of the Congress Party, indulge in all sorts of tall talks and do nothing for achieving our aim

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I was referring to that organisation mostly

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: But you referred to the Congress manifesto also. Perhaps you did it in your zeal

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: No, I meant it The story of congress manifesto is no different

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Perhaps he meant it

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: We have sufficient experience of that in the years gone by

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: I am not giving way

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: If the Honourable Member makes flings at us, he must be prepared for retorts.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member is not giving way.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: This question of retrenchment is an age old question We have seen that retrenchments begin to take place after every world war We witnessed the scourge of unemployment visiting Europe after the last world war After this war also, we have seen United States seized with strike fever and even though the Honourable the Labour Member has been good enough to give us a picture that the Labour Department has not been sleeping, yet I can say that we are here not assembled to discuss things department by department Here we are holding the whole Government responsible for what they are doing in this matter Take for instance the question of demobilisation of the army If I am correctly informed, by 31st May 1946, 8,13,987 men are to be demobbed Then again war work and ordnance factories are going to retrench 2,34,000 men The Indian Navy will retrench about 10,000 men The surplus recruits who have already been retrenched amount to about 1,30,000 and railway retrenchment will come to about 3 lakhs

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Is it two lakhs? I am ready to come down by one lakh So that by the end of May, we will have in this country about 14 to 15 lakhs of men unemployed Now, Sir, whatever the Labour Department might have done in order to bring together the Railwaymen's Federation and the Railway Department, and I give credit to the Honourable Dr Ambedkar for his efforts in this direction, yet the question remains whether the Government did ever take into consideration this very glaring fact that in about six months' time, they will be retrenching 14 to 15 lakhs men and it is their duty as Government, which they have been euphemistically calling as Government established by law in British India, to provide for the employment of these men who are being retrenched, whether by way of demobilisation or by way of retrenchment in various factories. That is the question I do not talk about this that or the other Department Have they taken into consideration this question, have they any plan, have they any scheme which would absorb these men? We have heard much about many planning committees and commissions and we were told only this morning, that perhaps the Finance Department will commit us to many such schemes over which this House does not get any opportunity to ponder

Now, Sir, my objection to this lack of Policy is that instead of creating a machinery for employing these men, what the Government have done is that they have created some employment exchange bureaus Now, Sir, these employment exchanges are not going to create employment in the country The only way in which employment can be created in the country is by starting new industries, by giving a fillip to those industries which have suffered a terrible strain during the war and thus alone can this problem of employment be met But employment exchanges have been created instead What does the Government of India's Labour Adviser, Dr J C Jack, say about these employment exchanges? He says:

"If employment exchanges are to provide adequate placing facilities, they must be able to secure the support both of the workers and the employers If they are merely to provide placing machinery, what guarantee is there they will be used by the parties for whom they are intended? The success of employment exchanges in Great Britain was bound up with the administration of unemployment insurance, which was compulsory for the persons affected and which enabled a complete industrial record of each insured person to be maintained Without some corresponding arrangement, I am sceptical about the success of employment exchanges in India"

Now, Sir; this is the only machinery which the Government of India have created and about it, the Government of India's Labour Adviser has expressed his doubts

Therefore, Sir, the question before us is whether these men who are to be retrenched will find employment Another question is whther the Government is seriously intending to provide some berth to these men. The Railwaymen's Federation has placed certain suggestions before the Government and I feel confident that if those suggestions are accepted, there will be no need to retrench 2 to 3 lakhs of men which the Railway Department is intending to do. For instance, reduction of hours of work, extension of workshop production, manufacture of locomotives in the country, re-opening of lines which were closed during the war and construction of railway lines to suit the needs of the country—if all this programme is taken up, there will be no need to retrench these men Therefore, I feel that in the absence of any such undertaking from the Government, the House is perfectly justified in passing this motion which is before us.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, I have been listening with an open mind to the speeches that have been made on this subject, a subject in which I am deeply interested Until recently I have been Chairman of the National Labour Tribunal here and I have had something to do with such things Now, Sir, although I do support a great deal of what my Honourable friend who spoke last said and do consider that this is just the time when the question of employment of all those who will come out of war emergency jobs ought to be kept in mind, yet, Sir, I feel, very much embarrassed For, I have not been able to understand quite clearly what is the exact issue on which this motion has been moved You remember, Mr Chairman, that when you gave permission for this motion to be moved, the Honourable Mover, on his own confession, was rather taken by surprise He was not ready and probably he was not clear what was the particular stick with which he wanted to beat the Government today, and therefore he asked that if he must beat the Government, he might have a little time to sharpen his stick or to find at any rate a stronger stick to beat the Government with

An Honourable Member: Stick or sword?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Let it be a sword However, Sir, even though he made that eloquent speech—and my Honourable friend is very eloquent—I have not been able yet to understand what is the particular issue on which we are asked to censure the Government today He first started by saying that if he got an undertaking from the Railway Member that there would be adjudication he would withdraw his motion. I hope I am not misrepresenting him Now, Sir, when the Honourable the Railway Member spoke he said that the issue was one of retrenchment, and my Honourable friend did not contradict him Therefore what are we asked to censure Government for? Is it on the question of adjudication or is it on the question of retrenchment of every single man? That is a point which is not made clear, so it is very difficult to vote upon, one does not know whether the issue is adjudication or retrenchment It is very unfortunate that my Honourable friend Mr Nauman intervened on quite a different issue He said the issue was that if a single Muslim worker on the railway were retrenched he will bring them out on strike

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: No, I did not say that That was said by Mr Guruswami I said I want my quota to be made up here and now I said no administration can maintain a huge establishment as in war time

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I stand corrected But what I wanted to say was that to my mind there is no difference between a Hindu worker or a Muslim worker or a worker belonging to the scheduled classes I feel that the interests of all workers are one and the same. Whether it is a question of wages or a question of retrenchment it seems to me that the two things are as clear as they should be, and the very amusing cry of "Hindu Pani" or "Muslim Cha" at the railway stations is to my mind just as much a misnomer as to come and say here that there is such a thing as a Muslim worker as apart from a Hindu worker or a Hindu as apart from a Sikh worker That issue was unfortunate But the point which I wish to make is this; if I am asked to give my

[Lt.-Col. Dr J C Chatterjee]

vote and censure Government on the question of retrenchment I find it difficult to do so because it is not only Government that has to be considered in this matter. Nowhere in the world is it possible for any employer to keep men for whom there is no work If any such proposition were accepted it would mean bankruptcy for the employer, and if Government were to accept the principle in this form it would also mean bankruptcy for Government And it is not only Government that is concerned in this matter, there is also the taxpayer to be taken into account Does my Honourable friend think that taxation should continue at the same level as it is today or even be made higher on an ever rising scale? Is my Honourable friend prepared to accept the proposition that this country should go on being taxed to the utmost and therefore industry and good living or what I might call decent living should be destroyed because we must maintain an army of men idle and without work because somebody says that if a single worker is turned out the whole railway will be brought out on strike? That to my mind is an indefensible proposition, you cannot go on taxing the country merely because you will not agree to the retrenchment of a single individual, particularly when the emergency for which they were employed no longer exists

Then there is another point and I should like to lay emphasis on it This Government rightly or wrongly gave an undertaking here and all over the country—it was made publicly and there was a great deal of propaganda about it, and I think rightly too—that when these men who went to fight their country's battles came back, a certain percentage of posts would be reserved for them My Honourable friend the Transport Member said that was 70 per cent It that is the figure is it honest or is it right on the part of Government that they should go back on that undertaking? I hope many of them did not go merely because of that undertaking but went with a higher motive But whatever it may be, there is such a thing as the written and spoken word, a guarantee which is given to people who according to their lights went to serve their country or went to serve the cause which they considered right and for which they shed their blood Now, Sir, if the question of retention of some men stands in the way of that undertaking I think it is not quite correct and it is not honourable I repeat that if this undertaking were to be broken it would be immoral on the part of this Government Now what is the remedy? I fully agree that the Government of any civilised and modern country are responsible for finding employment for the nationals of that country That is a proposition which had been accepted in Great Britain and the United States and other advanced countries, that if a man is unable to find employment when he is willing to work the country at least gives him a dole, and I think that this Government cannot escape their responsibility to provide reasonable employment for the nationals of this country who are willing to work I hope every effort will be made in that direction, and as far as I understand from what the Labour Member and the Railway Member said, they on their part are making such efforts I do not know how far that is correct or how far their efforts are effective or whether they are going to fulfil their pledges in this respect But I do say with all the emphasis at my command that it is absolutely necessary that men should not be allowed to starve merely because work cannot be found for them I said before that I have something to do with employment exchanges I am sorry to say that at the moment we are unable in these employment exchanges to find men for the demands which come to us from all kinds of employers I admit that this is merely a temporary state of affairs, that a time will come when the number of men out of work will be far in excess of the demands that these employment exchanges are getting Yet at the same time experience in other countries has shown that employment exchanges are very useful for bringing the employers and employees together In this connection I would also like to point out that no Government in any country can be responsible for the employment of the entire manhood or womanhood of that country, and that it is very largely the duty of leaders of industries that will

spring up. I hope they will spring up quickly and will provide wider employment, but no country and no Government can find employment for all the men who are able to work unless the coutry as such is rapidly industrialised. Employment will come not so much from Government, although it ought to come in a measure, greater than at present, but from the new industries which are coming into being.

Sir, I do not wish to weary you any further but I should like to say this, that if I am unable to vote for this adjournment it is because I do not understand the issues clearly, nor do I feel that the time has come to censure Government on this particular issue as their policy has not yet been fully tried and their misdeeds or good deeds have not yet had time to be tested and proved so that they may be censured on this particular motion.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I am reminded of a story which I need not relate here but the conclusion of which is that a king ordered a noose to be made and then tried to find out a culprit in the shape of one whose neck would fit into that noose and who could then be hanged. So the gallows was prepared first and the culprit was sought afterwards. The same is the case with this adjournment motion. The censure should be settled first and then we will determine the issue on which to censure Government. The Honourable Mover of this motion brought forward only one issue, viz., the Federation demanded the appointment of an adjudicator which the Railway Board refused. If we begin to have an adjournment motion on this kind of issue, I am sure, the Muslim League Party will have ten motions every day on such issues because our demands are turned down definitely by Government every day. If I remember correctly, the Honourable the Labour Member said clearly that this question is under active consideration of the Labour Department.

4 P. M. It is still *sub judice*, if I may use that phraseology, and to bring a motion of adjournment on an issue which is still under consideration, is, I think, not desirable We should wait and see what the decision of the Labour Department is I thought that after the speech of the Labour Member, the Honourable Mover will withdraw his motion

But this issue was altered altogether by my Honourable friend representing the Federation He said that no person should be retrenched. That was not the issue in the motion of adjournment The issue has became entirely different, and we have to find out not a person whose neck is about six inches in circumference but we have to try and find out a neck which has got about one foot circumference so that this noose—this particular motion of adjournment—may fit him! In this particular case I have great sympathy with the Honourable the representative of the Federation, but at the same time I believe his demand is irrelevant in this motion Mr Muhammad Nauman, who holds similar position as regards Muslim railway employees, drew the attention of the Assembly to the difficulties which the Muslim railway employees have to face and which never receive the sympathetic consideration of the Federation, and on account of this they were forced in 1930 to establish a Federation of their own and they have been fighting all the time to represent their cases before the Government, and the Federation have always opposed them on the ground that they have got no right to approach the Government in that manner.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: They say our Federation should not have recognition

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This argument had some force ten years ago, but after the establishment of the Muslim Federation this argument has got no force. At any rate, he has changed the issue altogether. I have great sympathy with him because my attention was also drawn to the retrenchment of railway employees. I had an occasion to approach two General Managers and also the Chief Commissioner of Railways and mentioned this particular thing All the three persons told me that they have got plans of expansion, that there is every likelihood that a very large number of these persons who

[Sir Zia Uuddin Ahmad]

are retrenched will get re-employment and priority will be given to those who have been in service before. But my Honourable friend, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, extended the issue still further and I am in very great sympathy with him also and I would like to extend the issue still further He wants to extend the scope to employees in all the departments of the Government I go still further I say that it is the duty of the Government to find employment for all, whether they are or have been in service or not. Of course the time will come to discuss this question and I will discuss it at great length when the question of planning and reconstruction comes up before us. I will discuss the whole question of finding employment for all, and on this minor issue of whether an adjudicator should or should not have been appointed by the Labour Department, I would not like to raise a bigger issue But as this question has been raised by previous speakers, I will also take this opportunity to express my views on this particular question. I think in respect of every planning scheme which we undertake in future, we should see that two principles are adopted, on these two principles alone I will consider future planning. Mr Chairman, you don't mind if I am irrelevant because the previous speakers were also irrelevant?

Mr. Chairman: Go on, go on

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Whatever planning is suggested, it should be judged on two fundamental principles The first is 'Food for all', and the second is 'Employment for all' We will have an occasion to discuss this when the reports of the Planning and Policy Committees—I do not know what it is; I hear it was published in the newspapers, but unfortunately I never read newspapers, I have never heard of this Policy Committee—come before us Whatever policy we may follow for the future development of India, these two fundamental principles must be observed namely, Food for all and work for all

An Honourable Member: Clothes for all

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: A suggestion has been made that I should include 'Clothes for all' I accept the amendment

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions Non-Muhammadan): Good houses for all

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I accept this—also You can go on extending this list

Seth Govind Das: Good treatment for all

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Suggestions are coming one after another I leave that to the subsequent speakers to extend the scope of this motion of adjournment still further by adding all these

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Do not forget 'Education for all'

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: All right, but my Honourable friend is too late to remind me because he has already missed the bus.

As regards 'Food for all', we have got a very big problem to face. Our population is increasing by 1 per cent. every year, so we must have some method by means of which at least 1 per cent more food every year is produced, and this can be done either by bringing more land under cultivation or by following improved methods of cultivation so that we may get more food from the same acreage Whenever any proposal comes before this House from the Agriculture Department, this is the principle on which I will judge the efficiency of that scheme, namely, they increase the food by 1 per cent every year or I should say 1½ per cent. to keep some margin.

The second thing is 'work for all' I know that a number of schemes will be coming before us and we will have to discuss them one by one, but this is the only principle on which we will judge the efficiency of every scheme, namely, given the resources at our disposal, I will see how many people it can employ. Supposing we have got a proposal costing one crore of rupees. I will ask how

many persons can be employed. If it employs 20 persons, I will say no. If it employs 2,000 persons, I will say yes. This will be my criterion for the acceptance of any scheme that comes before us Of course there will be some exceptions, for example there are certain industries—key industries, for instance—which will not produce great employment, but by the production that they will make, it will place India in a position to employ more men later on So these are the points we shall have to consider when we approve any scheme—that there should be employment for all, and food for all. My friend reminded me that I should still further expand and include housing, education and everything else

Shri Sri Prakasa: What about the *Hindustan Times* for all?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: You take "Hindustan" and give me the time, the fourth dimension of Einstein.

Shri Sri Prakasa: You read that paper at least You said so at Jhansi

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Not even for money For this thing I have a definite suggestion which I will also propound in detail when the opportunity comes I say that whenever a question of any company or anything is concerned, we should not only consider the question of the employer of labour, the question of the capitalist, the question of the shareholders, but we must also consider the question of the workmen who produce good dividends But sometimes the dividend is increased up to 200 per cent Then the workmen must work for a much longer period in order to give that particular profit to the shareholders which is not correct and therefore that is a thing which we will have to stop in order to give a fair amount of comfort to the labourer At the present moment, with the policy we have, I think it is not the right thing I will tell my friend, the Labour Member that in his efforts for the protection of labour he is catching the wrong end of the stick He is doing things that gives him very great advertisement but truly speaking he ought to have done it from a different angle and the work which he ought to take up is that he should have a rule that no company should be able to pay a dividend of more than six per cent interest, say double the bank rate of interest I say double the interest because it coincides with Hindu opinion Whatever profit comes in it must be distributed not only among the shareholders but among the workmen and those people responsible for the production of their wealth If the workmen are convinced that whatever work they do they will also share in the profit, there will be neither strike nor demands for less hours of work If I know that I am doing the work and the whole profit will come to me, then I shall be pleased to do the work, otherwise it becomes indentured labour and naturally the Legislature will see that this indentured labour is not misused

Mr. Chairman: You have two minutes left

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Then the demand for an adjudicator will not arise Why should they want one? They say that their labour is in the nature of indentured labour They have to do the work of which they do not get the true value including the profits and the advantages thereof and therefore they resort to a strike But if they get the full value of their labour and it is not of the nature of indentured labour, then probably there will be no strike and no demand.

So I have really spoken on an issue which is absolutely irrelevant but my only submission is that every speaker went on enlarging the issue.

Mr. Chairman: Does any other gentleman wish to address the House? Mr Turner.

Mr. A. C. Turner (Government of India: Nominated Official): I wish to draw the attention of the House to the narrow issue before it. It is simply that if a single Railway employee is to be retrenched, no matter how short his length of service, Government should be censured for it. I can only say that that seems to me a very unreasonable proposition. I was present at the meeting with the representatives of railway labour on December 5, and it was put to them that

[Mr. A. C. Turner]

this particular demand was palpably unreasonable. As has already been stated, the Railway Board and all railway administrations are doing their utmost to secure the re-absorbtion of anyone who may become surplus in his present job. But there will be occasions when it will be impossible to retain a certain man on a certain railway or in his present post. For example, the Bengal Assam Railway had a very large expansion in temporary staff during the war. Now the work that the B. A Railway Administration had to carry out during the war is rapidly decreasing and they naturally cannot, when peace time conditions are resumed, continue to employ the vast number that they have hitherto employed Would it be a reasonable proposition to spend the money of the taxpayers of India to keep men idle in any part of the country? It may happen that on a particular railway there will be an excess As far as is possible what will be done will be to offer them work, may be in other areas But should these men elect to remain near their homes, would it be reasonable that the taxpayers' money should be spent to keep these men idle near their homes because they will not consent to accept employment a little farther away from their homes or of a different type from their present work? I submit that that would be very unreasonable and in fact the Government would not be discharging their duties to the taxpaying public, if they were to accept such a proposition

We have very large schemes by which we hope to employ surplus labour I have no doubt that most of the Honourable Members have read from time to time of the large schemes which we have under consideration There are many new construction works which are now under survey Engineering and traffic surveys are being conducted in regard to, I think, some thirty-six new lines. All these works will employ a great deal of labour. We have many other projects but I must not anticipate the budget

Another point is that the matter is not of such immediate urgency because the door is still definitely open At the time of our discussions with the representatives of railway labour on the 5th December, it was put to them that we should continue as before to take the greatest interest in this matter and we said that we would welcome an arrangement whereby a small committee representing railway labour would be formed which would continue to keep in touch with the Railway Board and discuss the progress of these matters from time to time These matters are still under close examination by all General Managers of railways and they are themselves already taking action As we have heard from the Honourable Member for War Transport they are still taking action to reabsorb such employees as have become surplus on their lines We are hoping in due time to have the privilege of meting the newly formed committee and discussing the matter still further with a view to eliminating to the greatest extent possible any hardship that may be occasioned by reason of having to discharge men But the matter does not end there The other side of the House has looked at the picture from a wider perspective, viz , the whole problem of post-war unemployment in India The railway sphere of employment is admittedly a very large one but it does not embrace even the whole Governmental sphere and there will, I imagine, be very many more men involved in regard to private concerns The whole, Sir, constitutes a very large problem though it may be irrelevant to the immediate issue before the House The whole problem is, however, receiving the very closest attention of Government and the Railways will continue to do their part In view of the nature of the proposition I would ask my Honourable friend whether he would not on reconsideration, like to withdraw his motion, because I think, if I may say so, that it is a little premature and I think a little patience on his part will see many of the difficulties solved

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am not at all satisfied with the position taken up by the Government. They have not given us the assurance that they have explored and they do propose to explore and utilise every possible opportunity of preventing retrenchment before they actually launched upon retrenchment on the railways. They have

already begun I am told, to discharge several thousands of people from a number of semi-military workshops for the manufacture of aeroplanes and also their component parts They have not told us why these people have been discharged before they actually have completed all the processes of negotiations with the Railway administration and they came to the conclusion that it was absolutely necessary There is no guarantee that if we allow the government to have its own way it would really give full satisfaction not only to labour but also to the taxpayer The taxpayer certainly does not wish to be forced to pay higher railway rates than what they are paying but at the same time they do not want to see thousands and even tens of thousands of labour to be thrown on the unemployment market, so that it becomes easier for European businessmen and concerns to lower the general level of wages of our industrial labour and make higher profits for themselves We are not also quite sure how if and when any kind of retrenchment comes to be made the Government is going to distinguish between one section and another section of railwaymen, between one race and another race of railwaymen, between people of one province and another province We do not wish to leave so much of discretion to this Government, because this Government has not won that much of trust from us

Then, Sir the railwaymen ask for adjudication of this particular business. My Honourable friend Dr Ambedkar says that there is no case for this He used the words "justiciable dispute" However he may put it, I would like him to place himself before an impartial third party and I would like the Government also to have the courage to place their case before a third party just as the Railwaymen's Federation is prepared to When the Railwaymen's Federation has got the courage to come forward and make this challenge to the Railway Board, why is it that the Railway Board and the Railway Member are not prepared to accept it, unless they have something up their sleeves which they do not want us to know at present and which they wish to conceal for sometime longer.

The Honourable Member said that we should not take up this question of adjournment just now, because he was going to give plenty of time to discuss this matter at the time of the introduction of the Railway Budget He is going to prepare his Railway Budget On what basis? On the basis of some sort of retrenchment that he must be putting in He prepares the whole Budget on that basis, springs it before us as a sort of *fait accompli* and puts us in the unenviable position of simply throwing out the whole Budget We do not want that position We would like him here and now to take a warning from us and know what our point of view is in regard to this matter, so that he may grow wiser in preparing the Budget and bring before us a more acceptable Budget than would otherwise be the case

Then there is the question of hours of labour. My Honourable friend Dr. Ambedkar was making much point about the fact that the President of the Railwaymen's Federation was not so very keen on this They have been and are keen on it but are you prepared to negotiate with them on this matter also? The Government says, provided you are not going to press for 'no retrenchment' slogan Why should there be any retrenchment, I ask, as long as you can possibly prevent it? There should certainly be a time lag between the time when you open an already closed railway line and when it begins to work in full swing. During this time lag necessarily you have to carry these people on working. It is much better that the state should keep these people in employment than that they should be thrown on the unemployment market and are you willing to do that? .You have not given us any assurance in that direction.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: May I ask whether the Honourable Member's party agrees that the railways should not retrench one man, whether they agree with the Railwaymen's Federation?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My answer is this. My party agrees to this position, that the whole question should be placed before an adjudicator. Before him the Government will place all their facts and the Railwaymen's Federation will also

[Prof. N. G Ranga]

place all their facts Then let him give his judgment We are prepared to abide by that judgment Situated as we are, without the book before us, we are unable to say what we are going to do.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member were on the Government Benches, would he agree in a matter of retrenchment to abide by the decision of an outside body altogether, thereby abrogating his duty as Government?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is a beautiful argument There used to be a gentleman called Sir Reginald Maxwell who used to talk about rights of Government but that time is long past He did not allow us to get into touch with our own people until the Government was satisfied that there 'was no more threat to peace and tranquillity What has happened? All our people had to be released unconditionally and they had to be negotiated with by the Government Therefore my party will be prepared to abide by the decision of the adjudicator We challenge the Government to place their case before him Till then we shall keep an open mind in regard to this matter and we are not going to say that the Government is doing the right thing

An Honourable Member: We shall retrench you all!

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 23rd January, 1946

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 23rd January, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Chairman (Sir Cowasjee Jehangir) in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, M L.A. (Central Provinces and Berar: Muhammadan);

Mr T Chapman-Mortimer, M L A (Nominated Non-Official),

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, M L A (Sind Muhammadan Rural).

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE

OBJECTS ON WHICH AVIATION SHARE OF PETROL TAX FUND WAS EXPENDED

Sir Gurunath Bewoor (Secretary, Posts and Air Department) Sir, I lay on the table a statement showing the objects on which the Aviation share of the Petrol Tax Fund was expended during 1944-45:

Statement

OBJECTS	EXPENDITURE (Rupees)
(i) CLUBS	
Grants-in-aid to Flying Clubs in India	77,059
Financial Assistance to Indian Gliding Association . . .	3,000
(ii) EXPERIMENTAL	
Aircraft	
Operation and maintenance of the Wind Tunnel at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore for carrying on certain tests on aircraft	4,775
Miscellaneous Items	217

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Chairman: Now we come to adjournment motions again There is a motion in the name of Sardar Mangal Singh about the Bretton Woods Agreement, which is barred

EXPENDITURE ON BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO INDIA

Mr. Chairman: The next one also comes from Sardar Mangal Singh about the "willingness of the Government of India to foot the bill of the British Parliamentary Delegation to India".

What are the facts? Will any Honourable Member of the Government tell us the facts?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): The answer to that is that it is incorrect. His Majesty's Government are paying all the expenses of the Delegation All that the Government of India is doing is providing them with some office facilities and an officer to conduct them on their tours.

Mr. Chairman: As the facts are incorrect I rule it out of order.

Mr. Chairman: Then there is one about Bretton Woods again, from Mr. Manu Subedar It is out of order—it is covered by previous rulings

Mr. Chairman: Then we come to Mr Manu Subedar's adjournment motion to censure "the failure of Government to make any progress in regard to the deletion from the Government of India Act of sections 111 to 121 (both inclusive) in spite of the overwhelming opinion in all sections of the population on this subject passed by the House on 4th April 1945"

This involves legislation which cannot take place in this House and therefore under the rules cannot be discussed, as stated in ruling No. 43 of the Selection of Rulings (Mr Manu Subedar rose to speak) I am not giving a ruling till I hear the Honourable Member The ruling says that the Government of India is not competent to legislate, under the rules therefore it cannot be discussed on an adjournment motion. Again there cannot be any urgency as defined by rulings, when this Honourable House discussed this question at great length, and the Honourable Member, Mr Manu Subedar, took a very prominent part in that discussion in the last session of this Assembly Under these circumstances I cannot see how it is in order, but I am quite prepared to hear the Honourable Member, Mr Manu Subedar, if he can put forward anything else

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) Sir, when this resolution was introduced in the last session, it was held in order All that we were making was a recommendation to the Government of India to take steps to get these sections deleted I agree that these sections could not be deleted and no legislation on the subject can be passed, by this House the legislation on this subject can only come from Parliament; but it is for this Government to take such steps, within their limited scope, as they can, and the Government of India accepted the resolution and promised to take certain steps and the further promised that they will report what steps they have taken, what conversations took place with His Majesty's Government, what progress was made No such reports have been given to us It is a year now I do not know how much time you would give me, otherwise I would read out all the undertakings given by them and their breach Many undertakings were given, I have got them verbatim from Sir Ardeshir Dalal and from Sir Edward Benthall These undertakings were given, and the last word on the subject comes from the mouth of His Excellency the Viceroy—the words must have been put there by some unwise councillor of his—that nothing can be done with regard to these sections till a treaty is formulated between the two countries In other words, the entire undertaking, as it was given to us in this House, has been foiled and nullified. The urgency of this motion arises in this way, that this is the first occasion when we meet when I can bring up this matter before the House, and I therefore submit that this Assembly should be permitted to censure this Government for not having effected what they promised to effect, for not having carried out the undertakings which they gave and for not having reported progress no paper has been circulated to us as to what the mission of Sir Ardeshir Dalal did and what the special officer did under him in the person of Sir Jeremy Raisman No particulars have been given to the House and it is therefore in disregard of the powers and privileges of this House and therefore we want to censure this Government

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): This subject was discussed in April 1945 and while on this question of urgency, will it not be more correct to say that this House is different from the House of 1945 and that January 1946 is different from April 1945?

Mr. Chairman: There is a difference between a Resolution and an adjournment motion The arguments of the Honourable Member were for a Resolution. I have got to rule on an adjournment motion. While having the fullest sympathy with the Honourable Member in the cause he is pleading, I have got to give a ruling according to the previous rulings but I would like to hear the Honourable Member of Government as to what he has to say on the points raised by Mr. Manu Subedar with regard to urgency

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal (Member for Planning and Development): I have no desire to minimise the importance of this question You have very correctly pointed out that this involves legislation in another sphere and therefore it cannot be admitted under the clause regarding urgency. The points raised by Mr Manu Subedar refer to the merits of the question which can easily be discussed in a Resolution or in any other manner that the Honourable Member desires It is not that Government have not taken any action on the Resolution that was passed in the Assembly last April. Action has been taken As a matter of fact, action has still further been taken and if the Honourable Member desires further information on the subject as to what is being done, he can put down a Resolution or discuss it in any other manner and we will be very pleased to give him information I think it is due to the House that the information should be given

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General) I shall deal with the question of urgency. It is admitted that a Resolution was passed in this House to the effect that certain provisions of the Government of India Act ought to be repealed by Parliament and this Government would take steps to see that that was done. Whatever Sir Ardeshir Dalal has said today seems to point to some action having been taken Sir Ardeshir has not said a word to enlighten us as to what is the nature of that action All that we know about it is that whatever action was taken by the Government has resulted in the resignation of Sir Ardeshir Dalal If that is all that has been done by the Government and if that is the result of the steps that have been taken by the Government, I think we are perfectly within our rights in saying that a contingency has arisen when we should censure the Government for not having taken those steps which should have gone to the implementation of that Resolution So, the urgency is there The Honourable Member has had to resign Is there no urgency about it? Are we not aware of the fact that he has actually tendered his resignation after having taken certain steps It is obvious that those steps have fallen flat Has the Government ever offered any explanation to us? They have not. I think therefore we are perfectly within our rights to censure the Government for not taking effective steps to implement the Resolution which was passed by this House and today we are not prepared to hear any lame excuses about it

Mr. Chairman: I think the Honourable Member for Government remarked that there is no urgency about this Besides that, according to the rules, an adjournment motion cannot be moved where it involves legislation which is not within the competence of this House I must, I am afraid, rule this out of order

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan) Mr Chairman, I have heard every word of the discussion If you have not taken the final plunge in ruling this out of order, may I say a word in regard to this matter. What is it that we want to discuss? There was a certain undertaking given by the Government in regard to this matter We are now not asking the House to implement the passing of any legislation which we are not competent to pass All that we are saying is this—that an undertaking was given The Viceroy's speech puts an end to that undertaking This is the first time that we come before the House to draw the attention of the House to a breach of that undertaking That undertaking is serious enough The breach is much more serious than the undertaking itself and surely what other occasion could we have had to bring this matter before this House, which is of such an urgent nature where an undertaking given by the Government is broken. Surely this is a matter serious enough

Mr. Chairman: We have had enough discussion on this matter

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I read out the undertaking of Sir Ardeshir Dalal and Sir Edward Benthall? They have broken this undertaken.

Mr. Chairman: I have got to give a ruling according to previous rulings about adjournment motions. All your arguments are quite valid about the Resolution but no adjournment motion can be moved on a question which

[Mr Chairman]

involves legislation which is not within the competence of this House That is one of the reasons for ruling out this adjournment motion It is quite clearly laid down and therefore I very much regret that I have to rule it out of order. I rule it out of order

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RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST PERSIA

Mr. Chairman: The next one is from Mr. Ahmed E H. Jaffer He wishes to discuss

'(a) The recent action of a military nature on the part of the Government of U S S R against the sovereignty, integrity and independence of a neighbouring and friendly state of Persia, whereby the very existence of that State is in a deadly peril,

(b) the amazing ineptitude of the Government of India displayed by its amazing failure to take any action of any kind with regard to the want on and unprovoked aggression against the neighbouring and friendly state, and

(c) by this failure to take any action against the Government of U S S R, the present Government of India has completely lost the confidence of this Assembly and the people of India in general and the 100 million Mussalmans of India in particular'

The Governor General has withheld his consent to this motion The motion cannot be moved

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division Muhammadan Rural) It is a matter of regret

Mr. Chairman: You cannot argue this The motion has been disallowed by the Governor General I have no further power in regard to the motion, nor the House

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Mr. Chairman: The next one is No 17 from Diwan Chaman Lall, about the use of Indian troops in Indonesia This has already been discussed

Diwan Chaman Lall: Would the Government desire to have a second discussion on this matter?

Mr. Chairman. Even if the Government desire it, I could not allow it

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DEATHS OF I N.A MEN IN MONTGOMERY JAIL

Mr. Chairman: I come now to No 18 This is also from Diwan Chaman Lall He wishes to discuss the death of three I N A men in Montgomery Jail as a result of assaults upon them by the Jail authorities while they were in custody under orders of the Central Government

A definite allegation has been made by Mr Chaman Lall that three I N A. men were assaulted by the jail authorities I would like to have some information on this from the Government

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India Nominated Official): I am afraid that the motion is based on information which is incorrect I myself was very puzzled when I first saw the motion, because I have heard nothing of this incident nor had any one in Delhi I have made inquiries and I find that no such case has occurred There has been no case of three I N A men dying in Montgomery Jail I believe I do know the incident to which the Honourable Member has referred but I can assure him that it was a purely provincial matter. It has nothing whatever to do with the I N A or the Central Government

Mr. Chairman: I want this to be made perfectly clear Is your statement to the effect that the I N A men were not concerned in any affair in Montgomery jail which resulted in their deaths?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I say one word in regard to this matter? I am indeed very surprised that my Honourable friend should say that he was puzzled when he got notice of this adjournment motion and that he had not heard about it nor had anybody else in Delhi It is apparent that my Honourable friend or his department do not read the newspapers It is quite apparent that

they are unaware of the facts connected with these matters which appear not only in the provincial press but, I believe, in the Delhi press also. A report was published in the press giving the names of the three I.N.A. men who, amongst others, had been assaulted in the Montgomery jail on the 19th of October 1945 Thereupon, after the elections, I gave notice of an adjournment motion. The news that appeared in the press was not contradicted by anybody It is only after the news had appeared in the press and I had given notice of an adjournment motion regarding this matter, and it was days afterwards, that the Provincial Government issued a rejoinder to the effect that press report is not correct But to this day the Government of India have not issued any statement on the subject. . . .

Mr. Chairman: Has the Provincial Government issued a rejoinder that that is incorrect?

Diwan Chaman Lall: Yes, they said that they made an inquiry and they found that it was not correct But I am challenging all that Before my motion is ruled out of order, I want my Honourable friend to tell this House what is the source of his information, what are the inquiries that he has made, how has he satisfied himself that these are not the three I N A men and that their deaths did not take place on the 19th October in Montgomery jail?

Mr. P. Mason: I have information regarding the I N A men and no I N A man died in the Montgomery jail I did, however, go a step further and inquired from the Provincial Government whether any incident had taken place They explained to me that an incident had taken place but it had nothing to do with the I N A men Any further question on the matter should be addressed to the Provincial Government

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether it is a fact that there were I N A men detained in the Montgomery jail on the 19th October? Is it a fact that an assault did take place on the detenus on the 19th October? Is not his information only the false and lying information which might have been given by the Provincial Government or has he any independent information regarding this matter?

Mr. Chairman: I take it that the Honourable Member (Mr. Mason) makes a definite statement that no I N A men were concerned in any assault in Montgomery jail

Mr. P. Mason: That is correct.

Mr. Chairman: Then, I must rule it out of order on the definite statement made by the representative of the Department

Diwan Chaman Lall: What is that definite statement?

Mr. Chairman: I have repeated the definite statement three times to make things certain I do not want to do anything uncertain. I want to be as fair as I can.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Do I take it that his denial is that all his information consists of this, that he has made an inquiry from the Provincial Government. Has he any independent source of information?

Mr. Chairman: He takes full responsibility for the statement he makes in this House. I must accept his statement

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SCALING DOWN OF GREAT BRITAIN'S STERLING DEBT TO INDIA

Mr. Chairman: The next adjournment motion also stands in the name of Diwan Chaman Lall It runs thus "The announcement that the grant of a loan by America to Great Britain is likely to lead to a scaling down of the sterling debt being owed by Great Britain to India"

Where is this official statement that the sterling debt is being scaled down?

Diwan Chaman Lall: You will find generally in the press that statements have been made to this effect. I believe there is a clause also that the British Government will undertake to come to some sort of terms regarding the reduction of the sterling debts.

Mr. Chairman: You must be definite in your statement. What is the definite statement you are making?

Diwan Chaman Lall: The definite statement is this that it is part and parcel of the loan agreement

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I do not think Diwan Chaman Lall is correct In the first place, I want to point out that this is an agreement between the United Kingdom and the United States of America India was not a party to it and is not bound in any way by it There is nothing in the agreement which says that it is a condition of the loan that the sterling debt owed by Great Britain to India should be scaled down, and we have made it perfectly clear to His Majesty's Government that we are not in any way bound by any arrangements

Mr. Chairman: This motion is based on rumours

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I draw your attention to a statement? Here is a statement which must have come to my Honourable friend's notice which was issued by Sir Chunilal B Mehta immediately this announcement was made

Mr. Chairman: But he is not a member of this House

Diwan Chaman Lall: I am coming to the point itself He says

"The total debt of Britain is taken at 14,000 million dollars including that of Canada According to the scheme the sterling area countries and Canada would have to write off their dues from Britain from 14,000 million dollars to 7,500 million dollars and would have to further provide 3,000 million dollars in their own currencies to finance Britain for imports from them during the next five years"

I take it that my Honourable friend does not challenge that statement Is it or is it not a fact that the 14,000 million dollars being owed by Great Britain would have to be scaled down to a sum of 7,500 million dollars?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Nothing of the sort

Diwan Chaman Lall: India would have to bear a part of this reduction

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: India is entirely free to take whatever line it likes *vis-a-vis* the United Kingdom and I have made this perfectly clear to His Majesty's Government

Mr. Manu Subedar: His Majesty's Government has given an undertaking that they will reduce their sterling liabilities. It is part of the specific terms which the United Kingdom Government have agreed to, and the apprehension is

Mr. Chairman: That is the apprehension in India, I admit, but the Honourable the Finance Member has denied it

Mr. Manu Subedar: So, we need not apprehend that there will be any scaling down

Mr. Chairman: He did not say that

YARN SCARCITY FOR MADRAS PRESIDENCY HANDLOOM WEAVERS

Mr. Chairman: The next adjournment motion is in the name of Prof. Ranga and runs thus. "The artificial creation and intensification of unemployment and under-employment of weavers due to yarn scarcity for handloom weavers of Madras Presidency, caused by Government's action in increasing the export of yarn from Madras Presidency".

Will the Honourable Member tell me when the Madras Government increased the export of yarn?

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) It was increased in September 1945, but I speak subject to correction It is open to the Honourable Member there to tell us when it happened. The consequences are there.

Mr. Chairman: I see that notice of a Resolution has been given and it has drawn the first place on the 31st January. The resolution stands in the name of Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang and it runs thus:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to pass emergency ordinance compelling cotton textile mills to release at least one-third of the yarn manufactured by them for the use of handlooms"

There is some connection between the two, but I am not prepared to say that it completely covers it I have read it for the first time Now, I take your adjournment motion, as it stands, and where is the urgency?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The urgency is in the creation of unemployment

Mr. Chairman: That is not urgent. Unemployment has been there for a long time

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It has been artificially created in the Province of Madras by the measures taken by Government in exporting yarn out of Madras presidency and this has created acute short supply of yarn for the weavers who are already there Thus unemployment has been specially created now

Mr Chairman: Your point, I take it, is that due to this export of yarn, the position has become much worse It was bad enough, but it has become much worse now and you want to censure the Government for having exported yarn out of Madras presidency Is that the point?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes, Sir

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member) Exported whereto? Out of India from Madras Presidency?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh (Member for Industries and Supplies): As you have pointed out, Sir, the whole question of allocation of yarn from cotton mills to handlooms in the various provinces in India, including the Madras presidency, is likely to come up for discussion on the Resolution which occupies the first place on 31st January Our information is that there is no decrease in employment in Madras presidency from previous years Figures and full details will be given to the House in the debate on that Resolution

The Chairman: The whole matter will be discussed on 31st January

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My submission is this We are not in full possession of the facts in regard to that Resolution It is open to my Honourable friend to get up and say that even as it is the Indian mills are able to supply over 33½ per cent and even more of the total yarn produced by them to handloom weavers and therefore this question does not arise at all. Unless we know the full facts in regard to the Resolution tabled by my Honourable friend Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, it is not possible for us to be satisfied.

Mr. Chairman: Is the Honourable Member Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang prepared to give an undertaking that he will move his Resolution?

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab: Muhammadan) I will certainly move it.

Mr. Chairman: Then I rule this adjournment motion out of order.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But that does not cover the subject matter of my motion.

Mr. Chairman: I have already given you, Prof. Ranga, a good deal of latitude. Let me proceed to the next motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I have not been heard at all. Where is the latitude?

Mr. Chairman: On the 31st January you will have your full say.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But on something else.

Mr. Chairman: On this very thing That Resolution gives you much wider scope to have your full say.

Mr. Chairman: The next motion relating to Bretton Woods Conference is barred.

FOOD FAMINE IN SOUTH INDIA DISTRICTS

Mr. Chairman: The next motion is in the name of Prof. Ranga. This relates to the "failure of Government to prevent the growing extreme scarcity of foodgrains and the consequent widespread black-marketing and the spread of food famine in the districts of Chittoor, Anantapur, Cuddappah and parts of Kurnool and Nellore of Rayalaseema".

I presume you want to draw the attention of the House to the very serious conditions prevailing in this part of India with regard to food problems

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes, Sir.

Mr. M. R. Masani (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, before you call upon the Honourable Member in charge of this subject to deal with this matter, may I draw your attention to a similar motion standing in my name lower down in the list, No 36 or 37, I think That deals with the same situation created both in the districts referred to in this motion of Prof Ranga as well as the entire southern and western parts of India I believe, Sir, that if that motion were admitted, my Honourable friend Prof Ranga would not mind incorporating his motion in that Both of them might stand together

Mr. Chairman: If this is admitted, then you will have to have your say on this

Mr. M. R. Masani: What I am submitting is, Sir, that since my proposition is much wider, subject to my Honourable friend Prof Ranga's consent, perhaps my motion can take the place of his

Mr. Chairman: We have not yet reached your motion

Mr. M. R. Masani: That is why I am drawing your attention to it. If Prof Ranga does not press his adjournment motion, then we can deal with it now

Mr. Chairman: I can give no undertaking.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I do not mind if you keep it in suspense until you find it possible, Sir, to admit the other one. Then I need not move mine

Mr. Chairman: I cannot give any undertaking Either discuss this adjournment motion straightaway or you will withdraw it We will do our best when Mr Masani's motion is reached and see if it is in order to be admitted.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: Indian Commerce): It can come in as an amendment to this

Mr. Chairman: That cannot be done.

Mr. M. R. Masani: In that case, may I take it that even if Prof. Ranga's motion is admitted, mine will not be debarred

Mr. Chairman: It will be precluded. If it deals with the same subject, you cannot deal with it again. If Prof. Ranga withdraws his and let yours come on, then you can discuss it But let us hear what the Government Member has got to say.

Mr. B. R. Sen (Government of India Nominated Official): There are several adjournment motions on the subject of food. The suggestion has been made and discussed whether instead of having these various adjournment motions dealing with various aspects of food problem, it will not be better to have a full dress food debate dealing with the food situation in India as a whole If this suggestion should be put forward, I believe the Honourable the Leader of the House will be able to set apart days for its discussion.

Mr. Chairman: Is this an undertaking on the part of the Government to set aside days for food debate?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): If it is the desire of the House, the Government will be pleased to set aside two days for discussion of the food situation

Mr. Chairman: In view of this, I suggest that all these adjournment motions relating to food should be withdrawn.

Mr. M. R. Masani: A two days debate would be much more satisfactory. But before you call on us to withdraw our motions, would it not be proper to have definite dates suggested for discussion of this subject, in view of the extreme urgency of the problem?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I make this definite suggestion It is hoped that the Bretton Woods debate will conclude on 29th January If that is so, then it would be possible to hold the food debate on Wednesday, the 30th January and Friday, the 1st February On the 31st January, there will be non-official Resolutions. But if the House wishes to discuss the food question for two consecutive days, 30th and 31st January, it would be possible to move the Governor General to alter the Resolution day from the 31st January to 1st February But I think it would be quite convenient to have the food debate on Wednesday, the 30th January and Friday, the 1st February.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Before any decision is taken on the points suggested by the Honourable the Leader of the House, allow me to point out that it will be most inconvenient for me to have my Resolution which is already set down for 31st January shifted to 1st February as suggested by the Honourable the Leader of the House

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I suggest then that the debate should take place on 30th January and 1st February.

Mr. M. R. Masani: What would happen in case the Bretton Woods debate extends longer than one day?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think we should be able to cover this food subject in two full days.

Mr. Chairman: The undertaking is very satisfactory I take it that Honourable Members having accepted this undertaking will withdraw their adjournment motions with regard to this important subject of food.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I withdraw

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, can adjournment motions be withdrawn like this without the sanction of the House?

Mr. Chairman: I ruled them out of order but, if it is so desired, I shall ask the House whether the Honourable Members have leave to withdraw them.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, that will be setting up a new precedent This motion of adjournment has not been moved and so the House is not in possession of it An adjournment motion is not in order until you rule it in order and then the Mover moves it, and it is only then that the House is in possession of it and can give leave for its being withdrawn. I hope my Honourable friend Mr. Mavalankar will support me in this.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor. Non-Muhammadan Rural) Twenty-five persons have to signify their assent first

Mr. Chairman: I see there is a rule here and I am not prepared to interpret that rule immediately I will take the advice of Honourable Members here and will leave it as it is until the next occasion arises and the President decides the point

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I think it is rather an important matter and a precedent should not be created which will perhaps recoil on us later on You are trying to ascertain from the Mover and the Leader of the House or Government whether this motion should be admitted by you or not, and you have not yet given your ruling that this motion has been admitted by you and no question of withdrawal therefore arises If you had given your ruling and the motion then had been moved, this question might have arisen. But you have not yet admitted the motion.

Mr. Chairman: We will come to a compromise before admitting the motion. So there it stands No sanction of the House is required.

TREATMENT TO I. N A DETENUS.

Mr. Chairman: The next motion stands in the name of Shri Mohan Lal Saksena who wants "to discuss and censure the Government for the treatment meted out to the I N A men in detention camps"

I think the Honourable Member should be a little more definite What are these detention camps and what is this treatment complained of?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, you may have read reports in the papers that there have been complaints about ill-treatment in all I. N A camps,—Nilgani, Bahadurgarh, Jubbulpore, and all the rest of them

Mr. Chairman: The Bahadurgarh camp matter is coming up very soon; it is on the agenda

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I did not know it was coming When I sent in my notice there had been complaints from all camps

Mr. Chairman: It is indefinite

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: No, Sir, it is quite definite, I submit

Mr. Chairman: Diwan Chaman Lall has a motion on the agenda about the Bahadurgarh camp, and this is definite If the Honourable Member Mr. Saksena can give me one or two camps I can ask the Honourable Member for Government to reply

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I can give an instance from Lucknow itself The whole question is about the policy of Government, the instructions given by Government and how far they are carried out Yesterday I read a report that certain I N A men have been brought to a camp in Bengal and they had no food for days together

Mr. Chairman: This is rather wide, I wish you could confine it to particular camps so that we could discuss the matter properly This may be considered favourably when we come to the motion on Bahadurgarh camp, but the Honourable Member must give one or two camps for the Member of Government to give an answer

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: There are so many camps and we cannot bring all of them into an adjournment motion. It is a question of policy of Government in regard to the treatment of these men

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, the policy—if that is the intention of the Honourable Member—is that I N A men are in exactly the same position as members of the Indian army who are in detention until their cases are inquired into. They are treated while in detention in exactly the same way as other sepoys or other ranks or officers of the Indian army who are in detention. That means that from the point of view of food, clothing, accommodation and all other externals of life, except freedom of movement, they are treated in the same way as serving ranks of the same rank as their own If there are specific instances which the Honourable Member wishes to bring that is a different matter, but that is the general policy And I should like to mention the fact that there have been a very large number of rumours which have appeared in the press. I have seen several—and I think we have contradicted all that we have seen—which are entirely without foundation; so that it is very difficult to answer these unless the Honourable Member is a little more specific.

Mr. Chairman: I think the Honourable Member should be more specific in an adjournment motion, and this is rather vague. There is one motion coming up which pins the discussion down to a certain camp and there is nothing to stop Honourable Members from bringing in other camps. But I cannot allow a motion which is so vague because it will not lead to a proper discussion.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I regret I was not listening to what my Honourable friend Mr. Mason was saying. There are altogether three or four camps about

which complaints have been received and the press has taken this matter up. Leaving aside all other camps I am at the moment concerned with the Bahadurgarh camp.

Mr. Chairman: That is coming up.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: In so far as that camp is concerned, Government invited certain press reporters to go and visit it and these press reporters had facilities of interviewing these prisoners They received certain complaints which were ventilated in the press and they are before every one. Similarly take the Nilgonj camp The Honourable Member himself admitted the other day that there was shooting there and the facts of that case are tragic I know a certain inquiry has taken place there and certain results have been reached, but they are most unsatisfactory Similarly complaints have been received about other camps When the motion refers to this ill-treatment it naturally refers to the ill-treatment in these different camps It is not a roving inquiry. All that we wish to say is that the treatment meted out in these three or four camps is such that in our opinion Government ought to be censured It is a definite and a specific matter

Mr. Chairman: I think it will meet the purpose of the Honourable Member if we get to the adjournment motion to be moved by Diwan Chaman Lall in which he mentions a specific camp, and I am sure the Chair then will not disallow a reference to other camps to illustrate what is meant That will be a much more satisfactory method of doing it

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NON-RELEASE OF DETENUS UNDER ORDINANCE NO. 3 OF 1944

Mr. Chairman: The next motion also stands in the name of Shri Mohan Lal Saksena who wishes "to censure Government for not releasing the detenus detained under Ordinance No 3 of 1944"

Where is the urgency of this when they have been detained for a long time?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) There is detention every day and every day it is urgent

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Sir, as you know, in England immediately the war was over detenus were released We were told that this Ordinance was framed on the model of the English Ordinance We hoped that immediately on the termination of the war these detenus in India would be released or in any case that the orders would not be renewed But in January they were due to be released and they have still not been released, and it appears that fresh orders have been issued for their detention. My submission is that Government should be censured for that, there is no emergency now and they should not be detained.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member). I have a preliminary point to make If you, Sir, do not accept that, perhaps you will give me an opportunity to make a further submission. My preliminary point is that this is a matter which is covered by a Resolution which appears on the paper as No. 1 for the 4th February next, and if I correctly understood your ruling of yesterday on a similar point, this adjournment motion is out of order.

Mr. Chairman: What is your point?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: My point is that included in the Resolution, which appears on the paper as No. 1 for February the 4th, is a recommendation to release immediately all other political prisoners under detention or in imprisonment That clearly includes the prisoners who are under detention under Ordinance III.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Mr Chairman The two points are entirely different I do not understand how Sir John Thorne can say that one point is covered by the other. Here we seek to censure the Government for not releasing the detenus, and every day that passes and certain persons continue to be detained, the urgency increases. The other Resolution deals with a positive matter, in that we ask the Government to release all the political prisoners. The two things are entirely different: one is negative and the other is positive.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know when notice of the adjournment motion was given, for under Rule 12, sub-clause (iv), it is stated definitely that an adjournment motion is barred only if a previous notice of motion has been given

Mr. Chairman: It is previous to the adjournment motion being considered in the House, I know that What other point have you got to make?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I wish to make it quite clear that I have not the slightest desire to evade any discussion on the detenus held under Ordinance 3 and if I had any such desire, I am quite sure that desire would be very successfully frustrated.

The point which I was proposing to make, if your ruling on my preliminary point is that the motion is in order, is this The censure motion is for not releasing the detenus detained under Ordinance 3 I can speak only for the detenus who are held under orders of the Central Government or under orders of an administration which is subordinate to the Central Government We have released the greater number of prisoners who fall within those categories At the present moment there are only three prisoners held under orders of the Central Government and only one prisoner held under orders of a subordinate administration My point is that while, as I say, I have neither the desire nor the hope of evading any discussion of the cases of these four persons,—there are only four persons, we have released the greater number of other prisoners—the question of their continued detention is a matter to which I devote my attention not only once in six months, as we are required to do, but daily, and I may say almost hourly when it is brought to my notice by Members of the House But I do suggest that to hold a discussion which may range over two hours over the case of these four people, the circumstances of which will certainly come under frequent discussion at later stages, would be rather an abuse of the procedure of an adjournment motion.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: This again, if I may say a word, is an entirely inconsistent statement The Honourable Member seems to think that we are thinking only of the four persons who are detained by subordinate governments or by the order of the Central Government But that is not the point Who declared war emergency in India? The Governor General, your Government, the Central Government It was in connection with that emergency that all the other detenus have been detained by Provincial Governments Therefore it is for you now to say when this emergency has ceased to exist that all these detenus should be released.

There is another point? Who initiated the first step? The initial step was taken by the orders of the Central Government and of the Governor General and if these people are being detained elsewhere on account of this emergency, it is your duty to see that all of them are released, and if you don't discharge your duty, it is our duty to censure you.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I take up the point regarding these four men? As a detenu detained under orders of my Honourable friend, I have some knowledge of this matter and of my Honourable friend trying to pass the baby on to the Provincial Government and the Provincial Government trying to pass the baby on to him the legitimacy of the baby is seriously in question. It has not been admitted yet by any Provincial Government, particularly the Punjab Government, that it was their duty and not the duty of the Honourable the Home Member in detaining these men We do not know Every time we have asked the Provincial Government the reply is that the detention is actually under orders of the Government of India But apart from that what happens to detenus detained by Section 93 Governments Are they subordinates to my Honourable friend or are they not subordinate to my Honourable friend.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Constitutionally it is true that they may still claim to be autonomous Provincial Governments, but is it not a fact that orders emanated originally from Delhi in regard to these matters? Is it not a fact that in almost every case the files come up to my Honourable friend? Does he or does he not deal with them? Has he in the past not dealt with them? My Honourable friend has dealt with the case of every detenu, and he knows it . . . .

Mr. Chairman: It is not the point. I do not want to go into the question on merits. We are now going into the question of emergency.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I am coming to that. I went into the merits because my Honourable friend did so first

I submit the war is over There was a particular Ordinance issued When that emergency no longer exists, I submit there is no necessity now for him to go on detaining people who had been detained under that Ordinance Not only that. I think it is an extraordinary proposition to place before this House that an emergency does not exist Every single second that a man is being detained the emergency is there The honour of this country is involved. What happened to my Honourable friend's own country? What did they do there? Did they keep them in detention? They withdrew Regulation 18B Did they or did they not withdraw it? What happens here? These subordinate individuals, who are subordinate to their own Home Government, they are a little more loyal than the Home Government They did not withdraw this The emergency continues Action is being taken daily and there is no matter more important than this from the urgency point of view than to censure this Government for continuing to use powers which they should be ashamed to use, putting men in jail, detaining them without trial—merely because a gentleman like Sir John Thorne thinks they should be detained.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): He is a thorn in our side!

Mr. Chairman: What is your answer to the resolution to be moved by Pandit Govind Malaviya?

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions Non-Muhammadan): These are two different things.

Mr. Chairman: Under the rules if it is covered by a resolution of which previous notice is given it cannot be allowed.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Which is the resolution? Will you read it?

Mr. Chairman: Pandit Govind Malaviya has drawn first place in the ballot for the 4th February, 1946 He will move that

"In view of the universal expression of public opinion throughout the country in the matter, this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to give up the trials of the officers of the Indian National Army and to release immediately all men and officers of the Indian National Army as well as all other political prisoners under detention or imprisonment"

I must be consistent in the rulings

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The Governor General has passed an Ordinance and that Ordinance is there and so long as it is there these persons can be detained and the moment that Ordinance is withdrawn they will be released automatically. We censure the Government for not withdrawing the Ordinance although the emergency does not exist now.

Mr. Chairman: But you cannot move an adjournment motion on a matter of which notice has been given by a previous resolution.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): May I know which rule you are referring to?

Mr. Chairman: Page 19, Rule 48(iv):

"The motion must not anticipate a matter which has been previously appointed for consideration, or with reference to which a notice of motion has been previously given;"

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: May I draw attention to the words "previously appointed for consideration"? I submit plain English words have plain English meanings We would like to know what is the meaning you attach to the words "previously appointed for consideration"

Mr. Chairman: It is this If any notice is given before the adjournment motion is brought before this House by the President, *i e*, on the very day it is received, then this rule applies

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: I am sorry to press the matter again But I would draw your attention again to the words "a matter which has been previously appointed for consideration".

Mr. Chairman: I can only go on rulings previously given by Presidents and it has been so held I do not want to weary the House by reading out a large number of rulings but here they are and this is the way in which it has been interpreted up till now, *viz*, if a notice has been previously received previous to the day on which the adjournment motion is considered in this House

My honourable friend must remember that under ordinary circumstances adjournment motions are considered on the very day they are received It happens that this is the very first Session and the adjournment motions have been received sometime ago Generally they are received on the same day and the President considers them in the House and they are discussed on the very same day

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Was the motion for the adjournment of the House received in the usual course previous to the resolution to which you are referring?

Mr. Chairman: That I cannot tell you Yes, it is so The date of the adjournment motion is 3rd January and the notice of the resolution was received here on the 19th January

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: The date you have just mentioned, *viz*, 3rd January, is the date on which the notice of the adjournment of the House was received Therefore on the date the notice of the adjournment motion was received, it did not anticipate "a matter which had been previously appointed for consideration".

Mr. Chairman: That is the point which was raised the last time.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member) I should like to point out to you that if you look at Rule 48 on page 19, you will see that the opening words are "The right to move an adjournment for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance shall be subject to the following restrictions", *i e*, the right to move is subject to the following restrictions. Sub-clause (iv), which gives you some of the restrictions, says "the motion must not anticipate a matter which has been previously appointed for consideration or with reference to which a notice of motion has been previously given".

Mr. Chairman: Previous to what?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Previous to the right to move an adjournment of the House. That will be consistent with the previous rulings.

Mr. Chairman: I assure the Honourable House that these rulings have been given before and I cannot upset a ruling

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You cannot upset a ruling. But it is to be interpreted.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am not concerned with what your ruling may be with the particular interpretation of the rule. You may hold it one way or the other. I am concerned with the substance of the two motions. What is the substance? The substance of the adjournment motion is the censure of the Government for continuing to detain these people. The substance of the other motion is to call upon the Government to release them. The two things are entirely different. In one case we say you should never have done it. In the other case we say you should do it. Cannot you see that these things are so different that you

have to deal with them differently. We are dealing with the negative side by a censure motion and with the positive side by a resolution.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: On the point of order which I raised, I desire to reply to the Honourable the Law Member. It is true that the opening words are "The right to move an adjournment for the purpose of discussing . . ' but that right is subject to restrictions and clause (iv) relates to the period of time when the motion is given and refers also to the other matter which has been previously appointed My interpretation of the words "previously appointed for consideration" is supported by the words that follow, *viz* , "or with reference to which a notice of motion has been previously given' . "Previously given" does not mean the same thing as "previously appointed for consideration" So I again stress the point of order which I made "The motion must not anticipate a matter which has been previously appointed for consideration " If I have understood you rightly, you are relying on the words "a matter which has been previously appointed' But if you take the whole of the sentence, the words "previously appointed for consideration", obviously mean something very different from the words "previously given" Having regard to the dates given to you by the Secretary the notice of the adjournment motion was received long before the resolution was received by the office

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I can only say that you have got to decide the question with reference to the time when you have to consider whether the gentleman who intends to move an adjournment of the House has the right to move the adjournment motion or not I think the interpretation is quite clear and is consistent with the previous rulings on the subject

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: I have heard it several times this morning that there were certain previous rulings We have not heard which ruling is referred to either by the Honourable the Law Member or by you, Mr. Chairman

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, the resolution which stands in my name calls upon the Government to release these prisoners If that were to be an accomplished fact, the basis for this adjournment motion would collapse. But, as we stand now, this adjournment motion seeks to discuss a matter of definite urgent public importance namely the detention of these men in the camps. My resolution asks for another thing, the release of these men So long as the release does not take place, no question of time or of previous notice, etc., can have any relevancy Even if my resolution were timed for this very day, I would submit, Sir, that the release of these men is a different matter, which is meant to set right a wrong which is now existing. That wrong, until the men are actually released would continue I submit, even if the resolution were moved and discussed, and passed, that wrong would still continue till they were actually released. And therefore I submit that this motion is meant to discuss that specific question of urgent importance, namely the detention of so many people in the jails of this country without trial The resolution has nothing to do with the adjournment motion and whether that resolution is moved or whether it is not reached that day owing to the previous day's resolution being still before the House, is irrelevant to the consideration as to whether this motion should be taken up or not

Mr Chairman: I see your point The resolution is totally different from the adjournment motion, that is your point. I am inclined to hold this motion in order and we will appoint a time for its discussion. It is quarter past twelve now. Will 2-30 P.M. today suit the convenience of the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: Then 2-30 P.M. today, as it suits the convenience of the Honourable Member.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): May I request the Department through you to circulate a copy of the actual wording of the motion which will be moved separately to every member?

Mr Chairman: It has not been the practice of this Honourable House to circulate adjournment motions to Members.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: It is difficult to understand on what points a certain speaker is speaking unless you know what he is talking about As to the procedure of this House . . .

Mr. Chairman: When an adjournment motion is received on a certain day, it comes before the President the same day He reads it out There is no time to circulate it That is the procedure I have much sympathy with the Honourable Member, having been an Honourable Member of this House for a very long time myself and I know that we do suffer certain inconveniences not knowing the exact wording of these adjournment motions

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Between 2-30 P M and 4-30 P M there is plenty of time

Mr. Chairman: The discussion will be limited to two hours as usual and the time allowed for each Honourable Member will be fifteen minutes.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member) Sir, I move

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Legislative Department for the unexpired portion of the current financial year and the financial year 1946-47"

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Legislative Department for the unexpired portion of the current financial year and the financial year 1946-47"

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir I would like to know from the Honourable Member whether this Committee has met at all since it was elected last year, what was the kind of agenda that was placed before it, what was the advice that was sought from it and what are the functions of this Committee.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I think the Honourable Member is aware that the Legislative Department never had any Standing Committee at all and it was only last year, in the last session of the last Assembly, that there was an amendment of the Standing Orders at the instance of my Honourable friend, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth and by the amendment of the Standing Orders for the first time a Standing Committee was to be constituted for the Legislative Department The election of members to the Standing Committee took place on the 20th March, 1945 Since, then, as Honourable Members are aware, there has been no session at all of this House and there was no work on which the Legislative Department had to consult the Standing Committee

As for the duties of the Standing Committee, if my Honourable friend will look at the amended Standing Order which came into existence at the instance of my friend Mr Ishaq Seth, he will see what the duties of the Standing Committee are and he will find that with regard to the Legislative Department there is very little scope for the members of the Standing Committee to do anything In fact we agreed to the Standing Committee out of deference to the House. As I told you there never used to be any Standing Committee to advise the Legislative Department Mr Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, I believe, was elected as a member of the Standing Committee.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I have been a figurehead I was not consulted even on a single matter.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: As I told you, there was no meeting of the Committee at all.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: My Honourable friend, the Law Member, is such a good friend of mine that I did not want to quarrel with him. I therefore suggested to my friend Mr. Ranga all the objections that I wanted to raise But inasmuch as the Honourable Member has referred to my name, I must say that there is a lot of scope. A number of Bills have been introduced in the Assembly which might have been referred to us Are the proposed Bills perfectly all right? You can pick a hundred and one holes in them. Anything can be done Why should we not refer them to this committee? What is this legislature for other than introducing Bills and Resolutions? Why are they not referred to it? I therefore suggest that there is ample scope for it. Whenever a Bill comes before the Assembly let it be referred to this Committee. The subject matter may belong to a particular department, but the law relates to the Legislative Department.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: May I point out what has been set out in the Standing Order? The following are the matters that would come before the Standing Committee: all Bills given notice of by non-official Members of the legislature, and legislative proposals which the department concerned intends to undertake and on which the Member in charge of the department concerned desires the advice of the committee. Until then, there is hardly anything that the Standing Committee of the Legislative Department has to do.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban) Mr. Chairman, possibly the Honourable Law Member made a slight mistake. In mentioning the name of Mr Ananthasayanam Ayyangar I think the Honourable Law Member made a slight mistake in thinking that he was eternally asleep. I would disabuse him of that impression, as a matter of fact, Mr Ananthasayanam Ayyangar is eternally awake.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy. I am very much obliged to my honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition I happen to know Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar rather well in fact, I think I know him better than my Honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition and I have no reason to think that he is ever asleep

Mr. Chairman: The question is

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Legislative Department for the unexpired portion of the current financial year and the financial year 1946-47"

The motion was adopted

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR FOOD DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House) Sir, on behalf of Mr B R Sen, who has been called away for a meeting, I move

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct 10 non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects in the Department of Food for the unexpired portion of the financial year 1945-46 and for the financial year 1946-47"

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct 10 non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects in the Department of Food for the unexpired portion of the financial year 1945-46 and for the financial year 1946-47."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural). Sir, this is rather strange that my Honourable friend the Leader of the House should have made himself responsible for making this motion. I do not know whether he is also as well tutored as to the work that this committee is supposed to have done during the time since it was appointed last year, to be able to give us satisfactory information. I want to know whether this new all-India food policy that the Government of India has decided upon and published was ever submitted to

[Prof N G. Ranga]

this committee and whether this committee agreed to it and, if so, in what form. I would like also to know whether this committee is being consulted as to the food position that prevails in the country from time to time

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs Muhammadan Urban): Mr Chairman, being new to this House I want to understand one thing in some committees the Government recommended five members, in others eight, in a third committee they are suggesting ten, and in one committee there were 14 members Is there any special justification for this gradation? I should like to understand why not five for all, or eight for all or ten for all committees and so on In the interests of new comers the Government might tell them why these things are done in this way

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As regards the first question, the policy was put up before the committee and discussed, but the particular paper which has been circulated to Honourable Members was not put up because it represents a policy which was only formulated within the last few days

With regard to the second speaker, the question of the number of members on each of these committees was the subject of considerable discussion and negotiation—I think in the last session of the Assembly—and a general agreement was reached between the parties on the numbers It was discussed on the floor of the House and also, I think, between the leaders and whips of parties and general agreement was reached that these numbers were desirable

Prof. N. G Ranga: What about my other question, whether the food position in the country is being reviewed from time to time and if so, how was the committee consulted about it?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The food position has been reviewed but we are only just now setting up the new committee I shall put the point before the Honourable the Food Member

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) I should like to know, Sir, why you as Chairman are authorised to prescribe the method of election in the first motion, while in this motion the matter has to be postponed till the President is elected

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am afraid I am responsible for that I read out the word 'President' It would be correct to say "Chairman"

Mr. Chairman: The question is

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct 10 non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects in the Department of Food for the unexpired portion of the financial year 1945 46 and for the financial year 1946-47 "

The motion was adopted

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House) Sir, The Honourable Member for Planning and Development has been called away to a meeting; and on his behalf I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Chairman, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee for the Department of Planning and Development for the rest of the current financial year and the whole of the next financial year, 1946-47 "

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Chairman, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee for the Department of Planning and Development for the rest of the current financial year and the whole of the next financial year, 1946-47 "

Mr Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, last year I had raised an issue as to whether the committee of the House will have precedence and greater importance than the so-called Policy

Committee and the Reconstruction Committee on which hand-picked nominees of the Government are sitting; and it was the privilege of elected Members of this House to be fully associated and fully informed with regard to the various stages of the schemes and plans made by the Planning Committee; and the Honourable Member in charge of Planning had given a very definite undertaking. I find that meetings of the Standing Committee of the Planning and Development Department have not been frequently called and that various papers which were given to the Policy Committee and the Reconstruction Committee have not been given to members of that committee, and I feel that the Member for Planning who is not in his seat ought to have given some kind of undertaking to this House with regard to the functioning of this committee, which, I believe, would be one of the most important committees during the forthcoming year. I do not know whether the Leader of the House who has undertaken to move this motion on his behalf will give such an undertaking to us

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member wishes an authoritative answer, I must clearly suggest that this motion be held over till the Honourable Member is present. I cannot speak on his behalf.

Mr. Chairman: Is it the desire of the House that this motion should be brought up tomorrow?

Honourable Members: Yes

Mr. Chairman: All right

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO INDIAN COCONUT COMMITTEE

Sir Pheroze Kharegat (Secretary, Agriculture Department). Sir, I move

"That in pursuance of Clause (g) of Section 4 of the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944 the elected Members of this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the Chairman may direct, two members from among themselves to be members of the Indian Coconut Committee"

Mr. Chairman: The question is

"That in pursuance of Clause (g) of Section 4 of the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944, the elected Members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Chairman may direct, two members from among themselves to be members of the Indian Coconut Committee"

The motion was adopted

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam (Secretary, Education Department) Sir, I move

"That the Members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Chairman, two persons from their number to be members of the Central Advisory Board of Health"

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Chairman, two persons from their number to be members of the Central Advisory Board of Health"

The motion was adopted

Mr. Chairman: I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees, namely:—

	Date for nomination	Date for election
Standing Committee for the Legislative Department.	29th January	5th February.
Standing Committee for the Department of Food.	29th January	5th February
Indian Coconut Committee	30th January	7th February
Central Advisory Board of Health	30th January	8th February.

[MI. Chairman]

The nominations for all the four Committees will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 A M and 1 P M

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYS

Mr. Chairman: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 3 P M on Tuesday, the 22nd January, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year 1945-46 and for the year commencing 1st April, 1946, twelve nominations were received Subsequently one candidate withdrew his candidature As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected 1 Mr M A F Hirtzel, 2 Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, 3 Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, 4 Sjt Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury, 5 Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, 6 Mr P K Salve, 7 Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, 8 Mr. Muhammad Nauman, 9 Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad Ismail Khan, 10 Lt -Col Dr J C Chatterjee, and 11 Rai Bahadur D M Bhattacharyya

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr Chairman (Sir Cowasjee Jehangir) in the Chair

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

NON-RELEASE OF DETENUS UNDER ORDINANCE NO 3 OF 1944

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I move that the business of the House be adjourned to censure the Government for not releasing the detenus, detained under Ordinance No 3 of 1944

I may remind the House that this Ordinance was passed when doubts were raised by various High Courts regarding the validity of Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules When this Ordinance was enacted, all those detained under Rule 26, D I R , were presumed to have been detained under the provisions of this Ordinance Now, at the very outset I may point out that this measure was an emergency measure It was not a penal enactment. This was made clear in the preamble of the Ordinance and it was also made clear in the speech of Sir Reginald Maxwell that it was not a penal measure but only an emergency measure It was on the 15th of March 1944 that in this very House Sir Reginald Maxwell said:

"Now, I want to remind the House that the Defence of India Act was not primarily a penal enactment It was, as its Preamble says, 'an Act to provide for special measure to ensure the public safety and interest and the defence of British India and the trial of certain offences' and any one who reads the Act can see that a great portion of it deals only with the creation of those powers which are necessary for any Government to exercise in war time Of course, the enforcement of those powers requires the prescription of certain penalties but the object of the Act is different It is not a penal enactment It is designed for quite a different purpose."

Therefore, it is clear that this Ordinance was not a penal enactment; it was only an emergency measure. This is also clear from the provisions of the Defence of India Act. Section 1 of the Defence of India Act says:

"This section shall come into force at once and the remaining provisions of this Act shall come into force in such areas . . . . It shall be enforced during the continuance of the present war and for a period of six months thereafter."

It is true, the war has not been officially declared to have ended, but there is no doubt that the war ended six months ago It was popularly believed that, as in England, those detained in India will also be released Although six months have elapsed since the war ended, orders have been passed for their detention Again, in the grounds that were supplied to the detenus, it was also mentioned that it was only because of the war that they were being detained. In the United Provinces, we were supplied with printed grounds of detention and they may be divided into five categories I will read out one or two to inform the House that their detention was only in connection with the war.

"In pursuance of section 7 of the Restriction and Detention Ordinance, 1944 (No III of 1944), you are informed that the grounds for your detention were that you were an office holder and a prominent and active member of the organisation which passed the resolution of August 8, 1942, sanctioning a mass movement which was calculated to impede the successful prosecution of the war"

Another runs like this:

"In pursuance of section 7 of the Restriction and Detention Ordinance, 1944 (No III of 1944), you are informed that the grounds for your detention were that you were taking an active part in the mass movement sanctioned by the Congress in the resolution of August 8, 1942, which was calculated to impede the successful prosecution of the war"

Another one said

"That you were actually supporting and helping the underground organisation of the mass movement sanctioned by the Resolution of the Congress and calculated to impede the War"

So, it is quite obvious now from what I have read out from the grounds that these detentions were in connection with the war As a matter of fact, if the Government had been a responsible government or a popular government, they would not have detained so many persons That not being the case, it was hoped at least that when the emergency was over, they will be released

What do we find now? In the United Provinces 56 persons are still under detention and several of them are those who were not free when the war broke out They were already serving various sentences and when their sentences expired, orders of detention were served on them Although the war has ended, they are still under detention

Another case is that of the Lahore conspiracy prisoners They have been in jail for over 17 years When the war broke out, they were serving their original sentences and now they are being detained even after the war is over Although they were the prisoners of the Punjab Government, the United Provinces Government have thought in December or January to detain them under this Ordinance No. III of 1944

My submission is this. If there is any definite charge against any one of these persons who are detained, then as has been urged again and again both in the press and from the platform, they should be brought before regular courts of law, but nothing has been done. These orders are renewed after six months. Sir Reginald Maxwell had assured the Council of State that this provision limiting the period of detention was, in a way, much better than the corresponding provision in British rules

Now, how these orders are extended? Persons are informed of the grounds of detention and then they send their replies, which are not considered It is only on the report of a single C. I. D officer or some subordinate police official that they are being detained and they are not given even the details of the grounds under which they have been detained The grounds that I have read out to the House show that they are of a general character. It says, for instance, that you are a member of such and such organisation the object of which is such and such. It gives no definite facts. A person can say that he is not a member of such and such organisation There is no opportunity given to them to show that those charges are false.

This morning the Honourable the Home Member raised this point that there were only four detenus so far as the Government of India [illegible]

[Shri Mohan Lal Saksena]

administrations of the Government of India were concerned. I hold the Government of India responsible for all those who are detained in India, whether in Bengal, the Punjab or the U P because if these ordinances were withdrawn and repealed, these detenus will be automatically released So, Sir, as the Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell has assured the House that this was not a penal enactment, that this was only an emergency measure, I submit that as the war has ended, and the emergency has ended, it was the duty of this Government to have repealed the ordinance and to leave to the Provincial Governments to find out their own ways and means to detain them, if necessary, or try them, or restrict their liberties if they chose But to have armed them with this measure and then to disown responsibility for the detention of such a large number of persons, I think that is not correct both factually and morally Moreover, I know that directives are being issued by the Government of India to the various Provincial Governments from time to time At one time, Sir Reginald Maxwell had the audacity to say before this House that Congress leaders who had been detained would not be allowed to come out unless they give an assurance that they would not behave as they behaved in the past It was said they would not be allowed to come back to public life All sorts of things were said against them But we know that in spite of Maxwells and others they have come back, not only come back to public life, they have come back with a definite mandate to this House on the Quit India Resolution

During the last three years no subject has engaged the attention of the public more than the detention of such a large number of persons without trial I think if any impartial tribunal were to examine the whole question, it would come to the conclusion that in most cases the detention was wholly unjustified As I said in the case of those who were not free when the war broke out, they were already serving various sentences and then sentences expired only while the war was still on and still they have been detained I want to know on what ground If they had been allowed freedom for some time, there might have been some justification that there was a likelihood or a possibility of them committing some act which might prejudicially affect the efficient prosecution of war That was not so Now, Sir, in the case of these Lahore conspiracy prisoners they have been in jail for nearly 17 years now Even an ordinary convict or a felon sentenced to transportation for life would have been released much earlier But in the case of these patriots although they have served their sentences, still the Local Government have thought fit to order detention after the war has been over.

In conclusion, I submit to the House that the day of reckoning of Honourable Members opposite is not far off The Government might go on detaining us without trial, they might do as they please They might exercise the weight of their nominated block to thwart the wishes of the elected representatives of the country, but the day is not far off when they will have to regret the course they have been following My submission is that the wisest policy will be to withdraw this ordinance and to release these detenus If however the Government think they have sufficient material against them, then let them prosecute the detenus in a court of law I am sure these detenus will be prepared to suffer the consequences, if they are found guilty With these words, I move the House do now adjourn

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved

"That the Assembly do now adjourn"

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I rise to accord my wholehearted support to the adjournment motion which has just now been so ably moved by my Honourable friend, Mr Saksena If, Sir, there is one matter more than any other which is agitating the minds of the people of this country, and I may add, also the Government though from a different angle, it is the question of the further detention of the persons detained without trial This question has been engaging the attention of the Congress since the days of the arrest and detention of the Natoo brothers Since 1897, when as a result of the Rand murder the Natoo brothers

were arrested and detained, the Congress has been fighting for this cause. It is, Sir, a matter of curious coincidence that I, as a member of the Bengal Legislative Assembly delivered my last speech there on a similar motion tabled by myself, namely, the release of security prisoners in Bengal This is my maiden speech here today and the subject matter relates to the same question Shortly after I delivered the speech on the floor of the Bengal Assembly, I fell a victim to the Defence of India Act and Rules made thereunder, a "lawless law" as has been described by an eminent jurist of the land, a standing reproach to this Government and a blot on the statute book, a law which is a negation of liberty, for the maintenance and furtherance of which all Governments are supposed to exist Today I am appearing before this House to plead for the same cause viz , the discontinuance of further detention of my comrades in freedom battle May I hope, that just as I was spirited away shortly after the delivery of that speech, the Honourable the Home Member will go the other way round and see his way to release my comrades in detention in jail?

Sir, the legal aspect of detention has received very serious attention of the country at large Rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules under which all the detenus were detained—they were called security prisoners—had been declared *ultra vires*. Then came the Validating Ordinance which was again questioned in a court of law. Then to cover all came Ordinance No III of 1944 to validate all illegalities and irregularities committed by the arbitrary and irresponsible executive of the land The Defence of India Act and the rules thereunder for which Ordinance III of 1944 has been substituted have been, as my Honourable friend has just reminded the House, an emergency measure. The emergency of war came and went but the Defence of India Act and the rules go on for ever, as if for the defence of the British Empire in India It is a crying shame on the part of this Government that even after the war has ended the powers that he have been continuing the provisions of the Defence of India Act and the rules made thereunder and Ordinance III of 1944 What is really the offence for which my comrades in freedom's battle have been detained? Is it simply because they love their country? Is it simply because they form that heroic band of patriotic men who can with heads erect say, 'Give me liberty or give me death"? Is it because they want for themselves to breathe an atmosphere of freedom and also to create that atmosphere for all their countrymen? Sir, I know of many cases in which the Government of the day have not played the game. I refer to the cases of the Chittagong Armoury Raid prisoners. Their activities in the Chittagong Armoury Raid which took place on the fateful 16th April 1930 have created history in the freedom's battle of the country They during their incarceration became wedded to the communist way of thought and they declared from behind the prison bars that the war which was fought by Great Britain was a people's war, a war which was destined to bring freedom to the people of the land, and therefore they asked their countrymen to unconditionally support the war efforts of Government. This fact was taken advantage of by Government and they printed and broadcast pamphlets quoting their point of view You will be astonished to know, Sir, that not one of the Chittagong Armoury Raid prisoners has been released, though it was as a result of their opinion that many of the revolutionaries decided to support the war which in their view was a people's war but which in the view of the Congress was an imperialist war to the very core It is said that the Government of India, save in a very few cases, have no responsibility in the matter, but I cannot conceive how the Government of India can absolve themselves of their responsibility with regard to those who are detained under their orders or under orders of the Provincial Governments if they do not repeal this Ordinance III of 1944. That Ordinance has given power to the Provincial Governments to arrest and detain people without trial. So long as that Ordinance is on the statute book Government cannot divest itself of its responsibility I know and I am constrained to say, Sir, that my appeal and whatever I say will fall on deaf ears of Government and I am reminded of the memorable words of Burke, uttered on a memorable occasion, "Patience is exhausted, reason is fatigued, experience has given judgment but obstinacy is not yet conquered". Sir, I have done.

Several Honourable Members: We want to hear the Government case now.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member) Sir, I expect my Honourable friends want me to present a target to them rather than to present the Government case, but still I do not wish to hang back when they want to hear what I have to say I must decline the invitation of my Honourable friend the Mover to take any responsibility for persons detained under orders of the Provincial Governments. The Ordinance confers powers of detention both on the Central Government and on the Provincial Governments and in practice those powers have been separately used and enforced I do not want to be misunderstood about that There has of course been consultation between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments as to the policy under this Ordinance That consultation is necessary, it is of the first importance to the Central Government to have the advice of the Provincial Governments on all matters relating to public order, and there are cases when it is equally of use to Provincial Governments to be told by the Central Government what they propose to do in respect of the areas immediately under their control That consultation took place at various stages and it took place immediately the war ended I quite agree with Mr Saksena that the end of the war produced a new situation It certainly produced a new situation, that was recognised immediately at the Centre and the Provinces were consulted as to the effect that the new situation should have on the policy hitherto followed under Ordinance III Now, Sir, the policy agreed on between the Centre and the Provinces was to release persons detained under Ordinance III as quickly as was reasonably and safely possible That was a policy agreed soon after the end of the war, and I can claim that that is the policy that has been followed in the succeeding months I hope I have made it clear that I do not take the responsibility for the administration of the Governors' provinces, but I have figures from those provinces which I will quote in support of my case that we have proceeded as quickly as was reasonably and safely to be expected with the release of detenus.

Now, Sir, in the Governors' provinces in August 1945 when the war ended the number of persons detained under Ordinance III was 6,816 That number has now fallen—my latest figures are, I think, for the 15th January—to 3,109

Several Honourable Members: Shame!

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: My Honourable friends cry "Shame"

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) It is worse than shame, it is a disgrace

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: May I explain a little what that figure represents? 3,109 is the total figure Of those by far the greater number—over two-third—are Hurs detained by the Government of Sind. Well, Sir, the Hurs are not my business, and I have not made a special study of their doings. But it is common knowledge that for years, and especially of recent years, this faction in Sind has pursued a course of lawless and extreme violence—murder, dacoity, maltreatment of all kinds, finally the derailment of passenger train, those are all to the credit of the Hurs

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan) Why don't you try them?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Not only have they committed those crimes but they have created situations, I understand, in which it was impossible to get a conviction against any Hur Witnesses were intimidated and witnesses were murdered. That has been going on for many years.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): What is the number of Hurs detained?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The number of Hurs detained at the present moment is 2,506. But what I wish to point out is that not only are they not my business, but they are not the business of this House I myself shall not be a party to any decision or vote of this House which amounts to a vote of censure on the Sind Government for their treatment of the Hurs or a

demand that they shall immediately release the Hurs whom they are now detaining (Interruption) So much for the Provincial Governments.

For the Central Government, the corresponding figures are very modest In August 1945 there were 22 persons detained under the orders of the Central Government At the present day there are three In the Chief Commissioner's Provinces, which, of course, are generally, with the exception of Baluchistan, under the control of the Governor General in Council, the number in August 1945 was 17, and the number is now one Let me repeat those figures, gentlemen, because they are figures for which I am responsible

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does this number include Jai Prakash Narain?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Certainly, it does The number was 22 in August 1945 under orders issued by the Central Government The number is three now The number in Chief Commissioner's Provinces in August 1945 was 17, and the number is now one (Interruption)

Diwan Chaman Lall: Who are these three?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: May I ask that I may not be interrupted as I have very short time at my disposal If my Honourable friends would wait, they will know everything

An Honourable Member: The Honourable Member may have five minutes more

Mr. Chairman: Will the Honourable Members just listen

Diwan Chaman Lall: Mr Chairman, it is a very important matter

Mr. Chairman: But I cannot extend the Honourable Member's time

Diwan Chaman Lall: We do not want extension of the time We want the information

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The total for British India in June 1943 was 14,500 As I have said, in August 1945 that total dropped The total for the whole of British India, including the portions for which I am responsible, was 6,855 and on the 15th of January of this year the total is 3,113

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Are they ordinary criminals or patriots?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I was not proposing to conceal from this House what as a matter of fact every Member of this House knows already, namely, the names of the four persons detained under orders either of the Central Government or of Chief Commissioners Their names are

Jai Prakash Narain,
Ram Manohar Lohia,
Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar, and
Krishna Nair

In the last few days I have myself seen each of those four persons. I conversed freely with them I should like here and now to say that I am indebted to them for very full and frank discussion and the courtesy with which they received someone whom they may not have been expected to regard with very great affection, and generally for the light I received from them on the questions which I have to consider in regard to detenus

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They did not look dangerous.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: As regards our discussions I should prefer not to go into what was said in any great detail. I would prefer to wait They spoke frankly to me; I spoke frankly to them. I should perhaps be taking an advantage of them if I said what they said to me when they cannot say what I said to them. But I questioned them in particular on their attitude to violence as a political method and as to their views on the present political situation. I received from them very interesting answers to the questions I put on those subjects, and I have no doubt that they gave me their confidence. They made no secret of their views, and I have no reason to suppose that they set out to mislead me.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi · General) Are they to be detained for their views? Is that the principle of the Government?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: As regards the present position of these four persons, it is that the orders under which they are at present detained have still some months to go I think June and July are the months in which those orders would, unless previously cancelled, expire I do not propose to stand on those dates It was only a few days since I saw these gentlemen and the matter which I am now considering is whether there is any good reason in respect of any of them for anticipating the dates which would terminate the orders under which they are at present detained One thing I will say on that, and that is that I should not feel myself justified in forming a decision without consulting certain Provincial Governments I do not think I need give reasons for that Briefly, the reasons are that at any rate three of these persons are residents of areas which are not under the direct administration of the Government of India, and it is right and proper that the Governments of those areas should give their views on the question of release of these persons

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Did you consult these Governments when you detained them?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: But I wish to make this quite clear—that the responsibility is that of the Government of India The Government of India will not take shelter under the Provincial Governments any more than we expect Provincial Governments to take shelter under the Government of India The responsibility is here I am aware of the weight of it and I would ask this House to give the Government and myself, in particular, credit for giving very earnest consideration to the questions which have now to be considered

Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma (Meerut Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) I support the motion on three grounds, namely—

That the law under which people were arrested and detained was a bad law It was a law against the canons of justice and fundamentals of criminal jurisprudence

That the law, bad as it was, was abused

That it is unnecessary and without any justification to keep the people under detention after the emergency, if there was any, has ceased to exist

The law under which these people were arrested and detained was rule 26 made under Defence of India This rule empowered the Government to detain innocent people in prison without trial That was a bad law It was declared *ultra vires* of the powers of the Governor General by the highest tribunal of the land Now, in fairness and justice—if a subject people can expect justice from a foreign rule—the Government should have released the detenus after rule 26 was declared invalid. But what did the Government do? The Governor General issued an ordinance 14 of 1943 validating orders of detention made under rule 26 of Defence of India Act This is shocking to sense of justice It is arbitrary and unjust It is tantamount to this I, Governor General made a law. That law was bad I arrested and detained you Mr X under that bad law Now, though the law no longer exists I still order you, to be detained Mr X because I have the Sovereign power This is, I submit, a crime against law The history of criminal statutes has no parallel to this. Such a monstrous thing is unknown in law Thus the innocent people were deprived of their liberty without any reason whatsoever and the tragedy is that some of them are still rotting behind the prison bars Considering the jail conditions in this country, it means they are being killed by inches.

Then again, the old obnoxious law has been repeated in Ordinance III of 1944, validating detention orders passed under the no-law rule 26 Things have changed The world is changing But this mighty Government will not change Right and wrong are conceptions foreign to its way of thinking.

That was not enough Even that bad law was ignored. The law was abused If a bad law can be abused, the police constable rule was the result.

Any one could be sent to Jail and not there only if it pleased a police constable to point out his finger at him The misfortune of people was utilised by the police to make their fortune I know of a case in which certain very big people who contributed large sums to the War Funds, somehow, displeased the local sub-Inspector—these big people, faultlessly loyal though they were, were sent to prison and detained there They made representations to the local Government. The District Magistrate visited the Jail They told their story to him "Oh, You have been disloyal to your people", was the jocular remark by this District Magistrate After the long correspondence between certain big people on behalf of these unfortunate detenus and the Government these people were released But again the angry police officer stepped in and these unfortunate big loyal subjects of His Majesty were sent again to their old prison barracks. When the District Magistrate again visited the Jail and was approached in the connection he replied "Well my friends, I am helpless It is the police constable that rules It is the police that are responsible If I intervene, my action would be suspected and I might be shifted to the postal department". Sir, it is said by an eminent English Judge "It is a hard thing to oppress law, to oppress people" Here law has been murdered to murder people.

The Honourable Member has said "only a few persons are detained" You have no business to curtail the liberty of even one single individual It is no argument to say that the number is dwindling It is a continuous wrong I submit these persons should not have been arrested and detained, under the circumstances they have been detained It is futile to say that there are bad reports against them Where did the reports come from? From the Police Constable Reports can be against anybody, and anybody can be accused of anything under this rule If you have anything against these detenus, why not prosecute them in a court of law? Their case would be decided by a competent court of justice Let them have a judicial trial If any of them has committed the crime alleged against him he will rightly suffer the deprivation of his liberty and undergo the punishment provided by law But to keep people under detention for indefinite period on police reports is something unknown in any civilised country It is not permissable in law and is outrageous to the sense of justice

This continuous detention in prison as I said before is against sense of justice and humanity It has no sanction in morals or in law As I submitted you can curtail the liberty of the individual for two reasons For the safety of the State, and for the protection of an individual and property Now in regard to the safety of the State, I submit the War is over and no emergency exists This mighty Government need have no fear from a number of unarmed men These persons are not resourceful enough to raise an armed revolt against the State This powerful Government has existed against our wishes and despite our will to the contrary If we could throw it off, we would have done it long ago It is ridiculous to suggest that any danger would be expected from the persons under detention, either to the State, or to the individual There is no Indian so debased who will suggest any justification of the detention of these innocent persons So, I submit there is no reason why these people should be detained. They should never have been detained and the sooner they are released the better it is for all

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs Muhammadan Urban) Sir, I do not desire to detain the House long but after listening to the speech of the Honourable the Home Member I was wondering whether I was sitting in a place where policies or decisions of the rulers of India were being explained Mr Chairman, after the action of the Commander-in-Chief in the matter of the Indian National Army I consider that the Home Department of the Government of India have no legs to stand upon If these I N A men could be liberated so easily, no argument on earth can convince me of the fact that the Government of India is really acting legally and reasonably for the safety of British India by detaining these four men.

[Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi.]

Sir, the Honourable the Home Member wanted credit from us for the very generous manner in which he has brought down 22 to 3 and 17 to 1 I am ready to acknowledge that kindness I wonder why he stopped at a mere four and not reduced it to *nil* Had he done that there would have been no adjournment and our time would have been used to a better purpose But, Sir, when a Government of India man tries to throw the responsibility on a Local Government, the Local Government people say "We are helpless in this matter A telephone message has come direct from Delhi to the Governor and, therefore, we have got to obey our masters in Delhi" This has not happened once, it has not happened twice but it has happened dozens of times When the Government of India, whether it be in Delhi, whether it be in Patna or whether it be in any other place in India uses the telephone and commands these Local Governments to behave as commanded, Mr Chairman, I shall not be convinced of the fact that there is anything in the nature of Provincial Autonomy When I go to the Governor in my Province he sends me to Delhi and when I come to Delhi I receive the type of answer that was given today by the Home Member

Sir, his whole case falls to the ground, when he unfortunately introduced the Hurs in his arithmetic Special tribunals were set up and army orders to pound those people into atoms were issued in a manner which the Sind Government dare not take up Sir, men, women and children were pounded by aeroplanes, armies surrounded these poor Hurs It is so easy to give a dog a bad name and then to kick it Are the Hurs not human beings? Are the Hurs not people who deserve kindly treatment at the hands of Government? Even if the Local Government misbehaved in this matter it was the duty, not perhaps of the present Home Member but of his predecessors, to see that the Sind Government did not perpetrate inhumanities of a type which only the war-mentality could generate Mr Chairman, in spite of atom bombing in Japan and in spite of peace talks that we hear so much about, the Hurs are being treated not in a human manner Sir, whole tribes and whole people are going to be translated from Sind I do not know in which part of India,—where this terrible hand of the Government of India will allow them to live in peace and quiet.

An Honourable Member: In the Andamans

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqui: Sir the word "Hur" means one who is free or a lover of freedom These people, Sir, have suffered at the hands of the British Government in Sind for years which need really a good counting At one time there was Bachal and Bachal was called Bachal Badshah and he made the police and the army in Sind dance a good deal. Ultimately he was caught and hanged. Are the Hurs really a people with traces of insanity or madness in their makeup? Why do they behave as they have done? Because, Sir, the iron hand of the Government and its agents have made life impossible for them. The Pir of Pagaro was supposed to be their religious head and he too was not allowed to take care of his flocks and the result was that he had to pay the extreme penalty I am not here standing to defend the Pir or any of his agents but I do appeal to the Honourable the Home Member to show a bit of mercy, a bit of kindness and where he will consider the cases of these four men who have perhaps given him some reasons, some cause to reconsider their cases, may I appeal to him on behalf of these poor Hurs, whom he will not go to see?

He will perhaps send a tapedar or a sub-inspector of police who will, with the mighty arm of the Government behind him, kick these poor people If he can send a committee of this House to go and talk to these Hurs, I am absolutely certain that all the nonsense being published about these Hurs will be proved to be real, true and utter nonsense. Ordinary zamindars—*haris* as they are called in Sind—it is the tapedar who allows water from the canal to go into the fields, it is he who makes the poor agriculturist commit even murder because it is a question of Rs. 5 or Rs 10 which he cannot afford; and if he does not pay the amount, his lands are not watered and he may have to die for want of food. It is these smaller things in the lives of these agriculturists which make them do things in a manner which may not be acceptable to the Honourable Home Member and his Department. I have, therefore, to appeal to the Department, which has tried in these last few

days to gain the confidence of the four gentlemen whose names were given. June and July may be anticipated, as he said I hope when he goes back home today, he will issue an order allowing not only these four but all the others in the rest of India including the Hurs to be let free. If they commit any crime, if they commit any offence under the Indian Penal Code, let the ordinary law of the land take its course The Honourable Member from Bengal talked of the Natu Brothers and the others who were detained under that terrible piece of legislation—Regulation III, and its many offsprings later on in the shape of these ordinances and these terrible laws I hope they will all go on the 1st of April, if not earlier, but you will readily understand that a member of the Bengal Legislative Assembly who might have been minister for the Home Department in Bengal was spirited away within twenty four hours of his becoming that minister That, Sir, to my knowledge, was arranged on the telephone If I am asked, how did you know, I shall deny the information But I stand before you and declare that wherever the Government of India wants a thing done, it can get it done, and the Honourable the Home Member, I hope, will see to it that every Indian kept in prison, kept in custody without the law coming into it, shall be freed and then let them go to court and even if the court sends them to jail, I hope they will imitate the policy of the Commander in Chief and let them go home

Mr. M. R. Masani (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban) I am afraid, Sir, that, in rising to address this House for the first time on the spur of the moment, I am being guilty of an indiscretion. I hope the House will be kind to me

At the outset, I would like to associate myself with much of what has fallen from the lips of the Honourable Member who spoke before me—all of it, in fact, I refer in particular to his remarks about the Hurs. I am glad that he has taken exception to the Home Member's attitude of regarding the Hurs as outside the pale of Indian humanity The Home Member thought it right to say that the Hurs are not our business—not the business of the Government of India, nor the business of this House As far as I am aware, the Hurs are Indians, and every Indian is our business, and therefore I am sure this House will not accept any proposition which attempts to separate from the main body of this nation a section which, if they are ruthless on the one hand, are brave on the other, which, if they are backward in their methods and in their education, have yet shown qualities of courage, resistance and determination of which we are proud

Turning to the narrower issue of the four gentlemen who are the prisoners of the Central Government, I have the honour to be acquainted with all of them If I do not refer to all of them today, but only to one of them in detail to show what kind of men are being kept without trial, it is because the person to whom attention will be drawn by me stands as a symbol in a way of all that is finest in this nation,—I refer to Jai Prakash Narain. The Honourable the Home Member mentioned that in the course of his friendly and frank discussion with these four persons, he questioned them as to their attitude to violence. It strikes me at the outset that the claims of the Honourable Member to question anyone about violence are themselves open to question. Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches represent a system whose hands are literally soaked in blood. They have come very recently out of the most futile and bloody war that this universe has ever seen They have indulged in mass slaughter on both sides. Does it lie in their mouths to question any one as to whether he believes in violence or not? If Jai Prakash Narain were to believe that resort to force is the only way in which to free his country, then certainly it does not lie in the mouth of the Honourable Member to question that right of his to resort to force. Mahatma Gandhi may have that right. Those who believe in and preach and practise non-violence may have that right. But those whose whole career as an empire, as a nation, is rooted in force and violence certainly have no right to ask that question. Some years ago, in connection with Jai Prakash Narain himself, Mahatma Gandhi had occasion to say that you, whose heroes are Clive and

[Mr M. R. Masani.]

Warren Hastings, you have held out to young men throughout the world these models to follow If today any Indians turn to the example of Clive and the methods of Clive, it is you who are responsible and nobody else

Let me, if the Honourable Home Member will give me five minutes' attention, try to tell him what kind of a man they are holding in prison. His patriotism is known to every one in this country; but what is not so much known is his mildness, his gentleness and his kindliness Jai Prakash Narain would not hurt a fly if he could help it, and I say this on the basis of more than ten years of the closest acquaintance and friendship and of working with him in common for many years of that time His sterling character and, his intellectual integrity are also known to those who have come to know him. One point I would specially make is this if there is one man in this country who stands today for a democratic transition to a socialist order of society in India, it is Jai Prakash Narain You gentlemen, whose principal Government in London today claims to be socialist, are guilty of creating a situation, an ironical situation, where, with a socialist government in office and power in England, you keep in prison here without trial the very man who in this country would try to lead this nation, democratically and humanitarianly, towards the objective of socialism Jai Prakash Narain's socialism is not the so-called socialism of the Russian Government or the Soviet Union It is not a socialism which is prepared to indulge in ruthless and bloody methods If the Honourable the Home Member will permit me, I shall present him with Jai Prakash Narain's Picture of a 'Free India,'' which was published at the time of the Ramgarh session of the Indian National Congress That picture envisages a democratic form of society in India where all classes would be allowed to exist, where no violence will be done even to the exploiters and the vested interests, where the masses of the people will come into their own by peaceful, democratic and non-violent methods Mahatma Gandhi gave his blessing to that picture on the ground that, along with him, Jai Prakash Narain also contemplated non-violent social changes This is the man who, by implication, it has been suggested to us, is guilty of violent methods The irony of the situation is quite clear It is based on the anomaly of a socialist Government in Britain keeping socialist leaders in India behind prison bars If Jai Prakash Narain is dangerous, then some of us on this side of the House are dangerous also

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Every one of us

Mr. M. R. Masani: And, Sir, what is more Every young Indian who feels for his country, who resents the poverty and the degradation in which our masses today are living is also a very dangerous man I make bold to say that if Jai Prakash Narain, Ram Manohar Lohia, Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar and Krishnan Nair were released, their mellowed leadership will have a wholesome effect on thousands and thousands of hot-headed, impetuous and impatient young men who, if they are not released, will be even more dangerous in their time

Sardar Mangal Singh: Sir, I rise to support the motion before the House I congratulate the previous speaker on his very brilliant speech and the capable manner in which he has put the case I do not propose to take up much time of this Honourable House I wish to refer to one or two points for the attention of the Government of India. The Honourable the Home Member has given us some light about the figures of the prisoners who are being detained in jail In 1943, the number was over 14,000 By November 1945 it came down to about 7,000 and now if we exclude the Hurs the number is less than 600 Out of this, the Government of India prisoners are only 4 When we knew that Ordinance No III is being issued, we thought that within the next six months most of the prisoners would be released but by experience we found that the six months period was only a hoax, because after six months the orders were renewed as a matter of course and what difference does it make whether you detain a person for four years by passing an order at one time or you detain

him for four years by passing 8 similar orders In this manner the Government of India have been continuing, for the last two years and more, many prisoners in jail Of the four persons, I should like particularly to point out the case of one person whom I know very closely for a long time Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar was arrested in the beginning of 1942 and it is now four years since he is kept in detention. We have been making complaints to the Provincial Government and to the Government of India that he is being kept in a very unhealthy place He is suffering from rheumatism and he is being kept at Dharmsala where cold and rains have aggravated the trouble I personally know that many non-official visitors, and also the District Magistrates of that place have recommended to the Punjab Government that Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar should be transferred from that place Not only that Two Civil Surgeons of this district have successively recommended to the Punjab Government that the climate of that place does not suit Sardar Sardul Singh's health and that he should be removed from that place One civil surgeon has recommended that he should be given diathermal treatment which is not available at Dharmsala In spite of the recommendations and representations of the persons concerned, the Punjab Government did not move and when we approached the Punjab Government they said— we are helpless, he is a prisoner of the Government of India I entirely support the remarks made by my Honourable friend Mr Siddiqui that we have to run between Lahore and Delhi and we do not get any satisfactory answer either at Lahore or at Delhi I most emphatically protest against this attitude of the Government of India and the Punjab Government When we go to the Punjab Government, we are told—'you must go to the Government of India' When we come here, the Honourable the Home Member says— Although I accept full responsibility, I have to consult the Provincial Government' Now, a number of newspapers have openly and repeatedly said that the Punjab Government is willing to release him I have personal knowledge of that and I have had personal talks with the Premier of the Punjab that he does not want to stand in the way of his release but it is the Government of India which is standing in the way When we come here and face the culprit, the Home Member, he says I may be able to issue the orders but I have to consult the Government of the Punjab I most strongly protest against this shilly-shallying and this sort of attitude on the part of the Government of India

I wish to make mention of two more facts One is that so far as the Government of India prisoners are concerned, is it not the duty of the Government of India to see that their prisoners are properly fed and are suitably kept in a proper place The Government of India say—'our responsibility is to issue orders for the arrests and after that nobody knows what happens to them' I put it to the Honourable the Home Member—does he know that of these four persons Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar and Mr Jai Prakash Narain were kept in the Lahore Fort. And what is that place? It is neither a judicial lock up nor a police lock up. There are no rules which govern the conduct of the Police officials or which govern the day to day life of the prisoners there We have been trying to find out the rules of the Lahore Fort and we have not been able to know so far I hope the Honourable the Home Member will look into this matter Those persons who have come out of the Lahore Fort have given harrowing details of persecution and third degree methods adopted there. We have recently heard the stories of two young men belonging to the families of the Leader of the Opposition These young men narrated harrowing details of physical persecution and third degree methods used by the Punjab police I put it to the Honourable the Home Member whether it is not his duty to see that those prisoners are kept at least according to some standard of human living. They do not care. When we point out any difficulty to the Government of India, they refer us to the Punjab Government

I do not know to what place Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar has been sent from Delhi. If he has been sent back to Dharmsala, I would request the

[Sardar Mangal Singh.]

Honourable the Home Member to look into the papers and the file of that place And if he does not find it possible to issue orders for his release immediately, at least he should be transferred from that place to a place where he could be properly treated medically. I know personally that he is suffering from a serious disease If his disease is not attended to immediately, it may be dangerous for him afterwards. About the release, the Home Member has very kindly said, if I understood him rightly, that the orders issued now will not be renewed in the case of these four prisoners I hope I am correct

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I did not say that.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I am glad that the Home Member has cleared the point

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: On a point of personal explanation The question was whether I had said that The answer is that I did not say that I am not entitled to speak again

Sardar Mangal Singh: I understood him to say that the orders issued now may be anti-dated but will not be prolonged I am glad that impression has been removed. So, it is just possible that these four prisoners including Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar, Jai Prakash Narain, Dr Ram Manohar Lohia and Mr Krishna Nair, may be kept even beyond June and July. If that is the position, then the Government of India deserve very strong censure not only today but every day till the last prisoner comes out of jail. This Government cannot understand the sentiments and feelings of the Indians when they continue to keep most of their leaders in jail indefinitely I put it to the Honourable the Home Member that all the leaders of the Forward Block, including my Honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition and others, have been released and I want to know particularly why Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar has been selected for this discriminatory treatment I know Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar personally He is very well respected and intellectually he is a very great man He has written several books He was a member of the Congress Working Committee, which is the highest honour for any Indian and at the time of his arrest he was the acting President of the Forward Block He is greatly respected by the people of my province and I hope the same is the case all over the country Any time during which Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar is kept in jail is bound to embitter the feelings of the people against the Government I would request the Honourable the Home Member to review their cases and to issue orders immediately What reason can there be to detain Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar any further? If he comes out, will the British Empire fall or will the Heavens come down? The Government of India's attitude is entirely revengeful and vindictive in keeping that eminent gentleman any longer in jail Sir, I support the motion

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, shortly after the enactment of the Defence of India Act and the promulgation of the rules thereunder, speaking from my place as the Leader of the Opposition in the Bengal Legislative Assembly, I said that the Defence of India Act and the rules made thereunder were not made for the defence of India's freedom but were made for the perpetuation of India's slavery. Events that have followed one after another in quick succession since the year 1939 have, I venture to say, justified my remarks to the full The same remarks apply with equal force to the ill-born and, shall I say, the ill-bred successor of the Defence of India Rules; I mean the Restriction and Detention Ordinance of 1943

Let us examine for one moment what has been and is being done. The Federal Court decides that a particular rule of the Defence of India Rules is illegal and *ultra vires* But the perpetuation of India's slavery demands that the same rule in another form should be promulgated, and in comes the Restriction and Detention Ordinance. The Calcutta High Court declares that a particular rule of the Defence of India Rules is illegal and *ultra vires* and that certain detentions under that rule cannot possibly be supported. At once, the same day or the next, order is served on the prisoners, whose release is directed by the

Calcutta High Court, under that rusty, old Regulation, Regulation III of 1818. That is why I say today that whether it is the Defence of India Rules or whether it is the Restriction and Detention Ordinance of 1943, all such and similar rules and ordinances were made and continue to be enforced in order that India's misery might be perpetuated. Take, for instance, the cases of three well-known patriots of India—Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar, Satyaranjan Bakshi and Jai Prakash Narain, to mention only three out of a host of others. What civilized government in the world can possibly think of keeping such persons in detention? If they had been guilty of any crimes, they ought to have been put up before the courts of law

It was said at the time these rules and ordinances were promulgated that they were meant for the duration of the war and six months thereafter The war has come and gone but the detentions continue and one does not know how long they will continue The same relentless policy is being pursued for the last six years If, in response to the notice which was given by my Honourable friend Mr Saksena, the Honourable the Home Member had got up in this House and said, "Well, the Government of India are prepared to release these men", such an action would have had some grace But the Government of India seem determined to fill the cup of bitterness to the full Let them do it, let them do it, let them do it We are prepared for it We know that as long as a single man like Sardar Sardul Singh Caveeshar, Satyaranjan Bakshi or Jai Prakash Narain is in jail, the place of every honest and patriotic son of India is in jail. As long as they are in jail, the Government which is represented on the Benches in front of me, stands convicted of crime, of crime against human society, of crime against law and of crime against justice I know the Government speaks of law and order, but it is their law and their order. I know—and I heard the Honourable the Home Member saying so few moments ago—that their policy is to release prisoners as soon as possible, as soon as it is consistent with public safety Public safety, as described by the Honourable the Home Member or the Government whom he represents, is not the safety of India, it is the safety of the Imperialist Government which is dominating India. That is not public safety. Take a plebiscite, if you like, today. I challenge you to do it. The public safety of India will demand that each and every person who is now in jail should be released That is the public safety for which we stand, not the safety of that diabolical imperialism known as British imperialism compounded of hypocrisy and cruelty, which denies the ordinary elementary rights of man Public safety, forsooth! I challenge the Government of India to put this matter before the public of India and take their verdict. Will they do it? Have they the courage to do it? The Government have a rusty old weapon in their armoury, and when the courts decide one way, when they decide that a particular ordinance is illegal or a particular rule is illegal, the rusty old weapon comes in very handy.

Then, Sir, the Honourable the Home Member said there was consultation between the provinces and the Centre. I admit I never had experience of executive administration. But I know, I have some idea of the sort of consultation that goes on. It only affords an apology either to the provinces or to the Centre, it only affords an excuse either to the provinces or to the Centre, as the case may be. If you ask a question in a Provincial Assembly, in comes the answer that it is a matter for the Central Government. When you ask a similar question in the Central Assembly at Delhi, comes the answer, "Well, the person is in the custody of the Provincial Government, the Punjab Government, the Bengal Government, etc., etc., and it is a matter left to them". That is why I say these consultations only afford some excuse either to the Central Government or to the Provincial Government as the case may be But the detention continues. These so-called consultations, shall I say, are consultations between fellow criminals,—between those who have been and who still are guilty, as I said, of crimes against law, crimes against justice, crimes against human society. Well, Sir, consultations go on merrily between fellow criminals and the result is what we know today. Then, Sir, the Honourable the Home Member, said—whether he meant it or not, I cannot say—in the course of his

[Shri Sarat Chandra Bose]

he said inadvertently but he did make the admission that these people are detained for their views Well, Sir, it reminded me of something which I had read when I was still within my teens I read something about Italy under Austrian domination I remember reading that when Austrian domination was in force, every young man, who was silent and serious, was considered to be dangerous by the Austrian Government and was locked up in prison Here the Government of India detain people for their views or supposed views The Austrian Government of course went a little further Here the Government are wiser than Governments were in those days—Governments which detained young men who were silent and serious for not giving expression to their views I have not the least doubt however, that by and by when you will not find even the excuse for saying that the views of prisoners are dangerous you will also adopt the Austrian model and detain men young and old who are silent and serious for not giving expression to their views

Shri Sri Prakasa: Even though I was not serious they detained me

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: One admission the Honourable the Home Member made this afternoon and that was that the responsibility lay with the Government of India Sir, I am extremely beholden to the Government of India for the opportunity they gave me for four long years to read books and newspapers, of course not sent by Government but either purchased by me or sent by my people, except those which were withheld by them on the ground that my education had been on wrong lines, and that it was up to them to try and educate me on the right lines even in my fifty-fifth year—I am extremely beholden to the Government for the opportunity they gave me to read some books and newspapers I read often and often that when it came to the question of responsibility, the Centre threw the responsibility on the provinces or the provinces concerned threw the responsibility on the Centre However, one matter has been cleared up this afternoon by the Honourable the Home Member—that the responsibility rests with the Government of India So, the position today is clear and I am thankful to the Honourable the Home Member for clearing up the position even at this late stage We know, therefore, that what has been done up till today and what is being done today is in accordance with the policy of the Government of India and it is that policy which has inspired the Provincial Governments as well What is that policy? It is the policy of detention without trial, the policy of British imperialism for the last 200 years, the same policy which has continued, at any rate, ever since 1818 I ask the Government of India to reflect as to whether that is the policy they are minded to pursue still I ask them to reflect and to give us an answer here and now, whether they are prepared to abandon the naked imperialism of Winston Churchill I tell them that we know and we feel that it is the same old imperialism that is in force today, only in a parson's cloak That will not and cannot satisfy India The Government ought to have learnt that lesson by now If we have learnt one lesson after these six years, it is this,—that the so-called democracies are myths, that the war which was fought, was a war between two rival Fascisms, that whether it was Germany and Italy on the one hand or British and America on the other, it was a war between two rival Fascisms, it was an attempt to fashify the whole earth, only with this difference that the one set had Adolf Hitler as their Fuhrer and the other set had Roosevelt, or Churchill or his successor Clement Attlee as theirs

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put

Mr. Chairman: The question is

"That the question be now put"

The motion was adopted

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn"

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 24th January, 1946.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 24th January, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Secretary of the Assembly: The following Message has been received from His Excellency the Governor General:

"Order

Whereas Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Bart, G B E, K C I E, M.L A., has resigned the office of Chairman of the Legislative Assembly;

Now, therefore, in pursuance of the provisions of Sub-rule (2) of Rule 8 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I, Archibald Percival, Viscount Wavell, hereby appoint Lt -Colonel Dr J C Chatterjee, M L A., to be Chairman of the Legislative Assembly with effect from the morning of Thursday, the 24th January, 1946

(Signed) WAVELL,
Viceroy and Governor-General

NEW DELHI,
The 23rd January, 1946

[Lt -Col Dr J C Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official) then occupied the Chair]

Mr. Chairman (Lt Col Dr J C Chatterjee) Honourable Members desiring to take the oath or make the affirmation of allegiance to the Crown will do so now in the manner prescribed

MEMBERS SWORN

Sir Kenneth Grant Mitchell, C I E, M L A (Government of India Nominated Official),

Raja Sir Sayid Ahmad Ali Khan Alvi, M L A. (Nominated Non-Official)

Mr. Chairman: I will first take up the adjournment motions

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan) May I know as to when Sir Kenneth Mitchell was nominated? Was he nominated this morning?

Mr. Chairman: I have no information Will the Leader of the House say when Sir Kenneth Mitchell was nominated?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House) He was nominated this morning in place of another official.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural). When was it gazetted? Is it not necessary that it should be done before?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir

Diwan Chaman Lall: That was done in order to swell the number of votes on the other side.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It was done in anticipation of a debate this afternoon.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is he not nominated in place of Mr Krishnamoorthi?

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): When did Mr. Krishnamoorthi resign?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yesterday.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): May I know whether he was forced to resign?

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I also enquire whether you have any intimation so far that Mr Krishnamoorthi has resigned his seat in the Legislative Assembly, and whether you have been informed that the vacancy has been filled up? Further, whether the Honourable Member is entitled to take his oath before the nomination is gazetted?

Mr. Chairman: I have not been informed, but I do not think the question arises.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why not?

Mr. Chairman: It is not necessary that the Chairman should be informed of the nomination of any particular Member

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Was the office informed?

Sir George Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department) Copies of the notifications have been sent to the office of the Legislative Assembly in the ordinary course

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We are not able to follow you

Mr. Chairman: I do not think the House would like me to prolong a discussion of this kind Nomination is a matter for the Governor General and as we have just been informed, the necessary preliminaries have been given effect to, and I think it is futile to pursue this matter

Seth Govind Das: Mr Krishnamoorthi has resigned because Government have not full faith in him

Mr. Chairman: I have no information whatsoever I do not think that this matter arises I will now take up the adjournment motions

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That suggestion is completely inaccurate

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Only they have more faith in a white man

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

FAILURE TO CARRY OUT ASSURANCE re RAIL-ROAD CO-ORDINATION SCHEME

Mr. Chairman: I will now take up the adjournment motions The first motion that is before me today is by the Honourable Mr Mohan Lal Saksena who says that "I hereby give notice of my intention to ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, to censure the Government for not carrying out the assurance given by the Honourable the War Transport Member, Sir Edward Benthall, to the Legislative Assembly on 12th April, 1945, in executing the rail road co-ordination Scheme".

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs Muhammadan Urban): May I rise to a point of order? The agenda paper mentions only two items one, taking of oath and the other, election of President. Where are these adjournment motions?

Mr. Chairman: Under Standing Order 21 they are taken up automatically. It is not necessary to have them entered on the agenda

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Even on an important day like today?

Mr. Chairman: I have given my ruling

I have already read out the adjournment motion sent in by the Honourable Mr Mohan Lal Saksena I would like to hear him on the question.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): As Honourable Members are aware, Sir Edward Benthall made a speech on the 12th of April 1945 before this House, he gave definite assurances, and on the basis of that a demand of 82 lakhs which had been formerly voted down was granted But after that in my province as well as in other provinces, the assurances have not been carried out Neither have the bus-owners been consulted, and in the matter of appointment of promoters most of them have not been taken from amongst them; outsiders were imported Either they

were granted fresh permits or those persons have been appointed promoters who had nothing to do with the motor trade Then, Sir, dominant portion of the share capital was allotted to the Railways and in my province the share capital allotted to operators was only 34 per cent Another thing is that the representatives of the people were not consulted especially in those provinces where Section 93 regime works, we know that these authorities have worked the scheme in their own way irrespective of the convenience of the public or the interests of the bus-owners.

Then one thing more The Honourable Member had given an assurance that this scheme would not be pushed through, and that it would be worked over a number of years and it required patience, consultation and co-ordination But nothing has been done. On the contrary an Ordinance was enacted on the 1st September 1945 to arm the Executive with powers so that these operators may be coerced into joining these companies Then again assurance was given that capitalists would not be allowed to come in, but we find that capitalists have been allowed to come in not only as promoters but they have been allowed to take 15 per cent of the share capital. They are to take 15 per cent, Local Government 5 per cent and railways 45 per cent

These are the points which I place before the House and this is urgent because notices have been given to the operators terminating their permits and by the 15th or 16th February this scheme is going to be started.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions. Muhammadan Rural) On a point of order A speech ought to be allowed only at the time when the motion has been admitted

Mr. Chairman: Will the Honourable Member be brief?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have given the reasons that this scheme is being rushed and forced and the interests of the bus-owners are being sacrificed

Mr. Chairman: Will the Honourable Member in charge explain the position?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport). The Honourable Mover is correct that I gave certain assurances and I gave an undertaking that I would keep the House informed of progress. In pursuance of that undertaking I placed on the table a white paper and a progress report to show what the Government had done since. I maintain that there has been no change of policy and no deviation from our undertaking Most of the points which my honourable friend has mentioned are matters for the Provincial Government within whose sphere road transport comes, *viz*, consultation with the bus-owners and the question of promoters in particular As regards the predominant share of the railways the position is as we have said in the white paper and on the floor of the House As regards the Ordinance, it reduces the chances of coercion. That is a statement of fact and I have no qualms about any failure to adhere to what we said I did give the House an assurance that we would welcome an opportunity for discussion I am perfectly willing, if the House wishes, that we should discuss it this afternoon or at any other opportunity that may occur later.

Mr. Chairman: In view of what the Honourable Member in charge has said, does the honourable mover of this adjournment still desire to press it?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes, Sir. If the Honourable Member allows a discussion on the white paper, then I am prepared to withdraw it

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think it should be discussed either on the adjournment motion or on the discussion on the Railway Budget.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The Railway Budget will come off very late. As I have informed the House the scheme is going to be enforced by the 15th February We want an opportunity before that

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural). I think a date should be allotted before the Railway Budget because that Budget has many other things mixed up with it and this is a big question. We should be allowed one full day.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We have a very busy programme in this Session I place myself entirely in the hands of the House as to when we discuss it, but I do not think we can allot a day

Mr. Chairman: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member has no serious objection to its being taken up today, is it your wish to press the motion?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes

Mr. Chairman: I consider that this motion is in order and I admit it. I am unable, as the House will appreciate, to fix a time as we have more important business The time had better be fixed by the President when he has taken his seat, which, I think, will be after lunch today If it is convenient to the House, I will admit the motion but I will not fix the time when we shall discuss it

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Mr. Chairman: The next item is the further consideration of the following motion moved by the Honourable Sir Edward Benthall on the 23rd January, 1946, viz

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Chairman ten non official members to serve on the Standing Committee for the Department of Planning and Development for the rest of the current financial year and the whole of the next financial year, 1946 47"

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal (Member for Planning and Development) I regret I was not present at the House yesterday when the Honourable the Leader of the House moved this motion because I was called away to a very important committee on which members from all over India were summoned I understand that my honourable friend, Mr Manu Subedar, raised some queries in connection with this motion, which I shall be very happy to answer today He seems to be under a serious misapprehension regarding the duties and functions of the Policy Committees and he seems to think that the Standing Committee of this House is placed in a position of subordination to the Policy Committees As a matter of fact it is nothing of the sort The General Policy Committee and the Industries Policy Committee meetings were summoned in October 1945 This Standing Committee of my Department was constituted last April and its meeting was summoned before the House arose in April Between April and August I was out of India After I returned another meeting of the Standing Committee was summoned in September, although it was only a few days before the Assembly was dissolved So it is not correct on the part of my honourable friend to say that the meetings were not summoned frequently On the other hand there has been only one meeting of the Policy Committee summoned during the year The Policy Committee does not, as my honourable friend seems to think, plan or advise us on the matter of planning in such a detailed manner as he imagines The policy of the Government with regard to planning and development is placed before the Policy Committee and there is a general discussion on the subject at the Committee All the proceedings of the Policy Committees are open to the Members of this House and they are specifically sent to the Members of the Standing Committee. As a matter of fact no Member of the Standing Committee has raised any objection on this ground I hope, therefore, that my honourable friend . . . .

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) What about reconstruction?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: That is a Committee of the Cabinet itself It is a Committee of the Executive Government

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Provincial members and States' members are there.

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No, not on the Reconstruction Committee That is again a misapprehension. I hope, therefore, that my honourable friend is satisfied with this explanation.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What about the circulation of papers? I understand that papers were not given to the Members of the Standing Advisory Committee for the Planning Department which were given to the Reconstruction Committee as well as to the Policy Committee We want full circulation. It is a question of the dignity of this House This ought to be the paramount and the last body advising this Government before they take action My submission is that the papers submitted to the Reconstruction Committee and to the Policy Committee have not been given to the Members of the Standing Advisory Committee

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: No papers of this kind were submitted to the Policy Committee at all The Reconstruction Committee of which the Honourable Member is talking is something entirely different It is the Executive Committee of the Cabinet and naturally papers are submitted to it all of which cannot be submitted to the Standing Committee under the rules as laid down and discussed only the other day and passed Therefore there is nothing on which I can see that the Honourable Member can have a grievance.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) When this Standing Committee makes its recommendations to the Government, the Government should be prepared to inform the members of the Standing Committee what action has been taken on any of the recommendations or all the recommendations of that Committee In fact there were two meetings of that committee so far as I remember and in regard to the second meeting I do not know whether the proceedings of that meeting have been communicated to all the members of that committee and I do not know when those proceedings are going to be communicated and if they have been communicated already, I have not received them My suggestion is that in regard to every one of the suggestions made by this Committee, the action taken by Government or proposed to be taken by Government might also be communicated to the members of the Committee

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) And Members of the House

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions. Muhammadan Rural) Sir, there are some important questions of policy on which, I believe, the opinion of the House ought to be taken before any expenditure is incurred I take only one illustration, that is, the question of air service. I understand that air service in India is under contemplation They have to decide whether it should be run by the Government like the Railways or whether it should be handed over to certain companies If they are to be handed over to certain companies, on what conditions Before any expenditure is sanctioned on this particular question, I think the Finance Committee will be in great difficulty whether to vote or not on this issue before taking the opinion of the House Therefore it seems desirable that on any question of policy which involves large expenditure the opinion of the House should be taken before any expenditure is incurred.

Mr. Chairman: The question is

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Chairman, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee for the Department of Planning and Development for the rest of the current financial year and the whole of the next financial year, 1946-47"

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of Members to the Standing Committee for the Planning and Development Department, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations upto 12 noon on Wednesday, the 30th January, and that the election, if necessary, will be held on Thursday, the 7th February. The election, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

Mr. Chairman: In accordance with the provisions of rule 5A of the Indian Legislative Rules, the House will now proceed to elect a President by ballot. In compliance with the provisions of sub-rule (3) of that rule, I have to announce to Honourable Members that two nomination papers duly filled in have been received on behalf of Mr G. V. Mavalankar and one nomination paper duly filled in has been received on behalf of Sir Cowasjee Jehangir

The names of the proposers and seconders of Mr. Mavalankar are as follows.

Proposers	Shri Sarat Chandra Bose Mr. Manu Subedar
Seconders	Shri Satya Narayan Sinha. Shri Sri Parkasa.

The names of the proposer and seconder of Sir Cowasjee Jehangir are as follows

Proposer	Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan.
Seconder	Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang.

Honourable Members will now come up to the table and take the ballot papers from the Secretary in the order in which I call their names To preserve the secrecy of the ballot, I would invite Honourable Members, on taking the ballot papers to proceed to the small room behind the Chair, record their votes at the table in that room, fold the papers, return to the Secretary's table by the left of the Chair and drop the voting papers in the ballot box on the Secretary s table

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan) Sir, I would like to know whether any time has been fixed for closing the election We know when the election begins but when does it close? Does it go on throughout the day and does it continue on the succeeding day also? No notice has been given to us that the election will be closed at a particular time I would like to know what the position of the Government is in regard to the continuance of the election

Mr. Chairman: The answer to the Honourable Member's query is that we proceed now and we go on till the election is finished

Diwan Chaman Lall: How can the election be finished unless we know how long the election will go on Voting may go on for the whole day and voting may continue later on too You do not say when the voting is to close. You have given no time for the voting to close How can you say that the election will go on? The election may go on for a whole month like this I want to know what the actual position is in regard to this matter

Mr. Chairman: Surely the Honourable Member has been in this House on many occasions The actual position is that Honourable Members will come up as I call out their names and I have described the procedure which they will adopt and surely my Honourable friend knows as a practical man that this is the best possible thing to do and the voting will now take place as it has taken place on so many occasions before and I do not see any reason why it should continue another day

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General). Sir, I would like to say one word. You say you will call out the names and pursue the procedure you have outlined But those who are not present in the House may turn up later on in the day and they have a right to be here and they have a right to vote. You have got to say when you are going to close the election. Otherwise the election goes on and on and on.

Mr. Chairman: I think that is a perfectly clear issue If there is a certain business before the House and due notice has been given, it is the duty of Honourable Members to be present at the time. If an Honourable Member

does not come when he has to put a question, he misses his opportunity of asking the question or if it is a resolution and the Honourable Member who has given notice of it is not present he loses his opportunity Exactly the same procedure will now be adopted Honourable Members may come up when they are called and if an Honourable Member is not present in the House when his name is called I very much regret that he will lose his opportunity of casting his vote

Diwan Chaman Lall: If I want some time to make up my mind, is there any rule to prevent me from having it?

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member is, I know, a man of decision and I am sure he will make up his mind without much time I have given my ruling The election will now proceed

Diwan Chaman Lall: The ruling only relates to the fact that when you call the name of any member and he does not happen to be present in his seat, he forfeits his right to take part in the ballot

Mr. Chairman: Unless of course he comes in before the ballot box is closed The ballot will be closed when the last of the names has been called out

Diwan Chaman Lall: Granted, but the rule does not relate to the fact that once an Honourable Member has taken the ballot paper he may take the rest of the day to make up his mind whether to cast his vote or not

Mr. Chairman: If an Honourable Member cannot make up his mind at the right moment, I regret it is his misfortune I will not allow any further discussion, but Honourable Members will appreciate the fact that I am not prepared to depart from the practice which has been followed for so long a period and which to my mind is perfectly clear I shall call out the names of Honourable Members and they will kindly record their vote as I have directed.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: On a point of order I reserve to myself the right to protest against this election at any time and take objection to it on the ground which I have raised today on the floor of the House

Mr. Chairman: If that is the Honourable Member's wish, he can do as he likes, but I have now laid down the procedure that will be followed, and that is the procedure which has always been followed in this House

Diwan Chaman Lall: On a point of order, may I know whether it is not a fact that the procedure regarding this election is not to be chosen by you or by any rules made by you? The procedure is laid down in the rules .You cannot alter the procedure laid down in the rules, and the point raised by my honourable friend is this is there any rule under which you are going to proceed now and lay down that if an Honourable Member does not happen to be in his seat he shall forfeit his right to a ballot, secondly, whether it is within your right to ask an Honourable Member to cast his vote and hand in the paper immediately he receives the ballot paper

Mr. Chairman: I am not making any new rule I quite understand the point you have raised. I am merely carrying out what has been established here by practice and what any one, taking a commonsense view of this matter, will do

Diwan Chaman Lall: Common sense is very uncommon in this House.

Mr. Chairman: I quite agree Order, order.

[The names of Honourable Members were then called out by the Chairman.]

(As the Ballot was proceeding)

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, on a point of order . . .

Mr. Chairman: No point of order can now be allowed I will not allow any further interruption.

(Ballot continuing)

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal (Member for Planning and Development): I do not wish to record my vote, Sir.

(Ballot continuing)

Mr. Chairman: Col. Himmatsinhji.

Col. Kumar Shri Himmatsinhji (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, with your permission, I do not wish to vote.

(The Ballot was concluded and the Votes were then counted by the Chairman.)

Mr. Chairman: The result of the voting is that Mr. G. V Mavalankar has secured 66 votes and Sir Cowasjee Jehangir has secured 63 votes. I, therefore, declare Mr G V. Mavalankar to be duly elected by the Legislative Assembly as its President All that is necessary now is to secure the approval of His Excellency the Governor General required by sub-section (1) of section 63C of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935 In order that the requisite approval may be obtained and communicated to the House, the House will re-assemble at half past two of the Clock to-day, until which time the House stands adjourned

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock

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The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr Chairman (Lt.-Col Dr J C Chatterjee) in the Chair

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MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

FAILURE TO CARRY OUT ASSURANCE re RAIL-ROAD CO-ORDINATION SCHEME

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General) Mr Chairman, you admitted an adjournment motion this morning I now move that that adjournment motion may stand over, till the 29th instant I hope the Government will agree to my motion

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport) I am in perfect agreement but I just question whether that is not a matter for the President when he takes the Chair

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) It is a matter for whoever is in the Chair when the motion is made

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am perfectly agreeable on behalf of Government to take up the adjournment motion on the next day, that is, Tuesday

Mr. Chairman: That being so, I waive the urgency and agree that the adjournment motion be taken on the 29th at such time as the Honourable the President may direct.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT—*contd.*

Mr. Chairman: I have received a Message from His Excellency the Governor General. The Message is as follows:

"In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (1) *of section 63C of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Archibald Percival, Viscount Wavell, hereby signify that I approve the election by the Legislative Assembly of Mr. Ganesh Vasudeo Mavalankar as President of the said Assembly.*

(Sd.) WAVELL,
Governor General."

NEW DELHI;
The 23rd January, 1946

Before I ask the Honourable Mr. Mavalankar to take the Chair, I would very much like to say just a few words to congratulate him most warmly on his election to the exalted office of the President of the Legislative Assembly of India It is an office which any man may be proud of and we feel that not only Mr. Mavalankar has great reason to be proud of the choice of this House but also that the House itself can well be proud that a man of his undoubted ability, eminence and high-mindedness has been elected to this high office Mr. Mavalankar has not been in this House for very long, but that does not show that he is in any way a stranger to us. He comes to this House to occupy the exalted office of its President with a great record of work behind him, a record of eminence and of distinction A leading member of the bar of the Bombay High Court where he has distinguished himself for many years and in many ways, he has also distinguished himself by his work as President of the Legislative Assembly of Bombay, of which he had been President since 1937 That fits him, I am sure all Honourable Members will agree, to occupy this exalted position with the experience and eminence which such an office requires from its occupant

While we congratulate him most whole-heartedly, I am sure Honourable Members will agree that the duties on which Mr Mavalankar is now about to enter are by no means a bed of roses, particularly at this time when our country stands at a critical period, he will have to exercise great patience, and of course undoubted judgment, but I also say great patience because once he occupies this exalted Chair he becomes the custodian of the rights of this House, not of one party or of another, but of every party and of every section, and from what I have heard of his work and his eminence, I feel sure that in his hands the interests of this House, its dignity and its position are fully secured, that every Member to whatever party he may belong or whatever his position in the House, we may look up to him for impartial judgment and as the protector of the rights of every individual member of this House.

If I could venture to take a peep into the mind of Mr. Mavalankar, I feel that at this time he has not quite the same feeling of elation and joyfulness which his colleagues here feel and will no doubt express, but that at this time he must be feeling how great is the burden, how heavy the responsibility which he now undertakes I feel that at this time we ought to pledge to him our support because he has been elected President of the whole House and as far as I can say I can assure him that such support will be forthcoming from every section of the House who have now elected him to be their President I also feel that at this time he has the support of his countrymen, but he also ought to have their good wishes, their co-operation and above all their prayers that in this great work which he is now entering upon he may receive all the strength, the wisdom and the guidance which only comes from Providence on high, and with these words I welcome the Honourable Mr Mavalankar to the Chair and ask him to occupy it

[Thereupon Mr Chairman (Lt.-Col Dr J. C Chatterjee) vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar).]

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House) Sir, it is my privilege as Leader of this House to offer you the warm congratulations of Government on your election and confirmation to your high office. No one has doubts of your eminent qualifications for the arduous and responsible task which has fallen to you. As the Chairman has said, you come to this House with a very high reputation on account of your distinguished record as President of the Bombay Legislative Assembly Sir, you will enter on your duties today with goodwill from all sides as the acclamation has shown and you will, I have no doubt at all, carry the confidence of all parties in fulfilling the task with impartiality and fairness to all parties and every individual in the House. Sir, I wish to assure you of Government's loyal and firm support in upholding the dignity of the Chair and, Sir, I cordially wish you every success.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. President, in my capacity as Leader of the Opposition and also on behalf of the Congress Party in this Assembly, and, if I may add, on my own behalf as well, I offer you our heartfelt congratulations on your elevation to the Chair. It is true, Sir, that you are new to this particular Chair; but you bring with you experience of similar duties in the Presidency of Bombay and you bring with you reputation for understanding and wisdom, fairness and impartiality. Your services to the country have been manifold. You have borne the cross with great courage and determination and of the many services you have rendered to the country for the last two decades or more, to my mind, there is nothing more conspicuous than the life you have led. You bring before us an example of a life lived for the attainment of the highest ideals—intellectual, political and spiritual. I have no doubt, Sir, that you will uphold the great traditions which were created by one who was your predecessor in the same Chair—, I mean the late Shree Vithalbhai Patel

The constituency which has called upon you to enter upon your duties in this Assembly, had the unique honour and privilege of calling upon two worthy sons of India in the past—Shri Vithalbhai Patel and Shree Bhulabhai Desai. We are proud of you, Sir, and, if I may add, we are proud that it has been given to us, the Congress Party, to put in the Chair a person whose reputation for honesty, integrity and independence can hardly be surpassed On this occasion I cannot forget,—and I hope the House will not take it amiss—that attempts were made to break the convention which had been created several years ago; and I would like to congratulate the House on its re-establishing the convention. I shall not detain you or the House any more. Sir, I congratulate you once more and I congratulate the House once more

***Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan** (Meerut Division Muhammadan Rural) Mr. President, on behalf of the Muslim League Party I offer you congratulations on your election to the high and responsible office of the President of this Assembly. Now, Sir, that you have been elected to this office, we hope and trust that you will not be influenced in any way by your party affiliations and that you will act in an impartial and just manner as the custodian of the rights and privileges of every section of this Honourable House

Sir, the Honourable Leader of the Congress Party has mentioned or referred to some convention I think that it would have been much better if the Honourable Member had explained as to what he meant by "well established convention" We who proposed the name of Sir Cowasjee Jehangir for this office did so, because we felt that it should not be the right, the sole right, of only the Hindus and Muslims, to occupy this high office We felt that the other minorities also should have an opportunity, if there was a suitable, a capable and a distinguished Member of this House for.....

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): And a Nominated Member!

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend says "a Nominated Member" Unfortunately the Parsee community has no door of its own to enter this Honourable House.

An Honourable Member: What about Mr. Masani?

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend refers to Mr. Masani. Mr Masani has entered this House through the votes of those Honourable Members here and he is not here as the representative of the Parsee community.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): How did Sir Cowasjee Jehangir come to this House last time?

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I note that the Honourable Members of the Congress Party have scanty regard for any other community except their own, the Hindus.

Several Honourable Members: Question!

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: I am sorry, Mr. President, I had no intention on this occasion at least to refer to any such matter but my Honourable friends on my right have provoked me to say so.

Several Honourable Members: Oh!

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: I can assure them that the more the provocation the greater will be my stand for the rights of the Muslims and the other minorities.

To you, Sir, I offer on behalf of my party all good wishes in the discharge of the onerous and responsible duties on which you have entered and I wish to assure you that my party will be, as it has always been, anxious to co-operate with you in maintaining the privileges and the dignity of this Honourable House.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam European): It is in no conventional sense that I rise on behalf of the European Group to offer you our sincere and whole-hearted congratulations on your election to this great office to assure you of our unqualified and ungrudging support and to affirm our belief that you will guide the affairs of this House with wisdom and impartiality. We in this Group come from a country whose pride it is to have given birth to the Parliamentary tradition and we realise to the full that the President of this Honourable House, as is the case with the Speaker of the House of Commons, is the focal point of that Parliamentary tradition It follows that in so far as we maintain your dignity we maintain our own, in so far as we offer to you unquestioning obedience so far we teach the public at large to accept without question the decisions of the Legislature In every respect the more honour we give to you, the more honour we show to the Legislature itself and the more firmly we establish the Parliamentary tradition in this country It follows from these considerations that now that you, Sir, have been elected to your high office, you have become the representative not of a section or of a party but of the whole House and you are therefore entitled to expect from every party and every individual of this House complete and unwavering support in the discharge of your duties On behalf of this Group, I give you the fullest promise that that support will be forthcoming and we, for our part, have no doubt whatsoever that in return for that support from all parties, you will protect them all alike, impartially and without regard to their different shades of political opinion

My last word is this It is our earnest hope that under your wise guidance the dignity of this House may be enhanced, that its powers may be extended and that before your term of office is finished this House, which is now a subordinate legislature, may be translated into a fully sovereign body In the meantime it will be our aim to give you every assistance in the fulfilment of those difficult and responsible duties which you have taken upon yourself.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda (United Provinces Landholders): I congratulate myself and the whole country on your occupying that Chair. May I say that India is greatly honoured. It is my earnest prayer that you will establish Indian traditions and Indian conventions and scrap all those of the past. The rules made by a Government that does not represent the will of the people should and must be scrapped. In establishing new conventions and such other privileges, I pray that you will not exclude the discussion of provinces where section 93 has become obnoxious I trust that we, the unattached Members who are in the role of *dhobi ka Kutta*, will get as good an innings from your hands as the other parties in this House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) I do not propose to say many words. I really feel overwhelmed at the very kind words that have been said about me and I do feel the weight of the expectations about me I am thankful to the House for the great honour they have done me and for the confidence they have reposed in me. The burden cast on me is very heavy but I hope that I shall be able to shoulder it with the co-operation and good will of all sides of the House. The rights and privileges of Members will always be my first

[Mr. President]
concern and I shall try my best to so conduct myself as to maintain the best traditions of democratic institutions I do not think I need say anything further Honourable Members, I thank you very heartily again

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House) With your permission Sir, I would like to make a short statement about the business of the House next week When the question of the food debate was considered yesterday, some Honourable Members expressed the view that one day would not be sufficient for the discussion of Bretton Woods The discussion on the Bretton Woods Agreement has been put down for Tuesday the 29th In order to meet that point of view, I am suggesting for the consideration of the House that it might be possible to meet at 2-30 P M on Monday, following His Excellency the Governor General's address in the morning, and that the Bretton Woods motion may be put down for the afternoon of the 28th and continued on the 29th There would, of course, be an adjournment motion which has been adjourned from today and which would be taken presumably at 4 P M on the 28th Therefore there would be an hour and a half's discussion on Bretton Woods on Monday the 28th and it will be continued the next day

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) Does it leave enough time for proposing amendments to the Bretton Woods Resolution?

Mr President The Honourable the Leader of the House must give time for the amendments to be proposed

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As the discussion will be carried on to the next day, I think that would give adequate time

Mr. President: Is that arrangement acceptable to the House? As the *Chehlum* holiday is being observed tomorrow, there will be no meeting of the Assembly tomorrow I fix a meeting of the Assembly at 2-30 P M on Monday following the Governor General's address in the morning

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: May I just be clear on one point I understood that when Dr Chatterjee was in the Chair the adjournment motion would be taken on the next day of business I am quite willing to have the adjournment motion on the 29th

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General) We want the adjournment motion to be postponed to the 29th

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is suitable to Government

Mr. President: I think it was made clear when the Honourable Member's statement was made The adjournment motion will be taken up on Tuesday the 29th instant at 4 P M

The Assembly then adjourned till Half Past Two of the Clock on Monday the 28th January, 1946

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 28th January, 1946

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ADDRESS TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

His Excellency the Governor General, having arrived in procession with the Honourable the President of the Legislative Assembly, took his seat on the Dais at Eleven of the Clock

His Excellency the Governor General: I have not come here to make any novel or striking political announcement, but simply to meet the newly-chosen representatives of India—those of you who are here, and to speak to you a few words of welcome and encouragement

The intentions of His Majesty's Government have, I think, been made sufficiently clear They have a determination to establish a new Executive Council formed from the political leaders, and to bring about a Constitution Making Body or Convention as soon as possible I cannot enter into any details at the moment of the methods by which these bodies will be formed and how the difficulties, of which we are all fully conscious, will be surmounted Nor do I think it wise to try to set a date or dates for steps to India's freedom. I can only assure you that they have a priority label both in Delhi and Whitehall I ask you for your cooperation and goodwill in our great task.

In this session you have already debated on adjournment motions some of the pressing questions of the day Proposals for legislation will be put before you by Government spokesmen These include some important measures which are the result of most careful deliberation, and which I think will, if passed by the Legislature, advance the credit and welfare of India I do not speak with any intention of influencing your votes It may be that you will think it right, some of you, to vote against the Government on almost every issue and to inflict the maximum number of defeats If you believe that this is your political duty I have nothing to say, I may think that it will be a short-sighted policy to prevent or delay legislation that is likely to be of real benefit to India; but that is for you to decide

I do claim, however, that you should not, in the course of the debates in this House during this session, say anything which may reduce the chances of my forming a political Executive Council, affect adversely the prospect of a settlement on the main constitutional issues, or increase the bitterness already abroad in the country Enough, and more than enough, animosity has been caused during the elections to the Central Assembly; and the Provincial elections are likely to have the same effect It would be a great help to me, and I think to the leaders of your parties, if moderation could be studied in all speeches here during this session.

I hope and believe that the period of destructive work in the Assembly is near an end If I am successful in forming a new Executive Council with the support of the principal parties, you will have a very great deal of most important constructive work to put in at your next session Legislation by ordinance is not at all to my taste and I very much hope that you will then relieve me of the necessity to use my powers, even though it may involve long sittings to get through all the proposals put before you.

I think the Parliamentary Delegation have received a very general welcome to India and that they have impressed those who have met them with their earnestness and sincerity, and of the general desire in Great Britain to achieve a lasting and peaceful settlement I am sure that they have made it quite clear that their purpose is not to delay the programme of His Majesty's Government, but to inform themselves, and thus their parties, of present conditions and opinions in India.

[His Excellency the Governor General]

At the moment all our minds are inevitably concentrated on the great political issues shortly to be decided Some of you may alternate between ardent hopes and chilling fears I for my part am firmly optimistic, believing in an old and homely proverb "Where there's a will there's a way"

But while the political issues are discussed, the administration of India has to go on, the people have to be fed, clothed and housed in the best way that our resources permit, law and order have to be maintained, plans for development must be prepared, vital decisions affecting India's whole economic future have to be taken My much maligned colleagues have served India well and have had her true interests at heart, I believe that any new Government is likely to adopt many of their ideas They are all, without exception, ready and willing to hand over their responsibilities at the earliest moment to their successors, to whom they will wish good fortune and godspeed in their difficult but vital task.

Gentlemen, it only remains for me to give you my good wishes for your work in this momentous Assembly On you rests a great responsibility for the freedom and greatness of India I would say this to you in conclusion and say it with all the conviction at my command that in all great constitutional changes success has been achieved only by a spirit of mutual understanding and concession between the parties concerned

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr. G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

MEMBERS SWORN

Dr B K Madan, M L A, (Government of India Nominated Official), and Hony Lt -Commander Aftab Ali (Nominated Non-Official)

ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Mr. President: In pursuance of order 5 of the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, I have to announce that I propose to fix Tuesday, the 5th February, 1946, as the date for the election to the office of Deputy President of this House

Each member wishing to propose another member as a candidate for election will ascertain that the candidate is willing to serve if elected, and will hand to me not later than 12 noon on Friday, the 1st February, a notice, showing the name of the candidate, signed by the proposing member himself and by some other member as seconder

As soon as possible after the notices have been handed in I propose to read out the names of the candidates, together with their proposers and seconders, and if there is more than one candidate, to take the ballot on Tuesday, the 5th February, 1946

The Secretary will issue a circular informing Honourable Members of the method by which the ballot shall be held

CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, (*Second Amendment*)

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, (*Second Amendment*)"

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

Mr. President: As regards the motion which stands in the name of the Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands, I would like to make clear the procedure which I propose to follow. In order that the House may be in possession of the whole matter, I would call upon the Mover as well as those who have tabled the amendments just to move the motion and the amendments without any speeches That will place the House formally in possession of the whole business including the amendments Then, the Honourable Mover will say whatever he has to say in support of his motion. Afterwards, the other members will, of course, take part in the discussion Movers of amendments will follow and the debate will proceed

We have for this purpose about six hours in all, 15 minutes more or less. It would be better if we fix not a very hard and fast time-limit but some kind of time-limit for speeches I would propose about 30 to 40 minutes for the Mover of the motion and the Leaders of Parties and about 20 minutes for other speakers. I think that will be very reasonable and fair, but if Honourable Members have to suggest anything else, I shall be glad to consider the point

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) May I submit, Sir, that this is a very important subject and in order to enable at least the principal speakers from each party, I would request you to make half an hour for ordinary speakers as has been done in this House before

Mr. President: When I said Leaders of Parties, what I really meant was principal speakers on behalf of the party It is not that I shall give 40 minutes only to the Leaders of Parties, but whosoever is appointed by the party to speak on that motion or amendment would have ample time That is what I mean

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) Sir, with regard to the first part of your statement, it has been the practice in this House to allow all the amendments to be moved one after another without speeches But with regard to the Mover himself, the practice has been that he should move his motion and then make his speech That will help other Members to decide whether they should move a particular amendment or not. For instance, here there are certain amendments to censure the Government for having done certain things If he makes it clear in his speech that the Government does not deserve a censure, then probably some of the amendments may not be moved Therefore, I suggest that the better course will be for the Mover to move his motion and make his speech also. Afterwards, all the amendements can be moved and the House can proceed with their discussion

Mr. President: I may say that I had considered that point of view

My point of view was a little different with reference to this matter It is true that the amendments are before the House and it would be proper, to my mind, that the House should be in possession of them and there should be no discussion or debate on a motion or amendment which is not formally before the House Instead of the Mover of the motion anticipating the amendments and speaking on them, it is better that he should know from the beginning as to what the amendments before the House are.

It is still possible that some of the amendments may not be moved, at the beginning, by agreement of parties In that case, the time taken up by the Mover of the Motion for arguing matters or giving replies to amendments, simply because they are on the agenda, would be saved and the position will be more regular because the House will be formally in possession of all these amendments In view of the other difficulty pointed out by Honourable Members, I would suggest that in case it is afterwards found that a particular amendment need not be there, it can be easily withdrawn.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind· Muhammadan Rural): I submit that once an amendment is moved, then it becomes the property of the House and it will be for the House to decide whether an amendment should be withdrawn or not. For instance, I have an amendment on this subject and when the Mover makes his speech, I will decide whether my amendment should stand or

[Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon]

should be withdrawn. In that light, I do submit to the Chair whether it would not be possible for the Mover to move his resolution and make a speech and leave it to those persons who have tabled amendments to decide whether they want to move the amendments or not.

Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee (Chittagong Division: Muhammadan Rural): Technically speaking, if I move a Motion in the House, then I have also my right to speak on that motion If I do not do it, then I shall be speaking twice in the House, and therefore if there is a substantive motion, no amendment can be moved until the Mover has explained to us what he means May I therefore respectfully suggest that there is room for some revision of the procedure which you have laid down.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam European) The suggestion of my Honourable friend Mr Ishhaq Seth would be very convenient If we can hear the Government case, then Honourable Members can decide whether to move amendments or not and the debate would be more realistic I would support the suggestion that the Mover should speak on his resolution after moving it

Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural) That has been the practice in this House

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan) We have no objection to the proposition that has been made, namely, that the Honourable Finance Member should move his Motion and also make a speech, and then others who have tabled amendments should decide afterwards whether to move them or not If that is the feeling of the House, we have no objection to it

Mr. President: If that is the general feeling in the House, I have no objection. I have explained to the House the reasons which prompted me to suggest that course Now, looking to the desire of the House and also the previous practice we will continue in the old manner I have no objection

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member) Sir, I move

"That this House welcomes the proposals for setting up an International Monetary Fund and an International Bank for reconstruction and development as set out in the Final Act of the Bretton Woods Conference and also welcomes the action taken by the Government of India in adhering to the Agreements as an Original Member"

Sir, in moving this Resolution, I seek the indulgence of the House, and I know I shall not seek it in vain For me, this is rather a high ordeal, for this is the first occasion in the whole of my life that I have been called upon to make anything that may be dignified by the name of 'speech' Having spent most of my career in the public service in the United Kingdom, where bureaucrats are very occasionally seen, but never heard, it is a little hard to be thrust into this forum of debate, where as I know from observations when I was out in India in 1937-39, the standard of oratory and skill in controversy are very high, standards which as we have seen in the last few days are fully maintained I remember listening with pleasure to the many debates in those days and admired the skill of such people as Mr Bhulabhai Desai, whose absence from this House I personally regret, and Mr Satyamurti whose mastery of language, coupled with his passionate devotion to any cause he espoused made him the most formidable debator But, Sir, I can claim to have none of those qualities and I apologise to the House in advance for my inadequacy as a debator. I will do my best.

In moving this Resolution, as an alternative to the several adjournment motions that were put down, my object was to widen the scope of the debate so as to focus the attention of the House to what I regard as the most important feature in it, that is to say, whether this House is prepared to annul and revoke the action taken by the Government in committing India to be a member of the Bretton Woods Agreement. I want to be perfectly clear. The issue before the House, from the Government point of view, is whether or not India has now to

withdraw from the Bretton Woods arrangements I have already, on more than one occasion, in answer to questions and otherwise made it clear that that is exactly what the Government is going to do It will abide by the decision of the House But my Motion, if you look at it, also covers the points that are sought to be raised by my Honourable friend Mr Manu Subedar in his amendment, namely, whether it was in the interest of India to adhere to the Fund and the Bank as an original member

Let me take the second point first, although as I have said, I myself regard it as of much less importance than the first point It is true that my predecessor, in answer to a question on the floor of this House, gave a pledge that, once the United Kingdom and the United States had declared their attitude to the Bretton Woods Agreement, he would bring the matter before this House, before the question of adherence of India to the arrangement arose Now, Sir, the circumstances under which that pledge was given are very different from the circumstances under which Government found itself when it had to make up its mind whether to commit India to the Fund and the Bank, and that was that a decision had to be taken before 31st December of last year Every original member of the Fund had to declare its attitude and deposit certain documents before 31st December and there was no opportunity to consult this House before that decision was taken As you will observe, that pledge was, once the attitude of the United States and the United Kingdom had been revealed, at that stage the Government would bring the matter before the House Circumstances, as I said, had changed completely in that this House was dissolved on 1st October It would not have been possible or profitable or practicable to discuss the question of India's attitude to these Institutions before the attitude of the United Kingdom had been revealed To break a pledge, of course, is a serious matter, but there are circumstances under which a breach of pledge is justified If, for example, my Honourable friend Mr Sinha undertook, on the 1st January of this year, to pay me Rs 10,000 in legal tender notes of one thousand rupees on 1st February, then if the circumstances had arisen which would have prevented him from carrying out that pledge, I would not regard it as dishonourable on his part The Government did its best to carry out the spirit, if not the letter, of the pledge in that it consulted those interests, or the representatives of those interests, whom it thought were the most affected, immediately affected by the decision I also gave an undertaking in the letters which I addressed to those bodies that, if the decision of the House—I promised to bring this matter before the House as soon as possible—was in the negative, then the Government would not hesitate to withdraw from the Fund and the Bank There is no technical difficulty whatsoever in so withdrawing All that needs to be done is to write a letter to Washington giving notice of withdrawal and it takes effect from the date of receipt of letter If it is accepted by the House that it is in India's interest to adhere to the Agreement, then the point at issue is whether there was any particular advantage in joining the Fund and the Bank before 31st December and thus become an original member of these two Institutions

I submit that there are distinct advantages In the first place we knew the conditions on which we join it, they are fully and clearly set out in the Agreements themselves. A member who applies for membership after the 31st December 1945 can only join on such conditions as the Fund and the Bank may prescribe, and they may well be less favourable than those on which we have accepted membership. Secondly, by adhering as an original • member India was certain of a seat on the executive directorate as an elected member and would thus be in a position to guide, from the very beginning, all policies which will determine the working of the Fund and the Bank in future. I do not pretend to have the gift of prophecy, but as matters have turned out, owing to the fact that the Union of Soviet Republics have not joined as an original member, India becomes one of the big five of the Fund and the Bank, and, as such, becomes an appointed Director and not an elected Director and also has the privilege of holding a part of the resources of the Fund and the Bank in this country. As I say, I do not claim any credit for that myself. Thirdly, by

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adhering as an original member India has undoubtedly enhanced her ever-growing international status and prestige Finally, by her action India has avoided the risk of raising resentment in the United States where the Administration warmly support the Agreement, and India will have a great deal to do with the United States in the future

The action of Government in committing India as an original member of these two institutions was warmly welcomed by the economic press of this country I submit, therefore, that, on the assumption that the House agrees that it is to India's advantage to become a member of these two institutions, the action of Government was entirely warranted Indeed, I have no doubt that if Government had not adhered, another motion of adjournment would have been put down censuring Government for not doing so It would have been alleged that this irresponsible Government does not hesitate to break pledges when it pleases it to do so but is prepared to take its stand on the sanctity of a pledge when it is not in its interest to break it I, therefore, proceeded on the principle that whatever you do is likely to be wrong and so you might as well do it quickly

I now turn to the Agreement itself I do not propose to go into any detail on what are rather complicated articles since the papers which I have circulated, particularly this short one, set out concisely, and I hope, clearly, what the Agreements are all about If Members have not read these documents carefully I hope that, before they come finally to vote, they will do so Secondly, judging by the number of adjournment motions put down, a large number of Members wish to speak Thirdly, if one of the amendments that have been put down is accepted, namely, to refer the question to a committee of the House before the House makes up its mind about it, there will be a further opportunity both in the committee and later on the floor of the House to go into the matter in greater detail For obvious reasons I cannot accept that portion of the amendments that seems to bring censure on Government because, as I have sought to show, the action that Government took was entirely justified, but as to the other parts of the amendments and as to one single amendment, namely, the suggestion that the question should be referred to a committee before final decision is taken, I myself think that it is advantageous in a matter of this sort, where the details are highly technical in certain cases, to have the matter thrashed out by selected Members of the House before the matter is finally disposed of on the floor of the House. I am, therefore, prepared to accept on behalf of Government Mr Haroon's amendment which seeks to set up a committee of nine members elected by the House I would make two suggestions to him One is that unless it is inherent in the amendment—I do not know enough about procedure to know that—that there should be a member of the European group, which contains several members who are able to make valuable contributions to the consideration of this question Secondly, I would much prefer the period given to the committee, namely, up to the 1st March, to be considerably shortened I think it would be possible for the committee to get through its work in a much shorter time and it would certainly be to the convenience of Government Dr Madan who took the oath today, has to get back to join the Tariff Board as soon as possible He was, as you know, the Secretary to the Indian delegation to Bretton Woods

Now, Sir, what does this rather formidable document containing the Articles of Agreement add up to? In a sentence, the two institutions seek to achieve in the monetary field an increase in international trade and, through that, the prosperity of all the countries of the world Economically all nations live in a single world, and no country can prosper if it lives in a state of economic isolation The Fund seeks to achieve its objective first by introducing order and stability, but not rigidity, into international exchange; secondly, by facilitating multi-lateral payments in respect of current transactions; thirdly, by providing a supplementary source of foreign exchange to tide over a temporary lack of balance in a country's international payments, thus enabling the

country concerned to resist the temptation of indulging in competitive exchange depreciation,—a feature which was very prominent in the inter-war period and wrought havoc with international trade The part the Bank will play is to facilitate the movement of capital to countries either devastated by war or countries with undeveloped resources, in order to raise their standard of life. India, if she is to achieve her full potentialities within a reasonable time, will, in my judgment, require large loans from abroad, and here is the means of obtaining them without the risk of domination of Indian industry by foreign capital

I do not pretend that these Agreements are perfect in all their detail, nobody would expect an agreement which was hammered out by 44 nations to satisfy everybody And indeed the Agreements have not been without their critics. I think three principal objections can be raised against the Agreements First, it may be argued that the Agreement was premature because it can only work effectively if it is buttressed by adequate international arrangements in the sphere of trade policy This criticism is, I think, entirely valid, to the extent that it is true that this Agreement does require such international trade arrangements and is in no way a substitute for them But international agreements cannot all be negotiated at the same time and we have got to make a start somewhere There is a general consensus of opinion that the Agreement must be followed by a trade agreement; and, as you know, the United States of America has recently tabled proposals for the expansion of world trade and employment and an international conference will be held in the early summer this year to consider and debate them And India has received and accepted an invitation to take part in those discussions Secondly, it may be argued, and indeed has been argued, that the Agreement will not work in the sense that the funds provided in it are inadequate This is an important argument, but it must first of all be borne in mind that the funds provided for in the Agreements are not intended to be the sole or even the main source of foreign exchange for debtor countries It is an entire misreading of the Agreement and of the purpose of the International Fund to make any such assumption In the main, countries must rely for normal supplies of foreign exchange upon exports and rendering services and, of course, on investment markets as they have done in the past It does not follow from this, however, that a supplementary source, such as is provided by the International Fund, is not only helpful but desirable; in practice the only currency likely to be scarce is the United States dollar.

3 P.M. And when the unworkability of the Fund proposals are talked of, what is really meant is that the Fund has only a limited amount of dollars at its disposal The Agreement does, however, provide means by which the supply can be increased The Agreement provides for a rationing of the currency that becomes "scarce"—in this case the dollar I admit it is not a very satisfactory way of dealing with the issue, but only time can really show whether the size of the Fund is adequate or not Much must turn upon the agreements reached between the nations in the near future on questions of tariffs, particularly United States tariff and trade policy, and upon the level of American spending upon such things as travel in foreign countries But it is not an argument against the Fund that under certain circumstances in the future, the present supplies of credit may prove insufficient.

Lastly,—and this is one of the most important objections used against the Fund—there are those who contend that the benefits from the Fund do not compensate for the loss of monetary sovereignty which it involves I am afraid that many who argue in this way are guilty of the logical fallacy of thinking that what may be good for a single country, if all other countries behave in a different way, will be equally good for the same country if all other countries act in the same way The benefit which a single country may derive from retaining unlimited monetary sovereignty may be considerable, provided all other countries accept limitation, because other countries may then be able to retaliate in full But the benefits may quite easily vanish altogether if all

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countries act on the principle of unlimited monetary sovereignty all the evils which this Agreement was designed to remedy might easily reappear in full measure and no one would benefit.

This Agreement affords India the opportunity, at a moment of grave import to the whole world, of taking full part in a new organisation of great significance and thus of assisting to shape the future course of world monetary history It is not merely that by not joining the Fund and the Bank India runs the risk that decisions may be taken which are not to her interest or that by non-adherence she would be debarred from the benefits of these new organisations These are important considerations, but to my mind they are not the decisive ones The decisive reason is that India is now by far the strongest and economically best organised country in Asia and should feel that economic leadership of the East is her proved prerogative

Mr. President: Motion moved

"That this House welcomes the proposals for setting up an International Monetary Fund and an International Bank for reconstruction and development as set out in the Final Act of the Bretton Woods Conference and also welcomes the action taken by the Government of India in adhering to the Agreements as an Orginal Member"

Amendments may now be moved.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, I move

"That for the original motion the following be substituted

'That this House condemns the action taken by the Government of India and the steps taken by them to signify the assent of India to join as member of the International Monetary Fund and International Bank as set out in the Final Act of the Bretton Woods Conference, in disregard of the assurances given to this House and to the public of India, that such action will not be taken till full information was given to the country at large and till the assent of this Assembly was secured,

That in order to determine what steps should be now taken, an *ad hoc* committee consisting of three nominees of the Congress Party, two nominees of the Muslim League Party, and two nominees of the Government should be appointed to go into this question and report at an early date to this House'"

Mr. President: Amendment moved

"That for the original motion the following be substituted

'That this House condemns the action taken by the Government of India and the steps taken by them to signify the assent of India to join as member of the International Monetary Fund and International Bank as set out in the Final Act of the Bretton Woods Conference, in disregard of the assurances given to this House and to the public of India, that such action will not be taken till full information was given to the country at large and till the assent of this Assembly was secured,

That in order to determine what steps should be now taken, an *ad hoc* committee consisting of three nominees of the Congress Party, two nominees of the Muslim League Party, and two nominees of the Government should be appointed to go into this question and report at an early date to this House'"

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson (Bengal European). Sir, I beg to move.

"That in the second paragraph of the amendment moved by Mr Manu Subedar after the words 'two nominees of the Muslim League Party', the words 'one nominee of the European Group', be inserted"

Mr. President: Amendment to the amendment moved

"That in the second paragraph of the amendment moved by Mr Manu Subedar after the words 'two nominees of the Muslim League Party', the words 'one nominee of the European Group', be inserted"

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor. Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, may I submit that we do not propose to move the other two amendments on the consolidated list, namely No. 3 standing in the names of Mr. Manu Subedar and Mr. N V Gadgil, and No. 4 standing in the name of Mr Venkatasubba Reddiar. But we have given notice of two further amendments—one by Prof Ranga and the other by me—to the amendment of Mr Manu Subedar We delivered these to the Notice Office, and they would have been circulated to the Members. In any case they are so small that while we read them, members can take all that in their mind.

Mr. President: I think the procedure suggested is that first we exhaust all the amendments that are already circulated to the Members and then we shall take up at the end the other amendments to the amendment moved by Mr Manu Subedar That will be proper so that the House may be in possession of the whole thing.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa Muhammadan) Mr Ayyangar's amendment has not been circulated to us

Mr. President: We will see to that later on First the Honourable Mr. Yusuf Haroon will move his amendment

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Sir, I move

"That for the original motion the following be substituted

'That this House recommends to the Governor General in Council that a committee consisting of 9 members to be elected by this House be constituted to examine the proposals for setting up an International Monetary Fund and an International Bank for reconstruction and development as set out in the Final Act of the Bretton Wood Conference and to report before first of March, 1946 what action would be in the highest interest of India' "

Mr. President: Amendment moved

"That for the original motion the following be substituted

'That this House recommends to the Governor General in Council that a committee consisting of 9 members to be elected by this House be constituted to examine the proposals for setting up an International Monetary Fund and an International Bank for reconstruction and development as set out in the Final Act of the Bretton Woods Conference and to report before first of March, 1946 what action would be in the highest interest of India' "

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division · Non-Muhammadan Rural). These also have not been circulated to us

Mr. President: We will consider that point of circulation later on

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Sir, I move ·

"That in the amendment moved by Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, after the word 'Conference', the following words be inserted

'and the action taken by the Government of India in adhering to the agreements as an original member without securing the approval of this House' "

Mr. President: Amendment to the amendment moved

"That in the amendment moved by Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, after the word 'Conference', the following words be inserted

'and the action taken by the Government of India in adhering to the agreements as an original member without securing the approval of this House' "

What is the other amendment which the Honourable Memeber (Prof N. G. Ranga) wanted to move?

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural). It is in substitution of clause 2 of Mr. Manu Subedar's amendment, and I move

"That for the second paragraph of the amendment moved by Mr. Manu Subedar the following words be substituted, namely

'That in order to determine what steps should now be taken, a Committee of this House consisting of nine Members be elected to go into this question and report at an early date to this House' "

Mr. President: Amendment to the amendment moved ·

"That for the second paragraph of the amendment moved by Mr Manu Subedar the following words be substituted, namely

'That in order to determine what steps should now be taken, a Committee of this House consisting of nine Members be elected to go into this question and report at an early date to this House'."

I take it that there are no further amendments now

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: One more Sir, I move

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Prof N G Ranga the following words be added, namely :

'and pending consideration by this Assembly of such report no further action be taken by this Government in respect of the said Fund or Bank'."

This is consequent. I have already given notice of it to the office.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I have not the least wish to object to the substance of these amendments but we have in the past got ourselves into a very bad tangle with this kind of short notice and by voting on amendments which were not circulated to the House Would it not be satisfactory for them to be circulated and then dealt with?

Mr. President: They will be circulated in due course before Honourable Members are called upon to vote on them

Amendment to the amendment moved

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Prof N G Ranga the following words be added, namely

'and pending consideration by this Assembly of such report no further action be taken by this Government in respect of the said Fund or Bank' "

So Honourable Members have now all the amendments before them. Mr Manu Subedar

Mr. Manu Subedar: In spite of his modesty, I think the Finance Member made a very clear statement but I am disappointed with it It is a very short statement because there is very little to say. They have accomplished what they wanted to accomplish The United Kingdom has got what it was out to get This country has been left in the lurch. Therefore, I am somewhat disappointed But I do not expect him to state our standpoint. I speak entirely impersonally I feel that these Finance Members who are sent down to us from the United Kingdom—my honourable friend is one of the permanent Under Secretaries at the India Office and a very distinguished member of the Home Civil Service—with the best will in the world find it impossible for them physically and psychologically to sense correctly the feelings and aspirations and problems of the Indian people

Sir, I will place before this House a very short resume of the origin of this Fund and Bank The House will remember that there were two plans, one by Lord Keynes and one by Mr. White of America creating two new schemes for monetary arrangement They involved the creation of the bancour and unitas *i e*, new international units Though these plans were sent across the Atlantic several times to each of the interested parties they never came to any conclusion and ultimately after prolonged discussion was born the Bank and Fund idea, which is partly from the American plan and partly from the British It is a compromise Even then, Sir, may I point out that America was most anxious to limit her obligations in respect of the Fund to 2,750 million dollars They could not be persuaded to create a fund that would be really useful for the purpose They created a very limited Fund May I point out that in the United Kingdom itself there were divergent opinions as regards the utility of this and they had a most heated debate in the middle of December last when quite a considerable number of eminent British statesmen in Parliament clearly advised that it was not in the interests of the United Kingdom to take up either the Anglo-American Monetary Agreement or the membership of this Bank and Fund They gave the reason that this Bank and Fund practically bring back the gold standard as they knew it after the last war and they were not prepared to come in

May I give a few dates which will open the eyes of this House On the 6th December the Anglo-American Agreement was signed in New York On the 13th December the British Parliament passed both the Anglo-American Loan Agreement as well as the Fund and the Bank Agreement On the 24th December the Government of India issued an Ordinance seeking the adherence of India to this Agreement and taking all the necessary powers and making all the consequential legislative changes Sir, it was after the 6th December that the Honourable the Finance Member approached privately and confidentially some commercial people and tried to find out what would be the view taken of Government's action in case they joined this as an original member. Sir, I feel that there has been an unseemly hurry to involve this country into commitment to these two institutions which involve an enormous amount of contribution, something like Rs. 250 crores. I think there has been some

landslide somewhere even in the official opinion itself because it was no less a person than the Finance Member of India, his predecessor, who when he went to the Bretton Woods Conference and when he returned from there, said several times, and I have his quotations that India would have no interest in this Fund and Bank if the principal problem which was worrying India, namely the return of the sterling balances which have been accumulated in the United Kingdom, was not solved

Now, Sir, what has happened is this. The United Kingdom very badly wanted money to carry on with her current operations and to set her house in order The United Kingdom got this money by the Anglo-American loan and they swallowed this Bank and Fund, because they wanted this money and they got it. India wanted the solution of the sterling balances problem and India did not get it Still pursuant to a decree from London our Government a fully London-controlled Government, took action by themselves and joined it Sir, I do not want to ascribe motives As I said, there is nothing personal about this But I do feel that we are being hitched to the chariot wheel of the United Kingdom entirely for the convenience of the United Kingdom. India's experience in financial matters and in dealings, where the interests of India and England were in conflict, has been most unfortunate and it is not possible for us to shut our eyes to any action which is being taken Why is this action being hurried, when H E the Viceroy declared this morning that it is a matter of few months when responsible Government will be established here, when a new Executive Council is coming into being here, which will be responsible to the people? Does it make all that difference, the matter of a few months?

Let me deal with the advantages of original membership which were pointed out As in every club, the original members are original members, but the new member comes in subject to the rules to be made If a new member is eligible as an original member, could you imagine that that new member would not be eligible to enter later?

Sir, it is said that India's international status would improve if we joined What is the international status of a country which has no status at home? What is India s status in the international field? Let me put to you, Sir, India's experience with regard to international matters It has been most unfortunate Let me give one or two illustrations Take the question of UNRRA This House was persuaded to join the UNRRA They said we must join this organisation, that we must keep in the forefront with the other United Nations and that we must join every international organisation. We joined with a payment of 8 crores of rupees After that joining there was an acute famine in this country Three million people died according to official figures After that there was no medicine men died of malaria, cholera and plague No medicine was supplied to us Medicine was supplied to Greece and Czechoslovakia and Poland and to all other countries but the suffering of India passed unnoticed This Government did not even approach the UNRRA authorities for any help And, Sir, to add insult to injury, a delegation from the UNRRA came to this country and took away from here all sorts of things with our own money. Sir, all these things are needed very badly by our own people. This is the way we go to the UNRRA and now the U K Government has recently taken a decision that one per cent more of the revenue of a country will be the contribution from each member country of the UNRRA and I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will not have the cheek to ask this House to contribute something more to this international organisation, that we contribute it in the form of commodities which our own people need, so that they can be taken away from here for relief of people elsewhere, as if the sufferings of our own people did not matter

Take the other organisation, the UNO the United Nations Organisation Sir, I heard the speech of the Prime Minister of England, Mr Attlee, on the radio As each sentence was rolled out I applied it to the affairs of my country and I found insincerity and hypocrisy in every sentence of his as I applied it to this country. That is the place of India in the international organisa-

[Mr. Manu Subedar.]

tion. Little Holland got elected to the Directorship of the Security Council. Peru, a South American Republic got elected to this Council but India is nowhere India is relegated to the social and economic field, with our representative Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar! "Social", what is our place socially in the world or even in the British Empire itself? We have the acute trouble in South Africa which is coming before this House very soon What is our place in this world, in the international field? Our place in our own country is not very definitely established and I look with very great suspicion on every effort to drag this country into these international organisations Take the last conference from which my friend Mr Iyengar has returned Did this country not suffer more in men and in material damage one way or the other and in disease on account of the war than any other country in the world? And yet the amount of reparations that this country has got from the total which is coming from Germany is the magnificent sum of 2 per cent and our Government are now telling us that this is an extraordinary achievement for India that we got as the share of India 2 per cent of the reparation payment which is coming to the United Nations This is the feeling with which we approach these international shows so far as sentiment is concerned But so far as the question of material damage is concerned I say that the first and the last question which worries us is that of the sterling balances Until this question is decided it is not possible for us to be a party to the risking of one more rupee over these international shows, over these *tamashas* into which India is dragged as the henchman of Britain—a position which India does not want in any international organisation India would like of her own right to go to these international organisations and play a role worthy of her It is no use telling us "You are the leaders of the economic life of Asia". It is no use, as the War Secretary told us the other day, that India is one of the great Allied Powers which share the victory over enemy countries All these wordy functions do not carry us very far What we want is a complete solution of the sterling balances problem I want to place before this House the fact that it was the view of this Government, of the official as well as the non-official members to the Bretton Woods Conference, of the hand-picked team who were members of the Reconstruction Committee and the Policy Committee, who were brought up here and feted and feasted, even these henchmen of yours put it down as one of the essential conditions before India joined the Bretton Woods Bank and Fund that the whole question of sterling balances should be settled My friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir will remember last year, at the time of the budget, how he and I were in complete agreement On my interruption he agreed with me that the negotiation should be taken up here and now It was the Finance Member who opposed that sterling negotiation should be taken up with His Majesty's Government immediately If, Sir, you had not put any time limit I would have read copious extracts which I have got here from Sir Jeremy Raisman, from Mr Shroff, from various newspapers with reference to my friend's suggestion that the Indian press welcomed the step taken by Government I can show him dozens of cuttings in which it is clearly stated that they do not welcome it Let me read a portion of a cutting from the *Dawn*, the daily newspaper in Delhi, which according to me and my lights, has taken the most sensible outlook on this subject Dealing with this subject in a headline which is called "Unwelcome Plan" the *Dawn* says

"No amount of whitewashing by the Government of India can disguise the fact that India which is subservient to Britain both politically and economically is being forcibly dragged into a financial agreement which is unwelcome to her . . . 'Fortunately, however, there is a provision in the plan that India is not to be permanently committed to it and that she could withdraw from it without any previous notice Sooner or later the newly elected Assembly will have to decide to stay or get away from it"

Economic opinion throughout this country is not in favour of joining this fund On the contrary there have been many dissentient voices and all those people who understood, who had the courage not to be involved and inveigled in official propaganda which is sent round from one end of the country to the

other, those who had the courage to look at it from the purely Indian standpomt have always urged, not in a spirit of isolationism but in a spirit of apprehension, that India may not be involved, that the already shattered economy of this country may not be further shattered, and that with some of our assets already imprisoned in the United Kingdom—that we may not add any more uncertain assets to them I read from Sir Jeremy Raisman

"In the absence of a satisfactory solution of this problem (*namely, the problem of sterling balances*), the prospects of India's willingness to adhere to the scheme would be considerably prejudiced"

"Referring to Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas' suggestion that India should not participate in any international plan until a scheme for the liquidation of sterling balances had been drawn up, (the Chairman said that) this was a matter which would require a great deal of discussion, and it was not possible for the U K to proceed with the formulation of such a scheme unilaterally In his opinion the criteria to apply to the scheme was whether it would facilitate or hamper the solution of the problem of sterling balances It was clear that His Majesty's Government thought that they could reach an agreement as to the principles on which such balances would be treated and they were further preparec and able to accept in full the obligations of forming the fund"

Mr A D Shroff speaking at the conference on July 7, 1944 suggested·

"I should like to make it clear that so far as India is concerned public opinion anc feeling on this question have not only been unanimous but extremely strong, and unles some method is devised to facilitate the solution of what is an extremely important matte for us the ultimate attitude of our country towards the International Monetary Fun which is proposed to be established will be largely influenced by the decision of the Con ference on this question"

Sir, on the issue of sterling balances I will say only a few words The sterling balances are not a loan by us to the United Kingdom. They are a compulsory levy, taken in the form of goods and services which were badly needed in our country, taken away at a time when they were very seriously required They were taken away at controlled prices, prices at which most of us could not get those goods, and it is extraordinary that there are certain sections in the United Kingdom who have not the decency and the sincerity to acknowledge this, and who are already talking one way or the other of scaling down, denying payment, attenuating or otherwise cutting down these amounts They are doing so on two grounds one is that we have overcharged England On that, the Parliamentary committee has already given a finding, and that is that these materials were secured at very reasonable prices and in most cases cheaper than they could have been secured in the United Kingdom itself The other ground which is given out is that "We cannot afford to pay we have got the will but not the ability to pay" This ground is altogether futile My friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, may remember how dollars and dollar securities were requisitioned—I had to sell off my dollar securities in order to give away the dollars to His Majesty's Government who were collecting dollars compulsorily from all British subjects If that was so, may I ask why the considerable assets of British nationals in this country, now standing at a somewhat inflated value should not be mobilised and used to solve the U K's sterling debt problem? I hope my friend Sir Theodore Gregory will agree with me—but I estimate their worth at something like 1,200 to 1,300 crores I estimate this as the assets of the British people Do not make a mistake I am not suggesting that the Government of India should touch any one of these assets. I am making a suggestion to His Majesty's Government that you have the sincerity, if you have the will to pay, here is your power to pay All the categories of British assets in this country may or may not be mobilised immediately by His Majesty's Government for being sold in rupees here and the corresponding sterling being given to the British nationals so that our inflation problem also gets reduced and the reduction of the sterling balance problem also is eased I suggest this because if there is a will to pay and the honesty and the sincerity to carry out the obligations which were incurred then this is the proper method

Whom are we to believe in this matter? We had on the sterling issue

[Mr Manu Subedar]

not choose to take the opportunity today to repeat those assurances. The

I share his entire confidence that these debts will be honoured"

Then he goes on to say when and how

Lord Keynes speaking in July 1944 in that Bretton Woods Conference said

"We are grateful to those Allies, particularly to our Indian friends, who put their resources at our disposal without stint and themselves suffered from privation as a result Our effort would have been gravely, perhaps, critically, embarrassed if they had held back from helping us so wholeheartedly and on so great a scale . Nevertheless a settlement of these debts must be, in our clear and settled judgment, a matter between those directly concerned When the end is reached and we can see our way into the day-light we shall take it up without any delay to settle honourably what was honourably and generously given"

Sir, ten months have elapsed after the war stopped and they are still causing delay in settling honourably what was honourably and generously given This is the spokesman of the United Kingdom and this is the representative of the United Kingdom—His Excellency the Viceroy Am I to believe these words or am I to believe the words of Churchill, when he said

"Egypt would have been ravished and pillaged by Italian and German armies She would have been subjected to the horrors and indignities of invasion and subjection, had we not defended her by our life blood and strong right arm Is there to be no reconsideration of that? Are we not entitled to say "Here is our counter charge, we having defended you from the Axis powers" The same applies to the Government of India I specially referred to these matters in the cabinet in 1942 when I saw with disquietude these immense debts mounting against us"

The cat is let out of the bag by Mr Churchill in that debate in the House of Commons in December 1945 What is this? Since 1942 His Majesty's Government knew that these debts were accumulating, and since 1942 with a clear *arriere-pensee* and a *malafide* intention in their minds—they knew they would not be willing to pay back these debts This was the position Newspaper after newspaper in the United Kingdom—even the *Manchester Guardian*, that distinguished paper and various other papers have all descended to the filthy device and the filthy process of attacking the economy of this country, the convenience of its populations, the objects and aspirations of the various parties in this country—all leading up to the single issue as to how to evade, how not to pay, how to pay as little as possible and how to diddle and befool the people of this country with regard to the payment of these sterling debts Am I to believe Lord Keynes and His Excellency Lord Wavell? Or am I to believe Mr Churchill? When my honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall moved the motion of adjournment three days ago about the Anglo-American loan and agreement, the Honourable Finance Member said we had nothing to do with this and India was not bound by clause X of that agreement That is clause 10 of that Agreement which clearly provides for three categories of sterling debts, including the last category in which there is going to be a settlement on war accounts They can give it one name after the other—some ingenious name Anything will do so long as you don't pay India fully and properly An honourable debt is not being honourably repaid It will redound to the permanent dishonour of England and it will be one of the darkest chapters in the annals of Indo-British relations, if one pound out of the sterling balances is denied to us If any attempt is made to scale it down, you will have a situation in this country which you cannot imagine You will have bitterness against Britain of an order which you have never seen before and which you have not even imagined

This is the great problem which is worrying us and we feel that so long as a solution of this problem does not come we cannot go into this agreement Now, Sir, as time is pressing, all I will say is this The Government's own publication says that various secondary measures would be necessary and Sir Chintamani Deshmukh has clearly said that close consideration

should start with regard to controls of commodities, and with regard to exchanges Various materials would have to be prepared We have a par value to be declared under this agreement That par value has to be expressed in gold, because gold payments would have to be made or received on the par value I want to know whether the Finance Department here has gone into any of these materials Doubtless it will all come out in the Committee, I hope Have they got the materials ready? Take the issue of inflation itself My Honourable friend is surpassing all his predecessors' achievements and he has now achieved last week an addition to the note issue of this country of 13 81 crores—in one week That number 13 is very unfortunate May I say that if you go on using the printing press and issuing notes, you will be creating a serious situation in this country Your rupee has not got any providential dispensation Will it not go the same way as the rouble, the franc and the mark after the last war? (*An Honourable Member* "Why not?") Have you thought of the distress and the misery which your rising prices and your further issues involve for the people of this country? The Honourable Member has not told us but may I say, subject to any contradiction which he chooses to put, that from Casablanca to Hongkong, for the East and the West, even today Indian commodities are being taken away for the Allied Governments, for their troops, for the other Governments for their civil use and various outside countries, India is being denuded of commodities and goods which she needs badly Sir, the Finance Department of the Government of India is adding today to these sterling balances whose return from all accounts in the English newspapers is problematical What kind of wise finance is this, when you go on adding to a loan which others are seeking already to whittle down? If the United Kingdom publicists declare today that they will not be able to return to America, what chance have we of enforcing or securing the return of our sterling balances? England has not got money to pay to India but she gave away 16 million for Greece and an additional ten million loan only yesterday to Greece In other words we feel that in our relations with the United Kingdom we are not treated with that fairness, that decency, that honesty and that integrity which should subsist in the dealings between one country and another Therefore we are suspicious, we are apprehensive, with regard to every measure which is brought before us of this kind

Now, Sir, I will read only one sentence from Mr Morganthau in the closing conference at Bretton Woods He said "These proposals now must be submitted to the legislatures and the peoples of the participating nations They will pass upon what has been accomplished here"

These proposals were not submitted to the peoples and the Legislatures of this country According to Article XX of the Fund, adherence to this is to be signified according to the law of the country and what is the lawless law, as my friend said the other day? What is the law of this country—the ordinance We can do nothing in a reasonable and proper manner We must do everything by ordinance It is an entirely unsatisfactory situation and I ask how long it can go on

Now Sir, Mr Morganthau said further that this monetary agreement is but one step, of course, in the broad programme of international action necessary for shaping a free future The Honourable the Finance Member was worried as to the feeling in America through the action of this House with regard to the Fund and the Bank. He need not worry. The American people know very well what we are fighting for A free future for whom? They are well informed They know what we think about this They know that we are only standing out for our just rights and that we are for getting the control and direction of our economic affairs in our own hands What is this free future which Mr. Morganthau spoke? How can there be a free future when our status inside is so low, when our status in the Empire is not satisfactory and when there is an irremovable and irresponsible executive which is only concerned with passing laws and taking measures as directed from the United Kingdom? They are the masters and this is a subordinate branch of the administration. How can we

[Sir M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

have any confidence in this Government It is not in a spirit of isolationism that some of us feel very diffident with regard to India joining this Fund. India has never been an aggressive nation Therefore India will welcome, every kind of co-operation between one nation and another and we shall play our part, an honourable part, as and when it is possible in the future It is not in a spirit of sulking or of isolationism or any selfish calculation to do injury to others that we want to stand aside for the present A situation has arisen which Sir Theodore Gregory pointed out in a very able memorandum which he had made which I am afraid the Finance Member has misquoted That memorandum said that if any country stood out when the rest of the world joined the Fund or the Bank that country would be in a definitely advantageous position That position has been reached It was reached between the 6th December and the 24th December and yet the Finance Member, for reasons which I cannot envisage, did not take the advice which was tendered by his own advisers Sir, I feel that many problems would have to be gone through—the whole economic policy of this country with regard to tariffs trade, price levels, employment, post-war development and so on Where is the post-war development? That department has gone *phut* I do not know how its broken pieces will be picked There are so many uncertainties, before we can settle what is our par of exchange in gold and what sort of action we propose or envisage to take For example, in the next 90 days, the Honourable Member would have to tell the authorities of the Fund where we stand in the matter

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir

Mr. Manu Subedar: You will have to get your par value determined by representation and consultation with them

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Not just now

Mr. Manu Subedar: We understand each other If you want to do anything at all in the next 90 days, there are certain things which have got to be done This is an issue which needs very close examination This is an issue which, I assure you, none of us are approaching purely in a political sense We want to do the right thing for our country We want her to play a big and proper role but we do not want it to be dragged to the chariotwheel of the United Kingdom We do not want to take any share merely in it for the convenience of the United Kingdom According to Article XI, section I, there are certain disabilities of members if they remain non-members If we remain non-members it is inconvenient for the United Kingdom Therefore, we are dragged in It is not that our advantage or our standpoint is considered I feel that we ought to have this matter and all connected points thoroughly gone into and we will all keep an open mind At the present moment I feel that India ought not to join it, but if I am convinced that it would be in the highest interests of India after a close examination, I shall not stand obstinately against the action taken and we shall continue as members

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: Mr President, Sir, along with other Members I feel some difficulty in going through the network of amendments to amendments that have been tabled and moved today and I do feel that if my old and Honourable friend Mr Manu Subedar had decided to move his third amendment, it would not have been necessary for me to move my amendment to his Amendment No 1 on behalf of the European Group In referring to that, I would like to make it clear on behalf of *myself* and my colleagues that we do not join in the chorus of condemnation and censure which has been levelled on Government for joining the Fund We consider that confronted with the circumstances which faced them at the time, they took the only possible action in the right manner and at the right moment. And I agree with the Honourable the Finance Member that if they had sat still and done nothing about it and waited for the Assembly to be summoned, they would have been equally the subject of censure from the Benches opposite, and I think probably with better reason than any of those which had been advanced this afternoon. At the same time, whilst referring to the amendments, I would like to say that

we welcome the amendment which has been tabled in the name of Mr Yusuf Haroon because a committee, as Mr Subedar has pointed out, gives the House an opportunity to consider the technical aspects in an atmosphere, perhaps more detached than is possible here, of a matter which is, in any case exceedingly complex and on which, in any case, Members drawn from all parts of the House will have difficulty in arriving at the best and most correct decision. I should also like to say while speaking on the amendments and before coming to the subject of the Fund itself, that we as a Group, whilst recognising that the problems arising out of the Fund are of predominantly Indian concern, claim the right to be associated with the other Members of this House in forming the Committee which will consider the agreements relating to the Fund We do that not because we adhere to some kind of numerical calculation, but because we feel that even from Mr Subedar's point of view we have something sincere and valuable to contribute In this matter we have even if it is only a limited one, nonetheless a community of interests with our many colleagues here And I am quite prepared to say that from a purely Indian point of view there may have been some sins of omission as to procedure But I think that placed as the Government of India was without the Legislature sitting, with the date drawing near for the final notification of adherence to the Fund, and with the Fund itself the subject of debate in both the British and American Legislatures, it had no option but to take the step it did by executive action by giving its consent and taking the approval of the Legislature afterwards I will say, Sir, that we believe, and the fact is obvious, that in this matter Indian interests should predominate And I would like to add and to underline if I may say so that we also hold that when India goes into the Fund, she must wield not merely formal power but the reality of power, and that this power must and should be wielded by Indians and for Indians We do not differ from my Honourable friend Mr Subedar at all on that matter And having said that, I think I am entitled to add that if that point of view is accepted, as I feel it is on this side of the House a heavy responsibility rests on the House before it lightly throws away the opportunity of participating in a completely sovereign and independent capacity in one of the first of the great International Organisations to be set up after the war Although, whilst we welcome the idea of referring Sir Archibald Rowlands' proposals to a special Committee of the House, we also hope and would like to say now that we hope that when the Committee's report comes back, the House will consider it in the temper and at the level which a matter of this magnitude should command I mentioned the word 'sovereign' just now If I were to transfer it to another field, it looks to me, as one who in his ordinary work has to make perhaps specialised and enforced study of these matters that India is now being given her first opportunity to assert and to exercise real monetary sovereignty It is true that in doing so she will, as it were, put a portion of it into commission in the Fund along with the other nations, but the fact is that if she goes into the Fund, if the House endorses the action which has been taken and we go into the Fund on the terms communicated by Sir Archibald Rowlands today, India will be, whatever you may say in theory, in fact, exercising financial and monetary sovereignty of a very real and effective kind

I have always understood that one of the chief complaints of my Honourable friends on the other side has been that the rupee, as the symbol of the Indian financial machinery, is in some way subordinate to the pound Let me say this, that by going into the Fund you go in on terms which are in no sense subordinate to sterling and in no sense subordinate to the authorities who control sterling In fact, the rejection of the Fund proposals would, it seems to me, be the quickest way of returning to some kind of monetary dependence I realise, when we come to think of this in its broader and most far reaching

4 P.M. aspects, that the real crux of the criticism which can be levelled at the Fund Agreement on a very cursory reading is that it does not make it very clear how convertibility of India's very considerable sterling assets is to be attained We have all had the documents which were circulated with the Honourable the Finance Member's Motion which we are discussing

[Mr. Geoffrey W Tyson]

this afternoon Speaking for myself, I know and I think that any other fair minded person would agree on a perusal of them that India's case for convertability of her sterling balances was argued with great cogency, eloquence and persistence by our late Finance Member who was the Chairman of the Delegation which went to Bretton Woods I doubt very much whether the case could have been put at a better level or more clearly or with more real sympathy, if I may say so to my Honourable friend Mr Manu Subedar, with more real sympathy for the Indian point of view Similarly one of India's delegates, a distinguished businessman and an Economist of some standing coming from Mr Subedar's city, Mr A D Shroff put the matter in language which I think is worth repetition on this occasion He said

"We plead for the assistance of the Fund spread over a period of years to secure multilateral convertibility of at least a portion of our foreign balances I say this because with the long standing relationship between India and the United Kingdom and the traditional commercial ties between the two countries I take it that a large portion of our sterling balances will ultimately be utilised in obtaining capital goods from the United Kingdom I appreciate and very greatly sympathise with the difficulties of the United Kingdom now and in the early post-war period owing to the unfortunate loss of valuable foreign investments and, due to other difficulties, it is not likely that the United Kingdom will be in a position to reach a stage of free convertibility for sterling at an early date We therefore want conversion at least of a portion of our balances into other foreign currencies"

That was a point of view which was argued and repeatedly put forward, as I said, with considerable skill by the members of the Indian Delegation at various stages of the Conference The United States and the United Kingdom points of view were that in any case, if you take the total of war indebtedness, it amounted to a sum considerably in excess of the respective quotas which were to constitute the capital of the Fund, and if the Fund attempted to deal with the convertibility of the whole of these debts, it would very quickly become water-logged and it would break down and fail to perform its real short term functions Lord Keynes, on behalf of the United Kingdom Delegation, indicated in words, part of which my Honourable friend Mr Manu Subedar has quoted that the earliest possible opportunity would be taken to deal with the question of sterling indebtedness directly between the parties concerned The Honourable the Finance Member, I think, has very wisely circulated along with the other papers in connection with his resolution the terms of the Financial Agreement between the Governments of the United Kingdom and United States My Honourable friend Mr Manu Subedar referred to Article X which deals with this subject under the heading of 'Accumulated sterling balances' Here is set forth in brief detail a proposal which does go, at least some way, towards meeting the demands for convertibility of part of the sterling balances; and if the Anglo-American loan is ratified by both legislatures, that part of the balances which is mentioned in Article X, section 1, para. (a) is to come up for negotiation and discussion within twelve months of signing the agreement I suggest that the nexus between the Fund and the balances, which Mr Manu Subedar quite rightly on a literal interpretation of the terms of the Fund had declared to be excluded from the Fund—I suggest, Sir, that the nexus which honours the British promise is to be found in the connection with Article X which I have just quoted Now, Sir, when this goes to a committee, these and other details will be, I hope, taken up and discussed at some considerable length no doubt. I should like to say that we, as a Group, ourselves agree with the proposal of the Honourable the Finance Member that a shorter period of time may well be taken for the committee to present this report.

I may also say in conclusion that we also feel that the House would be foolish to take any action today, or indeed later on, which would prejudice India's undoubtedly strong position in her initial membership of the international monetary fund, and would be foolish to take any other action which would prejudice undoubtedly her equally strong bargaining position in respect of her sterling balances If I may quote here a homely adage which applies equally to finance, to politics and to surgery we would be very foolish to cut off our nose in order to spite our face.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, it is surprising to me that the Government should try to persist in a mistake which they inadvertently committed The British Government itself was forced to enter into this Monetary Fund and the Bank much against its will After the war, when England was reduced from a creditor country to a debtor country, the sterling balances due to Commonwealth countries increased enormously and England was obliged to rehabilitate itself by seeking the help of United States, because nothing more could be expected from India and other countries By that time, though India was not ravaged by the onrush of enemy hordes, yet she had been reduced to misery and starvation by the misrule of the British in this country More damage has been done during the war in this country not by the enemy hordes, but by hunger and starvation due to the inaction of Government and their neglect to take action in proper time Hundreds of millions of people have died on account of hunger We were reduced to the position of indenting for food from foreign countries to which we have ourselves been sending food till the other day India, which from time immemorial has been clothing the rest of the world, India where people had not known what it was to be naked had been reduced to the position of living on the bounties of others to clothe themselves That is the situation to which we were reduced during the war, and therefore now instead of being able to export we have been forced to import consumption goods That is the position to which we have been reduced It is true that during this period from being a debtor country to England we have become a creditor country, a thousand and odd millions are due to us from the United Kingdom The United Kingdom similarly owes about 400 millions to Egypt, and similar millions to Australia and Canada and other countries in the British Commonwealth It tried various devices, one device was to have a dollar pool where the legitimate dollars that were due to us in exchange for our goods which were exported to America were pooled not for our benefit but for the benefit of the United Kingdom. But all these devices did not avail her, and ultimately she was obliged to seek the aid of the United States of America as she sought the aid of that country during the war by way of lend-lease The United States wanted to dictate its own terms, it was waiting for an opportunity to be the controller of the economic and financial destinies of the whole world It was envious of Britain, London was ruling the markets of the world, sterling was ruling everywhere Sterling sold as gold itself, and now it became subordinate to the dollar That is the pride with which America today stalks over the rest of the world and England of which we have been satellites is revolving round and round the sun of America We have been obliged to link our rupee with sterling, and now unfortunately we have to link it with the dollar That is the position to which we have been reduced If you only read the debate of the House of Commons after the loan was sought to be entered into, many of the Conservative members, to which party my friends here belong . .

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Nominated Non-Official) No, no

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When did you change overnight into the Labour Party? I shall be glad to hear that my Honourable friends have become socialists,—not in their own country, much less here. I will say that these people do not know what their friends the capitalists in England are anxious to avoid They do not want the loan on such terms nor do they want to enter into this Agreement. They merely wanted the loan free and in order to get on as much as possible once again to exploit the rest of the countries of this Commonwealth But America wanted to have a freer field for exploitation, wanted not only China but after this War wanted India also. We have instead of one master only changed masters Now let us look at the position. All honour to Sir Jeremy Raisman, though he was an Englishman. As head of the delegation he went to England and to America and tried to place our case much better than the other persons who went along with him. He did say that this matter ought to be included there; from a debtor country we have become a creditor country; we have large outstanding assets and we should be allowed to draw upon them and some arrangement should be made for repaying those; in future after the war is over there is no guarantee that we will have export

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surpluses and that our balances of trade will be in our favour From a purely agricultural country we must develop into an industrial country, otherwise our standard of living can never increase. We have all along been told that from time immemorial God has made us live completely like Adam and Eve as they originally started at the time of the Creation They forget that this country was one of the most industrialised countries before machines were invented. We produced various things which were objects of pleasure and adorned the palaces of kings and queens in various other countries of the world But unfortunately after the machine age came we also got into the hands of these conquerors They did not allow us to progress; they killed our industries, and ultimately they have also invented stories about our ancients, that we have all along been living on our agriculture and have had nothing to do with industry And thus they spread false propaganda to the rest of the world They have got on and they have also told our children that we can live only on the soil and nothing more is good for us In those circumstances it was revealed during the course of this war that we are neither agriculturists nor industrialists, that is the unhappy position in which we are And therefore after the war to rehabilitate ourselves we are entitled to draw upon the sterling balances Sir Jeremy Raisman rightly put to this conference that this should be made a major issue and in some way it should be settled and we should be allowed to draw upon this and bring capital goods, and if we are not allowed that we should be allowed to get dollars so that we may bring capital goods from the United States This suggestion was brushed aside unceremoniously I should like to read the report of the Indian delegation to the United States, submitted to us by Sir Jeremy Raisman and others I can understand the United States treating the suggestion badly but the United Kingdom joined hands absolutely behind our back and stabbed us Its deputy here wants us to take it coolly and says he has done it all in our interest and if he had not done so we would have criticised him and moved an adjournment motion I would have prevented my Honourable friends not to embark on an adjournment motion of that kind if he did not wish it. But I will try to show, in the time allowed to me, how in the present circumstances it is not advisable and not at all advantageous to this country to enter into the so-called Monetary Fund India is poor but India has never withheld charity There are stories about our kings who have shed their blood to feed hungry falcons and pigeons I live in that memory and in that tradition I should like to sacrifice myself for the rest of the world, but unfortunately I have not even a drop of blood to shed That is my position and therefore let me go again to this report They wanted to increase and amplify the object of the Fund so as to include these two things (i) to assist in the full utilisation of resources of economically undeveloped countries and (ii) to promote and facilitate the settlement of abnormal indebtedness arising out of the war Let us take stock of what one country can bear We are not merciless, we are not persons who want blood for blood or a pound of flesh for the money we have given. I will give a programme of England liquidating the sterling balances My Honourable friends here like Mr Chapman-Mortimer have all got a lot of assets Let them transfer it to Indian hands; there is no difficulty.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Sir, I do not like to interrupt my Honourable friend but I should like to ask a question apropos what he has just said Is he referring to my rupee assets, such as they are, or to my sterling assets? There is a difference and I want to know what he means.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural): One thousand-rupee notes!

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I mean all the property that my friend has, moveable and immoveable; and if there is any other category of property let him give it away for sterling debts Property has value in every form. His country can draw upon all the property of its nationals. Let that country withdraw with one hand from its nationals and give it away with the other to India There are a hundred thousand devices if there is an intention to pay.

As every one knows, the objects of every association at the inception are so grand that ultimately they may not be able to carry out those objects That conference was niggardly and it is at the instance of the United Kingdom that the objects could not be enlarged They refused to do so. Let alone the manner in which they were able to execute it ultimately, they were terribly afraid even in the beginning The United States was not so From the manner in which objection was taken by the United States representative it appears that they took technical objection to the scope. He merely said that there was no use enlarging the scope of it, it was a human institution and a lot of energy might be required to carry these programmes through; and therefore this is the only kind of objection that he raised

"The delegate of the United States then explained the attitude of the United States on that question The explanation was brief. it was perfectly clear to them, he said, that the Fund had already as much to do as any human institution could undertake and to ask it to do more would strain its resources beyond capacity"

It is normal that whenever a man starts with a small fund or a small institution, if some other man says you add this aim also as one of the objects of this institution, he shudders at it, because he comes with a particular idea He thinks it may involve various other difficulties Therefore, it is for the man who approaches to tell him that it is after all not so difficult and it is for him to bring him round and say that this is one of the things on which the future peace and happiness of the world depends, and therefore don t leave half of it unfinished In that way, I am sure the United States of America could have been easily induced, but for the fact that the United Kingdom representative was not anxious to get into this matter. He cancelled it with one stroke of the pen The report says

"This question was, in view of the United Kingdom Government primarily one for settlement between the creditor and the debtor"

Leave me alone he said and leave me alone my Honourable friend says who is to deal with me here It I complain to him outside, I know that I will find myself in Amroti jail. This is the way they have treated us

The Bretton Woods Conference took place so early as July 1944 My Honourable friend objects to the first portion of this Resolution Mr Manu Subedar's amendment consists of two portions the first portion condemns the action of the Government for not having consulted this house and for not having reported to this House so that it could decide whether it was profitable for this country to adhere to the agreements The second point is that this is a matter of such vital importance, as the Honourable the Finance Member himself admits, that the entire resources of the Assembly, the intelligence of all the Members here, and their experience, should be utilized for the purpose of ascertaining if it is profitable to continue as members of that Fund, or not That is true, he himself admits The third is suspending further operation or further participation which is ancillary till the sub-committee reports on it. He objects to the first portion of it, namely, our condemnation of this Government I say, words are not enough to condemn this Government—I am not condemning my Honourable friend; he made such a beautiful speech I was wondering if he had not gone to Bretton Woods he would have made much better than even Sir Jeremy Raisman because he admitted how a number of objections that have been raised to this monetary fund and its usefulness to India at this present stage in its development and so soon after the war when all its resources are locked up in the United Kingdom, are right. He agrees with us though of course situated as he is he cannot walk into my lobby or this side of the House and protest against the manner in which the Government has treated us as badly as they have done. The only difference is one of colour. The other difference is he is a paid servant and I am an unpaid servant

The Conference concluded as early as July, 1944. One of the definite terms of that conference is that until the 1st of May, 1945 this Agreement shall not be entered into They knew what they were doing. They also said that the peoples on whose behalf the representatives came there should be consulted

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with respect to each and every clause before this is signed. Let not one single child say that over our heads our representatives entered into such an onerous transaction which has placed all these obligations on us It is for that purpose that one long year was given to us Were you sleeping during that year. I am not talking about you, I am talking about the Government, Government as a whole, as a corporate body, I am not talking about any individual member Does not this Government deserve the censure? What were they doing all this year—from the 1st of July, 1944 to the 1st of May, 1945? Who was consulted? We could have been consulted day in and day out, every member of the public could have been consulted My Honourable friend says, we consulted some sections of mercantile community I will only say let my Honourable friend look to his left—there is another colleague of his—has he satisfied that colleague? I refer to Sir Ardeshir Dalal. He was under a delusion. He went to America and has come back disillusioned. Possibly within a month he would give up the place where he is sitting now Whom else did he consult? He says he has consulted some merchants They will have to obey the Government, otherwise there are a number of controls—still controls have not been removed in this country—and every other kind of pressure may be exerted on them They would have been persecuted What is the worth of the opinions of this mercantile community I will quote only one instance the great economist, Dr Lokanathan, who wrote something in September in one way, in December he wrote in another way I am not accusing him What could he do? Assembly is the only body which is in a position to tell you what is right and what is wrong Who else is there to tell you that this Fund is wrong. You ought to have consulted us The Assembly was dissolved, but the Assembly could have been called once again as the September Session could have been held. In September we expected that there would be a Session and as a matter of fact there were a number of Bills, very important Bills,—the Insurance Act, the Bank Bill, Oilseeds Bill, etc —which were ready for being passed But the Government was not willing to place this matter before the Assembly They were only waiting to see what catchpenny would come from Whitehall so that they may take action on this immediately. The United Kingdom entered into this Agreement on the 6th of December On the 14th of December discussion took place in the House of Commons, and on the 24th the Ordinance was issued

Are you the Finance Member responsible to us? The Government is a mockery We have come here lest others should come and join hands with you We never believed we can change you We are only waiting to see that we and the gentlemen on our left should get together I would much rather have the Mughal Empire re-established in this country than see this Government continue any longer We never suffered under Mughal Empire Slowly you are bleeding us, you have bled us Therefore apart from the manner in which this Fund is going to be used, the first thing that I would say is I protest, I condemn you in strong words Words are not strong for not having consulted us, for having insulted us Therefore, I appeal to all sections of this House to vote for the first section of the amendment concerned. I am a sufficiently good lawyer to know, as you also know it, Sir, that no evidence is necessary where a matter is admitted So far as the second portion is concerned, in so far it is going to a committee, I would like to make one or two observations

Will this Fund be useful? Is it likely to be useful? What is it that we are in need of? We are in need of capital goods for which delegation after delegation went to America. First of all we expected that England would be able to give us something, but England is unable to give us anything for a long time to come Therefore we will be obliged to borrow from America We can join this Fund up to a particular limit—780 crores is our subscription to this Fund But the machinery that we require is worth many millions. A number of hangers on are there; everybody is looking to America for releasing some dollars so that something may be purchased in America. I have calculated the amount of contribution so far as

India is concerned It comes to 400 out of 8 800, that means 1/22 If all the dollars are to be distributed among the various countries, 1/22 will come to about 31 million dollars a year At the rate of 31 million dollars a year we may be able to get in four years on instalments. What am I to get? One part of a machinery, another later on and possibly by then that may not be fit for use. It may even become out of date That is my expectation. Instead of depending on the Fund the only course is to borrow from America. But if all of us run after American currency, it may become scarce Therefore we are thrown upon our own resources. The Article says, once a currency is scarce, if another country wants to purchase, come along, get gold But where is the gold?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Only in America

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I would like to remind Members of the Assembly that as early as 1936-37, I gave notice of a Bill in this Assembly that except for unavoidable payments gold from this country should not be exported. His Excellency the Governor General refused sanction Evidently he thought that until the last drop of gold goes away from this country there is no safety for this country Gold was imported for 75 years We have had a favourable trade balance of Rs 51 crores a year until it rose to the peak in 1929 of a 100 crores Then the slump came in 1934. It came down to Rs 3 crores Thereafter the war came Now it is no knowing in what way we are Sterling balances have accumulated I am not prepared to believe these figures During all these years when we have had a favourable balance of trade we accumulated gold up to Rs 675 crores in 75 years But during four years, from 1931-34 Rs 320 crores worth of gold were sent away from this country We cried and cried inside and outside this Assembly that it was all distress gold Paper money was being circulated freely and persons unable to pay revenue sold away their wedding rings and then converted them into gold So what was earned in 75 years was melted away in the course of four or five years Once again if there is a breakdown, because of scarcity of currency, and there is a run on the dollars, we are thrown back on our own resources - Have we sufficient gold? Even now we have not gold One of the Articles says that 25 per cent. of our contribution must be in gold or 10 per cent of our reserve, whichever is less It is a disgrace that we cannot give 25 per cent of the gold The country has been accused by all my European friends who have rings on their fingers that our ladies were wearing gold ornaments. But that is making better use of it than burying it between some mountains in the United States of America, our people knew better.

According to the ancient history of our country, I believe those institutions were designed for a better and more enduring purpose than the new experiments being made by the other side, though I am not prepared to embark on this new experiment Therefore, Sir, with very great hesitation, if it were open to me I would oppose our continuance in the fund straight away but I am prepared to be convinced and converted. Therefore I am agreeable to the course that a Committee may be appointed to look into this matter. Pending disposal of that, no further transaction should be entered into Do not say this has become a *fait accompli* Do not plead transfer to the Reserve Bank of India of Funds already. If Russia which practically won the war for us refuses to join am I not to think why I ought not to join? There are two versions here. The United Kingdom and the United States are hand in glove with each other. They say this fund is very good for you The U S S R says the fund is bad, and they do not join. Have I really no freedom of choice? Why not give me time to consider the position?

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): We are giving you time!

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: My honourable friend says he is giving me time. I wish I were under his rule! Let him go into the lobby with me

[Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the amendment of my friend, Prof Ranga that in respect of restricting the choice, nine members of the Committee may be appointed and the House may choose such eminent persons as are fit to have a place on that Committee I further added a rider, that pending disposal of this, time may be given, but I request all Members of this House to go into the lobby with me to condemn the previous Government for having taken action over our heads

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: On a point of order The Honourable Member said he was speaking on the amendment of Prof Ranga But Prof Ranga has not yet spoken

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I have moved it

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I understood that you gave the right to move and then also to speak. I am new to this Assembly and I should like to be guided by you

Mr. President: So am I! But it was an amendment to an amendment The whole subject was before this House It is no point of order

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I understood you to tell us in the beginning that those who move amendments and amendments to amendments and riders to those very amendments and so on would be given the right to speak first.

Mr. President: He is also a mover of one of the amendments

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I do not quite follow your directions and I should like to be guided further Are movers of amendments and amendments to amendments, etc to speak first and then the matter will be open to the House or can anybody stand up and speak?

(Interruptions)

Mr. President: Order, order The precedence of those who wish to speak is in the hands of the President I was trying to see if those who had moved the amendments were trying to catch the President's eye After having given opportunities to other movers of amendments, I was just waiting if Seth Abdoola Haroon, wished to speak But I found no attempt on his part. Further it is not a question really of any order in which movers of amendments and of amendments to amendments will speak He will get an opportunity of speaking before other Members speak Mr Ayyangar being one of the movers to an amendment to an amendment, was given an opportunity when he tried to catch the President's eye Seth Abdoola Haroon

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Seth Abdoola Haroon asked me to speak.

Mr. President: There is no point now in discussing this any further Mr Haroon

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I have already moved an amendment I would like to speak to-morrow As far as my speech is concerned . . . .

Mr. President: I may remind the Honourable Member that once a Member is called upon to speak he loses his right if he does not speak

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: As far as I am concerned, I have listened with patience to the amendment and speech made by my honourable friend, Mr Manu Subedar He should have been a little bit more charitable in his speech by complimenting those members who had gone to the Bretton Woods Conference He has not told us as to what action he would like this Assembly to take He has not placed before us any criticism He has criticised the report very well but he has not given us any concrete suggestion as to what he wished this House to do I may remind him that if this Government had not signed the Agreement or had not agreed to be a party to this Conference we would have lost the chance of being a member of the Executive Committee

and would have lost the seat that was offered to us. Here I may ask the Honourable Member that we have got this seat because the Soviet Union did not agree to join this Monetary Conference. What will be our fate if the Soviet Union were to come back and join this Conference? Will we then be given an opportunity of being elected to the Executive Committee?

I find that India is the sixth country on the list of contributions, which are the highest. I do not know why efforts were not made to get India an extra seat over this Executive Council, because those who have contributed to this fund or will contribute are nowhere in nearness to India's contribution, which amounts to something like 400 million dollars. The next contribution is 325 million dollars given by Canada. I wish the Finance Member had explained to this House that this seat which has been secured on the Executive Committee of this Fund is a permanent seat and if Russia were to come back this seat will not be lost to us. The Finance Member should have also explained his attitude Mr Subedar is therefore justified in his argument when he said that this House was not consulted. If the House was to be dissolved, the Honourable Member could have called an informal meeting of the Finance Committee of the House, which is a very small committee and they could have been summoned in the early part of September We have such instances before us When the Reserve Bank Bill was brought a special session of the House was called Such other instances we have got and there could be no excuse on the part of Government to say that because of lack of time or because of the elections it was not possible to consult the House After all what is the authority of this House? We have no rights If we are to pass a resolution or a certain bill, it is in the hands of my Honourable friend to veto it or throw it out But at least when assurances are given to the House, it is the duty of the Government to keep up that promise and consult the Members on this side.

The commercial papers of this country—the majority of them have welcomed this proposal. I for my part am not against the proposal placed before us. But there are certain things on which certainly some sort of guidance or advice should have been asked from this House. They would have been able to inform the Government of the feeling in this country. The gold value of the rupee is being fixed without consultation This is a very important point which has never struck the Honourable the Finance Member. I know that it is in the interests of his Government and the Government of the United Kingdom that on this issue Indian opinion should not be sought But after all when you have to fix the value of the rupee in gold and when our sterling balances are not being repaid, my friends on this side are justified in condemning the Government Can we expect from this Government that in fixing the value of the rupee they will take the Members of this House into confidence or that the Committee which will be appointed by this House will be taken into their confidence and when the scheme for the fixation is drawn up they will be told the plans? The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman had told us that no agreement will be drawn up until the question of the sterling balances was settled I am sorry that the Honourable Member who has taken charge of the portfolio has not yet agreed to look into that or informed us as to what he proposed to do about it Is he going to give us or get an assurance from the United Kingdom that this will be freed as soon as possible? We are not told in this booklet which has been supplied to us that the Indian capital in sterling balances will be repaid in this transaction period The Government has said that this will be only for the consumable goods or it will come into effect after the Agreement is signed. But are we to believe that the sterling balances question will be dealt with by the Honourable Member simultaneously with the United Kingdom after this agreement has been agreed upon by this House? If we are given these assurances and in the committee if all the facts are placed before us and if we are taken really into confidence and we are told what are the plans of the Government, we might think over the whole

[Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon]

these facts in condemning the Government and we feel that an opportunity must be given to the Government to explain to the House the whole situation, and after that we will be able to formulate our opinion and position as to what action should be taken

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Mr President, Sir, I am not hesitant as my friend Mr Abdoola Haroon about this question of condemning this Government I have no hesitation whatsoever in asking this House to join us in condemning this Government I can understand the attitude of the European Member who said that we should not condemn because the Government after all had no choice but to issue an ordinance and get this thing done. That is because my honourable friend and the members of his party have thriven under the ordinance rule Naturally they cannot take exception to that. But we do take exception to the Finance Member's action in resorting to ordinance rule. The Honourable the Finance Member wanted us to keep out politics I want him to understand that after all politics is not a thing that can be separated from economics: this International Monetary Fund and the World Bank also would not have been thought of if it had not been for the new politics that has come to be the rule as a result of the last war and is there no politics in it, when the help of this bank the United States of America and the United Kingdom wish to halt the economic development of other countries? Is it not one of their objectives to see that only those countries are allowed to develop only those industries or industrial concerns, whose development will not be in any way injurious or harmful to the corresponding industries or concerns of England and America? I have got the text and words placed before me by the Honourable Member himself, through the Notice Office They have themselves stated that whenever any particular proposal comes up before this International Bank for loans to be made by it for investment or development of any industry in any country, they will have to take care to see that the development of that industry in that country is not only feasible, practicable and profitable, financial industrial proposition but will also be in the interests of all the members concerned

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: All of them

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes, but who are the members who count there besides the United States and the United Kingdom? Soviet Russia has gone out and therefore they must be very happy now China is only a sort of coat tail, and India is used to come in as another slave. Therefore these two countries will be controlling Our delegates in that conference have made it clear also that they wanted to take care to see that these advanced countries alone would not be able to have the necessary power to control the industrial and economic development of the so-called backward countries As far as poor India is concerned, politics comes in this way My honourable friend shakes his head: unfortunately it was not he who made this possible—it was somebody else over whom he has no control at all.

The second thing is this politics comes in here, that this country is not free if this country had been free, she would have been allotted an independent seat in her own right on the executive committee; and it was also pointed out by Mr. Shroff, after he had left America and come over to India, that one important United States official had told him that the United States had strong objection to allowing any country within the British Empire to have a second vote, in addition to that of the United Kingdom. Therefore I put the question to my honourable friend, Sir Jeremy Raisman, in those days, as to why he did not recommend to the British Government to quit India, so that India would be able to have an independent vote on this monetary fund in her own right? Of course he could not give an answer—that is where politics

Now, I am told that His Excellency had said this morning on behalf of England that within two years India is going to be a self-governing country ...

An Honourable Member: Two months.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Very well—within two months. If it is going to be within two months that we will be free, why has not this Finance Member chosen to wait before he gave his assent to this Fund and this Bank? Evidently, they either do not believe that India is going to be free within two months or they wanted to take time by the forelock and get India committed to this Fund even before free India could be given any chance of discussing the good and bad features of this particular proposal Look at the way in which free countries are behaving The U.S.S.R. has already refused and this has been referred to by my friend Mr Abdoola Haroon But what about Australia? I am told that Australia also has chosen to be out of this business Is Australia richer than us? She is poorer and weaker than us she certainly is not a big power, she has not got as much population or material resources even It is possible for her to think of keeping out of the Fund, why is it not possible for us also to keep out of this? Is it because we will be in greater need of borrowing foreign capital than Australia? My Honourable friend said that if India does not become an original member there will be very many disadvantages. He does not tell us what those disadvantages are that we will be faced with. I am sure that this Fund as well as this Bank will any day be very happy to welcome India, if only India wanted to get in after she is free Supposing tomorrow Australia or Russia offered to get into this Bank and Fund, would they not be welcomed with open arms? Even on this Bretton Woods Conference when the Russian representative said that he was willing to increase the total amount of contribution or quota of their country, the President concerned with that particular section congratulated him and congratulated the whole conference and expressed his gratitude to Soviet Russia. If that is the position in regard to Soviet Russia, between whose politics and the politics of America as well as England there is no love lost, then certainly this Fund as well as the Bank will be very happy indeed if later on India were to make up her mind to come into this. But my honourable friend is not prepared to give us this liberty to consult our own convenience That is where the real trouble comes in and the gravamen of this charge lies in this. That is why I say that politics are implicit in these particular proposals

Coming to the economic side, what is it that India expects to gain from this fund? We want to develop our industrial resources To what extent will it be possible to borrow money from this Fund or Bank? The Honourable Member wanted us to read this very short thing. Unfortunately he is too brief in his pamphlet as he is in his speech, with the result that we are not able to know very much about his attitude or the attitude of the Government. He says that we will be able to borrow up to 40 crores in any one year Is that correct? India has planned, if we are to trust to the Bombay planners or even the Indian National Planning Committee or even the Gandhian planners, to spend more than 2,000 crores per annum, in some years even 4,000 crores: we want to spend all this money on our industrial and capital development Will it be possible for us to borrow this money from America or England? England is already a bankrupt country America, as my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar has already shown how impossible it will be for America to lend all this money, because every country in the world will be asking America to lend money; and naturally American credit will have to be rationed out as between those countries, and India will get only 1/21 share So, this 41 crores can only be a flea bite If India is to develop her capital resources and industrial planning, then she has got to depend on her own resources. . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I do not want to interrupt unnecessarily. I think ...

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Fund is available for current purposes and in any particular year we can borrow up to 41 crores. That is not more than we can possibly supply to other countries by way of commodities and gain credit from them. She can borrow only 41 crores, that is not going to be enough Therefore this Fund is practically useless. On the other hand India has always had a favourable balance of trade . .

Mr. President: It is five o'clock now, and if the Honourable Member wishes to continue, he can do so tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 29th January, 1946

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 29th January, 1946

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

MEMBER SWORN:

Dr John Sargent, M A., C.I E , M L A (Government of India: Nominated Official)

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Cloth and Yarn Position.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of yarn produced by mills in India (i) during the year 1944 to 1945, and (ii) from April to December 1945;

(b) the quantity of yarn utilised by mills for the production of cloth and the quantity distributed for handlooms,

(c) the quantity of yarn exported from the country during the above periods;

(d) the quantity of yarn imported into the country during the above periods;

(e) the number of varieties of cloth produced by mills during the above periods,

(f) the quantity of cloth produced by mills and handlooms during the same periods, and

(g) the number of yards of cloth available per head?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) (i) 1,622 million lbs.

(ii) 1,211 million lbs

(b) Mills, 1,152 million lbs., handlooms, including powerlooms and hosiery, 470 million lbs

(c) 1944· 6·3 million lbs.
1945 5·9 million lbs

The allocation for the first half of 1946 is less than 0·7 million lbs.

(d) Practically nil.

(e) The main varieties produced were. Dhoties, Sarees, Longcloth, Sheetings, Chaddars, Chintz, Shirtings, Voiles, Mulls, Drills, Twills, Tussores, Towels; and the Textile Industry (Control of Production) Order, 1945, compels mills to utilize 60 per cent of their production on these varieties.

(f) In 1944 and 1945, production was at the rate of:
Mills —4,700 million yards per annum;
Handlooms and powerlooms —1,500 million yards per annum (approximately).

(g) A little over 13½ yards per head, on the average.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What proportion of yarn produced in the mills in India was available for distribution for handlooms during the year 1944-45 and from April to December 1945?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I think the Honourable Member will find the answer in my reply to part (b) of his question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the number of handlooms has grown during the war, how does the Government account for the reduction in the quota of yarn made available for handlooms as a whole?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I do not think there has been a reduction in the total aggregate.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that the cloth available per head in India is less than the scale available in any other country in the world?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member name the countries in which it is less than in India?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The United Kingdom.

Seth Govind Das: May I know . . .

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not the lowest or the second lowest in the world?

Mr. President: Order, order Let the Honourable Member finish his question

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that the cloth made available per head in the provinces is not available to the consumers?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: If the Honourable Member means that there is a difference in quotas from province to province, that is the case

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask if the cloth quota per head for India is second lowest in the world, if not the lowest?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: It is certainly not the lowest.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Then it is the second lowest

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are not the mills producing 500 varieties of cloth?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: There are many varieties. Under the Textile Control Order the mills have to produce the varieties which are most in demand by the population

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable Member aware that 50 per cent of the handlooms are without employment in this country?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know why, though we are able to provide only 13½ yards per head, there is so much export of yarn to other countries, which is 6 3 million during 1944-45 and from April to December 1945 5 9 Why is this export allowed to continue in spite of our deficiency in cloth?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I have already pointed out in my reply that the quantity allowed for the first half of 1946 is only 0 7 million lbs

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will my Honourable friend give the counts of those yarns which are released for the use of handlooms?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I shall endeavour to supply the Honourable Member with the information I have not got it with me

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have any attempts been made to restrict the export of yarn from this country so as to provide larger quantities of yarn to the handlooms? Have any special measures been taken this year?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes, Sir

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What measures have been adopted? What is the percentage of restriction?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The export of yarn has been brought down 298 tons for the first half of 1946, for Nepal, Afghanistan, and the Persian Gulf

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What steps are the Government taking to produce more yarn in this country?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: We are endeavouring by all means in our power to obtain more textile machinery, and we have under consideration steps to produce textile machinery, if possible in Ordinance factories as well as a temporary measure.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the Government are giving preference to the import of machinery for the production of cloth and not for the production of yarn?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No, Sir.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that wherever there is a rationing of cloth, even in those places the consumers are not getting as much cloth as is rationed for them?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No, Sir; not as far as I am aware.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask if any attempts were made by the Government during the period of reference 1944-45 and up to December 1945 to induce the mills to produce less varieties so that larger quantities of yarn may be released for handlooms?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Attempts were made and the amount of yarn available for handlooms is increasing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In spite of all these things, is it not a fact that a very large percentage of handloom weavers are today unemployed?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: That is correct; but there is a very large increase in the number of handloom weavers.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Has the Government compared the figures of the export of yarn from this country before the war and the figures of the export of yarn from this country during the war and what is the position?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I will endeavour to supply the Honourable Member the information he has asked for I have not got it with me here

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Was there any export of yarn from this country before the war or not?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I am unable to answer this question at short notice.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: This is a very pertinent question to the issue. If the Government does not . .

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will not argue He can only put the question

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I only ask what was the total export of yarn from this country before the war?

Mr. President: I think that question has been replied. The Honourable Member wants notice.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member know that in Jubbulpore the consumers are not getting as much cloth as has been rationed for that place?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No, Sir, I have no information

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries about it?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Certainly, Sir.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Has the Honourable Member any machinery for collecting data regarding the unemployed and under-employed handlooms?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Has the Honourable Member in his possession any information showing the percentage of unemployed handlooms?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I can collect the information: I can get it.

PRIVILEGES TO ARMY MEN OF NON-ASIATIC DOMICILE

Diwan Chaman Lal: Will the War Secretary please state·

(a) whether instructions contained in Army Instructions (India) Nos. 271 and 306 of 1944, and 901 of 1941 contain schemes of leave which are open only to those of non-Asiatic domicile and whether non-Asiatic domicile has been made a term of eligibility resulting in anomalies adversely affecting Indian officers;

(b) whether three months' leave in India in lieu of leave scheme STIFF intended for the recuperation of officers is denied to officers of Asiatic domicile on the ground that Indian officers are not so much affected by serving in tropical jungles and by the strain of modern war, and

(c) whether non-Asiatic domicile has been made a qualifying condition for other privileges such as admission to service in the Home and Colonial Civil Services?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b) Sir, the consideration is the period of absence from the country of domicile The Army Instructions (India), to which the Honourable Member refers contain schemes of leave which are open only to officers of non-Asiatic domicile who have had more than 5 years continuous service outside their country of domicile If an officer is eligible for leave out of India after five years continuous service away from his country of domicile, and does not wish to go to the U K , he may in special cases be eligible for leave in India in lieu of 61 days leave out of India

Officers of Asiatic domicile serving out of India are eligible for War Leave to India every year Further, on their return to India from overseas for duty, they receive Special War Leave up to 56 days

It may be added that officers of non-Asiatic domicile can in no circumstances get annual War Leave to their country of domicile; and that British personnel serving in the United Kingdom and officers of Asiatic domicile serving in India are alike in that they are eligible only for their annual leave of 28 days

(c) The Honourable Member will appreciate that the Government of India are not concerned in framing the regulations for the Home Civil Service or the Colonial Civil Services They merely publish the regulations framed in the United Kingdom for the benefit of those eligible In the case of the Home Civil Service, there are no limitations as to domicile In the case of the Colonial Civil Services, a non-Asiatic domicile is required

Mr. Manu Subedar: Do I gather that in practice and in effect on account of the scheme which the Honourable Member has read out there is a discrimination against Indian officers serving in India?

Mr. P. Mason: There is a distinction rather than a discrimination I think, on the whole, the Indian officer is very much better off. When he is in his own country, he is in the same position as a British officer in England He gets 28 days leave a year If he is out of his own country, he is eligible to come back to his own country and to have 28 days' leave every year.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not a fact that an Indian officer serving in India finds that he is worse off in the matter of leave and other privileges which are denied to him?

Mr. P. Mason: That, Sir, is a matter of surmise, I think, rather than an actual fact.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask whether it is not a fact that after five years' stay in, let us say, Malaya, an Indian officer is not entitled to the same leave privileges as a British officer?

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, I do not think you will find there are any cases of Indian officers who have been five years away from their country of domicile without returning to India If there are such cases, I shall be glad to inquire.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend to give me reply to my question? My question is whether it is not a fact that a discrimination does actually exist in the rules and that an Indian officer who stays out in Malaya

for five years is not in the same category as a British officer staying out in Malaya for five years and he is not entitled to the privileges of the British officer?

Mr. P. Mason: I repeat that the Indian officer in these circumstances would be better off because during those five years he is eligible for leave every year. If any cases had happened in which leave was not given for five years, they would be exceptional cases and I do not think there are any of that nature

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend if he is not aware of the cases of those Indian officers who have been in Malaya and who have not been on their leave in India? Will he give me an answer to the question whether it is not a fact that in the rules there is this discrimination between the two?

Mr. P. Mason: I repeat that I do not think there is any discrimination Circumstances are different and therefore the rules are different. It appears to me that the rules are on the whole, more favourable for Indians

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: May I ask if there is no such case of an Indian officer who has been in Malaya since 1939 up to the end of the war?

Mr. P. Mason: I believe not, Sir

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I inform the Honourable Member that one Dr. Capt Akhtar Hussain of Arrah has been in Malaya for a period of over five years, and there must be many others like him May I know if the Honourable Member will collect figures of those who have not been granted leave because of these rules?

Mr. P. Mason: It is not a question, but it is a statement

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is the Honourable Member aware or not that one Capt Akhtar Hussain, I M S , of Arrah has been continually in Malaya and Burma and other places for a period of over five years and that he has not been given those privileges because of these rules?

Mr. P Mason: I was not aware of that fact I will make enquiries If anything can be done, I will be glad to do so

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know whether it is a fact that Indian officers are not entitled to three months leave as British officers are for the purpose of recuperation because of the strenuousness of jungle life and the strain of modern war?

Mr. P. Mason: It is a fact that they are not eligible for three months leave because the rules are entirely different It is not a question, as I explained in the beginning, of jungle warfare It is a question of length of period away from one's country

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Government give an assurance, in view of what has been mentioned here to alter these rules so as to remove the discrimination?

Mr P. Mason: I do not admit it is discrimination I will examine the possibility in the light of facts which the Honourable Member placed before the House

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member said there was no discrimination, but that there was a distinction Will the Honourable Member remove this distinction also?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not think it would be very welcome to Indian officers if this was removed.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I ask, if the Honourable Member finds that there are such cases of hardships among Indian officers, will he be pleased to revise the rules?

Mr. P. Mason: I said I will examine the question and see if the rules require revision.

AIR DEPARTMENT.

Mr President: I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 noon on Monday, the 28th January, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Posts and Air, five nominations were received. As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following Members to be duly elected: (1) Mr M A F Hirtzel, (2) Colonel Kumar Shri Himmatsinhji, (3) Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, (4) Sjt Seth Damodar Swaroop, and (5) Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer

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ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 noon on Thursday, the 24th January, which was the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of War Transport, only seven nominations were received As the Standing Committee will consist of eight members and only seven have been nominated, I declare Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel, Sardar Sampuran Singh, Shri D P Karmarkar, Sri M K Jnanchandran, Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah and Choudhury Md Abid Hussain, who were duly nominated, as elected to the Committee and I appoint a further period up to 12 noon on Friday, the 1st February, within which nominations for the eighth vacancy only will be received The election, if necessary, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, on Friday, the 8th February, between the hours of 10-30 a m and 1 p m

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General) This is the first time that such a thing has happened.

Mr. President: Yes, nominations of seven when eight are required, not that the declaration has happened for the first time

MOTION *RE* BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS—*contd*

Mr. President: The House will now resume further consideration of the following motion moved by the Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands

"That this House welcomes the proposals for setting up an International Monetary Fund and an International Bank for reconstruction and development as set out in the Final Act of the Bretton Woods Conference and also welcomes the action taken by the Government of India in adhering to the Agreements as an original Member"

This involves further consideration also of the amendments that were moved

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) Mr. President, Sir, yesterday when I was saying that by getting into this Fund as well as the Bank, the other countries will have a chance of arresting the industrial progress of India, the Honourable the Finance Member waved his head and then I told him that I have the authority of the literature that was circulated by himself for making that assertion that it will be possible for Anglo-Americans to consider whether India should be allowed to develop any one particular industry or not with the help of foreign capital Sir, I wish to draw his attention and the attention of the House to Clause 5, Article III of the International Bank Act Here it is stated

"In making or guaranteeing the loan the Bank shall pay due regard to the prospects of the borrower, and if the borrower is not a Member that the guarantor will be in a position to meet its obligations under the loan"

Then comes the most important thing:

"That the Bank shall act prudently in the interests both of the particular Member in whose territory the Bank is located and of the members as a whole"

Well, Sir, there was one other point that I was trying to make; that the Government cannot expect us to keep politics out of this matter and cannot expect us to consider this entirely as an economic proposition and nothing more. Sir, I have the authority of Mr Morganthau Junior himself for stating so. Here is an article which he has written in *Foreign Affairs*, an important journal of America.

"Any monopoly of financial co-operation is indispensable for the maintenance of economic stability and economic stability in practice is indispensable to maintenance of political stability"

I hope, Sir, that as I go on making my points in the short time available to me, the Honourable the Finance Member will not try to contradict me in what I say, because I have got similar books before me to strengthen the point that I make.

My additional point is this. India has already got one halter round her neck and that is Great Britain and her sterling ratio and also this Empire Dollar Pool In addition to that India is now invited to get into the second halter of United States and her politico-economic suzerainty. America is now in the same position in which England used to be during the latter part of the last century when it was in the interest of England to sing paeans of international co-operation and international free trade and therefore she used to be a great champion of Bright and Cobden theory of international co-operation. Similarly, the same America was not then so very enthusiastic about international trade Why go so far? Even when there was the World Economic Conference held in London over which I suppose Mr. Ramsay Macdonald presided, America did not wish to take part in it. Mr. Roosevelt sent a message saying that America had better concern herself with her own internal problems and not allow the rest of the world to interfere in her internal economy. But things have changed after this war As a result of this war, America today has become a creditor country, not only in herself but for many other countries in the world She is now in a position to lend money. She is the creditor country for the whole world That is why they have the temerity to say—as America goes, so does the rest of the world Naturally they expect India also to follow her in her example to provide full employment for the rest of the world or for her own people. It really means providing full employment for her own people. Mr. Morganthau himself and his colleagues also have stated that unless they supported this Monetary Fund, it would not be possible for them to maintain their labour standards of full employment in America and also full employment for their own industries. Otherwise they were afraid that India and China with their terrific population figures would be able to undercut them in every market, would be able to compete with them more favourably and make it impossible for them to maintain and continue this financial hegemony of theirs over the rest of the world.

Why is the United States of America so very keen on getting into it? She finds it advantageous for herself. Here are the two articles written in this *Foreign Affairs* itself by their own responsible officers to prove how this Fund is advantageous to America. I do not grudge that; I want the Finance Member also to prove that this Fund as well as the Bank will be advantageous to India. So far no case has been made out in that direction. And what is it that we stand to gain as a result of this? Without giving any positive answer we were told that if we do not go into it we will incur the displeasure of America In what way?

India had a favourable balance of trade before the war. Is it seriously contended that India is likely to be faced with an adverse balance of trade now, this year and the next year? And if India is going to have a favourable balance of trade where is the fear for India of any kind of displeasure from America? In fact, Sir, India's economic position is certainly stronger than that of many other countries. We are not thinking of exporting our oil-seeds, we are not thinking of exporting our cotton. The only thing that we have got to export and will export is jute with regard to which the demand from the rest of the

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

world is very strong indeed So far as jute is concerned, the rest of the world has to purchase it and we will be able to convert that money into whatever capital goods we wish to import into our own country. India is soon going to reach the same position which the United States had reached during the last century. We want to develop our own industries and for that purpose we want the protection of tariff barriers. We may possibly want exchange restrictions also But here is the Fund as well as the Bank intended to prevent India from developing her tariff walls when necessary and to the extent that they are necessary, and also to prevent India from utilising exchange manipulations.

Then, Sir, there is the question of parity, that is, at what rate are we to deal with the rest of the world? One and six was there a few weeks ago; the Government of India had accepted it. What right had they to accept it? Have they satisfied themselves that this present exchange rate is really beneficial to India? The learned editor of the *Eastern Economist* has put a poser to Government Let them appoint an expert committee to go into this matter and to satisfy themselves that the present existing exchange ratio is really good for us Indeed English economists as well as American economists have been advising their respective Governments that "hot money" ought not to be taken as the proper standard, that sufficient time should be given to the various prospective members of these two institutions after the end of the war for their exchange rates to stabilise themselves properly and for their currency circulation also to be stabilised, so that a more stable par value can be fixed.

India is thinking of industrial expansion, but according to this Monetary Fund we are allowed to change this exchange ratio only by 10 per cent. If we wish to go beyond that we have got to seek the permission of all these people. Sixty and odd nations are to be there. If it is profitable to them and advantageous to them also, specially the Anglo-Americans, they will allow us to change our exchange ratio here, otherwise they will not And who are these people? They are like the two well-fed babies In that well-known book *"Pride and Prejudice"* you read of two damsels who used to eat at home quietly and then go to a dinner where they would just nibble at the food and then pretend that they were not hungry and as if it was the fashion not to eat too much Similarly the Anglo-Americans do not need much of industrial expansion and they cannot develop industrially any more Because America is unable to have any more development in the way of industrial expansion to any great extent, she is thinking of exporting her capital goods as well as her capital to all other countries. She is going to take the place that has been vacated only recently by England. And England is unable to develop her own industrial resources because she has reached the point of saturation Now they want India also to be in the same position. They are afraid that India and China would be able to make such giant strides in the near future in the way of industrial and economic development that it will be impossible for them to recapture these eastern and oriental markets

And that is where the real catch comes in Some of our economists warned this Government not to get into this but still Government went in, and now they want to entangle us in it. Because it is to the interest of Anglo-Americans that India should get into it and India should be tacked on to their arrangements. There was even a suggestion that the United States and England had better go into a sort of sectional arrangement instead of bringing these institutions for the whole world; but they themselves thought that it would be more profitable for them to bring in other countries, specially China and India, because China and India are in a position to embark on more industrial progress and unless they controlled the industrial development of India and China it would not be possible for them to take the fullest possible advantage of the victory in war.

What is the present position? Russia is out of it. These two countries alone wish to divide the rest of the world, all their markets, as betwixt themselves.

And in order to do that they must see that there are no competators. The prospective competitors are only China and India, and therefore India and China are dragged into this. They are talking about harmony of interests between advanced and backward countries. How can there be this harmony? We are like a lame person and we must have crutches first in order to be able to walk along with the others Even then we will not be able to walk along with the others in the same tempo. Naturally we need what are known as Panama locks in order that we may be able to co-operate with other countries. We are not in a position to go into the embrace of these people because they are stronger, more powerful and have greater resources How is it possible for us to walk along with them?

Then American experts talk about their own farmers and their own interests; they want to export their wheat to other countries. They would like to sell it at such rates as would be profitable to themselves. If we in India are able to develop our own wheat production to such an extent that we are able to depend on our own wheat produce and not depend on them, then there will be less of a market for these people. And naturally they want us to go into this so that it will be possible for them to control us.

Sir, I wish to state that India is likely to get all unthinkingly into a kind of unwarranted partnership in the new world imperialism that these Anglo-Americans are developing Through their Security Council and their U. N. O. they are trying to gain political control. Through this Monetary Fund and the Bank they are trying to get economic control. Supposing any one of these debtor countries is not able to repay the debts because there is some sort of a social revolution or a political revolution in it, then it will be open to this particular Bank and the Governors thereof and also the Fund to make a complaint to it that they are not able to collect their own assets, and then this U. N O begins to say, "Here is an appeal coming from the Monetary Fund All of you gentlemen put your money there Therefore give us authority to interfere in their own affairs" And they begin to interfere Of course you have stated, in order to satisfy the U S S R, that irrespective of social and economic conditions prevailing in any one country these advances are to be made and collected. But how are you to do it? Has not the United States been able to establish an invisible imperialist hold over South America? Is she not trying to get the same hold over China? And is she not trying to get it over India also?

In a very expansive mood reminiscent of the international co-operation of the 19th century America is now talking in very big and liberal terms It suits her and it pays her to talk in those terms because she is today in a very expansive mood Just as a gentleman, who has had a good dinner and is having a nice smoke in his drawing room, is in an expansive mood and begins to talk of the virtues of his own wife, so also is America now talking of this great world and world co-operation and all the rest of it Sir, we have had enough of it We cannot go into these things in a blindfold manner

I charge the Government with guilt for having done these things without taking the country into its confidence I charge the Government also not only for their gross dereliction of duty but also their culpable determination to keep this House in ignorance The Honourable Member is supposed to be an expert in regard to finances Why is it that he was so very brief? Was it because it was his maiden speech? Certainly he is not a maiden, he does not look so green! He is a seasoned warrior so far as English interests are concerned, and quite possibly he was so very brief in the interest of Great Britain The Honourable the President was good enough to assure him that if he wanted more time, he would be prepared to give him, but he did not want to take the opportunity. Either he does not know enough in which case he had no authority to issue this Ordinance or he knows too much and he does not want this House to know all that. Therefore, Sir, I cannot abstain from recommending to this House to condemn this Government for having committed this country to these two unwanted things without taking the country into their confidence and gaining the confidence of the country.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural) The Honourable the Finance Member began his speech with modesty I always thought that attempts to oratory, or seeking popularity are not the virtues but the disqualifications of a Finance Member The successful Finance Member is a person who looks after the interest of the people of India and not only of the rings of capitalists, and he jealously guards the finances of the country. For what I know and I have seen of him, I am sure that he will fulfil our expectations and will act on the advice of Mr Tyson that the Funds which we are discussing will be used by the Indians for the use of the Indians

During the debate a number of subsidiary questions were discussed which are rather important and if I have time I will take them up after I have discussed the main issues These important subsidiary questions are (i) why was the Legislature not taken into confidence a little earlier, (ii) our sterling balances, (iii) exchange, the price level, or in other words the purchasing power of the rupee; and (iv) the position of gold which includes its high price, and the way in which it is purchased and sold I will take up these questions after I have disposed of the main issues

The first thing which we have to discuss is,—is it or is it not to the benefit of India to join the International Monetary Fund and International Bank? I ask one question and my observations will depend upon the answer to my question My question is, do we want to establish our business relations with every country in the world or limit our transactions to few countries? Or, in other words, do we want to purchase any article that we want in any part of the world at the cheapest possible rates? I am sure that the answer to these questions will be in the affirmative My Honourable friends, Prof Ranga and Mr Manu Subedar are not here, but I am sure they will not disagree with me that we should have the liberty to purchase any article in any part of the world at the cheapest possible rates This is one principle on which we all agree Now, let us see how it can be done

Before the Great War our balances with every country were adjusted by gold The balance of trade was always met by technically what we call 'treasure.' The balance of trade between all countries was equalized by the transfer of gold in the proper direction In this matter gold played the part of international sovereign bank, and later on, after the Great War, the currency of every country expanded and gold was not sufficient to adjust the balances of trade of each country Whatever gold was left was locked up by France and America and very little gold was left for commercial transaction to adjust the balances between two countries A new situation arose and when we found that gold could not serve the purpose which it served till the beginning of the Great War, we had no alternative, but to say goodbye to gold, and to dethrone the gold from the position of sovereignty which it occupied Lord Keynes, who was my contemporary in Cambridge, said at that time that 'it is a relic of barbarous days'—those were his words

Then, how are we going to balance the trades between different countries? After that we devised a system which we call 'managed currency', which is really barter system, *i e* each country should establish a separate account with every other country in the world. Whatever I purchase, we must buy from the other For the time being, we used what we called 'foreign credits' in place of gold and unfavourable balance of trade was met by foreign credits It means that we did not adjust accounts by import of treasure, but kept favourable portion as reserve to be utilised to meet our unfavourable balances But Germany was the first country which dispensed with the foreign credits as well as the use of gold altogether, and she opened banking accounts with every country she had to deal with It means this. supposing a person applies for a permit to export a certain article to Argentine, he will be asked by the Reserve Bank, before he is given a permit or an exchange in Argentine Currency, to find out somebody in Argentine to purchase from India an article of equivalent value. The result of this was that merchants were put to great difficulties,

because before they could not buy anything until they produce a buyer in the other country from this side so that the two balances may equalize. In the absence of gold and in the regime of this 'managed currency' this position is inevitable In any case, this arrangement can work all right when we have only two countries to deal with, but supposing you have got a multilateral transaction, *i e.* supposing there are about three hundred countries and each country is trading with every other country—my Honourable friend is a mathematician and he will be able to tell the number of combinations It will be 44,850—and these offices will be necessary to adjust the accounts of balances of trade of every country What happens very often is that though we may have no credit to pay to Argentine, but we may have a credit in France so that we want to transfer our credit from France to Argentine in order to pay for the goods we purchased from Argentine But then who will do it? Will the Argentine Government do it? Will the French Government do it? Or, will the Indian Government do it? Who will do it? In the case of multilateral trade, financing is impossible In the absence of gold, this 'managed currency' leads us to a very difficult position and the only possibility is that we establish a clearing house—some kind of a Bank which may take the assets and liabilities of every country and adjust the accounts This arrangement to my mind, in the absence of gold is inevitable if trade is to be carried on in a smooth manner That is the position, and what really will happen is this—Quoting Lord Keynes words—"In any adjustment of the balance of ultimate trade, gold acted as an autocratic ruler" That is when we establish the balance accounts of different countries on account of the trade, there should be some measure by means of which they could be adjusted and gold alone could be that measure So in that case gold is now placed in the position of the constitutional monarch, and not an autocratic sovereign, the position which it occupied before the Great War Now it is constitutional monarch or the President of a democracy The ministry to carry on the affairs of democracy of trade with gold as its president is International Bank So this is the position with which we have to face Lord Keynes called gold a constitutional monarch or you may call it the President of the Republic But that position is the position to which we have been reduced and unless we have arrangement of this kind I do not visualise in my mind how the international trade can be carried on I wish somebody who does not like this bank would tell us on the floor of the House how 300 countries with 44,850 ledgers can carry on trade with each other in their respective currencies unless there is a central clearing house for adjustment of the accounts

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural) How have they been going on till now?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Till 1914 gold served the purpose, After the Great War Foreign credits or reserves in England and America when this managed currency started everyone combined accounts with other countries Now difficulty has arisen because of enormous expansion of trade all round and the expansion of currencies without metallic reserves

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Even now gold has to be drawn upon as a last resort?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Only to limited extent It is the last resort She occupied the position of an autocrat Sovereign till 1914 She was dethroned in 1921 and enthroned again not as an autocratic ruler but as a constitutional monarch or president of a republic.

My second point I press is that an international bank is necessary to stop the breaking down of the currency of any country. When currency of any country collapses other countries also suffer When the rouble broke down in Russia, the Alliance Bank of Simla and Delhi became bankrupt and a large number of people suffered. So we know that whenever the currency of any country breaks down other countries are bound to suffer directly and indirectly. It suffers

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indirectly since it gives rise to gamblers and speculators and they make the position still worse This position was mentioned by Sadi and he discussed the philosophy of such collapse. He said

"Bani ádam ázá-e-yak dígar and, Keh dar áfreenash yak johar and, Chun azve ba-dard áwarad rozgár, Dygar azw-há rá rah mánad qardr."

This means that whenever you have troubles in any part of your body, then the other organs of your body cannot remain at rest. They are bound to suffer if there is pain anywhere and similar is the case with countries I emphasize that the only safeguard for stopping the breakdown of the currency of any country is some central bank of this kind But if we oppose international bank then some other method ought to be devised by means of which this situation may be avoided

My third point is that we will require some loan for our future developments. I have got before me the fifteen years' plan of Bombay They have suggested that for the development of this country we require Rs 1,000 crores I do not agree altogether with their arguments but we do require money for the future development of India Every department is ready with large schemes. All kinds of pressure are put on the Finance Member I do not know if the revenue of India will be able to meet all these demands He will have to fall back on loan for capital expenditure, preferably a long-term loan so that we may be able to pay it back by instalments If you produce any scheme of reconstruction for India, capital expenditure would be needed and the capital expenditure cannot be meet by the revenue of the country You will have to take a loan and the loan which you cannot pay immediately It must be a long-term loan How will it be possible for India to get such loans? Theoretically it may be all right but I do not see any other way in which it can be done I am sure that this Bank will always come forward to help in this particular manner In this connection I may also mention that our Indian Delegation is responsible for the addition of clause 2 to the objects of the association, and it was done with this view, namely, that we should be able to have long-term loans for the development of our country This suggestion of the Indian Delegation was accepted by the Conference So the possibility of taking long-term loans has already been provided and clause 2 has been added to the objects of the international fund at the suggestion of the Indian Delegation

Now, several members have expressed their apprehensions Suppose these apprehensions come out to be true and the Bank fails to satisfy our demands. Then the simple resolution of Prof Ranga, if accepted by the House, will be sufficient to withdraw us altogether from this organisation So it is not that we are binding the future generations for ever, but we are just trying an experiment which I am sure will be successful and if by chance we find that it is not working then a simple resolution of the Legislature will absolve us of all obligations So we need not be apprehensive

As regards the opinions of other personages, I have got before me the opinions of the Policy Committee which accepted it in principle Of course this Committee is more fortunate than the Standing Finance Committee of this Legislature because it had the benefit of discussing the whole of this international monetary policy before we had any opportunity to do so

So the points I wish to make in support of this idea are (1) it is the only method by which we can equalise the balance of trade between the various countries (2) it will stop the breakdown of the currency of any country, and (3) it will encourage future development and reconstruction by having the loan on a long-term contract

I consulted the economic and commercial staff of my University and discussed the matter in very great detail with them. Some important suggestions were made but in principle they were of the opinion that for the development of industry all round this would prove exceedingly useful. So, I think the general

opinion is in favour of this. The objections which have been raised against this were objections on a subsidiary issue which I now take up.

The first question was that this House was not consulted I think we all agree that earlier opportunity ought to have been provided to take this House into confidence. But I notice that the Government alone is not responsible. The Policy Committee is also responsible for this The British

12 Noon. Government, the U K. Government, has given its consent. This Committee said once in 1944 and repeated second time in 1945 that India should wait till England has joined the International Monetary Fund. England gave her consent on the 13th December On the 13th of December, 1945, neither this House nor the Finance Committee was in existence and therefore they had no alternative but to issue an ordinance They must give their consent to be an original member before the 31st December, 1945. Although it is a good plea but it cannot absolve the Government from their responsibility for not consulting us earlier or at least in not calling for a special session in the month of September But unfortunately so many things happened this year that the intention of the Government could not be materialised

Now I come to the sterling balances Whatever the issue about sterling balances may be and in whatever way you discuss it, this particular problem of International Bank cannot obstruct or stand in the way of the settlement of the question of the sterling balances It is quite an independent problem. The problem of the sterling balances will remain in its place irrespective of any decision on the International Bank But since we are discussing all the issues, —England has also discussed the whole position—therefore we would also like to discuss the question of sterling balances In this connection I would like to refer to the report of the Policy Committee Twice they said that a Committee should go to England and discuss the question with the Government of the United Kingdom and as Mr Manu Subedar pointed out, this question was also discussed when England began to discuss the position of her international trade. While England was discussing the question of the financial agreement with the United States the question of the sterling balances was also raised as mentioned in sections 10(1) (a), (b), (c). The United Kingdom and the United States alone cannot settle this question It was suggested by our Policy Committee that a small committee from India ought to go to the United Kingdom and settle this particular question, we have no doubt of their great sympathy for all the troubles that we had during the war, because this money was spent in a manner in which we have been benefited There is no doubt about that, but at the same time India is a poor country and cannot afford to give charity to a country which is far richer than ours Therefore the contribution to England is no act of charity but at the same time this ought to be discussed in a friendly spirit. I entirely approve of the suggestion that has been made that a small committee should go to England and settle the question with the Government of the United Kingdom. But at the same time this question is very different from the question of the International Bank My own opinion is—I do not know whether Mr. Manu Subedar will agree with me—that this International Bank will help us in settling this question of the sterling balances

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce) Why did not Sir Jeremy Raisman discuss this question at the Bretton Woods Conference?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am not responsible for Sir Jeremy Raisman. The fact that this is mentioned in the agreement between the United Kingdom and the United States clearly shows without any reference to us that this International Bank will in a way help us in the settlement of the problem and will not stand in the way of it. So I have great sympathy for this balance of trade, though I do not agree with the solution which my friend has suggested. It was rather an interesting suggestion: take all the rupee belongings of foreign people (non-Indian residents in India), give them sterling in exchange. This reminded me of a proposal which was once made in this country, at which I laughed at that time just as I am laughing at this particular proposal. It was

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argued that agricultural indebtedness is a great curse to India and India could not progress till rural indebtedness was wiped off It was suggested that we usurp all the belongings and assets of all the millionaires who own more than 10 lakhs and pay the agricultural debts with this money which you collect from people who have no right to own more than they should This suggestion is of the same nature as the proposal of my Honourable friend Mr Manu Subedar for the payment of the sterling balances

Coming to the third issue which was also discussed on the floor of the House, *viz* , the question of exchange In 1934 when the Reserve Bank Bill was under consideration I was strongly of opinion that the rate of exchange should be 1/4 and not 1/6 to the rupee and we lost only by two votes, because at that time 1/4 was really the true value of the rupee But the position in 1946 is different from the position in 1934. Everybody knows that a lower exchange helps export and a higher exchange helps import Devaluation always helps exports and if the rate is raised it helps the imports At present we have not got much of commodities to export We have not got enough for our own use If there is nothing to export why do we demand a lower exchange value for the rupee from 1/6 to 1/4 Another thing which I want to point out is the value of exchange does not effect the economic position so much as the change in the exchange value from time to time That really affects trade and encourages gambling In order to avoid gambling it is very desirable that the exchange problem should not be treated in a light hearted manner and should not be changed from time to time Once it is fixed, it should remain fixed for a considerable time, because the moment people begin to know that there will be some kind of play on this exchange, then the speculators will come forward and disturb monetary equilibrium My friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir will excuse me when I say that the Bombay people are experts in gambling I have never seen people of any town so proud in gambling, whenever a gambling house is opened in any remote part of India, you will find two-thirds of the people come from Bombay You find a small boy of ten opening a shop for gambling and all the boys go there to gamble Therefore this gambling ought to be eradicated and I have tabled a resolution that all these stock exchanges and cotton exchanges and bullion exchanges ought to be abolished Until all these are abolished, the gambling mentality cannot disappear from this country and we cannot have stability of any currency or stability in trade

There are a number of other problems which we have been pressing, one was raised by my friend Mr Ayyangar about the export of gold I have always supported him when he moved an embargo on what was-called distress gold, but we continued to export the gold and the government did not agree with us I protested several times on the floor of the House as to why gold is sold at such very high prices when the world parity is so low I am not sure what the figures are today—perhaps the Honourable Finance Member will correct me—I think the world parity is about Rs 38 a tola, while the Reserve Bank's price and the market rate is over Rs 100 a tola We will discuss this later on in the committee stage, but I am sure this can be checked by the influence of this International Bank, because they have put down the parity of gold in terms of the currency of each country, and that will be the market value of gold and it will help to fix its price in every country All these subsidiary things raised on the floor of this House will be of practical help and we may get a solution for all these problems from this International Bank.

I proposed a resolution in 1931 about the stabilisation of prices and I have been pressing Sir George Schuster and his successors—Sir James Grigg and Sir Jeremy Raisman—that they should follow the Macmullen Report The report said that the first concern of every finance member should be to stabilise prices and to fix the purchasing power of the rupee. If the purchasing power is not fixed the value of your managed currency will always be fluctuating. Mr. Ayyangar also pointed out in his speech that you must fix the value of gold in terms of your currency: the same thing applies to silver because we are a

bimetallic country· both silver and gold are legal tender. But Sir Jeremy Raisman was very keen on one point alone and that was the fixation of the bank rate of interest. It did serve some purpose But the common people in this country have no interest in banks 99·9 per cent of the people do not have a banking account only 001 per cent. of the people have some kind of bank account and they have no interest whatever in the bank rate of interest. But everybody is interested in the purchasing power of the rupee, and that was not done by any Finance Member I hope it will be taken up now and with the help of all our friends on my right this problem will be taken up and the purchasing power of the managed currency called rupee will be fixed.

One more point It was pointed out by some members that Russia had withdrawn from the fund, that there must be some good reasons for her withdrawal, and why should we not follow the noble example of Russia and withdraw ourselves? The position of Russia is very different from our position Russia is following a policy of absorption I do not want to discuss the method which Russia adopts in absorbing country after country—I will probably discuss that on some other occasion, but the method she is adopting is such that no country will be able to face it one method is to break down the monetary policy of the country which she wants to absorb The breaking down of the monetary policy of the country she wants to absorb is one of the fundamental policies of Russia, and with this view, Russia cannot afford to join this International Monetary Bank or Fund whose object is to stabilise currency Therefore Russia with its present policy has absolutely no place in the International Bank and it ought to have been foreseen Her methods are different from the methods of every other country Therefore there is no point in asking us to follow the Russian example I know of a number of very good reasons for Russia's withdrawal, but we cannot follow the Russian example .

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What about Australia, Dr ?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I support the appointment of the committee specially for this reason, that it will give us an opportunity to discuss the subsidiary questions and we may have some better suggestions for the solution of these problems They will not affect the main issue

As regards the time of report, the resolution only puts down the higher limit, but from this it does not follow that we cannot report earlier I am of the opinion that the earlier we settle this question the better for this country With these words, I support the motion moved by the Muslim League Party.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it seems that the old adage has been somewhat modified Brevity is the soul of wit Now it seems to be the soul of diplomacy—I do not yet say, of duplicity. The Honourable Finance Member was very brief He told us in his speech that so far as the sterling balances were concerned there would be no reduction Possibly he is aware that the English newspapers have been all along agitating and in fact praying for scaling down these balances. It is very good to say that this question is bound to be considered—and even in the communique that was issued along with the Ordinance on the 24th December 1945 it has been stated.

"The financial agreement recently concluded between the United Kingdom and the United States of America provides for the multilateral convertibility of current sterling receipts within a year, which involves the automatic dissolution of the Dollar Pool. It also contemplates that the United Kingdom will negotiate at an early date for a settlement of sterling balances on the basis that a portion of the balances will be released immediately in free currency and another portion funded over a period of years from 1951, the funding instalments being available for current transactions in any currency area. Though the actual details of such releases can only be determined after negotiation, there is no reason to suppose that satisfactory agreements will not be secured by agreement"

It was all right on the 24th of December, 1945 But we want to know what has the Government done between that date and now. The whole attitude of this House and in fact of the whole country depends upon the satisfactory solution of this problem of sterling balances. It is not for the first

[Mr. T Chapman-Mortimer]

the House to do two things First of all, it asks the House to support and welcome the Bretton Woods Agreements. Secondly, it asks us to support Government's action in deciding, as they did decide, to adhere to the Agreement—India being an Original Member Now, Sir, I do not want to go into details of the Agreement on this occasion because it is quite clear that that is a matter into which the coming Committee will look very carefully But I want to make a few general observations arising mainly out of the amendments before the House We have heard a good deal in more than one speech—and it appears also in some of the amendments—namely, of the question of good faith The suggestion is that there has been a departure from good faith on the part either of the present Finance Member or of his predecessor or, as the case may be, of both Now, Sir, this is a matter on which we are going to hear a good deal not only in India but in all countries of the world during these coming years Never was a greater need for goodwill and good faith than at the present time. The enemies of the people in every country and the enemies of freedom in every country seek to keep men of goodwill apart and they will seek by every means in their power to raise suspicion and doubt in matters of good faith Wherever policy reaches the high point of decision and two rival groups are coming to an agreement for the first time, then you will get these charges of breach of faith and so on So, I would earnestly suggest that this House should try to consider this matter in as detached a manner as possible and seek to come to their decision on the basis that there is good faith in all quarters I myself am quite satisfied, having studied very carefully what the Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman, said, that his successor has not broken faith with this House The matter also has relevance to Bretton Woods itself. Anyone who has studied these plans carefully will, I am sure, be convinced that these proposals—the so-called Bretton Woods proposals—have been reached, or formulated, by men of goodwill in all countries They have tried very hard to reach some kind of an agreement which would be fair to everybody. Their purpose is two-fold First of all, they have tried to make proposals which will enable all countries of the world to tide over five or six very critical and difficult years Secondly, they have sought by their agreement to pave the way for an ultimate solution which will bring greater happiness and greater prosperity to all countries of the world

Those who remember those fateful years, 1918 to 1923, will, I am sure, if they think of the matter carefully, agree that what was done at Bretton Woods is an attempt of the most determined and grave kind to get away from the conditions which led to such chaos and misery in the years 1918 to 1923

The second point which has emerged from this debate and which is apparent also from the amendments before the House is, roughly, this We in India should be quite prepared to adhere to Bretton Woods if only we could be sure that we are not being dragged along at the chariot-wheel of Great Britain. Now, Sir, I have no doubt at all that those who talk in those terms are thinking of the ratio—sterling-rupee parity But they have also suggested in this connection that their position is comparable to that of Russia Well, Sir, there is no connection whatsoever between India's position today and that of Russia. In the first place Russia is not very interested in foreign trade In the second place, she is quite prepared to do what my Honourable friends on my right are not prepared to do, namely, sell gold Russia has no idea, as my Honourable friends of the Congress Party have, that there is something sacred or that there is sanctity about gold They know quite well that gold is a commodity and at certain times, it may suit a country to sell gold in large quantities at other times, it may suit a country to buy gold in large quantities There is nothing immutable about it What is good today may be bad tomorrow Russia knows that quite well She has enormous quantities of gold and she wishes to buy capital goods from other countries, and she is prepared to pay for these capital goods in gold The argument of my Honourable friends opposite therefore does not carry any weight. India, on

the other hand needs foreign trade. The Honourable Member, Prof. Ranga, claimed that India desired to increase her foreign trade, especially in the Far East He also alleged that the whole plan of Bretton Woods was a plot on the part of England and America to prevent India from expanding her foreign trade I suggest to him that this is exactly contrary to real facts.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Oh! Oh!

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: What! oh! oh!; if India really wants to expand her foreign trade by selling her goods abroad, she must buy, she must be equally sure that she is not going to have her plans upset by having her exchange upset first in this direction, and then in the other and so on. That entirely overlooks the facts of the position in which India is today. If she wants to expand her foreign trade, if she wants to have nothing to do with Bretton Woods, if she wants to have nothing to do with the present ratio, *that ratio is not going down, it is going up;* it is 1*s.* 6*d.*, it might go up to 2*sh.* or even more—in the last war, it went up to 2*sh.* 10*d.*, I suggest you would put it up by your proposals. I am at present suggesting that the present ratio of 1*s.* 6*d.*, for reasons so lucidly and brilliantly explained by the Honourable Member Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, is the right ratio, and therefore the arguments put forward by my Honourable friends opposite are quite wrong If jute is not exported, whether as a manufactured article or as a raw article, what is going to happen to those who grow jute and who can, from the nature of the case, grow nothing else I ask Honourable Members opposite to consider that The same applies to cotton, hides and so on.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: That is the old jargon

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: I am quite convinced for these reasons that it is in our interest, speaking as representatives of India. . . .

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You are a representative of India?

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: In this House, I am a representative of India. It is in the interest of this House, as a body, as a whole, to support these proposals There is no question whatever of our being tied to the United Kingdom If we decide later on, that we do not want to have anything to do with Bretton Woods, very well, let us agree to throw the whole thing overboard The Honourable the Finance Member has made it perfectly clear that he will, for his part, take action and India would then withdraw from the whole scheme I suggest that is not what we want I suggest that it is not what the Honourable Members opposite know to be in the real interest of the people

Now, Sir, the third general observation is this. The question of sterling balances has been raised by more than one Honourable Member, and quite rightly. There is an intimate link between the question of sterling balances and the whole problem arising out of Bretton Woods. When I say there is an intimate link, please do not think that I mean that the two problems are not quite distinct and quite separate. The problem of sterling balances is just as distinct from the problem which we are now debating as the United Kingdom Agreement with U S A. in regard to settlement of war debts is distinct from Bretton Woods All that Bretton Woods seeks to do is to put us all in a position of knowing the basis upon which in future we must build, the basis upon which we must make an agreement with the United Kingdom over this very question of sterling balances. Further the question of sterling balances is really one of transfer, it is not an ordinary problem as between a debtor and a creditor. There are so many millions sterling owed to India I have never heard a single person in London—and I have talked to a lot of people, bankers and others since I was last here,—I have never heard a single person suggest that this debt should be repudiated.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Do it, do not say so

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: If you want England to pay her debt, the correct way for you is to allow her to do so in the only own way she can. There is no doubt whatever that given the circumstances and the opportunity,

[Mr Muhammad Nauman]

examined and how they were examined. We are not in a position to say exactly whether the export capacity of India was fully examined and in what light,—export of raw materials or of finished goods,—and in that way what our position would be in regard to exchange. As Sir Zia Uddin pointed out, how really it will function as a clearing-house, is a matter of great importance. Supposing India exported to certain countries from whom nothing can come by way of imports and the trade balance is against that member country, then according to this Agreement the member's fund will be made available, but to what extent it does not say very clearly Again, another thing which is most important in this connection is that India is in a position to export certain raw materials which she can do without looking into her trade balance being compensated by her imports For instance, in jute she holds the world's monopoly of export of jute and jute fabrics, and in that way it is not necessary that she should be compelled to make up her trade balances by imports from other countries for the export of jute that she makes to those countries The question is not very clearly solved as to what would be India's position if she stands as an exporting country for jute and does not want to import anything as she might have developed her own industries to an extent that she may require no consumers goods from other countries I will illustrate my point by saying that India is in a position in which by developing her own industries she can be an exporter of finished goods as well Whether that would be a position in which the quota funds will be able to transfer credits to the member Governments to keep her channels of credits flow into this country to make up the trade balance or it will be restricted to a certain percentage which is to be got through the funds at disposal This is to be examined thoroughly to see whether it will be in our interests or not to be a party to this organisation

Now, I will just refer to a point raised by my Honourable friend, Mr Chapman-Mortimer, who spoke just before me, in connection with the export of jute, jute fabrics, hides and other things He asked what shall we do with these things if we were not to export them to other countries

1 P. M.

I do not want to go into details of the question of export of these particular commodities, but I may say that other countries of the world are more anxious to import jute and jute fabrics from us than we are prepared to export to them We can make good use of our own raw materials; we can utilize them for our own purpose, and we also know that other countries cannot find out a substitute as cheap and good as the jute fabric, and they will have to starve, and stop many of their trading channels because of this The position with regard to hides is this. The exporters of the East India tanned kips, who are in the position of suppliers of the most important and cheap commodity for United Kingdom find themselves in a very peculiar position, because consumers and businessmen in America and England have on the one hand restricted the values of these kips by putting a ceiling price, and on the other hand they are forcing East-India Kips exporters to sell to United Kingdom only as by creating a bonus system the whole kips trade from India has been reduced to a sort of gambling The U K Board do not tell you exactly what the bonus would be; they only say that if certain quantities of hides are made available to the United Kingdom during a stipulated period, they would declare some bonus which may be contribution from the Board of Trades. Our East-Indian kips which we used to send to the United Kingdom are more valuable today and can fetch a higher price in this country than the United Kingdom can pay, but all sorts of baits are being thrown to see that we export them Position about goat skins is also similar. United States of America have lately found out different methods of restricting the trade profits of this country through established combines and trusts The U. K C C , for instance, is one of them in regard to which hundreds of questions have been put in this House but no satisfactory reply has ever been received from this Government These trusts and combines are more or less semi-Government organisations of those countries The United States of America, which is in great need of Indian goat skins as they cannot get goat skin from Persia, Mombasa, or China—the countries which produce skins of good

quality—is trying to coerce us to accept a price which they would dictate to us. They can afford to do this because of the unfortunate position in which we are placed, namely, war rupee is linked to 18 pence whereas dollar is free exchange. By putting the dollar at a higher value, U S A is robbing this country at a price lower than the pre-war level This is the position which probably my Honourable friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, who is a businessman, will appreciate better than anybody else, as "Exchange" jugglery and intricacies cannot be imagined by all others.

What we feel is this In connection with this Bretton Woods Conference, India will be a member, and there is an Agreement,—that is all right—but shall we have an effective voice? As was once said, treaties are a scrap of paper and it binds those to whose interest it may be Unless there is a sanction behind treaty, we cannot maintain it The question is, even if the Agreement is good enough, and we enter into it in good faith, shall we be able to make use of it to our advantage? That is the position which we have got to examine whether we have a sanction for that, whether we have our own independent fiscal policy in this country, whether our economic structure can be planned by ourselves and to our advantage, and whether under the Agreement any benefit will accrue to this country although it is just a chariot wheel of H. M. G of England. These are the points which have to be examined in great detail What I would like to impress upon the House is that with regard to this Agreement there is no question of condemning one or the other, but we have to find out whether we can really make use of those clauses which appear to be for the good of this country, and whether for realizing the benefits under those clauses we will have the support of other Member country of the Organization, or whether it will be only a question of dictation by the United States of America and the United Kingdom who are, in the position of managing directors or chiefs who will use this Agreement to their own advantage Probably other members will not have as effective a voice as the U S A will have, and next to that comes the United Kingdom, who are the founders and builders of this clearing house

I would rather not make any detailed comments in regard to our sterling balances except to say that I would be happy to see if people in England do appreciate what Mr Chapman-Mortimer has said, namely, that they have no desire to go back upon their promises and that they have every sincere wish to repay the debt to us and soon The question is how it can be done? For that England wants us to give them the necessary facilities, and if we do so, probably they would be prepared to repay the debt earlier The question is that we have already given United Kingdom the facilities at a time when they were struggling between life and death To ask us again for favours in the repayment of debt is something which I cannot understand Does not my Honourable friend, Mr Chapman-Mortimer, and His Majesty's Government in England, realize that we, at our own cost, exported distress stock of grain and other goods on their account at a time when we ourselves needed them most? It would be too much to expect further favours from us We would request them, if for nothing else at least for their sense of gratitude and obligation to us, they should repay the debt as soon as they can, and in the way in which we desire them to repay the same It is our choice to tell the debtors country exactly how the payments should be made If we want that the payment should be made by exporting high-class machinery for developing our own industry in this country, they should carefully consider the proposition instead of feeling that we are trying to coerce them which we should not do at this time. My Honourable friend, Mr Chapman-Mortimer, said that the value of British assets in this country, even if they were seized in exchange for sterling assets, would not come to 1800 millions sterling I will not deal with that question I am not in a position to know what is the value of British assets in this country, but in any case it would be more feasible for us to have repayment of our debt by importing capital machinery goods. Personally, I think it will be far better to import high class machinery for the development of our own industry than seize the British assets here.

With these few remarks I resume my seat

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) While I am very glad to find my Honourable friend, Mr Chapman-Mortimer back in this House, although as a nominated member this time, I must express my disappointment that he did not stand up for the rights of the previous House of which he and I were members My Honourable friend thinks that there has been no breach of any undertaking either on the part of the present Finance Member or of his predecessor My grievance is that my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, took a very narrow view of the undertaking that was given by his predecessor It is true that Sir Jeremy Raisman gave the undertaking to give this House a chance of considering these proposals after the attitude of the U S A and the United Kingdom had been known definitely or, in other words, after these two great powers had agreed to abide by the decisions arrived at at that conference at Bretton Woods

Sir, I should like to remind the House of the procedure that was followed in the consideration of this question, for instance, in Great Britain In May, 1943 on the eve of the Bretton Woods Conference, the two Houses of Parliament were not merely consulted by His Majesty's Government as regards the underlying principles of this scheme which had already been prepared by certain experts of the different countries of the world, but actually a resolution was passed by the Houses of Parliament to the effect that "the principles provide a suitable foundation"—referring to a statement of those principles circulated as a command paper—that they 'provide a suitable foundation for further international consultation with a view to improved monetary co-operation after the war" This resolution was adopted by both the Houses and it was as a sort of an authorisation to the British delegation to Bretton Woods to consider the scheme in all its details

Sir, we find that in India similarly in May 1943 the Government consulted, not this House but a body of their own creation, a Committee called the General Policy Committee of the Reconstruction Committee of Council They placed a similar paper before that Committee and had a general discussion of the principles embodied in that paper Sir, I ask my Honourable friend, Mr Chapman-Mortimer, whether he would not have liked a similar procedure to what was followed in England to have been followed in India as well? Then, Sir, when the Bretton Woods Conference had reported, when we had their final Act before us, what did the Government of India do? In spite of the oft expressed desire by individual members of the previous House that they should very much like to have an opportunity of considering this very important scheme, the Government postponed the proposal from day to day, but they had the courtesy of placing the proposals again before that Policy Committee in October 1944 Now, Sir, in February, 1945, when a question was asked in this House, the Honourable the Finance Member said that it was no use discussing these questions before

(Being 1-15 P.M. the Honourable Member was about to resume his seat)

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may finish his sentence

Mr. K. C. Neogy: before England and America had decided to join this scheme and he said "I am going to give this House an opportunity of discussing the measure after the adherence of the two great countries is made known" That is more or less the substance of the undertaking

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

FAILURE TO CARRY OUT ASSURANCE re RAIL ROAD CO-ORDINATION SCHEME

Mr. President: The House may now adjourn till after lunch I may remind Honourable Members that there is an adjournment motion today which will come on for discussion at 4 P.M. as usual.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi Central) May I say a word about the adjournment motion? Unfortunately the Honourable Member in whose name it stands is absent at present But, if the Government are prepared now to give us a guarantee that they set aside a day for a discussion of the matter, or if they are prepared to appoint a Committee to go into the whole affair, we may reconsider our position That is a suggestion for the Government and they can let us know when the House reassembles

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) As usual the Treasury Benches are empty!

Mr. President: The Honourable the Finance Member will convey it to his colleagues

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member) I am not quite clear what Mr Asaf Ali wishes to be conveyed

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: If the Government are prepared to go into the whole question of rail-road co-ordination then it is possible for us to reconsider our position If they do not, then the adjournment motion will be moved

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I will convey that

Mr. President: So just enquire before we re-assemble at 2-30 P.M.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

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Mr. President: Before the Honourable Member resumes his speech let us have the position clear about the adjournment motion I do not know whether the Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands communicated the proposals made to the Honourable Railway Member

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Certainly, about a minute ago

Mr. President: What is the position?

The Honourable Sir Edward Bentha'l (Member for Railways and War Transport) So far as the Government is concerned, the position is this that we are very willing to have this question discussed in committee as we know that it is a very suitable matter to discuss in committee I understand that it is the details of Government's action in fulfilling the policy which is in question but we have not been able to agree in the very short time at my disposal since the Honourable Member made the suggestion exactly how that Committee should be set up My difficulty is this The Standing Finance Committee for Railways is also seized of this subject, because it has been discussing the question of the grants for 1946-47 and I understand that it is unable to come to decisions on certain aspects of the question, anyhow until the debate takes place this afternoon They wish to hear what happens in the course of the debate here before making up their minds on the recommendations that they will make to the Government Naturally, Sir, it seems to me that the proper body to consider these questions would be the Standing Finance Committee for Railways I am prepared to consider another body but the point is that we will then have two committees of the House examining the same question and it is quite possible they may arrive at two different conclusions which would create difficulties I would be glad to come to an arrangement with my Honourable friends opposite but that is my difficulty

Mr. President: The present position is that we are going to take up the adjournment motion at 4 o'clock this afternoon, unless parties come to some agreement by the time this debate ends In the meanwhile, parties may carry on their negotiations, and at the end of this particular motion, I may be informed as to whether any agreement has been arrived at In the absence of any such information, I take it that, at 4 o'clock we proceed with the adjournment motion.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: May I intervene for a moment? As a matter of fact we wanted to save another hour for this debate If the motion for adjournment is to be taken at 4 o'clock it means that we lose one hour as far as this debate is concerned Therefore unless agreement is reached before half past three, the adjournment motion will have to be taken up I therefore suggest that if the Honourable the Leader of the House can be spared for a few minutes I would ask the Honourable Members who are interested in the subject to have a consultation with him and they can come to some sort of agreement and then if we save an hour we can carry on the debate right up to 5 o'clock

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) I was a member of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways and this subject came up

Mr. President: We are taking up the time that is at the disposal of the House

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, the addition of some more members on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways

Mr. President: Order, order The matter is finished The Honourable member, Mr Neogy.

MOTION *RE* BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS—*contd*

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division. Non-Muhammadan Rural) The Honourable the Finance Member put forward the claim that the spirit of the pledge which was given by his predecessor, had been observed What he meant was that certain commercial bodies in this country had been consulted as regards the merits of the Bretton Woods Scheme. Sir, the proof of this latest international pudding is to be in the amount of human happiness, in the ultimate analysis, that is promoted by the operation of the scheme That, at least, I take it, is the claim of the authors of this scheme Sir, it is not the happiness of the commercial community that is involved in this question If my Honourable friend thinks that he has done his duty by consulting the commercial bodies while ignoring the elected representatives of the country, he is, I am afraid, awfully mistaken about the position that the Legislature occupies with reference to a question of this character Sir, I should like to know from my Honourable friend whether he made any representations either to His Majesty's Government or to any authority in connection with the Bretton Woods scheme, to the effect that the Legislature was not in being, at least the Central Assembly was not in being, and therefore it would be difficult for Government to make up their mind one way or another on the merits of the scheme, particularly in view of the understanding which the Government had given to the predecessor of this House Such a representation would be the least that the Government should have made to the proper quarters

Sir, in this connection I am reminded of a complaint which no less a person than Mr Churchill made, while speaking on the Bretton Woods motion in the House of Commons on the 13th December, 1945 He said that he wanted about two months time and he pointed out that there was no special sanctity attached to the 31st December and that if proper representations had been made an extension of time could easily have been granted by the proper authorities I am merely giving the substance of the complaint that he made May I borrow some of the words used by Mr Churchill on that occasion and say, "Why should we not have said, these matters must be laid before the legislature and the legislature will require a considerable time in which to consider them in the light of maturing public opinion" Mr Churchill thought that in view of the importance of the subject, in view of the great interest which the United States of America was taking in this question, there would be no difficulty in securing an extension of time, whether that needed an amendment of the Final Act itself or not. Sir, my Honourable friend has assumed that the 31st December is so sacrosanct in character that he could not afford even to make a representation of this character. This attitude, I take it, was particularly induced by the fact that there is an

one-man legislature functioning, not far from here, where my Honourable friend was sure that he could get the necessary legislative measure passed He had no use for this House It is that assurance that led the Government to ignore the Legislature. What would have happened supposing we had not signified our adherence to the scheme by the 31st December? My Honourable friend has drawn the attention of the House to the small blue pamphlet which he has circulated entitled "India and the Bretton Woods Agreement", wherein, after summarising the principal provisions of the agreement, are enumerated the benefits of membership If, for instance, Britain had decided against joining this new organisation, we would perhaps have had a similar pamphlet The same cover would perhaps have served the purpose of that pamphlet. Only after summarising all the provisions, we would have been told what are the benefits of keeping out of this organisation My honourable friend's department contains very competent officers who can be depended upon to argue the case either way.

Reference was made by my honourable friend to my left to a report which was actually made to the Government by no less a person than their Economic Adviser, Sir Theodore Gregory, wherein in one place at least he seems to have maintained that it would have been to the advantage of India to keep aloof from these international organisations seeking to regulate international fiscal policy This is what Sir Theodore Gregory said in para 23 of that memorandum of 1944

"If the rest of the world were pledged to fix exchange rates whilst India were not, there would be some obvious advantages to be attached to a purely autonomous currency"

We now know that most of the countries of the world, with the only exception of Russia among the great nations, have already adhered to this; therefore, I take it that this condition is fulfilled Assuming India keeps out of the scheme, or signifies her withdrawal, or supposing the Government had decided not to participate at that particular hour when the decision was taken, what would be the position? There would be some obvious advantages, according to Sir Theodore Gregory, to be attached to a purely autonomous currency Apart from that, my honourable friend was apprehensive that if we were to make up our mind at a later stage to join the scheme, the conditions might not have been equally advantageous There, again, I am afraid my honourable friend is unnecessarily frightened by a bogey For one thing, we know how very anxious Britain herself is to see all the various units of the Empire to adhere to this scheme in her own interests I will give a quotation from the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this particular point, which he made in the House of Commons on the 12th December, 1945 The point raised was as regards the facilities which Britain might have, or might not have, in varying the rate of the dollar exchange after she adhered to such a scheme In replying to this point, he said—(I am quoting the exact words)—

"Let it never be forgotten that when we speak of getting the consent of the fund"—(*because the consent of the fund would be required to a variation in the rate of the exchange beyond a particular figure*)—"we are going to be there We are not nobodies in this world. The United Kingdom will be represented in all these discussions so will the dominions; the Empire will be there in full force, and according to the quotas which determine the voting power the total voting power of the British Commonwealth in the fund is almost equal to the voting power of the United States They are over 27 per cent and we have, I think, between us over 25 per cent of which the United Kingdom has over 13 per cent"

It does not seem as if Britain is very indifferent to or joining the fund. After all India has the largest voting power in the Empire, next only to that of Great Britain It would therefore not be a matter of indifference to Great Britain, and if we were to vary this language, we could have said it would be to the interest of the whole Empire to see that the terms on which India would have to be admitted to the Fund at a later date would not be in any way disadvantageous to her. Now, supposing we were to hold out for a little while, it would have given us a very favourable bargaining counter. We could have negotiated with Great Britain on the greater assurance of getting our just dues from her in regard to the sterling balances, and in regard to the convertibility of sterling into dollar. We have thrown away a very good chance in that matter.

[Mr K C Neogy]

I talked about the position of Britain in this matter What about the United States of America? Apart from her sentimental attachment to the scheme of which she is the principal sponsor, she is looking forward to a greater and greater volume of trade and commerce with the rest of the world, and she among other nations is casting longing glances at our raw materials When we find expressions regarding accessibility to the raw materials of the world on equal terms as one of the objectives of the Atlantic Charter, we know what they have in view is the articles that we normally export to the other countries How could they do without raw materials? Therefore, even the influence of the United States would be cast in our favour, had we decided to hold out for a little while, while carrying on negotiations in regard to all the various details

My honourable friend has referred to the trade agreement in this connection,—this yellow paper entitled "Proposals for expansion of world trade and employment" My honourable friend, if I caught him aright, thought, that such a trade agreement must follow the Bretton Woods Agreement In the Houses of Parliament, the three proposals were linked up together in the resolution that was passed—first, the Bretton Woods Agreement, second, the Anglo-American Loan Agreement, and third, these very proposals to which my honourable friend has very rightly referred to as being almost a necessary corollary to the Bretton Woods Agreement So far as this paper is concerned, it may be said that after all they are mere proposals, and they have not yet been adopted But yet from the very fact that this forms part of the resolution which has been adopted by the British Parliament, and also the fact that the Honourable Member took care to circulate this paper to us in connection with this debate, and also because of his own admission that trade agreements of this character must necessarily follow an agreement on the lines of the Bretton Woods Agreement, how can we ignore the possibility of at least the major features of these proposals being adopted at the conference, the international conference that is going to meet next summer in America?

In this connection, I am reminded of the observations made by the London "*Economist*" There the editor says

"It may be said that many of the consequences depend upon the form in which the principles of commercial policy, now merely proposals, emerge as a binding convention from next summer's international conference Formally, as Ministers have explained, Great Britain is not bound by any of these proposals, but it would be very innocent to be misled by these assurances"

Then the paper goes on to express its fear that Britain is likely to be committed to most of these principles whether the proposals are adopted formally or not Now, in this connection I am reminded of a discussion that took place about a year ago in the previous Legislative Assembly, relating to certain features of the Atlantic Charter dealing with the economic set up of the post-war world. The House will remember that India is not a party to the Lend-Lease Agreement India has never formally executed any lend-lease agreement In defence of this action, my honourable friend's predecessor, Sir Jeremy Raisman, argued like this The reason why we chose not to formally agree to the lend-lease agreement is that there are certain phrases there which are virtual echoes from the clauses of the Atlantic Charter to which I have referred, certain phrases there which might in course of time be taken to limit India's liberty of action in the matter of her own economic policy I shall give an extract from Sir Jeremy Raisman's statement on this subject This is what he said on the 26th March, 1945·

'My Honourable friend, Mr Neogy, has pointed out that although Great Britain signed that agreement, they did not consider themselves as being automatically precluded from, say, the continuance of imperial preferential tariffs thereby."

There is a subsidiary agreement by way of an exchange of letters, I understand, between Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt in which an assurance was obtained that the Atlantic Charter and the lend-lease agreement did not preclude

England from the privilege of continuing imperial preference Sir Jeremy Raisman continues :

"That is true They have made it clear that that is their view of the matter But the Government of India found it difficult to obtain sufficient categorical indication of what the position would be"

I take it that the position would be with reference to India's future fiscal policy, that if India were to agree to those clauses it presupposed the levelling down of tariffs and also the discriminatory tariffs and the coming into existence of a sort of free trade in place of protection Sir Jeremy continues

"Therefore they decided that it was better, since they did not think it absolutely essential to execute a formal agreement in order to secure what each side desired in the matter of reciprocal aid, they came to the not unnatural conclusion that it was better to keep clear of any phraseology which might afterwards be thrown up against India in connection with post-war fiscal policies After all, India has always put forward the argument in regard to infant industries and the peculiar position of backward countries It might well be that a formula which might be harmless to other countries would have been embarrassing, if it had been subscribed to by the Government of India"

Now let us turn to the principal features of these trade proposals I turn to page 7 The Heading is "Purposes" What are the purposes of this proposed International trade agreement? Now, purposes 3 and 4 are directly relevant to the point that I am making (3) runs as follows The purpose of the organisation should be "to facilitate access of all members on equal terms to the trade and raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity" (4) "In general to promote national and international action for the expansion of the production, exchange and consumption of goods, for the reduction of tariffs and other trade barriers and so on" Do I take it that the precaution which the Government of India took, under the guidance of Sir Jeremy Raisman, has been given the go-by by my Honourable friend, the present Finance Member in regard to this matter What, in his opinion, should be India's attitude towards these "purposes"? That is a point on which I should like to hear him categorically.

I should like now to come to the question of the sterling balances The connection between the sterling balances and the Bretton Woods Agreement has been admitted practically on all sides of the House, and I therefore make no apology to return to this subject It has already been said that an attempt was made to link up the question of our sterling balances with the very scheme adopted at Bretton Woods Conference and the attempt made by our delegation failed in that behalf The clause in the Anglo-American Loan Agreement which is relevant to the subject is No 10 which requires (a) balances to be released at once and convertible to any currency for current transactions; (b) balances to be similarly released by instalments over a period of years beginning in 1955; and (c) balances to be adjusted as a contribution to the settlement of war and post-war indebtedness and so on This clause has already been quoted by previous speakers In the Press communique, the Christmas communique, which explained Government's action in regard to the Bretton Woods Agreement, the last paragraph summarises these clauses. That paragraph has also been read out to the House by my honourable friend, Mr Gadgil It is very striking that whereas the substance of (a) and (b) have been given there, (c) does not find any mention in the communique. I should like to know from my Honourable friend the Finance Member as to whether this represents a decision which the Government of India have taken to exclude clause (c), so far as India is concerned.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member) No

Mr. K. C Neogy: Then do I take it that it was a clever ruse on the part of the scribe who is responsible for the composition of this communique to keep out of the public view the most important sub-clause of this clause in the Anglo-American Loan Agreement? Why was it that clause (c) does not find any mention? Does this represent the evidence of good faith on the part of the Government of India? I thought I would be able to congratulate the Honourable Member for having taken a decision already in this very crucial matter. I was therefore very much disappointed to find my honourable friend getting

[Mr. K C Neogy]

up and saying that the press communique is misleading. That is virtually what his interruption means

I do not think I shall be justified in taking up any more of the time of the House. I want to emphasize once again a point that was made by my honourable friend to my left that the British assets in India, whatever they may be worth, should be liquidated in the first instance before we undertake any negotiation with Great Britain in regard to sterling balances, and that my honourable friend should be in a position to assure the House that in the course of his recent visits to England he has satisfied himself that the balances to be released under clause (a) would be sufficient for all our immediate needs, and that the balances to be similarly released under clause (b) would similarly suffice to meet our future requirements On these two points, I think, the House is entitled to a categorical assurance from my honourable friend.

As regards clause (c), I should like to refer to the statement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons. He explains
3 P. M. clause number 10 of the Loan Agreement in the following words:

"We propose to ask each of the Governments concerned to discuss and settle with us on the broad basis, which will, of course, vary with the circumstances of each case, that part of the accumulated balances shall be set free forthwith and the balance shall be adjusted, perhaps, in some cases, adjusted downwards "

I do not know whether there was any possibility of the adjustment taking place upwards in some other cases, but this is what the Chancellor says, and I will repeat it.

"The balance shall be adjusted, perhaps, in some cases, adjusted downwards, as a contribution by the sterling area countries to a reasonable settlement of this war debt problem. It is on those lines that we intend to proceed."

Now, Sir, I should like to know whether my honourable friend is going to put forward a claim that the adjustment, so far as India is concerned, should be in the upward direction

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I think the wind has been taken out of the sails of Honourable Members of this House by the very reasonable agreement arrived at between the Treasury Benches and the Opposition to have an *ad hoc* Committee to consider this most important matter. Therefore, to go into the merits of the question just now would, in my humble opinion, be fruitless, as I presume that the result of this agreement will be that the Committee's report will be before this House and it will be followed by a full-dress debate But one cannot help saying at this stage that the questions of the availability of dollar exchange for this country and as to how our sterling debt problem is to be settled are the most important questions and I trust that when we debate this matter after the Committee's report has been presented, light will be thrown on these two most important issues.

Now, Sir, there is a very homely saying that one cannot keep his cake and eat it. At the same time, there are always exceptions to the rule and I would respectfully urge that one of the exceptions to that rule is shown by the action of the Finance Member in having accepted the Bretton Woods settlement without consulting the House in the first instance There are very few Legislatures, I should think, who are in this happy position If the Committee and the House finally agree to accept the Bretton Woods settlement and become a partner, well, if any benefits are to accrue for having been an Original Member, those benefits will be gained On the other hand, if the House comes to the conclusion that we should not join, it can do so without any material loss to this country Therefore, I think I am justified in saying that this is one of the exceptions to the general rule, that we can not keep our cake and eat it at the same time If that is the position and if I am correct in my interpretation of that position, we are in a very happy position indeed. We shall have time to consider the report and I trust that the Committee will thrash out the matter in all its aspects and we shall, let us hope, come to the right conclusions when that discussion takes place If we are in that happy position and if we are placed in that happy position by any action that has been taken, I cannot see

any reason for censure. True it may be that an assurance was given that this House would be consulted before any final action was taken But, as has been explained in this House, this matter was placed before a Committee called the Policy Committee. I see there is some amount of prejudice against that Committee. I do not see why There were many eminent and independent Indians who were members of that Committee and they freely expressed their opinion. And I do not think I am betraying any secrets when I say that the Committee came to the conclusion, the only conclusion that anybody could come to, that this country could not commit itself until they knew the position of the United States and Great Britain, for, if those two countries did not come in, this scheme could never come into force at all. What was the use of trying to commit our country when it was not certain whether the scheme could ever come into force? Therefore, it was not possible to come to a decision or to consider the matter fairly until it was known what was the decision of the United States and the United Kingdom It was only known late in December and therefore it appears very difficult for the Assembly to have been consulted. As to whether attempts were made to get time to consider this matter, after the United Kingdom made up their mind, is something on which perhaps the Honourable the Finance Member will explain himself I am not in a position to say anything just now But if any advantages were to accrue by a decision before the 31st December, those advantages have been obtained without any detriment to the interests of this country and without infringing the power of this House to give a final verdict in this matter.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs Muhammadan Urban): Mr President, Sir, I wish the House had not gone into the details of the Bretton Woods Agreement. We should have accepted the challenge of the Honourable the Finance Member to give welcome to the two aspects of his resolution Instead of putting forward these amendments and amendments to amendments which you allowed, I wish we had without any hesitation of *arriere pensée* in our mind thrown out the resolution as proposed by the Honourable the Finance Member

Proposing of a Committee, Sir, leads me to the view that the proposers feel that there is something in this Bretton Woods show, in this International Fund and in this international arrangement which our masters in company with their colleagues have decided to inflict on us Sir, I had the privilege to be present at the consultation held when the confidential letter of the Honourable the Finance Member came to Calcutta. Every one talked of sterling balances as if they were a legacy left to the millionaries and multi-millionaries of India without paying the slightest attention to the man in the street, to the average Indian citizen who had denied himself many things and created these sterling balances. Sir, what will happen to the sterling balances is not the point which I am making this afternoon. I am sorry nobody in the House has yet told us why all these ecstacies about joining this wonderful organisation as an original or as a non-original member, particularly when our position at the Bretton Woods Conference was considered as very humiliating for this country. Sir, I cannot vouchsafe for the authenticity of the information given to me in New York and in Washington by men placed in very high positions that India a creditor to the creditor nation of the world, in spite of its drowning in the Empire Dollar Pool was not given a seat on the permanent Council because Lord Keynes told Mr. Morgenthau that if you insist on India coming on the Council, these Indians will insist on priority being given to sterling debts I shall not be able to say, no to them and therefore your debts will occupy a secondary position until I have paid India. Therefore the argument was supplied to Mr. Morgenthau by the representatives of Great Britain that if you say that we cannot give two votes to the British Empire, we can easily brush aside India. The same mentality, Sir, was observed in the Aviation Conference at Chicago. India had to beg for a seat, and Cuba and Norway agreed to withdraw in order to give a seat to India.

San Francisco, Sir, is known to every body and now, we are going to an organisation from where we were literally kicked out because Russia has very

[Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi]

graciously agreed to get out, not to give us a seat, but because Russia has decided not to join Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member gave us many reasons why joining the organisation would lead to a sort of exaltation of this country in the eyes of the nations of the world It is rather a late idea, especially in the minds of representatives of the Government of India Sir, I am not anxious to hold the present Finance Member responsible for the manner in which we have been treated Perhaps his predecessor left instructions for him, but I do hold that the dates, 6th, 13th and so on could have been previously arranged to bring us down to our knees and to tell us that if you do not sign the papers through that very interesting signing agency, Sir Girja Shanker Bajpai, the man who signed the Indo-Burmese Agreement, and if he does not go and sign them in the State Department, India will cease to be India I am satisfied in my own mind that if we had kept out the heavens would not have fallen on us. Sir whether it is America, or whether it is Great Britain,—this country with its 400 million people, with its raw materials and the gigantic market it is,—America and Great Britain and all the nations of the world would come and lick our shoes and seek markets here With that strong position I do not see why we should hanker after a seat in this wounderful world organisation which is not going to do any good to the world

Sir, there was once the Dawes plan, there was once an International Bank, and there were many other schemes after the last war I am satisfied that this wounderful Bank and Fund will go the way the other International Bank and the Dawes Plan went We were told about a British country gentleman with a briar pipe in his mouth, Mr Baldwin, now Earl Baldwin had to settle the Anglo-American debt. Was it paid? There were other settlements about debts Did France, did Germany, did any of the countries pay their debts? We need not worry about the sterling debts One day we shall be asked to make a generous gesture for the sake of the suffering world, for the sake of the high honour we attained as members of the mighty British Empire and so on and so forth I hope my Indian colleagues in this House will not recommend a committee to consider whether we should forgive the debt to Great Britain. My position today is, give me back my money, every pie of it and then I shall consider the proposition whether I should join the Fund. Sir, money draws money, sometimes for the advantage of man, and sometimes to his disadvantage If this 1,200 million sterling debt goes the other way, it might draw with it all the contributions we may be called upon to make I would therefore request the House through you, Sir, whether it is possible for these gentlemen who have proposed the amendments for a committee to withdraw them and to give a direct answer to the welcomes wanted from us in a manner which will serve our country best

Sir, I have spent many years in the public life of our country and I know that whenever you want to shelve something you have just to propose a committee and the thing is finished for ever. We have not yet decided by what date the report will be made, we have not yet decided about the formation of the committee,—whether there will be three Congressmen and two Muslim Leaguers and five Government and non-Government members, and so on, Why bother about all this? Let us once and for all say that we are not satisfied I know, Sir, that under our extraordinary laws decisions of this House may be thwarted, any opinion given by us could be thrown away by the wonderful methods in which we are ruled today Let them do it. I consider myself as in that good old Urdu adage, "*Mochika mochi*" Whether I decide one way or the other I do not possess the power to see that my decisions shall go through they will decide as and when and in what manner they like it Sir, you will find a trace of pessimism in the way I am placing my case before you. I am afraid that the older I grow the more pessimistic I become, for the simple reason that these debates and these legalisms which we throw from one side of the Chamber to the other lead us nowhere If London decides that India shall be in this organisation we shall be there and friends will be found to recommend the formation of committees. If London decides that India

shall not be allowed to do this that or the other, I am satisfied in my own mind that we shall not be able to do anything. Take a very ordinary case. I want to purchase something in America and they do not grant me convertibility of the rupee into dollar, I must go through London, purchase sterling currency and then have it converted into the American currency. Is that the way in which this great country is going to be treated Whether we are free, whether we are able to control our own destinies, my own point of view is that if we are going to dodge the Resolution as proposed by the Honourable the Finance Member by proposing a committee, whether for bargaining purposes or for gaining time or for trying to control the policies of that organisation, we shall be playing into the hands of people in London and their agents here. Let us say therefore that we do not want to join the organisation and if they push us into it the responsibility is theirs To accept responsibility by going into a committee and then to get up again in this House and shout as we have shouted now for two days that we do not accept responsibility is not the right way to deal with the question Let us throw the whole responsibility on Government which today is not ours and let us in or own way, if possible, do the best we can for our country, for our industries and for our people.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. President, I desire at this stage to say a few words on the subject before the House, namely, the Resolution moved by the Honourable the Finance Member, the amendment moved by my Honourable and learned friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, as further amended by my Honourable friends, Prof. Ranga and Sri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, and to sum up the debate on behalf of the Opposition Sir, I have listened most closely and carefully to the speech that the Honourable the Finance Member made yesterday, and at the end of his speech I began to wonder whether he was at all minded to treat this House with the consideration and the courtesy it deserved He moved the Resolution, he spoke on it, but he did not say one word on the most relevant issues that arose out of it, namely, release from the Dollar Pool and payment of our sterling balances. It was not long ago that he considered those two matters to be extremely important It was on the 6th December 1945 that, writing to the Chairman of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, he said:

"My own personal view is strongly that it would be in India's interests to become an original member "

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, on a point of order, the Honourable Member is reading from a confidential letter

Mr. President: What is this letter?

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: I have in my hands copy of a letter addressed by the Honourable the Finance Member to the Chairman of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Will the Honourable Member read the first sentence of that letter? I have no objection to the letter being read, but I am merely taking a point whether it is in order to quote from a confidential letter.

Mr. President: I believe the Honourable Member, Mr Siddiqui, who spoke last referred to that letter and gave out its contents, though he did not read the letter itself

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I do not know whether he referred to it or not I am raising a point of order and asking whether it is in order for an Honourable Member of this House to quote from a letter written by a Member of Government and marked "Private and Confidential".

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan): Sir, on a point of order, can my Honourable friend quote any rule or standing order regarding quotation from a confidential letter? If my Honourable friend has written to an organisation and asked that organisation to consult its members, where does the question of confidential nature arise?

Mr. President: Whatever it may be, the correspondence is between two parties and one Honourable Member has already disclosed that letter. I do not think the point of order arises

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: I can well understand, Sir, that it will be most disconcerting to the Honourable the Finance Member if I were to quote portions of his letter.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir, he can go on

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: On the 6th December 1945, this is what he said in his letter to the Chairman of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

"My own personal view is strongly that it would be in India's interests to become an original member, but that before announcing her adherence we should obtain assurances from His Majesty's Government that we shall be released from the Dollar Pool and that an adequate proportion of our sterling balances should be converted into free exchange, including dollars"

That was the attitude of the Honourable the Finance Member on the 6th of December 1945 That was exactly the attitude of his predecessor in office, Sir Jeremy Raisman May I ask, Sir, what has happened between the 6th of December 1945 and today? Why this mysterious and enigmatic silence about release from the Dollar Pool and about the repayment of India's sterling balances? Questions which were considered relevant in 1944, questions which were considered relevant in 1945 are completely ignored by the Honourable the Finance Member today

Sir, I shall take the House back to the year 1944, if I may, for a moment Sir Jeremy Raisman, as Honourable Members are aware, was a member of the Indian Delegation and immediately on his arrival at New York it was decided by the whole of the Indian Delegation that Sir Jeremy Raisman and Sir Chintaman Deshmukh should go to Atlantic City with a view to ensuring that the questions in which India was particularly interested, specially the sterling balances, were included in the Draft Agenda of the Conference—I mean the Bretton Woods Conference Now, let us examine what happened after that Time after time members of the Indian Delegation attempted to raise the subject of release from the Dollar Pool and repayment of India's sterling balances Time after time that attempt was frustrated I wish to draw the attention of the House to certain facts and certain events which happened in the year 1944 The Indian Delegation proposed the addition of a new purpose in the statement of purposes of the International Monetary Fund, namely, "to promote and facilitate the *settlement of abnormal indebtedness arising out of the war*" The proposal came up for consideration in Committee No I, of the Conference and, in fact, it was Sir Jeremy Raisman himself who opened the discussion. Says the Report of the Indian Delegation

"The importance attached to this question in India was so great that it determined largely the public interest in, and attitude towards, the international monetary proposals India expected to embark, after the war, on a programme of considerable industrial development and looked to the availability of her large sterling balances for the import of capital equipment in the immediate post war years when the United Kingdom would be largely engaged in internal rehabilitation and reconstruction"

Sir, the proposal of the Indian Delegation came up before Committee No I, and the Conference, but of course, it failed to obtain support from other delegates particularly the delegates of the United Kingdom and of the United States of America Mr A D Shroff, who was a member of the Indian Delegation, pressed the matter hard He, as the Report says, proceeded to point out that "Public opinion and feeling on this question in India was unanimous and extremely strong and unless some method were devised to facilitate the solution of what was an extremely important matter for us, the ultimate attitude of India towards the International Monetary Fund would be largely influenced by the decision of the Conference on this question" He added that we could not be asked to wait indefinitely till the United Kingdom had reached a stage when sterling would be freely convertible into other currencies He demanded that there should be conversion at least of a portion of our sterling balances into other

foreign currencies Sir, I find from the Report of the Indian Delegation that the United Kingdom delegate remarked that "in the opinion of the Government of the United Kingdom, sterling obligations were to be respected in accordance with—mark the words—in accordance with the long tradition of British international finance" Tradition of British international finance, forsooth! The tradition of British international finance *vis-a-vis* India is a tradition of love love of the tiger for the lamb, love of the vulture towards its prey!

Now, Sir, proceeding further I have to remind the House that the Indian Delegation attempted to place before the appropriate Committee and the Conference a new revised amendment to the purpose of the Fund The amendment also met with the same fate as Sir Jeremy Raisman's proposal to which I have already referred The amendment that was moved by a member of the Indian Delegation was not even seconded by any of the delegates present at the Conference, and so it dropped In this connection, Sir, I shall make no apology for quoting a few words from the speech at the same Conference by Mr A. D Shroff, a gentleman, who, if he errs at all, errs on the side of moderation. He said

"I am very sorry to say that the manner in which the proposal of the Indian Delegation was received by this Committee and the very casual fashion in which it was disposed of have caused serious disappointment to this side of the Committee"

And he added further

"What I ask for is a multilateral settlement of a portion of our balances If the Conference is prepared to accept the principle of our amendment, then I see no difficulty at all in evolving a concrete formula by which the two purposes set out in our amendment can be met The purposes set out in our amendment are two To secure multilateral convertibility for a reasonable portion of our balances, and, secondly, to devise a formula so as not to place undue strain on the resources of the Fund

"I am bound to point out this that if you are prepared to ignore a country of the size of India with 400 million population and with natural resources, though not fully developed, yet not incomparable to the natural resources of some of the biggest powers on this earth, we cannot be expected to make our full contribution to the strengthening of the resources of the Fund"

The Indian delegation placed India's point of view with all the strength that its members could command but it met with the same fate as all proposals, made in the true interests of India, have met in the past, are meeting in the present and may meet for some time more in the future

Now as regards the payment of the sterling balances, it was said, and I find that quoted in the record of the second meeting of the General Policy Committee which was held in Bombay on the 4th and 5th May 1944, that "in the absence of a satisfactory solution of this problem, the prospects of India's willingness to adhere to this scheme would be considerably prejudiced" But, of course, the delegates of the United Kingdom and the delegates of the United States of America were adamant and the result was that the Indian delegation had to return to India without any of their demands being accepted by the Conference.

I ask again, why this mysterious and enigmatic silence on the part of the Finance Member on the question of the release from the dollar pool and repayment of our sterling balances? If His Majesty's Government and their agents and representatives in this House say that it is not possible for His Majesty's Government to repay even a portion of our sterling balances, if they confess bankruptcy, they can at least do this; they can mobilise British assets in India, which my honourable and learned friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, estimated at about Rs. 1,300 crores, and use them for repayment of at least a portion of India's sterling balances But, as I have said not word was said by the Honourable the Finance Member yesterday about release from the dollar pool or the repayment of our sterling balances I know, Sir, that Lord Keynes said at that conference that "nevertheless the settlement of these debts must be, in our clear and subtle judgment a matter between those directly concerned"—a familiar likeness to what was said in the past on other subjects affecting India.

[Shri Sarat Chandra Bose]

When India's position was discussed at the Peace Conference after the first World War, it was said that it was a matter between England and India and the World Peace Conference had nothing whatever to do with it Similarly today it is said that, if it is a question of payment of our sterling balances by England, "well, that it is a matter between those directly concerned—between England and India—and the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference had nothing whatever to do with it' The last sentence of Lord Keynes is richer still. This is what he said:

"When the end is reached and we can see our way into the daylight, we shall take it up without any delay, to settle honourably what was honourably and generously given"

The fact is, Sir, that it was not given at all. It was seized by brute force.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Hear, hear

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: And we on this side of the House have hardly any expectations that Great Britain, as far as this matter is concerned, will ever be honest or generous

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They do not say that they are going to be generous They only talk of honour.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: The truth of the matter is that the Churchillian policy still holds the ground, i.e , 'We hold what we have".

Sir, the Government of India undertook again and again not to make any commitments until opportunity for discussion had been afforded to the Legislature. I examined closely the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member and I attempted in vain to find any satisfactory answer to the question as to why the Legislature had not been consulted and why there was this unseemly hurry to draw India into the folds of the United Nations Monetary Fund The Honourable the Finance Member said yesterday that there was advantage in becoming an original member He did not venture to dilate on those advantages, but when he spoke of those advantages I recalled to mind what was said after the first World War, namely, that there were great advantages in India becoming an original member of the League of Nations India knows now what advantages she has derived from becoming an original Member of the League of Nations. She was a slave country then, she is a slave country still, though I am more than ever convinced she will not remain a slave country for long.

Several Honourable Members: Hear, hear.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: I say, Sir, after the greatest consideration I could bring to bear on this subject, that there were no over-riding advantages at all in becoming an Original Member of this Monetary Fund What could be achieved by becoming an original member could certainly be achieved by becoming a member subsequently after taking the vote of this Legislature, if this Legislature sanctioned it

When I read the report of the Indian delegation and the connected papers that the Government were pleased to circulate among the Members of the House, I felt that the attitude of the Government of India in this matter could be summed up in these words Large promises, smooth excuses, circumstantial falsehoods, political chicanery and economic jugglery These have been and still are the weapons, offensive and defensive, of the Government of India It is true that those weapons have become somewhat blunt today; but I realise, and the country realises, that it still remains for us to break those weapons into pieces. And we shall do it

I am well aware that it is necessary for all nations, including India, to bring about world peace and world Economic order. I recognise that they are big

questions: questions which have assumed even greater importance after the second World War But I shall say on behalf of the party which I have the honour to represent in this House and on behalf of the larger party outside this House which also I have the honour to represent, that India demands, and rightly demands, a seat of honour at the international table India refuses and will always refuse to be a beggar standing and waiting for the crumbs that might fall from the international table.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Hear, hear.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: She will not allow herself any more to be suffocated between predatory British imperialism on the one hand and gigantic American commercial imperialism on the other We shall take our stand on our honour and dignity. We shall not look to this side or that. Our course is clear; our road is straight.

Sir, I have done, but, before I conclude, I desire to make an appeal to this House to rise to its full stature, to condemn the action of the Government of India in committing this country as they have done, to support the amendments of my Honourable friends, Mr. Manu Subedar, Prof Ranga and Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, to have the matter examined in the light of the supreme interests of India and to give the right and correct lead to the country.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

FAILURE TO CARRY OUT ASSURANCE *re* RAIL-ROAD COORDINATION SCHEME—*contd*

Mr. President: Before we proceed I should like to have the position clear regarding the adjournment motion. How has it been decided?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: An agreement seems to have been reached between the Leader of the House and the Member in whose name the adjournment motion stood and that agreement is again subject to further modification. Perhaps it has been agreed that the Leader of the House would not mind if a Committee of the House is appointed—perhaps an *ad hoc* committee—and the functions of this committee will be explained later on if necessity arises. But so far as the terms of reference of this committee are concerned, they are still subject to negotiation between the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader or Deputy Leader or representative of the Muslim League party and I hope that the Leader of the House will make a statement on the subject and if I am wrong, he will correct me.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I understand the position to be this If I agreed on behalf of Government to an *ad hoc* committee, to discuss the progress report on road-rail co-ordination, which I laid on the table on the first day of this Session, the Honourable the Mover of the adjournment motion will then agree not to move this adjournment motion. I was in favour, when I spoke before, of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways dealing with this matter but I now agree to a special *ad hoc* committee with reference to this matter. On this understanding I believe the Mover will not move his adjournment motion and I think the other Parties are also in agreement with this.

As regards the composition of the Committee, we have not yet had time to settle that matter with the leaders and if the principle is agreed to, I trust that the leader, deputy leader or representatives of parties will be good enough to meet me in my room afterwards to settle the details of the composition of this committee.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Is it not a fact that it was agreed that the terms of reference of this Committee would also be the subject of further adjustment? It is not merely a question of considering the progress report but perhaps we

[Mr. M Asaf Ali]

can go a little further and examine the policies behind it. However, that is a matter which can be negotiated between the Leader of the House and the others who are interested in this question For the moment an *ad hoc* committee of the House has been agreed to and as regards composition, etc. we will talk about these things in the lobby and come to some settlement If that is agreed to I do not think the Mover will care to move the adjournment motion.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division. Non-Muhammadan Rural): I had a talk with the Honourable the Leader of the House.... . .

Mr. President: I want to make my position clear as to how I am interested in this Unless some decision is come to within four minutes from now, I must proceed with the adjournment motion There are two courses open. One would be that the present debate may be carried over to tomorrow, if the adjournment motion is to be taken up now and the Finance Member should have the time that he wants for the purpose of replying to all that has been said on all sides of the House I am prepared to suspend the present business to take up the adjournment motion The other alternative, to my mind, would be to agree to postpone the adjournment motion till tomorrow. We may take it up tomorrow just as we decided to take it up today after consultation. I should like to know from the Leader of the House what he has to say. I am entirely in the hands of the House on that question.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta. Non-Muhammaden Urban) Sir, I agree with the suggestion made by you that the adjournment motion may be taken up tomorrow and today the Bretton Woods debate may conclude.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammedan Rural) Sir, may I submit for your consideration as well as for the consideration of our leaders that an adjournment motion on the Bombay firing stands in my name which is a matter of great and urgent importance.

Mr. President: Honourable Members will help me, I hope, because time is running against.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Put the hands of the clock back, Sir.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am agreeable either to the adjournment of the adjourned adjournment motion till tomorrow or to the appointment of an *ad hoc* committee As regards the terms I think the terms to be discussed should be those contained in the adjournment motion. But if the Honourable Member opposite wishes to discuss a wider scope for this committee later, I think it would be possible to consider that at the proposed meeting.

Mr. President: So the position, as I understand, is this· that the adjournment motion is adjourned till tomorrow. That is the position today. In the meanwhile, negotiations may be carried on. If the parties are able to agree, well and good If not, we take the adjournment motion tomorrow.

MOTION *RE* BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS—*contd.*

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, in view of the fact that Government have accepted that a Committee should be set up to examine the subject matter of this debate and in view of the fact, as I judged from the two amendments put down by both parties, that the committee is generally acceptable to the House, I do not propose today to deal in any detail with the many technical points that have been raised in the course of this debate. The

debate has been extremely useful in having focussed the attention of the House on the points which worried some of the Members and those points, I think, can better be dealt with, on the technical aspects anyhow, in the committee which is proposed. I have no doubt that I may again be accused of brevity, as I was accused of brevity in my opening speech, and I have given the reasons why I decided to be brief But I deny Prof Ranga's soft impeachment (if any impeachment of my friend directed against the Government can be regarded as soft). Anyhow, I deny the impeachment that I was revealing my ignorance of the agreement, that I was trying to conceal some of the secrets from the House, which I did not want them to know Nevertheless, there are a number of matters with which, I think, it would be for the convenience of the House and for the Committee that follows it, if I dealt I do not wish to take the point that has been raised by one Honourable Member, namely,

4 P. M. whether the action of the Government, being purely formal,—was or was not a breach of the pledge given by my predecessor I accept fully that it is a breach of the pledge given by my predecessor Legalistically, it may be argued from the wording that it really did not amount to a breach, but I accept it was a breach, and I tried to explain in my opening speech why the Government thought it necessary to proceed to adhere to Bretton Woods in disregard, if you like, of the pledge given by my predecessor. The point was very well explained by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir and I do not want to add to what he has said

The next thing that was alleged was that the decision of the Government was dictated by Whitehall There seems to be a popular idea in the minds of my friends opposite that all that we do in Delhi is to sit at the end of a telephone or telegraph wire or at the dak box, receiving our orders from Whitehall Nothing can be further from the truth Whitehall did not dictate, in the slightest degree, the decision of this Government to adhere to Bretton Woods (*An Honourable Member* "Too good to believe!") May be, but so long as I am in my seat I am not taking orders from Whitehall or from anybody Perhaps I will be told next that my Demonetisation Ordinance was dictated by Whitehall!

It was alleged that one of the reasons for this dictation was because of the value of the export trade of Great Britain to India The boot however is on the other foot The proportion of exports to the United Kingdom in relation to the total export trade of India is well over 33 per cent The total percentage of the United Kingdom exports to India is under 7 per cent So if there is any advantage in the trade argument, it is in favour of India and not of the United Kingdom

I am afraid that some of my friends opposite have failed to see the wood for the trees and have brought in a number of questions that are not strictly relevant to the matter under discussion. I do accept, however, that the question of the sterling balances, as pointed out in the brilliant speech, if I may say so, of Dr Sir Zia Uddin, is a connected question There is a connection between them but they are really separate issues It was claimed that India should not have adhered to the Bretton Woods Agreement, because thereby it lost a bargaining counter I personally do not think that the fact that India has adhered to Bretton Woods will have the slightest effect on the course of those negotiations The use of a threat of that sort is not going to do anybody any good Anyhow, if it were the case that it was a good bargaining counter, the threat to withdraw which we are enabled to do by giving immediate notice is an equally good bargaining counter. There is no particluar point in our giving a bargaining counter away in advance if it is really to be used in the negotiations on sterling balances.

The next point is that withdrawal from the Bretton Woods now would constitute a blow to British prestige I think there is no validity in that argument at all. If the prestige of the United Kingdom were to be affected in any

[Sir Archibald Rowlands]

way, it would be to enhance it, because here would be an example to people who believe that this country is ruled from Whitehall, in that it has abstained from overruling the verdict of the Legislature If there is any question of prestige involved, the result would be an enhanced prestige and not a diminished one. When we go to these negotiations on sterling balances, India is perfectly free to take any line it likes, including a demand for part of the balances to be liquidated through the compulsory acquisition of British assets in India. There is nothing at all to prevent them from raising that issue and having it fully discussed

I think it was my friend Mr Gadgil who wanted to know what had happened about taking up this question of sterling balances, whether we had done anything about it I do not deny that I have had at least some semi-official correspondence with Whitehall In my judgment it is very much better to postpone discussing this question of sterling balances until we see whether, as a result of the elections, another Government in succession to this will emerge That is the kind of government which, I think, would be better equipped to handle this question of sterling balances If, unhappily, that event is too long delayed, and I am called upon to take part in such negotiations, I give a pledge, and renew the pledge I have already given, that I am prepared to associate with the official delegation non-officials, including representatives acceptable to the parties in this House

The next question that was raised was the question of the par of exchange. There was a suggestion by, I think, Prof Ranga that there was a limitation on the capacity of India to exercise the right which it would have under this Agreement, to vary its par of exchange because it was linked to sterling. In point of fact, the Agreement implied a break of that link: it compels it in certain cases India is perfectly free not to change its par of exchange even if the United Kingdom were to find it necessary to vary its par of exchange at its own instance, up to 10 per cent, and with the consent of the Fund 10 per cent or even more India would be free to change her par of exchange without it having any effect on the par of exchange of sterling In point of fact, if India remains a member of the Bretton Woods Agreement, an amendment to the Reserve Bank Act will be undertaken by Government, breaking away from the exchange of about 1s 6d So, so far from imposing any limitation on India's monetary sovereignty, it removes such limitations as may be set upon it at the present time

The next thing said was that this involves a return to the gold standard, which has proved so ruinous in the inter-war period It is true that gold is going to take a part in the operations of the Fund and Bank, but it is going to take a relatively minor part Anyhow, it is not taking any such part as would represent a return to the gold standard. The features of the old gold standard were, first, its fixity and, later, its automatic operation In the arrangements proposed, while stability and order are introduced into international exchange, there are provisions for varying the exchange, provisions for varying the gold value of all the currencies participating In any case, those features cannot be regarded as the old gold standard; and I do not wish that my word only be taken as authority for it, there is the authority of Dr Dalton, that distinguished economist,—whose opinion was shared by two previous Chancellors of the Exchequer, in spite of the attempts of Mr Boothby in the House of Commons to dispute it, which attempts failed utterly Even Mr. Boothby had to admit the claims of Dr Dalton.

Mr Neogy in his usually convincing speech wanted to know what the position of India was in relation to the trade discussions to which India has been invited in the summer of this year India is as free to take whatever line she likes in

relation to these trade negotiations as she is free to take whatever line she likes in relation to the sterling balances She can use her own judgment, she can refuse to reduce her tariff walls to a point where her own nascent industries would be threatened After all, America herself built up her prosperity by high tariff walls, and I see no difficulty in persuading America that, in the peculiar position in which India finds herself, a similar procedure will have to be followed by her After all, it will only be following America's own example. I think all we are aiming at is that there should be no discriminatory tariff position, and not that there should be no tariff walls.

I think that covers most of the points that I wanted to make, except that I think it is only fair to deal with the point raised by the Leader of the Opposition in his speech just before he sat down He wanted to know what had happened between the date I wrote a personal confidential letter to the three trade associations and the date on which we adhered to Bretton Woods I circulated the papers regarding the United States and the United Kingdom Loan Agreement If he had read that, he would have noticed that in paragraph 7 the United Kingdom undertook to make arrangements which involve the breaking up of the Dollar Pool and secondly it undertook to enter into negotiations with India and other sterling debtor countries with a view to converting a percentage of the accumulated sterling balances into freely convertibility currencies

That brings me back to a point raised by Mr. K C. Neogy as to whether we are going to make a claim under (a) and (b) of 10(1) of this Agreement It is my intention to base our minimum claim on the best estimate of what India needs in the first five years, and, in the meanwhile, investigations and inquiries are being pursued vigorously to that end and the results will be available to myself, if I have to lead the delegation, or to my successor if, as I think, he will be called upon to undertake it Sir, I think that is all I have to say

Mr. President: We have before us the motion of the Honourable Member and two principal amendments There are three amendments to one amendment and one amendment to another amendment. I will first dispose of the amendments to amendments.

First, I put to the House amendment No. 6 in the name of Mr. Ayyangar.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I accept it

Mr. President: It has to be put to the House.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions. Non-Muhammadan Rural) What would be the result? Suppose we pass this amendment It is really part of another amendment If we reject that amendment, what will be the position? I think the main amendment must be taken first. If we accept that, then this can be added on to that later.

Mr. President: The position is not as the Honourable Member suggests. This is an amendment to an amendment If the House accepts any of these two amendments, then I shall have to put to the House the amended amendment If the House rejects that, then the original amendment will be put.

The question is:

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Prof. N. G Ranga the following words be added, namely ·

'and pending consideration by this Assembly of such Report no further action be taken by this Government in respect of the said Fund or Bank'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I now put to the House Prof. N. G. Ranga's amended amendment: The question is:

"That for the second paragraph of the amendment moved by Mr. Manu Subedar the following words be substituted, namely:

'That in order to determine what steps should now be taken, a Committee of this House consisting of 9 members be elected to go into this question and report at an early date to this House,

'and pending consideration by this Assembly of such Report no further action be taken by this Government in respect of the said Fund or Bank'"

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I now put to the House the amended amendment

The amendment of Mr. Manu Subedar, as now amended, will read as follows:

"That for the original Motion the following be substituted:

'That, this House condemns the action taken by the Government of India and the steps taken by them to signify the assent of India to join as member of the International Monetary Fund and International Bank as set out in the Final Act of the Bretton Woods Conference, in disregard of the assurances given to this House and to the public of India, that such action will not be taken till full information was given to the country at large and till the assent of this Assembly was secured;

That in order to determine what steps should now be taken, a committee of this House consisting of 9 members be elected to go into this question and report at an early date to this House,

and pending consideration by this Assembly of such Report no further action be taken by this Government in respect of the said Fund or Bank'"

I forgot to mention to the House Amendment No 2 by Mr. Tyson which does not survive Therefore I do not put it to the House.

I propose to have the vote of the House on this in three parts. The first part is the first paragraph of the amendment of Mr. Manu Subedar.

The question is that the first paragraph of this amended amendment be adopted.

The Assembly divided:

AYES—53

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.
Adityan, Sri S. T.
Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
Ayyangar, Sri M Ananthasayanam.
Bose, Shri Sarat Chandra.
Chaman Lall, Diwan.
Chettiar, Sri T A. Ramalingam.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.
Dani, Mr. G. B.
Gadgil, Sjt N. V.
Gangaraju, Sri V.
Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, Mr.
Gole, Mr. P. B.
Gounder, Sri V. G. Vallingiri.
Govind Das, Seth
Guruswami, Mr S
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hiray, Sjt B. S
Jagannathdas, Sri.
Jhunjhunwala, Mr B P
Jnachandran, Sri M K
Karmarkar, Shri D P.
Khan, Mr Debendra Lal
Lahiri Chowdhury, Srijut Dhirendra Kanta
Madandhari Singh, Mr
Mahapatra Sri Bhagirathi
Malaviya, Pandit Govind.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Masani, Mr. M. R.
Menon, Sri A Karunakara
Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.
Narayanmurthi, Sri N.
Neogy, Mr K C.
Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt.
Ram Narayan Singh, Babu.
Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Ranga, Prof N. G.
Reddiar, Sri R. Venkatasubba.
Saksena, Shri Mohan Lal
Salve, Mr P K.
Sanyal, Mr Sasanka Sekhar
Satakopachari, Sri T. V.
Sharma, Mr Krishna Chandra
Sharma, Pandit Balkrishna.
Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Shri
Sukhdev Udhowdas, Mr.
Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu
Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
Varma, Mr B. B
choorkar, Sardar N. G.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 30th January, 1946

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

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that the following non-official members have been elected to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for remainder of the financial year 1945-46 and for the financial year 1946-47 (1) Lt -Col Dr J C Chatterjee, (2) Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, (3) Sjt. N V. Gadgil, (4) Mr B P Jhunjhunwala, (5) Diwan Chaman Lall, (6) Mr P B. Gole, (7) Sri T V Satakopachari, (8) Raja Bahadur of Khalikote, (9) Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan, (10) Mr Manu Subedar, (11) Mr Geoffrey W Tyson, (12) Mr Leslie Gwilt, (13) Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, and (14) Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS

Mr. President: I have also to inform the Assembly that the following non-official members have been elected to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the unexpired portion of the current financial year, 1945-46 and for the year commencing 1st April, 1946 (1) Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, (2) Mr S Guruswami, (3) Hafiz Mohammad Abdullah, (4) Shri Sri Prakasa, (5) Mr. H G Stokes, and (6) Sri Jagannathdas

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO GOVERNING BODY OF INDIAN RESEARCH FUND ASSOCIATION

Mr. President: I have to further inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Tuesday, the 29th January, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for election of members to sit on the Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association two nominations were received As the number of nominations is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Sir Hassan Suhrawardy and Shri Sri Prakasa to be duly elected.

DECLARATIONS OF EXEMPTION UNDER REGISTRATION OF FOREIGNERS ACT

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member): Sir, I lay on the table a copy each of the following Declarations of Exemption issued under the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939;

(i) No 1/10/45-Poll(E), dated the 20th March 1945,
(ii) No 1/18/45-Poll(E), dated the 20th March 1945,
(iii) No 1/18/45-Poll(E), dated the 26th April 1945,
(iv) No 1/18/45-Poll(E), dated the 30th May 1945,
(v) No D 41/45-Poll(E), dated the 23rd October 1945, and
(vi) No. D. 167/45-Poll(E), dated the 8th November 1945

No 1/18/45-Poll (E)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Simla, the 20th March, 1945

Declaration of Exemption

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not Foreigners,

shall not apply to, or in relation to Mr Claude Marcus Cannon, U S citizen, for so long as he is employed as Assistant Business Manager, United States Foreign Economic Administration in India

A W LOVATT,
Under Secy to the Govt. of India.

No 1/18/45-Poll (E)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME DEPARTMENT
Simla, the 20th March, 1945
Declaration of Exemption

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not Foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to Miss Janet D Corwin, a U S national, for so long as she is employed with the Regional Director for the Far East, the Rockefeller Foundation Delhi

A W LOVATT,
Under Secy to the Govt. of India

No 1/18/45-Poll (E)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME DEPARTMENT
Simla, the 26th April, 1945
Declaration of Exemption

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not Foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to—

(i) Rev Father Michael D Lyons, an employee of the U S A Foreign Economic Administration

(ii) Mr Ernest Llewellyn Curry, Port Engineer, United States War Shipping Administration.

(iii) Mr Jasper R Marlowe, United States Foreign Economic Administration, China Mission, New Delhi

for so long as they remain in their present posts

A W LOVATT,
Under Secy to the Govt. of India

No 1/18/45-Poll (E)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME DEPARTMENT
Simla, the 30th May, 1945
Declaration of Exemption

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not Foreigners, shall not apply to, or in relation to—

(i) Mr James K Brinker Port Operations Assistant, Calcutta, an employee of the United States War Shipping Administration,

(ii) Mr Horatio B Hawkins, United States Foreign Economic Administration, New Delhi,

(iii) Mr John Martin Cates Recruitment and Manning Representative of United States War Shipping Administration in Bombay,

for so long as they remain in their present posts.

A. W. LOVATT,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. D.-41/45-Poll. (E.)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 23rd October, 1945

Declaration of Exemption

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to, passengers and visitors who are not Foreigners, shall not apply to or in relation to, Mr Morton S Cressy, United States citizen, for so long as he remains in India in connection with the work of advising the Government of India on the development of Chemical Industries

A W LOVATT,

Under Secy to the Govt. of India

No D-167/45-Poll (E) (U S)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOME DEPARTMENT

New Delhi, the 8th November, 1945

Declaration of Exemption

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 (XVI of 1939), the Central Government is pleased to declare that the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, except rule 8 and such of the provisions of rules 4, 14, 15 and 16 as apply to, or in relation to passengers and visitors who are not Foreigners, shall not apply to or in relation to Mr. C. V. Coes, who is in India in connection with the work of advising the Government of India on the post-war development of the machinery and engineering industries

A W LOVATT,

Under Secy to the Govt. of India

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

FAILURE TO CARRY OUT ASSURANCE *re* RAIL ROAD CO ORDINATION SCHEME—*contd*

Mr. President: May I know how the position stands with regard to the adjournment motion?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport) Sir, I held a meeting with the representatives of Parties this morning and on the understanding that the adjournment motion will be withdrawn, we agreed to the appointment of a Committee Whether I should move for the appointment of a Committee today or whether it should be on the next day for official business is a matter for you, Sir, to decide

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Are you permitting the motion to be moved today, Sir? If so, I have to make a statement

Mr. President: Is the motion ready?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, I can move it straightaway.

Mr. President: Yes.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Provided the Honourable Member withdraws his adjournment motion.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: On the understanding that this motion is moved, I will withdraw the adjournment motion.

Election of Members to Committee re Road-Rail Co-ordination Scheme

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I move:

"That this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, seven Members to serve on a Committee to examine the progress made in carrying out the principles of road rail co-ordination scheme approved by this House on 12th April, 1945, and to report to the House within fourteen days."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, seven Members to serve on a Committee to examine the progress made in carrying out the principles of road-rail co-ordination scheme approved by this House on 12th April, 1945, and to report to the House within fourteen days."

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Before you put the Motion finally to the House, I wish to say a few words

Mr. President: On the adjournment motion?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The motion is now before the House and I am entitled to say a few words on it

Mr. President: Is it necessary at all?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa. Muhammadan) It is an agreed motion

Mr. President: I am putting it to the Honourable Member, that if the motion is an agreed motion, is it necessary for him to say anything?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I wanted a certain clause to be put there. This clause was

"that in the meantime the Government of India should not co-operate in the promotion or execution of provincial road rail transport schemes"

But the Honourable Member did not accept it, and I agreed to the motion as it is worded on the understanding that instructions will be issued by the Honourable Member for Railways and War Transport accordingly Accordingly we did not insist on its inclusion in the motion. I only wanted this point to be made clear

Mr. President: If the Honourable the Leader of the House has given any such assurance as is alleged, he may state it on the floor of the House

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The agreed motion, as Honourable Members present will corroborate, was in the terms which I have read out In the course of discussion, I said that the Central Government will make no financial commitments in the meanwhile That follows.

Mr. President: Is that all right?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes, Sir

Mr. President: I put the motion to the House The question is·

"That this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, seven Members to serve on a Committee to examine the progress made in carrying out the principles of road-rail co-ordination scheme approved by this House on 12th April, 1945, and to report to the House within fourteen days"

The motion was adopted

Mr. President: The Honourable Member, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, will withdraw his adjournment motion formally.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division· Muhammadan Rural): As it was not moved, there is no necessity to ask leave of the House. He can withdraw himself

Mr. President: The motion was admitted There was some kind of understanding about it. It had better be on record that the Honourable Member does not wish to move it

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes, Sir, I do not wish to move the adjournment motion.

Mr. President: This means that we have to consider the other motions for adjournment before us

Point of Order re Admissibility of Adjournment Motion of Absentee Member

Mr. President: The first motion on today's list stands in the name of Sardar Mangal Singh who wishes to discuss . . . . .

An Honourable Member: He is not in his place.

Some Honourable Members: That does not matter

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): Sir, on a point of order An adjournment motion is only the privilege of the individual Member and the House if he gives notice of a motion If he is not present in his place no one else can move it I do not see how you can admit a motion when the Member himself is not present in the House.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non Muhammadan Rural) Sir, may I reply to this point of order? The point is that I may give notice of a motion of adjournment just before 11 o'clock in the manner prescribed by the rules Then the motion is read in the House and the Government Member is asked whether there is any objection; he may say that it is not definite or urgent, and so on Then once you decide to admit it you ask the House whether there are 25 Members to support it You do not ask anything of the Honourable Member who sends notice of the motion The question comes in at 4 o'clock if the motion is admitted, and if the Mover is not present in the House at that time, no one else can take it up Therefore the point of order does not arise now

Mr. President: I do not propose to decide the point just now, but at present —during what I may call the interim period—I shall follow the procedure that was adopted by the Chairman in respect of these motions I believe some such point was taken up on the first day, when the Chairman said that when the time for moving the motion comes, we shall see whether the Member is present or not So, without prejudice to any formal ruling which may be given on this point later on by the Chair, I think we may follow the procedure adopted so far in regard to these motions.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I think the procedure followed by the Chairman was contrary to the previous procedure

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Sir, I should like to point out that the procedure as regards questions is that the question is put down on the agenda. The President calls out the name of the Member and if he is not present no reply is given I think the same procedure should be followed here also

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque That is still more important in the case of an adjournment motion which is not in the nature of normal proceedings of the House but a step to obstruct the proceedings of the House. I do not mind what your decision is with regard to Resolutions or Bills; but in this case the normal proceedings of the House are obstructed with a view to bringing in a matter which the House decides and you also decide as being very urgent It is well known that even in the case of an ordinary motion if the Honourable Member is not present he forfeits the right of moving it and the next motion is taken up. In the case of balloted Resolutions, for instance that is the procedure

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, the circumstances are just now exceptional. This is a new session and a large number of adjournment motions were handed in long before the Session began It was therefore difficult for an Honourable Member who gave notice of a particular motion of adjournment to know when his adjournment motion will be read out by the Chair In ordinary circumstances notice of such motions are given a little before 11 o'clock The Member knows that on that particular day and at a particular hour his adjournment motion will come forward, but in the present circumstances it is not possible for him to know when his motion will be coming up If there are 20 adjournment motions on the paper, the Chair may rule out half a dozen or a dozen and the next one may suddenly come up How is the Honourable Member to know which one will come up?

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam European) Sir, I submit that under the Standing Orders 21 and 22 there is no discretion in this matter. No 21 lays down that leave has to be asked for before the commencement of the business of the

[Mr P J. Griffiths

day, and 22 makes it c.' ar who is to ask for the leave, namely, the Member who has given notice No one else can ask for leave If leave is not asked for the motion cannot be admitted I submit with great respect that there is no discretion at all in this matter The Member must be in his place or the motion falls to the ground

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General) Sir, I should like to invite your attention to Rule 51 on page 20 of the Manual which reads as follows

"If the President is of opinion that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, he shall read the statement to the Assembly, and ask whether the Member has the leave of the Assembly to move the adjournment If objection is taken, the President shall request those Members who are in favour of leave being granted to rise in their places, and if not less than twenty-five Members rise accordingly, the President shall intimate that leave is granted and that the motion will be taken at 4 p m , or, if the President with the consent of the Member of the Government concerned so directs, at any earlier hour at which the business of the day may terminate If less than twenty five Members rise, the President shall inform the Member that he has not the leave of the Assembly "

As far as this rule goes, there is no question of the Member being present in his place at the time the President admits the motion The time for the Member to rise will be at 4 o'clock or earlier if the House so agrees, and if the Member does not happen to be in his seat at that time he cannot move it. Therefore I do not see any difficulty about it All that is required to be done at this stage is that you, Sir, will read the adjournment motion, and if any objection is taken you will ask those who are in favour of leave being granted to rise in their places, and if 25 Members or more stand up the motion will be admitted for discussion at the proper time If the Member is not present when he is called upon to move the motion it naturally falls to the ground

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I respectfully suggest that in view of the discussion that has taken place it may be more convenient to you to consider the matter carefully and give your ruling on another occasion, and in the meantime this particular motion may be held over

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, for the last ten years during which I have been a Member of this House, the procedure has been this The President did not very often even call upon the Member who had given notice of an adjournment motion to stand up in his place If the motion was in order he simply asked the Government if they had any objection If objection was taken, he would ask those in favour of leave being granted to stand up, to see whether 25 Members supported it. The Mover of the motion does not come into the picture at all at 11 o'clock He comes in only at 4 P M That has been the procedure and Mr. Griffiths ought to stand by that procedure

Mr. President: I do not think any further discussion on the point is really necessary at this stage It has practically been admitted that the practice followed since this Assembly met is contrary to what had been followed before Whether it was contrary or not I do not know In any case I cannot give a considered ruling just now As the point involves an important right I wish to take time In the meanwhile, in view of the exceptional circumstances, as pointed out by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Chairman), what I propose to do is this In regard to the adjournment motions received by now, without prejudice to whatever further ruling may be given and without treating the present procedure as a precedent, and keeping the matter quite open, I propose, till all the accumulated motions are discussed, to follow the procedure which has been followed by the Chairman since this session of the Assembly met. I have heard the arguments advanced and I will consider the point. In the meanwhile, we will go on as we have been going on in the past week. I think there will be no occasion for Honourable Members to regret, the course we have been taking

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DEATHS OF LT. MAGHAR SINGH AND LT. AJMER SINGH IN DELHI RED FORT

Mr. President: The next motion is No. 26. This motion is for discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the reported deaths of

Lt Maghar Singh of Kapurthala Infantry and Lt. Ajmer Singh of 6/1 Punjab Regiment in the Red Fort, Delhi, as announced by the Government *communique* of 1st December, 1945

There is a similar adjournment motion coming later on which is wider in scope; and that is to discuss the brutal treatment meted out to I N A personnel detained in the Bahadurgarh Camp During the course of discussion over an adjournment motion, if I remember aright, it was stated by the Chairman that instead of taking up these motions separately with reference to each camp, a general motion may be taken up and then particular camps may be referred to by way of illustration, so that the whole subject may come before the House I do not therefore propose to give my consent to this adjournment motion on the clear understanding that the matter referred to here may be included as a subject of discussion, when we come to the motion about the Bahadurgarh Camp All matters should be taken up together, that was, I believe, the understanding So this matter may be discussed along with the motion relating to the Bahadurgarh Camp

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan) May I make a suggestion that since the motion about the Bahadurgarh Camp, which stands in my name, is going to be taken up at a later stage, this motion may be taken up today and the two may be combined instead of deferring this adjournment motion on to a later date Both these motions may be amalgamated and discussion may take place today

Mr. President: I may inform the Honourable Member that, in between the two, there are no motions to which I propose to give my consent So that is coming up today

STOPPAGE OF PASSENGER TRAFFIC BETWEEN BADNERA AND AMRAOTI

Mr. President: There is another motion for adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing severe discontent, hardship and inconvenience caused by the stoppage by the G I P Railway of passenger traffic between Badnera and Amraoti in defiance of public protest

I do not give my consent to this

Mr. P. B. Gole (Berar Non-Muhammadan) Sir, I should have been heard before you decided about this motion

Mr. President: I do not think it is strictly necessary

Mr. P. B. Gole: Before giving your decision, Sir, it would have been much better if you had heard me

With your kind permission I may point out to you that this is a breach of statutory duty by a Railway Company Badnera-Amraoti section is still operating and goods traffic is still continuing, but passenger traffic has been stopped: This cannot be done under the Statute It is the statutory duty of the Railway, when once the Railway is opened, that they must continue passenger and goods traffic unless that traffic is closed under Section 28 of the Railways Act It is binding upon the Railway authorities to carry on the passenger traffic My humble submission, therefore, is that there has been a breach of statutory duty in this case which has resulted in discontent, hardship and inconvenience to the general public, specially the travelling public The Railways have no authority to stop or close a line to passenger traffic unless they follow the provisions of Section 28 of the Railways Act, and under the circumstances I submit that this is a motion which is clearly of great public importance as it takes away the right of the public which the Act, really speaking, gives, and therefore my motion should really not be ruled out of order

If you permit me, I will read section 28 of the Railways Act.

Mr. President: I do not think that is necessary An adjournment motion is a special privilege for bringing forward for discussion before the House, something of importance, and not only of importance but something of urgency,

[Mr President]

setting aside the regular business of the day If one were to accept the statement that any breach of the statutory duty, howsoever regrettable it may be, must be a proper ground for an adjournment motion merely because it is a breach of statutory duty. If that were so, I do not see how we shall escape an adjournment motion every day Where is the question of urgency in this matter? I quite appreciate there may be a considerable amount of difficulty to the passengers, but the question can be settled in other ways

Mr. P. B. Gole: Sir, it is a definite act which took place on the 15th of December last, from the 15th of December this passenger traffic is closed, and therefore this is the only time when it could come before this House in the form of an adjournment motion I do not understand how else it could be discussed here. There may be other ways, but this is a breach of duty which cannot be condoned and I suppose that your honour will kindly see your way to allow this motion We cannot persuade the Government in any other way Stoppage of passenger traffic on this section has caused considerable inconvenience to the travelling public and therefore I submit that the only way in which this matter, which is a definite matter of urgent public importance, can immediately come before this House is through an adjournment motion, which should be admitted

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: May I suggest that while this is a matter of considerable local importance to the people concerned, it is not a matter which is of such vital interest that the ordinary business of the House—today the consideration of the food situation in India—should be adjourned for discussing this matter The question of time tables and the running of trains is one for Local Advisory Committees of Railways, on which a representative of this House sits The position is that there is only a certain amount of coaching stock available and it was thought to be in the general public interest that that stock should be run on the Bina-Kotah Section rather than on the Badnera-Amraoti section. The matter is, therefore, of local importance and if coaching stock were to be taken away from the Bina-Kotah section and run on the Badnera-Amraoti section, then those interested in the Bina-Kota section would be equally entitled to move an adjournment motion. I suggest, therefore, that this is not a matter of sufficient public importance to adjourn the urgent business of this House It is a matter for the Local Advisory Committee

Further, I may add that I have offered to discuss this matter with the Honourable Member, and if the public interest requires it, we will restore the traffic as soon as the coaches are available

Mr. P. B. Gole: May I point out that there is no Member of this House on the Local Advisory Committee at all.

Mr. President: The Honourable the Leader of the House, I understand, is prepared to discuss the question with the Honourable Member. It is a question of importance and urgency After having heard all that the Honourable Member has to say and with the best of my sympathies for the inconvenience caused to the travelling public, I regret I cannot give my consent to this motion

Mr. President: I do not think I need read fully every one of the other motions Nos 28 and 29 refer to the Bretton Woods matter which has been already discussed So they do not stand

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INACTION re DELETION OF SECTIONS 111 TO 121 OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion, No. 30, is about "the failure of Government to make any progress in regard to the deletion from the Government of India Act of Sections 111 to 121 (both inclusive) inspite of the overwhelming opinion in all sections of the population of India as expressed in the Assembly resolution on this subject passed by the House on 4th April, 1945".

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce) Whose notice is that?

Mr. President: Pandit Balkrishna Sharma's. A similar motion was ruled out by the Chairman So this is ruled out of order.

The next motion is the same one as I have just read out. That is also ruled out

Mr. Manu Subedar: There is one which I have subsequently given notice of. It seeks to censure the Government of India for their failure to give requisite information to this House If it is under the same terms that you are ruling out this, it is all right

Mr. President: When was it given by the Honourable Member? On what date? This is a motion by Sjt Seth Damodar Swroop

ILL-TREATMENT OF I N A MEN IN BAHADURGARH CAMP

Mr. President: The next motion (No 32) is in the name of Diwan Chaman Lall He wishes to adjourn the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely "the brutal treatment meted out to I N A personnel detained in the Bahadurgarh Camp"

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India Nominated Official) There is no objection In fact I should be very glad indeed to lay the facts before the House.

Mr. President: So this motion will come up for discussion before the House at 4 o'clock.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE *RE* BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, I move

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, nine members to serve on the Committee referred to in the motion relating to the Bretton Woods Conference adopted by this House on Tuesday, the 29th January, 1946"

Mr. President: I do not think anything need be said of this. This is consequential to the resolution passed by the House only yesterday The question is

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, nine members to serve on the Committee referred to in the motion relating to the Bretton Woods Conference adopted by this House on Tuesday, the 29th January, 1946"

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN MINES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923

Mr. President: The question is.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923."

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I introduce the Bill

MOTION *RE* FOOD SITUATION

Mr. B. R. Sen (Government of India Nominated Official): Sir, I move

"That the food situation in India be taken into consideration"

In a debate of this kind it is the practice for the spokesman of Government to place before the House the general framework of the policy which Government have adopted, the progress that has been made in implementing that policy, a review of the general crop position in the country, and lastly the problems with which the country is likely to be faced in the coming year

[Mr. B R Sen]

and the proposals that Government may have in dealing with them In doing so, the object has been to place before the House a picture of the situation as a whole so that the House, in debating upon it, may help Government with critical suggestions I propose to follow that practice on this occasion If in making a survey of the working of Government policy during the last 3 years I claim success for that policy in some directions, I hope the House will not misunderstand me as being self-satisfied or complacent The situation that you are facing in this country in this year is going to be very difficult and it is all the more necessary therefore that the House should know exactly what policy Government are following and with what results

The House is aware in what circumstances the Food Department was established in December 1942 The House is also aware of the sequence of events which led up to the Bengal Famine of 1943 I do not propose in this debate to recapitulate those circumstances In 1943 Government set up a committee which was later called the Policy Committee to analyse the events and to suggest for the guidance of Government a policy which Government should adopt This committee within a few months submitted a report which has since then been adopted as a Blue Print by the Food Department This Blue Print was subjected to an examination by the Famine Enquiry Commission who were appointed in 1944 to go into the causes of the Bengal famine, into the food shortage of India and to suggest measures which Government should take to avoid such calamities in future That committee also approved generally the suggestions which the Policy Committee had made and which the Government of India had adopted

The four main heads of policy which the Government of India have adopted on the basis of the recommendations of the Food Policy Committee are Basic Plan, Procurement, Rationing and Prices The essence of the Basic Plan is that the general deficiency in the country should be shared by surplus and deficit provinces alike For the Basic Plan we have laid down a formula by the application of which such distribution of the food resources of the country could be made We have administered this Basic Plan for the last three years and we find that the main weakness in our position at present is the unreliability of agricultural statistics in different parts of the country We have taken certain measures to improve agricultural statistics particularly in the permanently settled areas where there is no revenue staff In Bengal, for instance, a random sample survey has been going for the last two years The Government of Bengal have also instituted a plot to plot enumeration and the results that we have obtained are certainly much more reliable than when they were when the famine took place in 1943 Similar steps and enquiries and random sample surveys have been done under the auspices of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in different provinces, in several other provinces of India and we hope that with these measures we shall have much more reliable statistics in the future Though the position with regard to agricultural statistics is still more than unsatisfactory, by working of the Basic Plan for the last two years we feel we have a much clearer idea of the needs of the different provinces and States than before

The success of a Basic Plan must depend on adequate procurement The problem of procurement is one which is much bigger than mere abstraction on grains for export under the Basic Plan Though a few provinces have surpluses of all kinds of major foodgrains, in other cases a province may be surplus in one foodgrain and deficit in all others, or deficit in one and surplus in all others Again, a province, though it may be self-sufficient on balance, some of its districts may be surplus and others again deficit so that the inter-district procurement may be of the utmost importance to that province The essence of the problem is thus not moving of supplies from a surplus province to a deficit province but of acquiring from the cultivator the maximum amount to be obtained from every part of India. In the last two years the most outstanding feature in the matter of procurement has been a steady and progressive development of Government monopoly both in British India and in the

Indian States. Particularly in the deficit provinces and States like Bombay, Travancore, Cochin, Mysore, and since last year in Madras, the development has been most striking. The monopoly schemes vary from a complete monopoly as in Malabar, where the entire surplus from each holding after deduction of seed and consumption requirements of the cultivator and his family is taken over by Government, to a semi-monopoly as in Orissa, where no attempt is made to asses individual surpluses and private trade is allowed up to small quantities in each transaction In some Provinces and States, the attempt to procure the producer's surplus has taken the shape of a levy It must be clear that if shortage of foodgrains in this country is to be distributed on an All-India basis, the system of procurement which should give the most complete results would be the system which takes over the entire surplus of the producer from as near the threshing floor as possible, so that the entire surplus could be distributed to deficit areas The Government of India have, therefore, encouraged this development towards monopoly purchase and, as I shall presently explain, this system of procurement has now acquired added significance in the conditions which we shall have to face this year in this country

The House will no doubt like to have a clear statement from Government on the question to what extent the results of the Grow More Food Campaign" have kept pace with the increasing needs of the country, and whether the claims made by the Government of India in the Agricultural Department under the "Grow More Food Campaign" can be justified by actual results The question is important and I should like to take the House over some essential figures During 1943-44 and 1944-45 the net acreage, as published on the authority of the Government, has shown an increase of 7 million acres over the five year average, and rice production, an increase of 5·8 million and 2·8 million tons respectively The rice surpluses declared to the Food Department under the Basic Plan, however, have shown an increase of only 3 lakh tons over the pre-war internal surpluses known to have been available for inter-provincial distribution The main claim under the "Grow More Food Campaign" has been the switch over from cash crops like cotton to food crops like millets While the reported increase in the All-India millets acreage has been of the order of 7 million in 1942-43, 5·8 million in 1943-44 and 1944-45 and of the reported increase in production over the five year average about 1 ¼ million tons, 1 2 million tons and 100,000 tons in the three years respectively the surpluses made available to the Food Department for distribution under the Basic Plan have gone up only from 1¾ lakh tons to about 3 lakh tons In the case of wheat, though several provinces and States have reported an increase in area and production, the surpluses declared to the Food Department have decreased from year to year

On these figures, one's first reaction would be that the claims made under the "Grow More Food Campaign" are unsustainable. The discrepancy, however, is capable of a logical explanation. The factors which explain the discrepancy are these

(1) Agricultural production in India is a gamble in rains Only 25 per cent of the area is irrigated and even a substantial increase in acreage can be offset by the failure of rains at the time needed In 1942 we had a bumper wheat crop, in 1943 a bumper rice crop But the crops in 1944-45 were in many areas below normal The reported increase in acreage in 1944-45 was 5·8 millions, while the reported yield showed an increase of only one hundred thousand tons. This was very largely due to adverse climatic conditions in the famine tracts of Bombay, the Ceded Districts in Madras and Mysore

Out of the total crop production, about 60 per cent is retained by the producers themselves for consumption, seeds, wages in kind, etc. This ratio of retention and sale is elastic depending upon the prices of foodgrains and the means of producers. In pre-war times, owing to low prices of foodgrains the producer had had to place a larger proportion of his produce in the market to get the cash he needed for meeting his obligatory charges, such as rents and taxes and for buying essential consumer goods, such as cloth, oil, etc During

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the war, prices of agricultural produce have gone up 3 to 4 times and the producer can now meet his obligatory charges by selling a smaller proportion of his crop. The steady tendency during the last three years has therefore been for the producer to consume more himself, thus reducing the surplus which would otherwise have been available for marketing While this is no doubt a very desirable development, the fact has to be recognised that this has prevented the increase in food production from being reflected in the surpluses made available to the Food Department to meet the requirements of deficit areas

The population in India is increasing at the rate of 5 millions a year. The net increase in consumption demand due to this factor alone is about 500,000 tons a year The danger of an increase in population at this rapid rate without a corresponding increase in food production must be obvious and measures to deal with a problem of this magnitude must be on a long term basis

One of the basic principles of our food administration policy, as I have said, has been price control I need hardly explain why If prices are high, there will be a section of people in India who will go short of food There may be what can be called "a sectional famine", as happened in 1943, owing to high prices even where there is no actual shortage of supplies With the end of the war, the position in this respect must further deteriorate. Curtailment of war expenditure in the country will mean less income to a large labouring population who had been employed in war works and also lead to unemployment among the middle classes though efforts are being made to make the switch-over from war to peace conditions as smooth as possible In the matter of price control the firm policy of the Government of India has been the institution of statutory price control for all major food-grains We have accordingly been directing our efforts to bring Provincial and Regional prices of foodgrains into parity with each other with a view to eliminate the wider local variations and eventually to establish an integrated parity in price control on an all-India basis prices being fixed for the respective crop season ensuring a fair return to the cultivator.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Oh! I see, you have got it.

Mr. B. R. Sen: In 1944, statutory price control was instituted for wheat, gram, barley, bajra, jowar and maize The statutory maximum price of wheat is now Rs 9-8-0 per maund in the primary assembling markets in the Punjab and Rs 10-4-0 in the United Provinces In other wheat producing provinces differentials based on these figures have been allowed The prices of bajra and jowar have recently been reduced to Rs 7-4-0 and Rs 6-12-0 per maund respectively In order to protect the producers against an uneconomic fall in prices, Government have given an undertaking to purchase all wheat offered at Rs 7-8-0 and bajra at Rs 5-12-0 and jowar Rs. 5-4-0 per maund

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it being implemented anywhere?

Mr. B. R. Sen: No occasion has arisen to implement this minimum guarantee: the prices are still higher than the minimum As regards rice, an all-India statutory price was not fixed, partly because of the absence of a homogeneous market and partly because of the large variations from province to province The Provincial Governments themselves imposed statutory maximum prices for rice, and during the last two years have steadily brought them down In Bengal, the fixed Government buying prices in the surplus districts now are Rs 9-8-0 to Rs 11-4-0, in Assam, Bihar, Orissa and Sind it is Rs. 11-10-0, Rs 9 to Rs 10, and Rs 7-2-0 to Rs 7-12-0 respectively Rice prices in Madras have been generally kept below Rs 10 per maund, while the statutory maximum which was fixed at Rs 13-8-0 per maund in U P and in the Punjab has now been brought down to Rs 13-6-0 in the U P and Rs 12-4 in the Punjab Viewed against the background of price levels reached in certain parts of India in 1943, the progress made in the control of prices, in accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India, in

spite of the shortage in the country, must be regarded as satisfactory. A Price Advisory Committee, consisting of experts, are constantly bringing the level of prices in different foodgrains under review. A committee has also been set up to suggest the machinery and organisation necessary to stabilise agricultural prices under conditions of control or without control.

Not the least important factor in our co-ordinated food plan has been the introduction of food rationing in all large cities and towns in India and also in rural areas where conditions of scarcity necessitated a controlled distribution of available supplies The progress in this respect has been considerable. The total population now under ration, whether full or partial, has come to over 53 millions, distributed over 556 towns, of which 90 are with a population of one lakh or over, and also throughout rural areas in certain districts such as Malabar The largest number of towns rationed is 125 in Bombay, 94 in Madras and 42 in U P The province with the largest population under rationing is Madras—10·3 millions, then comes Bombay with 7·5 millions, and Travancore 6 3 millions Calcutta is the largest city under rationing—with a population exceeding 4 millions, whilst Bengal province has a food control organisation covering 12 millions In the Bombay Presidency, however, the entire population of non-producers or inadequate producers are supplied by Government on a rationed scale through Government depots In the Madras Presidency, there are several districts which are covered by what is called "informal" rationing, which is practically the same as formal rationing: only it is not backed by statutory rules or regulations .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In how many districts?

Mr. B. R. Sen: So far as I know it is in 5 districts. The reason why I give these details is to show that unlike in 1943 we have now in India a rationed system of distribution of supplies over a wide area both urban and rural and over a large part of the population. In fact, the population now covered by rationing in India exceeds the total population of Great Britain This established system of controlled distribution which is capable of fairly rapid extension must be an invaluable instrument in controlling food situation in India, should the distribution of available supplies owing to adverse seasonal factors demand more extensive Governmental control

In producing the blue print for food administration in India, the Foodgrains Policy Committee recommended the creation of a Central Reserve of not less than 500,000 tons of imports, apart from a quantity equal to the average net imports of the preceding five years, namely, about 1 million tons for current consumption The Foodgrains Policy Committee considered the reserve to be essential to prevent a breakdown in the machinery of procurement, rationing and price policy The whole matter was subjected to an examination by the Woodhead Commission in the light of the developments in the food administration of the country since the Foodgrains Policy Committee submitted their report. The view expressed by the Famine Enquiry Commission was that such a central reserve was necessary, not so much to prevent a breakdown of the machinery of the procurement and price policy, as to meet an emergency such as may arise owing to failure of crops or failure of procurement at the end of a crop season They cited the instance of the situation which had developed at the end of the wheat season in U P. last year, and which was met by the prompt use of the small reserve which the Centre had been able to accumulate at Karachi. They gave the warning that since the beginning of the war there had been no serious failure of the monsoons, but the danger of a poor monsoon, before normal conditions returned, existed. If the monsoon failed, the knowledge that the Centre had a reserve must prove of great value in preventing breakdown and maintaining public morale The authority responsible for the allocation of wheat surpluses is the combined Food Board in Washington and on that board we are entirely dependent for imports The recommendation of the Foodgrains Committee for imports to build up a Central Reserve and for imports for current consumption to the extent indicated has all along been strongly pressed before the Combined Food

[Mr B R. Sen]

Board by His Majesty's Government While the war lasted, the difficulty of the shipping position due primarily to the necessity for carrying on a global war on two widely separated fronts, did not permit sufficiently large quantities to be shipped The imports actually received have been as follows·

October to December 1943—197,700 tons
January to December 1944—653,500 tons
January to December 1945—840,300 tons
Up to 21st January 1946— 62,700 tons

With these imports at no time have the Government of India been able to accumulate more than 50,000 to 100,000 tons as central reserve

It will thus be seen that we have been living from hand to mouth over the whole of the last three years on the one hand, owing to factors I have already explained, domestic procurement has declined in relation to the increasing requirements, on the other hand, imports have fallen short of our requirements even for current consumption The whole system of India's food economy has therefore remained exposed to the danger of a failure of harvest in India all the time—a weakness which before the fall of Burma had been covered by unlimited imports from Burma, and what is more, by an expectation of unlimited imports which had kept prices under control and had acted as a steadying influence on the morale of the population The first signs of such danger came in August-September last when the south-west monsoon was delayed in Bengal and other parts of north-east India We brought these danger signs to the notice of His Majesty's Government and asked them to arrange imports of at least one million tons of rice and half a million tons of wheat in 1946 In October there was fairly satisfactory rainfall in Bengal, which improved crop prospects in that area to an appreciable extent This improvement in Bengal was, however, more than offset by a failure of the south-west monsoon in the southern districts of Bombay and a devastating cyclone in the Godavari-Kistna delta on the 17th-18th October These developments were brought to the notice of His Majesty's Government as soon as detailed reports were available Our demand for imports remained at the figure already given to H M G In December, however reports came of a failure of the north-east monsoon in Madras and Mysore Reports of failure of crops were also received from the Deccan States and Western India States I paid a visit to these areas in the third week of December to get a closer appreciation of the situation It became clear that both the rice and millets crops would fail over extensive areas in Madras and Mysore unless there were adequate showers before the end of December and in January A fresh assessment of the situation was forwarded to His Majesty's Government and the urgent importance of pressing before the Combined Food Board, the necessity of adequate imports to stabilise the situation was again stressed. Since my visit to that area, there has been practically no rain, and crops which, during the time of my visit, looked green and flourishing, have dried up over large tracts of the country Side by side with this failure of the North-East monsoon in Southern India, there has been a failure of winter rains up till now in U P and North Western India

12 Noon

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Anything to do with the visit?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Unless we have rain in this area within the next few days, crops in unirrigated places will largely fail This year, therefore, we have had a devastating cyclone, a failure of the North-East monsoon in Southern India and now the threat of a failure of winter rains in U P and North Western India It need hardly be pointed out that the cumulative effect of all these factors must be serious on the food situation in India On the assessment of the situation in December we had thought it necessary to send the permanent Food Secretary, Sir Robert Hutchings, to Washington to help the British Food Mission to place our case before the Combined Food Board. His discussions are yet incomplete but from the indications he has given, it is not

likely that in the present global shortage in foodgrains, with even the greatest sympathy and appreciation of our difficulties, we are likely to get even the minimum quantities we need Since his deputation, owing to continued drought, the situation has further deteriorated as I have explained We are now considering, in consultation with His Majesty's Government, in the light of the latest crop position, the further steps we must take to persuade the Combined Food Board to re-open and reconsider the whole case of allocations for 1946, irrespective of any allocations and priorities they may have already decided upon

The question on which the House will no doubt wish to be informed is that it we are to depend largely on our own discipline and resources, what measures we propose to adopt to stabilise the food position in the country in the coming months The following are some of the measures we contemplate

Firstly, we must mobilise the internal resources of the country much more completely than we have done in the past This, from our experience of the last two years, we think, can only be done by the introduction and extension of some form of monopoly procurement The Provinces in which there is scope for improvement in the system of procurement are, in our view, Punjab, Sind U P and Bihar

We have therefore called upon these provinces immediately to go in for monopoly or semi-monopoly types of procurement that will, without depriving the producers of their legitimate rations, enable them to procure much larger quantities of foodgrains than they have been able to do so far There is agreement on the introduction of a levy on the bigger producers which would give Government control over substantial quantity of the produce

Prof. N. G. Ranga: And spread the famine all over?

Mr. B. R. Sen: For the improved procurement to be successful, it is necessary that it should commence at the beginning of the crop year, and I am confident that by the coming April or May, when the rabi crop will come to be harvested, an effective procurement system more suited to the present emergency will be in operation in all these provinces It is hardly necessary to point out that local variations due to differing local conditions must be allowed for in the details of procurement, but the result must be the same everywhere, *viz*, maximum procurement of foodgrains consistently with the interests of producers

Secondly, if there is to be a shortage, the shortage must be distributed among the population as evenly as possible This can best be done by extension of rationing particularly in the deficit provinces, to the fullest extent possible, and by revision of ration scales to the extent necessary The areas which are affected most this year are areas where rationing has established itself not only in urban but also in rural areas The Provincial Governments concerned can therefore be trusted to make an effective use of rationing organisation in dealing with the situation As to revision of ration scales, this, on principle, should be on an all-India basis The matter is now under examination with the Provincial Governments who have already been warned to take all preliminary steps so that any reduction in the scales of ration which may be decided upon, may be given effect to without delay

Thirdly, the Government of India are determined to maintain their policy of price control To do that in a year of scarcity will be difficult and measures such as requisitioning of stocks from traders and producers where there is no Government monopoly as yet may be necessary

I have now placed the whole case before the House I have done so deliberately and with a purpose. In no country food administration, in conditions of shortage, can be a success without the full co-operation of the people In India, with a population of nearly 400 millions, largely agricultural, who react quickly to any sign of failure of rains, this is particularly so We feel that the time has come when we must take the leaders of the people into our confidence. . .

An Honourable Member: This has occurred to you only now!

Mr. B. R. Sen: We feel that the leaders of the people must know, so that in the difficult months ahead they also can play their part, in the interests of our own people, in keeping the food administration of the country on an even keel

An Honourable Member: Let the whole Government resign

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau. Indian Commerce). Having regard to the many statistics which I found it difficult to take down, may I suggest that, as on the last occasion when the food debate took place, a copy of the speech may be circulated?

Mr. President: This suggestion is made in the interests of the debate. I trust that the Government will do what they think best.

Motion moved

"That the food situation in India be taken into consideration"

There are some amendments to this and I would call upon the movers of the amendments to formally move their amendments

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural) I sent a slip to the Honourable the Food Member yesterday requesting him to supply us with information on a few points in the opening speech that is going to be made today. When are they likely to give that information?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have collected the figures I shall be glad to hand over the papers to the Honourable Member He has asked for prices in different parts of India The statement runs into three or four pages. I do not think the House will be interested

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions Non-Muhammadan): The House is interested and I would suggest it be circulated

Mr. President: I take it that the Honourable Member-in-charge will have this circulated

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That for the original motion the following be substituted.
'That the Food Department be abolished'"

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That for the original motion the following be substituted.
'That the Food Department be abolished'."

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural). Is this amendment in order? It is not in order at all. The motion is about Food situation.

Mr. President: I suppose he means the Food Department of the Government of India, so far as the Food Administration is concerned—not the domestic Food Department

Mr. M. R. Masani (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I move:

"That at the end of the motion the following be added, namely:
'and having considered the same, this Assembly expresses its dissatisfaction at the failure of the Government of India to import adequate supplies of foodgrains for building up a reserve and meeting the needs of deficit areas and records its grave apprehension that, unless substantial imports are immediately made available a situation will arise, particularly in the Southern and Western parts of the country, in which the existing ration which is already inadequate, will be endangered and large sections of the people will face starvation'."

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That at the end of the motion the following be added, namely:
'and having considered the same, this Assembly expresses its dissatisfaction at the failure of the Government of India to import adequate supplies of foodgrains for building up a reserve and meeting the needs of deficit areas and records its grave apprehension that, unless substantial imports are immediately made available, a situation will arise, particularly in the Southern and Western parts of the country; in which the existing ration, which is already inadequate, will be endangered and large sections of the people will face starvation'."

Sri N. Narayanamurthi (Ganjam cum Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That in the amendment proposed by Mr. M. R. Masani, between the words 'deficit areas' and 'and records' the following be inserted, namely:
'and to assure remunerative prices for the producers of foodgrains so as to encourage them to produce more foodgrains and make India less dependent on imports'."

Mr. President: Amendment to the amendment moved:

"That in the amendment proposed by Mr M. R Masani, between the words 'deficit areas' and 'and records' the following be inserted, namely:
'and to assure remunerative prices for the producers of foodgrains so as to encourage them to produce more foodgrains and make India less dependent on imports'."

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal European): Sir, I move.

"That at the end of the original motion the following be added, namely:
'and having considered the same, this Assembly unanimously urges the United Nations Organisation to grant assistance to India by making available such quantities of foodgrains as will prevent a repetition of the disasters which occurred in 1943'."

Mr. President: Amendment moved

"That at the end of the original motion the following be added, namely
'and having considered the same, this Assembly unanimously urges the United Nations Organisation to grant assistance to India by making available such quantities of foodgrains as will prevent a repetition of the disasters which occurred in 1943'."

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): On a point of information, Sir If the Honourable Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad's amendment is accepted or discussed, is there any point in the other amendments? There will be no Food Department left to deal with them So, do you propose to take up Dr Zia Uddin Ahmad's amendment first? If that is accepted, then nobody will be left to deal with the other amendments.

Mr. President: That stage will come when I put the motion to the House for their vote At present all these amendments are before the House and they are all open to discussion.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I merely wanted to ask as to which amendment you are going to put first. Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad's amendment is rather sweeping.

Mr. President: I do not want to commit myself at this stage to anything. We will see to it later.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, my friend Lt.-Col Chatterjee was very apprehensive I would like to follow the debate and the final reply of the Honourable Member and then I will decide whether I should press my amendment to a division. So, there is no question of the abolition of the Department at the present moment.

I will now put my arguments before the House We discussed the question of food in 1944 and also in 1945. The Members present pressed their viewpoints, but the condition of food is different in different localities and naturally the people had a different story to tell There could not be a unanimous policy when different situations were laid before the House. The Honourable the Food Member took advantage of this position and he made no improvement whatsoever. The position in 1945 was worse than what it was in 1944 and the position in 1946 is worse than what it was in 1945. Therefore, the position is getting worse year after year and no step has been taken by the Food Department to improve it. I am rather in a position of embarrassment as to how to begin and develop my arguments. I am in the same position as the camel, about which it is said:

"Unt re unt teri kon se kal sidhi"

An Honourable Member: Please translate it.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: It means that the camel does not know which is the most elegant part of his body.

First of all, I wish to take up the question of the administration by means of the Defence of India Rules. I know that I was a party in voting a two-section Bill some years ago, but we never considered at that time that it would give rise

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

to a very big Code, bigger and more important than over other enactments, by which the country is now being governed. The position is the same as that of Adam and Eve. The two clauses of the Bill like Adam and Eve, gave birth to a number of persons who instead of praying God invent atomic bombs and use all poisonous gases to kill humanity. The same is the case with the Defence of India Rules. We never considered that these two Bills will produce such a large number of ordinances and rules which were never anticipated These Defence of India Rules have now become so important that, like Parliament, one can say that these Rules can do anything except to make a man a woman and woman a man I think the position is still worse The position of Parliament could be criticised, but the action taken under the Defence of India Rules could not be criticised by the public or the press They have a super-parliamentary position.

My first objection is that the distribution of food is not regulated by the ordinary rules of law or common sense, but is regulated under the Defence of India Rules So, if there is a corruption anywhere—and we know there is a corruption, you take the vote of this House and I am sure cent per cent. elected Members will vote that there is corruption in the Food Department and to a level which never existed in the Government of India before—there is no remedy open to the public This thing ought not to have been administered under the Government of India Rules So, the people have to face corruption, and mismanagement and our mouths are shut We must be able to have some say in the matter, especially when the question of food is concerned This is my first difficulty

I said on the floor of the House before that there were four enemies of honest trade, which vitiate its position and Government discarded trade channel for the distribution of food—their monopoly, their combine, their hoarding and their profiteering In order to overcome these difficulties they followed the Defence of India Rules for the distribution of food and from our experience we say that this method has proved to be worse than the method adopted by the ordinary trade channel

Now, I start with the assumption that it is the duty of the Government to provide food for all I have got census figures before me According to the printed reports, the population of India is 389 millions. The total quantity of food including rice, jowar, bajra, etc., now available is about 56·8 millions and this works out to about 12½ *oz* , or 6¼ chattaks *per capita* per day. This is the entire food that is available The Honourable Member who moved the Motion did not give us figures for the other countries in the world If he had given figures for the world, then we would have been in a position to determine how far we have got any chance to get more food from foreign countries Now, Sir, I think it is the first and primary duty of any Government to procure more food so that this 12½ oz., or 6¼ chattaks per day per head could be substantially increased This can be done in two ways You approach the International Organisation and that was one of my arguments for supporting the Bretton Woods Agreement, namely that we can approach them and get more food from some other countries for our bare existence The other alternative is you grow more food on our existing land by improved methods of irrigation, by providing artificial manure and so on The next method is we should bring in more land under cultivation We should remember our population is increasing by 1·4 per cent according to the figures given by Dr Sen With this increase in population every year, we must devise ways and means by which more food can be procured every year This thing has not been done effectively by Government so far and I do not know what solution can be obtained for getting more food in this country As regards grow more food, well, you can get us lands either here in India or from anywhere else. We first entered Ceylon and developed Ceylon, then we were externed from Ceylon; then we developed Burma, Malaya South Africa, East Africa and many other places from all of which we were externed and chances of getting more food to this country were cut off. Now, Sir, we should consider that on account of

increase of population, some arrangement should be made for people to get us more food or give us some land where we can send our men to cultivate more food for us and send the same to this country. Some such arrangement ought to be made Otherwise the future is very dark. It is not merely the problem of today, but it is also the problem of tomorrow. I have not much faith in the Government. They allowed the people of Bengal to die, but did not permit them to grow more rice in Assam on account the line system The sooner the Department is abolished, the better it is for the people I have not got before me any vivid proof of the effective steps they are taking to give us more food

My friend Mr Sen has been alluding us by his four points. I believe he is an economist. I have been complaining for the last three or four years that you cannot have effective price control unless you control the stock. You are putting the cart before the horse, if you control the price without controlling the stock.

Mr. B. R. Sen: Where do you get the stocks?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Then, why do you talk of price control? If there is no stock to control, it is meaningless to talk of price control This is the fundamental principle, the a, b, c of economics If the supply is not there, how can you control the price? People would not like to sell, and little that is available will go under ground and into the black market and it will disturb the normal trade channels and not even the Defence of India Rules will be effective.

My Honourable friend also talked of rationing I understand total rationing, but I cannot understand partial rationing According to the figures which he has given, only 15 per cent. of the population are under rationing, and 85 per cent are not under rationing I can tell you from my experience in Aligarh where I live I am allowed only four chattaks or 8 oz of wheat per day. I walk two miles outside Aligarh University grounds, I find the villagers are feeding their cattle with wheat I am not permitted to bring wheat so wasted inside the University. In Aligarh, under the Defence of India Rules, I am not allowed to eat more than four chattaks a day, not even the full quota which is given here, but if I can walk two miles beyond Aligarh, I find there is absolutely no rationing at all, and people are feeding their cattle with wheat. (Interruption) These are facts Rationing presupposes certain things without which the system cannot be worked You must have complete control over stocks just as we have complete control over petrol Petrol rationing can work because Government have got complete control over the stock Here you have got no complete control over the stock and yet you introduce rationing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There is black market.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Therefore, rationing must be for all, and not for a small population You simply give trouble to those people who have the misfortune to reside in towns and those people who are not residing in towns are free to eat as much as they like and use wheat in whatever way they like. They are outside the Defence of India Rules. As far as rationing is concerned, it applies only to 15 per cent. of the population who have the misfortune to live in great towns The rest of the population, 85 per cent, are absolutely free. This kind of rationing is unheard of I can understand total rationing, I can understand no rationing, but I cannot understand partial rationing, Department is there They must talk and they must produce files They are talking again about control of price without controlling stock although the scheme failed under the regime of Diwan Bahadur Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar

The second of his four points is to mobilise internal resources. I do not know how he is going to do it I have been pressing for the last two years that you should have compulsory purchase of foodgrains But the Government have always refused to adopt my suggestion The Central Government never helped us. What are they here for? They cannot even procure food which already exists. What are they going to distribute then? What do they exist for? Is my honourable friend helping the poor people?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He is helping the black marketeers and the corrupt Government servants.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Notes of Rs. 500 and above.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My next charge is that this Food Department is responsible for very serious mistakes. They are void of common sense. They have taken the total quantity of food available in the country and divided it by the number of persons living in the country and it comes to 12½ oz Is that enough? This is just like the man who was carrying his family across a river. Then, he said, what is the depth of the river It is ten feet. Then he calculated the height of every person in the cart, and the total height of all the persons sitting in the cart came to more than 10 ft which was the depth of the river. He asked the cart to proceed when unfortunately all the people were drowned. The man calculated once more and said, how could it happen, I have calculated properly? As the Urdu proverb says:

"Hisāb jun kā tun, Kunbā dubā kyun."

The Food Department have done the same thing So many people died in the Bengal famine Their calculations were right but they died unmathematically

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member). That is what the mathematician does, not the Food Department

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: That is due to the absence of common sense in the use of mathematical knowledge characteristic of Food Department. Another example of the absence of common sense I ask the Honourable Member whether, if we give him only jwar and bajra to eat, he can live on that throughout the year People from time immemorial have been accustomed to consume a certain quality of foodgrain My honourable friend knows that in the U.P we eat rice from the Punjab and cannot eat Bengal rice But he forces rice from Bengal in U P and not Punjab rice, and he sends it to an area where they do not eat that particular quality The Food Department should know that there are different qualities of rice and people of different localities like a particular quality and not the other qualities. But in distributing it they think that all rice is of the same quality just as all petrol is of the same quality My honourable friend will remember that he sent bajra to Travancore and the people there did not know how to eat it So they must know the particular quality of grain consumed in a particular locality and send it to that place They themselves, I am sure, will never be able to manage this whatever money they may spend; but if they leave it to the trade channel they from their practical experience know what particular quality is consumed in a particular locality This knowledge which is so essential for the proper distribution of food, our Food Department does not possess, and they showed particular want of common sense in the matter of distribution. They made calculations as to the amount of rice required, but they never considered what variety people eat

I will now mention what Food Department should do and what it should not do What is really needed is the import of rice and wheat from outside not only for immediate use, but for building up a reserve which can also be utilised, if necessary, in stabilising prices Then, I suggest the Statistics Department should be maintained and it should, just like the Finance and Information Departments, be centralised. There should be one Department of Statistics with branches for different work They will keep figures as to the quantity of food grown in a certain year in particular localities and provinces, so that we can decide where to send any surplus food This statistical branch may be attached to the Agriculture Department and it will serve the same purpose as the Food Department.

We hand over distribution to the normal trade channels with proper safeguards—for which legislation may also be necessary—against combine, monopoly, against hoarding and profiteering It should be under Home Department. For this purpose a committee may be appointed. My honourable friend has been discussing this matter in various committees but they only considered Government interests and seldom considered the consumers' interests There were very few consumers who were invited to these deliberations. I once charged Sir Joseph Bhore with not consulting the consumers; he said he was himself representing consumers. I said he was a very bad specimen of a consumer. A consumer is not a person to whom money is of no consideration and who can buy from the black market A consumer is a person who is financially not in a position to go to the black market and buy food. That is my definition of a good consumer

I think we are suffering from two things,—not having sufficient food and not having enough clothing. On my ration card, for instance, I was given half a *saree*.

An Honourable Member: Did you wear it?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: No, I am living on my pre-war reserves But that is the kind of common sense that the Department is showing and it shows how hopeless and helpless they are

Sir, now that the war is over, I desire that distribution should go to the normal trade channel During the war there was some justification for their action but now with the end of the war I do not see any reason why this Food Department should be administered under the Defence of India Rules Only we must guard against the abuses of trade I have just now mentioned

As regards rationing I will say one thing We take pride on our hospitality, but since rationing came we tell guests we have no food or ask them to bring their own food. The way in which these cards are distributed is also troublesome and no cards are given to guests The public also are not associated in the distribution of food, everything is arranged by officials only. The moment non-officials are brought in and things are arranged through the trade channel we will be in a better position as regards food So I suggest that now with the end of the war the Food Department has no justification for its existence any longer; and the Agriculture Department should make arrangements for growing more food and collection of statistics. Distribution should be through the trade channel. If anybody is monopolising or is hoarding, steps must be taken under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, and it ought to be done by the Home Department. Purchase from outside should be done by Commerce Department

I may tell the House before I sit down that when I was young we used to hear a lot about the abuses by the Police, but we forgot them all when the Goods Department of the Railways started operating When the Supply Department came into existence, we forgot both the Police and the Railways, and thought that they were comparatively honest, but when the Food Department started functioning, we forgot the abuses committed by everybody else This is the experience of every elected Member of this House Abolish it for its corruption, if not for anything else

Mr. M. R. Masani: I rise to support the amendment, of which I have given notice This amendment focuses attention on an aspect which is much more material just at present than all the other factors referred to in the statement made by the Secretary of the Food Department.

We have had statements of policy before on the various aspects of the food problem and food administration in this country, and the Mover of the motion before the House has given us yet one more. There are things in that statement with which one can agree and others with which one may quarrel; but whatever we may have to say on that point, the fact remains that nothing can be done in the next few months with regard to those aspects which will have

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any bearing on the question as to whether the people of this country are to have enough food or are to starve The one aspect which will have a definite effect on this question will be the question of imports into India from abroad . . . . .

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I agree.

Mr. M. R. Masani: . . . and therefore the amendment, of which I have given notice, is one which, Sir, I hope all non-official sections of the House will find it possible to endorse

Before I speak on the responsibility of the Government of India and the way in which they have acquitted themselves on this point, I would like very briefly to give the House some idea of the gravity of the position in the Southern and Western parts of this country Speaking in the House of Commons on the 19th of January this year, the Under-Secretary for India, Mr Henderson, mentioned that the shortage in the South and West was of the following order He said that four-hundred-thousand tons had been destroyed in Madras and that five-hundred-thousand tons were lost in Bombay and Mysore owing to the factors which have been referred to by the Mover of the motion I believe, Sir, that these are gross under-estimates and I think the Honourable Member for Food will agree with that This morning one finds that the person in whose hands the administration of the Food Department rests in the South has himself contradicted the figures given by the Under Secretary in Parliament This is what Sir S V Ramamurthi, who was in Delhi the other day and is presumably acquainted with the latest position, says according to *the Statesman* of this morning

"If the present scale of daily rations, 1 lb of cereals per head, was to be maintained, about a million tons of cereals—rice, wheat and millets—had to be imported into the province If Madras was not able to obtain this quantity, the scale of rations would have to be reduced But it could not be reduced in the case of agricultural producers, because such a step would give no incentive to them to grow more food If the ration in respect of non producers was cut, this would produce economic disturbance and suffering"

That, Sir, I am prepared to accept as a correct estimate of the position in the province of Madras, and no doubt Honourable Members who will speak after me from that Province will underline what I have said.

So far as my province of Bombay is concerned, there again, I believe, the problem is of greater magnitude than is appreciated at this stage Let me at the outset say that no blame can possibly attach in this regard to either the people or the administration in that province Bombay province has done all it can to harbour and mobilize its own resources and when the Provincial Rural Development Board met the other day in Bombay this was what was placed before it·

"Everything has been done in that province by way of procurement and of levy to mobilize the provincial resources The results of the working of the grain purchasing monopoly and procurement scheme in 1944-45 season show that as compared to the previous season there was a considerable increase both in the total quantity of grain purchases and in the proportion of the total production which had come into the hands of the Government under its monopoly The average percentage of the levy demand realised for the whole province, was 84·7 in the 1944-45 season."

In addition to the grain levy which exists in the province, the rationing restrictions are much more severe than in any other province, and I realized the full force of that when I came up to this city and saw that one could get not only whole milk for tea and coffee but even pure cream . . . .

Mr. Manu Subedar: And white bread.

Mr. M. R. Masani: White bread is another instance that has been given, and one could go on multiplying these by pointing out that in Bombay you can't have pastries made out of wheat flour, and so on. The point is that what Bombay is today facing is purely an act of nature and Bombay therefore deserves the co-operation not only of the people of this country but also of peoples in other lands.

What is the magnitude of the problem in Bombay? I propose to place before this House certain tentative figures which I understand, to the best of my knowledge, obtain there, and if I am wrong, no doubt the Honourable Member for Food who, I presume, will speak later, will correct me. Bombay requires for this year—1946—15¼ lakhs of tons of foodgrains, but as against that our provincial stocks and supplies are only 6¼ lakhs, leaving us with a gross deficit of 8¾ lakhs I understand, again speaking subject to correction, that we have been assured by the Central Government of imports to the extent of nearly 6 lakhs, but not quite six lakhs That will leave us with a net deficit of 2¾ lakhs The question arises, what is to happen if this gap of 2¾ lakhs is not filled up? I am still hopeful that an expression of opinion by this House and by the public generally will make it possible for more imports to be made available, but it is time, and high time that we face the alternative, because the mover of the motion in his speech already gave a mild hint that we must be prepared for a reduction in ration and Mr Ramamurthi has also harped on the same thing.

What would this reduction in rations mean? It is very easy to talk of a reduction in ration without realizing the human and social consequences of such a step The present ration in Bombay—and I take it the same is the case in Madras also—is 1 lb. per head per day for adults

An Honourable Member: It is so only in towns

Mr. M. R. Masani: Anyway, I will stick to the ration in my province, and other Honourable Member will no doubt inform the House about the state of affairs in other provinces.

What I am arguing is that, even if it is one full pound per head per day, it is a ration which cannot and should not be reduced any further The very fact that this ration of one pound a day is prescribed in the Jail Manual of the Province and in the Famine Relief Code shows that it is a ration which should only be brought into existence or enforced in extreme emergency or for those classes of society which are rightly or wrongly to be punished If that is so, then the whole province of Bombay is today on the ration of a criminal or a starving population And yet the possibility of a reduction in the ration is being discussed

Dr Ackroyd, the Nutrition Expert of the Government of India, has adopted the position that anything between 2,600 and 2,800 calories of food are necessary for a grown-up person, and Mr Kirby, another expert of the Government of India, has said that one pound of cereals yields on an average only 1,600 calories. Thus deficit is left of over 1,000 calories in a man's daily ration To look at it another way: Dr Ackroyd's specimen balanced diet lays down that a grown-up person should have a ration of 20 ounces of cereals, 3 ounces of pulses, 12 ounces of vegetables, 2 ounces of fruits, 2 ounces of fat and oils, 8 ounces of milk, 2 ounces of sugar and, if he is a non-vegetarian, 4 ounces of meat and fish. That, according to the Nutrition Expert of the Government of India, is a minimum balanced diet which every grown-up person should have Now, even that prescribes for 1¼ pounds of cereal and 3 ounces of pulses. You can imagine how much worse the position is if neither the milk nor the vegetables nor the fruits which are prescribed in that diet are available to the masses of the people, and that is a fact which obtains so far as the masses of the people are concerned Therefore, from a nutritive point of view, a ration of 1¼ pounds will not be adequate. It will have to be increased still further. That is the position, and I think this House should look with the gravest apprehension at even a suggestion that this ration should be reduced. I do not think we should consider such a suggestion seriously. We must make the Government of India find another way; that way is open, and that is by increased imports

Today, in the City of Bombay and elsewhere, manual workers in what were during the war "essential" industries are getting 1½ pounds and therefore the Government has accepted the position that, for a grown-up man doing hard work, 1½ pounds is a bare necessity. What the result of reducing the ration

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in the country-side would be, has been mentioned by Sir S. V. Ramamurthi of the Madras Government. As he says, you can hardly expect a peasant to grow more food or be more efficient at his job if you are going to starve him! A whole generation of stunted people will also be produced if the rations are reduced If you are going to have plans for agricultural regeneration, such as the plan produced by an Honourable Member opposite, we must have first of all a healthy and efficient population; and to reduce the ration further, I cannot help feeling, it will be to breed a whole generation of stunted children who, in their time, will fail to carry out any of the programmes and plans now devised. Having pointed out the gravity of the situation, I would now turn to the responsibility of the Central Government.

The Government of India's obligations are to meet a normal deficit which the other day was, on an official estimate, stated to be 6 million tons of cereals, 1½ million tons of pulses, that is, 7½ million tons of foodgrains. This, I presume, was worked out on the basis of a balanced diet. I am glad the Honourable Mover agrees But in the present conditions, when a balanced diet is not possible, that deficit is not 7½ million, but certainly 10 million and perhaps more and the Government of India have now as a matter of broad policy accepted the obligation to feed adequately every man, woman and child in this country Therefore, their obligation is to make good anything over 10 million tons of foodgrains in a year

The Gregory Foodgrains Policy Committee Report, to which reference was made by the Mover, has dealt with this matter and I shall take the liberty to read a few sentences from that report in view of the direct bearing they have on the position today. This is what the Report says:

"The role of imports in the economy of India cannot be judged solely in the light of the percentage difference made to the over-all absolute Indian food supplies The position of certain deficit areas is normally bound up with the maintenance of imports and they constitute an important buttress to the strengthening of public opinion and an important weapon in the battle against the profiteer and the hoarder There is very little room, taking the country as a whole, for the process of tightening the belt."

And then going on, the Committee made recommendations that

"As regards imports, the Government of India should (a) press for imports to create a Central Foodgrains Reserve which should not be less than 500,000 tons Such a quantity is absolutely necessary to prevent a breakdown of the machinery of the procurement, rationing and price policies outlined in subsequent chapters It is not a substitute but a complement for more vigorous administrative action in other fields, (b) press the United Nations to arrange for imports for current consumption until further notice, equal in amount per annum to the average annual net imports of the last five years or about one million tons"

The question arises, to what extent the Government of India have or have not carried out these recommendations which they themselves accepted. The figures given by the Mover of the resolution show that in the twenty-seven months that have passed since these recommendations were made, a total of 1,750,000 tons of foodgrains have been imported from abroad If you apply the Gregory Report recommendations, accepted by the Government of India, that figure should have been 2,750,000 tons. That is worked out at 1 million tons a year; ¼ million for the Reserve which was initially recommended; and for the last three months another ¼ million; making in all 2,750,000 tons The Government of India therefore have failed on their own confession to the extent of 1 million tons In fact, I took it that when the Mover of the resolution gave his figures he was more of less making himself party to my amendment; and on the facts of the case the Government of India have to admit that they have failed to secure adequate imports into this country

The question arises to what extent that position can now be alleviated. The Food Member, speaking on the 18th of this month in Lahore, stated that our battle for food was being fought in Washington. But since that was said, we have had very disturbing news which has been given in the press and that is that Sir Robert Hutchings, who was sent there to represent the Government of

India's case before the Combined Food Board, not only got there a little late owing to some weather inclemency or accident, but even after that when he put the case, he was unable to shake them from their resolve to ignore the case of this country What one understands is that some indeterminate part of the "reparations rice" is being extorted from Thailand (I call it Thailand and not Siam, which is a name deliberately given by British imperialist policy) amounting to 1½ million tons of rice. Some of this might come to us. But here again, a message from Washington sent by the United Press of America on January 24, points out that in counting on Siam's rice we shall be counting our chickens before they are hatched, because the same source in Washington reveals that the figure is 1 million tons and possibly less, and that the British conceded that their early estimate of 1½ tons was high and indicated their willingness to settle it at a lower figure, and that Thailand is finding it difficult to obtain the rice from its own peasantry So all that Sir Robert Hutchings seems to have brought is a "No" He has been sent back empty-handed.

It was in 1943, Sir, that the International Conference on Food took place at Hot Springs and on that occasion the leader of the British Delegation, Mr Richard Law, made a very wise and profound declaration. He said that, in the matter of food, "if we do not hang together, then most assuredly we shall hang separately" He was talking of the nations of the world All that has happened since—and that includes the Bengal famine and it may include the famine which threatens in Madras and Bombay today—shows that certainly the British Government have not lived up to the very statesmanlike pronouncement of their representative It appears to be a case where, as the poet put it, "knowledge comes but wisdom lingers" Perhaps further famines and further wars are necessary to prove to the people in the West that they cannot maintain their high standard of living, if they are going to keep down the standards
1 P. M. of living in the East at coolie level The irony of the situation is this According to Sir John Boyd Orr, Britain's leading nutrition expert, the British population—men, women and children—were better fed throughout the war than they were before the war. That is one picture, and there is the other picture of this country—this country which was dragged into a war against its wish and in the interests of Britain—which has been made to starve, and is still being made to starve The war-mongers have done well for themselves and we, the victims of the war, are made to go on short of rations even after the war is over

The other day it was mentioned by the Leader of the House that we had emerged from this war as a great power, as one of the great victorious powers! But we seem to be in a very sad plight, if this is what victory has meant to us! We also happen to be the creditors of our ruling race and we are told that we have big balances on which we shall assuredly be free to draw, as the British never break faith! I should be very much more interested, Sir, in seeing some part of those balances come into this country in the shape of wheat, of rice, of milk products, and other things of that kind

There is a further responsibility on the British Government beyond that of dragging us into this war and of creating the situation that they did in our country, and that responsibility was fully accepted by no less a person than the present Secretary of State for India in 1943. Speaking then as a non-official, the present Secretary of State for India said

"He thought that the main cause of the present famine in India was that a large number of people in certain provinces had not got the purchasing power to pay for such foodgrains as would keep them alive The main cause of this increase in prices was inflation. For that policy the Government of India and nobody else could be held responsible."

He was slightly inaccurate there He should have said that the overlords of the Government of India were really responsible. The fact remains that we, the creditors, by virtue of this inflation which was deliberately created by the British in order to meet their war expenditure in this country, which they could not have met by payments in goods or services, we their creditors, we have the

[Mr. M. R. Masani.]

right both legal and moral,—were it not for the fact that we are a subject nation —to demand that part of those claims should be met in food for our men, women and children. The tragedy is that the present Government of India seem quite unable to make the British Government see their responsibility. Sir Robert Hutchings evidently went all the way only to be told that he could not address the Combined Food Board direct, because this "great victorious nation emerging out of this war" is not even given direct representation or a seat on the Combined Food Board! It must go and place its case before the representative of the British Government there, and through him before the Combined Food Board. The British Government have reduced us to this plight. The Government of India should have been able to secure in the last two years direct representation on the Combined Food Board If they could not get it, they should have considered whether it was worth while carrying on the administration of this country on those terms What kind of creditors are we that we must starve while our debtors are better fed than we are? What kind of victors are we? I know it will be argued that the failure to secure adequate imports is not due to lack of effort on the part of the Government of India and that, as the Mover of the motion put it, they have "strongly pressed" India's case through the British representative before the Combined Food Board I am quite prepared to believe that the Honourable the Food Member and his Department have done their best, but if it is their best, then it is a very poor best, and it is just not good enough for this country I would like to know, for instance, when the Food Member speaks, whether he would take the House into his confidence and tell us the kind of language they have used in communicating with London and Washington

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Abuse them.

Mr. M. R. Masani: Have they pointed out that, if their demands are not met, there will be corpses littering the streets in the cities and towns of the provinces of the South and the West as they did in the city of Calcutta in the provinces of Bengal? Has it been made clear that the responsibility for such mass murder will fall on the United Nations? If they have not, then I suggest that they have not been doing the best that this country expects of them

Sir, the food administration and its shortcomings are not a matter of departmental responsibility alone. The question whether millions of people should eat a normal human diet or starve, is, I suggest, a collective responsibility of the Governor-General in Council, and particularly of the Indian Members of that Council, who at least belong to this country. The Mover of the motion has mentioned three or four measures which the Government are proposing to take in the next few months Having listened to what he said, and while being in agreement with what he proposed, I must confess that none of these three or four measures will have any immediate bearing on the situation. They are long term measures, which will have their effect in course of time. I would suggest therefore to the Government of India that if they cannot do better than this, they might add one more measure to those that they have adumbrated, and that measure is to resign and to make way for another government whose voice will be heard with a little more respect and with more attention by the other countries of the world

Yesterday, I think it was, that the Honourable the Finance Member said that he would be very happy if the matter of the sterling balances was taken up by his successor in office, because he realised that the Government which would take the place of the present one would have a much better chance of securing a fair deal for this country. Unfortunately, food is not a matter where we can wait for a change of government or allow even a few months to pass for some constitutional change We are now discussing whether the people in the South and West shall eat or starve in the coming months of this year. We cannot wait for political changes or constitution-making and therefore the

remedy suggested by the Honourable the Finance Member that we should wait till the new Government comes into being cannot apply to this case. Evidently, the Honourable the Finance Member regards the present Government as a care-taker's government.

An Honourable Member: An undertaker's government.

Mr. M. R. Masani: As my Honourable friend rightly points out, they will prove, if they go on at this rate, not to be a caretaker government but an undertaker's government I would, in conclusion, say this. that there is only one course open to the Indian Members of the Government, if they choose to remain in office That is, within the next few weeks, to talk a language different from the one they have used before to their British masters, to talk in a language which they would understand and, if a response is not forthcoming in the terms in which it ought to, their duty, the duty of the Indian Members, will be to resign collectively

Mr. G. P. Lawson: Mr President, I have listened with great attention to the speech made by Mr Masani I am very glad that he introduced a note of seriousness into this debate which up to that point, I felt, was rather lacking. (Interruption.) My friend opposite twits me on what I have just said but he and members who were here in our previous incarnation will know that we on this side have raised this point on our own initiative on more than one occasion during the past four years and to suggest that we are not extremely serious over this, I suggest, is unworthy

We are glad that the Food Department have raised this debate Indeed, if they had not, we should have raised it ourselves The situation is indeed, I think, unpleasant to hear about and it is still more unpleasant to realise that the Food Department to some extent are in a cleft stick It they are pessimistic they face the danger of supplies disappearing and going underground If they are optimistic, they face the danger of being hauled over the coals when things turn out bad So, they have considerable sympathy from me on these grounds, and equally on the grounds that they act as distributors for an agricultural department over which they only have cooperative control and for Provincial Government over whom they have no control at all I will say this about the Food Department they have established in a few years the machinery of rationing, of procurement and a system, imperfect though it may be, which will place us in a better situation to meet the difficulties which I fear are coming during the current year I wish I could feel with Mr. Masani that it was open to this Government to import as much grain as it wanted. I am afraid that in the whole world there are people talking like this, and I am afraid it will need considerable special pleading on our part to make clear our situation. I doubt, for instance, whether in other countries it is fully realised—and indeed I sometimes wonder whether it is even realised in this country—that every year we have some five million more mouths to feed. That is a point which I feel has got to be made known The fact that one or two million people may be starving in Europe carries weight with the nations of the world, but I wonder how many of them realise that in this country we have to feed five million more people every year

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): They feed on mother's milk every year: you do not feed them on cereals and rice and wheat.

Mr. G. P. Lawson: I am grateful to my honourable friend for giving me that assistance. but I hope he will treat the matter with the seriousness with which I am trying to treat it. Sir, the Honourable Secretary for the Food Department brings up a problem which to my mind is split into two parts . . .

Mr. President: Order, order: if the Honourable Member is going to develop that point, we may just think of adjourning. I have an announcement to make—so that he may not have to stop in the middle of his speech.

Mr. President: I have to inform the Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of members to the Committee to examine the proposals of the Bretton Woods Conference and the Committee to examine the Road Rail Co-ordination Scheme, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations up to 12 Noon on Friday, the 1st February, and that elections, if necessary, will be held on Monday, the 4th February. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 A M and 1 P M

The House will now adjourn and re-assemble at 2-30 P M

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock Mr President (The Honourable Mr G. V Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Mr. G. P. Lawson: When the House rose I was saying that the statement which we have just received from the Food Department, to me, fell into two sections There was the situation as regards the present and the situation as regards the future. The present in all conscience sounds bad enough. How bad it is I am not in a position to say Nor is the Government itself in a position to say We know that serious losses have occurred but we are unable to relate those losses to any particular figures. We do not know, for instance, whether a loss of, say, 5 million tons owing to climatic conditions may not have been replaced by increase in acreage and increase in yield but on this question of statistics I shall have something to say later in my remarks. One thing is quite certain, that the danger of stocks going underground is a very present danger and one which will need every kind of precaution and every kind of effort to avoid When one realises that if all the people of this country were to put aside one month's supply that five million tons of foodgrains would be removed from circulation, we get some idea of the seriousness of that possibility. I will be told, of course, that the majority of the people are unable to carry so much. I agree but many *can* carry so much and many will. For that reason I do see that there is a necessity on the part of the Food Department not to paint the picture in too pessimistic terms and I propose as regards the immediate present to apply my mind more to what can be done to help the situation than to criticise Government for allowing the situation to come about.

In the first place, Sir, I consider it more than necessary that in view of the fact that much grain (how much we do not know,) is taken into storage there should be a drive to watch the storage conditions. Once again how much grain we lose in storage even in Government storage no one knows. It is suspected to be something around 5 per cent in Government storage and in private hands it may even be more and I therefore recommend to Government that they very closely and intensively go into the question of the protection of stocks in storage particularly against rats and against insect pests There have lately been a number of very important discoveries in this regard and if Government can speed up supplies of these new discoveries I think much can be done to save the stock that is in storage

There is another suggestion that I wish to make and coming from Bengal it touches me particularly On other occasions in the previous Assembly I have recommended that the question of fisheries and fish supply should receive very urgent attention It has received attention but not nearly as urgent as I would have desired and I do not think there is any doubt that if fish supply could be speeded up and speeded up quickly it would, at any rate, fill some of the gap. When I raised this question before I was told that the war being on, it was impossible to get trawlers for intensive production of fish and that the ice shortage limited the possibility of transport. I suggest to Government that neither of these factors now apply and that it should be possible to get the

means of bringing in the fish from what is after all an inexhaustible supply and it should be possible to produce enough ice to transport it.

Sir, the danger in the present is undoubtedly there and I entirely support those who say that every possible effort must be made to import all we can in the way of foodgrains but it is equally obvious that the Lord will help those who help themselves and I think we have got to get particularly busy on the production of foodgrains in this country.

That brings me rather to the future than to the present, although much can be done if even now we get busy on the coming year's sowings. I have in front of me a document circulated to me with my papers entitled "A Statement on Agriculture and Food Policy in India" I find it difficult not to express disappointment not so much at the contents of this paper as at the fact that so much of that paper is still a project rather than a reality. It is full of the most excellent suggestions—"It is intended to—," "We expect shortly to do this and that" and things of that kind. But when all is said and done the organisations that the Food Department itself has produced in three or four years are a lesson perhaps to the Agricultural Department for the lag of agricultural development in the past 20 years I have as a matter of interest been comparing this document with the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India. This report is nearly 20 years old and I say without hesitation that even if 50 per cent of the recommendations of this report had been put into effect we would not find ourselves in the situation in which we are today. In particular I have been concerned with the lack of statistics I have raised that before in this House and I am raising it again. I cannot see how the Food Department can ever produce an adequate and sound food policy unless they have behind them a better system of statistics. At present we do not know what the country is eating. We do not know what the carry-overs are. We do not know what is in storage. Some improvement may have been made and indeed when I raised this question on the last occasion I was told that a gentleman by name, Dr. Mahalanobis, was touring the provinces and was going to produce a system of statistics which would put things right. Sir, I do not know what happened to Dr. Mahalanobis or his report. I have never seen either.

Going through this report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, which is nearly 20 years old, I pick three recommendations at random. "The statistics relating to production and consumption of the cotton crop should in future furnish a model for statistics relating to other crops." "Statistics of inland trade, rail and river borne, should be revived forthwith for all commodities of economic importance and not only for cotton. Advantage should be taken of the gap in their publication to re-consider their form and contents." "The present statistical organisation of the Government of India should be strengthened by the appointment of a statistician of first-rate ability as head of a separate Department of Statistics. The appointment of this officer should precede any changes, etc." I quote that merely to show how slow the progress has been.

Then, I want to mention the question of price stabilisation I consider this to be extremely important because, as a permanency, it is upon this that increase in yield will depend. We have heard of considerable increase in acreage and indeed, speaking from memory, there are in this country something over 200 million acres under the plough. An increase of 5 or 7 million acres is, I admit, a good thing. But it is a method which is not always economical because of the position of this uncultivated land and in course of time the cultivable land which remains in this country uncultivated would soon be exhausted. The only hope is an increase in yield and it is upon the stabilised price factor that the increase in yield is to come. Perhaps I may go a little further into this point and explain what I mean. Fertilization in this country has not paid except for certain money crops. It may be interesting for the House to know, if they do not know it already, that for 16 million acres of cultivable land in Japan before the war no less than 4 million tons of chemical

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fertilizers were applied In Russia in ten years from a consumption of nil in the matter of chemical fertilizers their consumption has reached a figure of 4 million tons. That, in Russia, is for a population less than half the population of this country Now, in this country for food crops, other than sugar, and I exclude sugar because it is to some extent a money crop, no more than 20,000 tons of chemical fertilizers were used. Something like a further 60 or 70 thousand tons were used for such crops as tea, coffee, vegetables and sugar. Now, that is purely because the money crops yielded enough return for their fertilisation I have used the figures for chemical fertilizers for no other reason than that these figures are readily available Any other fertilizer can be used, manure, green manure and the rest, but the fact of the matter is that, whatever it is, it costs money, and unless an adequate return comes from the crop, that crop will not be manured. So, Sir, I consider the price stabilization to be a most important point and I would like to hear if some progress has been made

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No progress at all, they are bringing the prices down. That is their only record

Mr. C. P. Lawson: Now, Sir, one good word I have to say about this report which has been circulated to us It applies a very useful principle, the principle of targets, year after year. It announces, once again in the future, that a system of targets for a period of years will be arranged and presumably, although it does not say so, provinces will be asked to guarantee those targets. That, Sir, I think is a good method of approach If we can definitely decide on a certain stepping up of production and a stepping up of diet, a balancing of the diet, then a system of targets could be applied and the provinces could be got to guarantee those targets if they agree to them beforehand Naturally, there would be failures according to weather and so on and reserves must be kept to deal with such failures. But what I am particularly concerned with is the possibility, and I believe it is a present possibility, that provinces, underestimate their production for obvious reasons They would like to keep the prices up and they would like to keep themselves on the safe side Now, Sir, price stabilisation should deal, to some extent, with this bad question of keeping the prices up. If targets can be approved and guaranteed by provinces, the question of under-estimates should not be so damaging.

Now, Sir, I want to say one more word before I finish on the subject of rice. It concerns us in Bengal very particularly and is most important for the rest of India as well We know that something like 80 to 90 million acres in this country are under rice and that an yield of something like 12 or 13 maunds to the acre can be got on an average. Now, that is still less than half of the production of China and less than a third of the production of Japan and some other countries. There is no question that there is scope here for a very considerable improvement in yield and this will depend upon improved seed and upon improved manuring. Possibly, in the course of this debate someone from the Government Benches will tell us just how far they have progressed in the matter of improved seed, which in rice is most important I have asked this question before and I am particularly anxious to know how we are going on.

When one realises that even to maintain the present standard which is not a good one, we must produce half a million tons every year extra food grains, one realises the absolutely vital necessity of looking forward. It is somewhat staggering to think that in ten years time, we shall have to be producing anything from five to eight million tons more food grains as an ordinary thing. Unless we have that, we are definitely heading towards famine conditions. If we can increase our rice crop, the yield of our rice crop per acre by only 50 per cent, it would still leave it well below the rice production of China, but we would have something like eight million tons to go on with and it would be really a good portion of the increase that we have got to make up.

In all these documents before me, I am a little distressed always to see the problem approached as a static problem We are asked to increase on the present basis, but the problem is not static, the problem is a moving one, it has got to move with the population and it has got to move also with improvement in diet. But I am convinced, Sir, that what is required to be done can be done, and if now we can get on a little bit quicker, if the Agricultural Department can produce something definite to put before us, even if they go back to this nearly twenty year old report, I shall be only too pleased.

In conclusion, Sir, all I can say is that we must undoubtedly do all we can, individually and collectively to help the present situation by public opinion and to ensure that the steady flow of food grains is maintained In the future, I am convinced that adequacy and indeed excess in production can and must be accomplished

Sri N. Narayanamurthi: Mr President, it is indeed a strange and happy coincidence that this my maiden speech on the floor of this Assembly should have been on the same theme which was on the lips of my late lamented friend Mr K. S Gupta who was representing my constituency and who died with the last words on his lips "no medicine, no food and no clothing" describing the conditions prevailing in my constituency He was then referring to the conditions prevailing in my District, North Vizagapatam, and parts of Orissa But today, since those memorable words were uttered, and that heart-rending appeal was made on the floor of this House, has there been any improvement in the conditions? What is the condition today? It is much worse than it was Only in one part of the Madras Presidency famine conditions were prevailing then, but today even according to the admission of the Government Member, a very grave situation is facing the whole of the Madras Presidency, not only in the District of North Vizagapatam and parts of Orissa, and Rayala Seema, but also rich districts like Nellore, districts in the far south and the west coast of Madras Presidency We are today face to face with a crisis, the like of which has never been experienced before This morning, Sir, we were given an account of what is being done by the Food Department here It is not statistics, good intentions, resolutions and recommendations of committees that are wanted, but real remedial measures as have been suggested by my Honourable friend, Mr. Masani. Immediate import of necessary quantity of food supplies is what is wanted That is what has got to be done. In that respect the Government statement this morning does not throw any light whatsoever. We are told that Sir Robert Hutchings and others are going to Washington and London to get more food supplies. We are only told that the matter is engaging the attention of the Honourable the Food Member. The Adviser to the Madras Government Sir Ramamurti was here only last week in connection with food supplies to Madras Province We are told that a discussion took place on this subject at a conference, but the inner workings of the Food Department and the outcome of that Conference are not known to us. We do not know exactly what is going to happen. We are not fully informed on the subject. This morning's papers announce that the Honourable the Food Member is to lead a delegation to London and Washington with regard to the arrangement of adequate food supplies to this country. The object of my amendment to the amendment of Mr. Masani is to point out that the mere importing of necessary supplies does not solve the whole problem. In the case of Bengal famine, it was not want of supplies in this country that was responsible for the same • It was admitted on all hands on the authority of economists, politicians and everybody that the Bengal famine of 1943 was a "man-made famine" it was due to the artificial conditions, to corruption that was rampant in the whole heirarchy of Supply and Food Departments of the Government of India that the Bengal famine was brought about Then, Sir, it was only in Bengal and Orissa Tomorrow it is going to be an All-India affair, Not only in Madras presidency, but even in interior parts of the country, the conditions are no better. We hear harrowing accounts of misery, woe and privation that are facing the people. As has been pointed out by Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad this morning, even in interior parts of

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U.P even in Mewar, in fact all over India the same problem stares in the face, both of the people and of the Government. What is required now is not mere recommendations or reports or statistics but real food to the people. The people are crying for a morsel of food. It is up to the Government to take immediately the necessary measures to bring about satisfactory conditions as early as possible.

Next I must say that the manner in which the procurement system, for which the representative of the Government claimed some credit this morning, is being worked is nothing short of a scandal. The way in which these D.S.O.'s and C.S.O.'s and other petty officials are working out this procurement scheme in rural areas is scandalous in the extreme These officers themselves are shareholders in the booty of the black markets. Rationing is not being properly done, with such care in rural areas as is being done in urban areas In fact in the name of requisitioning of food grains, these procurement officials pay a mere pittance to the cultivators, and rob them of their yield They are in fact shareholders in the black market They sell licences and permits to the highest bidder. In this way the procurement department in the mofussal is rampant with corruption. My point is that if even tomorrow sufficient supplies are obtained from out of India, unless the Government Department is wholly purified, let it better be abolished as suggested by my Honourable friend Sir Ziauddin Ahmad However, I am not for the complete removal of controls immediately I am only for a wholesale purification of the whole system Unless this is done, there is absolutely no hope for the future of the food problem in India Mere importing of supplies will not solve the whole problem Unless the cultivator is actually assured of a reasonable return for his toils, and unless he is assured also of a real and adequate supply of his own requirements, there will be no inducement on his part to work the grow-more-food campaign in the manner in which we want him to work it This in fact is the object of my amendment to Mr. Masani's amendment, and unless the Government wakes up betimes and makes necessary arrangements to overhaul the whole system a grave situation is sure to face them. This is admitted even by the Government. And, when there is mutual agreement on that point why should not the Government immediately take recourse to measures to purify and overhaul the working of the whole procurement system and establish a better type of food distribution machinery in the country? Sir, I support the amendment of Mr. Masani and move my own amendment to it.

3 P. M.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, to say that the position is most depressing is to characterise our sentiments in very mild language Sir, for my sins I come from a deficit province, but it is our good fortune that so far as food is concerned the administration is far better perhaps than in most other parts of India Good administration cannot make up for the deficit and when nature is unkind on the top of other handicaps in a deficit province the House can well imagine the condition of not only my province but the southern provinces of India Those who live in surplus provinces do not, I am afraid, understand the critical condition of those other Indians who live in the south. It is no use today to cry over spilt milk We are in a situation where desperate remedies are required. One suggestion in what I may respectfully characterise as the very able speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Masani, is about imports. True, that is the easiest way out in a crisis But we have heard the tale of woe about these imports Certainly we must do everything we possibly can to help Government to get larger imports at this critical time; and I am sure there is not a single Member in this House who would not do his utmost to see that larger imports are brought in That is a remedy which is certainly the easiest for us and has been most difficult of accomplishment in the last three or four years But I have always had one serious complaint against the Food Department of the Government of India. I have voiced that complaint in this House on several occasions and I desire to voice it once again most emphatically

and that is, their lack of control over surplus provinces. We who suffer must feel bitterly the Government of India not being able to take steps which we believe are in their power to take to procure surplus food from surplus provinces to be distributed to those who are starving. On more than one occasion I have had reason to point out where the Government of India's orders have been defied, and the Honourable Member in charge of the Food Department sat with folded arms and said he could do nothing.

Now, Sir, we are told at this critical time of certain steps which the Government of India are taking I do not wish to repeat all that other Honourable Members have said with which I am very heartily in agreement I wish to make a new point, and it therefore must not be taken that I do not support a great deal of what has been already said It has been said that they are taking some domestic steps and they are approaching four provinces—I think they are Punjab, Sind, U P and Bihar—and calling upon them to organise a monopoly of procurement Surely that ought to have been done long ago, that was suggested in this House two years ago And is it only now that these steps are taken with these surplus provinces? Sir, I am unable to understand that statement When our Government in Bombay have been appealing for the last three or four months for assistance in their critical condition, we are today told that the Government of India are approaching surplus provinces to go in for a monopoly procurement And what reason have we to believe that the instructions of the Government of India will be carried out? What reasons have we to believe that these surplus provinces will place their surpluses at the disposal of the Government of India? We have no reason to believe that they will do so Our past history and past experience tells us that the Government of India may be flouted in the future as they have been flouted in the past.

A province like mine also produces a necessity of life Sir, your city and my city are responsible for the production of the largest quantity of cloth in India. That cloth is taken from us under control at controlled prices and is given to those very provinces which refuse to give us their surplus food when we starve If the Government of India cannot control these provinces I suggest that they should hand over the control of cloth to us in Bombay, to the Bombay Government, and let us distribute that cloth equitably and we will see how the surplus provinces refuse to give us their surplus food Cannot they withhold that cloth from surplus provinces that have refused to give us their food? Have the Government of India that power? If they have, will they exercise it? If they cannot do it let them hand over the management of control of cloth and procurement of food from other provinces to the Government of Bombay, and we will see whether we cannot procure the food we require to save our people and the people of southern India from utter starvation and death Will Government consider that position? If it is a question of one province against another (*Mr Manu Subedar*: "And one department against another") let us be equitable in all the necessities of life If we have some necessity of life which is required by everybody let us distribute that necessity of life in exchange for that first great necessity of life, namely, food You do not let us do it and you say you cannot get us the surplus from other provinces.

Sir, I do not wish to delay the House much longer The position is critical in my province and, as Mr Masani has very ably placed figures before us, if there is to be a further cut in rations we are going below the sustenance level It is bad enough today but to make it worse would be criminal; and it is threatened that if the Government of India do not come to our assistance our rations will be cut, yours and mine, Mr President, in Bombay and in the whole of the province

Well, if that is the position and if our rations are to be cut further and if our people are to be starved then the time has come when we must take steps for ourselves and I demand, Mr. President, that we should be allowed to take steps in the directions I have just urged, if the Government think that is going

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir]

too far, then I ask them to take such steps and to withhold giving our cloth made in our part of the country to those who refuse to give us food.

We have heard for the last three years about increased acreage. Perhaps some of my Honourable friends who have been members of this Assembly during the last year or two will remember that I challenged the figures given by Government. We were told so many more millions of acres had been brought under plough; then we were shown shortages In other places I have had to protest that it was misleading Today, for the first time, so far as I am aware, we have been informed that those grand figures of acreage resulted in small figures of yield, that is to say that all those encouraging figures which we were given of increase in acreage—which I did not believe in and I said so in the House, and there was a strong protest when I said so—were incorrect I say, my statement has come out correct today, those figures were wrong as the yield shows I know my Honourable friend, the Secretary of the Department, has given some reasons why the yield is not in correspondence with the increased acreage Yes, some of those reasons might come into effect sometimes, but they did not come into effect during the last three years We did not have nature against us all these three years, we did not have famine in those parts of India where there was a large increase in acreage How is it that we are told today that the yield is less than was expected It is most unfortunate, Mr President, and I do urge on the Government of India to take this matter of our provinces in the South seriously and that if they allow us to starve, our Governments will hold them responsible They have done their best, they are doing their best, and if I may say so on behalf of our Governments, we will hold the Government of India responsible for any starvation or any death that overtakes us in future in Bombay and in the southern provinces

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda (United Provinces Landholders) Sir, I shall not take very long I have very great pleasure in endorsing my Honourable friend, Mr Narayanamurthi's speech in regard to the districts to which he belongs I myself belong to Vizagapatam district although I represent the United Provinces—I happen to sail in two boats He and I worked in the Ceded districts two years ago over this famine question, and in spite of what the country has gone through—the sins of Bengal which ought to recoil on the heads of Government—and in spite of that, we find that districts like Godavari, Tanjore, Mysore, Gujarat, and the Ceded districts are again heading for a terrible famine This is no doubt due to the Government being absolutely incompetent.

This morning's paper says that Sir Ramamurthi has given a very sad picture of what might happen Sir, the proverbial *'muthi bhar channa'* is also now a doubtful factor Whether our poor people will be able to even get that I doubt very much Whilst all this is going on in our country, we find Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai saying that all is well in India. His propaganda there has reached the very limit I suggest to this House that it is high time that he was recalled

My second suggestion is that whilst we all in this country are facing such a terrible famine is it right that the British and the American troops should stay on in this country and take large supplies from us? The war is over and it is high time they left our shores If they are staying here merely for the purpose of protecting us, I can tell you, Sir, that we do not wish to have their protection We are quite happy, we do not want other people's country; we want to be self-content and we want our own foodstuffs to be kept to us and not sent abroad

It is scandalous indeed that a European official is sent from this country to represent us in America and in England Is it not time for the Government to select somebody who represents the people, who can give the people's point of view and not official? It is said that a delegation is soon to proceed to America and that it will again consist of officials. I think that is what is on the cards.

May I suggest that the Government should, even at this late hour, think of inviting at least three or four elected Members of this House who can go to America and tell them the true state of affairs In my opinion the Food Department's behaviour of utter disregard to public opinion is nothing short of water on duck's back I submit that if even now they are not prepared to see to the comforts of the people, it is high time that they should vacate their positions for someone who represent this country in the truest spirit

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta Non-Muhammadan Urban) As I may not be in this House during the later stages of this debate I desire, with your leave, to make my own contribution to it today. The subject matter of the debate is one which has agitated the minds of our people ever since the year 1941. It assumed larger proportions in 1943 when the man-made famine broke out in Bengal and in certain other parts of the country The agitation in the public mind became greater As the House knows, famine and pestilence began to stalk over my own province of Bengal and also in other parts of the country in the year 1943 The angel of death began to beat its wings But the light-hearted revellers in the Government of India and the Government of Bengal went on merrily with their revels Sir it makes one sad to contemplate these things

For feeding a nation in peace and in war, three things, to my mind, are necessary firstly, that the Government should have a strong Scientific Division which is capable of advising on a food and nutrition policy, secondly, that the Government should wholeheartedly implement their advice, and thirdly,—and that is, Sir, by far the most important of the three,—that the Government should be completely identified with the people and enjoy their absolute confidence It is such an organization and such a spirit that created a far better food situation in countries like Britain, the United States of America and the Soviet Union than we had in this poor country of ours during the last war.

In England, the policy followed and the action taken by the British Government have, it has been claimed, actually raised the nutritional level, particularly of the poorer sections of the population In fact, Sir, it has been stated that the average stature of the British boy of 12 today is about 2½" higher than it was before the war Britain, as is well known, is a country which normally produces far less food than she requires for her consumption; and yet, so successful has been the policy of the British Government regarding home production and imports of food, that not only has death from starvation been prevented, but people have been given more nutritious, if rather montonous, food, during the war than before

Let us examine, now, Sir, the steps that were taken by the British Government which led to such good results under such difficult conditions.

The Scientific Division of the Ministry of Food in England calculated first the nutritional needs of the total population of Great Britain in terms of various categories of foodstuffs according to an internationally accepted optimum nutritional standard In looking after these nutritional needs, they considered the requirements for different age groups of the population of different occupations, as well as the special nutritional needs of expectant and nursing mothers. It was, indeed, Sir, a most thorough calculation of the exact needs of the population and, if I may add, a most thorough consideration of all the essential nutritive elements required for maintaining the highest nutritional level After such calculation and consideration, the Scientific Division in Great Britain proceeded to get the figures of pre-war home production of food and decided which categories of foodstuffs should be grown in larger quantities according to a "Grow More Food Campaign"—unlike the 'Grow More Food Campaign' in India—and which should be imported in order to meet the deficit in existing home production. They advised increased production of the bulkier foodstuffs like cereals, potatoes, etc., and recommended importation of certain quantities of wheat and wheat products, and more particularly of concentrated protective foodstuffs like egg powder, milk powder, oran-

[Shri Sarat Chandra Bose.]

juice, liver oils and other vitamin concentrates. They recommended compulsory feeding of milk and certain protective foodstuffs particularly to the so-called vulnerable groups of the population, namely, children and expectant and nursing mothers. They also advised the establishment of community feeding centres called "British restaurants" where cheap and nutritious meals were to be provided. Community feeding was also recommended through factory canteens. Milk was recommended to be distributed to the vulnerable groups of the population first and then, if available, to others. The Scientific Division of the Ministry of Food also carried out regular investigations with human subjects regarding the effect that the current rationing and other administrative measures had on the health of selected groups of the population. The rationing policy was subject to periodical reviews in the light of those results.

Sir, that was not all. The British Government showed a high degree of responsibility to the British people under its charge by loyally implementing almost all the scientific advice without exception. They provided shipping space for all the food that was needed to be imported into the country and also helped the increased production of more food in the country principally by means of the system of subsidy. Let me remind the Government of India, which is represented on the Treasury Benches before me, that throughout the war period the British Government subsidised the growing of food directly from the Exchequer to the tune of over Rs. 200 crores annually and recently they have sanctioned about Rs. 400 crores for direct subsidy for food production. The policy of the Government there was to buy foodstuffs at remunerative prices from growers and to sell them at greatly reduced prices to the consumers. That policy was mainly responsible for the success of the "Grow More Food Campaign" and for stabilising prices and bringing foodstuffs within the means of all consumers, rich and poor. In no case of a staple foodstuff did the price go up more than 25 per cent. above the pre-war price level. The British Government's subsidy covered all the important foodstuffs including cereals, potatoes, milk and meat. Potatoes were sold in England at 2½ annas a seer during the war. And I call to mind today that during my detention days I read in the papers that potatoes were sold at some places in India at the rate of Rs. 5 per seer!

As regards imports of food, the British Government never pleaded inability to provide shipping space for the importation of food that was necessary for feeding the people at an optimum nutritional level. In fact, Sir, throughout the war, sufficient stores of food were maintained in England, not only for current consumption, but also for consumption over a period of many months. It is this complete synthesis between scientific advice and administrative measures, a synthesis which is altogether absent in our country, which has given such good results in England.

When, Sir, we compare the policy of the Government of India with that of the British Government, what do we find? The contrast is glaring, indeed. Rationing was introduced in India quite late in the war, although the position of food supply was not unknown to the Government, and nothing was done even when the price-index of foodstuffs should have indicated to the Government that large masses of people were already living on a starvation diet. Yet, the Government of India keeps on its pay-roll an Economic Adviser, whose duty ought to have been to draw the attention of the Government to the serious economic and food situation in the country as early as 1941 or 1942. The Government of India later pleaded ignorance of the impending crisis, whereas even lay people knew from a general knowledge of the soaring prices of the basic foodstuffs like rice and wheat that tens of millions of people were already going hungry. Sir, a complete cleavage such as this between the Government and the people, whom it has undertaken to govern, has not any parallel at all in history, modern or ancient.

Rationing began in India, as the House will remember, almost towards the end of the war, except in the Province of Bombay which had introduced rationing earlier with commendable foresight. When ultimately rationing was introduced, the system was not based on the optimum nutritional requirements of

the people of India, and even now rationing covers only the cereals and sugar whereas practically all foodstuffs, including potatoes, eggs, meat, fish, etc., are in short supply and should have been rationed. The rationing system therefore does not seem to take cognisance of the effect of its operation on the health of the people and does not even tend to meet the nutritional requirements of the people according to modern nutritional standards. It is typical of the Government of India that it has a Rationing Adviser—I repeat, it is typical of the Government of India and the Government of India alone among all the governments in the world that it has a Rationing Adviser,—who is not an expert on food and nutrition, is not even an Indian, and is hardly familiar with the intimate food habits of our people!

In spite of the fact that food subsidy has played a most important role in the production of more food in England and in stabilising the prices there, no approach even to this question has been made by the Government of India. It is well known that large sections of the population are not able to buy even the ration of rice that is allowed. There is no reason why the Government of India should not follow the same policy as England and buy at least the foodgrains—rice, wheat and millets—at remunerative prices from the growers and sell them at reduced prices to the consumers. In Britain the Government is doing it for all foodstuffs and the Government is finding money for it there. Thereby the Government in England is distributing the burden of the higher cost of foodstuffs over the entire nation instead of compelling the lower income groups to starve. Why cannot this policy, I ask, be followed with respect to at least one or two important foodstuffs like rice and wheat? If money can be found to finance the war, surely money can be found to finance the feeding of the people. If money can be raised by loans for making weapons of destruction, surely money can easily be raised by loans for keeping the people alive. The Government of India says that it is making huge plans for the future reconstruction of India, but apparently it has no plan at all for putting nutritious food into the mouths of the people who are required to reconstruct the country! Budgets running into thousands and thousands of crores of rupees are being produced on paper,—on paper, I say,—for future plans of development but at present no sufficient or substantial amount has been allotted for subsidy to the growers, which could have helped immediate production of more food and also the bringing of foodstuffs within the means of the poorer sections of our people.

Regarding imports, again, the lack of shipping space has often been pleaded in the past for not getting food into our country, while that plea was never put forward by the British Government to justify starvation in their own country. Even now, allocation of food to India is going by default, because the Combined Food Board at Washington, to which reference was made by my friend, Mr. M. R. Masani, which makes the allocation of the world's food supply for the United Nations, has no representative who can speak directly for India. It was reported in the press the other day that even the Food Secretary of the Government of India, who went to Washington to plead for the import of, as far as I remember, about 1½ million tons of rice and wheat into India, was not allowed to represent the case of India directly to the Combined Food Board by the representative of the British Government,—our Trustees, as they describe themselves! I repeat Sir, that the Food Secretary of the Government of India who went to Washington to plead for the import of about 1½ million tons of rice and wheat into India was not allowed even to represent the case of India directly to the Combined Food Board by the representative of the British Government, but had greatly to scale down India's demand and channel it through the British Government's representative to the Combined Food Board, [illegible]

[illegible] the most prosperous in India
Treasury Benches who represent the
hold themselves responsible for it.

[Shri Sarat Chandra Bose]

Sir, there has been a lot of talk about hoarding and mal-practice in India in relation to the food situation, and the Government of India during the last three years has always taken cover under that plea. Some of it is, of course, undoubtedly true, but it is clear that even the tendency to hoard in this country results largely from the fact that the people do not trust the Government to give them the food they need. And who can say from millions of deaths from starvation that that mistrust is unjustified? The crux of the problem lies in this—that a national government does not exist either at the Centre or in the Provinces, which could have inspired the confidence of our people, could have put through measures of subsidy by raising loans, if necessary, and would have considered itself responsible for even a single death occurring in this country from starvation. If only the Government of this country had identified themselves with the joys and sorrows of our people, with their fortunes and misfortunes, as the British Government at home did with reference to the people of Britain, it would have pursued the same or similar measures which were taken in Britain and would not have allowed a single Indian to die in this country from starvation. Science is at our bidding, even to produce food from wood, as was done in Germany But nothing is of any avail if the Government has neither a heart nor brains, and if the Government continues to be what it was, say thirty years ago, when one of the Secretaries of State for India described it as "too wooden, too inelastic, too antediluvian"

Sir, I have had considerable opportunities given to me by the Government of India between December 1941 and September 1945 to study the subject and I have given much thought to it, and I desire now to place before this House certain concrete proposals of my own to deal with the situation

The concrete proposals I would put forward are

(1) that the Government must subsidise the production of staple foodstuffs by raising loans, national or international, if necessary,

(2) that the Government must bring the prices of staple foodstuffs within the means of the poorest of the poor;

(3) that the Government must base the rationing system on the optimum nutritional requirements of our people and not merely on the basis of giving our people a few grains of rice or a few grams of wheat;

(4) that the Government must take all help from science and technology to grow and produce more food;

(5) that the Government must bring pressure to bear on the Combined Food Board to see that from the world pool of foodstuffs this country's requirements are met, no less than the food requirements of Britain, and

(6) that constant checks are kept regarding the effect of all food measures on the health of the population.

The *raison d'etre* of a civilised government, according to modern concepts, lies in raising the standard of living of the people I know that the Government of India is neither civilised nor Indian nor even a Government worth the name But every Government, which calls itself civilised, has to accept responsibility for not only feeding the people but feeding them at an optimum nutritional level. In so far as the Government cannot do it, it must quit and make room for another government which can take and discharge the responsibility for feeding the people The Government of India have one of two alternatives before them—either to root out corruption, inefficiency and nepotism within their own ranks and work hard for the well-being of the people, or to work their way out of this country, which they turned into a graveyard in the years 1943 and 1944.

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan (Dacca *cum* Mymensingh Muhammadan Rural): Mr President, I do not know whether any fruitful result will come out of this debate, because I think that we are moving and having our being in an atmosphere of unreality I think the crux of the present situation is that we must get adequate food from somewhere and that case was given away by the Government of India representative when he stated that Sir Robert Hutchings

is coming back empty-handed from America. If that, is so, I do not know what fruitful purpose will be served by a debate like this. The very fact that Sir Robert Hutchings has not been able to do anything in America is a sad commentary on the tall talk that we had on the floor of this House yesterday about the status of India. It shows that we have hardly any status anywhere in the world, and we cannot have that status unless we acquire that status ourselves I do not know how the case of India was put before the Combined Food Board, and I have a good deal of suspicion and I agree with Mr. Masani that the case was not properly put.

Many things have been said about the Bengal famine or the famine in India that we had in 1943; and a good deal has been said about the responsibility for that famine I do not like to enter into any controversy over that unfortunate chapter But I would like to say one thing Had there been no war, would there have been any famine in Bengal in 1943? Certainly not. Therefore, whoever was responsible for the war was responsible for the famine of 1943. If that is so, then the 3 millions of people who died, either as the direct result of famine out of starvation, or who died of diseases that came in the wake of the famine were none but war casualties If that is so, then I think that India suffered in the last war far more than any other country in the world, and in that view, was not India entitled to have a few millions of tons of wheat that India demanded from the Combined Food Board? I think our case was not put there properly That was one reason, and the other reason was that actually we have got no status As long as the present conditions prevail, we shall not have that status, and our voice will not be heard with that respect in the comity of nations with which it would have been heard had we acquired that status Now, it is futile to talk about that just now on the floor of this House, but I would like to ask the Government whether the Government have actually done what little it was possible for them to do I think not Did they do anything in 1943? The Food Department itself was started very late, as has been said by everybody Let that go. But still I think so far as the present position is concerned, the only thing for us to do is to get food from somewhere outside India, and I have already dealt with that

The next thing is about more production in India. So far as that is concerned, it is not going to produce any immediate results and it will not avert the present danger, but still, if the Government of India was careful in 1943, then something perhaps might have been done. They did not do anything in 1943. Did they do anything in 1944? Did they do anything much in 1945? Probably they will say they did a great deal. Yes, they did in their own way It has been said and we know it, that every 5 million mouths are being added in India Are we making adequate preparation for that? We must stand on our own legs if we have to feed the future generations that are coming, and for that what is necessary is adequate planning, somewhat on the lines of Russia. If the Government of India had thought of making some five-year plan or seven-year plan in 1943, probably some result would have been produced by now If they had done something in 1944, that also might have produced some results now But they have not done that I therefore think that the Government of India has not done what it was possible for them to do. Now, of course, they are talking of planning. I do not know when these plans will be made and when these plans will be executed and how we are going to fare till these plans begin to bear fruit. However, that is another question What I would like to say is this, that as long as we live under the present conditions, it will not be possible for the Government that holds sway today to make any such plan Unless the real representatives of the people are on the Treasury Benches, nothing like that plan can be produced by people who are not responsible to the people. I am very glad that I am being appreciated by my friends on my right (*An Honourable Member*: "Every one will do it".) The only trouble is that we are not able to combine to wrest power from unwilling hands.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House) May I ask the Honourable Member whether he will come on to the Treasury Benches—he himself?

Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: I am very thankful for the invitation and in reply I would like to say that our offer is quite open, it is open to England and open to our friends on my right To the latter I would say "Just come in the wake of the Muslim League and follow the lead of the Quid-e-Azam and then only we shall be able to wrest power from unwilling hands"

However, Sir I would like to say that as long as the present conditions continue, there is hardly any hope of relieving the present situation Conditions in Madras and Bombay are very precarious, we have been told Conditions in Bengal also are none too bright There are other provinces where also similar conditions are probably prevailing What are we to do Sir Zia Uddin has said that he is not very much impressed by the partial rationing that has been introduced in some parts of India I agree with him there In spite of the difficulties that prevailed in Bengal in 1943 I think that so many people would not have died if wholesale rationing could have been introduced in Bengal but in those days that was not possible We have however learnt lessons now and I do not know why at least on regional basis full rationing should not be introduced in those areas where there are either famine conditions prevailing or where there are apprehensions of famine in the near future Under full rationing some people will eat less, but people who are in danger of starvation will be saved Therefore I think if it is impossible to introduce rationing in the whole of India, at least in those areas where there is danger of famine full rationing should be introduced on a regional basis In that case people will not die and they will be saved I trust that some consideration will be given to this suggestion

Sir Zia Uddin has suggested in his amendment that the Food Department should be abolished I do not think he was serious in making that suggestion He said so because he saw so many failings in the Food Department, because he saw corruption rife everywhere in the Food Department That is why he said so rather in bitterness but I do not think that he actually meant that the Food Department under present circumstances should be abolished (*An Honourable Member* "Why not?") I think something must be done about food and that can be done only by a proper department Whether there should be a separate Food Department or whether there should be a Department of Agriculture which will deal with the food question is a matter which requires consideration but I do not think that the Department can be abolished here and now

With these words I support the amendment

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadan) Sir, the situation in my province of Bihar is worse than the situation described hitherto There the question is what to eat and how to live Last monsoon was not favourable The result is that paddy seeds were not sown in time Transplantation was not also done in time and the result is that produce is very very low throughout the province and especially in my constituency of Chota Nagpur the yield is hardly over 15 per cent The yield has gone down at least by 75 per cent This is not an imaginary figure I am a cultivator myself In the fields where I used to get some 100 maunds of paddy, I have got 10 to 15 maunds This is the situation throughout Chota Nagpur In the parts of the province where there is canal or good irrigation system, the situation may be a bit better but on the whole the situation throughout the province is the same The foodgrains which are surplus in one area are not allowed to move to other areas which are deficit and the result is plenty in one area and starvation in another Take for instance the district of Darbhanga It is a rice producing centre It used to produce sufficient paddy to export to the surrounding districts but now owing to the ban on inter-district movement of food grains, there is scarcity of rice even in the Darbhanga district. The situation is the same in Champaran district. There is a *thana* called the Dhanhar Thana. My

Honourable friend, Mr B. B. Varma, has just got a letter from his home district with the information that poor people have not got any paddy to eat *khichdi* on the *Sankrant* day At the same time we know that Champaran district can produce sufficient paddy which can also be exported to other districts Thousands and thousands of carts loaded with rice used to go from Champaran district to the Saran district Now, the inter-district ban has prohibited that and the result is that the cultivators are not getting sufficient price for their rice in the Champaran district while people in Saran district are actually starving

(It being Four of the Clock)

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

ILL-TREATMENT OF I N A MEN IN BAHADURGARH CAMP

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan) Sir, I beg to move the adjournment of this House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance of recent origin namely "The brutal treatment meted out to I N A personnel detained in the Bahadurgarh camp"

With your permission Sir, I intend to deal not only with the Bahadurgarh camp but also with the reports that have come in regard to other camps, namely, the Attock camp, the Multan camp, the Nilgani camp and the Jubbulpore camp As is apparent the reports that we have received are not of a very detailed nature and in the very nature of things it is impossible to have received detailed reports It was up to my Honourable friend the Army Secretary, up to the Commander-in-Chief and up to the Government of India to have taken the public into their confidence and told the public exactly what the state of affairs was in regard to these detained men

Taking the case of Bahadurgarh camp first, I understand that there were about 3 000 men who had been brought back from Germany, who had formed themselves into an Indian National Army, originally under the inspiration of Shree Subhas Chandra Bose But when they were captured after having engaged in a fight which as they believed was a fight for the liberation of India, they were, I am told, interrogated in Europe But having been brought to this country and having already been interrogated, they were taken to the Bahadurgarh camp and were subjected to interrogation again there In fact, they are still being interrogated in the Bahadurgarh camp I have no objection to my Honourable friends interrogating these men but I have a very serious objection to their importing into this country in the treatment of our men whom we consider to be patriots the methods of brutality to which some British people abroad have got accustomed through the centuries In the Bahadurgarh camp today, I am told, there are about 1,800 men out of the original number that was detained there The treatment that they are subjected to is in no sense less brutal than the treatment against which my honourable friends over there raised their voice in protest throughout the Councils of Europe, the treatment meted out by the Germans to their own men I am surprised, when I am told, that some of these I N A men—about 30 or 40 or 50 of them—are going to be detained out of the large number that they have under arrest and that they will be tried, and tried for what? On account of the brutality alleged against them Is my honourable friend also going to try those officers who were guilty of brutality against these innocent, unarmed men in these camps? I want an answer from my honourable friend when he gets up to speak In this camp, which covers an area of 4 miles, the men are segregated into various barbed wire cages such as those which we ourselves used when we were the detenus of my honourable friend over there In these barbed wire cages they were given the most abominable treatment that any human being could be given They were not allowed to correspond with their relatives; they were not allowed to see their relatives, they were not allowed any books; and if anyone of them dared to utter the national cry or sing a national song to keep up his courage, my honourable friend's bayonets were there to see to it that they did not repeat this process of shouting national cries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): All this happened to us also.

Diwan Chaman Lall: It did happen to all of us.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): I have marks of lathi charges on my head

Diwan Chaman Lall: 64 of our men also bore the marks of lathi charges on their heads in one of the jails in Multan But my honourable friend sitting over there is proud that he has done these things The time will come when he will rue the day that he did these things My honourable friend should realise that this is a matter of very grave national concern We do not consider these men who have fought for the freedom of their own country anything but great patriots We look upon them as patriots It is possible that there may be two views taken on this matter, but there can be only one view regarding the patriotism of these men I cannot believe that any reasonable man in this country would not raise his voice in protest against the brutal treatment that has been meted out to them

On the 7th of January, a gentleman of the name of Mr Huelm, I believe, who was the Commandant of Bahadurgarh camp, issued a proclamation In that proclamation he said "It is my object meanwhile to give you"—addressing the prisoners—"a high standard of administration" What was this high standard of administration that this Commandant was guilty of? One of the men in this camp was ordered on fatigue duty He was sick and was unable to do this duty Because he was unable to do this duty, he was ordered by Huelm or whoever was in charge—some Subedar Major—to be bayoneted. When the order was given to the Guard to bayonet this man, be it said to the glory and honour of that Guard that they refused to bayonet this man And I hope whenever similar instances take place Indian soldiers in the Indian army will refuse to obey such brutal orders This Subedar Major then reported to the British Major as to what had actually happened The British Major arrived at the scene of action, rebuked the men, insulted the men, insulted the national tri-colour flag, hurled abuse upon our leaders and insulted the nation It was a bit too much for these prisoners, unarmed as they were, powerless and helpless as they were, it was too much to bear this, and there is no doubt that the Major was roughly handled.

Some Honourable Members on Congress Benches: We would have done the same

Diwan Chaman Lall: If I had been in the same place, I would in all probability have done the same thing What was the result? This particular Major reported the matter to the Colonel The Colonel then called in the Indian Cavalry No 76 and ordered this Cavalry also to bayonet the men who had taken this action against the Major And you will here pay a tribute to the men of the Indian Cavalry No 76 that each one of them refused to obey this order. Not satisfied with this, the Colonel resorted to the Gurkhas. Thinking that they are not part of India, he got hold of a Gurkha company The Gurkha company was called and may I also pay a tribute to them that even they refused to bayonet the men. Next morning, 300 of these men were taken to an empty cage and ordered to double for a period of two hours Irrespective of the fact whether they were sick or fit to undertake such arduous duty, they were ordered to perform this duty When these men refused to do this because they were exhausted, another company, a more pliant company, of Gurkhas was called and the exhausted men lying on the ground were bayoneted by my honourable friend's representatives in that camp. Thirty-four of them received injuries One of them, a man named Peras Ram, received as many as seven wounds in that particular condition And all this was done because these men would not stop from shouting the cry of 'Jai Hind' . . . .

Honourable Members on Congress Benches: Jai Hind, Jai Hind

Honourable Members on Muslim League Benches: Pakistan zindabad.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My honourable friends on by left ought to realise when I say this that a large number of them were Muslims and I hope my honourable friends will give due credit to these men for having stood bravely as brave patriots irrespective of the fact that action was taken against them by the brutal representatives of my honourable friend over there What was the sequel? The punishments that were inflicted upon these men thereafter became of a frightful and exceedingly fanciful nature. My honourable friends over there happen to be Christians, they are familiar with the Cross, the cross of suffering Apparently my honourable friends also invented the cross in Bahadurgurh camp Two poles were put three feet apart, and four pulleys attached to these poles. The two hands of the prisoner were tied with ropes to the two legs and the ropes of the hands were pulled until the hands were parallel with the legs In that condition, these men were kept until they fell senseless and no medical attention was paid to them

An Honourable Member: Court martial them

Diwan Chaman Lall: My honourable friend can rest assured that there will be court martial for these torturers when we get power They should be court-martialled for such brutalities committed against our men These people became sick, they were dangerously ill, and when they were taken to the hospitals, some of them died on the way If that is the treatment meted out to our men, we can well believe that they did much worse things. Now, Sir, what does the Press Communique issued by the Government say? Some members of a press agency visited this camp. The Commandant seems to have said to them that punishments inflicted for serious offences were strictly according to rules May I ask my honourable friend whether this particular punishment was strictly according to rules? Punishment for what? Punishment because these people wanted to sing their national songs, punishment because these people raised their voice of protest against the brutal treatment meted out to them

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has three minutes more

Diwan Chaman Lall: Sir, I will not take up more of your time in regard to this matter But there is one little matter which I want to bring to the notice of this House before I sit down. The same story is narrated as far as Attock is concerned, as far as Multan is concerned There are allegations that men were taken out and they were beaten and their bodies were thrown into the river. No information is available to us in regard to that matter and why this action was taken in regard to those persons In regard to Nilgani also, in a similar manner at dead of night on 25th September, 1945, a Captain and a Major came in and one of the prisoners was abused by these two men and when the prisoner protested and asked them as to why they were abusing him, they said. "we will show you exactly what we are going to do to you." The Major and the Captain, named, I believe, Corner, ordered that the British troops should be called in, an alarm was given to the British troops and they arrived Ammunition was collected, positions were taken on the east, south and west of the camp Arms were loaded There was one Bren gun and one Tommy gun in the east, south and west corners each and the remaining troops had rifles The Captain came in the Camp with a strong Guard and gave orders that all the prisoners should fall in in the Volley-ball ground At that time 700 prisoners had gathered The Captain again started abusing the men. One of the prisoners protested and in reply the Captain gave orders to fire and also opened fire himself In the meantime the fire started from all sides inside the camp. Nine were wounded and five died on the spot Their names were, Karnail Singh, Thanga Raju, Mariappan, Mohammad Kasim and Karuppayya. Although all of them were wounded and lying on the ground, what was the cry that issued from their lips? The cry of 'Netajiki Jai'. The cry of 'Jai Hind'. Such is the brave material which is being treated in this fashion by the representatives of my honourable friend over there. I hope my honourable

[Diwan Chaman Lall]

friend will agree that this is serious enough a matter which merits the immediate attention of the House

Mr. President: Motion moved

'That the Assembly do now adjourn"

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab Sikh) Sir, I rise to support the motion that has been so ably put forward by my Honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lall The whole question of the treatment of I N A is a very sad chapter of the present day British administration, especially when we find that the national armies similarly raised in similarly situated conditions have been differently treated I should like to remind the House that the National army raised by the Burmese have been absorbed by the Government in their present day armies, and I submit a similar treatment could have been given to the I N A men Public opinion is greatly agitated over the treatment of I N A people here. I am glad, Sir, that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief remitted the sentences on the three I N A officers who were the first to be court-martialled. This act has created good feeling in the country, but the news of ill-treatment from various camps, as has been stated by my Honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lall, is spoiling that good feeling I submit, Sir, that the Government of India should reconsider the whole situation and drop the prosecutions and release the I N A men I would not take up much of the time of the House

I wish with your permission, Sir, to draw the attention of the Government to the sad incident which happened in the Red Fort, Delhi, more than a year ago I refer to the deaths of two I N A officers who were detained in the Red Fort They are Capt Maghar Singh of Kapurthala infantry and Lt Ajmer Singh of 1/6 Punjab Regiment It is alleged that these two officers were captured on the Imphal front in September 1944 They were taken to the Red Fort for interrogation It is further said that on 5th November, both these officers snatched away the rifle of the sentry who went there in the verandah to switch off the light and that by that gun they shot themselves dead This is the only piece of information which we came to know after thirteen months of the incident The Government of India did not even whisper a word that such an incident had happened It is said that they shot themselves on 5th November, 1944, but the Government of India communique was issued on 2nd December, 1945, exactly thirteen months after that And this even was done when the news leaked out in the press Then the Government of India came forward and issued a communique which runs as follows

"Reports published in certain sections of the press that three I N A officers imprisoned in the Red Fort, Delhi, committed suicide in the past few days due to ill-treatment and that the fourth had gone mad and was in mental hospital, are inaccurate, says a Press Note

Facts are that two officers, Lt Jiwan Singh and Lt Ehsan Qadir are now patients undergoing treatment in a military hospital, the former suffering from malaria and the latter from nervous breakdown

Lt Ajmer Singh and Lt Maghar Singh were captured on Imphal front in June last year and were brought to Delhi where they were imprisoned in Red Fort These two officers committed suicide on the evening of November 5, 1944, by snatching away a gun from a sentry who entered the officers' quarters to switch on the verandah light

A letter addressed to the Officer Commanding signed by the two officers and found on one of them says, 'We could easily escape from here but did not think it to be proper. This action of ours is purely voluntary and nobody is to blame Lastly, we thank you very much for the good treatment we received while under your command Adieu, adieu Sd Maghar Singh and Ajmer Singh' "

This is the communique which the Government of India issued 13 months after the incident took place and it is very interesting It says that these officers could escape but they did not, and then the sentry went to the verandah to switch on the light, and then they snatched the rifle and shot themselves. The question arises, why did the sentry go to the verandah to switch on the light? They themselves could have done it very well. Then, again, a letter found on one of the officers was demanded by the widow but so far Government have not replied to her letter. Then again how these officers died is still a

mystery. Obviously no one in his senses commits suicide, and they must have been driven to this course of action by long-continued brutal treatment and persecution

The treatment which was later on meted out to their relatives also speaks for itself On the 9th December, 1945, a few days after this news was published the widow of Maghar Singh sent a telegram to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief when he paid a visit to Kapurthala State The telegram is as follows

"Captain Maghar Singh Kapurthala Infantry alleged shot himself and Captain Ajmer Singh, Delhi Fort 5th November 1944 His young widow minor son and daughter pay your Excellency humble respects No pension granted Dark future before us Pray grant interview Also requesting for restoration of his ashes, iron bangle, remaining balance due, and last letter alleged found on him to serve as souvenir and solace"

This telegram was sent on the 9th December, at Kapurthala when His Excellency was there, and so far no reply or even an acknowledgment has been sent by the War Department And even his ashes have been refused and the iron bangle which every Sikh wears has also been refused The last letter or anything found on his person has not been given to the widow I do not know how the bodies of these two officers were disposed of and whether or not their last ceremonies were performed according to Sikh rites. The relatives of Maghar Singh are very much upset They come from a very loyal family The father of the man came to me and he was in tears. They know nothing of what happened They sent letters to the G H Q and the only reply that they got was that their son Maghar Singh was captured as a prisoner of war, they do not know where he is That was the only reply that was given to the father's inquiries. I submit to the Government of India that even if they are very angry with these I N A officers there should be some decent standard of treatment when they die If their bodies cannot be handed over to their relatives—which I think should be done—at least their ashes should be given, so that they may perform the last rites. In India Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and all other people perform last rites over the bodies of their dead relatives according to their own religion, and if these rites are not performed properly it is generally believed that the soul of the person suffers So in this case, no reply, no ashes and nothing has been given to the bereaved widow and the relatives I think this is an important matter The circumstances in which death took place demand an inquiry I believe the spokesman of the War Department will get up and say that an inquiry has been held It may be, I do not know But the public will not be satisfied unless the circumstances under which these deaths took place are made public and a satisfactory and proper inquiry is held. Sir, I support the motion.

Several Honourable Members: Let the War Secretary speak now.

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India Nominated Official) Sir, I am ready to explain now if the House wishes that, but the point is that if I do reply now and any Honourable Member wishes to raise further points—and I take it that what the House wants is information—I shall not be able to answer those points May I know if there are any other allegations which any one wishes to make?

Mr. President: I believe the Honourable Member will have a right of reply with the permission of the Chair.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General) Sir, I doubt if the Honourable Member will have a right of reply. It is only the Mover who has got that right

Mr. President: No Paragraph 64 says this:

"A member who has moved a motion may speak again by way of reply, and if the motion is moved by a non-official member, the Member of the Government to whose department the matter relates may, with the permission of the President speak (whether he has previously spoken in the debate or not) after the mover has replied"

That is clear. But I will remind the Honourable Member that, in case the matter is to be taken to vote he must not expect further time.

Mr. P. Mason: Thank you, Sir.

The first point that I should like to make is that what we are discussing now is not the policy regarding the I.N.A. For that a day has been allotted and we are going to talk about that on Monday the 4th February. All we are discussing today is their treatment while in detention, and therefore everything that I have to say proceeds on the assumption that they have to be detained and deals with the manner in which they are looked after while they are detained.

The next point is with regard to the general treatment of these men. I have explained this to the House Technically these men are recovered prisoners of war,—I mean they are men of the Indian Army who are recovered prisoners of war, and there are certain charges against them which are being investigated. While those charges are being investigated, they are kept in detention in exactly the same way as any other member of the Indian Army against whom there is a charge There is no difference between them and between the man of the ordinary Indian Army who is supposed to have committed some minor offence and who is being kept in detention until his court of enquiry or his court martial That means that in matters of food, accommodation, clothing and in fact, as I said before, all the minor necessities of life, except liberty of movement, they are treated in the same way as their corresponding ranks of the Indian Army I am sure that no one would suggest that when men are being kept in detention they should be given better food, or better clothing, or better housing than the men who are guarding them That would be a suggestion too farcical to put forward

An Honourable Member: What about Italian prisoners of war?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not think that is relevant

An Honourable Member: It is

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir I have got a tremendous lot of points to make.

Mr. President: Order, order

Mr. P. Mason: I went myself to the Red Fort and I had a look at the officers and men who were there They had just completed their interrogation. In the officers enclosure I found officers lying about on *charpoys* reading newspapers and books with the wireless playing and in their near neighbourhood arrangements for volley-ball and other kinds of exercises I asked them if they had any complaints about the newspapers and books they were getting They said they got books from the camp library which was arranged for the guards as well as themselves and they said that with regard to newspapers they had a complaint That I think might be of interest to the House They complained that they had not been given *The Onlooker*, a paper which, I understand, is mainly concerned with pictures of fashionable weddings. That was all the complaint they had to make about the newspapers.

With regard to food, Sir, the officers are given the alternative of the food given to British Other Ranks or Indian Other Ranks and they did complain that those of them who chose the food given to British Other Ranks found the quantity insufficient. Well, Sir, personally I have lived on the rations given to British Other Ranks and seldom been able to finish them, and I think that if that was the extent of their complaint, they had not got much to complain about

Sardar Mangal Singh: When was the enquiry made?

Mr. P. Mason: About five months ago

I would like to go on and deal with not only the points mentioned by my Honourable friend, Mr Chaman Lall, but others which I have seen mentioned in the Press or on the platform at one time or another There have been several mentions of an I N A. camp at Jubbulpore Nothing specific has been said about it, but I would like to mention, if there was only one thing, Sir, about which I could lay my hand on my heart and stand before the House with a clear conscience—but there are many things—it would be the I.N A camp at

Jubbulpore, because my information—I know that my information is some times doubted—but my information is that there is no camp at Jubbulpore. If there is one, I do not know who is paying for it; I do not know where the staff comes from; I do not know where the prisoners come from.

An Honourable Member: Make fresh enquiries.

Mr. P. Mason: If my Honourable friend would like to go to Jubbulpore, I would be delighted to take him in a Government aeroplane and bring him back also, and if he finds that there is a camp there, I will pay all his expenses on the way from my own pocket.

An Honourable Member: You may have given another name to it

Mr. P. Mason: There has also been mention at one time or another of an I.N.A. camp at Ferozepore. There is no camp at Ferozepore, either

Diwan Chaman Lall: Were there any I.N.A. personnel detained?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir. There are two Regimental Training Centres there to which we send men before they go back to their villages—those men who have been classified 'misled' but who are getting six weeks leave in their villages They go to Ferozepore for their accounts and their pay to be settled up and they are generally kept there for five to ten days during which time they are in detention But that is the end of that particular story

My Honourable friend would probably like to know where the I.N.A. camps actually are There are five camps or groups of camps There is one at Multan, there is one at Jhikergacha in Bengal with two subsidiary camps at Barasat and Nilganj, there is a very small one in Bhopal—Bairagarh—which is for officers only, there is one at Bahadurgarh, and in Delhi we have some in Cantonment and some in the Red Fort

Now I turn to incidents Jubbulpore again is the scene of an incident which is entirely fictitious My Honourable friend, Secretary—I am not sure whether it was of the Congress Party or the I.N.A. Defence League—wrote to me the other day and he wrote me a very polite letter giving a very full account of his reasons for believing that three I.N.A. men had been shot at Jubbulpore. I explained to him after a full enquiry that no men had, in fact, been shot at Jubbulpore and that we had not any I.N.A. men there I gave him reasons why the story had arisen I am not going to trouble the House by repeating the whole of it—it has appeared in the press already—but the whole story arose from a remark overheard in a mess by a mess servant, who misunderstood it, repeated it outside to somebody who clearly fancied himself as an amateur detective and started a few enquiries which led him to a wrong conclusion. The Montgomery incident is another of the same kind to which I have already referred. I believe there was an incident in the Jail at Montgomery, but it is not, as I have already explained, in any way concerned with the I.N.A. or the Central Government. That concludes my list of entirely fictitious incidents.

I come on now to the things that really have happened. My Honourable friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, referred to the case of Lieut. Ajmer Singh and Lieut. Maghar Singh. That, as he says took place on the 5th of November 1944. The incident has been completely described in the papers and took place exactly as has been described. I have the letter referred to. I could lay extracts from that letter on the table of the House, but I do not want to publish the whole letter because it does contain some remarks about other people in the I.N.A. which would cause pain (Interruptions)

An Honourable Member: Send it to some Handwriting Expert.

Mr. P. Mason: I do not think I need go into that matter in any detail, as I have not got much time at my disposal, I have yet to talk about Bahadurgarh But I can assure my Honourable friend that these two officers were cremated according to the Sikh rites by one Risaldar Balwant Singh. I do not think there is anything discreditable to Government in the whole episode. The letter describes their attitude and it explains that they were not whole-hearted in their

[Mr. P. Mason.]

attempts to help the I N.A. It stated that they had been trying to convince their interrogators of this fact but despaired of doing so and that we assume, though it is not quite clear, was the cause why they committed suicide.

(At this stage, Sardar Mangal Singh interrupted)

Mr. President: Order, order Let there be no interruptions

Sardar Mangal Singh: I had a right to interrupt.

Mr. President: Let the Honourable Member proceed

Mr. P. Mason: This brings me on to the whole question of the method of interrogation in the Red Fort There have been some highly fanciful stories in the press We are supposed to have subjected men to electrical tortures of some curious nature We are supposed to have put them in a bath and covered them with ice Well, I am able to assure the House quite definitely and finally that in the whole course of this interrogation force is not used All that does happen is that the man is under some degree of pressure

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Hear, hear! Some degree! Beautiful!

Mr. President: Order, order.

Mr. P. Mason: . . in so far that while he is under interrogation he is kept from talking to other people and naturally the sooner he talks the sooner he gets into the enclosure with other men. The methods of interrogation are very simple indeed. They consist of revealing a little of our knowledge. If a prisoner is obstinate and he continues to be silent, he is given another day to think it over and next day perhaps he is told more He soon realises that his interrogators know more than he actually does and it occurs to him that it would be as well to put before them his own version (Interruptions) Another incident is that of Dharam Singh I have explained that already in the House

There are two more incidents, and like a child with sweets on its plate, I have left till the end what I like least. And I admit at once that I do not like the two incidents that remain They are Neelgunj and Bahadurgarh As regards Neelgunj, it would be improper to say very much because there is a Court Martial upon these officers With regard to Bahadurgarh, I am afraid that my honourable friend's statements were highly fanciful as he said His date was wrong It was not on the 7th January but on the 1st October The name of the Commandant was wrong The name he has given is that of the present Commandant There was another one in those days Everything else he said was equally incorrect What actually happened was that there was a case of refusal to obey orders. A guard was sent in to fetch out the men and take them to the orderly room to be dealt with in the usual way The guard was hustled and pushed by the men in the camp The guard did not attempt to use force but came out and reported to the Commanding Officer He, as a result of that act of insubordination of pushing and hustling a guard, ordered three days' punishment, consisting of reduced rations and of a daily parade of two hours from 8 to 10 The parade consisted of doubling and marching and doing P T. while on the march. I have done this myself, and I do not think there is anything very brutal about it although it is strenuous When the day came for the first of these parades to be carried out, I am sorry to say that the men adopted an attitude which was mutinous and insubordinate and they refused to drill or to run The Officer Commanding the Guard ordered his men to use force, if it should be necessary He warned the party that force would be used if they refused to obey orders He warned the individuals of the Guard that each individual was to be warned before force was used and he said that in every case the force used was to be the minimum The men refused to drill or to march or to double and the butt of the rifle was used to compel them to do so Their attitude continued to be insubordinate Some attempted to escape through the ranks of the Guard and one of them tried to seize the rifle from one of the men of the Guard

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has only a minute.

Mr. P. Mason: The order was then given that in extreme cases the tip of the bayonet was to be used, again after warning and again only the minimum force had to be used After the parade it was found that 42 men had bruises and nine men had small punctured wounds in the buttocks. The Medical Officer found that there was no serious wound whatever No one died in hospital as my honourable friend said, and the court of enquiry which went into the matter very carefully—I have read their report—came to the conclusion that the Guard behaved with exemplary precaution and care, and I think they must have done because had they been at all excited the use of the bayonet might have been very serious

I do, as I say, regret this incident I regret very much that the prisoners should have adopted an attitude which made it necessary for the guard to use force I hope, Sir, that such an incident will not occur But should prisoners again refuse to obey orders, such a thing might happen But I hope, Sir, that it will not.

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions Non-Muhammadan): Because I belong to Jubbulpore, I wish to ask a question Is it not a fact that the I N A prisoners were released from Jubbulpor jail?

Mr. P. Mason: There may have been some cases of civilian I N A prisoners after . . . . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Ah! ah!

Mr. President: Order, order

Mr. P. Mason: they were returned to the province of origin before release, because before we release them we send them to the province of origin.

(Interruptions)

Mr. President: Order, order

Mr. P. Mason: They might in that case be released from Jubbulpore or from anywhere else but not by me

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I was not willing to intervene in this debate because it has been my misfortune, Sir, to have been associated with the I N A trials from the very beginning and I seem to know a great deal too much about many things which I would not like to repeat here on the floor of the House partly because some of these cases are still *sub-judice* and I am not free to indulge in glancing blows which might for some odd reason or other be considered unwarranted on account of these cases being *sub-judice* However, as the Honourable the War Secretary has said, we have to separate three different sets of facts although he only referred to two We are not discussing the history of the I N A here today We shall have ample time for doing so when the resolution comes up and we certainly are not considering the cases which are *sub-judice* But we are concerned here with certain incidents which have taken place in various concentration camps My honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lall appears to have collected a large number of facts, some of which were not within my knowledge I heard them here for the first time and there are many more facts, Sir, which have poured into the I N A enquiry office from time to time I have tried my level best to make the necessary enquiries in connection with these reports and I am quite prepared to say that in some cases I found the reports to be exaggerated and therefore I am not prepared to pass my condemnation of the Government on these exaggerated stories But even if I eliminated all the stories, exaggerated or otherwise, there are certain positive facts which you cannot deny You have admitted today, and I am putting my case on the lowest basis possible, I am not getting into hysterics over murders which have been committed here and there and over people having been bayoneted and so on and so forth (I may have to say something about it later on) but I base

[Mr M. Asaf Ali.]

my case on the minimum facts which you have been admitted, *viz.*, the question of pressure which is being brought to bear on people who are under interrogation Is it or is it not brutal that people who had served in Malaya, Burma and elsewhere for some time and who were compelled to surrender for reasons, which I need not repeat here—because I have not got enough time—were taken prisoner at sometime or other Was it necessary for you to keep them in these camps indefinitely under repeated interrogations? Was not one interrogation enough? Why were they not allowed to get into touch with their relations? Until a man's interrogation is completed he is not allowed even to write a letter to his relatives to say where he is and he cannot possibly get into touch with his people. Is not that brutal, I ask? I am not talking about beating or bayoneting This by itself is, to my mind, a third degree method. The moment a man comes into your custody it is your duty to inform his people that he is alive, that he is not missing, that he is somewhere to be found, and that somebody can get into touch with him Families after families, hundreds and thousands of families in India today are passing their time from day to day in a terrible state of mind not knowing where their relations are, or whether they are alive or dead Probably they are being interrogated somewhere but nobody knows anything about it I have been receiving at times as many as one hundred letters a day making enquiries about these people and I cannot get any information from any department which I might transmit to these people This is a sorry state of affairs which you cannot deny

Something has been said about interviews Now, as regards facilities for interviews, the difficulty even after these people can get into touch with their relations is that the conditions under which they are allowed interviews are so strict that it becomes almost impossible for certain persons to interview them I know the Government's difficulties too, because I have worked in the Red Fort and I have worked in the other place I am not suggesting for a single second that they have no difficulties but they can easily get over their difficulties, because they have got armies at their disposal But what about these poor people? They have to come from long distances and they have to go from post to pillar to find out whether and where they can interview their relatives, how they can interview them, how long can they interview them and so on

Something has been said about rations Now I admit that the case which the Honourable the War Secretary has put forward about the rations that are allowed to these prisoners from his point of view is correct He would not like the prisoners to have better rations than is allowed to those who are guarding these prisoners That is their argument May I ask why they should not be allowed to supplement their food at their own cost? There are people who are prepared to supplement their food but you will not allow them to do it The prisoners should be allowed to supplement their food not at the cost of the Government but at the cost of those who admire them rightly or wrongly Another argument is that you may feel that they are being lionised for no rhyme or reason But what can you do about public imagination They have captured the public imagination, and what am I to do? I may feel that perhaps some day I have got to deal with an army of my own I certainly would not want my army to be politically minded. I should like my army to be patriotic but not politically minded, or to be torn by party politics But the difficulty is this Today the army in India is neither patriotic nor politically minded one way or the other

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Or even Indian.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: You have to give an army some cause to fight for The only lesson that I have drawn from the I. N A either in Europe, in Malaya or Burma is that this army had no cause to fight for It was only their professional duty They failed in the professional duty, they did not want to carry on their professional duty, because they had no cause to fight for When they

went to Germany if somebody told them that they would get better terms from the Germans they might have said 'All right we shall join them'. Some of them might have been patriotic, and others might have been romantics or adventurers. I do admit all these things are possible but the fact remains that unless an army knows, that it is going to defend its own country and its people's freedom, its allegiance is not worth a cent. That is the lesson which I have drawn from the I. N. A.

Now knowing this fact, what attitude are you going to adopt towards them? I welcome your attitude in so far as you released certain prisoners who had been brought to trial. It has created a better atmosphere. If I were you, I should not detain these people, I would allow them to go home. Whether they are black, grey or white they must all go home straightaway. You have already created a big problem for us. We have got to deal with them. You will only deal with the demobbed. We have got to deal with these people as they are going out into the country. We have got to deal with the problems of their relief which arise from day to day.

Now, Sir, I regret I am straying from the point, though I wanted to keep to it I do not wish to use strong language. I do not wish to raise questions which might affect the morale of the army in future, because we are going to control the army of the future and we have got to think of the army in terms which we ought to think should be correct in the interests of India. But in so far as the treatment in these various camps is concerned, I am perfectly certain that the incident in the Neelgunj camp is a most disgraceful one. I do not wish to go into the facts, because, as the War Secretary put it, the case is *sub-judice*. But I hope I shall not be trenching upon the rules of debate and that it will not be out of place for me to say that some person—I will not mention anyone in particular—was responsible for daring some other to go and call up the prisoner at midnight. Some officer in the camp, I do not mention his name, told another brother officer "Oh, are they under your control?' I dare you to go and have a roll call" The other fellow went and called out those people while they were sleeping: they came out angry, and naturally a scuffle ensued and in that scuffle who suffered but the prisoners? Some were shot down That is a disgraceful episode, a perfectly disgraceful episode, and the sooner you take notice of it the better, because somebody is on trial—I do not know whether somebody may not be a mere scapegoat Be careful about it Somebody might have been made a scapegoat somebody else may be responsible for what actually happened

5 P.M.

As regards the Bahadurgarh camp, incidents have happened; you yourself have admitted it, it is time that you looked into these incidents a little more carefully I am not suggesting for a moment that you are dictating the policy from above, but there are others down below who are misbehaving themselves and you have got to see to it that those who misbehave get the sack.

There is only just one other point to which I should like to invite the attention of the House and I have done. Something has been said about these fictitious camps. Jubbulpore camp is supposed to be a fictitious camp. I dare say it was a fictitious camp. But whose fault is it that these fictions are going about? It is your duty to tell the public everything that is within your knowledge. Why do you keep everything secret? Why do you treat the whole thing as something which nobody should look into? It is your duty to tell the whole country, "We have so many camps and so many prisoners, this is what is being done etc, etc" and then you will not come in for all this trouble But you are treating the whole thing as a close preserve into which nobody should look, and the result is that you are being condemned from day to day.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions. Non-Muhammadan Rural) Mr President, one good thing that this debate this afternoon has done is to draw out from the War Secretary a list of these camps We have been trying hard, month after month, by every means that we could adopt to find out . . . .

Mr. P. Mason: Except asking me.

Shri Sri Prakasa: . . . . to find out where these prisoners were, and it was by the sheerest accident that we could find out where they were. If stories have been afloat, the Honourable Member and his Government must hold themselves responsible. The Honourable Member says we never asked him. I am sorry I was unaware of his existence; and I found out only after I arrived in this House that he was he, and since then as he himself knows, I have been in very close touch with him, and perhaps he would have given me much more information in reply to my letters if this debate was not coming on. I am glad that he has said that despite this debate he would give me all the information that there may be still left to give.

The fact is that apart from these camps, the I N A. men have been spread over in many jails It is indeed good of the Honourable Member to offer to take us at his expense and the expense of his Government by air to fictitious camps, but I should beg him to allow us to go now, at our expense, if necessary, to the camps that are actually in existence. He need not be worried about the expense—we shall meet it But we want to see these camps ourselves, we do not want them to be in purdah, and we want to examine the situation as it actually is at the present moment. Apart from the camps, I do not think that the Honourable Member can deny the fact that there are many men of the I. N. A. in various jails For instance there are two men, or there have been two men, in the Benares Central Prison, and not knowing that I had to go to the War Secretary, I wrote to the Home Member, thinking in my ignorance and my innocence, that he was in charge of such things, about these two men. I got the information about these men from political prisoners, my own colleagues in the Congress, who have been recently released from the Benares prison, and they told me that these two men—details about whom I have given to the Home Member—were kept in solitary confinement with fetters on all the 24 hours, that these fetters had cut into their flesh, that they were in great agony They were moreover kept in C class—I do not know, Sir, in which class you have always been—but I myself know the C class It is a class in prison where it is difficult to live for very long

My honourable friend has said that we cannot expect prisoners to get better food than their guards May I ask him in all simplicity, in all humility, in all seriousness, whether the men who guard this Council hall, the chaprassis, whether the men who guard his house, are better fed than himself? It is not always that guards needs must get better food than those who are guarded At least my honourable friend and his Government do not follow that principle, though I should very much like that they did, because the chaprassis here are not at all happy at the salaries they receive and they are very anxious that we should some day ventilate their grievances on the floor of the House, as we do of the I N A men

I should like to say that on principle this Government has no right, moral or even legal over these I N A men Who are these I N A men? These are the men who were actually abandoned in a foreign land by the very Government that took them there Is it or is it not a fact that European officers, including even the Commander-in-Chief, flew back when Burma and contiguous countries fell into Japanese hands? Is it or is it not a fact that they handed our men over to the Japanese themselves and told these men that they were thereafter to obey the Japanese? All this has come out in the trial that has recently taken place in the Red Fort at Delhi; and the Government's own witnesses have admitted these facts. When the Government of India had abandoned its own men in a foreign land and its officers had run away from that country, what were these men to do? They found themselves between the devil and the deep sea *(An Honourable Member* "Who is the devil?") and if they did what they did, all honour to them. It is, I think, a matter of pride that they did not go against their country as they could easily have gone in the circumstances in which they found themselves; and despite the definite instruction

of their British officers that they should obey the Japanese, they even refused to obey the Japanese. They refused to be cajoled or bullied by the Japanese, and they stood out for their country from first to last A Government worth its salt would have honoured such men Instead of that, in a spirit of vindictiveness, they get hold of them, they molest them, interrogate them ill-treat them and try to take out all the spirit that is in them. That they have not succeeded is a matter of gratification for all of us I do not think that these men are in any sense recovered prisoners of war as my honourable friend the Army Secretary has described them. They are men who have been abandoned by them and who had become an independent army fighting for their country. They are now of the status of their prisoners of war and should be treated like that and not as criminals.

It is not for me here to discuss the merits of what they did, but there is no doubt that their motives were of the purest, and today, Sir, we, their countrymen, desire to pay a tribute of respect and of admiration to their courage, their heroism in very difficult circumstances, and at the same time we pledge ourselves that we should do our best to protect them from the hands of those who first abandoned them to the enemy and now want to take vengeance upon them for their own follies. Sir, I hope that the House will not be misled by any considerations that are beside the point that have been put before the House by the Army Secretary The Army Secretary who loves his own freedom and the freedom of his own country should realise that we also love our country and want to be free, and it is strange that while he and his countrymen praise persons in France, Holland and other countries for their patriotic actions against their invaders, here they deny us the right to do likewise, and while there they want to hang traitors here they want to hang patriots In their dictionary, a traitor means something different in France to what he means in India Here traitors are patriots and patriots are traitors This game cannot be played for very long and I hope that the House by its vote today, will declare to the whole world and to the Government that Government cannot fool us like his for ever.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division Muhammadan Rural) Mr. President, the motion which is before the House was to deal with the brutal treatment meted out to I N A personnel detained in the Buhadurgarh camp. I am afraid the discussion that has taken place on this motion has strayed into many channels.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member does not know that it was by agreement of parties that the discussion was general on this question.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House) If I may say so, the discussion was to be confined to the treatment of I.N.A. prisoners and not to the extraneous subjects introduced by some Members opposite.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: As the motion stated, it was to deal with the subject of the treatment of I. N A. men As regards the treatment of persons in prison or under detention, if that treatment was inhuman or brutal, every one would condemn it. There cannot be two opinions with regard to the feelings of every Member of this House where the brutality of the treatment may be concerned. We have before us an exaggerated picture, if I may say so, of the treatment which was meted out as given by the Mover of this motion (*An Honourable Member*: "Question") I hear my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party Questioning this statement of mine. (*An Honourable Member*: ""It is not he. Somebody else said 'question' ") Anyhow, I arrived at this conclusion after listening to the very sober speech of the Deputy Leader of the party to which the Honourable Member who has questioned me belongs. He has not used the same language regarding the treatment of these people as the Honourable the Mover of the motion has done. I can quite understand the reason for employing exaggerated language because from the time that this unfortunate trial of the I.N A. men began, the Congress have been

[Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan.]

using it as a great lever for their propaganda purposes. (*An Honourable Member*. "You can also do it.") And therefore I can forgive my Honourable friend if he has used the language which probably the incidents given did not merit These I N A men who were under detention or under trial are to my mind very unfortunate and as far as the Muslim League is concerned it has expressed its sympathy with them It has also impressed upon the Government that they should be treated with leniency and mercy The Honourable the Mover of this motion and some other Members have described them as patriots Mr President, some of them, I do not think anybody would deny that, joined this army because they felt that they would have better treatment The others joined because they felt that under the leadership of Mr Bose they would be able to establish the raj of their community, I mean of the community of Mr Bose, in this country The others joined, as we have on the statement of Captain Abdur Rashid who is under trial at this moment, because they felt that if the Muslims did not join this army, then, when this army came to India, it may mean the freedom of one community and the subjection of the other Therefore, from this point of view everyone of them is a patriot and I can quite appreciate the general feeling of sympathy which is abroad in their favour in this country. To my mind, the Government should have never started the cases against the I N A men because there were very few of them who had joined this army out of free will I believe that a number of them joined because they were coerced into joining this army

I can well appreciate the resentment of my honourable friend, the Mover of this motion, and the members of his party when an insult, according to him, was offered to what he described in an exaggerated language as the "national tri-colour flag" I can appreciate their resentment that the flag of their party was insulted, if the incident is true. I would feel the same if anyone offered any insult to the flag of the Muslim League In the same way, I can appreciate their elation over the cry of Jai Hind It is but natural, it is the policy of their party I would feel the same if and when I hear the cry of Pakistan Zindabad But in examining this proposition we should not allow ourselves to be carried away by sentiments

The Honourable the Mover of this motion has given a number of instances of brutality If they are true, they are really such actions of the Government as should be condemned in the strongest language On the other side, we have the statement of the War Secretary denying all these allegations

Diwan Chaman Lall: Not all of them

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: When I said "all allegations", I meant as described by the Mover It is admitted that some of the men rebelled against the order that was passed and, according to the War Secretary, the minimum force was used by the authorities concerned So, we have before us these two statements. We are really not in a position either to condemn the action of the authorities or condone their action because there is not sufficient evidence before us to justify either of these two courses. It is, indeed, unfortunate that we should be carried away by sentiment and not examine the facts as they are The Honourable the War Secretary has told us that the information on which people level serious charges against the Government with regard to I N A men is derived from the servants of the messes I do not know what is the source of information of the Honourable the Mover of this motion. But if he is in a position to tell this House in his reply as to what are his sources of information, the House may be in a better position to judge Here we have a statement from one Honourable Member and, on the other side, we have a statement of another Honourable Member It is, indeed, very difficult for those Members of the House who are not prejudiced either way to come to any decision I would support the Honourable the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party in his demand that it would be better for the Government if they gave the fullest information to the people at large with regard to I.N.A. men. The lack of information

and the suppression of facts are bound to create all kinds of stories in the country I would suggest to the War Secretary that he should not follow the policy of "the less said the better", but he should follow the policy of "say as much as you can" with regard to this matter There is no doubt that a large number of people in the country are very much interested in the fate of these men for the simple reason that there are thousands of them and they have thousands of their relations and friends For that reason alone if for no other reason, it is desirable that the Government should give the utmost of information with regard to the fate of these men

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, like my friend the Honourable Deputy Leader of the Congress Party, I was not expecting to speak this afternoon because ample opportunity was given to Members to speak before my friend the Joint Secretary of the War Department spoke I naturally thought that anyone who wished to make points bearing on the adjournment motion which is before the House would have been expected to make those points and get the answers from the Department concerned And so I think on the whole it has turned round, for whereas the first speaker referred to the subject matter of the adjournment motion, the subsequent speakers digressed into various matters connected with the I N A which had no particular bearing on the question of treatment in the camps

Shri Sri Prakasa: Are you summing up our speeches?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That being so I propose, in saying the few words which I am going to say, to confine myself strictly to the cases referred to and also to one or two other points bearing on the treatment of these men which have been touched upon by various speakers Now, Sir, in the case of Nilgarh camp, the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party made various insinuations

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I do not believe in insinuations They are statements of facts and I stand by them

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: My honourable friend suggested that in the case of court martial that is taking place there, it is quite possible that the War Department can make mistakes and put up the wrong man for trial and so on I think Sir, I had better say nothing more on that case because it is *sub-judice* and I think it is improper that I should do more than draw your attention to the weakness of my Honourable friend's case

Now Sir, when we come to the Mover of this adjournment motion, Diwan Chaman Lall, he made various statements which were completely demolished by my honourable friend

Diwan Chaman Lall: Were they?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: On each occasion when my honourable friend's colleagues shouted 'shame', I turned to my honourable friend here and said 'Is there any truth in that point?' and in each occasion, he gave the answer 'no'

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is there any truth in Nilgarh or Bahadurgarh incidents?

Mr. President: Order, order

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not giving way, Sir. I am talking about the Bahadurgarh case. I would like to mention one additional incorrect statement which was made by my honourable friend opposite He said that some cavalry regiment had refused to take action when called upon That is an absolutely incorrect statement like many other statements which were made by my Honourable friend

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is there any truth in the Nilgarh camp incident?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not give way

Diwan Chaman Lall: It is very unfair for my honourable friend not to give way

Mr. President: Order, order Let him proceed

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Evidently my honourable friend does not like being told these facts Having buttressed up his case with a good deal of distortion, I expected that some other speaker on the other side would have come forward in support of these facts But we have listened, and not a single speaker has queried in any way the statements made by my honourable friend, (Mr Mason)

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You do not give us any information even now

Mr. President: Order, order

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The reason why my honourable friend's statements have not been queried was because they are true and incontrovertible

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What happened at Jubbulpore?

Mr. President: Order, order

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think, Sir, that places the whole debate in its true perspective I should like to make two other statements In the first place, one honourable Member said that I N A men were not allowed to make communications outside I should just like to make it clear that that also is incorrect The I N A men are allowed to write immediately they return to the country and they are allowed to write periodically subsequently

Finally, Sir I should like to deal with the point raised by the last speaker He suggested that in future the Government should see that the fullest information is given out about these men I entirely agree with that I think if possible it would have been better in the past if information had been put out earlier, but full accounts have been published of these various events, and when the honourable Member spoke this morning about admitting the adjournment motion, he welcomed the debate The Government are only too anxious that full facts should be given to the public and I think the House can rely, now that its wishes are known, on full and prompter information being put out to the public as soon as the facts are received

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend lays down the law regarding certain facts and at the end of his speech he says that if full facts are received, they will be published It is quite obvious that my honourable friend has been very badly briefed

Mr. President: Order, order

Some Honourable Members: The question be now put

Some other Honourable Members: No, no

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Are there any other speakers No member has stood up to speak.

Some Honourable Members: The question be now put

Mr. President: The question is.

"That the question be now put."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—50

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.	Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Aditya, Sri S T.	Manu Subedar, Mr.
Asaf Ali, Mr. M	Masani, Mr. M. R
Ayyangar, Sri M Ananthasayanam.	Menon, Sri A Karunakara.
Bose, Shri Sarat Chandra.	Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.
Chaman Lall, Diwan.	Narayanamurthi, Sri N.
Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.	Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.	Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt.
Damodar Swroop, Sjt. Seth.	Ram Narayan Singh, Babu.
Dani, Mr G B.	Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.	Ranga, Prof N. G.
Gangaraju Sri V.	Reddiar, Sri R Venkatasubba.
Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, Mr.	Salve, Mr. P K.
Golo, Mr. P B.	Sanyal, Mr Sasanka Sekhar.
Gounder, Sri V C. Vellingiri.	Satakopachari, Sri T. V.
Govind Das, Seth	Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Hans Raj, Raizada.	Sharma , Pandit Balkrishna.
Huray, Sjt B. S.	Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Jagannathdas, Sri.	Sri Prakasa, Shri.
Jhunjhunwala, Mr B P.	Sukhdev Udhowdas, Mr.
Jnachandran, Sri M K.	Swaminadhan, Shrimati Amma.
Karmarkar, Shri D P.	Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
Khan, Mr Debendra Lal.	Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.	Varma, Mr. B. B.
Malaviya, Pandit Govind.	Vijaya Ananda, Maharajkumar Dr. Sir.

NOES—54

Abul Hussain, Choudhury Md	Morris, Mr. R. C.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.	Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir. M.	Naqvi, Mr A. T.
Banerjee, Mr R N	Nauman, Mr Muhammad.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.	Oulsnam, Mr. S H. Y
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath	Rahmat-ullah, Mr Muhammad.
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan	Raja Bahadur of Khalikote.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr T	Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Chatterjee, Lt -Col Dr J. C	Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed.	Sarjent, Dr John.
Griffiths, Mr P. J.	Sen, Mr. B R.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.	Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.]
Harendra Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar	Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Hirtzel, Mr M. A F.	Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.	Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.
Ismuq Seth, Haji Abdus Satter Haji.	Spence, Sir George.
Jeelani, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj Syed Sher Shah	Stokes, Mr. H G.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.	Tamizuddin Khan, Mr.
Joshi, Mr. S. C.	Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.	Turner, Mr A. C.
Killedar, Mr Mohammad M.	Tyson, Mr Geoffrey W.
Lawson, Mr. C P.	Vadlyanathan, Mr. L. S.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.	Waugh, The Honourable Mr. A. A.
Madan, Dr. B. K.	Weightman, Mr. H.
Mason, Mr. P.	Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Mitchell, Sir Kenneth.	Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
	Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
	Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

The motion was negatived.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Sir, may I reply now?

Mr. President: As the House has given its decision that the debate should continue it will not be proper for me to call upon the Mover to reply and close the debate It will be against the wishes of the House.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nommated Non-Official): Sir, I think when the Honourable Mover of this motion spoke he made certain very grievous charges. In fact if what he has said is true I would certainly have joined with him in censuring Government for having carried out what he described as most brutal treatment in the Bahadurgarh and other camps. In fact the treatment which he described was so brutal that it almost compares with the atrocities

[Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C Chatterjee]

which are alleged to have been committed by the Germans and Japanese in other theatres of war which all the world has so strongly condemned Now, Sir, my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall is an honourable man, I have no reason to doubt any statement which he makes On the other hand those very statements which he made were challenged and contradicted by my honourable friend the War Secretary. He too is an honourable man and nothing has come to my knowledge which would make me doubt his honour, just as nothing is known to me which would make me doubt the veracity of my honourable friend the Mover of this motion

An Honourable Member: A Daniel come to judgment!

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: It is not a question of Daniel, it is a question of sifting facts. The question is merely this, I notice a very important difference between the statements that have been made by the Mover of the motion and the statements which were made by the War Secretary My honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lall, read, as far as I could see, from a number of papers and newspaper cuttings, but did not mention what those documents were He did not state, as far as I can see, what were the sources of his information, who communicated these matters to him and who had made these statements to him Now, Sir, it is very difficult, therefore, to quite understand what is the particular authenticity of these statements I do not for a moment question the authenticity of my honourable friend, but, Sir, it is possible that he may have been misled by exaggerated reports or been carried away by emotion—I hope he is not very emotional—but all the same I think it is possible at this time of stress and storm—it is possible to be very seriously affected by matters which are emotional

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I interrupt my honourable friend for a minute? Is my honourable friend aware that the charges made by me regarding Bahadurgarh are substantiated by my honourable friend, the War Secretary? He did not deny for a single moment that a cross had been used, he did not even refer to it He did not deny that punctured wounds were caused although he said that butt ends were used—an extraordinary position He did not deny the deaths and wounds caused in Nilgan; What is the fuss about?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: As far as I heard my honourable friend, the War Secretary, I did not hear him say that a cross had been used or that he admitted any of the atrocities which my honourable friend opposite alleged had been committed (Interruptions)

Mr. President: Order, order Let him proceed now

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: What my honourable friend said was that he admitted, unless my memory has failed me that there had been an incident in the Bahadurgarh camp and that certain prisoners there had refused to obey orders I understand, that those men were under military discipline and therefore his officers had to use force necessary to quell that disturbance and he said very definitely that the force used was the minimum force necessary on that occasion. That was one statement I feel, Sir, that my honourable friend here also is an honourable gentleman and I cannot suspect him of making a statement knowingly and willingly of something which is not true That is what I say, just as I admit that on the other side my honourable friend the Mover also is not capable of saying or making a statement which he really knows to be untrue

Now, Sir, the next point is that Sardar Mangal Singh also made certain statements of what happened in the Red Fort here Those again were statements which he made, he read from a newspaper and said that the father of the deceased gentleman had come to him and made certain statements Again, as far as I can see the Member in charge of the Department pointed out that the facts were as he related, namely, that a letter had been left by these gentlemen,

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 31st January, 1946

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

MEMBERS SWORN:

Mr Everard Leslie Campion Gwilt, M.L.A. (Bombay: European);
Mr Frank R. Anthony, M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official),
Mr B C A Cook, O B E., I C S, M L.A, (Government of India: Nominated Official)

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

PER HEAD CLOTH QUOTA IN PROVINCES

Mr. President: There is a short notice question by Khan Abdul Ghani Khan. But he is not present If the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies wishes to reply he may do so

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes, Sir. Will someone read the question?

Mr. President: I will read the question.

"Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies Department please state

(a) What the quota is in yards of cloth fixed per head of population in the eleven provinces of India?

(b) If there is a difference in the quotas what is it due to?"

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) The quota in yards of cloth fixed per head of the population in the eleven provinces is as follows

Sind—18
Punjab—18.
United Provinces—13½.
Bihar—12
Bengal—12
Assam—11.
Orissa—11
Central Provinces—12.
Madras—12
N -W F P —18
Bombay—18

(b) The difference in the quotas is due to the fact that they are based on the average consumption in peace time in the different areas

Seth Govind Das: Is cloth in the various provinces given in accordance with the quotas or is not given as such?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: It is distributed to the provinces according to the quotas and the provinces are responsible for the internal distribution.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member know that the consumers do not get it and that the cloth goes to the black market?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: That is a matter of opinion

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member . . .

(At this stage, Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad rose in his seat)

Mr. President: Order, order.

Mr. Manu Subedar: . tell the House why in spite of the quota to Bengal, very distressing reports came from there about the shortage of cloth in many localities?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: These questions are constantly under review and when we hear these complaints we immediately enquire into them

Mr. Manu Subedar: What are the reasons which Government have discovered as to the mal-distribution by the Provincial Governments of the cloth supplied from the Centre and in what directions have the Provincial Governments failed?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I could not undertake to answer this comprehensive question in reply to a short notice question.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Is it a fact that Bihar never gets her full quota?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I might add that the present distribution was unanimously agreed to at a conference held last September by my Honourable friend, Sir Akbar Hydari

Mr. K. C. Neogy: To what extent did the Government of India, or the Textile Commissioner, or any other officer, exercise any control over the provincial machinery so far as the local distribution of cloth was concerned?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Once a complaint comes to his notice, he discusses the matter with the provincial authorities.

(Interruptions)

Mr. President: Order, order

Seth Govind Das: And without any complaint, he does not review the situation in the provinces!

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The distribution of cloth internally is a provincial matter and when the provinces do not respond, the Central Government brings it to their notice and discusses with them

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Did the Government take into consideration the increase in the population since the peace time calculations were made?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes, Sir

Diwan Chaman Lall: Has the Honourable Member received complaints from the Punjab and Bengal?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I have no information

Diwan Chaman Lall: Received no complaints?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No not to me

Seth Govind Das: No complaints from the Central Provinces?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No, Sir

Sardar Mangal Singh: What is the quota?

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether he has received any complaints from the people as apart from the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I did not follow.

Mr. President: "May I ask my Honourable friend whether he has received any complaints from the people as apart from the Provincial Governments?"

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I cannot undertake to answer all these supplementaries in reply to a short notice question.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Do the Central Government call for a report from the Provincial Governments as to how the cloth is distributed?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Has he received any complaints from the Sind Government?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No, Sir.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member whether the Director General of Textiles in Sind was here in regard to this and there was a statement from the Director in the press?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I require notice of that.

INACTION *re* DELETION OF SECTIONS 111 TO 121 OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT

Mr. President: I now proceed to the various adjournment motions that have been received We take up No. 33 in the list of adjournment motions. It is in the name of Sjt. Diwan Chaman Lall who wishes to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, "the failure of Government to make any progress in regard to the deletion from the Government of India Act of Sections 111 to 121 (both inclusive) in spite of the overwhelming opinion in all sections of the population of India as expressed in the Assembly Resolution on this subject passed by the House on 4th April, 1945".

This motion is similar to the motion moved by Pandit Balkrishna Sharma. As that was ruled out of order, this one also drops out.

SIGNING OF BRETTON WOODS FINANCIAL AGREEMENT

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion (No 34) is also in the name of Sjt. Diwan Chaman Lall who wishes to adjourn the business of the House to discuss "the action taken by the Government of India committing this country to the membership of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank (Bretton Woods Scheme), disregarding the undertaking that nothing would be done without the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly".

This has already been discussed and disposed of. So it drops out.

Exactly similar to this is the adjournment motion (No 35) in the name of Pandit Govind Malaviya This also drops out

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Mr. President: The next adjournment motion is No. 36. It is also in the name of Pandit Govind Malaviya Since it is similar to adjournment motion No 33 above, which has already been ruled out, this drops out too.

FAILURE TO SECURE FOODGRAINS RESERVES

Mr. President: The next motion is by Mr M R Masani regarding "the failure of the Government of India to secure adequate supplies and build up adequate reserves of food grains to meet the present grave shortage in Western and Southern India resulting from failure of crops, thereby endangering the maintenance at the present level of rations which are already insufficient"

This matter is being discussed and therefore the motion drops out

Adjournment motions Nos 38 and 39 by Mr Thakur Das relate to the same subject as above and so they too drop out.

ORDINANCES DEMONETISING HIGH VALUE NOTES

Mr. President: Adjournment motion No. 40 is by Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha regarding "the three Ordinances recently issued for demonetising notes of the value of rupees five hundred and above".

This has been withdrawn.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member). Oh! Oh!

SIGNING OF BRETTON WOODS FINANCIAL AGREEMENT

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion by Mr P K. Salve and the two subsequent ones by Mr G. B. Dani and Mr. Sheodass Daga relate to: "the action taken by the Government of India committing this country to the membership of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank (Bretton Woods Scheme) disregarding the undertaking that nothing would be done without the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly".

This matter has already been discussed and so these motions drop out.

INACTION *re* DELETION OF SECTIONS 111 TO 121 OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT

Mr. President: Adjournment motions Nos. 44, 45 and 46 by Mr. P. K. Salve, Mr. G. B. Dani and Mr. Sheodass Daga respectively relate to: "the failure of Government to make any progress in regard to the deletion from the Government of India Act of Chapter III Secs 111 to 121 (both inclusive) in spite of the overwhelming opinion in all sections of the population of India as expressed in the Assembly Resolution on this subject passed by the House on 4th April, 1945".

An indentical motion has already been ruled out and so these drop out.

SALES OF BULLIONS AT HIGH PRICE BY RESERVE BANK

Mr. President: The next one is by Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad relating to: "the connivance of the Government of India at the action of the Reserve Bank in selling bullions at black market price".

What has the Honourable Member to say about this?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have to submit, Sir, that this motion should not be admitted on the ground of urgency as the matter has been discussed on several occasions in this House Moreover, the sales of silver stopped at the beginning of July and the sales of gold in August and so there is no urgency about this matter

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan) Sir, after July there has been no session of this House and therefore the matter can be discussed now

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have made it clear that the sales stopped in July

Mr. President: The sales about which the Honourable Member has been complaining had been stopped where is the occasion for the motion now?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) That is the trouble If the adjournment motion refers to the sales which had already taken place . .

Mr. President: Then the matter ceases to be urgent

RECRUITMENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIAN CIVIL AND POLICE SERVICES

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion is by Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar regarding "the action of the Government in recruiting European officers to the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service permanently, in view of the declared intention of the Government to hand over the administration very shortly to the people of the country"

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member). Sir, I have one or two points to raise with regard to this motion There are two mistakes of fact in the notice In the first place there is no "permanent" recruitment of European officers to the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service in progress. It has been made amply clear to the public and to the candidates that anyone recruited under the scheme which is now being carried out is liable to have his service terminated at any time when constitutional developments take place. This is a statement by the Secretary of State for India on that subject:

"I must therefore make it unmistakably clear to men who are contemplating entering the Indian Civil Service, the Indian Police Service, etc that constitutional developments may necessitate their appointments under the Secretary of State being terminated at any time, subject to due notice being given and the payment of the grants set out in the appendix to the leaflet"

That is the first point there is no permanent recruitment going on now.

The second point of fact is that it is not for the "Government of India" to recruit to these services The appointments are made by the Secretary of State for India and not by the Government of India. The authority for that is sub-section (1) of Section 244 of the Constitution Act.

Then, Sir, on the point of urgency, I have to point out that the recruitment of European officers which is now proceeding is not a new matter. The decision to appoint them is not a new matter. It was announced as far back as March 1941, when recruitment was stopped in order to provide for people with war service after the war. It was announced in a press communique of the 18th March 1941 that "it has been decided to leave 50 per cent. of the annual vacancies occurring in the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service unfilled with a view to their being made available after the war to be filled by suitable candidates with war service. This decision applies equally to the recruitment of Indians and Europeans and to recruitment made in India and in England". That was a press communique of the 13th March 1941. It was followed by another press communique of the 19th December, 1942, when the decision was announced to keep all vacancies not only 50 per cent. of the vacancies, for war service candidates, who would be appointed after the war. I trust you see my point, Sir. The recruitment which is now being undertaken is to fill exactly this class of posts which have been kept vacant, 50 per cent in 1941 increased to 100 per cent in 1942 This decision is not a new one and therefore I submit that on the tests which normally apply in dealing with adjournment motions, this is not a fit subject for an adjournment motion I quite realise that it is a matter in which the House is entitled to take an interest and that it can and should come up for discussion My only point is that it is not suitable for discussion on an adjournment motion

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce) Sir, may I elicit information on a matter of fact? May I ask the Honourable the Home Member whether it is or is not true that with regard to the notice of termination to these new entrants into these services the power of the future Government is heavily handicapped by the rather big rewards which have to be paid to these men, if at all they are sent away during the intermediate period without completing their full period of service If there is this handicap are we not entitled to raise this issue on the floor of the House and, if we are not satisfied, to censure the Government on their decision?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: My Honourable friend is of course quite correct in calling attention to the compensation which will be payable to the members of the services when their service is terminated The details will be found in a pamphlet which is or will be placed today in the library of the House But I submit, Sir, that that makes no difference to the point that I have raised. The appointment is not permanent

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan) Sir, with reference to what the Honourable Home Member said just now may I say this that as far as the question of compensation is concerned I believe that that same principle would apply to those who are in the so-called permanent services? Service in both cases would be ordinarily permanent subject to compensation being given in either case,—either the new recruits or even the old recruits They will be in the same category In regard to urgency and recent origin of this matter it is true that communiques were issued, one in 1941 and one in 1942, but the question of recruitment comes now after the end of the war, and the communiques related to something that was going to happen at the end of the war when new recruitment started The new recruitment starts now and therefore since it is a matter of recent origin it gains in urgency because it involves a very important matter of principle So I submit that in view of these facts it is a matter both of recent origin and public importance and a matter which is a fit subject for an adjournment motion

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, so far as the recent nature of it is concerned my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall has given a sufficient answer. The communique that was issued in 1941 has been in abeyance and it could not come into operation; and if any one had moved an adjournment motion on that day certainly the mover of that motion would have been refuted with an answer that it is only on paper and until it comes into operation there is no cause of action. Therefore the cause of action only arises now After the

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

Assembly session last year, in April or May, my Honourable friend's predecessor Sir Francis Mudie flew to England with suggestions as to what ought to be done in the matter of recruitment. The Government of India cannot absolve themselves from the responsibility of recruiting so many persons and reserving so much, though the initiative in the first instance is taken by the Secretary of State. As regards the temporary nature of it, it may be that some persons have been recruited temporarily during the period of the war, but it is proposed, according to the Honourable Home Member himself, to make these permanent That is, those persons who have returned from war service will be permanent hereafter. I should like to know if it is the intention of the Honourable Member and the object to the communique to convert those temporary posts which are held by ex-military service men into permanent ones

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No such temporary appointments have been made.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Ex-service men will be recruited hereafter and they will be recruited on a permanent basis with a particular proportion,—fifty to England and fifty to India I submit that though a few of us, about twelve or thirteen, may be asked to take charge of Government, we will have to work with other people who, if we look to the west will look to the east and will look to the west if we look to the east This will be only paper autonomy that we will get I submit this is a fit and proper motion It is urgent, definite and of recent occurrence, and therefore, Sir, I would request you to give me leave to move it.

Mr. President: I would like to be clear myself on one or two points Do I understand that the provisions about compensation and other things which the Honourable Member read out are inserted in the new covenants and they are not part of the old covenants of the Indian Civil Service?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not think any discussion has yet arisen on the nature of the covenant that will be executed by new recruits. According to my covenant I have no rights of any kind—I have merely obligations—and I should be rather surprised if in the new covenants there will be any mention of these compensation terms The compensation terms have been published in this pamphlet which I have here

Mr. President: The point that I have in mind is this. Will it be part of the agreement with the particular Civil Servant that his services are liable to be terminated at any time by payment of compensation or otherwise?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Yes, Sir, that is part of the understanding and agreement, and statement of the Secretary of State's policy on which applications have been called for from war service candidates

Mr. President: In any case, the question of compensations will arise?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Yes, Sir

Mr. President: Then as regards the authority. Have the Government of India nothing to do with these terms? One Honourable Member referred to the visit to England of the late Home Member, perhaps for consultations with the Secretary of State The appointing authority may technically be the Secretary of State, but have the Government of India absolutely no responsibility, morally and practically, in the matter?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The responsibility, I take it, lies on the shoulders which bear the statutory responsibility for appointment. It is of course a fact that the future employers of these services—the Government of India and the Provincial Governments—have been consulted as to the conditions on which the new members shall be appointed

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Member if there was not a meeting of the Executive Council wherein this matter came up

for discussion and by a very narrow majority it was decided and they recommended to the Secretary of State to recruit? The initiative was from them, let my Honourable friend deny it

Mr. President: As to the question of urgency, as I see it, the time for recruitment is now coming. But apart from that question, the motion relates to the personnel to be recruited The Honourable Member referred to the percentage of recruitment That percentage may stand; it was declared in 1941 The question now is about the personnel to be recruited, giving effect to the declaration as to the percentage, and if the time has come now to bring that percentage into effect, the matter, to my mind, appears to be of recent origin. May I know what the Honourable Home Member has to say on that?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Sir, I cannot question what you have said on that point. My point was that the decision was announced in 1941 as a definite decision of the Secretary of State who is now putting it into effect. It is not a new decision The decision was to take effect immediately after the war The war has ended and the decision naturally is being put into effect Nothing new has happened

Mr. President: But what I am thinking about is this The decision was to have a particular percentage of recruitment Without disturbing that percentage, now the time has come to give effect to that decision, and the manner of giving effect to it in the selection of the personnel is the matter of the adjournment motion, as I see it, because it specifically refers to European officers and does not relate to the percentage of recruitment

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I think the answer to it is that there is no new decision as to the proportion of Indians and Europeans. That is the same as it has been for a number of years past

Mr. President: The Honourable Member does not wish to discuss the percentage of recruitment, as I see from the adjournment motion Within the limits of that percentage, his point seems to be that now that recruitment is coming, Europeans should not be got for the services. It does not affect that decision at all That is how it appears to me Is the Honourable Member the Mover keen to have the word "permanently" in this motion?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As it happens, the word "permanently" need not be there In view of the fact that large compensation equal to 30 years' salary—we do not know what it is going to be—is to be given, it is really permanent I am not very particular about the word "permanent".

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I point out that the same state of affairs arose at the time of the introduction of the last reforms At that time the Secretary of State did exactly the same thing in the matter of compensation I believe the Honourable the Home Member was in service at that time. If he wanted to retire and to get compensation, he could have retired on very good terms too.

Mr. President: I think the motion is admissible and it will be taken up at 4 o'clock.

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Mr. President: I have to inform Honourable Members that I have nominated Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad and Mr. K C Neogy to the Library Committee of the Indian Legislature.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that the following members have been elected to serve on the Committee on Public Accounts, namely: (1) Prof. N. G. Ranga, (2) Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, (3) Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson, (4) Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, (5) Mr. Tamiruddin Khan, (6) Sjt. B. S. Hiray, (7) Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal, and (8) Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 noon on Wednesday, the 30th January, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Central Advisory Board of Health, two nominations were received As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Dr G. V. Deshmukh and Sir Hassan Suhrawardy to be duly elected to the Board

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that the following Members have been elected to serve on the Standing Committee for Roads for remaining months of the financial year 1945-46: (1) Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal, (2) Choudhry Sri Chand, (3) Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman, (4) Raizada Hans Raj, (5) Mr A C Inskip, (6) Mr Ramayan Prasad, (7) Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla, and (8) Sri V C Vellingiri Gounder

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR LABOUR DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: I have further to inform the Asembly that upto 12 noon on Monday, the 28th January, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Labour, twelve nominations were received Subsequently two members withdrew their candidature As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected (1) Mr R C Morris, (2) Mr. A C Inskip, (3) Mr S Guruswami, (4) Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, (5) Sree Satyapriya Banerjee, (6) Sri N Narayanamurthi, (7) Diwan Chaman Lall, (8) Mr Mohammad M Killedar, (9) Sir Hassan Suhrawardy, and (10) Mr. Muhammad Nauman

RESOLUTION *RE* RELEASE OF ONE-THIRD MILL YARN FOR HANDLOOMS

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab Muhammadan) Sir, I move

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to pass an emergency ordinance compelling cotton textile mills to release at least one third of the yarn manufactured by them for the use of handlooms"

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) On a point of order In the Resolution as printed on the order paper the word 'varns' appears It should be 'yarn' for the word 'varns' may mean anything!

Mr. President: There is no point of order in it The Honourable Member may proceed

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: I have already dropped the 's' in 'yarns' This Resolution will, I hope, prove a non-contentious one I see that the several amendments which have been filed all tend to make it more explicit and more comprehensive than it is and none of the amendments seek in any way to challenge the proposition embodied in my Resolution The fact is that the Resolution concerns the welfare of a very large number of Indians who are engaged in the handloom industry According to the figures which have been collected by a committee appointed by Government in 1941 called the Fact Finding Committee which consisted of very competent men who after carrying on prolonged and careful investigations collected the necessary facts and figures relating to the handloom industry in India, the figures which are important for considering this Resolution are as follows The number of weavers who are engaged in the handloom industry all over India is 24 lakhs They have got assistants paid and unpaid to aid them in carrying on their vocation and their number is 86 lakhs The number of those who depend upon the earnings of their trade is estimated to be at least 40 lakhs. Thus, a total of one crore Indians depend for their subsistence on this industry and that shows the very great importance which the industry possesses and should possess in the economy

of this country. Now, the amount of yarn which all these weavers who work on handlooms require is a very large one indeed and unless it is made available for that industry, there is no hope of the industry prospering or even surviving. Taking the figures of the production of yarn one finds according to the figures for the last two years which were supplied to us only two days ago that in the year 1944-45, 1,622 million pounds yarn was produced by the textile mills in India Out of this, 1,152 million lbs was utilised by the mills themselves and 470 million lbs was distributed to power-looms and handlooms and the hosiery industry 6·3 million lbs. was exported in 1944 and 5 9 million lbs. was exported in 1945 to countries outside India My contention in the Resolution which I have tabled is that unless Government takes steps by passing an Ordinance to guarantee that at least one-third of the total amount of yarn produced by the textile mills is made available for the handloom industry, this industry is in danger of being very seriously affected for the worse You will see, Sir, that 470 million lbs , which is said to have been distributed to power-looms and handlooms and the hosiery industry, comes very nearly to one-fourth of the total amount of yarn produced by the mills Not only is it less than one-third, which I want to be set apart for purely handloom industry, but it has got at least three shareholders, the handlooms, the power-looms and the hosiery industry In fact, I think there are some other partners also in the amount which is thus set apart for consumption outside the mills There are those who make fishing nets, those who make Newar, those who make tapes and so on So, a good deal of the yarn set apart apparently for consumption in the industry other than the textile mills goes out for purposes I have just mentioned and the handloom industry comes in for really a very small share Even that one-fourth is not allotted entirely to the handloom industry

Now looking at the fact that a good deal of it was exported in 1944 and 1945 to countries outside India and looking at the admission made by the Honourable Member for Government in answering the short-notice questions that no yarn was imported into the country from outside, the position of the handloom industry becomes very precarious indeed I, therefore, contend that it is the duty of the Government of India to take steps by passing immediately an Ordinance compelling the textile mills to release at least one-third of the total amount of yarn prepared in these textile mills for consumption purely by the handloom industry. Unless that is done, the industry will suffer, as it has been suffering, for lack of yarn And looking at the vast number of handlooms and those who work them and their dependents and the labour engaged in carrying on the handloom industry, I submit that the urgency of the matter becomes very apparent and obvious and there ought to be no hesitation on the part of the Government to accepting my Resolution and taking action accordingly at the earliest possible date.

As I said at the very beginning, I do not expect that this Resolution of mine will prove a contentious one and I can anticipate general agreement in the various sections of this House about the subject-matter of my Resolution I do not think, therefore, that I should labour the point at any greater length and I commend my Resolution to the acceptance of the House

Sir, I move

Mr. President: Resolution moved·

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to pass an emergency ordinance compelling cotton textile mills to release at least one-third of the yarn manufactured by them for the use of handlooms"

Mr. President: We will now take up the amendments Let them be moved in the order in which they are on the agenda paper.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division· Non-Muhammadan. Rural)· Sir, I move:

"That for the words 'recommends to the Governor General in Council to pass an emergency ordinance', the following be substituted :

'urges upon the Government to take steps' "

Mr. President: Amendment moved.

'That for the words 'recommends to the Governor General in Council to pass an emergency ordinance', the following be substituted .
urges upon the Government to take steps' "

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I move

"(1) That for the words 'pass an emergency ordinance the following be substituted :
'take immediate steps by legislation or otherwise for'
(2) That at the end of the resolution the following be added
and with a view to facilitate the same, prohibit all export of yarn and cloth for trade purposes to countries outside India for a period of one year or until such time as it takes for this country to become self sufficient, whichever is earlier' "

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"(1) That for the words 'pass an emergency ordinance' the following be substituted :
'take immediate steps by legislation or otherwise for'
(2) That at the end of the resolution the following be added
and with a view to facilitate the same, prohibit all export of yarn and cloth for trade purposes to countries outside India for a period of one year or until such time as it takes for this country to become self sufficient, whichever is earlier' "

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Sir, I move.

"That at the end of the Resolution the following be added
'and that steps be taken to so distribute the released yarn as to cover the largest number of handloom weavers' families'."

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

'That at the end of the Resolution the following be added
'and that steps be taken to so distribute the released yarn as to cover the largest number of handloom weavers' families' "

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar: Muhammadan) Sir, I move

"That at the end of the Resolution the following be added .
and prohibiting the export of yarn for trade purposes to countries outside India for a period of one year or until such time as it takes this country to become self-sufficient, whichever is earlier' "

Mr. President: Amendment moved

"That at the end of the Resolution the following be added :
'and prohibiting the export of varn for trade purposes to countries outside India for a period of one year or until such time as it takes this country to become self-sufficient, whichever is earlier' "

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir I move

"That at the end of the Resolution the following be added
'and take other necessary steps to ensure adequate supplies of yarn to handlooms calculated to provide full and remunerative employment to the one crore handloom weavers of the country' "

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That at the end of the Resolution the following be added
'and take other necessary steps to ensure adequate supplies of yarn to handlooms calculated to provide full and remunerative employment to the one crore handloom weavers of the country' "

Mr. President: There is a slight technical objection to the amendment moved by the Honourable Member Mr Sanyal. It should be, instead of deleting the words "recommends to the Governor General in Council to pass an emergency ordinance", "delete the words 'pass an emergency ordinance' and substitute instead 'take steps'." The object is the same. It is only a question of better form . Does the Honourable Member accept the alteration?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Yes, Sir, I accept

Mr. President: I will put it in the amended form Amendment moved:

"That, for the words 'pass an emergency ordinance', the words 'take steps' be substituted "

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Sir, in the middle of the twentieth century when the rest of the world is discussing as to how to bring the kingdom of heaven upon earth, this unfortunate country of ours is still stuck in the mud of the original problem of food and cloth. Unfortunately, one hundred

and ninety years of British rule have still kept us where human race was, before it ever talked of or thought about civilisation. Sir, my good friend Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang has put his case very briefly and rightly so because he thought and, we agree, that the matter is extremely non-controversial Sir, that brings the irony of the matter still more home because questions which are so non-controversial have unfortunately also to be discussed on the floor of the House, and why so? Because we are under a system of Government, a system of administration which have neither the heads nor the hearts to look into the elementary normal problem of our existence Sir, we are here talking of post war reconstruction, we are reading a lot about rehabilitation schemes, and plans are flashed upon us as if we are about to enter into a new phase of civilised existence But then, Sir, the truth of the matter, the reality of the whole thing is that we are not yet able to settle even a fraction of the normal problems of our existence. When we want to settle the real problem, namely to get rid of this foreign administration which has failed us in our elementary requirements, when we ask them to quit India, they do not care to take stock of their own position, they do not care to be convinced that after having kept us hungry and naked for these nearly 200 years, they have no right to stop here, and to our very legitimate demand that they should abandon this land, they answer us with repression Sir, apart from this normal position, I would like to impress upon the Government, although it is irresponsible and irremovable government, still so long as we are here—I see my Honourable friend is smiling there, but I hope he will consider this question not only smilingly but also seriously—it is our duty to draw their attention to our present normal position, namely this is the gift of war conditions, conditions arising out of a war which was theirs and not ours at all

Sir, today if we were not subjected to these endless distress and difficulties arising out of these war conditions, if we were really masters of our own destiny, what would we have done? We would all sit round a table amongst ourselves, we would have thought of improved aviation, we would have considered questions relating to nation building activities, we would have considered ways and means of keeping abreast of other civilised nations of the world But instead of that, we have to cry like animals pining for a little food, cry for a little piece of cloth to cover our shame Sir, the other day when the Bretton Woods matter was under discussion, we were treated to very delicious words, particularly from our friends opposite, that we were having a place in the galaxy of luminaries in the comity of nations, and that we were being given well decorated cushion chairs in that assemblage of big countries. Sir, yesterday when the food question was being discussed, my Honourable friends like Mr. Masani and others said that instead of dollars and pounds we have a right to expect food What applies to food applies also to the position of cloth Have the Government, I ask in all humility, done anything to place our position regarding cloth before the comity of nations? Have they got any response from those great powers whose war was responsible for the depletion of supplies from our unfortunate country. The other day when the Honourable Member for Industries replied to the short notice question of my friend Mr Ayyangar, he gave certain figures and at the end of the answer, we were given the information that our yardage consumption *per capita* is 13·4 per year—a magnificent figure indeed. I was just wondering whether the Government of India was satisfied with giving us that average People who are in the habit of keeping hounds and terriers as a matter of very pardonable luxury—even they know that their *per capita* consumption would not be properly served with 13·4 yards But we are human beings even if we are slaves; and even a slave's necessity is not properly answered by that insulting yardage *per capita*. May I ask the Honourable Member opposite as to whether the Government of India has in its mind as to whether this yardage should be increased. We are all talking of post-war reconstruction. Is it in the contemplation of the Government of India to bring this country a little higher up, by trying to take steps so that the average

12 Noon.

[Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal]

India would get at least a reasonable amount for clothing himself? The war has inflicted tremendous difficulties upon us Apart from that, if as a proposition of post-war reconstruction we are supposed to be brought up at a higher level, it is imperatively necessary that not only should we get sufficiently nutritious food to eat, but also a decent quantity of clothing so that we can move round our streets like human beings, to say the least of it

Now, Sir, you know that our handloom weavers (unfortunately the resolution and the amendments necessarily are a little more narrow and restricted in scope and therefore I would not be permitted by the rules of the procedure of the House to stray very much out of the restricted scope, although the larger questions are there)—since the matter is looked at from the point of view of the handloom weavers, it not only raises a question regarding the unemployment of the weavers themselves but it also raises the larger question regarding the available stock for use and consumption by the people of India at large One leads to the other and both are linked together This problem cannot be solved merely by tinkering adjustments here and there within the available resources It a real and lasting solution is to be achieved, Government has to sit down here and now to consider the increase of yarn supply. They have to bring from outside if possible, and they have to increase the output within I do not know whether it will be possible for the Government to encourage at this stage at least private enterprises for bringing into existence a large number of mills for spinning yarn I do not know whether it will be possible for the Government to have in their post-war reconstruction scheme a few mills of their own, so that the supply of yarn may be facilitated but then somehow or other all this has to be done Export has to be stopped, as has been proposed by one amendment Imports have to be increased by leaps and bounds, and increased output is a thing which cannot be delayed any further

Coming now to these weavers, you know, Sir, that during the last famine most of the people who suffered and starved were the landless artisans of different kinds The cobblers and the petty toolsmen and these handloom weavers suffered a lot Those who have got some idea about the economic construction of our society know very well that these weavers as a class are more or less landless they have no reserve power, they have no standby for themselves Even in the matter of cloth, they used to weave for others, but they had not much of a reserve or surplus for themselves because this was their trade, they had to weave and sell so that with the money they got they could purchase their foodgrains From the very nature of things it was neither their habit nor was it possible for them to keep any stock for their own consumption or family use The result was that when famine was stalking throughout the length and breadth of the country, the very first thing these weavers had to do, when there was no adequate supply of yarn and no stock of foodgrains, was to sell off their looms, and these looms gradually went into the hands of different kinds of industrial capitalists, and speaking from my own experience of my province of Bengal, in several districts of that province a big toll of death was contributed by this class Sir, do you know that even when relief organisations were started, these weavers' families could not even come out to take the doles from the philanthropic organisations which were set up? After all, if people have to come out, they have to come out in a way so that their shame might not be exposed; and even before these relief operating centres (I have personal experience of them) these weavers could not come out to get the doles even They stayed within their homes and they died there, unnoticed and uncared for As a matter of fact these unofficial relief workers who have some idea about this matter, carried the doles in several places from door to door, but that could hardly be commensurate with the magnitude of the situation, and in spite of the best intentioned relief operations they could not be saved from the jaws of death Therefore this is a matter which has got to be considered purely as a practical proposition without any political colour in it.

I share the hope which was expressed by my friend, Mr Narayan, that the Resolution and the amendments, if possible, will be accepted and that we shall hear from the Government what steps they are considering, not merely on paper, but as a practical proposition, with a view to seeing that things which are already very bad do not become worse and these non-vocal sections of our society are, at least once in their life, being given to understand that we are by their side

Sir, I have got two amendments One amendment was only to change the tone of language of my Honourable friend, Mr Nanang, regarding recommendation to the Governor General for legislation, etc Sir, legislation is not necessary at all If we express an opinion in this House, and that opinion is accepted, it ought to be the concern of the Government to see how that desire is implemented and carried into effect Apart from that if the Government is really so minded, they can make use of that omnibus legislation—the Defence of India Rules These Defence of India Rules have been exploited for all sorts of unholy purposes and if for once the Defence of India Rules are used for putting into operation the agreed desire of this House, it will at least have one piece of atonement Sir, my Honourable friend, the veteran legislator, Dr Sir Zia Uddin, said yesterday that the Defence of India Rules could do every thing except one, namely change the sex I agree, but then it is also true that if the Defence of India Rules enjoins that a person should change sex and if he cannot change sex, as obviously he cannot, he cannot escape prosecution for non-compliance with the orders Therefore I submit that if the Government is really anxious to respond to the desire which is expressed through this Resolution and the amendments, the Government can at once promulgate orders under the Defence of India Rules and put into effect the expressed desire of the House

My other amendment is regarding the question of distribution This is very very serious, more serious than the Treasury Benches can ever suspect because those who have got a little touch with the people know that the insufficiency of yarn was bad enough, but it was made worse by the totally heartless arrangements for distribution which led to unholy blac'-marketing day in and day out The Government created handling agencies It is now a talk in the street that all handling agencies were appointed for mishandling things Those who were entrusted with handling foodgrains had more than enough food for themselves at the cost of others Officers who were entrusted to set up machinery considered themselves more as Nawabs in their particular spheres rather than servants of the people They created coterie of their own, some merchants, some pseudo-merchants and some needy representatives of the people who were at the beck and call of these executive officers, and all sorts of advantages were laid at their door and their will was treated as law and their voice was treated as food and clothing for the people The result has been that things which were meant for people never reached them at all So far as this particular thing is concerned, namely yarn, Sir, you know that handling agencies and some sort of machineries were created so that with their help the yarn could be distributed to the weavers I am speaking on my own knowledge in my own province Union Board Presidents were picked up in most cases These Union Board Presidents, at least those who were considered to be very loyal to the administration, were picked up and people who never had any idea of yarn, people who never had any contact with the weavers, were entrusted with the work of distribution, and do you know what they did? They took signatures, mostly thumb impressions, of the weavers on blank pages and they showed distribution to these weavers, and in the very year in which yarn was to be sold to these weavers at controlled prices, the yarn was sold to the very same weavers at fabulous rates

An Honourable Member: Their thumbs were cut!

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Their thumbs were cut when the British came here

Mr. President: Order, order Let the Honourable Member proceed

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: and not only the thumbs but arms of the weavers will be amputated before the British leave this country

Sir, I will give you one instance, a typical instance A particular mill in Bengal got a stock of yarn and the mill in its goodness proposed to the authorities that they would sell these yarn to weavers. Now, Sir, a handling agency was created, a very loyal and faithful gentleman whose only qualification is that he never had anything to do with life except to dance attendance at officers' places, who was a big capitalist, and who already had in his own stock a number of looms purchased from the local weavers, was made in charge The yarn that he took from this particular mill was kept by him in his own stock, and he showed in the usual way that it was distributed to the weavers But he actually held out to the weavers that those who were agreeable to weaving textures on fixed salaries per month would be given yarn, but those who wanted to purchase and then send it to the open market would not be given

Mr. President: I may just remind the Honourable Member about the time limit Ordinarily 15 minutes is the time limit, but the Chair may allot further time

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: I am glad, Sir, that you have reminded me about that I will just wind up my speech

My point is that Government must find out a proper machinery for distribution My Honourable friend, Mr Narang, referred to the fact-finding Report There is one thing which I want the Government to guard against The data of the Government are faulty and they are also unscientific If the Government is going to do some business in this matter, it will not do merely to go upon the number of looms, because I know that many looms are in the pocket of these capitalists So if you distribute over the looms, you don't do real good to the people who require some sustenance at the present juncture You must pick up by statistics and by local investigations the number of families of weavers If one weaver's family has got more than one loom, the first of the other family must be served before the second of the first family is served This will introduce a policy of priority with one end in view, namely, to keep up the families of these starving people In that event, Sir, we shall not only be doing something to the industry which is almost dying out but we should have the credit of having done something to people who were the greatest victims of the past distress

The matter is non-controversial and the speeches are also likely to be so and I appeal to the Government that in their wisdom and goodness, at least for once in their lives they will create an impression of having been sensitive to the needs of the people.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: Sir, the amendment which stands in my name, was moved with a view to help the handloom weavers and to mitigate their sufferings Sir, it is an old story by this time All their troubles were narrated last year on the floor of this House and in other Committees outside the House As a result of a deputation waiting on the Honourable Member, Sir Azizul Huque, who was then in charge of the Department, and in view of an adjournment motion tabled in this House, and several questions which were asked, and a resolution which was passed in the last Session, the Honourable Member had promised to constitute the All-India Handloom Weavers' Board. Sir, the Government of India took a pretty long time in forming this Board. I may be excused if I were to say that instead of proving helpful this Board has done harm to the handloom weavers to a great extent Two meetings of this All-India Handloom Weavers' Board were held—one at Nagpur and the other at Bombay in the last month In the Nagpur meeting only formal business was transacted and Prof Ranga, who is smiling there, also came to Nagpur at that time and presided over All-India Handloom Weavers' Conference. The Bombay meeting was a very important one from the point of view of the weavers because more than two dozen resolutions were tabled and it

was expected that they would be passed in that meeting But unfortunately, several resolutions were referred to the Raw Materials Committee and some were referred to the Marketing Committee and some resolutions were shelved on the ground that they were provincial subjects That was the result of the two meetings of the All-India Handloom Weavers Board Thus it will be seen that the All-India Handloom Weavers' Board has not been helpful.

I will confine my remarks to the province which I have the honour to represent in this House Under the patronage of the Government a society called the Central Provinces and Berar Weavers' Society has been formed there and it is generally called the Central Society The constitution of this Society is a peculiar one This Society has got a majority of nominated members who are nominated by the District Magistrate, the Director of Civil Industries and the Provincial Textile Commissioner This Society has got some individual members who pay an annual subscription of Rs 10 and the other societies which are registered they are also affiliated to this body and they have to pay only four annas These registered societies who really represent the weavers have no voice in the administration of the Central Society This Central Society plays the role of a middleman only. Yarn is received by different societies from the Central Society This Society gets yarn from wholesale dealers and the wholesale dealers get the yarn direct from the mills. Thus this Central Society makes a profit and the profit is divided only amongst the individual members and no profit is given to the societies which are affiliated to this body

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member speak a little more loudly or come up a little nearer on the front benches?

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: I thought I was quite audible!

Sir, the yarn supply is also inadequate The Fact Finding Committee in its report says that there are only 73,000 looms in my province, but as a matter of fact there are more than one lakh of looms The quota which is allotted for a loom is 3½ bundles of yarn but actually only one bundle is supplied. The bales which are allotted to my province are 4,894, but according to the number of looms, 15,000 bales should be supplied Seventy-five per cent of fine yarn is used in making sarees, shirtings and suit-cloth but this is also not supplied The distribution is very defective A weaver can become a member of different societies and he can purchase yarn from several yarn shops Now, you will be surprised to hear that in my province, and especially in Nagpur, those people who possess food ration cards are entitled to go to a yarn shop and purchase yarn from there and thus the Provincial Government is encouraging black-marketing and profiteering

There are other difficulties also in the way of the weavers Export licenses are not granted Three-quarters of the handloom cloth produced in my province generally goes to Ahmedabad, Shikarpur, Sukkur and Bombay Presidency If the Government is really serious to mitigate the sufferings of the weavers I am going to put up some concrete suggestions for the consideration of this House

I would suggest, Sir, that textile provincial advisory board should be formed in all the provinces and the real representatives of the people should be members of those advisory boards The mills also should be persuaded or ordered to produce more fine yarn and the supply in future should be adequate

With these few words, Sir, I commend my amendment for the acceptance of the House

Mr Vadilal Lallubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce) Sir, I rise to make a maiden speech in this House and I crave the indulgence of the House for the same I also rise to put before you the point of view of the industry as well as the point of view of a nationalist and try to show the ways and means as to how we can help the handloom industry.

My Honourable friend Mr Ghulam Bhik Nairang has tabled this resolution, as I understand, to help the handloom industry. It is a noble cause and every one of us here and all over the country would wish that the purpose of the resolution, which is mainly to help the handloom industry, is achieved and the industry itself served from day to day.

[Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai.]

I do not understand how my Honourable friend here wants an ordinance for this matter. As a Member of this House it would have been better that he should ask for a legislation, if at all necessary But to ask for an ordinance, I should think, is not the right thing that a Member of this Assembly should ask for I understand that he thinks that the matter is urgent and so to expedite it, he wants some legislation to be passed as quickly as possible In that case no doubt a private Bill would take a long time but he could have easily requested the Government to put up a Government Bill and in that case the matter, if found urgent, would have been accepted However...

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division Muhammadan Rural) That will also take six months The matter should be dealt with tomorrow.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: The matter, I understand, is not so very urgent

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: It is very urgent

Mr. President: Let the Honourable Member proceed

Mr Vadilal Lallubhai: There are many complicated issues involved in this question I being in the industry would like to put before you the technicalities of the industry and how it would be possible to get more yarn Just by adopting a proposition like this more yarn will not be available

The position is this There are two sets of mills There are certain mills which are spinning and weaving mills and there are certain mills which are only spinning mills The structure of the spinning and weaving mills is such that machinery is installed in such a way that the spinning section just feeds the weaving section At times there is no doubt some surplus and at times there is also some shortage

If you look at the production of yarn the cotton mills in India produced about 1 625 million pounds, out of which the handlooms are getting 470 million pounds If you look at the prewar figures as given in the report of the Fact Finding Committee, you will find that the prewar supply of the Indian mills to the handlooms was about 300 million pounds Imports gave another 28 million pounds Handspun yarn accounted for another 49 millions Thus we will see that the prewar supply of the mills to the handlooms was 300 million pounds and today we supply 470 million pounds The industry has strived its best the Textile Control Board has strived its utmost to find ways and means to increase the production, so that more yarn can be made available to the handloom The mills today supply 50 per cent more yarn than they did before the war Later on I will just suggest how we can have more yarn As I said, if the mills were asked to give a fixed quota of 1/3 yarn it would be too rigid and the result would be that some looms in the textile mills will have to be closed down We know of our labour organisations. They are quite alert, they are very up to late with facts and figures and they are very clear as to what labour wants If some looms are closed, the position would be that the preparatory departments will also be closed, such departments as dyeing, bleaching and finishing to that extent will close There is bound to be a heavy curtailment of employment and also there will be under-employment We know whenever there is unemployment or under-employment in the past there have been great difficulties between the labour and the industry and it was not easy to satisfy labour The labour interests would certainly not like the labour employed to be reduced nor the wages to be reduced

The other position would be this, that the textile industry is striving its utmost to produce more cloth for the public If the weaving section is closed to a certain extent, the position will be that we will have less cloth. We know that the handloom produces per pound of yarn less yardage of cloth than what the mill produces.

The third position would be that the cost of production will go high. It is but natural that the costs of production are always kept low. If production is

increased the cost is reduced and if it is decreased, then the prices go up. This is the position that we would be led into if we are rigid about this 1/8 quota.

Another point is that 470 million pounds come to about 28 or 29 per cent. and not 25 per cent, as my Honourable friend suggested. The Textile Control Board has been always looking into the matter to see how we can produce more yarn for the handloom industry. Because of the want of cloth we have been having only 13.4 yards per head. My Honourable friend to my right says that we must have more cloth. Everybody wants that. The Textile Control Board has just devised the utility cloth scheme which is expected to give more yardage of cloth. A simple resolution like this if passed and acted upon would disturb the utility cloth scheme in a way that the whole structure of production that has been established would be affected. The mills have been asked to reduce their counts, to reduce the production of certain kinds of cloth which consume more yarn and slowly and slowly it is expected that the cloth supply that is so badly required by the people of this country will increase We have to take into consideration all these facts before we come to a conclusion in this matter.

But there are various other ways whereby handlooms can get more yarn and that is what I am here to suggest .....

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask one question? Can he tell me the number of spinning factories that were changed into spinning and weaving factories during the war?

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: I do not think any spinning mills were turned into weaving mills during the last three years, because the control board has not permitted any new looms during the last three years I do not know what happened previously because there was no control three years back.

The production in the mills has gone down during the last year to a certain extent, chiefly due to the coal shortage. The coal situation is so bad that production in so many centres went down and mills closed, one after another, in one centre or the other. This government has bungled the coal position and coal production I am surprised that during war time, when coal is the greatest necessity for all industries, including war industries how it is that the coal production could not be increased and the right kind of coal could not be given. I will just read from the Report of the Rationalisation and Standardisation sub-committee of the Industry's Committee of the Textile Control Board, and show just how one centre has suffered and what is the position of coal today.

"Shortage of coal has been and is still a constant anxiety and increasingly serious stoppages are occurring In 1945, up to date, the production of cloth in Ahmedabad Mills alone, not to speak of other centres, has been adversely affected to the extent of 48 million yards, owing to closure of mills due to short supply of coal The quantity of coal produced and delivered to cotton mills is simply shocking On the average 130 tons of coal is now required to do the work which 100 tons of coal did in normal times due to very large proportion of stone, slate and other non-combustible materials which are being supplied by collieries along with coal today"

This is the position of coal today. We know to our great regret that although we had insufficient supply of coal, this Government exported coal, and the industries suffered. I would not be surprised to hear that coal is being exported today—I do not know. But the bungling in the coal position was due to various reasons. The actual production could have been increased if Government had tried in right time to get the right stores for the coal industry, and if Government had not applied same kind of E P.T. methods for the coal industry After all coal is not only an industry but it is an asset, and there are various reasons why coal production was not sufficient and was not up to the quality. Unless the coal situation improves it would be impossible for the industry to increase its production; the production will go down. No doubt, of late the coal situation has improved; but still we find mills in one centre or another still getting closed. Lately Government have been thinking of having, because of this coal shortage, an alternative fuel—oil fuel. The Government would be creating a foreign vested interest if oil fuel is being imported and if they do not see that the coal industry goes up and produces more coal. It is a serious matter that another

[Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai.]

vested interest is being created in the form of oil fuel; and I am sure if the Government would put its head into it, the coal production can and should be increased.

Very shortly we are going to have a Bill from my honourable friend opposite for an eight-hour day. Everybody would agree that the hours of work should be reduced, but ways and means will have to be found out if the eight hours is to help the whole country, the production is bound to go down if it comes to eight hours; but if the fuel position is cleared and some other positions are cleared, it would not be difficult We know that during the war the textile industry has been working day and night, without any replacement of shares, without any replacement of machinery, and I can tell you that the production per spindle and per loom in the textile industry is going down It is because of night shifts and more shifts that production has been increased If the Government had tried to get more spinning machinery during the war or even now, we can easily increase our production for the handloom industry It would be said that the spinning machinery is not available I would not agree to that The spinning machinery position is this that Australia and other countries who were not in the textile industry also could establish their textile industries, why could not the Indian Government get for India some textile machinery, so that the handlooms can be supplied with yarn, without disturbing the economy of the mills as well as the economy of the country? The position is this we are not able to get textile machinery because, I feel, we are a dependent nation If we were independent, as other countries are, we would have certainly succeeded in getting some machinery and India would have been in a much happier position regarding this industry If we take the example of Japan we see that in the first world war, it was a third rate power but it became a first rate power economically after the first world war and that was due to expansion of its industries all round Even during this war, so many countries like Australia and Canada expanded their industries, while India only could not expand its industries It is impossible to get anything by begging. Our Honourable Planning Member on the other side, who is no more with us now, planned and planned and he failed, and it is rumoured that was the cause why he resigned he said if he could not do anything it was no use sticking on here. But the position of any dependent country would be the same, and whatever we plan, we are not going to succeed We want capital goods for our industries it is not going to be obtained if we are to live in this position as we are today

Then there is another side to the question Suppose we get enough yarn or more yarn for our handloom industry What about the future? I would warn here that the future is going to be dark, especially for the handloom industry, if from now onwards proper planning is not done and proper safeguards are not created for the handloom industry We remember the 1930 days, when there was very great depression, the textile industry was suffering and the handloom industry was suffering more, and that is how the Fact Finding Committee came into existence Those days are not far off from today It is good that the handloom industry gets 60 or 70 per cent more price than the textile mills that is how it can grow, but whether that growth is going to be steady or whether we are going to have a decline and we are again going to have the same situation as we had in 1939, we do not know Today if we desire that yarn is to be obtained from new spinning mills and by other methods, Government will have to consider as to how to safeguard and save the handlooms industry in the future I would here refer also to the handspinning and handweaving industry This Government in 1942 burnt khadi bhandars and tried to ruin the handspinning industry; but it could not The handspinning industry has been so well laid out and planned that even if one tries to ruin it, it will come up again. When the situation of cloth was very serious last year, I tried my best to see whether anything could be done to get more yarn by the method of handspinning, so that the handlooms can also get more yarn. I wrote to the textile Commissioner in the month of May last year I saw him and discussed

with him the talks were very sympathetic, he told me he had written to New Delhi and was awaiting replies, but the replies have not come till now. I will just read a few lines from my letter

"As to the production of khaddar, I may say that there is a body known as the All India Spinners Association, which has been looking after the production of Khaddar I am acquainted with its constitution, I also know its resources I am also familiar with the way in which the production of Khaddar by means of hand-spinning and hand weaving is done throughout India If this agency is asked to co-operate at this time of the need of the country I think there will be a good response In co-operation with this association and with the investment of a fairly big sum, nearly half the deficit in cloth can be met This method will serve two very useful purposes, (i) to meet the shortage of cloth, and (ii) to give additional employment to a very large number of poor persons It will also serve a very useful purpose in future, because if this method of employment takes root, it will solve many of the problems of the poor in the villages and many of the troubles even of Government will disappear Khaddar of all types and for all practical purposes of people can be produced The shortage of cloth is felt acutely in near and distant villages This acute distress will disappear very quickly through this means"

To this there was no response Now Sir, I turn ..

Mr President: How long is the Honourable Member likely to take? He has very nearly reached his time limit

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: I will take only five minutes more

If the handloom industry is to be protected, it will be for the Government to devise ways and means to get the yarn at mill cost and to make arrangements for selling the cloth on a cooperative basis Government should do in this country what many other countries are doing There is the question of cotton. Government buys up cotton if the price goes down Government will have to make arrangements to see that the qualities of the cloth are standardised and prices fixed and the Government must be prepared to buy up that cloth and distribute the same For the finishing of cloth and for the sizing of cloth, various other arrangements will have to be done district wise Designing experts will have to be kept and technicians will have to be obtained and if this is done systematically, I am sure that the handloom industry will grow and if it is not done I feel that the hand loom industry will go down

In conclusion I would just say a few words Let me be explicit We appreciate and share the Honourable the Mover's anxiety to put the handloom industry on a permanently sound basis The rigid demand of one third yarn production is not, however, going to solve the problem of handloom industry to any appreciable extent On the labour front it will create serious labour unrest due to unemployment and under employment coupled with reduction of wages. Cloth production will decline and the utility cloth scheme will be jeopardised. Prices will go high and the consumer will be the worst sufferer The sovereign remedy is to increase yarn production in four ways—No 1, to improve the coal situation, No 2, to give a strong impetus to hand spinning, No 3, to import spinning machinery and to increase the spindlage, and No 4, to organise the handloom industry on a co-operative basis with better technical assistance and expert training Sir, let us not be led away by competing philosophies and rival propaganda which has become the fashion today which will do more harm than good If my honourable friend seriously and sincerely wants to safeguard the eternal interests of the handloom weavers, he will reconsider his proposals afresh I would therefore urge him to withdraw the Resolution which, in the present circumstances, is impossible to carry out without doing harm to our textile industry at large.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am glad that my honourable friend Mr. Lallubhai has put the case of the mill owners as reasonably as the representative of the mill owners can possibly put it but at the same time his case is certainly that of the mill owners. He wants the spinning industry to be developed. If it is really developed genuinely and sincerely and fully by this Government, then there will be not much need for the spinning mill industry in this country. He wants also khaddar to be developed and this Government has been in collusion with the mill owners in order to see that the Khaddar industry in this country does not

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develop properly. If it has been developed properly then there will not be scope for many of these weaving mills in India. In regard to the other suggestions of his I am in agreement with him. So long as you need the spinning mill industry you have got to take proper and adequate steps to see that they get coal fuel in time and also that they get the imports of spare machinery and the other machinery that they need In these directions Government has certainly failed in its duty and it ought to be censured but when we come to the question under discussion that more yarn shall be placed at the disposal of the handloom weavers I cannot agree with the mill owners' plea, because I certainly feel that it must be possible and it ought to be possible for the spinning mills which are functioning today to place more yarn at the disposal of the handloom weavers. Whether it is to be one-third or half the yarn that they produce is a matter of detail which has got to be looked into by experts and also by those who deal with this in the Textile Board and other organisations We know one thing We have got one crore odd people who are dependent for their livelihood upon the handloom industry As against that we have 5 lakhs odd people in the textile mill industry, including spinning and weaving (*An Honourable Member* '8 lakhs') I speak subject to correction That was so in pre-war time but during war time I am quite prepared to concede the point that more people must have been employed I take it that 8 lakhs of people are today employed If you take their dependents also into consideration, it will go up to more than 25 lakhs of people, whereas more than one crore of people are employed in the handloom weaving industry and are depending for their maintenance on that industry. It is clear that the nation has got to care more for the handloom weaving than for the mill industry That does not mean that the mill industry should be thrown under the scrap heap, because the country has already invested in it more than 20 crores of rupees in the States as well as in British India. We do not want to lose all this money Then what is the solution?

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has already said that so far as the weaving mills are concerned, as they go out of action they will not be renewed No more new mills will be allowed to be established in this country. Then as for the existing mills, it will be worked only in such a way that they will not be harmful to the handloom weavers So far as the spinning mills are concerned, if my Honourable friends the mill owners say that with the lowering of the hours of labour on the part of the Labour Department and the want of spare machinery, the production is bound to go down and is going down and they do not think it possible to produce more yarn from the existing plant, then the duty of the Government is perfectly clear They must take over all these spinning mills and work them themselves and see if they cannot produce more than what is being produced in the existing spinning mills It is true that during war time they were working at high pressure for 24 hours. If the hours of labour are reduced, it only means that more shifts of workers will be employed It does not mean that the mills have got to work smaller number of hours at all. It need not mean that the production will go down Therefore, if the mill industry is not prepared to produce any more yarn with the plants they have at their disposal, it is for the Government to see whether they cannot get more yarn produced either with the present management or with their own management The management of the spinning mills is quite an eternal factor The personnel of it can be changed and ought to be changed. As Mahatma Gandhi has put it, these mills and various other industrial concerns have to be allowed to be run on trusteeship principle subject to the control of the society and the State. If these mill-owners and their friends are not prepared to give us good account of their own trusteeship, then they have got to be replaced by another set of management, whether it is co-operative management or direct State management is a matter to be decided later on by this Government or the Government to come, the National Government.

1 P.M.

Then, why is it, Sir, that this Government really has been supporting the mills till now? Why is that we are obliged to come to this Government and to

this House in order to ask the sanction of this House and to press upon the Government the advisability of placing some more yarn at the disposal of the handloom weavers? It is because the Government had been flattering these mills. If it had not been for the mill industry, they would not have been able to collect their excess profits tax, super-tax and income-tax so far as cloth production and spinning is concerned in this country Supposing the country had gone the way of Mahatma Gandhi and the production of cloth had been decentralised, as my Honourable friend is anxious to do, then where would have been the big merchants and the big industrialists on whom they can lay their hands and take out all these excess profits from their pockets? Also, there is the question of price. They did not control the price of even mill production for a long time for the simple reason that if the prices went down, these merchants would have been deprived of their huge profits which they were getting from them. Afterwards, they came to the question of price control of cloth. We are sure that this Government is able to take control of all the yarn that is being produced by the mills Only this morning one experienced mill-owner, who was also interested in the handloom weavers, was telling quite confidentially that it is still possible for the mills to have some yarn at their disposal without being accounted for according to the present machinery of the administration of the Government. And this yarn is being placed in the black market and it is being distributed all over India. And why is it that these people are keeping their eyes closed? For a very good reason, because their pockets are being filled. That is where the Government administration comes in.

Sir, in addition to this there are these middlemen who are supplying the yarn from mills to the weavers and also selling it to the ultimate consumers. Both these are allowed to absorb as much as 30 per cent. of the total price of cloth, if that price is at all a legitimate one and is a controlled one. In fact, blackmarketing in cloth is an All-India problem today. Indeed, blackmarketing in yarn is an All-India problem to-day. I suggest that Government must, first of all, take control of all the yarn that is being produced from the mills and give only that much of yarn that they can possibly spare after having given sufficient yarn to the weavers I know that the predecessor of the present Member for this Department once said: You cannot possibly ask a spinning and weaving mill manager to hand over to you all the yarn that he is producing without, first of all, keeping all the yarn that he wants for his own weaving section My answer to him then was and today is the same Yes, certainly I demand that He has no right whatsoever to keep for himself the yarn he wants for his weaving mill when I have got all these weavers without employment

Then I come to the other point I sympathise with my friend that there will be labour unrest in case you take away all this yarn from these spinning mills and allow their men to remain unemployed But what will be the total number of this labour? It may be one lakh or at the most 5 lakhs who may be affected by this particular source of employment But there are so many other sources of employment which are yielding higher wages There is plenty of employment in towns, much more than there is in the villages. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government to provide employment for these unemployed textile workers. On the other hand, if you are so anxious to please the urban proletariat, then you should see what is happening in the countryside More than one crore of people are going without proper nourishment, without proper wages and without employment. The Honourable Member has himself admitted that he is aware of the fact that many weavers are under-employed. Is it seriously contended by the Government that they are more afraid and that it is their duty to think more of the industrial proletariat than of the so-called rural proletariat? If it is their duty to look after the industrial proletariat only, then I can tell them that they have mistaken their duty.

Then, you have to take a number of constructive steps in order to provide employment to our handloom weavers. One particular problem of the weavers has already been mentioned by my honourable friend from Bengal, who has made such a brilliant contribution to this subject. And that is the proper distribution of yarn among the weavers. I wish to make one concrete suggestion.

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

We have already put it into practice in Southern India. Our Handloom Weavers Association has made a suggestion to the Government and which has been accepted by them for the distribution of ration cards. They have suggested that, first of all, there should be a census of looms in various families of the handloom weavers and the distribution of the ration cards shall be done through the weavers' own Association Once we got this concession from the Government, all our weavers came to be organised because there was this inducement from district right down to the village In every village we were able to take the census of the weavers and in that way we have prevented any mal-administration or undue interference by the Government.

Then, there is the development of co-operative production. If Government has to maintain and it has maintained in the past that it will not be possible for it to keep abreast of yarn once it gets into the hands of the handloom weavers and therefore it may not have any control over it, then I wish to make one or two concrete suggestions Let them take up this handloom cloth production themselves. Let them give out this yarn to their own Associations as well as their Co-operative Societies that are being formed in various provinces, particularly in Madras and Bengal Once they give up this yarn, let them offer a minimum wage to the weavers, time wage as well as piece wage and expect the weavers to return the cloth in return for the wages. The cloth will be there in the hands of the Government It is for the Government at this stage to fix any price they like for the cloth produced by the handloom weavers Of course, these prices have got to be a little higher than the prices at which the mill industry can be expected to sell But that does not matter The Government will have control over them Let them take charge of all this cloth Let them, then, take up the responsibility of marketing this cloth at their own risk and then let them distribute it There is no risk whatsoever in this There is cloth shortage and the people are prepared to purchase it at any price from your hands Therefore, there will be no difficulty. Let them take the actual distribution of the cloth from the hands of the weavers to actual consumers. If they do that, it will be possible for them to serve all the three parties concerned, that is, the spinning mills, the weavers as well as the ultimate consumers People may say that this administration is going to cost you such a lot But you have already got a voluntary or unofficial administration of this cloth production and distribution that is provided by the mills and these middle men are charging more than the price fixed In fact the black market price is often twice and sometimes thrice as much as the controlled price at which cloth is supposed to be sold. Therefore, it will be an economic proposition for the Government to take up work in these directions. Perhaps the Government might say in regard to this rationed distribution of yarn among weavers that there is no weavers organisation I have already said that it can be brought into existence without any difficulty It is the duty of the Government to organise and help the handloom weavers They will begin to organise themselves once you distribute the yarn on ration cards on a co-operative system All these things follow from one fundamental thing —the acceptance by Government of full responsibility to provide full employment to labour, whether it is industrial labour or agricultural labour or cottage industrial labour Till now the Government have not accepted responsibility. Only now the idea is being mooted in official circles, but that exists only so far as industrial labour is concerned I want the Government to accept responsibility in regard to much bigger sections of other proletariats, agrarian as well as artisan proletariats If they accept this responsibility, then naturally it will not be impossible for them to take action along the lines that I have so far suggested There is one very useful suggestion made by my Honourable friend Nawab Siddique Ali Khan That is that Government should themselves set up spinning mills in order to be able to control the vagaries of other mills. The significance of this lies in this The mills are today charging much higher prices to the handloom weavers For example they shift yarn to their own

weaving sections at much lower prices, or they send yarn to other millowners who are interested only in weaving mills at cheaper price. This can be checked if Government were to have their own spinning mills. There is precedent for this also. The railways have already come to own a number of coal mines and they do it in order to prevent other coal mine owners from charging famine prices for the coal that the railways need today.

Then, Sir, I ask, is the Government going to take up seriously khaddar production in the country? It will be a sort of saving grace for itself or a silver lining for the otherwise blackest record that the Government has got to its credit today I submit the Government should take up this matter seriously at least now before they quit India giving place for their betters on the Treasury Benches.

Then, Sir, I wish to sound a note of warning The suggestion has been mooted in official circles that handloom cloth price also should be controlled. I am very much opposed to it.

An Honourable Member: Why?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I will tell you why I am opposed to it For the simple reason that the handloom weavers are so poor, so ignorant so helpless and so unorganised that they cannot get out of the clutches of your policemen and various other Government officials who will be able to exploit them and who will be able to enslave them if only you were to impose this sort of control. The better thing will be for yourselves to take charge, as I have already suggested, of yarn production and yarn distribution among weavers and then cloth production with the co-operation of weavers and afterwards sell the same. May I ask, is it going to be such a serious matter that the Government will not be able to take it up? Can it be much more serious or much more difficult than rationing and distribution of foodstuffs that you are now doing in regard to 54 millions of people in all the urban areas? It certainly is not going to be a more serious matter. If on that front you have taken courage in both hands, and undertaken responsibility, I expect the Government, it is natural for me to expect the Government to take up this responsibility also I can assure them of the wholehearted co-operation from the side of handloom weavers The handloom weavers today are not what they used to be at one time They are coming to be organised, they are coming to be a little class-conscious, they are coming to realise their own interest and therefore I expect the Government to take the handloom weavers into their confidence which they have not done so far.

Mr. President: The House will now adjourn for Lunch

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I shall finish in a minute, Sir

Mr. President: The Honourable Member need not necessarily finish He may continue his speech after Lunch. Let the House now adjourn.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural) He is nearly completing his time limit of 15 minutes, Sir

Mr. President: It is not such a rigid rule as in the case of speeches on adjournment motions. The Chair may allow members more time, in fact speakers have taken more time in some cases and they have been allowed to do so by the Chair.

The House will now adjourn for Lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, just before the House rose for Lunch I was talking about the general aspects of the handloom weavers' needs. I wish to take a

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

few minutes now and take the House into some of the important questions concerning the present machinery of distribution of yarn as between different provinces and districts in the country. I wish to say that thanks to the All-India Textile Control Board or some such organisation with its office in Bombay a lot of confusion has come to be introduced into the distribution of yarn as between different provinces. Because during last year Bengal was going through a bad time in regard to the cloth position my honourable friend Sir Azizul Huque had to take some expeditious steps in order to relieve that trouble. So the Board had decided to take away a very large portion of the yarn production of the Madras Presidency in order to relieve the needs of Bengal. I do not wish to bring in this very ticklish problem of competition for yarn as between different provinces, but I wish to make a concrete suggestion, and that is this Make some sort of an estimate of the total amount of cloth that you can make available over the whole of India from the mills as well as the handlooms, then distribute it over the total population that you have in this country—*per capita* quota—and then with that you will come to your figure of the total cloth needs of different provinces. Once you reach that figure it will not be difficult for you to know how much of cloth in the shape of yarn to start with or in the shape of cloth itself is to be made available to each one of the provinces.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will bear in mind that he was going to finish in a minute's time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I thought I would have a little more time over points that I could not cover.

Mr. President: He may have five minutes at the most.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It will be possible for them then to make available the necessary quantity of cloth or the necessary quantity of yarn for each of these different provinces in India If they do it I am sure there will be better justice done as between different provinces than is the case at present For instance, the Madras Presidency is dependant for its cloth supply to the extent of 75 per cent. upon handlooms alone But now that such a large quantity of yarn is being exported from the Madras Presidency the handloom weavers themselves are going without adequate employment and consequently without adequate remuneration and also the public are forced to pay famine prices for the cloth that they need On the other hand Bengal and Assam are getting more and more yarn and cloth also and we do not know what they are doing with this cloth and yarn There is a rumour that a good portion of it is being smuggled away into China and Burma. How far Government have perfected their machinery in order to prevent this smuggling we do not know But we wou'd like to be satisfied with a definite assurance from Government that they will hurry up with their steps to prevent this smuggling and place at the disposal of Bengal and Assam only such quantities of cloth and yarn as are absolutely necessary for them as per their total population If that is done I think some justice will come to be done to the Madras Presidency and other provinces also And as for the distribution of yarn as between different districts I find very queer things happening in the Madras Presidency Yarn that is not needed in a particular district is being sent there For instance, Madura does not want hundreds and yet it is being sent there whereas yarn that is needed by other districts is not sent to them. Therefore they are obliged to sell their unwanted yarn to other districts where it is needed but in their black markets and obtain yarn which is needed by them from other districts which do not want it and which these people have to purchase at black market rates. These absurdities will have to be eliminated

Then yarn is also needed for dyeing Yarn is sent for being dyed in their respective districts but these districts are not allowed to send their yarn to other places where they can profitably be dyed, with the result that here again any amount of dissatisfaction is being created.

There is the question of prices. So many people are complaining, specially in towns, that the prices of handloom cloth are very much higher than those of mill-made cloth. It is but natural that these prices should be higher not only because handloom cloth lasts longer but also because handloom weavers have got to live and they get work only for seven days or at the most ten days in the month. For the other twenty days for no fault of their own they are forced to be unemployed. They must necessarily try to draw from out of this cloth production at least starvation wages for the whole of the month, with the result that into the price of every yard of cloth the wages for weaving necessarily have to go at a higher level. The prices of handloom cloth necessarily are higher, but if these prices alone are what the consumers have to pay it will not create so much of discontent. Unfortunately the black marketeer comes in in co-operation with the department and its agents and the consumer necessarily suffers and he raises a hue and cry against the poor handloom weaver who has nothing to do with this. There are so many complaints. I will read only the substance of one telegram, as a mere sample:

"Increasing yarn scarcity only one week's supply per month Textile Officer autocratic and incompetent and he is not consulting weavers associations. It is leading to anarchy and black marketing",

and so on

This is happening all over the country, and therefore some special steps have to be taken. What are they? This Government has got to develop some machinery by which they can get into intimate consultation with the handloom weavers. In the South we have made some progress but, as I have already said, through our own voluntary rationing and distribution. But Government has not yet made up its mind whether or not to recognise our handloom weavers' associations and to take them into their consultation, with the result that the All-India Handloom Board, as has been admitted by one of its members Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, has not been able to do any good at all to the handloom weavers. My Honourable friend Sir Akbar Hydari is there; he has been one of its fathers but I cannot congratulate him on his offspring because he has brought in the millowners in rather strong numbers, and on the top of it he has put in there as one of the conditions for its own functioning that every proposal that comes up before it for any sort of distribution of market between handloom weavers and millowners and also concerning prices of mill cloth and handloom cloth should first of all be referred to the Textile Board, on which the millowners have the biggest say, before they can possibly consider it. They have tied the trade hand and foot and afterwards asked them to swim in this hot pool of water. Necessarily it is not able to do anything at all. It is very easy for my honourable friend there because he is jumping from one department to another like a peacock. This Board has not been able to do any work. Who are the representatives on behalf of handloom weavers on this? He offered a membership to me I was personally inclined to feel a little bit flattered because he said that in recognition of my long years of service to this industry he wanted me to be on that Board. But I insisted that I should be taken in, if at all, on behalf of the handloom weavers' association, but my honourable friend declined to do so So it comes to this that Government are prepared to flatter a number of people and take them in and keep them at their mercy and at their pleasure, but are not prepared to give recognition to these various weavers' associations and give them the right to select their own representatives to be on it so that they can speak definitely and entirely for the weavers and without any fear or favour from Government and its incumbents from time to time Therefore unfortunately for the weavers and unluckily for my honourable friend I had to decline his invitation If this Board is really to effect any sort of good at all for the handloom weavers those who are supposed to be sitting on it on behalf of the handloom weavers must be elected representatives of the handloom weavers' associations wherever they are In provinces where they have not come into existence it is the business of my honourable friend for the department concerned to encourage the handloom weavers to send their representatives. In that way alone they can help the handloom weavers.

[Prof N G Ranga]

In conclusion, I wish to say that it is the duty of the Government of India to do all that lies in their power to help the handloom weavers and to give their first priority to the supply of yarn to the weavers rather than to big well-organised gentlemen of the mills industry I wish to assure him that although we may have in our own midst some of our respected colleagues coming from the mill industry, the Indian National Congress anyhow, and as I find the Muslim League also, are behind the handloom weavers and they will be able to give their moral support to the Government in every way possible in the interest of the handloom weavers, even if it is necessary for them to control the interests of the millowners.

Sir T. V. Satakopachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural) I beg to move the amendment which stands in the name of my Honourable friends Messrs Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Venkatasubba Reddiar, and myself:

"(1) That for the words 'pass emergency ordinance' the following be substituted . 'take immediate steps by legislation or otherwise for' "

I need not take much time of the House in regard to this particular substitution We have had enough of ordinances and the country has had enough of rule by ordinances The very mention of the word "Ordinance" has become an anathema to us We wish an ordinance were passed that the Englishmen should quit this country leaving their baggage here, and they should take only the ordinance with them Therefore, I suggest that the words 'pass emergency ordinance' be substituted by 'take immediate steps by legislation or otherwise for'

The second portion of my amendment is·

"(2) that at the end of the resolution the following be added 'and with a view to facilitate the same, prohibit all export of yarn and cloth for trade purposes to countries outside India for a period of one year or until such time as it takes for this country to become self-sufficient, whichever is earlier' "

The main Resolution is a request that cotton textile mills should reserve one-third of the yarns manufactured by them for the use of handlooms; this is a very modest request In fact I find from statistics that even now they are supplying nearly one-third

Sir, I come from a place where there are many weavers. In fact a portion of my city subsists on wages earned by working the handlooms I know very well what is their plight They have not got sufficient yarn for weaving in handlooms, most of the people have been thrown out of work and they are on the verge of starvation Many of them are begging from door to door So there is a large population without work because yarn is not given to them In order to make more yarn available to these people, I think it is essential that the yarn produced by the textile mills should be conserved for use in this country and it should not be exported It should neither be exported as yarn nor as cloth I include cloth also It is notorious that the cloth position in this country is very grave We have been reading reports in the press that women have been forced to commit suicide in our country because of want of cloth. As Honourable Members know this was a country which at one time supplied cloth, fine cloth, to other countries, and which had all the means of drawing out yarn from cotton long before any other country in the world We have been supplying cloth before the Christian Era to the Roman Empire which was the envy of all other nations, we used to manufacture such fine fabrics which no other country could produce Such a country has been reduced to this hopeless condition that its sons and daughters have to commit suicide because they have not enough cloth to cover their bodies

Exactly as in the case of food, I find that Government says that the production is much more than before; the mills are producing ever more and more yarn Just as they put forward statistics in the matter of food to prove their assertions, so are they doing in the case of cloth. But then why is it that we are suffering, and why is it that we have been reduced to this state of affairs? I think it is another example of how the foreigners have mismanaged things in

this country. Two centuries of British rule has brought us to this hopeless position If food is important for the vitality of the people, if food is necessary for maintaining stamina of the people, cloth is the index of prosperity and civilization of the people. And in that respect, we, who were holding the ground, have been reduced to the lowest level. I will illustrate my point by giving you certain figures In 1929 the *per capita* consumption of some of the selected countries was as follows:

U S A.	64 sq. yards	per head.
U K.	35	Do.
Sweden	36	Do.
Denmark	30	Do.
Japan	21 4	Do.
India	16·1	Do.

I have selected these countries at random, and I find that India ranks lowest with its *per capita* consumption of 16·1 sq yards. I may inform you, Sir, that the National Planning Committee estimated that *per capita* requirement of the citizens of this country should be at least 30 yards, this is absolutely necessary. Now, according to the statistics given by Government it is 13·4 yards which is being rationed out, and I suspect that this 13·4 yards is the result of arithmetical calculations based upon the census figures of 1931, because I find that the quota of cloth given in my place—Tanjore—was based upon the population figures of 1931 Then if the average that is required for an Indian is 30 yards, we are not even getting 13·4 yards For securing these yards, what is the position? Our children and men and boys and women have to go and stand in queues before shops I know what it is You go and stand there endlessly and after 1½ hours the shopowner puts up its shutters and says there is no more cloth today and people return saddened and without cloth This is happening every day This is happening not only with ordinary people but to better placed people The people in the standing queues suffer willingly and patiently. We have had queues for foodstuffs, we have had queues for kerosene, queues for fuel, queues for railway tickets and for everything in life, and if this regime continues people will be marching in queues towards hunger and poverty.

Mr. President: Order, order I do not wish to interrupt the line of argument of the Honourable Member (Will he resume his seat?) What he is speaking about is a much larger proposition; whereas, the matter before the House is a simple one Will he limit his remarks to the issue before the House, namely, the supply of yarn to the handloom weavers All the other things are too well known. He has his time limit and he must apply himself to the proposition before the House with the time limit

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: In my amendment is also included the word "cloth". To justify that I had to take the House into these details, which are not really irrelevant.

Mr. President: I am not ruling them out on the ground of irrelevancy because the vista of relevancy is so large that it is difficult to say what is strictly relevant and what is not All that I want the Honourable Member to do is to pointedly fix his attention to the issue before the House and not to go into things which are not actually irrelevant but very remotely relevant

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: I have said so because I have mentioned about "cloth for trade purposes" My point is that cloth is so very necessary that it ought not to be exported out of the country and I wanted to advance arguments in that respect Why has such a situation arisen? Why is there a cloth famine and a food famine? You will say that due to the war there were no imports I can understand that; for, due to the war imports have decreased, almost to nil. We shall take that the imports are nil. But you say that production has increased.

There can be only three sources of supply. They are indigenous mills that are producing cloth, handloom weavers, and net imports. By the last I mean

[Sri T. V. Satakopachari.]

excess of imports over exports Exports there have been. That is the point I wanted to stress. During the last ten years the production of yarn by mills has increased I am taking the statistics for 10 years, from 1930-40. The yarn production has increased from 867 million pounds to 1234 million pounds. I suppose I am right in saying that it has increased by 367 million pounds or by 150 per cent. During the seven years 1937-44 the production of mill cloth increased from 4084·3 million yards to 4870·6 million yards The handloom industry has increased according to statistics from 1,200 million yards to 1,600 million yards When we have all this cloth why should there be a famine?

I shall take it that by imports we have lost 590 million yards Yet the indigenous production should more than replace the deficit but from 16 yards *per capita* we have come to 13 4 There are two reasons for this One is that the country has been exporting cloth That is what I condemn in the strongest possible terms Why has this country been permitted to export cloth? The other is of course that Government absorbed something like 100 million yards for its own purposes and 750 million yards for military purposes. During these seven years the exports of cloth have not only been there, but they have risen and they have been growing more and more. For instance, from 241·3 million yards in 1937-38 it has risen to 461·9 million yards in 1943-44.

It is said that foreign markets had to be captured. I find, Sir, that foreign markets are not so very necessary We have got a very big country and a very big market In fact other countries come searching for us. We shall have charity beginning at home It is said that the cloth industries needed this sort of thing. I deny it I find that the falsity of this was exposed by Mr Neogy in the last session of the Assembly when he asked the Honourable Sir Azizul Huque questions in regard to this and Government had to admit that the exports were intended to meet orders from abroad. Government is trying to serve both God and Memmon Exports of rice from Bengal continued while there were difficult circumstances there We were told there was a net export balance As a result of it we had this famine. Yet exports of cloth go on merrily and our sisters and daughters have to commit suicide Our raw cotton is being exported Arrangements are being made to export from India 5,000 bales of raw cotton. Last year in the month of May it was announced by the United States War Production Board that imports of raw cotton from India would continue, and this in spite of the state existing in the country.

There are two ways of improving mill production One is by rationalization and the other is by giving longer working hours. Rationalisation is impossible because the power behind production is not there and machinery is not there Heavy machinery and the labour situation being what it is, I do not think it will be possible Thus, imports have fallen, exports have risen, and are going on merrily, there is coal and labour shortage, transport is faulty, and Government needs take priority, and what is left for civil requirements is not much to go round Handloom weavers are prepared to give us the cloth But there is no hope for machinery In reviewing the position of handloom weavers, the Textile Commissioner Mr Dharma Vira who presided in the All India Handloom Board said on the 22nd November last that though "ordinarily the present marketable surplus of yarn should have sufficient to meet the reasonable requirements of handloom, yet in view of the fact that a good portion of the 28 per cent of the total looms which were formerly engaged on wool, silk or artificial silk are now employed on cotton fabrics", the yarn supplied to them is inadequate 28 per cent of the people who were normally employed in silk, artificial silk and woollen manufacture are now employed in cotton fabrics

3 P. M. The present supply of yarn does not suffice the weavers with the result that the handloom weavers have had to go without jobs.

There is a very great demand for handloom cloth and it has captured the true heart of the nation In my part of the country indigenous cloth is appreciated very much. When the yarn distribution scheme was introduced I find that the total quantity of free yarn available was 79 thousand bales including

yarn that was imported. 11 per cent. of the 40 counts was available then. Only 5 per cent is available now. The remedy for this situation lies in stopping the export to foreign markets and compelling mills to supply yarn to handloom weavers.

I will conclude by saying one word about distribution. I think in my province the distribution is the worst possible and the less said about the distribution the better. As in the case of foodstuffs corruption is rampant. The cloth quotas and yarn quotas have become a scandal, because of the way in which they are distributed resulting in the cloth going into the hands of blackmarketeers If blackmarketeers deserve to be punished the officials who have created the blackmarketeers at least deserve condemnation. The handloom weaver and the consumer have to pay all the way

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh (Member for Industries and Supplies): Sir, I would ask your indulgence as a new-comer not only to this Honourable House but also to the very difficult subject which is being discussed. Until very recently the only connexion which the Department of Supply had with it was the amount of cloth required for the defence forces; and I would like to take this opportunity of saying that the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies were very close watch-dogs of the needs of the general civil consumer, and it was not easy to get all that the forces would have liked to clothe themselves with Despite that, as a result of India's efforts, our forces were in fact very well equipped during the recent war

Sir, it is rather difficult to make up one's mind what to say about the resolution that 1/8 of the present production of yarn should be reserved for the handloom weaver, because Government shares the general sympathy of the House for the handloom weaver. Therefore, if it were possible without causing dislocation of existing industry to do what the Honourable the Mover wishes, then I think the Government should make a serious effort to do so

The Honourable Mover is quite right when he said that the actual handlooms and small power looms do in fact get just a little over 400 million pounds out of the total of 1622 million pounds of yarn that is being produced that is just under 25 per cent as he said If we were to adopt the motion as it stands and raise the share of the handlooms in yarn by a rather drastic step from 1/4 to 1/8, the immediate result would be that the mills would lose 141 million pounds of this yarn, from which they produce some 634 million yards of cloth I venture to think that there would be some hiatus in transferring this yarn from the mills to the handloomers, to say nothing of a certain amount of dislocation of mill labour which was mentioned by my Honourable friend over there That mill labour is not manoeuvreable or transferable to handlooms, and there must inevitably be distress amongst quite a substantial proportion, perhaps 14 per cent , of the mill labour engaged in weaving and finishing, and it might be that there would be some difficulty before the handloomers were equipped or were able to absorb the quantity of yarn so transferred to them from the mills

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No difficulty now, Sir

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: It will take some time. The main point, I think, is this, that there is perhaps a better and much more satisfactory way of meeting the Honourable the Mover's wishes and that is to concentrate and specialise in the import and production here of mill machinery designed more particularly for the handloomer There are many obligations to implement plans, but it is the intention of the Government to concentrate particularly on procuring spinning machinery for handloomers, because, as has been pointed out from all sides of the House, this is one of the greatest and most important rural industries which India possesses, and needs every possible kind of encouragement The plans that Government have in view for getting spinning machinery would, in fact, bring the total amount of yarn available for handloomers well beyond the figure which the Honourable the Mover has in mind when he asks that the total amount of yarn available for handloomers should be at least 1/8 of the present production of India's mills and I would ask this House

[Mr. A A Waugh]

to give us the support, which has been promised to us in endeavouring to procure this machinery by all possible means I might perhaps while on this point of textile machinery say that we are now investigating to the best of our ability the chances of manufacturing textile machinery as a temporary measure, perhaps as a long term measure, in India's ordnance factories, which as Members know, are well tooled up for the jobs they do.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Not the spinning machinery

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I have gone into this with an expert and I am not sure about spinning machinery, but I think we can do a great deal to produce the other machinery.

If we were to take the sort of action which the Honourable the Mover has suggested, I do not think we would be fair to the consumer of cloth Apart from the dislocation and the hiatus which I have mentioned, there is the fact that after all, despite some malpractices in distribution and the like, there are controlled prices for mill made cloth and they are some 60 per cent below the fantastic prices reached before the control began in 1943 There are also measures, of which Members are aware, to ensure that no manufacturer, or retail dealer shall keep with him any stock of mill made bales beyond a certain period after the date which is stamped on the bale and if anyone exceeds that period he commits an offence and is liable to be in very serious trouble I admit, Sir, there are feet of clay everywhere It may be that the regulations are not perfect, and certainly human nature is not perfect, but at least we can keep a fairly effective control over mill made cloth and do our best to see that the quotas promised to the Provincial Governments do reach the consumers.

Something has been made of the fact that some yarn is exported I think it will be realised that the amount to be exported, now that the war is over, in 1946 is only a very small fraction of the total production For the first half of 1946, it is only 298 tons and that is going mainly to Nepal, Afghanistan and other neighbouring countries In the previous year something like 5,200 tons were exported and to a wider area but the areas it went to were those very countries which united with us in the war and who had suffered even more than we did by the withdrawal of their previous supplies, which were largely from enemy countries The amounts we are giving will do very little more than keep a few looms in those countries where the situation is most desperate and where they find it difficult to get any cloth whatsoever

Reference has been made to the figure I mentioned in reply to a question about the yardage per head It is very difficult to get at this figure otherwise than by an arithmetical calculation of average, but I would like to assure the Honourable Member concerned that it is not based on 1931 or 1941 population figures, but on the best estimate we can make of the population figure which has been reached in this year 1946 I do not claim for one moment that 13 4 yards average per head of the population is at all satisfactory, and I quite agree that it must be the aim of Government and of the whole country to see that we can get that figure up to something which provides a decent clothing for every person in the country

On the question of distribution, I did not wish, by saying that it is primarily a provincial responsibility, to say that the Central Government should have no interest therein and should not do their best to take up with the Provincial Governments the provision of proper arrangements for distributing the cloth so that it reaches the consumer, and likewise the yarn so that it reaches the actual weaver I think most valuable suggestions were made this morning and this afternoon by Prof Ranga; and his account of how in Madras they are able to work effectively through weavers associations is, I think, of very great importance, and one which the Government of India will certainly do their best to take up with other Provincial Governments, for anything that eliminates the corruption attendant on maldistribution and maladministered control through lowpaid officials is, I think, all to the good

I may mention that the question of control of handloom prices was considered very fully by my honourable colleague Sir Akbar Hydari with the representatives of Provincial and State Governments, and it was for the very reason that I have just mentioned that they came to the conclusion that it was not practicable or desirable to attempt to control handloom prices

I do not wish to stray beyond the scope of the Resolution and the amendments thereto I would like to say that if the Honourable the Mover can see his way to accept my assurance that we will, in the shortest possible time, produce for the handloom weaver a quantity of yarn which exceeds the target which he has in mind, then I hope he will be able to withdraw his resolution But in present circumstances, with the present shortage of cloth for the poorer classes of the people who have to depend very much on mill-made cloth, I do not think it is possible, without inflicting some injury on the country, to take further substantial lots of yarn away from the mills and hand it over to the handloomers I would ask him to believe me when I say that I hope the result which he desires to achieve will be attained before very long by the imports of suitable spinning machinery to spin yarn for the handloomer, and I can assure him that it will be our best endeavour to bring this result about

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I appeal to my friend Mr Vadilal Lallubhai and through him to all the textile manufacturers of this country that they should adopt a policy of live and let live If you stand in the way of living of other poorer persons, you may take it for granted that you will not be permitted to do so You started and paid for the propaganda of Boycott British Goods. We supported you and really it meant "Wear Indian mill-made cloth". Manchester cloth was competing with your textile mills and we supported the encouragement of our textile mills But when Japan began to compete with the handlooms, then you said nothing about it and kept silent If there is to be boycott of foreign goods, why particularly British goods and not Japanese goods also which really competed with the handlooms? That is your policy of living and not letting others live If you continue in the future as you have been doing in the past, please remember that you are not living in the thirties but in the forties because after the present war the world situation has changed Communist ideas are now coming into the country, which are in favour of labour, and you will soon face a situation when your mills will all be torn to pieces and destroyed and burnt by the hungry people who will have nothing to eat So this policy can no longer be adopted in future

I have been here for the last sixteen years and I have not seen a single Finance or Commerce Member who has not been in the pockets of these textile manufacturers They have always supported the policy of these Bombay and Ahmedabad millowners I remember once I was sitting in the room of Mr. Stewart, who was then Commerce Secretary, and there I met a person who was imported an expert from England to work out certain problems in 1931, and he was advising and telling the expert—"Please, when you go to Bombay, do not think of the Taj Hotel or of Rolls Royces". But I assured him that he may stand against the Taj Hotel or the Rolls Royces or anything else but he will not be able to stand long against the millowners I followed the report of that particular expert and I found exactly that he had one view when he started the work and very different views when he ended it

We have got two theories for the protection of these dying handloom weavers I know that in my constituency I have got a large number of these persons who are on the verge of starvation and my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa who represents the same constituency will bear me out

Shri Sri Prakasa: Remember, the *same* constituency

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Half the constituency.

Shri Sri Prakasa: The whole We both come from the whole

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: We both represent the same constituency and we both visited the same place and the condition is exactly the same The

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

Finance Members are the greatest protectors of the textile mills because they get their excess profits tax and other taxes, from the millowners We are the greatest protectors of the handlooms and we will see that you allow them also to live, not live yourself alone

Now, the question was raised about the ordinance. I am not very much in favour of ordinances nor am I in favour of the Defence of India Rules but if I want to start the work tomorrow, then I cannot proceed by the method of private Bills as has been pointed out I cannot proceed by the method of Government Bills because in case of textiles, the Government of India are not the masters of their own mind Their conscience is in the hands of the mill owners of Bombay and Ahmedabad Hence my friend, Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang, has suggested that the work may be started tomorrow. We should begin with the ordinance, so that these people who are dying of hunger may have some opportunity for living.

In general planning, we should have one criterion by which we shall have to judge its utility When you give a particular amount to be spent on industries in this country, the first question I want to put is how many people will be employed by spending so much money That is the only measure which I will have to adopt I will quote some figures later on as to what is the wealth of the country and how it is owned by a few persons Let them remember that they are only the trustees of the money and the wealth really belongs to the country itself How many persons are employed by these mills in which large sums of money have been invested and how many persons are supported by the handlooms I shall come to the figures later on

Now, I come to the question of quota We have got to see how much cotton we produce in this country Let us divide our share, not in terms of yarn but in terms of cotton which we produce Let us have so much cotton reserved for the handlooms and so much for the textile mills As regards the cotton reserved for the handlooms, it should be our duty—not the duty of the Government—to see that spinning factories are established all over the country under the supervision of the handloom weavers themselves and not of the politicians and the textile millowners Sufficient yarn should be produced under their own supervision Let us say it should be 30 or 40 per cent. Suppose 100 is the production of cotton, in this country, out of this, how much will you give to those who support one crore of the population and how much you will give to those who support five lakhs only Give the share of the handlooms to the handloom weavers and let them establish their own factories and manufacture their own yarn My friend has put the percentage at 30 because he wants the work to be started tomorrow but this is not a long term policy. This is the percentage with which we start We should have separate spinning factories for the benefit of the handloom weavers and let them look after themselves I have been watching this thing for the last 15 years Our greatest enemies are my friend Mr Lallubhai and his friends I blame the Government for appointing these people as the custodians of the handloom weavers' interests If you look into the matter carefully you will find that all the decisions about the handlooms are really made by the textile millowners and not by the weavers themselves Government does not invite people like my friend Mr Ranga or my friend on my left but they always invite the greatest enemies of the handlooms—the millowners I will give you an illustration I made a definite proposal about a place where they have got cotton facilities and other facilities, and suggested the Governor of the Province He consulted the textile mills of Cawnpore and the Governor gave the reply that Aligarh does not produce cotton which is good enough to be used in the spinning factory He took his advice from the greatest enemies of the handloom weavers and of the poor people, and came to wrong conclusion

Times are changing Unless they rise to the occasion, they will meet with the same fate as the big people in Russia and other countries which were

dominated by capitalists Threfore I say to you—wake up in time before the position becomes very difficult for you

I was talking about the shortage of cloth I wrote to my friend Sir Akbar Hydari to supply some *latta* and *mulmal* on the occasion of the *Id* early in 1945 He said 'Yes' but the *Id* came and went off and there was no *latta* and *mulmal* Again another *Id* came and the result was the same and we had no *latta* or *mulmal* and I think so long as we live there is going to be no *latta* or *mulmal* supplied to us

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari (Member for Information and Broadcasting) Please also give the reasons which I gave

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: He shoved his responsibility on the Provincial Governments He himself went to Naini Tal The same thing happened in the case of the Food Department which I want to see abolished A similar thing will have to happen to the Textile Department

Before I reply to some of the points raised I shall just quote from the report of the Government They are not my own arguments It says

"It is also estimated that a population amounting to 10 millions are still depending on this industry (*that is the handloom*) The Cotton Textile Industry employs only 5 lakhs workers of whom a considerable number are working in spinning mills producing yarn for the handloom Thus, although today mills are producing about 63 per cent, of the total cloth consumed in the country, they employ only a fifth of the total number of workers in the cotton textile industry The remaining four-fifths are employed in the hand weaving industry"

Later on the same report says

"Nor is hand-weaving a handmaid to agriculture but the sole occupation of a large class of people It is the mainstay of many towns and numerous villages scattered all over the country"

You can have your co-operative societies all right in towns but in small scattered villages you will still have to depend upon individual effort

"Although this industry is only responsible for about 25 to 30 per cent, of the total cloth consumed in the country, it employs over 85 per cent of the textile workers of the country If for any reason the handloom industry collapses, the resultant misery is bound to be a serious problem for the country, as it will involve the pauperization of a large population and this will become a heavy burden on the State Many flourishing towns and extensive rural areas would thus be deprived of their bread and this may have ugly social and economic consequences"

This is for the textile mill-owners

"Secondly, one of India's principal economic problems is the unemployment and under-employment of large masses of people As a means of solving this problem, large-scale industrialisation in India has so far been conspicuously ineffective"

I have read this from the report of the Government of India and this is the opinion of some of the writers who wrote this report

Now, I will give some figures. The production of cotton is given on pages 110 and 120 of this report The production of cotton is about 6 million bales and out of this we consume about 4 million bales in the mills So, there is a very large quantity of cotton still left over which is exported to other countries So, what we have to do is that we should set up a number of spinning factories where the surplus stock of cotton may be used for producing yarn and this will be really a very great help to this industry

Now, my friend the Honourable Member for Civil Supplies was very sorry about the dislocation of mill labour, but he shed no tears about the starvation of the handloom labourers In one case, it is dislocation and in the other case it is actual death So, really the second case is certainly much more important than the first

Now, I request you to take it for granted that the greatest enemy of the handlooms are the mill-owners of Ahmedabad, Bombay and now Cawnpore also, because that has become a very important textile centre If you take your clue

[Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

from these persons for the improvement and development of the cottage industry, you will always be put on the wrong track Take the clue from the consumers, from the poorer people and from persons who are on the starvation diet and on the starvation point and they will be able to tell you what is to be done. People outside India hardly realise that the fabric of the society in India is very different from the fabric of the society in the United Kingdom Here, a village is a compact unit They practically produce everything they require If you have a dislocation of the village life, then there is a kind of discomfort in the living of the people This thing ought to be taken into consideration We have really to supply the raw materials to these villagers and should not make them dependent upon the production and import of large mill products which are really produced at long distances A thing of this kind will never serve the purpose of India at the present moment You have to see what is the population and what is the income *per capita* If you want to give additional income, the only way to do it is to provide some means by which they may be able to earn money during the four months when these cultivators have no work to do. If you introduce cottage industries among these villagers and these cultivators, they will be happy But if they live only on the land, then their holdings are so small that they will not be able to support themselves upon the earnings from the land alone Perhaps my friend will probably know that most of the articles that were produced in Japan were produced by means of cottage industries Very little was done by means of big factories So, don't think of importing very heavy machinery in the name of key industries, but try to have the cottage industries spread all over the country, so that people in their spare time may be able to produce something and earn additional income to have a better living The majority of the cultivators—about 91 per cent of them—do not have sufficient land and they do not have sufficient income to provide living by land alone You have to give them additional income and this can only be done by introducing some kind of work in the shape of cottage industries which the people may do during the four months when they have no work on the land Unless we work out a scheme of this kind for the reconstruction of future India, I am perfectly certain that reconstruction programme will fail

Now, I have no doubt that the advice given by the Honourable Member for Supply was given to my Honourable friend Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, but he wants some kind of short-term policy What these people are going to do tomorrow? They will have to live in the year 1946 and they will not be able to live unless you give them immediately some yarn to make cloth and thereby earn their living

We were talking about the shortage of cloth So long as the total amount of yarn remains constant, it does not matter whether it is really spun by the mills or by the hand because the production will be the same So, the quantity of cloth will not be affected by changing the yarn from mills to the handlooms But in one case, as I pointed out, there is dislocation and in the other case there is starvation Therefore, I appeal on behalf of my friend, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, and myself that the Government should look at this problem not only from the long-term policy but also from the short-term policy as well, namely, what is to be done tomorrow I have seen the condition of these people and my friend Mr Sri Prakasa has also seen their condition A large number of them are on the verge of starvation So far as the mill-owners are concerned, if they are left to themselves and no yarn is given to them even for two centuries, they can live They have accumulated so much wealth that there is sufficient for them and for their families for two centuries Even the attempt of my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, to take away their notes has affected everybody else but not the textile owners of Ahmedabad and Bombay for whom it was meant

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): You wait and see.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: They are much more clever than you and myself. They have got three accounts one for the Income-tax officer, another for the shareholders and the third is a private account for themselves I do not know which account they will examine and how they will examine it.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: We will examine the fourth account

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Probably, they will have the fourth account for the Finance Member in which only notes of high denomination will be exhibited. The question before millowners is not a question to live or not to live The question for them is of small sums or large sums in profit For the smaller people, it is a question of life and death Therefore, I appeal to the Government that they must take some pity and show some mercy to these poorer people because the rich men know how to look after themselves, whatever be the action the Government take about them

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras Indian Commerce). Mr President, Sir, the question of handloom weavers is probably the most difficult one that the Government of India will have to face I need not say that the question of other cottage industries will probably give the same amount of trouble as this question of handloom weavers when we have to deal with them, each by itself. Sir, the Province of Madras is the one most concerned in this matter Out of the looms that are working, very nearly a third is in Madras About ten million people are dependent on this industry in my Province So, Sir, for a pretty long time, we have been concerned to find a solution for this outstanding problem of our Province I myself tried twice to find some solution for this problem when I was called upon by the Government of India to advise them with regard to the Japanese agreement The only solution that is possible is to get some sort of adjustment with the weaving mills Without that adjustment, it will be impossible to solve this question Manufacture of cloths by mills is certainly much cheaper I made calculations with reference to some sorts of cloth. The lowest cost that the hand loom weaver will expect by way of wages,—I am not talking about the price of cloth itself, by way of cost of production,—will be at least 200 per cent As a matter of fact, in better sorts of cloth, it goes up to 300 per cent and 400 per cent Such being the case, how is the weaver to live? That is the question Are you going to say, we are going to have rationalisation, we are going to have self-sufficiency in this country as in other countries, that we are going to give cheap goods to consumers, as they are certainly entitled to If you are going to say all that, then this whole body of one crore people to whom Prof Ranga referred will have to be wiped out They will have to go out of their living altogether Can we face this with equanimity? What is the other employment we can give to them? Already, we have got 75 or 80 per cent of people dependent upon agriculture We are trying to get some supplementary occupation for the agriculturists. We are thinking of weaving, as probably the most easy supplementary occupation for the agriculturists to go to. While we are thinking of that when we are dealing with improvement of agriculture and the improvement of villages and with the improvement of the conditions of the ryot, if we are going to deal the other way about with these handloom weavers, when you are taking their case into consideration, what is going to happen to the future of this country. On the one hand you want some supplementary occupation for the agriculturists, on the other hand, you have not got occupation enough for the people who are already engaged in this profession of handloom weaving How are we going to solve our question of unemployment and under-employment about which we are hearing every day here and elsewhere That is the point which we will have to consider earnestly As I said, this question is one, it is not a thing which can be solved merely by coming to a decision which will be almost impossible to carry out later on What is necessary is a practical discussion of it by persons who are engaged in the several businesses, who are concerned with handloom weaving, who are concerned with mills, and the consumers All these people will have to sit together and come to some mutual adjustment as to how best we can

[Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar]

solve this most difficult problem That, Sir, has not been done As I said, I tried my best on the two occasions when I had the opportunity to meet the representatives of Government and the millowners at those negotiations with the Japanese Government The main question that arose with reference to those negotiations with Japan was the question of import of Japanese cloth into India If the cloth came, the mills as well as the handloom weavers will be affected So, we wanted to find some solution for the problem at that time

Unfortunately, another question also was involved in the matter There is the question of cotton growers Just now my Honourable friend Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad referred to the production of cotton in this country which came to very nearly seven million bales out of which we are now consuming only about 4 millions or 4½ millions, the rest have to find a market elsewhere Unfortunately, our cotton is of low fibre Nobody in Europe or elsewhere wants it So, we were forced to send it to Japan which was the only country which would take it That was the reason why we had to be so soft in our negotiations with Japan and agree to the import of large quantities of cloth from Japan to the great detriment of both our handloom weavers and the mills Now, Sir, Japan is out of the way What are we going to do with our cotton? Attempts have been made in the Agriculture Department and elsewhere for improving the staple of our cotton So far in the major part of the country we have not been able to change the cotton that is produced in those areas from short staple to long staple The result is we are where we were So, the question remains what are we to do with our cotton? How are we going to deal with our handloom weavers? How are we going to do with the mills and with the consumers? These are questions which will have to be taken together and solved if we are going to proceed on satisfactory lines and if our country is to be satisfied with the arrangements we make As I said just now, it is a very serious question, because next to agriculture, handloom weaving is the biggest industry in the country and the largest number of people are employed in it Such being the case we cannot deal with it as the Government have been dealing with it hitherto After the first attempt I made in Simla with reference to the solution of this matter, all that the Government of India would do was to give a pittance of some small grants to each Province to develop and support these handloom weavers Each Province has its own scheme for using that money We, in Madras used it to organise the industry and provide marketing facilities for the industry It fell to my lot to organise the provincial handloom weavers society in Madras and put it on its legs The greatest difficulty with regard to this is that the handloom weavers are living from hand to mouth, they are so ignorant, they are so poor that loyalty is the last thing which they are capable of and which they can learn So, I think whenever there was Hump in the market they always came to us But whenever there was demand for their cloth as during Deepavali or during Pongal, no cloth will come to us We found it therefore difficult indeed to get any contracts with the markets, with outside purchasers for the goods of these handloom weavers. We did all that was mentioned by other speakers here We helped them with raw materials, we gave them designs and designers, we gave them money for paying wages; we undertook to sell their produce and market their goods Inspite of all that the progress we could make upto the beginning of the war was very little indeed.

Sir, since the war things have changed There has been a very large increase in the prices of cloth Other avenues were not so remunerative and so, the handlooms increased by leaps and bounds We have got, since the beginning of the war, something like 10 p c increase in the number of looms in this country Many more are prepared to come in if they will benefit by their coming in That has been the case, but what has taken place on the other side? Our capacity to help these people has diminished Even in the beginning it was difficult to find sufficient yarn and the sort of yarn they wanted I may say before I proceed further that the yarn that they want is not all of our make The quantity of yarn that our mills make and which they want is

only a very small portion of what they would like to have. I made calculations both before the war and also a couple of months ago and I find that a man who works on the forty counts gets something like six annas a yard whereas a man who works on sixties and eighties gets about 10 or 11 annas and a man who works on hundreds gets a rupee a yard So naturally every one wants to weave only hundreds and hundred-and-fifties, but we have no yarn to go round While that is the difficulty the looms have increased enormously on account of the remuneration they were getting and on account of the very high prices that cloth was fetching since the war began Then on the other hand we have got the mills whose yarn was taken away for war purposes and for other necessities; and only yesterday we were supplied with the information that a large portion was also exported from the country Under all these handicaps, as I said, the handlooms having increased, the natural difficulties asserted themselves As I said just now, only two months ago I personally made an inquiry into the state of the handloom weavers because I got a very large number of complaints with reference to their business I find that at the present moment they get yarn supplied to them which will last each loom only for ten days in the month That is a calculation which I made myself after going through something like 400 to 500 looms in Coimbatore town If that is the case if we are able to give them yarn only for working ten days in the month what is going to become of their livelihood, of their life, of their families and everything else? It is a very serious state of affairs indeed, but the question is, how are you going to solve it?

Mr. President: Order, order I do not wish to interfere with the Honourable Member, but he knows that the adjournment motion is coming on at 4 o'clock I do not wish to curtail his time—he may take his own time—but he may so adjust his speech that, any point he wishes to make is finished at 4 o'clock That will make it more convenient

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Sir, I was saying that when I went there the difficulty felt everywhere was the same and the complaint also was, as I said before, that the sort of yarn that they wanted was not supplied to them Coimbatore is a place where weaving is done in the higher counts They used to have silk and lace in the old days but now the higher counts have replaced silk and lace because the latter are not available at present That is the position These people work in families Each family consists of the worker, his wife and one or two children They all work on a loom and the loom is located in the house itself So for the whole family they get an income If one loom gets yarn for only ten days in the month it means that the whole family starves and not one man only The question has been raised, how are we going to deal with this situation? My humble submission will be that this is not a question which can be solved by merely tinkering with it You will have to settle once for all what you are going to do with your handloom weavers Are you going to wipe them out and see them die because they are more costly than the mills? That is the position Without tinkering with this question you will have to settle this once for all because the number of mills is increasing from day to day Are you going to allow it? That is the question which will have to be faced There is no use allowing looms to go on increasing As I said, since the war began the number of looms has increased by something like 40 p c Are you going to allow them to increase further and then say that you are not going to help them in any way? That is a very serious situation which I ask everybody in the House—Government as well as others—to consider and settle

The point has been raised whether the yarn that is supplied to the handlooms at present cannot be increased My honourable friend Mr Lallubhai was characterised as a millowner whose interests lay in denying the handloom weaver as much as possible I come from a portion of the country where we have not got that accusation to face In our part of the country most of the mills are spinning mills and there are very few weaving mills So if we have

[Sri T A Ramalingam Chettiar]

got any interest it is to improve the handloom weaving, to increase our production of yarn and to supply more and more of it to the handlooms That is where our interest lies Speaking as a person who has some close connection with more than one mill I can say that we have come to the extreme limit of our capacity to produce Our machinery has been worked almost to death, we have increased our production by something like 20 per cent In spite of that what is happening? As I said, the handloom weavers in Coimbatore where a large number of these looms are located are getting yarn only for ten days out of thirty in the month That is the position in which we stand Can we now merely by saving that one-third of yarn that is produced in the mills should be given to the handlooms solve this question ? I fear not We ought to increase our production enormously We have been working throughout these four or five years and we ought to be allowed to replace our machinery, to extend our spinning sections and allowed at least to meet the growing needs by increasing our capacity to produce

(It being Four of the Clock)

Mr. President: Order, order

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

RECRUITMENT OF EUROPEANS TO INDIAN CIVIL AND POLICE SERVICES

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I move:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn"

Sir, I want to discuss the action of the Government in recruiting European officers to the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service permanently, in view of the declared intention of the Government to hand over the administration very shortly to the people of the country Sir, I have always felt that the one definite enemy of India's progress and independence is the European civil servant in this country No doubt there is an Army of occupation and the European Police who are recruited from England but they are only handmaids, they are subordinates to the civil servant The civil servant spreads throughout the length and breadth of the country, through every nook and corner and commands every piece of administration He comes as a Sub-Collector in the Revenue Department, he is omniscient, he can switch himself off from any one department to another, and without any experience whatsoever he is fit and competent to be the head of any administration His ambition soares so high that today he is ruling eight out of eleven provinces It is only unfortunate that the three remaining provinces are ruled from time to time by statesmen who come from England direct and the Viceroyalty has not yet been filled by civil servant so far as I know .

An Honourable Member: One from Australia also.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When first these people come out to this country they feel strange, they feel ashamed of the institutions that they are running in this country while they had been accustomed to democratic rule in their own country Men and women in their own country are running the administration through their elected representatives, and they are ashamed to find here that they, who are foreigners, rule this country through their own paid servants Their paid servants are having a stranglehold in this country For some time they are stricken with conscience, but very soon these civil servants, who have plans to continue in this country for generations and who have plans of what positions their sons, grandsons, and grand-grandsons will occupy, convert them And whatever attempt is made by any honest Governor or Governor General to recommend some constitutional advance for this country, the next day some poison is put into his ears and he is asked to withdraw his recommendations That is our experience We have therefore been obliged to undergo a lot of suffering in this country, by taking to direct action against the Government As a result of all this, they have to change however much they may be adamant.

As a result the 1935 Act came into existence There is a provision there that in case the Government should be handed over to the people of this country, these civil servants will have to retire Sir, I am sure that apart from other circumstances the civilian element in this country was more than 75 per cent responsible for not bringing the 1935 Act into inauguration Thereafter the Declaration of 1940 came, but was still-born In 1942 Cripp's Declaration came, but I am sure it is those persons who are inside the Government here that made the Cripps mission fail I was then present at Delhi, the Assembly was in session at the time when he came, we all knew that he came with a definite purpose of installing a Government here and he even said—though I heard this from certain journalists—that if perchance the Executive Councillors, most of whom were the civil servants, in this country should stand in his way, he will go and see to it that a National Government is installed in this country That also failed Then, Sir, if Dominion Status is given to us, what will be the effect of that? Will it be real freedom for this country if our services should continue to be manned by Europeans and if our policing is done by Europeans, and if there is an Army of occupation in this country If these three classes of people quit this country, then alone we will have freedom

Again, as recently as June 1945, Lord Wavel made a declaration that he was inaugurating certain reforms and called upon the representatives of various parties to come in But a short time before that, Sir Francis Mudie, who was then the Home Member, flew to England and entered into an unholy alliance with the Secretary of State He seduced the Secretary of State—but it was not necessary for him to be seduced because he was a conservative himself and he was too willing to enter into a pact—that the Civilian element should continue to flow into this country, so that if perchance some kind of freedom is conferred on this country, the Civilian element here will make it impossible to be worked Well, somehow they managed to see that the 50 per cent ratio of the Civilian element in this country was restored Until this 50 per cent is satisfied Europeans will be recruited for various services On the 1st of January 1943 a question was asked in the House of Commons as to the number of Europeans and Indians in the Civil Services in this country A reply was given that 560 Europeans were there and 620 Indians were in the Civil Service. In the I P S 373 Europeans as against 203 Indians were smaller in number. The persons who ruled us were not satisfied with this, they wanted a change. European recruitment had been stopped partially as early as 1941 It was completely stopped in 1943 During the period of the war there was no further recruitment They were in such nasty haste to revive this recruitment a short time before the announcement was made on the 14th of June On the 1st of June, Sir Francis Mudie flew to England—he did not go by sea, he wanted to avoid even a voyage lest it should take 13 or 14 days He wanted to have it settled that his generation should continue to rule this country, and he got an order passed by the Secretary of State behind our back, while the Assembly was still in session, and without taking the Assembly into confidence, or letting us know what the implications were While on the one hand they say they are going to give some form of freedom, on the other they are trying to thrust their own children perpetually on us so that the Dominion Status or freedom, whatever it may be, will only remain on paper

Sir, the arrangement was that 98 Civilians who ought to have been recruited before 1944 should be filled up as if that had been reserved for them and it was their right which they could exercise at any time, and thereafter 24 every year That was the *farman*, or the charter, that they obtained over the head of this Assembly Honourable Members of this House lost no time to understand what was going behind their back My Honourable friend, Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, tabled a motion of adjournment in this House trying to censure the Government for the action that was sought to be taken behind the back of this House Objection was taken on the other side that it was not mature; details had not been known and therefore technical objections were raised as they were raised by my Honourable friend this morning that it is the exclusive privilege of the Viceroy

[Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

and the matter was in his discretion, but the Honourable the Mover then had no information, if the Viceroy's Executive Council had been consulted then and so the matter was dropped Thereafter my honourable friend Mr. Neogy on the 2nd April sought to raise a debate He moved a similar motion of adjournment and wanted to know on what grounds Sir Francis Mudie had flown to England Sir Richard Tottenham was here in Sir Mudie's place The details were not known to him Before some definite action was taken it was no good censuring the Government After the Assembly session was over we have an announcement on the 1st June 1945 inviting applications from various persons, Europeans and Indians, to fill up the number that has already been arranged for by the Secretary of State, the Home Member and the Governor General and all of them put together Sir, the implications are enormous It may be that tomorrow the Government may consent to get out of this country But they will leave a huge legacy behind them I will take one instance They are day to day making announcements During the past from 1935, and within recent times from 1942 ever since Cripps came and even recently the other day on the 28th, His Excellency the Governor General made an announcement that it would be in a short time that the reins of administration of this Government would be handed over to the people of this country Though it will be useful for them to rule in this country and they may not leave us, we will still have to send them away So, if permanent appointments are made to the Civil Service, though terminable on the will of the Secretary of State, huge quantities of gold will have to be placed over their shoulders so that they may take them with their wives and children across the seas to England

Let us see the compensation that is allowed and printed as Appendix II to the Civil Appointments in the leaflet circulated along with the announcement in the Gazette inviting applications for civil posts and to Indian Police posts There are two ways in which a service can be terminated One is voluntarily and the other involuntarily If it is voluntarily, he will get at the end of five years a gratuity or bonus of £1 500 If he is forced to retire, or his services are terminated, he will get a lumpsum of £4 000, in our currency it will be Rs 50,000 It will be a fortune for my life! From the 5th year to the 25th year, the gradation is from £1,500 to £15,000 as compensation If at the end of 25 years that man does not want to go and it might be that my honourable friend Liaquat Ali Khan becomes the Premier of our Federation

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division Muhammadan Rural) You should have no fear on that point

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I have no fear

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will remember his time

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Those are the ways in which compensation are awarded Therefore that huge weight has been imposed upon us There is no choice During the war were all the Europeans in the service here? Were not Indians here? It is no use saying that unless Europeans come here we cannot rule this country It is simply to provide employment for them Are there not enough persons here who can be employed? We have two million war-returned men who have no employment Apart from that we are dying from starvation The whole of yesterday has been spent in discussing the food situation and we are leaving the discussion tomorrow We can now see why this morning none of those Benches were full Every one of them is well fed and well clad Now it touches their pockets so some of them have come here. Are the new recruits coming here with any degree of efficiency?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member) You are!

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am glad my friend pays me a compliment When an Indian is accepted, he has to be a graduate of an Indian University But if he has a white face, he can be chosen to rule the country, though he comes here to learn Hereafter they will have to be real servants If

they want to hand over the reins of this Government to us, it is an insult that they should offer this legacy to us I therefore, Sir, cannot condemn too strongly the attitude of Government. I move that this House do adjourn and censure the Government for the hasty action taken by them

Sir, I move·

Mr. President: Motion moved

"That the Assembly do now adjourn"

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division. Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I should have very much liked the Honourable the Home Member to give us the benefit of the Government case on this particular subject It is true that he took quite a few minutes in the morning to explain his objection to this motion And I propose to confine myself to the constitutional point that was raised by him The Honourable Member referred to Section 224 of the Government of India Act, under one of the clauses of which it is left to the Governor General to make reports to the Secretary of State on this subject, and it is further laid down that the Governor General while exercising this authority will be acting in his discretion Now, Sir, during the various discussions that took place in England, resulting in the present Government of India Act, the question of recruitment and control of the Services loomed rather large at every stage In the White Paper, for instance, it was provided that an enquiry should be made after five years of the commencement of the operation of the Constitution Act It was recognised that when particularly Provinces were being embarked on a scheme of more or less autonomous constitution, it would be rather anomalous to have the All India Services, like the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police to provide the personnel for the more important posts under popular Ministers in the Provinces Yet it was felt, particularly by the British section of the various conferences, that it would not be right to make any serious departure right at the beginning and that it would be proper to wait and watch the working of the New Constitution before making any fundamental change in the position of the Services *vis-a-vis* their new masters in the Provinces That is really the reason why a periodical examination of the question was recommended in the White Paper Later, Sir, this particular proposal of the White Paper was modified by the Joint Parliamentary Committee The Joint Parliamentary Committee did not like the idea of fixing a specific time limit for undertaking an examination of this character Again, in Parliament the original provision of the Government of India Bill was amended to the present effect Sec 244, sub-section (4) runs thus —

"It shall be the duty of the Governor General to keep the Secretary of State informed as to the operation of this section and he may, after the expiration of such period as he thinks fit make recommendations for the modification thereof."

That sub-section leaves it absolutely at the discretion of the Governor General to choose his own time for making an enquiry and report to the Secretary of State

Now, it seemed to me this morning that my honourable friend the Home Member tried to disown any responsibility of the Government of India in regard to this matter And if I may say so, you, Sir, put the point very clearly to the Honourable Member when you enquired as to whether the Government of India, namely, the Governor General in Council, had not anything to do in this matter We in the previous House, Sir, made several attempts to raise this question in debate, because from time to time we came to know that attempts were being made behind the back of the Legislature to put forward certain schemes for recruitment that would in a way mortgage the future of the constitution which we are so eagerly looking forward to On all those occasions, Sir, our attempts were met with the reply that this was not a matter for the Governor General in Council and therefore it was not open to us to raise it in debate

Sir, at a later stage, when we found that the then Home Member, the present Governor of Sind, and the present Home Secretary had been summoned

[Mr K C Neogy]

to England we made another attempt to know something about what was going on And on that occasion it was said that the Secretary of State was perfectly at liberty to consult whomsoever he chose, and although the Home Member had been summoned and the Home Secretary had also been summoned, it did not follow (I am merely putting the substance of what was said)—it did not follow that the Government of India had anything to do in the matter We thought that if the Honourable the Home Member is at all summoned by the Secretary of State, he should carry with him the authority of the Cabinet But, Sir, that was not what the Government spokesman admitted There again we asked as to whether the Government of India had not expressed any views in the matter The answer was Yes, but then the Government refused to disclose the purport of the opinion which they had forwarded to the Secretary of State for India Assuming that the question of the report is strictly a matter for the Governor General as distinct from the Governor General in Council, it having been admitted that the Governor General in Council has already submitted their proposals in this regard to the Secretary of State, are we not entitled, Sir, to know the purport of the views that the Government of India forwarded to the Secretary of State in this connection, and are we not entitled to discuss the purport of their recommendations in this behalf and, if necessary, censure the Government of India?

I should not like to take up any more time of the House but there is just one little point to which I should like to refer before I conclude Sir, we in this House very well know that the limitations under which we have to work are the legacy of the Act of 1919 Indeed, we are living as it were in 1919, and so far as the 1935 Act is concerned it does not exist, so to say, in most material matters, so far as the Central Legislature goes But then there has been a fundamental difference in the set up of the Government of India, in the powers enjoyed by the Governor General under the 1935 Act, under which powers the Governor General has been made a kind of autocrat We are really expected to believe what the Honourable Member says that in so far as the Governor General is to act in his discretion, the Governor General does not consult the Governor General in Council Indeed it is perhaps contended that the two authorities, namely, the Governor General on the one hand and the Governor General in Council on the other, are not on speaking terms

What would have been the position in regard to this matter under the Act of 1919? In questions relating to the services, under the 1919 Act, the Governor General did not enjoy any position of independence comparable to the position which he has been given under the 1935 Act All such matters, if they had anything to do with the Government of India, the governance of India, must necessarily have been placed before the Governor General in Council Now, Sir, under the present constitution, the Governor General has been clothed with this particular authority to be exercised in his discretion, and the result is that he is in a position to ignore the existence of his Executive Council, if he chooses The position that then arises is this that although we have not made any progress (whatever progress was provided for in the 1935 Act) so far as the Legislature is concerned, there has been a fundamental change in the constitution of the Government, namely, the powers and the functions of the Governor General in Council, in so far as the Governor General has been made an independent authority in the discharge of certain functions But it is very interesting to know that if the 1935 Act has been put in operation, so far as the Centre is concerned, then under the Instrument of Instructions (which the British Parliament has already approved) the Governor General would be expected to consult his ministers, even in matters where he is expected to act in his discretion But the point that my Honourable friend would perhaps make is this, that that Instrument of Instructions has not been issued to the Governor General, because, forsooth, the Federal part of the Act has not been brought into operation Now it comes to this that if today we had popular ministers installed on those Benches, under the Federal provisions of the Government of India Act, the Governor General would be

expected to consult them in regard to the operation of sub-section (4) of Sec. 241 But simply because the Federal provisions have not been brought into operation, the present Executive Council composed as it is of the nominees, shall I say, of the Governor General or the Secretary of State, have no looking in in this matter Now, Sir, this, to my mind, is somewhat Gilbertian, and that is all that I have got to say on the subject

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member) Sir, I shall try to adhere strictly to the terms of the adjournment motion but I will depart from those for a moment to deal with the point raised by my Honourable friend Mr Neogy. He was wrong in thinking that I referred this morning to any part of Section 244 of the Government of India Act except sub-section (1) I referred to that sub-section merely to make my point that appointments to these services are made by the Secretary of State I did not myself refer to sub-section (4) which deals with another incident of recruitment, because it did not seem to me relevant to this discussion But I did not this morning, and of course I do not now, deny that the Secretary of State's decision was made after consultation with the employers of these services—the Government of India and the Provincial Governments I think I said this morning that that consultation was naturally made I do not wish anyone in this House to think that I am running away from any responsibility of the Government of India I was merely taking, if you like, a perfectly constitutional view of the adjournment motion

The first question to be answered is 'Why has the Secretary of State resumed recruitment to these two services?' What I said this morning threw some light on that and I have no doubt that my honourable friend the Mover knows all the facts, but there may be quite a number of Members in this House who are not so well informed I quoted this morning from the press communiques of 1941 and 1942, which explained why recruitment to these services was then stopped, and when it was likely to be resumed It was stopped for the period of the war, and the intention was to fill vacancies arising during the war as soon as possible after the war was over As a result of that decision, the services are now seriously below strength The demands of the administration have not decreased, they have grown in many respects, and in some respects they are certainly likely to grow still more We have tried to keep the gaps filled by various devices We have stopped long leave, we have put restrictions on retirement In ways of that kind we have interfered, we have restricted the conditions of service to which people were accustomed, and I should like to take this opportunity of saying that the members of the services have borne those inconveniences with loyalty and without complaint But they are devices which cannot be continued long after the end of the war, and the gaps will have to be filled, and without them the services would soon be crippled That is on the point as to why the Secretary of State resumed recruitment as he had undertaken to do, four or five years ago I do not think that there will be any very serious question of that decision, but I come now to the main point of this adjournment motion—why he should have resumed the recruitment of Europeans.

In spite of what Mr Neogy has said, it is not my function, nor is it within my power, to interpret the Secretary of State's decision But there are some obvious considerations which must certainly have influenced him The stoppage of European recruitment would have been a departure from established practice Whether that practice was right or wrong is another matter, but the stoppage of European recruitment would have been a departure from established practice, and the time this undertaking was given in 1941 was certainly not a time when any departure from practice could reasonably be expected The war was on, the outcome of the war was very uncertain, and the constitutional developments in India were equally uncertain The promise was given in 1941—I read one part of that promise this morning it continues

"This decision (*i.e., the decision that certain vacancies in services should be left vacant*) applies equally to the recruitment of Indians and Europeans to recruitment made in India and in England." . . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural): To whom was that promise made, please?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: That was the undertaking given by the Secretary of State in 1941, and it seems to me that any Secretary of State taking action now, after the war is over, in accordance with the motion, would be guilty of a breach of faith if he went back on the terms of it

Prof. N. G. Ranga: To whom was that promise given and on what provocation?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not understand my honourable friend's question, but if he will allow me to go on, I invite him to have his say after I have finished

I dealt this morning with the wording of this adjournment motion, which speaks of the recruitment of European officers to the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service permanently and suggests that that is opposed to 'the declared intention of the Government to hand over the administration very shortly' to the people of the country"

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I withdraw the word 'permanently'

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I am not sure whether it is in order to withdraw bits of adjournment motions as you go along I am entitled to deal with it as it was put on the paper But in any case my honourable friend has not withdrawn the suggestion that the action now taken is inconsistent with the declared intention of the Government to hand over the administration very shortly I referred this morning to a statement which appears in this pamphlet as a foreword by the Secretary of State, and in the pamphlet itself under the heading "Terms of Appointment" there is this passage

"Appointments will be made by the Secretary of State for India While provision is made for the case in which an officer is able to serve under the Secretary of State for the full normal period, candidates are warned that their appointments under the Secretary of State will be liable to be terminated at any time on account of constitutional changes, subject to their being given twelve months' notice"

It follows from that that the sooner there is a constitutional settlement, the sooner these constitutional changes come in, the sooner will it be open for the future Governments of India, central and provincial, to wind up these services if they wish None of these officers now being recruited will be forsted on the future Governments of India, if the future Governments of India do not want them, they will go

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: But at what cost?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have not altogether omitted to take the question of cost into account I know it was made clear this morning that these retirement grants are regarded as excessive They are regarded as an unduly heavy burden to place on India Once the decision to recruit was taken, the conditions of service had to be settled by the Secretary of State As I say, I am not in his confidence and it is not my business to interpret his decision, but when he thought of termination of service, apparently he had two alternatives before him One was to adopt the pensionary scheme, with such changes as might be necessary in view of incidental war service to adapt that pensionary scheme for his new recruits The other alternative was to modify that pensionary scheme in view of the impending constitutional changes If he had adopted the pensionary scheme I think he would have laid himself open to very strong criticism from Indians and especially my friends on the other side of the House He chose the alternative, which is the fixing of lump sum payments Those are the sums which will be found in Appendices II and IV of this pamphlet

Well, Sir, my Honourable friend the Mover regards the amounts of those grants as greatly excessive He quoted certain figures I am not an actuary. I am a very innocent and ignorant person (*An Honourable Member*: "Himmler was not innocent")—I was going to say in regard to figures—, but

I do know that to a person like myself, a layman, the capitalised value of a pension appears a formidable or, as the case may be, an attractive amount, very much more than one would imagine from the amount of the pension Perhaps even my pension, when I earn it shortly, would look very much more if some actuary capitalised it for me (*An Honourable Member* "He is sitting behind you") I have not attempted it myself but my impression is if any one will proceed to decapitalise, so to speak, these lump sum figures, the results will not appear unduly formidable However, the main point is that the sooner these constitutional changes come into effect, the smaller will be the sums to be paid under these terms as retirement grants

Now, Sir, the period for which the services will continue—the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police—depends not, as my Honourable friend suggested, on the Secretary of State, the Governor General or even on the Home Member but on the statesmen and people of India Speaking for myself, no one, so far as I know, is offering me a retirement grant, but if an Indian will take my place here in the next few months I shall be very glad indeed for all reasons, both personal and public

As regards these young officers now to be appointed if India wants to keep them many will no doubt be glad to stay If India does not, if India wishes them to quit India, they will quit India, I have no doubt with many regrets, but they and we will have at any rate one satisfaction and that is that their departure will be a sign that India has attained that status which we all desire

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan) I grow more astonished day by day when I listen to the speeches of the Treasury Benches My Honourable friend's capacity for hoodwinking himself exceeds probably his capacity for attempting to hoodwink the public You will notice that this morning my honourable friend attempted to stop the discussion of this motion by pretending that he had nothing whatever to do with it but this afternoon he gets up and says that the Government of India was actually consulted by the Secretary of State (*An Honourable Member* "He said so this morning") Does he not realise that my honourable friend's responsibility arises, when he had been consulted? And what was he consulted about? When he read out those extracts from that pamphlet, did he draw your attention to a very important statement made by the Secretary of State for India? He did not The Statement was this—and that would have stopped any further discussion regarding any objections to the adjournment motion. It was this The Secretary of State says, "But it is an essential corollary of His Majesty's Government's declared policy of promoting full self-government in India and Burma that from dates as yet uncertain, in either case appointments held by tenure from the Secretary of State will cease". He did not refer to that. He knew perfectly well that a new Secretary of State has made a declaration of a new policy He has said that from certain dates, as yet unsettled, these recruitments will cease

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: May I rise on a point of personal explanation?

Diwan Chaman Lall: I do not give way

Mr. President: It is better to have an explanation

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The charge of hoodwinking the House, I regard as a serious one and I may say that I myself quoted this morning from this foreword of the Secretary of State I quoted the passage immediately following that which my friend has read out and I invite him to read it himself

Diwan Chaman Lall: Did he quote the passage which I am quoting, which would have put a different complexion on the whole matter? That is my whole charge. He quoted the passages which suited him but the main passage he did

[Diwan Chaman Lall]

not quote. He did not quote another passage which was rather significant The Secretary of State says

"At the same time it is my belief that when that time comes opportunities for continuing to render good service to India and Burma will not be lacking to men whose devotion (*unlike the devotion of my Honourable friend*) is to the peoples of these countries and whose capacity for efficient and disinterested service (*not at £4000 premium*) has already been proved."

This is the new policy adumbrated by the Secretary of State for India and I ask, if this is the new policy that on a certain date not yet fixed this recruitment is to cease, why is my honourable friend now wanting to waste the money of the poor man in this country in recruiting Englishmen to these services. What is the object? What exactly is the object? Is the object this—that you cannot find efficient Indians to fill the jobs? Does my honourable friend realise that under this scheme youngsters who have matriculated will be put in the most responsible jobs here in the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police and they will be paid these fantastic sums merely because when constitutional changes arise they may not like to stay on, unlike again my Honourable friend who in spite of the constitutional changes did stay on to our great misfortune and put 200,000 men in jail without trial, without charge? We do not want to encourage this state of affairs It is not our object to encourage this state of affairs Can my honourable friend give me a reply to this? Within the short period anticipated even by His Excellency the Viceroy on the floor of the House the other day is there any compelling necessity for us to go on recruiting Englishmen—not Europeans, mind you, as my honourable friend said Englishmen, Britishers for preference? Is there any justification for your going on recruiting for this temporary period? I submit that my honourable friend has given no reply to the charge that has been made against him He cannot give us a satisfactory reply because there is no satisfactory reply to this.

Now, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to another fact These handsome emoluments and compensatory bonuses that are going to be paid are going to be paid if a man after five years service resigns or is not offered a continuation of service If he continues in service, even then these allowances are going to be credited to his name There was a time—I believe in the days of Warren Hastings and Clive—when India was being robbed, but this day-light robbery that my honourable friend wants to indulge in is of such a nature that we must make a strong protest and prevent this day-light robbery from taking place. We have some sense of responsibility to the poverty-stricken people of our land and I cannot understand my honourable friend's anxiety to do in this interim period what they are seeking to do

My honourable friend referred to section 244 of the Government of India Act which has been very ably dealt with by my honourable friend Mr Neogy Sub-clause (4) deals with this You will remember, Mr President, that there was a time when the recruitment of Indians to these Services was very small You have the Islington Commission, the O'Donnell circular and the Royal Commission on Services in 1924 and then the discussions in the Round Table Conference. It was then suggested that from 1920 onwards the increase in the Indian recruitment should be at the rate of about 1½ per cent until it reached 48 per cent; it has gone up to 50 per cent now That was in 1920 In the olden days it used to be the question as to how many Indians should be taken into the service Later on, the question was how many Englishmen should not be taken into the service That is the stage that we have reached The time has now arrived when under section 244 the Governor General has to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State Sub-clause (4) says:

"It shall be the duty of the Governor General to keep the Secretary of State informed as to the operation of this section (*that is, about the recruitment of the two classes*) and he may, after the expiration of such period as he thinks fit, make recommendations for the modification thereof."

Has my honourable friend or the Governor General made any recommendation to the Secretary of State regarding any modification in this matter? Have they? Was it not their duty, if they were honestly and seriously contemplating a transfer of power to this country, to make an honest and straight-forward declaration to the effect that they want to hand over India to Indians and to hand over the service to Indians and to eliminate the Britisher altogether from recruitment to these services? It was their duty to do so I want a reply from my honourable friend if he has done so If he has not done so, he has failed in his duty I am very glad that my honourable friend thinks that he will be pleased to hand over his powers and authority such as were exercised by Himler in Germany to an Indian who will sit in his seat I wish him Godspeed when he is going back to his own country, but he will carry with him a very heavy conscience for what he has done during the tenure of his office as Home Member At the same time, if he himself is pleased to go back, why should he object to others of his countrymen who also want to go back and who do not want to come to this country to rule this country? Let him stand up in reply and assure this House that he and the Government of India and the Governor General stand for the stoppage of recruitment of Britishers into these services

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau India Commerce) Sir, in the last ten years I have not stood up to deal with a Home Department subject, because my knowledge of these subjects and my interest in them has not been very intensive And I must say that the Home Department has returned the compliment by giving very little attention to me during the last six years But, Sir, I am drawn into the adjournment debate today on financial grounds First of all, I want to contrast and recall to this House the glib assurance of the Honourable the Finance Member when he got up day before yesterday and said "We are not sitting at the other end of the telephone or the wire or the mail and receiving instructions from the United Kingdom We are an independent Sovereign Government in India who take decisions of our own " This is what he wanted to send down our throat and to send down the mind of the people of this country It was a perfectly wrong statement Who declared the war, who got you out of the war, and are not telephone and telegram working every day? May I ask why are you receiving so many instructions from the United Kingdom every day? But, Sir, there is no better refutation than the refutation of his own colleague, who got up and said We have very little to do with this, this is the Secretary of State's responsibility, this is not our responsibility. Sir, let me assure my honourable friends that the mind of the Indian is now alert, that the things which you palmed off on him in the past will not now do For example, take the very sinister propaganda which every disciplined Englishman in this country now indulges in from the Viceroy downwards. We have in this very House Mr. Griffiths, we had Sir Archibald Rowlands, and today we had the Honourable the Home Member saying it is a matter of a few months, a few weeks, and we are going to hand over to you the whole authority! Now, I am a businessman and a cynic. When a transaction is being done, I want to see it finished before I say it is done I do not believe till I see it I only think it necessary to draw the attention of the country to this nauseating propaganda from upwards to the bottom, to these professions in glib words to mislead the people of this country And when it comes to action, here we have got the kind of action which we are censuring

And now I will proceed with what I regard as a very reprehensible and harmful action to India in the proposals which we have got here In the first instance, the scales of the pay and allowances of the Civil Services in India had attracted notice throughout the world as being excessive During the last 50 years every public man belonging to every section and party in this country has objected that these scales are not suitable and are not in keeping with the condition and the resources of the people of this country. You will find, according to these scales themselves, that a retirement grant is admissible to officers who

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

retire voluntarily There are certain grants already, according to these scales, to the existing members of the Indian Civil Service These have been commented upon as very excessive I ask Where was the need for these new extraordinary grants being created now?

Let me show the financial gravamen of these grants A man who is 28 years of age, provided he has already done some kind of war service anywhere in the world in His Majesty's Forces, is eligible for this Assuming he is 28 years of age, then he is already in his sixth year of service Assuming that in the next 12 months there is a constitutional change in India and if this gentleman may choose then to leave from this country, that is to say, after one year, then, if he goes voluntarily after one year, we have to pay him £2,000 We have to pay him Rs 26,000 straightaway and it adds to his salary an amount which is extortionate, if I may say so But should it happen that the Government of this country find him hostile or disloyal or negligent or they may find him doing enemy work and in some cases have to remove him then we would have to pay him £5,000 That is to say, a sum of between Rs 65,000 and Rs 70,000

May I ask why this is being done? Is it because you are not finding proper recruits? I recall in this very House Mr Ogilvie in 1937-38, to numerous questions of mine as to why more Indians were not taken into the Army as officers, trotted out with the usual formula that suitable candidates were not available! They could not get a larger number of suitable candidates, even about 20 or 24 in those days for the army Then, Sir, the war came, and I think thousands of suitable candidates were found by the same army and defence authorities who only two years before that felt that suitable candidates were not available In other words, when they do not want to do a thing, they have got perpetual excuse But suitable candidates were found during the war by the thousands You accepted their services, you found them efficient and there were comments from the highest quarters that these men had made good, that the Indian officer was a good and efficient officer The Government themselves acknowledged it Now, Sir, look at the other picture In recent times, I have had visits, I have had communications from scores of young men who were selected, who have done 4½ years creditable work who are now being thrown out, from the army, navy and air forces They are being thrown out unceremoniously and they are asked to apply to Employment Exchanges organised by my Honourable friend Dr Ambedkar But he cannot create employment. They are being asked to go, they are thrown on the streets I am sorry to say, I am going to ascertain it in the course of this Session from the War Secretary I understand that demobilised Britishers are being taken in their places, in the place of Indians who have rendered good service for 4½ years You are taking demobilised Britishers in the Navy, you are taking them in the other services Is this fair way of treating Indians?

5 P.M.

Then, let us come to this Ninety eight places in the Indian Civil Service and about 68 places in the Indian Police service, plus another 24 in each, which will be the vacancies during this year, that is roughly about 200 to 225 places are being filled up with Englishmen We had it in the papers the other day that 2,000 Britishers have applied and that these 200 places will be filled up by them They will be filled up with all this heavy charge in emoluments, heavy mortgage of the revenues of this country for the future. It is not merely the financial aspect I also know something of these calculations between capital and revenue and can turn them backwards and forwards I assure you, Sir, that this is the most astounding proposition Why is it necessary for the Government of India and the Secretary of State to offer inducements of this order? Is it because they have not got men? Now, Sir, that is not true having regard to the competent men from India who have given good and loyal service to the Government for the last 44 years during the war and who are on the point of being thrown out by the hundreds It is not a fair proposition for the Government to allege that they are

not getting adequate and competent men and that is why they are bringing in these Britishers by offering them extra inducements

Now, Sir, take the other side of the shield. Is it because these Englishmen have jobs by the thousands in the United Kingdom and that when they return to their country they are going to find a great welcome and that they are going to find jobs with Rs. 450 to start with and all kinds of allowances to boot, is it because of this excuse that these compassionate and heavy grants in case they voluntarily leave or in case they are dismissed are granted to them? Are such jobs waiting them? Are such jobs in plenty in England? Do we not read every day in the newspapers about the acute unemployment in England? Have we not read that after the last war when men with good services were demobbed from the army, they had to sell bootlaces in Trafalgar Square? I say this is a ramp, I say this is a racket played on this country There is something more sinister behind it If it is purely financial, I say this is a serious waste of Indian funds which this country is sorely in need of economically When this country is in such great economic distress, it is not right for the Government to spend money on this scale and for this purpose? If there is on the other hand any political object behind this extravagance, then say so, come forward openly and tell us why you offer these inducements which are so unconscionable in the extreme Why are they called Europeans? Sir, the Secretary of State for India, in this Book has got a foot note which I would like to read to this House. That foot note says, under the heading to be filled by European candidates, there is an asterisk—the terms 'European candidates' and 'Indian candidates' are used in this leaflet to denote candidates of European descent and non-Asiatic domicile, candidates of Indian descent and domicile respectively In other words, candidates of European descent and non-Asiatic domicile are called Europeans But why, how many of these people who call themselves Europeans in this country, including my box-wallah friends in the European Group, how many of them are there from anywhere except Britain?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural): It includes, South Africans, Australians and so on

Mr. Manu Subedar: My friends from the European Group are ashamed to call themselves only Britishers The reason why the term 'European candidate" is used is because they have to bring in occasionally a New Zealander, a South African or an occasional Australian. As is usual they want to throw dust in our eyes by using the word "European" In this we are constantly reminded of our humiliation in the British Empire so far as self-governing Dominions are concerned Regarding this term "European" whenever it is used in this country I would invite my countrymen to go behind it Are not all of them Britishers serving here? Have they got any connection with any other country in Europe? Do they claim that they are from outside Great Britain and that they have got nothing to do with Great Britain? Sir, these gentlemen, when we ask them to correct something, then out of sheer bravado, out of sheer mulish obstinacy, this Government never corrects that I submit that, in their own interest, they should get rid of this term "European" as it is used in common parlance. Because if you do not do so, then the Russians will come and claim a share Are you prepared to give a share to your friends from Moscow of whatever there is under the name of "Europeans"? I therefore suggest to my friends the Britishers that in their own interest they should get rid of this word "European"

Then, Sir, it is said that these allowances will also be given to Indians, to all entrants. If that is so, I speak subject to correction, if the allowances in Appendix II are also given to Indians, if Indians are eligible for these heavy allowances, then I say it is an absolute waste. Why do you want to give this to Indians? An Indian is glad to get Government job in the Indian Civil Service or in the Indian Police Service You need not hold out any prospect of giving him a gift of Rs. 15,000 or Rs. 16,000 rising to £15,000 or two lakhs

[Mr Manu Subedar]

of rupees You do not require any such inducement in order to recruit higher type of Indians with higher qualification in this country Then why offer this inducement to the Indian? Why are you doing this? Why are you wasting Indian funds in this way? May I ask why invent devices like these simply to irritate the people? Why do you offer money which is not necessary and which merely humiliates Indians in the eyes of the world? Is there any country in the world which recruits its civil servants on such fabulous scales of salary? Is there any country in the world which is compelled under a superior statute composed by British Parliament to waste its funds in this manner on its civil servants? Is there any other country in the world which is under the British Empire on which you impose such extravagant expenditure? What is all this talk of handing over to 'our' successors? What is all this tosh about His Majesty's Government's declared intentions with regard to Indian self-government? We look to your deeds, we examine you in every detail, in every act which you do, and I say this particular act of yours redounds no credit whatsoever either to His Majesty's Government or to the Treasury Benches here Sir, I support the motion

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs Muhammadan Urban): Sir, the Honourable Member who spoke last asked a series of questions at the end of his oration,—is there any country in the world that is this, is there any country in the world that is that, and so on and so forth My answer to that, perhaps on behalf of the Honourable the Home Member, is in the negative I ask, Sir, is there any country in the world like ours in which, knowing full well how we have been treated, how promises have been broken, how at every turn we have been pushed to the wall, we still quote Secretaries of State, Governors General and Honourable Members of the Executive Council? Their promises, their pledges, their statements, have only a temporary value Whenever it suits them they insist on their performance, and whenever it does not suit them they come out with a convenient explanation Sir, I ask the Honourable Member who spoke before me, is there any country in the world where its parliament discusses various questions affecting the country in a language which is not the mother tongue of its members?

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural): The answer is in the negative!

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Is there any country in the world like this where we talk law, we talk constitution and we talk many other things of public life, which is a mere transplantation of exotic plants in a soil which is not congenial to it? I have heard many speeches today and each one instead of giving warmth to my blood created a depression in my mind There are still my countrymen who want to know why all this was done What the Honourable the Home Member would not say in so many words I should like to say, and that is this "We are here, dare you kick us out, dare you ask us to leave? And so long as we are here we shall behave as we like, we shall send as many as we like" Forty-eight or fifty per cent. is almost humbug They will make it sixty or forty as it suits them

But if the Honourable the Mover of the adjournment motion and those who supported him really believe in what they want, then there are ways and means which will get us what we want A change from a white bureaucracy to a black one or brown or some other colour is no good They will take the same salaries, they will go about in their motor-cars and have half a dozen red *chuprassies* round about them, and they will cost my country as much as the white members of the bureaucracy have cost us The adjournment motion even if it is passed will lead us nowhere I do not know why we are wasting two hours every day over these adjournment motions Have they a constitutional value in a constitutional House where a majority of the House may be absolutely without any value? It is therefore that I should like to appeal to Honourable Members who happen to be the largest block in the House to see whether they can turn their minds to a solution of this problem from a different angle If they and we

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 1st February, 1946

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

MEMBERS SWORN

Dr Vijayendra Kasturi Ranga Varadaraja Rao, M A., Ph.D , M.L.A. (Government of India· Nominated Official),

Dr P. G Solanki, M L A (Nominated Non-Official),

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Choudhury, M L A (Assam Valley Non-Muhammadan).

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

PROPOSED DESPATCH OF INDIAN TROOPS TO IRAN

Mr. President: There is a short notice question by Prof Ranga, but the Honourable Member is not present If the Government Member wishes, he may answer it

Mr. P. Mason: I shall be very glad to answer it Will some one read it?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state if Government have decided to send or are considering the sending of Indian troops to Iran to help the British Forces to return home?

If so, do Government propose to consult the House before they take any final decision in this matter and actually despatch our troops?

Mr. P. Mason: As regards the first part, no Sir The second part does not arise

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I enquire whether Indian troops who are already out of this country are going to be despatched to Iran, so that the questions of new troops do not arise?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir They will not

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

ATROCITIES BY PIONEER FORCE IN PACHLAICH VILLAGE NEAR CHITTAGONG

Mr. President: I will now take up the adjournment motions The first one is No 49 in the list of adjournment motions It is in the name of Sree Satyapriya Banerjee, who wishes to adjourn the business of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the act of wanton raid by the Military Labour Force called Pioneer Force in a village named Pachlaich about five miles from the town of Chittagong, the plundering and looting of the valuables found in the house of that village, setting fire to the houses by petrol which were reduced to ashes and the consequent destruction of all their contents including stock of foodgrains, cloth, utensils, cattle and poultry and forcible ravishing of young women and the failure of the Government to take necessary action against the miscreants and to pay adequate compensation to the victims.

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India Nominated Official) These Civil Labour Units are rather peculiar units in that they do not consist of trained soldiers but merely of coolies. They are technically subject to military law But—and I think the House will agree with me that it was wise—it was thought undesirable to subject them to the full rigors of military law because they were not trained soldiers, and therefore it was agreed by an administrative order that they should not normally be punished by military law and that if they committed any serious offence, they would be handed over to the civil authorities

[Mr. P. Mason]

This particular incident is at present being investigated The reports I have received show that the stories about the origin of the quarrel are very diverse The stories given by the members of the unit are different from the stories given by the villagers There is a joint civil and military investigation in progress Some 95 members of the unit have been identified by the villagers and are under arrest When it has been decided against how many *prima facie* cases exist, they will be handed over to the civil authorities for trial and there will be no military trial

As soon as the news of the occurrence reached the military authorities, they proceeded to provide relief and it might interest the House to know what relief articles were issued The immediate relief issued was 50 maunds of rice, 10 maunds of *dhall*, 2 maunds of salt, 2 maunds of ghee, 2 maunds of sugar, 40 pounds of chillies, 40 pounds of tea, 600 aluminium dekshis, 600 rezais, 50 I P. tents and a large quantity of materials for building huts So I think the military brought relief to the site as quickly as they could We are having an investigation which will be carried out by the Provincial authorities and I suggest that all that can be done has been done and that it is not a matter of urgent public importance because the case is virtually about to be *sub judice*

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural) May I ask who is going to compensate those poor people who have suffered Is the burden going to be thrown on the culprits who will be found guilty later on, or is the Government going to be responsible to compensate these people

Mr. P. Mason: That question, Sir, is also being investigated Sums of cash were offered immediately to the villagers but the final total to be given is being investigated It would not fall on the persons responsible, because I do not think they have the means to provide what is necessary but I think it will fall on the Government

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General) Sir, I do not see how this case can be considered *sub judice* An administrative enquiry may be going on but that does not mean that the matter is *sub judice* Further, in so far as the question of urgency is concerned, the matter is, I submit, urgent, because unless drastic steps are taken against these excesses today, it would mean an encouragement to others to misbehave themselves and nobody will mind what would happen to them I do not see any reason why this matter should not be taken up Unless Government are prepared to give us a guarantee that such incidents will not be repeated and that they will take all possible steps to see that such incidents do not recur, it is an urgent matter, as I do not see any guarantee forthcoming from the Government

Mr. P. Mason: I do not think the Honourable Member would wish that drastic steps should be taken against these persons without enquiry and without trial We propose to have an enquiry and a trial, which I am sure everyone would wish to be as fair as possible I do not know what other drastic steps can be taken I do not think I can give, no man in the world could give, a guarantee that such incidents will not recur I can certainly say that every possible precaution that the military authorities can take to prevent them will be taken

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, there are certain questions involved in this matter So far as the question relates to relief and compensation, whether what the Government have done is really adequate and commensurate is a matter for the decision of the House That is a question for debate And so far as the question of urgency and other things are concerned, I am afraid I cannot agree with what the Honourable Secretary of the War Department has said The occurrence took place on the 7th January. It was not an incident which took place on the spur of the moment The authorities under whom these coolies had been stationed had had ample notice of the trouble that was brewing but they did not take time by the forelock Therefore, Sir, from all points of view the matter is such that it cannot be avoided being discussed on the floor of the House.

Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee (Chittagong Division Muhammadan Rural) Mr. President, an adjournment motion on the same subject stands in my name Sir, I come from the same place where this incident occurred and the authorities did very little to mitigate the sufferings of the people Had the authorities been a little more careful the occurrence would not have taken place The military police and the military authorities were mere hooligans and the officers of the camp with burning torches and petrol tins marched towards the village and burnt whole village one by one and destroyed more than 62 houses They looted several houses and the damage done would not be less than five to six lakhs of rupees It is a matter of great public importance

Mr. President: What is the number of the Honourable Member's adjournment motion?

An Honourable Member: 60.

Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: The local authorities were not sympathetic except the Divisional Commissioner, Mr Carter The district authority, Mr McIrmine was not at all sympathetic and when I went to him and asked him to take steps in the matter, he did not utter a single word and turned his face away and ran away in his car I asked the authorities to enquire about the unsympathetic attitude of the District Magistrate, who was in charge of the district, who was doing nothing practically to mitigate the sufferings of the people Whenever any occurrence took place he simply turned his face away and did not do anything for the civilians

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) Sir, with regard to the plea put in by the Secretary to the War Department, the object of discussing this motion in this House is not to find out who the culprit is or to punish him The idea is to focus public attention on the matter in this House, so that similar occurrences may not happen in the future For the War Secretary to say that the matter is still under investigation, I am sorry to say, shows an amount of heartlessness on the part of the Government This incident took place on the 7th January and today is the 1st February and my Honourable friend had notice of this adjournment motion almost on the day that the occurrence took place Yet he says that the matter is under investigation I therefore think that this matter should be debated on the floor of the House and we must at least ensure that some steps are being taken so that these occurrences do not recur

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: The question of *sub judice* does not arise

(Interruption by Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal)

Mr. P. Mason: There has been a press statement by the Government of Bengal

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: That did not contradict the other statement

Mr. President: It appears that the matter is under investigation and it is difficult to see how this motion can be admitted It appears from what the War Secretary has said that steps have already been taken in the matter, but the question as to whether the measures are adequate or not is a matter for investigation, and so also the question of compensation Considering all circumstances, I do not think I should give my consent to this adjournment motion to be discussed

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, may I ask if this ruling is going to be a precedent for the future? Because, if these matters which are under investigation are not to be discussed on the floor of the House, although they are not *sub judice*, it becomes a rather difficult problem for us to talk about matters which relate to urgent matters of public importance

Mr. President: So far as adjournment motions are concerned, no ruling in respect of one motion is going to be a precedent for another Each motion will have to be judged on its own merits All I wanted to point out was that, from the point of view of the importance and also urgency of the matter, it seems

[Mr. President]

that steps are being taken by the Government and therefore it should not be a proper subject to discuss here It is possible that one may not be satisfied with the enquiry and one may even be afraid that the enquiry may result in an eyewash But on a consideration of the circumstances of this matter, it does not appear to be such as should be agitated here and now.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: For an illustration, Sir, supposing the Government wants to avoid discussion on these matters, the easiest course will be to start an investigation

Mr. President: If such an investigation is started from that point of view, then we will certainly consider it at that time, and if we are convinced that the investigation is solely for the purpose of avoiding a discussion in the House, I shall not rule the motion out

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I draw your attention to this particular aspect of the matter, Sir? That incident took place on the 7th January There have been statements on it by the leaders of people and the public press Thereafter there was no statement from Government either contradicting or repudiating the allegations made by the public and the press And immediately after this Assembly met there was this adjournment motion In fairness, may we ask the Honourable Secretary when the investigation was started?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member) On a point of order, Sir, is your ruling being discussed?

Mr. President: He accepts the ruling but wants to get it elucidated

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: I wanted to save the Chair from the vagaries of the Executive Supposing you are satisfied later that this investigation was started immediately after the 7th January and not after the adjournment motion was tabled?

Mr. President: There is no use discussing this matter any further We have had it that, the very next day some measures were taken We had it also that a communique was issued by the Government of Bengal, though not by this Government It must take some time for investigation, the incident happened on the 7th January and one cannot expect that on the 8th everything would be all right, and the investigation would be completed I think the matter has been sufficiently discussed It is finished

DISASTER AT DIAMOND HARBOUR JETTY

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion is from Sir Vijaya Ananda, he wants to discuss "the recent disaster at Diamond Harbour and to censure those responsible for their sheer neglect of duty in allowing such huge traffic to pass through without making sure beforehand of the perfect condition of the jetty and the gangway, despite the fact that they know that pilgrims from far and near were coming in large numbers to have a bath in the holy *Gangasagar*"

I should like to know what the Government has to say about this

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport) Sir, this is entirely a provincial matter When this deplorable disaster took place, the Provincial Government took action and appointed the Divisional Commissioner to hold an inquiry That inquiry is in progress at the present moment I repeat that the matter is for the Provincial Government and they have appointed the Divisional Commissioner to see into it

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda (United Provinces Landholders) If the Provincial Government has accepted responsibility for this and have appointed an inquiry committee, I have not much to say, but I would like the Chair to tell us whether these Provincial Governments can always take shelter under the Chair In view of the fact that the streets of Bombay are flowing in blood and so many other disasters have occurred in other provinces, should matters of this kind be disposed of in this way, that these matters are the

concern of Provincial Governments every time, then what are we here for' Section 93 is the present order of the day in the provinces Surely, the least we can do is to register our dissent and tell them that their administration is defective How long is this to go on for and on that account will nothing be taken up here? That excuse has been offered so often that it has lost its charm May I know what your ruling is Sir?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has given me his own hint about the ruling It seems to me that he is *prima facie* satisfied—though not fully—with the appointment of a committee to inquire into this

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: It is acceptable to me provided this will not go on for ever—taking shelter under the plea that this is for the Provincial Government

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: What he wants to do is to alter the constitution!

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: The constitution is made according to their wishes that is the trouble When it suits them, they can always shirk responsibility

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) On a point of information are the jetties and gangways not connected with the railway system?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, nothing to do with the railway system

Mr. President: I believe the subject is in the concurrent list?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The executive responsibility for these matters lies entirely within the provincial field although actually this is connected with inland waterways, the incident happened on land and it is a matter for the control of crowds by the Provincial Government and that position has been accepted by the Provincial Government

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The strength of jetties and gangways is a matter for this Government; this Railway Administration controls the waterways also By whom are the waterways controlled?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The executive control is a provincial subject, even there

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) If as the Honourable Member says the incident happened on land, how could they be drowned in water?

Mr. President: It is on a jetty

Shri Sri Prakasa: The jetty is on water

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, upon the land

Shri Sri Prakasa: I have never seen a jetty on land!

Mr. President: Anyway, considering everything, it is not necessary to admit this now

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PASSPORT TO PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU FOR MALAYA, ETC.

Mr. President: The next motion is No 51 by Diwan Chamman Lall, it is to discuss "the silence of the Government in connection with the application for a passport for Malaya, etc , made by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to the Government of India"

Mr. H. Weightman (Secretary, External Affairs Department) Sir, before notice of this motion had been received, I had already written to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru informing him that it had been necessary to consult the Burma Government in regard to his proposed visit to Burma and the South East Asia Command in regard to his proposed visit to [illegible]

[Mr H Weightman.]

were awaited A few days later their replies having been received, I communicated the result to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and I claim therefore that there has been no silence on the part of the Government

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab Non-Muhammadan) May I ask my Honourable friend if he can enlighten this House in regard to two matters—one, whether they merely consulted the Burma Government or whether they made any recommendation themselves in regard to this application for a passport, and two, what replies were received from the Burma Government?

Mr. H. Weightman: In reply to the first question, Sir, this Government made no recommendations they merely consulted the Burma Government and the South East Asia Command In reply to the second question, the response received from the Burma Government is to the effect that in present circumstances they regret they cannot agree to a visit The reply from the British military administration in Malaya is that they have no objection to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's visit to that country, provided his visit is for the purpose which he has stated, namely the relief of distress

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether in view of the reply received from the Burma Government they did not get into touch with the Burma Government again and insist that this passport should be given to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in view of the large numbers of Indians who are in distress in Burma?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I should like to know something further It is very surprising I have never heard a thing like this before, that a passport is to be granted by this Government only in consultation with the Government of another country The Government's duty is merely to grant a passport It is for the other Government to say "We will not allow this gentleman to enter our country" I do not see the relevancy of this

Mr. H. Weightman: In actual fact a passport is not required for Burma and Malaya at all in his case

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Then why do you talk about passports?

Mr. H. Weightman: Because this is the way in which the motion has been framed and because Mr Jawaharlal Nehru himself asked for his passport to be renewed

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Then the position is even easier That means that it is possible for this Government to enter into negotiations with another Government As it happens the Secretary of State for Burma also happens to be the Secretary of State for India and I do not see why it cannot be managed Is Lord Pethick Lawrence absolutely helpless in this matter?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department) This matter rather impinges on the functions of the Department of Commonwealth Relations too It is true that no passport is required for an Indian proceeding to Burma That is because the civil government has been restored in Burma As regards Malaya, the civil government has not yet been restored Malaya is at present under military administration and they have their own ordinances So, the pre-war position under which Indians had free access to Malaya without a passport does not obtain now We had to consult the Government of Burma Honourable Members would remember that there is a very large Indian population in Burma- There is also a very large number of Indian evacuees who are waiting to go back to Burma This matter is now in an extremely delicate stage and irrespective of the legal position we have decided in the interest not only of our evacuees but also of the Indian population there and also in order to preserve a favourable atmosphere for an amicable settlement of the Indo-Burma question that we should not let any Indians proceed to Burma without the consent of the Government of Burma, particularly as economic conditions in Burma are far from normal. That is the reason why we had to consult the Government of Burma and the British Military Administration of Malaya.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my honourable friend if the position now is that you have given an undertaking to the Burma Government that you will consult them regarding the issue of a passport. May I further ask whether a passport now is not necessary and if it is not necessary whether Pandit Nehru can proceed to Burma without asking the permission of the Government of India in regard to this matter?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Very technically, there is no sort of formal or statutory ban on the entry of an Indian into Burma today even without a passport but as I have explained an understanding which has been arrived at in the interest of our own countrymen in Burma should be observed and I venture to think that it would be a very unfortunate test case if Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru or any Indian were allowed to proceed to Burma without any sort of previous reference to the Government of Burma

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask whether my Honourable friend does not consider that it is in the interest of Burma and of the Indians there and of the Indians in this country that a distinguished and world famous leader like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru should proceed at the earliest possible opportunity? Does he not consider that the millions in India and the Indians in Burma and even the Burmese would welcome the visit of Pandit Nehru at this critical juncture to Burma? Do you know of a better ambassador than Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru?

Shri Sri Prakasa: Mr Jamnadas Mehta!

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: In view of the background I have given, I venture to think that it is entirely a matter of opinion

Diwan Chaman Lall: The sooner you change your opinion the better Is it the opinion of the Honourable Members sitting over there or is it the opinion of **the people concerned—the Burmese**, the Indians in India and the Indians in Burma Whose opinion is it?

Mr. President: Different people may hold different opinions on this point

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions Non-Muhammadan) The Honourable Member said that he did not recommend Pandit Nehru's visit to Burma May I know whether he said anything against his visit to Burma?

Mr. President: I do not think he said that

Mr. H. Weightman: I did not say anything against Pandit Nehru's visit to Burma

Diwan Chaman Lall: The replies received on the floor of the House definitely reveal the facts (a) that it is the responsibility of the Government of India since they entered into this agreement with the Burma Government knowing perfectly well that there was no statutory objection to any Indian visiting Burma and (b) that they did not recommend to the Burma Government that it was in the interest of India as well as of Burma that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru should at this juncture visit Burma They do permit men like Mr Jamnadas Mehta who is one of their servants to go to Burma and Malaya any time he wishes to go but not a great leader like Pandit Nehru whose presence is most urgently needed at this juncture in a country like Burma Therefore the matter being urgent, the matter being of grave public importance affecting the welfare of hundreds of thousands of Indians in Burma, I submit that this adjournment should be accepted

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: On a point of explanation. No agreement has been entered into with the Government of Burma As I explained, conditions are abnormal there We always see that no countryman of ours proceeds without some reference to the Burma Government and without making sure that he will have the minimum facilities there. Then again, shipping and transport facilities also have to be allocated after consulting the Government of Burma. No agreement has been entered into. It is an unofficial understanding

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The adjournment motion refers to the silence on the part of the Government in connection with the passport As has been explained, there has been no silence.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is worse than silence

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There has been no silence particularly after this discussion If the Honourable Member wishes to discuss the merits of the case that is another matter but the adjournment motion refers to the 'silence'

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend the Leader of the House to look at the motion a little more carefully than he has done His colleagues have admitted that they acted merely as a post office I say there was silence in regard to the recommendation that they ought to have made to the Government of Burma and there was silence in regard to the action taken after the reply of the Burma Government has been received

Mr. President: I do not like to be very technical about the wording of the adjournment motion Let us take the substance of it Leaving aside for the moment the technicalities of the language, the position seems to boil down to this There is no statutory provision requiring the passport That is No 1. No 2 is that this Government will not allow any person to visit Burma whom the Burma Government does not permit Is that the position?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: That is an unofficial administrative understanding

Mr. President: Take a hypothetical case Suppose a person under these circumstances wishes to proceed on his own, taking all the risks The question raised in the adjournment motion, as it seems to me, is—"what is the policy of the Government of India?" Will they ban that entry and take legal proceedings? Will they issue any orders preventing the man from going? What is the position?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: We will not ban his entry It will be open to the Government of Burma to seek to enact an ordinance prohibiting his entry. The House will agree that in the present state of our relations with Burma it is most undesirable to provoke any such incidents

Mr. President: Order, Order I am not concerned with the political aspect of the situation I am only concerned as to whether this matter has anything to do with the policy of the Government of India If the Government of India are not going to place any ban on his entry, then, how is it that this becomes a responsibility of the Government of India?

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) May I add one more point, Sir? There is a very acute feeling in the business circles of all communities, which were in very close business contact with Burma before, that the Government of India are not doing everything in their power and that the administrative understanding which they have reached with the Government of Burma is contrary to the interests of the Indian business community We understand, Sir, that great facilities have been given to the representatives of British firms to go there Uniforms were given to them and they were sent as military people in the first instance and now unnecessary difficulties are placed in our way in reaching Burma and resuming the trade It is the administrative understanding which my Honourable friend has referred to that we are entitled to censure and it is not merely the passport of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru What has come out is something which is much more serious and I urge that it is this aspect of it which we are entitled to censure

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I add, Sir, that the responsibility of the Government of India arises by virtue of the understanding that they have entered into with the Burma Government which they were not under any compulsion to enter. They say it is an understanding and not an agreement May I ask when an understanding is not an agreement? The understanding was that they would consult the Burma Government They had no business to enter

into that understanding. Therefore, the responsibility arises since by virtue of that understanding they were forced to consult the Burma Government who have said 'No' to the request for a passport for Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, there is another aspect of it, which, according to me, is very important The adjournment motion, in particular, refers to Malaya etc apart from the question of Burma Now, a number of persons are under incarceration in Malaya The Government of India has been approached by an important Committee headed by Sir Alladi Krishnaswami and they have asked for their leave to proceed to Malaya to defend them during those proceedings

Mr. President: Order, Order That is a different matter How is it relevant to this question?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am coming to that point We are all aware of the fact that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was one of the important persons who took an important part here in the defence of these persons who were arrested and whose trials proceeded If he wants to go to Malaya for that purpose amongst other things, it is the duty of this Government to get him facilities for doing that Therefore, it is but proper that he should be allowed to go to Malaya It is not open to the Government to prevent him from going there, as the adjournment motion says

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, my Honourable friend Mr Manu Subedar has referred to a matter which concerns the Commerce Department and therefore I must intervene in this matter I can assure my Honourable friend and the House that this Government has taken every possible step with a view to see that the business and trade interests of Indians in Burma are brought to their old level as soon as possible, but I hope it will be realised that in a matter like this the Government of India is not the only authority The Government of Burma has a very large say in the matter Right from the beginning of the time when Burma was won back, it had been our constant effort to see that every possible step is taken in that matter The Commonwealth Relations Department as well as the External Department have taken every possible step to see that the trade is resorted and Indians are brought there as soon as possible But I hope, when the net result is discussed, it will be realised that the attitude of the other side is a matter of very great importance I hope my Honourable friends will not forget some of the incidents which happened in the past and some of the incidents which have been reported within recent times Having regard to all these facts, we have not completely a free-hand to press that tomorrow everyone who has been there should go there In this matter, as my Honourable friends know, we have taken every step to be in touch with the trade, business and commercial interests and organisations And whatever the Government of India has done, it has done with previous consultation in this matter I feel that so far as the Government of India is concerned in the matter of establishing the trade relations and putting Indians there, we have taken every possible step

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I add Sir, with your permission, that in spite of all the steps which my Honourable friend has taken, the results are very poor Has he not received literally hundreds of representations from business people who have their assets there and who were not able to go there? I am myself associated with the company which has a factory there We do not know what has happened to the factory We are not permitted to go there This Government has entirely failed to do its duty and all that results from the fact that this Government is a spineless Government They have failed to send out people to Burma until the Government of Burma is willing to receive them This Government has entirely failed in the matter of the resumption of trade relations with Burma and I feel that we ought to be permitted to censure this Government

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural) On a point of order, Sir May I draw your attention to Rule 48 of the Manual of Business and Procedure in which it is clearly said that

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

not more than one matter can be discussed on a motion of adjournment? In the present case, I think everybody has made his own speech

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: With your permission, Sir, I will just say one word You seem to be in doubt about the responsibility of the Government of India in so far as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's desire to go to Burma is concerned I have not heard anything which goes to suggest that it is not their, but somebody else s responsibility that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru cannot go to Burma They have not given us any details of the reply that they had received from the Burma Government, to begin with Further, why did they not protest against the unwillingness of the Burma Government not to receive Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who, as my Honourable friend has said, is about the best ambassador that we can think of to go out from India and who can bring about better relations even between the Burmans and the Indians Everyone knows that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has been to Burma before, he has got friends there and he is respected there I really do not know what objection the Burma Government can possibly have to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru going there If there is any objection at all, it is the objection of the Department which is now telling us that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru cannot go there because they have agreed that he should not go there

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Nominated Non-Official) Is it in accordance with the Standing Orders, Sir, that a debate on this motion should take place at quarter to 12 o'clock?

Mr. President: I wanted to be clear on the point and I quite agree that it has gone into a sort of debate and that is just the reason why I do not want to admit this adjournment motion All that could be said has been said and so I rule this motion out of order

AVOIDING OF TAKING IMPORTANT DECISIONS DURING ASSEMBLY SESSION

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion stands in the name of Mr Ananthasayanam Ayyangar It runs thus "the persistent conduct of the Government of India in deliberately putting off taking decisions on important matters when the Assembly is in Session with a view to avoid a discussion on it in the Assembly, as for instance—

(a) the granting of dearness or war allowances to employees drawing a salary of Rs 1 000 and more by the Government of India,

(b) further recruitment of Britishers for the I C S and India Police Force, both of which were taken immediately after the closure of the last session of the Assembly, and

(c) many other cases of similar importance"

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I will give more, I have got a list of cases with me

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may have got a list but the point of order raised by Mr Chapman-Mortimer comes in his way Part (b) of this motion has already been discussed on a separate adjournment motion Part (c) is vague enough to be allowed as a definite matter of public importance

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is not the point or the substance of items (a), (b) and (c) that I intend discussing for which I intend to censure the Government I have given these instances to show that they are very important What is being done is to grant dearness allowance to persons in railway administration for persons who draw a salary of more than Rs 1.000 and this comes to about four to five crores It may be a much larger amount 110 lakhs in one instance, 88 lakhs in another Yesterday while I was attending the Railway Standing Finance Committee, I went through the Budget from A to Z If I am incorrect my Honourable friend will correct me later on It comes to four to five crores For a poor country like India it is a sufficiently large amount That is what I meant Now, Sir, the last Budget session closed about 2nd April There was hush-hush in the Assembly There

were rumours going on that they were going to give dearness allowance or war allowance to persons drawing salary over Rs 1,000 The I C S people were clamouring for such war allowance. Dearness allowance was being granted to people drawing lesser salary Over the head of the Assembly, the Government granted this war allowance to people drawing over Rs 1,000 What was the hurry for this? It has become an accomplished fact, and perhaps they will come to the Assembly with a Supplementary Demand It is such a thing that I want to avoid in future The subject matter contained in item (b) was discussed yesterday and so I do not wish to pursue that I will confine myself only to item (a) My point is the Assembly was not taken into confidence We have got a right to be consulted In the case of the Finance Bill we the elected Members join together and throw it out, but you bring a certified Bill My point is place it before the House, and take any action later on, if you do not agree with the verdict of the Assembly

Mr. President: The matter is vague, 'deliberately putting off taking decisions' It would have been better had the Honourable Member confined himself to one specific matter

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I have already said that I will be satisfied with item (a) This is not enough for an adjournment motion It is sufficiently clear for the Assembly to give its verdict upon

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member) In fact, I am not responsible for the decision taken in regard to clause (a) That was a matter for the Finance Department My objection is, this is not, as required by the Rules, a definite matter It is an assumption or an insinuation, made by these three Honourable Members No doubt based on various matters, but there again the basis is quite indefinite The assumption or insinuation is based on "many cases," of which only two have been actually specified, As regards the point that was discussed yesterday, namely further recruitment of Britishers for the I C S and the Indian Police force

Mr. President: I may just tell the Honourable Member that he may argue on the assumption that the adjournment motion is limited only t item (a), not to (b) and (c)

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I drop items (b) and (c) and confine myself only to (a)

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member) The final decision on the grant of dearness allowance was not taken until the last few days of the last Budget session The matter was in fact brought before the Standing Finance Committee of this House and discussed there In the light of those discussions, instructions were issued

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It ought to have been brought before the Assembly, while the Assembly was in session As a matter of fact questions were raised in the Assembly, on the floor of the House This is an important matter taking away a large portion of the revenues of the country and appropriating it for the grant of war allowance to highly paid officers It is not enough if it was brought before the Standing Finance Committee

Mr. President: Does not the Standing Finance Committee represent the Legislature?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is only a sub-committee of this Legislature Its decisions are neither binding on the Government nor on this House The Standing Finance Committee gives some advice and it is reported to the House by the Government

Mr. President: The matter does not seem to be urgent The Honourable Member will have an opportunity of discussing this subject at the budget time

Mr. President: The next item, No 58, relates to distribution of food and it is covered by the Food Debate which we are having now

INADEQUATE ACCOMMODATION FOR ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

Mr. President: The next item relates to "the great hardship caused to the elected Members of this Assembly by the inadequacy of the provision made by the Government for their housing accommodation and the unsatisfactory way in which the balloting of even the available accommodation has been carried out, and the necessity of making better arrangements immediately"

Has the Government Member got to say anything on this motion?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Well, Sir, this is a matter of great interest to Honourable Members of this Assembly, but I doubt whether it is a matter of sufficient public importance to adjourn the business of the House Is it a matter of such vital importance to the country, as, for instance, the food debate? May I also suggest that while this is no doubt a very important matter to the Members concerned, it is a fit subject to be dealt with by the House Committee, which I understand is going to be appointed any moment, and I suggest it should have consideration on that

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: One word of explanation It is of urgent public importance in the sense that if I have no house in Delhi, I will stay away in Madras and my constituency will suffer A number of my friends are without houses, and in the case of some houses, two of us are sharing in each house

Mr. President: Let us not take up any more of the time of the House over this motion I think the matter can be dealt with in the House Committee

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INDIA'S QUOTA OF REPARATIONS FROM GERMANY AND JAPAN

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion relates to "the quantum of reparations legitimately due from Germany and Japan to India and the failure of the Government of India to get the proper quota by consenting to a very low figure out of all proportion to the sacrifices"

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not at all agree that the Government of India has not done everything possible In fact the Government of India has taken every possible step to bring to the notice of the Reparations conference the desirability of getting proper share in the reparations Our representatives at the Conference have strongly put up our case for India and a number of things put up by them have been accepted by the conference So far as the Japanese reparations are concerned, they are still premature The stage has not yet reached But we are taking steps to bring to the notice of the conference or the authorities that are discussing this matter as regards the position of India *vis-a-vis* Japan in the matter of reparations

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I do not want to argue the adjournment motion at this stage A sum of 13,000 million rupees is the contribution of India to the war A large portion of it has been spent on the western theatre They are taking only 1,100 million rupees as the basis. It is wrong The delegation did not take any non-officials Two per cent and 2 9 per cent are very low I will show that whatever my Honourable friend has done or his Government has done—he will of course justify all that—is absolutely inadequate and we have been neglected, the proper men have not been sent and we had no proper voice before that Assembly Therefore the Government of India deserve censure in this matter

12 NOON.

Mr. President: I think this is a matter of sufficient importance and I would admit this motion Is there any objection to its admission?

(No objection taken)

It will be taken up at 4 o'clock today

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, will it be very difficult to hold this motion over till Monday next? The food debate is very important and a lot of time has already been taken up today over these motions So can we have the food debate today and adjourn this motion till Monday?

Mr. President: If the Honourable the Leader of the House agrees and all sides of the House agree, I have no objection.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, today we are dealing with the food debate which is a matter of extreme importance. I would not raise any objection to an adjournment but, if I may say so, I think it is a very bad precedent. We have already postponed adjournment motions,—once I think for the convenience of Members opposite and on another occasion for general convenience Adjournment motions are moved because they deal with matters of such urgent importance that the House must adjourn all other business for the purpose of a particular discussion, and I think it is a bad precedent to postpone adjournment motions for anything other than the most important reasons Subject to these remarks I have no objection to its standing over till Monday

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I suggest that Monday being a non-official day it should be taken up on Tuesday

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, I submit that on Monday there is a party to the Parliamentary Delegation from the Parliamentary Association of which you are the President, and on Tuesday there is a party in honour of yourself I suggest that we should not deprive ourselves of these pleasant functions to discuss the adjournment motion here I respectfully submit, therefore, that if it is to be taken up it may be taken up today

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I agree that these are more important than even an adjournment motion So it may stand over even till Wednesday.

Mr. President: I certainly agree with the Honourable the Leader of the House that adjournment motions being concerned with urgent matters, we should not have the practice of postponing them for one reason or other But, as pointed out by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir the other day, we are in exceptional circumstances A large number of motions have accumulated and I think, without prejudice to the ruling which I will give after considering the point as regards admissibility of a motion even though the Member is not present, we have relaxed the rule for the time being We have also followed the practice of postponement This practice may be restricted only to those motions which have now accumulated before the House Later on, certainly, we cannot have the practice of postponing adjournment motions As regards the other point about the date on which the motion should be taken up, I think the President's convenience or the party in his honour is absolutely no consideration for postponement He is here to serve the House and the parties may take care of themselves in his absence also But if the House so desires, I have no objection to postponing the adjournment motion even till Wednesday

Several Honourable Members: Wednesday is a holiday, have it on Thursday

Diwan Chaman Lall: What will happen to the other adjournment motions?

Mr. President: We will take them up on Thursday

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, may I suggest that the Leader of the House should give us another day for the food debate and we can have the adjournment motion today?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That, Sir, I regret to say, is not possible

Mr. President: So that means that we have to take it over to Thursday I will remind Honourable Members that on Tuesday, we will have the question hour for the first time and the election of Deputy President also will take some time So there will be only a very short time left for the other debates

Diwan Chaman Lall: What I want to know, Sir, is what is going to happen to the accumulated adjournment motions May I take it that on Monday and Tuesday you will deal with the other adjournment motions?

Mr. President: I will deal with them on the next day the Assembly meets, just as we have been doing now I should not like to depart from the precedent set up by the Chair since this session began

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, in order to meet the convenience of the House, I think it will be possible to take this adjournment motion this afternoon and to find half a day for the food debate next week

Mr. President: So the motion will be taken up at 4 o'clock today

Mr. M. R. Masani (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban) May I ask what day next week the Honourable Member has in mind?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have in mind Tuesday but I should like to look at the programme I will examine the position and make a suggestion to the House later

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Monday, the 28th January, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for Commonwealth Relations Department, twelve nominations were received Subsequently two candidates withdrew their candidature As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies I declare the following members to be duly elected to the Committee for the unexpired portion of the current financial year and the whole of the next financial year 1946-47 (1) Mr R C Morris, (2) Sir Hassan Suhrawardy, (3) Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, (4) Raja Sir Saiyid Ahmad Ali Khan Alvi, (5) Lt -Col Dr J C Chatterjee (6) Babu Ram Narayan Singh, (7) Mr Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay, (8) Sri S T Aditvan, (9) Seth Govind Das, and (10) Maulana Zafar Ali Khan

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS, AUDIT REPORTS, ETC.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member) Sir, I lay on the table a copy* of each of the following papers:

1 Central Government Appropriation Accounts (Civil) 1943-44 and Audit Report 1945,

2 Commercial Appendix to the Appropriation Accounts (Civil) 1943-44 and Audit Report 1945,

3 Finance Accounts 1943-44 and Audit Report 1945,

4 Appropriation Accounts (Railways) 1943-44—Parts I & II,

5 Capital Statements, Balance Sheets and Profit and Loss Accounts of State Railways including the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account of Tatanagar Workshops, 1943-44,

6 Balance Sheets of Railway Collieries and statements of all-in Cost of coal etc , for 1943-44,

7 Railway Audit Report 1945,

8 Appropriation Accounts (Defence Services) 1943-44,

9 Commercial Appendix to Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services for the year 1943-44,

10 Audit Report, Defence Services 1945, and

11 Appropriation Accounts (Posts and Telegraphs) 1943-44 and the Audit Report 1944

*Not printed in these Debates, but copies have been placed in the Library of the House.—*Ed. of D.*

Mr. President: The House will now resume discussion on the motion regarding the food position.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadan). Sir, the other day when the House began to discuss the adjournment motion which was tabled for the day, I was referring to Government control over articles of food and other necessaries of life and ban on the movement of foodgrains from one place to another. Sir, the demand of the whole country is that this control and the ban must go at once in all its form and shape. In free countries where the Government and the people are one and the same thing, this system might be working well, but here in India the question is quite different. The people and the Government are two different things, one having very little to do with the other. In free countries Government servants have got real sympathies for the people and they are out only to serve them, but here in this country the Government servants are only out to suppress the people and also to loot them. This control has done absolutely no good to the people in general, it has of course strengthened the control of the Government over the people and also it has improved the bribe taking powers of Government officials who were already corrupt from top to bottom. Sir, this Government instead of being a pleasure to the people have all along been a terror to them, and since the moment this control and ban have been introduced, this Government has been a torture to the people. When we look at the memorandum supplied by the Government, we find it mentioned that relaxation of control will be gradual. When it was introduced it was done at once, the introduction was not gradual. Then how is it that its removal is proposed to be gradual? The Government is very fond of the words 'gradual' and 'progressive'. The demand of the country is that this should go at once. The control was intended to facilitate the availability of food to every individual in all parts of the country, but I think that instead of helping the people it has rather augmented their sufferings. Everybody knows that all the places are not self-sufficient, whereas one district may be surplus, others are deficit. Even in one district, it is generally found that one part of it produces one thing while the other parts produce something quite different, but by mutual exchange, and according to the ordinary rule of demand and supply, the mutual needs of the people are satisfied. But the ban which has been imposed by Government has prohibited the movement of supplies from one place to another and it has greatly augmented the sufferings of people. For instance, Chota Nagpur Division though rich in forest produce and minerals, is a deficit area so far as food production goes, and especially this year, when monsoon was unfavourable, paddy crop has altogether failed and there is great anxiety as to how to procure food and from where. Similar is the case with regard to the Saran district, though it is a very important district of my province—this is the district from which our great leader Rajen Babu comes—it is a deficit district and it has always received its supply from Champaran district. Every week thousands of cart load of rice and paddy used to go to the Saran district, but now this ban has prohibited this. When people need such vital things as food, there is no dearth of merchants. They try to get things from where they are available and things are moving, but in a very small quantity and at a very great cost. Wherever things are available, merchants go and pay something to the police and in this way they take things from those places. Here and there police checks on the way, but they are paid something and things move on; in this way things are moving from one place to another, but at a very high cost. The control was intended to check high prices, but on the contrary it has only increased the prices. All the bribes which are paid to the police are paid not out of the pockets of the merchants, but they are charged to the price of the articles. In this way one of the objects of this Control, I mean the checking of prices, has been frustrated; instead of the prices going down, they have gone up.

So far as corruption goes, as I have already said, it is rampant all over the country. The Police charge even ordinary people for carrying anything from

[Babu Ram Narayan Singh]

one place to another. I refer to one place in Champaran Thana, namely Dhanha, this is a very poor Thana of the district It is on the border of Gorakhpur district in the United Provinces on the other side of Gandak. People from the Thana go to the other parts of the district for collecting paddy and other things and instead of getting their wages in cash they get paddy Something they eat and something they save and after the harvest is over the labourers used to take the saving of paddy from those parts of the district to their homes in Dhanaha thana A little of the way falls in the Gorakhpur district On the pretext that these things are being taken away to other districts, the police take bribe even from them Look at the meanness of the Police Department Even the labourers have to pay a bribe to the police in order to remove their little savings from other parts of the Champaran district to a thana in the same district In this way, Sir, this control is creating havoc among the people everywhere in the country Not only this, every shopkeeper who wanted to deal in articles of control has to take a license But a license is not to be granted to anybody unless the applicant has fully and financially satisfied the licensing authorities and the licensing authorities will release something for the Government and something for themselves

Not only this, the license holders have to make regular payments to the police and to the controlling authority In my district, rather in the subdivision of Chatra only recently cloth rationing has been introduced First cloth coupons were distributed among the people For every coupon every family has had to pay at least four annas to the distributing authorities In this way, so far as that area is concerned, I was told that about Rs 1,000 was collected from the people and Rs 150 was deposited in the Treasury by way of donation to the Red Cross Fund and the rest was utilised by the distributing authorities themselves Not only this, in my area, I have found that people who purchased anything from the controlled shop also had to pay something to the police and to the shopkeepers so that they may satisfy the higher authority In one place I was reliably informed that poor people who used to come to the kerosene oil shops and who were allowed one anna kerosene oil, had to pay four annas extra in addition to what he had to pay for the oil Of course this was to go to the licensing authorities, or to the Sub divisional Officer, or to some other person In this way, owing to this control, the corruption which was already abominable in this country, is getting on more and more so Not only that, this control is the father of this black market There would have been no black market had there been no control of this kind Therefore I voice the feelings of the people all over the country that this control must go and that at once in all its forms and all its shapes

If the control is to be relaxed gradually as the memorandum has said, so far as the inter-district ban is concerned, this must go at once I have already said Chota Nagpur has got a lot of minerals A lot of labourers go from outside and the supply from the Government and other sources are not quite enough Unless this ban is removed, it is difficult for them to get their food So I think the Central Government will advise the Provincial Government of Bihar to remove the inter-district ban at once because without the removal of this ban I think the people in my province and especially in my constituency of Chota Nagpur will suffer very much

This memorandum which has been supplied to each of us by the Government mentions their food policy and their agricultural policy with which there can be no disagreement But so far as achievement goes, I say it is all concoction Rather I say it is a downright lie They say much has been done with regard to the supply of water by the construction of wells, tanks, and canals Sir, I wonder How can they have the hardihood to say all these things? I know how have done nothing. I challenge them to say whether they have done anything in any part of the country All the achievements are on paper and they must have been concocted in the Government of India office here We are

Congress workers We go from district to district and province to province. We see nothing of this kind They say they have done much They ought to have been ashamed to say that they have done all that. They have done much for the conservation of the soil, of water and the proper use of land Sir, if they say that by the use of atomic energy they have conserved and controlled water in the sky, I may be led to believe that But if they say they have done something like this on the surface of the earth I am not going to believe it, and I think no Member in the House can believe them The figure quoted somewhere that in their endeavour with regard to Grow More Food Campaign they have increased the paddy acreage by 7 million acres, is, I say, a downright lie. It is not an ordinary thing to convert ordinary land into paddy fields I am a cultivator myself I know the difficulty of converting land into paddy fields and they say it is through their endeavour that lands have been converted to such an extent as 7 million acres?

Now they go further They say they have done much with regard to the milk supply of the country What have they done? I do not think they have improved the milk supply of the country in any way or form Sir, this session is sufficiently long I shall put certain questions to the Government and I think it will be the demand of the House according to those questions to get the figures from the Provinces and after their receipt they may be supplied to the House here

These are the questions What is the number of wells, tanks, dams and canals in each province and in the Centrally administered areas? And what are the names of the places where these constructions have been made and at what cost? I think they should honestly enquire about these things from the Provinces The next question is what are the steps taken and where to conserve water and to make the proper use of land? The Government should give figures which should tally with the facts on the spot in the provinces They should not concoct figures in order to justify the existence of the Food Department They have supplied they say a lot of manure to the people This is also a downright lie My question on this point is what amount of manure, of what kind and at what cost and where, has been supplied to the people This ought to be inquired into and the information supplied to the House. What are the steps that Government have taken to improve the milk supply of the country? These are the questions which I wish to ask The Government have mentioned their achievements but they ought to make enquiries from the Provinces, who in their turn will make enquiries from their district officers, and the results of the enquiry should be reported to the House here

So far as Government's achievements go, they have done nothing and I think they ought to do something in order to justify their existence

There is a suggestion that articles of food ought to be imported from foreign countries. I agree with this At the present time this is the only remedy but, at the same time, there is a point which has to be considered Supposing the imported articles of food come into the market, the people have got no money to buy them The people are so very poor So the Government must supply the people with work in every part of the country I think that spinning is a kind of work which can be introduced in every home and in a very short time. Nobody should think that because I am a Congress worker I am making propaganda for *charkha* in this House In 1858 there was a great famine and this Government did something like this I was very young at that time

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural): Were you living in 1858?

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Excuse me, I was wrong there I beg your pardon I meant 1958 Sambat

Shri Sri Prakasa: The difference between the Christian year and the Sambat is 57 years.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: In the Sambat year 1953

Mr. President: Let the Honourable Member be not particular about the date now

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: In the Sambat year 1953 there was a great famine all over the country, especially in my area and this Government introduced the *charkha* in every home I think this can be done even now This may be a short term remedy but at the same time it is one which will help the people in a permanent way The Government is thinking of ways and means how to save the people from the vagaries of nature, which are the causes of the people's sufferings But I think the Government ought to do something with regard to the production of food in a permanent way Irrigation is one of the things which will help the people to a great extent If the Government can make arrangements so that all the cultivable land can be irrigated in proper time, I think that ought to help very much both the cultivators and consumers everywhere But in this matter I know the Government of Bihar is very lazy. I saw one agricultural district officer and I also heard from other government officials They have got money to lend to the people for agricultural purposes but the rule is a curious one Unless the people spend an equal amount from their own pocket they could not get any help from Government for agricultural purposes This is an absurd rule The people are so very poor that they cannot spend anything from their own pocket If the Government is going to help the cultivators by irrigation, all the cost of the irrigation ought to be paid by the Government At the same time, manure is also one of the things which ought to be attended to

Mr. President: May I know what time the Honourable Member is likely to take?

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: I will take as much time as I like as

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has already had sufficient time Today the House is adjourning at 12-45, not at 1-15 as usual, it being Friday There are ten minutes more If the Honourable Member finishes early other Honourable Members may continue the debate

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Sir, I shall finish very soon The animal power of the country has greatly deteriorated The Government has to take steps in this matter, so that the animal power of the country on which cultivation depends is improved

With these words I again say that the Government ought to do something with regard to the long term remedies for the improvement of agriculture, so that the people may get enough food everywhere and all the time to come With these words I support the amendment of my Honourable friend, Mr M R Masani

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I rise to support the motion so ably moved by my Honourable friend from Bombay, Mr Masani I must congratulate him wholeheartedly on the excellent speech which he delivered two days ago and I can safely say that there is no one in my Province among non-officials who can command such a mastery of the subject of the food problem as he does

Sir, it is admitted on all sides of the House, including the Government, that the food situation in the country today is very serious Speaking of my own constituency, the southern division of the Bombay Province which I have the honour to represent in this House I say that the position is going from bad to worse In most of the villages of the three districts of my constituency, namely Bijapur Belgaum and Dharwar the Government have declared many villages as scarcity areas The position of the Karnatak is very bad indeed, as you all know, and I am sure the Government is fully aware of conditions there There was a famine there not long ago of the worst magnitude just like the Bengal famine The position today in my constituency is, that people are

selling away their cattle and in the North Kanara district people are not able to get much grain except rice, while today in Dharwar city ration has been reduced considerably Compared to this, the price of *jowari* has been increased in Dharwar by 12½ per cent In rural areas we find difficulties to obtain ration permits Even in districts where there is scarcity, attempts are being made by officials to collect corn on levy system This should be stopped forthwith. In other parts too the position is very grave I was reading two days ago in the *Hindustan Times* about a news, and I should like to tell you that in some parts of the districts in India, people are living on animal carcases I shall read just threee lines

"According to reports received from the districts of Chittorgarh, Bhilwara, Rajnagar and Kuakhera, there is great scarcity of food grains there The poor have to go without food for days together In a state of desperation, many in the Kuakhera division are reported to have fed themselves on animal carcases"

I am afraid the position is disgraceful and the earlier the situation is remedied the better it will be for the country I should like to bring to the notice of the House the position in the province of Bombay, which was briefly summed up in a resolution passed by the Executive Committee of the People's Provincial Food Council, Bombay, on the 21st December 1945 I may say that this Council was inaugurated about two years ago when my friend, Mr Minoo Masani, was Mayor of Bombay, and it consists of able and well-known men all over the province and its recommendations are being respected by the Government of Bombay The resolution runs

"The Committee takes the view that if assurances of more adequate imports of food-grains into the Province are not immediately forthcoming and if such imports do not materialise soon, the Province of Bombay will be faced with a grave shortage of foodgrains which will entail considerable hardship and even starvation on the poorer sections of the population In particular, such a situation will endanger the maintenance of the present level of the ration which is, in the Council's opinion, inadequate from the point of view of accepted standards of nutrition"

As Mr Masani said the other day, we need not blame the Government or the people for this sorry state of affairs As far as the Bombay Government is concerned, I know they are doing their best and I know the Bombay Government leads the Governments of other provinces in this respect—I mean, in the matter of administration of food policy in this country—and I may also say that the Collector of Bijapur is doing his very best in the district, but we must examine the causes of this trouble

To sum up briefly, I would say the causes are two, namely, lack of imports, and lack of co-operation between the surplus provinces and the other provinces. The Honourable Food Secretary reading his report the other day says that the provinces in which there is scope for improvement in the system of procurement are the Punjab, Sind, United Provinces and Bihar I may say, Sir, that these are the guilty provinces These are the provinces which should come to the help of the deficit areas In our province there is the levy system whereas in the surplus provinces I have mentioned, there is no levy system To my mind, I think the Government should have a levy system in these provinces as well The other day I was told by an official in Bombay that these provinces do not have a levy system because they believe that troops will have to be called out to collect their quota I fail to understand how, when in our province of Bombay, where we have Mahrattas who are considered to be martial races and warriors, and Deccani Mussalmans among the peasents this levy is being collected in an arbitrary manner, without the least punitive measures being enforced I fail to understand how the Government in those provinces cannot enforce the levy system To my mind this is nothing but a lame excuse In the province of Bombay, levy collections have amounted to the extent of 84·7 per cent in 1944-45 This was done voluntarily, without any punitive measures being adopted

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): Question That was not so You are not fully aware of what is being done in the muffassil.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: The muffassil must be worse, I agree, Sir, I support the point brought forward the other day by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir on the question of cloth barter We in Bombay are supplying cloth to these surplus provinces and if they are not going to come to a satisfactory arrangement with us.... . ...

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may finish the sentence if he likes, but there is already a break, and we might adjourn now Today being Friday, the House will adjourn now and meet again at a quarter past two But before we adjourn formally I have to make an announcement

NOMINATION OF PANEL OF CHAIRMEN

Mr. President: I have to inform the House that under sub-rule (1) of rule 3 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I nominate Mr K C Neogy, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang and Mr P J Griffiths on the Panel of Chairmen for the current session

The House will now re-assemble at 2-15 P M

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter Past Two of the Clock

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE *RE* BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon to-day, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Committee to examine the proposals of the Bretton Woods Conference nine nominations were received As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected to the Committee —(1) The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands, (2) Mr Geoffrey W Tyson, (3) Sjt N V. Gadgil, (4) Mr. K C Neogy, (5) Mr Manu Subedar, (6) Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, (7) Dr B K Madan, (8) Dr Sir Ziauddin Ahmad, and (9) Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE *RE* ROAD-RAIL CO-ORDINATION SCHEME

Mr. President: I have also to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon to-day, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Committee to examine the Road-Rail Co-ordination Scheme, seven nominations were received. As the number or candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected to the Committee (1) The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall, (2) Mr H G. Stokes, (3) Sri Bhagirathi Mahapatra, (4) Mr. P B. Gole, (5) Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, (6) Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, and (7) Nawab Siddique Ali Khan

MOTION *RE* FOOD SITUATION—*contd*

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Before we dispersed this morning, I was speaking about a point raised by Sir Cowasjee Jehangir the other day in regard to cloth barter. I said that if we are not going to get help from the surplus provinces we should be allowed to have barter with Burma in the matter of rice from where we used to import 4 lakhs tons a year for Bombay out of 15 lakhs tons total import per year We are even prepared to go further and barter not only with Burma but if required with Indo-China and Thailand but at the same time we are not going to be selfish We are prepared to come in the common pool if the surplus provinces are prepared to co-operate with us

I now refer to the question of imports. It was in August 1944 that Sir Henry French who is considered to be a high official of the U.K. Food Ministry came to India It was then hoped that the import conditions will improve as it was realised that the position of the country was grave We have heard nothing further about it after he left Then very recently on the 9th November 1945 the Food Member in an interview to the Press declared 'I have myself taken advantage of Lord Louis Mountbatten's presence in Delhi and discussed this matter and I am confident he will render every assistance' What is the result? We are, where we were These persons come and go and the position instead of improving goes from bad to worse.

I should like to refer to the question of the imports of butter and milk products. I have just received a telegram from my constituency and I should like to read it to the House.

"Indian butter Rs 2/4 per lb. A firm offers Australian butter landed cost Rs 1/4 Import banned It is deplorable"

Here we are offered butter at the rat of Rs. 1/4/- landed in Bombay compared to Rs. 2/4/- of Indian butter but unfortunately we cannot import it. I hope something will be done in the matter of imports of butter and milk products as early as possible.

I should now like to refer to the question of sending a delegation to Washington I have read in the Press that it is proposed to send an official delegation Well, unless it is the idea of Government to send an official delegation on a holiday trip, which usually these delegations are intended to be, I would respectfully suggest that if you really want to have something done then it will be advisable to send a non-official delegation We know the permanent Food Secretary of the Government of India, Sir Robert Hutchings went to Washington and we are well aware that he is coming back empty-handed. Why do you want to send an official delegation? Why not keep the officials of the Food Department to feed us in India instead of their being sent there to feed themselves I would respectfully suggest that it is better to send men who command the confidence of the country, who are experts in this problem and who can handle the situation in a better way than it would be done otherwise. If I may be permitted to suggest names, I would suggest that the non-official delegation should consist of five members and I have in mind the names of Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, Sir Manilal Nanavati who was a Member of the Woodhead Famine Commission, Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, and of course I cannot exclude my friend Mr. Mmoo Masani. I hope that my suggestions will be favourably considered and let us hope that the day is not distant when we will have a better situation in the matter of food supply. Sir, I have done

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan (Madras City. Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I rise to say a few words in support of my Honourable friend Mr Masani's amendment and the addition made by my Honourable friend from Andhra I am not going to give you any statistics I think we have had enough statistics given to us in this House both by the Honourable Government Secretary for Food and also by some of the other Honourable Members but I want to say a few words about the food situation generally and particularly with regard to the food situation in the South India where I come from I want to put it from the point of view of a woman. I want to put it from the point of view of a human being who feels for the distress prevailing in the country, perhaps more than some of the other Honourable Members of this House I know what Sir S V Ramamurti. the Adviser to the Governor of Madras said about the serious food situation in the South I should like to quote what he said the other day when he met the Food Council in the Madras Province: "If the Government of India and His Majesty's Government take an immediate decision and keep to it with firmness and get it implemented with expedition I have no doubt famine in India can be avoided and I look forward with confidence to their doing so."

Well, Sir S. V. Ramamurti is a Government servant. I feel that if he had not been a Government servant he would have put this sentence a little differently. He would have said: If they do not take an immediate decision, we

[Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan.]

will be faced with famine. With regard to South India I can say with the Honourable Members from Bombay that the rationing there has been very well done. The Government did what it could But at present both our monsoons in the south, the south-west monsoon in Malabar on which we depend for all the foodstuffs in the Malabar and the north east monsoon by which the crops of the east-coast of Madras are watered, have failed and today we are facing a very serious situation all over south India.

With regard to Madras city, Tamilnad and Andhra, some of the Honourable Members have spoken already and we know that Sir S. V. Ramamurti himself has mentioned these places in his report But with regard to the west coast, Malabar, not many people have spoken and I would like to say a few words about the situation there Rationing in Malabar has been far below what the people should get In Madras we have had one lb. of rice given per person per day, while in Malabar where the rationing has been district-wide—(I believe that is the only place where the whole district has been rationed and no village have been left out of this rationing)—we get only 10 to 12 ounces of rice per head per day, and the people of Malabar are entirely rice-eating people Very often they have no other food to eat Their staple food consists of rice and they are not getting enough of it to live on We speak very grandly about the calories and about the nutritious value of food and so on, but I would like to know whether with all the experts we have in India and the highly paid officials do we go into the matter properly and see whether the people are actually getting the kind of food that they should get, the kind of food that has nutritious value

With regard to the transport conveniences, even in the districts, my Honourable friend to my left has already spoken how difficult they have been, especially in the matter of taking rice and other foodstuffs from one district to another. The same difficulty has been felt in Malabar and they have had difficulties with regard to taking rice and other foodstuffs from one village to another They were prohibited from doing that There have been many such cases but I would like to tell you of one case As you know, in Malabar the villages are rather different from the villages of other parts of India. The houses are situated far from each other and often it happens that the rationing shop is about 3 or 4 miles away from their places of residence and very often the day labourers have to go to these shops after their work is over at about 6 or 7 o clock in the evening and then they find the shop closed As it happened, there was one old woman living in one village and she had a daughter who was living in another village which was about 4 miles away. The daughter was an expectant mother and she could not get rice for two or three days So, the old woman was taking her own ration to the daughter in the other village when she was caught by the police and taken to the court The court gave her a few days' imprisonment This is the sort of thing that is happening I can assure you and the Government Members that if that old woman had any cash with her and if she had paid that cash to the man who had arrested her, she could have got off and could have taken the rice to her daughter This is the sort of thing that is happening in the villages

Now, according to Sir S V Ramamurti, as I said, the rationing is going to be cut more than it had been cut before If that happens, then we may not have perhaps exactly the famine conditions but we will certainly have many more diseases and many more epidemics in places like Malabar where people are already under-fed and under-nourished

It was said in a communique by the Government of Madras last year that Malabar is not in need of so much grain as they have tapioca and jack-fruit. This shows how these reports are written and how little they know of the real situation Tapioca is not a thing that you can live on and jack-fruit we have only for two or three months in Malabar and that, too, is not food. It is a thing which is cooked like curry and is eaten with rice. You cannot live on jack-fruit alone. If we did, then there will be more deaths from cholera than there are already. According to Government statistics, the number of deaths was 30,000 but many more people actually died. I think the number was well

over 50,000 How can you expect these poor people to resist these epidemics when they have not enough to eat? We have had famine in this country in 1890 and from the records which exist today we know that the ration then was 1½ lbs of rice per day per person. But under this very benevolent rule of the British in this country we are not given more than one lb a day even in provinces where we are supposed to have very good rationing. It is not enough if you write long reports and give long statistics You should have a human view of things; you should have a realistic view of things if you want anything to be done. I feel I must take to task the Government of India in many matters. Very often we are told that there is a shortage of food at some place because the rains have failed or there have been droughts or there have been floods. But these things are not unknown in this country We have had all these things before But if there is a Government with any vision and if it is interested in the people of the country, if it is a Government which is interested in looking after the welfare of the country, surely these things can be looked after. We can have proper irrigation system, we can have reservoirs of water, It is not enough to have plans and programmes which are going to come into being ten years hence It is necessary to have long-range plans But what we need today is food and we want it without any more delay

Another reason that is given by the Government for the shortage of food is that our population is increasing With regard to that matter, I would like to read an article by Kate L Mitchell, an American woman who wrote an excellent book called "India—An American view ' She says

"Between 1910 and 1930 population increased by about 17 per cent food production by about 30 per cent It is true that the present production is wholly inadequate, but the reasons for this inadequacy lie in the system of production and the failure to develop the available resources, not in any absolute over population In fact there is every reason to believe that by making full use of her resources, India could support a far larger population than at present The cause of Indian poverty is not the rate of population growth but the fact that India is a case of arrested economic development "

That is what the American woman has said about this bogey about the increase of population of India which is mentioned as a reason for our having food shortage in this country You have had a lesson in the terrible tragedy of Bengal a few years ago Are you going to repeat that tragedy again in the country? Are you going to see that another famine should take place in this country? Even with regard to the Bengal food famine, I want to ask the Government what they have done beyond appointing another Committee They have not done anything with the report of the Commission on Bengal famine and yet they have appointed another Committee with Sir Clarence Bird as Chairman I would like to know what does he know about the food situation and why do the Government want another Committee to look into the report which is already with them? Surely that report will give you all the data you want This is not the time for you to have another Committee sitting on that report and making another recommendation on top of that

I would also like to say on the subject of Bengal famine that in 1943 there was an offer from the Azad Hind Provisional Government This came out the other day in the I N A trial They said that they would send 100,000 tons of rice as a first instalment if India would accept it They did not accept it. I want to know whether the Government would rather see the people of India die of starvation, as they were dying at that time, rather than accept rice that was going to be sent to the Indian people It was not being sent by the Japanese if the reason was they could not accept rice or any other foodstuff from the enemy But this Azad Hind Provisional Government was not the enemy of the Indian people and why did they not accept this offer? They had no hesitation in accepting Japanese help to safeguarding the interests of a few Dutch people in Indonesia But only when our people are dying in this country they refuse because they stand on their dignity and they cannot accept rice from any body who has anything to do with Japanese Government If it had been our own Government I know such a thing could not have happened and we would not have refused such an offer.

[Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan.]

Then there is another thing Government take credit for stopping the Bengal famine. Sir, I beg to differ from them. I do not think the Bengal famine has come to an end yet but it became better because of the bumper crop we had that year, and no credit is due to Government at all When any thing good happens in the country credit is taken by Government; when anything bad happens in the country the weather is blamed, even God is blamed, and every other thing is blamed except Government themselves I say it is Government that is to blame What is the use of having plans on paper? What is the use of giving us day after day lots of paper to read and going into the question of the difficulties of Government? We know the difficulties, we know the weather conditions and we know that we have got to cope with all that. But if it is a Government of the people who are looking after the welfare of the people, it is their duty to see that in spite of the difficulties that we experience with regard to weather and other conditions in this country we can cope with the thing We must look at it in a realistic way and see that people are not starved and the people do not die out My Honourable friend Mr. Munsi has lready spoken about the future generation of India What are the future generations going to be, I should like to know, if all the mothers are half-starved in this country? And the mothers are going to be more starved We will have just weaklings, we will have people with no energy, we will have people with no power of resistance and if an epidemic comes people will die off by thousands

Sir, I would also like to know why India has not asked for help from the U N R.R A We gave so much to U N R R A but how is it that we have not asked for any help from them? I will read this little article from the press, dated London, January 28.

"No request for UNRRA assistance had been made by the Government of India, said the Under-Secretary for India, Mr Arthur Henderson, replying to a question in the House of Commons by Mr P Barstow (Lab) today

He added that UNRRA help was primarily intended for countries which for financial or other reasons, were unable to obtain supplies and help for relief and rehabilitation

This would not generally apply to India though circumstances might arise where UNRRA personnel, medical supplies, etc, might be called upon in an emergency"

I want to know why they have not asked for and got any help from UNRRA Surely the famine of Bengal was also due to a certain extent at least to war conditions prevailing at that time? We could not get transport, at least that is what Government told us, that transport was in the hands of the army and so for civil use we could not get it With regard to UNRRA there is one thing more that I should like to read here with your permission This is dated London, January 29

"There was a dramatic scene at the meeting of the Economic and Financial Committee of the United Nations when the four countries—Brazil, Uruguay, Mexico and Bolivia—which had declined further obligations to the UNRRA were swung over by a moving appeal from the American delegate, Mr Sol Bloom

With tears flowing from his eyes, Mr Bloom, talked of starvation that could be prevented and lives that could be saved by UNRRA activities

Urging the delegates to be dictated by their hearts and not their heads, Mr Bloom asked 'Can you get peace and security when people are starving and when mothers and fathers have their little children coming to them and pleading for bits of bread and something to keep them warm' If we defer help till next year there will not be many of these people left'

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Immediately afterwards representatives of Bolivia, Mexico, Brazil and Uruguay announced that they would after all support the United States proposal"

Sir, is there no one who can make a moving appeal and with tears running down his cheeks stand there and speak about the starving millions of India? It is not a few people only that are starving in this country, mothers and children, fathers and brothers,—so many of our people are starving; and it seems we have no one to plead our case We have a foreign Government in this country; even my own brothers who are sitting on those Benches rarely perhaps feel that they are Indians; perhaps they also feel that they belong to a system which is governed by British rule I hope all this will be changed. Sir, and that we will see

that Government take a realistic view and that they see that something can be done very soon. It has been already mentioned about the mission on which Sir Robert Hutchings had been sent and how he was turned down. I do not understand why we should have sent Sir Robert Hutchings. Surely there are enough Indians to go with confidence, and who at least would have been heard? But he did not even have a hearing, he was just turned down. Have we not got eminent men whom we can send to any place where they will get a hearing, to any council where they will be respected, where if they put the case of India they will be listened to?

And now we read in the press about another delegation that is going headed by the Honourable the Food Member and his official colleagues I am afraid I have not got much hope of our getting anything even if he goes with his colleagues. I feel that if we really want to get ourselves heard in any international council it is necessary to send some very prominent men of India Do not let several people go and have a holiday in England or in America or any of those other nice places It is very nice to live away from India now that the hot weather is coming and have a good change. But that is not all. We want some one to go who will be able to put our case, who will be listened to with respect and who will get what he wants for India, because he will put the case for India as a representative of the people of India and not as a representative of the Government of India I have no hesitation in saying that if it is necessary Mahatma Gandhi himself would go Then there is Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who also can go I will not mention more names but there are so many other eminent Indians who can go and whose names are known to every one in this House. I feel that if they go our case will be listened to and we will not only be sympathetically listened to but we will get all the food that we so badly need In regard to that why is France sending Blum? He is the most respected and revered statesman of France, they know that it is necessary for a man like that to go to an international council to have a hearing and to get what he wants for the country If France can do that surely it is our duty—and Government themselves must realise it that it is their duty too—to see that non-official persons, Indians who have the respect of the whole country and represent the whole country should go and do something to relieve the whole situation We will have all the schemes ready, we can think about what is going to happen ten years hence, how wonderful India will be ten years hence, but let us do something now, let Government do something at once to relieve the present very critical situation, and let us see that we are not again visited by that horrible tragedy that visited Bengal, and, perhaps it is not so well known, Malabar also in 1942-43 Mothers, fathers and children were dying in thousands and nobody cared Government sits here calmly, it is a very comfortable House to sit in, we sit back and in the cold weather we have warmth and in the hot weather we have fans over our heads But let them wake up and take a realistic view I hope they will consider the whole thing before they take an official delegation again to England and America They must realise that it is necessary to take a representative of the people, some one who will be respected and who will be heard at any international council

Sir, I support my Honourable friend Mr Masani's amendment

Mr. President: Before we proceed further with the debate there is an amendment tabled by Sri Venkatasubba Reddiar Will he just move it?

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I do not propose to move the amendment but I shall speak on the resolution

Mr. R. C. Morris (Madras. European): Mr President, Sir, I do not intend to take up the valuable time of the House in a repetition of the criticisms directed at the Food Department, although, Sir, I agree with much that has been said by my friends in the House, and it is a matter of surprise to me that the situation was not foreseen

There seems to be something radically wrong with the machinery as between the Central and the Provincial Governments; and presumably also between the

[Mr. R. C. Morris.]

Provincial Governments and their District Officials that a possible food scarcity of this magnitude was not anticipated earlier Surely the fact that the Provinces were coming to the end of their reserves should alone have been a warning to the Central Government Are we to believe that the Central Government were unaware of this position—that the reserve food stocks were fast running low? If this were so, then the description "placid, pathetic contentment" applied to the masses of India in the Montague Chelmsford Report would apply equally to the officials of the Central Government Food Department.

Sir, I have had 32 years of agricultural experience in India as a proprietory planter in the north of the Coimbatore District and, in this period, I have become acquainted with most of the grain cultivators of the Kollegal Taluk I can say definitely that the common touch, the contact between the Government District Executives and the ryots, which formerly existed, has now deteriorated to such an extent that the ryots no longer look to Government officials for any advice or assistance in their problems, nor do they feel it incumbent on them to co-operate to the fullest extent in the matter of grain supplies

Sir, following the Famine Commission's recommendations Government accepted "responsibility of providing enough food for all, sufficient in quantity, and of requisite quality" Has this been carried out? Unreliability of agricultural statistics was admitted in 1943 and now, three years later, we have the Central Government admitting that this is still the case a disturbing state of affairs Yet I would refer my Honourable friend the Food Member to his replies to my predecessor, Sir Frederick James, in this House on Friday 25th February 1944 On that occasion the following replies were given

"(a) That the Food Department is responsible for informing the Secretary of State about all matters connected with the supply and distribution of food throughout India and, therefore, arising out of food shortage etc etc

(b) That the Honourable Member was aware of the importance of ensuring that the Secretary of State is accurately and constantly informed on these matters, etc, etc

(c) That statistical information of all kinds is collected from Provincial Governments, and tabulated departmentally by the Government of India, and that the Food Department sends a Weekly Report to the Secretary of State on the Food situation in India etc, etc"

Sir, we are assured that grain prices will be kept down to a minimum, but in parts of the Madras Presidency the control price of *ragi* has already risen by 15-20 per cent Deputy Collectors and Taluk officials appear to have been given insufficient powers to requisition stocks known to be held in *ragi* pits. One Revenue Divisional Officer informed me that he was aware of stocks of *ragi* hoarded in such pits in his area, but was not in a position to raid and seize these stocks

Sir, the Madras Government would do well to make more use of the Taluk Agricultural Societies, to take the Societies, into their confidence Among the members of these societies are the chief grain producers in each taluk and their co-operation will be attained if the Provincial Government pursues a frank and open policy over the food question

Taluk Agricultural Experimental centres should be set up and strains of millets giving increased yields should be introduced to the ryots The ryots are a conservative class, but if they see plots giving a heavy yield in Government Agricultural Experimental Stations they will be quick to adopt them

The development of minor irrigation schemes, Sir, should be speeded up In the taluk in which I reside exist facilities for such projects, and these projects can be expedited by the use of the mass of mechanical equipment that must now be available from army sources

Communications must be improved to enable grain to be acquired from the rich cultivated areas now not connected by any roads For example, in the hilly and jungle areas of the Kollegal and Gobichettipalayam taluks of Coimbatore District, I doubt if any of the grain now produced in the many unconnected cultivated enclosures can be acquired

The Forest Department many years ago planned a system of road construction in these parts, but this was later cancelled; and, although three foot traces were cut, in many cases these were never widened, the roads being subsequently abandoned. Had these roads been now in existence, Sir, Government would be able to acquire the surplus grain stocks of these parts stocks that are now smuggled over inter-district and inter-province and State borders on pack animals by jungle paths.

Sir, in these areas large blocks of cultivation have been abandoned owing to annual depredations by elephants A small herd of elephants can wipe out in one night the year's work of a family's grain plot I recently received a letter from a Forest Officer admitting serious damage by elephants to the *ragi* crops in his division For years, I have advocated assistance to the ryots in this connection. In the Mysore State cultivators whose fields are subjected to devastating raids by elephants now receive assistance from Government in the protection of their crops, as has been the practice for years in parts of Africa and, prior to the war, in Burma I urge that similar measures should be adopted in the Madras Presidency

Abandoned cultivable areas in these fertile taluks are now covered with scrub, and can only be brought back into cultivation this year by the employment of tractors and mechanical ploughs I consider it is up to the Government to render such assistance without charge to the ryots concerned This is the time for urgent measures, and no time should be wasted over any question or argument as to whether the ryot should be asked to bear a proportion of the cost Let us get such areas back into cultivation without delay

I may be regarded, Sir, as taking a too parochial view of the subject, but I have quoted examples in areas known to me, and what applies to the Coimbatore District holds good for other parts of the country The measures I have suggested are minor measures But in the situation we are now faced with no effort, however small, should be neglected to alleviate the acute food position

Sir, I understand that about 70 per cent of the population of the Madras Presidency affected by grain rationing are food producers, and are likely to receive a ration of 1 lb per head, the remaining 30 per cent being regarded as non-producers and will receive less Now, Sir, I must emphasise that this 30 per cent include a class known as heavy manual labour, a large proportion of whom work on plantations in all weathers; and the proposed distinction between the food grower, which presumably includes his food producing agricultural labour, and the non-grower, is purely artificial and unreasonable Under these proposals a labourer working for a food grower will receive a grain ration of 1 lb but if he then works on a plantation, which very frequently occurs, he will get less, which is absurd I submit, Sir, that nothing less than a ration of 1½ to 1¾ lbs of grain per head is adequate for plantation labour, which carries out exhausting work for 10 months in the year Non-working adults should receive a ration of 13 ozs per head, 6½ ozs for children under 12 years

The Governments of Travancore and Cochin recognised in 1944 that plantation labour should receive 1½ times the ordinary ration; and the rates I have just quoted were laid down and supplied Sir, I must emphasise the grave consequences of any reduction in these rations Plantation labour in the Madras Presidency has hitherto received preferential treatment, based on the same scales as those adopted in Travancore and Cochin; and any decrease in the food supply for plantation labour will have very serious repercussions on the industry. I trust, therefore, Sir, that the Central Government will not fail to recommend to the Madras Government that plantation labour should continue to receive preferential treatment, and that food-stuffs will be made available for this purpose

We should like, Sir, an early statement on the proposals to reduce rations; to what extent rations are likely to be reduced.

[Mr. R. C Morris.]

In conclusion, Sir, I should like to emphasise the necessity for concluding the Food Debate as soon as possible so that the recommendations of the House may be made clear to His Majesty's Government and to the Food Control at Washington.

Sir Pherose Kharegat (Secretary, Agriculture Department) It has been mentioned by many speakers in the House that the statement of policy which was issued the other day refers only to plans, proposals and projects, but does not indicate the action taken It is for that reason that I am getting up now in order to place the facts before the House as to what has been done and is being done in connection with the Grow More Food Campaign.

As Mr Lawson pointed out, the first and most important prerequisite for increased production is an assurance of a remunerative price This has now been accepted by the Government The next step that has to be taken is to arrange to provide the necessary facilities, goods and services which are required by the cultivators in order to increase their production In pursuance of their determination to do this I may mention that the Government of India have given loans amounting to Rs 4·94 crores, that is, nearly Rs 5 crores and grants amounting to Rs 4½ crores supplemented by similar grants on a 50/50 basis by the provinces It is estimated that when these works for which the grants have been given mature, it will result in an increase of something like 2 million tons of food in a year Let me go into a little more detail about these grants

[At this stage Mr President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr K C Neogy (one of the Panel of Chairmen)]

The greatest need of the country is in respect of water, an assured supply of water is necessary to safeguard against famine Accordingly the Central Government have given loans amounting to Rs 62 lakhs and grants of Rs 145 lakhs for emergency and minor irrigation works These grants provide for the construction of 34,500 wells, 4,500 tanks, 7,700 other minor works, in addition to repairs to 4,600 wells and 2,000 old tanks It is expected that when these works are completed they will add something like 700,000 tons of foodgrains per year to the annual production

Then, Sir, grants have been given for land development, anti-erosion works and land reclamation The loans amount to Rs 48 lakhs and the grants to Rs 56½ lakhs They cover an acreage of more than one and a half million acres, mostly in the Bombay Presidency, and they are expected to produce 200,000 tons of extra food a year

A reference has been made to manures and fertilizers, and we have been asked as to what has been done and what types of manures are being encouraged Some years ago the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research financed a scheme for working out a suitable method of composting town refuse. That scheme was successful and what is called the Hot Fermentation Process was discovered Then men were obtained from the provinces, one from each province, and they were trained in this new method They went back to their provinces and trained other men in the application of this new method. That method is now being adopted in a number of large towns and we have already distributed something like 330,000 tons of that type of town refuse compost The task has not been without difficulty We came up against all kinds of troubles In the first place some Municipalities did not like to spend money on this type of work Then when the compost had been made certain people refused to take it In certain other cases people were prepared to take it but they had not the necessary transport, so we have gone further and arranged for the necessary transport, and the necessary demonstrations, and now we have succeeded in getting these used on a large scale near towns.

Then there is manure available from oil cakes. These have been taken under control and are distributed either for cattle feed or as manure, and the amount so distributed is 262,000 tons

Then there is the question of chemical fertilizers. About 15 years ago not a single ton was used in this country. Thanks to the efforts of Imperial
3 P. M. Chemicals just before the war we were using something like 100,000 tons. More could not be used because the prices of foodgrains were so low that it was entirely uneconomic to use fertilizers for the purpose. But ever since prices have gone up, we have tried to obtain fertilizers The cultivators are only too willing to use them but our difficulty has been that we could not get them. Last year with great difficulty we were able to secure 70,000 tons, but I am glad to be able to say that for this year, that is, for the year 1945-46, we have been allocated 154,000 tons. But let me make it clear that it is not enough merely to obtain these fertilizers or to distribute these fertilizers The work has to be done with care, because if these fertilizers are used in too large a quantity or without adequate mixture with lime or organic manure, they may do more harm than good, and therefore it is necessary to arrange that when these fertilizers are distributed, the cultivators should at the same time be taught how to use them, when to use them and where to use them. So that work has to be tackled at the same time.

Next, I come to the question of seed. For the multiplication and distribution of improved seed, loans have been given to the extent of Rs 253 lakhs, that is, 2½ crores, and grants of Rs 87 lakhs These are expected to produce 700,000 tons of extra foodgrains per year A question was asked the other day as to what area at present is under improved varieties We have not got the exact figures but for one province we know what the result is. The Director of Agriculture, Madras, has informed me that in respect of rice one-third of their acreage is already under improved varieties and by next year he expects that two-thirds of the acreage will be under improved varieties Possibly in other provinces the progress is not so satisfactory but considerable progress is being and has been made in this direction

A reference has been made to tractors The position, Sir, is very unfortunate In 1944, or was it in 1943, we had asked for 88 tractors We have only just received those 88, and we have received the tractors without ploughs so that we are not able to use them In 1945 we asked for 1,700 odd tractors. not one of them has been received so far. Naturally the work is held up Ultimately we have sent our Agricultural Production Adviser to the United States and to the United Kingdom and he has now secured promises of about 800 to 900 tractors which we hope to get before the close of the year

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Meanwhile famine has come

Sir Pherozе Kharegat: Yes, it has.

Another direction in which work has been taken up is the conversion of the acreage under cotton to food crops The acreage under cotton in the period just before the war was 24 million acres Last year it had dropped to 15 million acres That is, there has been a decrease of 9 million acres under cotton, which has gone over to food crops

Now, Sir, my friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir said the other day that our statistics are not reliable I admit that the figures in respect of Bengal and the permanently settled areas are distinctly unreliable But in the temporarily settled areas I make bold to say that our acreage figures are the best in the world There is no country in the world which has got more accurate statistics of acreage than we have in our temporarily settled areas and the cotton area to which reference has been made is all in the temporarily settled areas. So there can be no mistake about this particular figure that I have mentioned.

As regards the permanently settled areas we have encouraged Orissa to adopt the system that has been prevailing elsewhere and we have given them nearly six lakhs of rupees for the purpose Behar has also decided to introduce the same system for collecting their acreage statistics. The only province that is still lagging behind is Bengal

Then as regards yield statistics I must admit that our figures are unreliable. In order to ascertain more correct statistics we have spent something like 5 lakhs

[Sir Pheroze Kharegat]

in order to evolve a system of ascertaining correct yields by the random sampling method. We tried this out last year or the year before last in one province, that is the Punjab, and we found that the two figures, that is the official figures and the figures arrived at by the new method differed by 3 per cent Last year we found that our figures were 7 per cent above the Punjab figures but 15 per cent below those of the United Provinces showing that the U P have been overestimating their yields The system has now been accepted by all these provinces and it will be introduced as an ordinary routine measure before long

Now, Sir, whatever defects there may be in our figures of yield, there can be no doubt that from the increased acreage our yields must have increased by at least 1½ to two million tons during the past two years The question will naturally be asked "Where is it?" The answer, Sir, is obvious It has been eaten Let us not forget that in these three years while we have been increasing the production the population has also increased by something like 15 million people They have been fed and from where were they fed except from this increased production? There is another item In many parts of the country people have been living on starvation diet Possibly some of them, particularly in the Eastern regions have been eating a little more instead of living on gram and barley water as they used to do They have been eating a little gram. Is that to be grudged to them? Why should they not eat these? And so as all our increased production has gone to feed the people, I do not think that any complaint can be made on that score

The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition referred the other day to what has been achieved in the United Kingdom Their achievements are great they are wonderful But let it not be forgotten that when they started only 11 per cent of the area of the country was under cultivation They have within four years increased it to 20 per cent But where did we start? Our cultivators were already cultivating 36 per cent of the land and they have increased it to 39 per cent This, Sir, is not an achievement of which our cultivators need be ashamed I do not mean to say, for one moment, that we have done all that we should have done We have to do ten-fold of what we have already achieved

An Honourable Member: A hundred-fold

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: May be a hundred-fold I am not prepared to argue on that but at least we have to do a great deal more than what we have done That is the long term policy which we will have to attend to

But let me divert for one moment to the present situation It is true we are faced by famine It may be that the peril may be averted in various ways We have already suggested to the provinces concerned various measures which they can and should adopt as palliatives They cannot prevent hardship but something can be done These measures include items such as the growing of catch crops There are certain small millets which mature within three months They may not be very palatable but at least they will stave off hunger and starvation We have also suggested that *kutcha* wells should be dug and sweet potatoes and other tuberous crops should be grown, so that the people may have at least something to eat The same wells can be used for the growing of vegetables. Vegetables produce sometimes ten times as much as cereals Though they cannot entirely replace them, to a certain extent they will meet the situation We have also addressed the military authorities in connection with the vegetable schemes that they have been running for the past few years for supply to the military and we have asked that these schemes should be continued so that they may be useful for feeding the civil population

I may divert for one moment to refer to the question of vegetable seeds When the war started, every ounce of seed of what are called the European types of vegetables was imported into this country During the war we found that we could not get those imports and we have built up this industry in three short years in Kashmir and in Quetta with the result that today we are in a position to supply the needs of the whole of India. Not only that we are in a position

to export our vegetable seeds to other countries The quality certainly needs to be improved and that is being attended to But the achievement is one of which we can well be proud

Then I come to the question of fruits Quick-growing fruits have not escaped our attention Provinces have been urged to go in for bananas, pineapples, papayas and fruits of that kind We have given grants to provinces for the purpose, and we expect that 11,000 more acres will be put under this type of foodcrops, producing something like 100,000 tons of extra fruit per year

A great deal has been said about fish, and here I would like to place before the House the difficulties that we have encountered I too had thought in the beginning when we started, that all we had to do was to go to the sea or to the rivers and to catch the fish—they were just waiting there to be caught and brought in We approached the fishermen, they turned round on us and said "Where are the boats?" So we had to start building boats for them Having got the boats, they said "Where are the nets?" We asked "Cannot you make the nets?" Then they said "Give us twine" and so we went to the mills and got them to make the type of twine that was required and supplied them Then they said "We want hooks" and so we had hooks made in the country They were used exactly for one day and the fishermen came back and said "Your hooks are no use to us they just give way under the strain" So we had to arrange for hooks to be imported I am just mentioning all this to show that things in actual working are not so easy as they seem to be before you actually start working Nevertheless we have made some progress in this direction, and my information is that, particularly in connection with fish from inland waters, we are hoping to get in the course of the next year something like 45,000 tons of extra fish In respect of marine fisheries, the position is a little more difficult We are already getting a large quantity of fish, but as some of you might have read in the papers the other day, fish had to be thrown back into the sea because of difficulties of transport, on account of lack of ice, arrangements are being made to overcome these difficulties We have arranged to take over a certain number of ice factories and cold stores In course of time that difficulty will be solved, but in the meantime all we have to fall back upon is the crude old system of drying and salting That certainly needs to be improved, but in the meantime the position is that we catch the fish, we dry and salt it and then we export it to other countries because the people in this country do not like and will not normally eat that type of fish

One of our greatest difficulties in all our work has been the lack of trained staff It is not enough merely to appoint staff, the staff must be fully and properly trained If they are to guide the agriculturist, they must have the knowledge and be able to give the necessary guidance Most of the provinces have arranged for the training of their subordinate staff, perhaps not in adequate numbers, but to a very large extent that is being done Our difficulty is to find men who will give the training, special men who will occupy the key posts and arrange for all this work That is where we are most lacking We have tried to get experts and specialists from abroad—from the United Kingdom and the United States of America—but without any success whatever, and now we have had to fall back on the expedient of selecting our own men and sending them abroad for training This certainly means that our present working is held up and we suffer in the present, but we have to think of the future and in the interests of the future we have decided to take this course and send our men away for six months to a year for training so that when they come back we may be able to proceed forward with our plans for betterment

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division Muhammadan Rural) May I ask in this connection one question? I understand they have selected or invited applications for scholarships for agriculture?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Yes; we have invited applications for agriculture last year we sent one hundred students for agricultural training This year also we propose to send between 75 to 100 extra students.

[Sir Pheroze Kharegat]

Now, as regards the long term plan, the first requisite to my mind is to make the necessary surveys I know that the word 'surveys' is anathema to many people; but you cannot have planning without surveys. Until you make a survey of the area you cannot know what is needed and where it is needed It is essential to carry out these preliminary inquiries and find out what has got to be done, where it has got to be done Once that is done, we will be in a better position to get on with our plans and make progress with all our development schemes

I have not the slightest hesitation in saying what I said more than a year ago, that if the necessary facilities goods and services are made available to the agriculturists of India, they will produce more than enough food than is required for the present population they will produce enough food to keep 50 per cent more than the existing population at the recognised standard rates laid down by nutrition workers But the agriculturist must be given the necessary assistance He must be provided with the requisite facilities in the shape of water or drainage or anti-erosion works where they are required He must be given the necessary goods in the shape of manure and seed and implements He must be given the necessary services, expert and technical guidance as to what is to do and how he has to do it

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab Muhammadan) Have you given him all these things?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: We are trying our best to give him all these things; and as soon as we can arrange we will give them more than what we have done I have already mentioned what has been done in the past few years and we propose to do a great deal more as soon as we possibly can

In making this statement that we shall provide all the food that is required, perhaps I should make one exception, and that is in connection with milk That we cannot do in the short term period It is a long term problem because cattle take such a long time to mature it may mean to a certain extent we can increase the milk production by 30 per cent or 40 per cent ; but we cannot increase it straightaway by 300 per cent , which is our requirement That will be a 20-year business, when we have evolved by careful selection a better breed of animals, which will produce two or three times the milk of the present animals

Before I conclude, I would like to repeat one point, and that is, that the key stone of our whole policy depends on the assurance of a remunerative price for the cultivator It is on this that the whole of our foundation for future development is made and provided the necessary facilities, the goods and the services, are made available and we work hand in hand with a view to help the agriculturists, I have no doubt whatever that we will be able to achieve great results in the future

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa Muhammadan): Mr Chairman, Sir, the debate on the food situation has become a permanent feature of this House during the last few years but the tragedy is that in spite of all that is said and done by the Government officials, no satisfactory situation ever existed and all the Members in the House, including perhaps Honourable Sir J P Srivastava himself, do feel that conditions are not as satisfactory as they ought to be That is the most unfortunate feature of it The reasons may be many, it may be due to failure of the monsoon sometimes; it may be due to some other factors but the result is that we are always in a position which cannot be considered to be satisfactory by any one in the country.

The Secretary in charge of the Food Department has made a speech explaining the various aspects of this question He has begun with a basic plan and he has tried to tell us the difficulties of being able to put in practice the basic plan The main difficulty he has stressed is that of procuring real statistics of the agricultural produce in this country but he has not referred to the damages

and loss during the storage of the procured food grains by the Department Not a word has been uttered about it by the Government spokesman I know that in many parts, including Calcutta and Patna hundreds of bags of wheat flour were thrown out and many more bags were given away by way of rations although it was not fit for human consumption He should have said something about it but he did not mention anything as the report will expose them thoroughly

As regards statistics, his remarks only show the bankruptcy of the entire Government administration The Secretary says they have not got statistics for provinces which are permanently settled areas such as Bengal, Bihar and Orissa I am closely acquainted with all these three provinces They have got a village note in every province prepared during the survey administration This is subject to revision every ten years What has happened to those Provincial Governments? Why do they not give the average produce estimate in those areas? (*An Honourable Member on the Government Benches.* "They are out of date") They may be out of date but you cannot say that no statistics are available Strictly speaking, even if you procure the statistics this year, they will not be reliable next year

Then, Sir, there are other areas which are not permanently settled areas like the U P, the Punjab You must have got up-to-date reports about the production in those parts as they are prepared by the Patwari every two or three years and those reports should have been available as they form the basis of the taxation on land in those provinces To say that no report whatever is available is a thing which no reasonable person can accept

The Food Secretary has referred to the monopoly scheme which he now proposes to introduce in my province of Bihar I do not know how it has worked in the other provinces but the danger is that they will do it in the same bureaucratic fashion as they have been used to do all these years They have not been able to get the co-operation or the support of the leaders of public opinion, because they have a knack of doing everything in the bureaucratic fashion which turns everything into a tyranny and does not benefit the people If you want to work the procurement plan in the three provinces in which you have included Bihar, you must try to have the support of the non-official sections whose support and whose advice would take away the tyranny of officialdom and bureaucracy which you have been used to If you give the procurement and the monopoly to be arranged by the police, the police only know the methods to which they have been trained for That is the only thing which has got to be borne in mind when this is brought into existence in my province of Bihar

About the Grow More Food campaign the Honourable Secretary was not very clear in giving the details to this House in his speech The last speaker Sir Phiroze Kharegat gave a more real picture of the whole arrangement Figures have been quoted of the subsidies, contributions and loans amounting to nearly 4 crores of rupees for this purpose The position is that for securing these 4 crores a like amount must have been spent by the landowners in giving away bribes to the officials who were responsible for sanctioning and distributing this money In Bihar if one applied for an irrigation scheme of Rs 10,000, half the amount would have to be given to the overseer and the other officials who are responsible for sanctioning the money

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): You should have reported the matter.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I know that many of the landholders did it I know we cannot help it I am now reporting it to the public through this House. Although the amount provided, namely, 4 crores is a meagre amount, compared with what is needed, the scheme is certainly a good one and it would have given some relief but for the mal-administration and the mal-distribution of the whole fund at the hands of these small officials; this has been of not much use Supposing I apply for an irrigation scheme of Rs 10,000, if I do not bribe the overseer and the officials concerned they will say that the scheme was not good enough and they will say 'Rupees one thousand will serve the

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman]

purpose ' For securing a subsidy of Rs 5,000 from Government you have to spend 2,500 in the way of bribes I do not propose that the whole amount should be provided by the Government as Babu Ram Narayan Singh said, and I am prepared to say that half the money should be subscribed by the land-holders or tenure holders who will have a permanent advantage of the produce but at the same time every effort should be made to see that this is done in a way in which a responsible government would do it That is the only thing which I want to impress on the Government Your intention may be good and except for a few officials, the way in which this has been done is such that people have not been able to take full advantage of the facilities I trust that the Government will seriously consider this position and eliminate corrupt practices from this department

Now, I would like to say a few words about the manures and their distribution This should be done through an organisation of the tenure holders and landlords in every province, otherwise the whole position is reduced to this A certain particular individual is able to get a recommendation from the Sub-Inspector of Police or some such other person that he may be supplied with manures although his may be a very small holding In some cases manure was sold in the black market, which was very unfortunate, but these things cannot be avoided unless you have the co-operation of the people who are engaged in these vocations of life An organisation of these people would be the best channel through whom you have to distribute manure in India

Then, with regard to price control The Honourable Secretary has said that he is trying to keep price control over all major food grains Later on, he said that this was not possible about rice because prices of rice varied in different areas so much that it was not possible to fix it on an All-India price basis The point is whether there has been a real controlled rate at which these stocks have been sold I know that in all those areas where the controlled rate happened to be about Rs 11 or Rs 12 the rice has been sold at Rs 16 or Rs. 17 in the open market As I said earlier, what you get through rations is not sometimes fit for normal consumption of human beings How they are procured—either through contractors or through Government agencies—has not been clearly elucidated by the Secretary of the Department What I want to impress is that some scheme should be brought in to see that the food grains is examined before it is to be rationed If the procurement scheme is to be put on more solid lines, it is equally necessary that efforts should be made to see that nobody sells in the black market those commodities which have been controlled and for which statutory prices have been fixed The trouble is of neighbouring markets in villages Patna is a town where you have got rationing and there at certain rates rice is available It may be Rs 12 or Rs 13 per maund But if you just go ten miles away from Patna where there is no rationing and where there is only paper control, in those villages rice is being sold sometimes at Rs 16 or Rs 18 per maund No attempt has been made to see that people do not indulge in that sort of black marketing The Honourable Secretary has said that the tenants are not giving out the entire stock in the market because of the high prices They have realised in last 3 years and they have better holding capacity today than they had in the pre-war days and that may be true

Another aspect of the matter that I wish to impress upon him is this Government has to buy at certain statutory rates, but the farmer or the tenant can sell his produce at his own rate at a place which is ten miles from that particular rationed area and it may be Rs. 3 or Rs 4 more than what is being paid by the Government Unless Government finds out a scheme through the monopoly purchase system by which every tenant is left out only with that much grain which is necessary for his seed purposes and for his family consumption, this kind of black-marketing cannot be stopped And I would like to impress upon the Food Member and the Secretary that they should try to work out a scheme on these lines. When from a particular town where the

rationing scheme is being carried on the prices do not soar up to anything like what I have mentioned, then the farmers would have to sell to the Government for rationing purposes That has been my experience in the districts of Patna and Gaya and in the villages near Calcutta as well That is one fact which has got to be very seriously considered I need not dwell more on the question of the Government depots because unless effort is made to improve the condition of those depots and keep food grains in a condition where it will be possible for Government to keep foodgrains in fit condition, then it means that the rationing scheme, instead of doing any good to the country, will be ultimately harmful to the people's health because you will be compelling a man to eat a deteriorated staff which is not fit for human consumption

Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan Bhattacharyya (Nominated Non-Official) Mr President, with your permission, Sir, I begin by saying that I am quite new to this House From what I have seen of the working of the House during the few days that I have been here, I feel, Sir, that we, the Members of the House, have probably got into a habit of condemning or censuring the Government for anything that is said or uttered by the Government Sir, I am tempted to go further and say that we, the Members of this House, probably view with suspicion and distrust anything that is done or undertaken by the Government for running the administration I may submit, Sir, that if we proceed in our deliberations with this spirit behind us, our decisions might not be as fair and as reasonable as they should be May I, therefore, request my Honourable friends through you, Sir, to avoid censure motions as far as practicable and thereby create a friendly atmosphere wherein we may meet and discuss in a spirit of cordiality and arrive at decisions which will really benefit the people at large

Sri Venkatasubba Reddiar: I rise on a point of order, Sir Is the Honourable Member talking on food?

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member is making a maiden speech and I am awaiting to see whether he makes himself relevant to the motion

Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan Bhattacharya: I am coming to the point, Sir, and say that the amendment moved by the Hon'ble Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmed for the abolition of the Department of Food is not at all reasonable. I find no grounds for accepting this amendment especially in view of the dismal picture of the food situation that has been given by some of the Honourable Members of this House The urgency of the Food Department is all the greater at the present moment, but, Sir, not in the shape or in the form in which it exists now? I believe, Sir, that this department should be reorganised and worked out in a way which may well suit the needs of the people for whom the department is intended I agree with my Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin when he says that there are corruptions and malpractices in the department. I have no idea of the working at the top but I know some officers at the bottom as I hail from a rural area These officers at the bottom are out in villages not to serve but to rob the villagers of the small they have If the department wants to be useful to the people, the officers at the top must see that officers at the bottom are honest and sincere. These officers at the bottom should also be impressed that they are the servants and not the masters of the public who are their paymasters, and that they should behave towards the public with civility and courtesy and with every desire to help rather than to obstruct. Sir, the necessity for cultivating such an attitude should form part of a training course specially for those whose duties are likely to bring them into daily contact with the public

Then again, Sir, I feel that the controlled prices of foodstuffs now prevailing in the country are not such as to be within the easy reach of the majority of the population. We may remember that even during pre-war days when the market was normal many of our people had to go without a square meal although the price of rice used to vary between Rs 3 and Rs. 4 per maund. I would therefore submit, Sir, that our first duty should be to devise

[R. B. Devendra Mohan Bhattacharya]

ways and means by which we can reduce the prices of common foodstuffs such as rice, wheat, pulses, etc, and that, I think, we can do by giving subsidies to the growers of food which will make the Grow More Food campaign a real and a living thing I am confident, Sir, that this granting of subsidies to the growers of food is the only effective means by which we can easily lower the prices of foodstuffs without causing any hardships to the growers of food.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the amendment of the Honourable Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmed for abolition of the Food Department.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Sir, only the other day the War Secretary was telling us that India had emerged glorious from the war and the Leader of the House has been telling us that India has obtained a very great status In the debate on the Bretton Woods Conference the Finance Member said that India has attained a status that Russia did not want and that she had occupied a place and the right to appoint one of the five temporary executive directors on that body in the Fund and the International Bank. But of what use is all this if we are not able to get what we want in order to live in this country and feed ourselves, if we are not able to get food from places where all these are being done, where the U N O is going to function, where one of our Honourable Members there, is said to occupy a position in the social and economic society of the U N O.? If in these institutions the position held by India is what she is alleged to have and still Sir Robert Hutchings had to return from there without getting anything for which he went, all these positions are not going to get us anything I am doubtful whether the deputation which will go soon will be able to get anything for us The question is that immediately and within a few weeks we must tackle this problem of food The urgency of the problem is not realised seriously by Government When all the Governments which were fighting during the war all these years were able to save their people from death and starvation this Government never cared, either in the pre-war days or in the days when war was coming on in this country, that the people should be fed and saved from the ravages of starvation People died from starvation only in this country in the progress of war and after the war has stopped people are going to die also This Government is not in a position to prevent it

Much has been said as to what should be done with reference to the food position in this country India has always been a deficit country in food It has always been imported Even in the pre-war days the authorities said that more than 75 per cent of our population was not getting even one square meal a day, the people were always starving, and only a small percentage of the population was able to get a full meal But did Government, either before the war or after it started, think of providing sufficient foodstuffs that would be needed for the people of this country? When this country was entangled into the war they knew that all imports from outside would stop and this country would not have the means of feeding itself All this Government knew but they were not able to act Other Governments which were actually in the war had planned in advance and they had planned wisely The leader of our party has told us how England had made preparations for feeding its people and how the people there have been well fed even during the war. I ask the Secretary of the Food Department whether he has made any inquiries of the buffer stocks which Britain has today She is also competing with other nations in making demands on the Food Board I should like to know if the Secretary of the Food Department has made any inquiries as to the amount of buffer stock in foodgrains and food articles which England has. It is a sorry tale. The statement was made by the Secretary the other day that they were not able to get lakhs of tons for India

I now come to the southern part of India So far as Madras is concerned it is always a deficit province This year with regard to certain districts, Tanjore and the southern part of Madras, Godavari and Kistna districts in

the Northern parts of Madras which are all delta districts and said to be the granaries of southern India, the Tanjore district has suffered because there were no rains and sufficient water could not be supplied from Mettur dam, and the northern districts of Kistna and Godavari were affected in the middle of October by very serious cyclone and rains. The crops which were on the land have been affected Instead of being surplus districts they, now themselves require food to be sent from other districts The other districts in that presidency are rain-fed, they are all deficit. But somehow or other some districts which ought to have been classified as deficit have by a miscalculation been classed as surplus districts The district from which I happen to come, *viz*, South Arcot, is a deficit district Of the eight talukas in that district only one is fed by a regular irrigation system and it is more or less part of the Tanjore district These taluks are all rain-fed; they depend mainly on rains The wet area in each taluq is very small compared to the entire area of the district, and paddy could not be raised with confidence or with success on dry lands with no facilities for irrigation

(Some Honourable Members were talking between themselves)

Mr. Chairman: Order, order

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Sir, my district has been classified as surplus It is a misnomer it has always been a deficit area Rice from some other parts comes in to the market, but it is a deficit district

So far as the present position is concerned, we have been receiving telegrams and letters from southern-most parts of our Presidency The other day one of our co-members has received a telegram from his place Srivaikuntam It runs as follows

"Whole of Trichendur taluq many villages Srivikuntam taluq starving cases of few deaths reported present one-fourth ration stop even that will be unavailable next week situation worsening emergent relief needed"

There is another telegram which reads thus

"Many starve on fourth ration only allowed some go even without that"

Telegrams and letters to that effect have been pouring in from the Ceded districts, Chittoor district, and Cuddappa district Grain is not available. What is available has been taken away by the department under this intensive system of procuring during the last three or four months, and people in the villages are starving People who grow the crops are starving because crops have failed and they are not able to live on what they have now harvested

(It being Four of the Clock.)

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. The Honourable Member may perhaps resume his speech on the next day when the motion comes on The House will now take up the adjournment motion.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

India's Quota of Reparations from Germany and Japan

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I move

"That the Assembly do now adjourn"

I want to discuss a matter of definite urgent public importance, namely, the quantum of reparations legitimately due from Germany and Japan to India, and the failure of the Government of India to get the proper quota by consenting to a very low figure out of all proportion to its sacrifices

Sir, at the outset I would like to make it quite clear to this House and to the world at large that I do not want reparations from anybody personally, and my Party is wedded to this principle that a man, or a country, who has been forced much against its will by some exploiter—and in Germany and Japan, the Governments were responsible, not the people who were dragged into the war against their will—ought not to be taxed. It is immoral. They

[Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

have already had retribution, their houses have been damaged; their cities have been crushed, they have suffered as much as any other country which has been ravaged by Hitler on one side and those persons who are responsible for the Government in Japan I, therefore, do think personally that it is not at all right to claim any reparations from these countries They are as much in need of reconstructions Their buildings have been lost, their cities have been ravaged, their families have gone to ruin, they have to be rehabilitated But I find, Sir, unfortunately that is not the opinion that is shared by the so-called progressive nations in this world Russia on the Eastern side has already taken a share for herself in Germany The Eastern Zone has been already swallowed up The other two portions have been divided between the two other great democracies in the world—England and the United States Now, I am the third or the fourth power which went as a tail and which suffered most We were dragged into the war although we had nothing to lose God has placed India in such a position in the world that neither Germany nor Japan could reach it so easily. The first onslaught was delivered on Poland, then Holland and Belgium and then England was threatened President Roosevelt of the great democracy of the West—America—thought that England was its first line of defence and if England should be lost, America would be in danger Therefore he went into the war India has no ambitions in the world, no territory to lose, and is safely in the centre of the world and could not be reached by either German or Japan mechanizations But India was dragged into the war and its resources have been utilized to the full to bring the war to a victorious end In the deserts of North Africa, the pure blood of India was shed For a long time it was not possible to say whether the Axis could be defeated at all India was responsible for changing the situation, and the largest number of Victoria Crosses have been given to the persons who went from India, who shed their blood in the northern portion of the African continent.

Sir, when I find that these three big powers are sharing all the spoils amongst themselves, I am also trying to understand as to why I should not get a share from the spoils That is my only justification and I would like that this House should now see whether the Indian Government and the Secretary of State who is responsible for this administration have played their part at all well Russia has taken away 50 per cent of all that could be got from Germany, Barring what is necessary for the day to day administration in Germany and its current needs, the rest is being taken away either by Russia or by the United States of America, England, France or any of the other countries Out of all this 50 per cent is taken by Russia It has kept the Eastern Zone and has also claimed 25 per cent of all the capital goods that are available, all the assets that are lying in any of the neutral countries and also products that may be surplus year after year until the year 1948 That is the arrangement She was not even a party to a conferenec that was held at Paris—18 nations assembled and India was also represented—to divide what? not hundred per cent out of which shares may be given to various parties that took part in this war or who suffered damage or shed their blood, but Russia kept aloof because it already swallowed up 50 per cent of it—a major slice The balance of 50 per cent alone was divided amongst other countries In so dividing the United States of America got 28 per cent., England got 28 per cent, France got 16 per cent, and we got 2 per cent We are the 10th in the list, though we fought side by side with the United Kingdom and the United States of America We were second in the battlefield, but we are the ninth or tenth in the matter of reparation; our sacrifices are second in the world, our rewards have been thrown into the background That is the position which India has been shown. My Honourable friend, Sir Azizul Huque, who has now come to reply to this debate, knows as little about this Conference as I know. He did not go there. He never thought it was his duty. He thought it was his duty to gather all his force here, send men and

try to turn every mill for the production of war goods, but when the bigger powers were sharing the spoils this man kept mum That is the way that man behaves It is to censure him He deserves all the blame Did he submit a memorandum of what is due to us? France claimed 20,000 million dollars as damages in volumes that ran into over a thousand pages Was any memorandum submitted by India?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member) Certainly!

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: For what? Just two loose sheets of paper claiming £60 million! Whereas France claimed 20,000 million dollars, the United States 6,000 million dollars, the United Kingdom 98,000 million dollars, but only £60 million claimed by India He sent a Joint Secretary of his Department to the reparations conference But the Secretary did not stay there long He had to be called away Another gentleman, Mr B K Nehru had also been sent with the Joint Secretary He also came away One came away before starting the conference and the other man left before it closed This is the delegation which represented us at that conference

Let us see what that conference decided and on what basis President Roosevelt said that the basis of calculation of reparations shall be in proportion to the sacrifices So far as India is concerned, the sacrifice has been out of all proportion to her capacity to sacrifice But this was not taken into account, though I find from the proceedings that Mr Iyengar has done his best

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: You said he left before the Conference met

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: At the initial stages he said a few words I am grateful for that But you are not even doing that much He wanted to say that India had suffered more than was consistent with her capacity to sacrifice India's annual income is only Rs 64 per head whereas in the United States it is 1,500 and in the United Kingdom 1,000 Should we not assess our sacrifice at that? Before the war defence expenditure was 14 crores during the war it rose to 350 crores a year What about the sterling balances? They are hanging in the balance Sterling balances are all debts We have paid for all the expenditure that was incurred for war purposes in the United Kingdom and in this country The assessment proceeded on three heads (1) the budgetary expenditure (2) sacrifice of men and (3) damage to property So far as the budgetary expenditure is concerned, the amounts are manipulated by my friends on the other side while our men, women and children starved—all that should have been taken into consideration Every field of activity in the country was utilised for war purposes and every civilian spent 75 per cent of his time doing work for the war The other parties to the conference treated our man differently because his budget was small and the Secretary of State refused to co-operate In the words of Mr H R V Iyengar (I am reading from the *Statesman*—not a very friendly paper to India)

"Throughout the Conference the Indian Office kept out of it and if the delegation needed any instructions it got them straight from New Delhi"

There, this New Delhi—we have already had an inkling of what it gave The Secretary of State was there and he did not give any instructions Poor Mr Iyengar, even before he left he had to drift for himself and the other man drifted away The correct amount that was spent by India for the western war was not given before that Conference and on that basis it was not assessed Apart from any pecuniary conditions, sacrifice should have been the first consideration Why should I fight this war? Why should I help the other countries to get out of it and then be given tenth place? Marshal Petain said let us keep our children, women and men together Our population has gone down. During this period let us increase our population If I had been to the conference I would have told him that it was enough that he got back his freedom and that he ought not to ask for reparations You must pay any

[Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

price for this freedom Czecho-slovakia and the other countries have got back their freedom Why should they have reparations also?

Secondly, so far as the assessment is concerned, they have not taken some other things into account What was exactly drawn for defence expenditure we do not know There are the sterling balances and the privations that we have undergone So far as men are concerned, it is said that on the battle-field 9,000 people alone died I am wondering how only 9,000 could have died out of 2 million raised without conscription How many were raised in the United Kingdom? There was no conscription here For bread and butter our people sold themselves in this country What a large number of people have sacrificed their lives? You say 9,000 In Bengal 3 million died from famine Even then so far as the death rate is concerned 'that figure is not quite correct Poor, Mr Iyengar, could not press his case Otherwise he would have lost his job The third one was damage to property True it is that the bomb did not directly fall on this land in many places but hunger has taken a heavier toll My honourable lady friend spoke to you at length in a beautiful speech and showed you that the whole country was in the throes of famine or pestilence Has the atomic bomb done more harm than the ravages due to starvation? Therefore, this damage ought to have been taken into account And why only 2 per cent allowed for us? It is true you are giving us capital goods But they are such useless machinery, machinery not needed in the United Kingdom or in the United States I may have the High Commissioner for India sitting in Council and allocating to us some of the old machinery

Mr. Chairman: Order, order The Honourable Member has exhausted his time

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I thought there was one minute more!

Mr. Chairman: Order, order Motion moved·

"That the Assembly do now adjourn"

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I was feeling some hesitation after the clear, demonstrative and devastating logic of my Honourable friend and his rigid adherance to exactitude and truth and I thought that I might wait till I heard others who are inexact and may not possess as much logic as is presented by my Honourable friend from that side!

Sir, my friend in his adjournment motion did not abide by the rules and regulations of the House He thought probably that this might be an occasion not only to censure the Government of India but Russia, President Roosevelt, the Secretary of State, almost everybody that he could think of I come as a very small fry and I do not think I need cover all the ground that my friend has covered All I can say is that those who have some regard for truth and fact would recognise that myself and the Department of Commerce at least for a year have been pressing hard on all sides and it is not a fact that we are sitting mum all the time

The question of Reparations goes back to February 1945, when the heads of the three big powers met at Yalta The decision was arrived at there that reparations are to be based on the organisation of victory, on the burden of war and losses suffered The next stage came at Potsdam. In July a conference of the heads of the three powers met and it ended in the signing of the Berlin Protocol, on the 1st of August 1945 and thereby the western zone of Germany and appropriate German external assets were left to meet the reparations of the U K, the United States of America and other Allied countries excluding the U S S R and Poland. The Paris Conference was thereafter convened to discuss the respective reparation schemes and the data, on which we were asked to base our reparations claim, where loss of life involved, damage to property through enemy action, budgetary war cost and man power allocable to the war Ever since this reparation question was discussed, even before the Potsdam Conference was convened, we pressed very strongly that apart from

the basic principles enunciated, not merely physical damages but human sufferings arising out of the conditions of the war must be taken into account The Government of India specially emphasised that in assessing the Reparations claims human suffering arising out of the war conditions should and must be taken into consideration In fact the attitude of India was that the allocation of reparations on a bare statistical basis of the data supplied by or called for from the different countries would be wholly unjust We could not forget the grievous loss of life in the Bengal famine My friend from the South was very far off. I am aware of the history We could not also lose sight of the grim time we and our people, especially the poorer classes, had to pass through in conditions of war, in our direct sacrifices and contributions, in starvation and in the deprivation of the essential supplies

The Paris Conference was called from the 9th November till the 21st December With election on and with no Legislature it was not possible for us to think of anybody except a strong official delegation Mr Iyengar Mr Nehru and Mr Radbone who is the Custodian of Enemy Property in India, were sent in the delegation with Mr Iyengar as the head I can assure my friend that it was not an easy task for the delegation Most of the continental delegates had never heard of the Bengal famine and its death role, and it is a well known fact that India is so little known or understood outside India I pay my tribute to Mr Iyengar, the leader of the delegation, who did not leave his place till the entire result was practically concluded Our delegates tried hard and my friends should realise more and more that international conferences are not merely the result of the formal discussions They arise out of private talks, negotiations, informal discussions and various other categories or methods which are followed in all international discussions

When the Conference met on the 9th November all the countries represented there put forward their claims based on the totality of their efforts against Germany on the basis of physical damages, on the basis of the budgetary war cost, loss of life and the total of man power allocable to war effort The case of India was different and our delegates were fully instructed, and at the plenary conference Mr Iyengar, the head of the delegation, gave a speech on behalf of India stating India's standpoint I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything more as to the nature of our instructions than to read out a few extracts from Mr Iyengar's speech at the Conference and I challenge my friend, at least if he has a conscience, to tell us as to whether we have not presented the case of India as best as we possibly could

This is the speech.

"But I suggest that the Conference should go behind these figures and consider what is the human sacrifice involved in this expenditure India is one of the poorest countries in the world with an appallingly low standard of living She has, for generations, been underfed, underclothed and underhoused Whereas in economically advanced countries the war has meant that luxuries have had to be eliminated, in India it has meant that people who already were undernourished had still less to eat, and people already underclothed still less to wear In other words, while in one case it was the sacrifice, relatively speaking, of luxuries, in our case it has meant a sacrifice of the barest essentials of life To take only one example, when we agreed to divert our supply of cloth for defence purposes it meant that the consumption *per capita* which was as low as 16 yards per year—one of the lowest in the world—dropped still further to 12 yards In terms, therefore, of the privation involved, the effort represented by any budgetary figure is vastly greater in the case of India than in the case of the European countries and the U S A

For instance, the *per capita* income in rupees of some of the countries represented here just before the war was as follows

U S A 1406
Canada 1038.
U.K. 980.
Australia 792.
France 621

The *per capita* income of India was only 65 rupees per year

The third feature which is unique in the case of India is the Bengal famine We have read with much sympathy the accounts given in the memoranda of the other countries of the undernourishment, and indeed of starvation, which has occurred in different parts of Europe, but I venture to suggest that in no country have we witnessed during the war a tragedy of the colossal dimensions that we had to witness in Bengal There are no exact

[Dr Sir M. Azizul Huque]

figures of the deaths that occurred during the Bengal famine directly as a result of starvation" (*I hope my friend will note here as to what we said*) "but the lowest figure, which has been adopted recently by the official commission of inquiry appointed by the Government of India, is 1½ million This tragedy could have been averted in normal times by the import of foodstuffs into India and by provision of transport, which was woefully short in Bengal It was because of the necessity of building up for D-Day that the ships could not be diverted to India"

Therefore, he was on safe ground in putting forward that famine was the direct consequence of war

Sir, this is the speech It this speech was not there, and we had not taken that attitude, then our share on the basis of damages to property would have been 0·1 per cent Our share would have been only half per cent on the basis of budgetary cost and it would have been 3/4 per cent on the basis of loss of life India's case was pressed very strongly and the proposal of Indian delegates was that the loss of life attributable to war both in the armed forces and the civilian population should be treated as an important factor in the allocation of reparations This was unanimously accepted by the committee of heads of all delegations and ultimately agreed to by the conference Thus, Bengal famine and the difficult position of India owing to the food situation was treated as an important factor in considering India's share This would not have been possible if our delegates had not taken that line The principle was also accepted by the heads of all delegations that some consideration should be shown to India in the allocation of reparation for reasons contained in the speech which I just now read out In fact in spite of the principles having been accepted, while the actual allocation was being discussed in private circles, we gathered that it would probably be not more than one per cent or thereabouts Our delegates made it quite clear and very strongly protested against any such inadequate figure By personal contacts and by private discussions, the Indian delegates pressed their case throughout and claimed a larger share, and the result was two per cent as regards basic items and 2·7 per cent as regards plants and capital goods and equipment I might say here in this connection that later on it was the considered view of many delegates at the conference that we have pulled up very well and that we should make some sacrifice in order to accommodate some other countries which have been hard hit as a result of the allocation by the final Reparations conference But we stuck to our position I feel that our delegates did extraordinarily well in the matter of representation of India's case I think it is a cruel tragedy of life that men who have fought India's case in that manner should be told that they are at the beck and call of the Secretary of State and that they would be dismissed by the Secretary of State if they acted against his wishes I realise that public life would be impossible in any country if people who are fighting the country's battle are decried and the value of their work belittled

In this case, we are exactly doing the same thing so far as Japanese reparations are concerned My Honourable friends should at the same time remember that it is not the total cost of war that can go in consideration of reparations against a country It is an allocation of a part which might be attributed to that country In other words, our total budgetary cost is to go into two heads, namely, that which we should get from Japan and that which we should get from Germany Therefore, let him not run away with the idea that the figure we presented represents the total budgetary cost, or the total estimated value of the loss which is the result of this war.

We are pursuing this matter from day to day and even just now My Honourable friend is totally wrong in thinking that we have failed in our duty in the case of Japanese reparations My Honourable friend perhaps does not know that the question of Japanese reparations has not yet been settled It is still in the stage of discussion. As we have done in the case of Germany we are following the same policy I do not belong to that faith in which I might say that I do not believe in this war, that I do not want any reparations and yet we criticise those who fight the battle of India I hold that I am not in agreement

with my Honourable friend In spite of what my Honourable friends say that we have not done our duty that we have sat mum, it will not take away for a moment the effect of what we have done and what we propose to do still further. So long as I am in charge of this Department, I can assure the House that I will do my best. We have already done our best to get the best possible terms, and our delegates to whom again I pay my tribute again have done their very best in this matter.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member . . .

Mr. Chairman: Is the Honourable Member exercising his right of reply?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: No, Sir I am only seeking information May I know from the Honourable Member if he is making progress with respect to the negotiations with Japan? If so, what place we are likely to have in that

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I already said that we are still in the negotiation stage and it is not possible for me to say anything until at least the preliminary matters are settled As I said before, I have been behind if

Sri T. V. Satakopachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I rise to support the motion for adjournment I was listening with interest to the speech made by the Honourable Member for Government Sir, the proof of the pudding is in the eating The Honourable Member for Government read something from a prepared memorandum, which I believe the delegate may or may not have read at the conference I very much doubt whether he read it

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I could not catch the Honourable Member

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: I was saying that I was very much in doubt whether that memorandum would have been read at the conference My reason for saying so is this You have got a good case, but you lost it. Why did you lose it? In ordinary circumstances, there is an advocate and he is entrusted with a good case He is briefed in right and proper fashion, but he loses the case What is the inference? It is due to the bad advocacy If the Government of India had engaged these delegates to plead the case and they lost the case, then the Government of India deserve to be censured They cannot escape censure The Government of India cannot say, we had a good case, but there was a bad court I submit they had a good case, but they prepared a bad memorandum and chose the wrong delegates What business had they to choose the wrong delegates Why did you lose your self respect for this paltry two per cent by pleading your case before the conference Why did you not say: I do not want any reparations at all? My Honourable friend took credit for having fought the battle Which battle, may I ask? The Westerners have said, "we have fought a war to end all wars" The same Westerners are sitting up at the peace table to end all peace in the world That is what they are doing I ask you, Sir, what is the battle that these people have fought for which they take credit. What is the single point on which they can take credit I find they are tied to the chariot wheels of the British Empire and so they lost the case

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid my Honourable friend is misrepresenting me I never said so

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: If India had been an independent country, and if the Honourable Member had been a Member of an elected Government, then that elected Government would have been kicked out long ago by the vote of the country, because the country would have said, 'you went there and lost a good case'. We know very well, Sir, that in the army when people are fighting—the same thing happened in the recent war also—several Generals who had previous good record and who were efficient, if they are not able to make headway in a particular place, if they fight and lose battle, they are replaced by other more capable men I ask you, Sir, is this not a fit case to censure Government.

[Sri T. V Satakopachari]

There was a good case which was lost on account of bad handling by the Government I find from the principles enunciated in Oppenheim's International law that it is not only material wrong that is taken into account in the way of reparations, it is also moral injury that has been suffered by people that is taken into account You might have put in your memorandum, but did you press your case with all vigour? Were you given a good hearing? Were you really satisfied that you were heard? No, I do not think so If really you had pressed your case and pressed it hard with vigour, then this would not have been the result

Then, Sir, the Honourable Member for Government pleaded, "we have not yet discussed fully the question of reparations from Japan" We all know the question is still pending there This motion for adjournment is really to censure the Government for having lost their case in the matter of reparations from Germany and it is a warning that they should not similarly lose their case with regard to Japanese reparations

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Why don't you yourself go to the conference then?

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: Let us get to your seat and then you will see whether we really maintain the reputation of the country and get damages and reparations for injuries in right proper fashion We will certainly give respect to people who fight our case properly. You may take it that when this country gets independence and goes to any international sphere, then it will be respected, it will be admired, everything that it says will be heard with great respect It is because this reparation question is pending in the case of Japan that we have tabled this motion for adjournment We really feel that the case should not be lost on account of the mishandling by Government Let us no more hear from the Government, "we have prepared a good memorandum, we have presented our case well, but we lost the case" I suggest that better men ought to be sent this time at least so that we can achieve better results Sir, I support the motion for adjournment

(At this stage Mr. President resumed the Chair)

Mr. President: The question is·

"That the Assembly do now adjourn"

The motion was negatived

ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Mr. President: I have to announce in accordance with Standing Order 5(5) of the Legislative Assembly Standing Orders that I received by 12 noon on Friday, the 1st February, three notices in all nominating the following two candidates for election to the office of Deputy President, namely

1 Sardar Mangal Singh,

2 Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.

The names of the proposers and seconders are as follows

For Sardar Mangal Singh.

Proposer

Maharajkumar Dr Sir Vijaya Ananda.

Seconder

Captain Sardar Harender Singh

For Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan

Proposers.

1 Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad,

2 Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth.

Seconders.

1 Maulana Zafar Ali Khan,

2 Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon.

As there are more candidates than one, the ballot for this election will, as announced by me in the House on Monday, the 28th January, be held on Tuesday the 5th February, 1946

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): Now that the House has rejected the adjournment motion, I suggest we should continue the Food Debate until 5 o'clock and then adjourn.

Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee (Chittagong Division Muhammadan Rural): May I rise to a point of order? We cannot conduct any further business and the House should adjourn now Otherwise the adjournment motion has no value

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: But the House refused to pass the adjournment motion

Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: This is an important matter I should like to have your ruling on this point

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division Muhammadan Rural) The usual procedure is that if we decide that the House should not adjourn, then the normal work should continue The Food Debate should continue till 5 of the clock.

Mr. President: That is exactly what I was thinking The motion for adjournment having been rejected, the House continues its normal business

MOTION *RE* FOOD SITUATION—*contd.*

Mr. President: The House will now resume discussion of Food debate.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Sir, I was referring to the large number of telegrams and letters received from several parts of my Presidency about food shortage which is being experienced in several parts there. The system of allotment to various districts is not working efficiently. No grain really went to Tinnevelly What was required for consumption in Tinnevelly was to be sent from Travancore. They did not consume so much there and it was decided that Travancore should send 8,000 tons to Tinnevelly for the months of December and January Out of the 8,000 tons which were allotted to be sent to Tinnevelly from Travancore, only 4,000 tons reached them We are on the 1st February today January has passed Four thousand tons of grain are stocked idle on the borders of the land There is only a hill between Tinnevelly district and Travancore State No sufficient efforts have been taken by the Department to import those 4,000 tons of food grains into Tinnevelly district as per the telegram which I read out. People are suffering and are on the point of death through starvation. This is the state of affairs in the Madras presidency We have also got to consider with regard to procurement, distribution, rationing and the price offered to the producer With regard to procurement I have read in the publications that procuring is being done on a more efficient scale in Madras than in other provinces. I do not know from what record or from what source this information is being collected and circulated I am one of those who has been the victim of procurement which is adopted by the Madras Government there The Revenue Inspector goes to a village, gets hold of the village officer, the *karnam* or the village headman He simply asks him, what have you got. The Revenue Inspector does not care to leave there what is required for the cultivator's consumption till the next harvest, or for seeds for the next crop year, or for the farm servants who are paid not in cash but in kind Thus, he never takes care to calculate what should be left. Even if he calculates, the calculation is always on the wrong side Just a month before a system of intensive procuring was adopted in the villages These officials went to the villages They did not give prior notice of their arrival there When they were in the village they could not expect the ryots in their villages When they had gone to the fields or they were absent these people did not care to wait They broke open the locks of the houses and the doors of the rooms where the grains were kept. They laid their hands on whatever was available and without leaving a grain in some cases they removed everything.

I have a still harder case to mention. In a particular village the headman was at loggerheads with a scheduled caste person. That man had a bag of ragi which he wanted to keep till the next harvest which is about next August or

Sri R Venkatasubba Reddiar]

September The Revenue Inspector and the village headman both combined and asked the scheduled caste man to purchase gram from his neighbour to make up the deficiency for that one bag and took that one bag This is the sort of procuring that is being done. How it is being done and why it is being done in that manner I shall explain These Revenue Inspectors and Tahsildars have no experience of the work. They never dreamt that they would rise to more than head clerks or upper division clerks They have been promoted to these higher positions due to the exigencies of the war People who are not competent to handle these matters have been entrusted with this work which they could not do well They expect further promotions and when they come back from the village and report that they have been able to procure so much, these Tahsildars and revenue inspectors think that the next day they would be promoted to the collectorship of the district That is what prompts them to act in this way These have to be taken note of by the Government in working out their procurement scheme If grams are not procured and they are not willingly offered, they resort to a system of requisitioning What is the scale on which this requisitioning is being done We have got D S Os, T S Os, F S Os and ever so many S Os They are let loose on the villagers and the producers, who are at the mercy of these people These people have no responsibility for seeing that enough is left in the villages for the consumption of the people there That is the way in which these people have been behaving and how is this being distributed Each village in those parts is not a self-contained village Each village is not able to maintain itself from what is produced in that village In every village, it is only a small percentage of the people, who cultivate, have a surplus The rest of the people are landless manual labourers who are not able to keep any grain They live on what they can get from day to day From those places gram is sought to be procured This gram is being taken away to places 10 or 15 miles away and then they do not care to calculate the needs of the village, whether the gram that is taken away will be required for the needs of the villagers themselves who are landless people there When we ask why this is done the reply is—we will supply you immediately and we are in a position to get further supplies from foreign countries, from other districts and other provinces.

How is it again distributed The gram is taken from the villagers possession From that village it is transported to some place 10 or 15 miles away The cost of transport is added to its cost and also the commission of the various middlemen and when the gram comes back to the village, all this cost is added to the price The gram is taken at a certain price and delivered at a different price Is this the way in which it should be distributed?

So far as rationing is concerned I have many grievances A statement has been published It is a combined statement by both the Agricultural and Food Departments I calculate from this that 99 million tons are required for the whole of India in order to give the people a balanced diet. When this is divided among the population of this country it works out at 1½ pounds per head Now we are told we are being given one pound per head per day If we are given one pound per day and if the Food Department thinks that one pound per day is sufficient, then why this 1½ pounds which they require further. I am not able to understand what it means. By balanced diet is meant a diet which will keep the people healthy If with the one pound of cereals that we are now allowed we are told that 1½ pounds more is required, I ask this Department what they were doing so far to get that It is not only cereals It is not only grains. There are so many other things they should have managed to get all these years It is all right for people living in the towns to have one lb of cereals because they have recourse to other things, such as, vegetables, eggs, fish, meat and pulses in addition to the cereals If you allot that one lb to the manual labourer in the village or the manual labourer in the towns who is working for a few annas, I ask you how that one lb. will be sufficient for him? In most cases I have seen that one lb was not sufficient even for one meal for a

manual labourer working in the field. He requires more than 2 lbs A soldier in the war was allowed 1½ lbs. of cereals besides what he was getting in the shape of pulses, eggs, butter, and other things. Convicts in jail are allowed 16 ounces of cereals besides pulses and other foodgrains. Famine allowances are much more than this I do not know who fixed this one lb. average for the consumption of the people in this country and for the consumption of those who daily toil for the production of these grains and who produce these grains by their sweat

Now, Sir, I would like to make a few observations upon the price that is offered to the producer I have always heard it said that the prices that are now prevailing have been fixed more with the consideration of the convenience of the consumer. If you take into consideration only the convenience of the consumer, then what is to happen to the producer, who has been suffering all these days? The agriculturist was leading an uneconomic life in the pre-war days He is leading or made to lead an uneconomic life even now. During the pre-war days neither this Government nor anybody else took care of him; they never had a thought of him, they never interfered on his behalf, and they never went to his rescue when he was leading an uneconomic life Now, when they find that he is making some money, they are offering a price which is not at all paying to the producer What is the price that is offered? In December last I sold paddy at Rs 5 per maund and the cost of producing a maund I shall give just now According to the figures furnished by the Food Department, the average production per acre is 10 maunds 10 × 5 comes to Rs 50 That is the cost of grain to the cultivator And what are his expenses? Have they been taken into consideration by the Department when they fixed the prices? On a very careful examination and calculation I shall give that the cost of production per acre comes to about Rs 130, including his land revenue I shall give the details of his cost He has to prepare the seed beds; he has to raise the seedlings; and then he has to prepare the land and plough it and make it ready for plantation Then, he has to transplant the harvest and take grain

Mr. President: Is the Honourable Member likely to take long?

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: I will require, Sir, another 10 minutes

Mr. President: Then, the House may now adjourn till Monday

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 4th February, 1946

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 4th February, 1946

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

MEMBER SWORN

Mr. Ali Asghar Khan, M L A (Assam Muhammadan).

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

Failure to establish National Government

Mr. President: There is an adjournment motion by Mr Ayyangar. He wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely "the obstructive attitude and failure of the Government to take steps to establish a National Government at the Centre in spite of various assurances by the Governments of India and Great Britain and in disregard of persistent demand by the public of this country"

This has been disallowed by the Governor General

Enforcement of Defence of India Rule 89A in Central Provinces and Berar

Mr. President: Then we come to No 57 from Seth Govind Das He wishes to discuss "the addition of a new rule, 89A in the D.I R the sudden enforcement of which on the 15th instant by the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar has caused annoyance, hardship and humiliation to the persons plying the vehicles and the occupants thereof".

May I know something about this?

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India Nominated Official) This rule 89A of the Defence of India Rules was introduced because there had been a number of complaints, some of them thoroughly justified, about accidents caused by military vehicles and it was found that the best way we could check rash driving of military vehicles was to put on extra military traffic police Well, it was soon found that when military police were directing the traffic there would be civil vehicles among the military vehicles and unless the military police had power to direct the civil vehicles as well as the military vehicles their powers to direct the military vehicles were useless and they could not control the traffic It was therefore decided to introduce a rule, 89A, by which if the Provincial Government so wish in a particular area the military police may be empowered to direct the traffic, military and civil and if they see a gross breach of traffic rules to stop the civil vehicle as well as a military vehicle and to take the man's name They are not empowered to arrest and they are empowered only to administer the ordinary traffic rules. The rule was therefore introduced for the convenience of the public and as a measure which I should not have thought any one would have wished to object to There has in fact been no objection received to this particular application of the Rule in the Central Provinces to which the adjournment motion draws attention either by the civil authorities or by the military authorities. I therefore suggest that it is not an urgent matter of public importance.

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan) This rule was made after the Assembly adjourned last year and this was the first occasion when this could be brought before this House The Honourable Member has said that it is for the convenience of the civil public in the places where it has been introduced. What I want to point out is that for instance in Jubbulpore from which place I come, which is a big military station, there is a sufficiently large civil population As far as the civil population is concerned, we feel that after this rule has been applied we are living under martial law. The military police do not know how to behave. They stop civil traffic without any reason, the roads are blocked and so many other inconveniences are caused So, I think this is a matter of urgent public importance and I think the House would like to discuss this matter.

Mr. President: I am afraid I cannot consider it of such importance as to allow it

USE OF INDIAN TROOPS IN INDONESIA AND INDO-CHINA

Mr. President: Then No 58 is in the name of Seth Govind Das It relates to "the military policy of the Government of India in engaging the Indian military units to suppress the freedom movements and political agitation in Indonesia and Indo-China"

This refers to a matter which has already been discussed in this House

OFFICIAL INTERFERENCE IN ELECTIONS

Mr. President: No 59 is in the name of Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang He wants to discuss **"the failure of the Government of India to take adequate** steps to prevent most improper and open interference by Government officials in the elections to the various Legislatures, particularly in the Punjab"

This has been disallowed by the Governor General

ATROCITIES BY PIONEER FORCE NEAR NUTANPARA RAILWAY STATION

Mr. President: No 60 is in the name of Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee He wishes to discuss "the wanton and brutal raid made by a unit of Civil Pioneer Force near Nutanpara Railway station in the evening of 7th January, 1946, on the innocent and peaceful inhabitants of a village known as Kaharpara situated near Chittagong town resulting in brutal and indiscriminate beating of men, women and children and raping of some women including one girl of tender age, deliberate burning with petrol more than 56 houses with all the household properties, domestic animals including cash and other valuables, looting of some other houses, serious injuries to several villagers by Lathi charge, death of some wounded and burnt persons in hospital, loss of properties worth more than five lakhs and rendering more than five hundred persons homeless and absolute destitute and failure of the Military Authority to take proper steps to give adequate compensation to the sufferers for these losses of lives and properties"

This has been disposed of previously and is therefore disallowed

BRITISH POLICY IN PALESTINE

Mr. President: Then we come to No 61 of which notice has been given by Sir Hassan Suhrawardy and Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan They wish to discuss "the failure of the Government of India to properly represent the views and feelings of the Indians to His Majesty's Government that any Departure from the scheme laid down in the White paper on Palestine will be considered as breach of faith and violation of the promises and assurances solemnly given by His Majesty's Government to the Arabs and Muslims of India which is calculated to shake the confidence of the Muslims in the plighted word of Great Britain".

This has been disallowed by the Governor General

SALES OF BULLIONS AT HIGH PRICES BY RESERVE BANK

Mr. President: The next motion stands in the name of Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad It relates to "the connivance of Government of India at the Reserve Bank acting as agent of foreign banks in the sale of Bullions at abnormal prices thus upsetting the price level in the country"

This is practically the same as No. 47.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I do not want to move it because it is being discussed in the Bretton Woods Committee report.

Mr. President: Therefore, it goes out.

ATTESTATION FEES FOR DECLARATION FORMS re HIGH VALUE NOTES

Mr. President: The next motion is in the name of Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon. It runs thus: "the failure of the Government of India to make timely arrangement for distribution of printed declaration forms and putting public into financial loss by requiring them to have the attestation of a Magistrate under Court seal costing Re 1 for each seal on the triplicate application, by the promulgation of the High Denomination Bank Notes (Demonetisation) Ordinance on Saturday, January 12, 1946"

What is the position as regards the special duty required?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, Government has no desire at all to shirk a discussion on Ordinance III In fact, we would welcome it But on the point of this adjournment motion there are two things which I must submit before you rule whether it should be admitted or not First of all, the charge was levied by the Provincial Governments under the legal powers possessed by them When we became aware of it, we issued a telegram telling them that they should not charge any fees for attestation of these forms Secondly, I gather that Mr Yusuf Abdoola Haroon will not be in the House today and, therefore, it is a mere waste of time to consider whether it is in order or not

Mr. President: That is a different matter, but it does not seem to me to be of importance, in view of the orders that are in force now.

Mr. President: Then, there is another motion standing in the name of the same Honourable Member I should like to know if the Honourable Member is not in the station at all

Several Honourable Members: No, he is not

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): May I say in regard to this motion that there is another adjournment motion, a little wider in terms, on the same subject which stands in my name. As we have reached this, I submit that my adjournment motion may be taken up now along with this

Mr. President: When the Honourable Member's motion is reached in due time, it will be taken up

Mr. President: The next motion regarding the use of Indian Soldiers against the Indonesians is barred by the previous discussion.

UNSATISFACTORY MEDICAL AND OTHER RELIEF TO INDIANS IN MALAYA

Mr. President: The next motion stands in the name of Maharajkumar Sir Vijaya Ananda If the Honourable Member will permit me to say so, it is difficult to follow it.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda (United Provinces: Landholders) It relates to two things.

Mr. President: I would like to read it and then I should like to have some facts about it. It runs as follows: "Whereas Indians in Malaya have declared their lack of confidence in Mr Chettur and his report to the Government of India on their conditions; whereas the Government of India have admitted the immediate necessity for medical help and economic amelioration in their diseased and poverty-stricken conditions; whereas Indians in Malaya have been repeating frantic requests to the Indian National Congress to send Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Medical Missions immediately to investigate the real conditions and afford succour, whereas the Indian Government has failed to extend such relief by granting only a pittance of a lakh of rupees to help 4 lakhs of Indians, while subscribing 8 crores of rupees to the U N R R A ; whereas the Indian National Congress has resolved to depute Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Medical Missions and the Indian Government has not so far granted the passport facilities to Pandit Nehru in spite of his application more than a month ago, while

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in the meanwhile hundreds of Indians are moving to an agonising end, I propose that the House may be adjourned to discuss this matter of immediate importance affecting the life of 4 lakhs of Indians in a helpless condition under a hostile Military Administration and away from the shores of India."

The motion is so argumentative that, really speaking, on that ground alone, it should fail But I do not want to stick to the technicalities of the wording and the phraseology of the motion. I should like to know .

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: It is provided in the Manual of Business that in the motion for adjournment only one point should be raised and the Honourable Member himself has said that there are two points in his motion . . .

Mr. President: Order, Order I am referring the Honourable Member to all those things which are of an objectionable character so far as this motion is concerned But if there is any matter of importance, which really deserves the attention of this House, then I should not like to rule it out of order merely because the Honourable Member has put it in an improper form Therefore, rather than stick to the technicalities, I would like to know what the substance of it is and then we will see whether it should be admitted or not That is how I would like to put it

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Sir, in view of the fact that the Indians in Malaya have expressed their lack of confidence in Mr Chettur

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has said all that in his motion I would like to know as to how the position stands That will clarify the issue and then we will see what is going to be discussed I would therefore like to know from the Honourble Member for Government as to how the facts stand That would perhaps clarify the whole position

Mr. B. N. Banerjee (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department): Sir, I share your difficulty of not being able to follow exactly what the Honourable Member wants us to do But as he wanted to know the position today, I may perhaps state that we have had no information about the Indian community in Malaya having declared their lack of confidence in Mr Chettur The only document that has come to Government's notice touching on this point is a press report purporting to convey the proceedings of a meeting of an Indian Trade Union somewhere in Malaya The press report does purport to say that the Trade Union did declare their lack of confidence in Mr Chettur because he had made a public statement to the effect that the condition of the Indian labourers was not bad Mr Chettur has never made any such public statement He has certainly not made any such statement in the report which he submitted to the Government I am not, therefore, aware of the source from which the Honourable Member has derived this information On the other hand, I think that many Honourable Members present in the House would recall having read very widespread appreciation of the very fine work that Mr Chettur did In difficult circumstance he made a rapid survey of the island in about a fortnight's time and brought to us very valuable information, on the basis of which we have been able to take a decision as regards the way in which we can best administer relief to the Indian public in Malaya The results of his visit were set out in a communique issued by the Government on the 18th December last and I am prepared to lay a copy of it on the table of the House I dare say many Honourable Members have seen it already In that communique we have made it clear that the condition of Indians is very bad and that Government are taking action to give legal assistance to the Indians who have been arrested and to send medical assistance for those who require medical relief We are also sending other forms of relief, such as, cloth and food The motion says that the Government of India have given a pittance of a lakh of rupees Our communique states that funds have been placed at the disposal of Mr Chettur No limit is placed to the amount of funds In the first instance, he sent us a request for one lakh and that was sanctioned But he has full authority even to incur expenditure in anticipation of formal sanction and any

sums which he considers reasonable for financing any measures of relief would be sanctioned by the Government As regards the question of Pandit Nehru's passport, we have had a discussion in this House the other day, and our own medical parties are about to proceed I think it will sail in a few days

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General): What does the Honourable Member mean by our medical parties?

Mr. B. N. Banerjee: I want to make an announcement today that since this matter was raised, there has been correspondence between the Department and Dr B C Roy, representing the Congress We have also obtained the South East Asia Command's consent to Congress medical units proceeding to Malaya It took some time to obtain the consent of S E A C and as my Honourable friend the Secretary for External Affairs Department told the House the other day, we were not keeping quiet over this matter We also had interim correspondence with Dr B C Roy who addressed us on behalf of the Congress As the House will realise it had taken some time to come to a decision regarding the visit of the Congress medical units We have since had the consent of S E A C and they also will follow very soon I take it that covers all the points raised in the motion for adjournment.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: The medical relief cannot be delayed and the fact that the Government on their own admission are taking time over it is itself very damaging The people over there in Malaya had been craving for medical relief and the Indian National Congress has been very keen on sending a medical mission there The fact that it was not granted immediate passport or permission to go there in itself means that the Government should be censured on this point I submit it is the only logical thing to do in this case

Mr. B. N. Banerjee: On a point of information, Sir I submit that we have not taken an unduly long time Since this matter came to our notice, the House will realise that we took immediate action

Mr. President: What is being discussed is not the merits of the question, but the admissibility of the motion Therefore, the Honourable Member need not reply on merits

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: On their own admission, there has been some talk about Mr Chettur not enjoying the confidence of the people of Malaya That, I submit is a good point to be taken It is a matter of urgency to the public of Malaya

Mr. President: I am afraid I am unable to agree with the Honourable Member. I rule the motion out of order.

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST IRAN

Mr. President: The next motion is in the name of Mr Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer. He wants to discuss "the failure of the Government of India to acquaint His Majesty's Government with the strong resentment by the peoples of India in general and the Mussalmans in particular in regard to the action of

ment of U.S S.R was a party".

The consent to this Motion is withheld by the Governor General.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Is it because the Government has not got the courage to face this motion?

Mr. President: The Governor General's action cannot be discussed in this House.

RESTRICTED RAILWAY BOOKING OF HIDES AND SKINS

Mr. President: The next motion is in the name of Mr. Muhammad Nauman. He wants to discuss

"The placing in class fifth and sixth perishable commodities of raw hides by Regional Controller, Calcutta for movement of raw cow hides from O & T Railway, B & A Railway, B N Railway and E I Railway stations to Calcutta area and thereby allowing accumulations of tens of thousands of raw cow hides of Kurbani on different stations in India which perished and deteriorated causing loss of hundreds of thousands of rupees to Muslim Hide Merchants in the Provinces of Bengal, Bihar and other Provinces in India"

There is a similar motion in the name of Mr Muhammad Nauman As the facts are almost the same, I am placing that also along with this motion instead of having separate discussions on the two, I can consider both and decide on their admissibility—

"Giving virtual monopoly to few individual hide firms of Calcutta for booking of raw cow hides, buffalo hides and goat skins from station on O & T railway to Calcutta area and thereby ruining the Hide Trade business of all other Muslim merchants of Behar and Bengal and other Provinces of India"

What are the facts? Can the Honourable Member Mr Muhammad Nauman explain?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural) The Honourable Member, Mr Muhammad Nauman is in Delhi, but he is not present in the House now

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The facts are mentioned in the motion for adjournment, namely the accumulation of hides in different places

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport) I am afraid the Honourable Member is not in the House, otherwise, I think, he would have agreed not to press this motion I have had discussions with him The position is this It is really a matter of local interest, no doubt of considerable importance to the Hide Merchants concerned, but it is not of very wide importance to the country as a whole The classification of commodities is not a matter of recent occurrence, and the facts related are not quite correct. The same applies to both the motions I have had this discussed departmentally with the Honourable Mover I have had discussions with him myself and I practically satisfied him except regarding one or two points (of peculiar importance) which he wished to refer to his constituents That being so, I suggest this is a matter fit to be settled outside the House and not in the House on a motion for adjournment

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The Honourable Member said that it was not a matter of very great importance, that it affects only some merchants who are interested in hides and skins If we agree to this contention, then most of the adjournment motions will be out of order Everything will affect only a small community and not the 400 millions of people in India But in this case, skin and hides affect every person who wishes to use leather goods Therefore this is a question of very great importance and on this issue the motion should not be thrown out

Mr. President: I do not consider the matter is of importance I rule this out

STUDENT STRIKE IN DELHI POLYTECHNIC

Mr. President: The next Motion is in the name of Sardar Mangal Singh He wishes to discuss "the mismanagement by the Government of India of the affairs of the Polytechnic Institute resulting in the total general strike by the students of the Institute"

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab Sikh) Sir, this Institute is mismanaged and as a protest against such mismanagement, there has been a total strike by the students for the last three weeks and the strike is still on I urge that this is a matter of very great importance and it should be taken up in the House.

Mr. President: Is the strike still on?

Sardar Mangal Singh: Yes, the strike is still on. About 800 students of the senior section are still on strike.

Dr. John Sargent (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I personally welcome any discussion in this House which would help to clear the air in regard to this unfortunate incident and perhaps to show us the way to avoid a recurrence of incidents of this type which are becoming distressingly frequent in educational institutions My only doubt is whether in view of its nature and of the latest developments of which I am aware, the matter can be regarded as of sufficient urgency to occupy the time of the House I understood that at the end of last week, as a result of discussions in which the Honourable Member in charge of Education, certain Honourable Members of this House who have interested themselves in the matter, the authorities of the Polytechnic, representatives of students, and I myself participated, the strike would probably be called off I have not had that confirmed I am waiting to hear whether the students have returned to work I have myself undertaken to investigate personally the points raised by the students and to see what can be done to remove any legitimate grievance which may exist This, as you will appreciate, will necessarily take a little time

Mr. President: I think it is desirable that, if negotiations are going on and there appear to be some chances of a peaceful settlement of the thing, those chances should not be minimised by an adjournment motion discussed in this House, which may perhaps raise some passion and some difficulties in the peaceful settlement of it But the other alternative which, I am afraid of, is that, if the motion is not admitted on that ground, it may be, that nothing may come out of the negotiations and the House will not get another opportunity or occasion to discuss these grievances That is how I am feeling.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) Sir, can it be held over for two days?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I fully appreciate what you have just suggested We shall be perfectly satisfied if the Honourable Member in charge of the subject gives us an assurance that he will conclude these negotiations as speedily as possible, and if there is a failure we should be allowed to bring up another adjournment motion The whole difficulty is that this subject has been hanging fire for some time I have not the slightest doubt that the Honourable Member who spoke on behalf of Government has looked into the matter, but what is the result? If they are satisfied that there are grievances, may I know why these grievances are not being remedied immediately? But if the Government think that there are no grievances they ought to be able to face an adjournment motion straightaway

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, as one of the Members of this House who interested himself, or rather was made to interest himself, in the affair at the invitation of the students, I should like candidly to place the position before you The students have been on strike, and what I gather from them is just this that they want the recognition of the diplomas of their institution by various other departments of Government I had long conversations with Sir John Sargent on the subject, and my Honourable friend Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang has also spoken to the students and to Sir John Sargent.

The position three or four days back was that the students were willing to call off the strike In fact, I informed Sir John Sargent to that effect when Sir John gave us an assurance that he will himself do his best to get these diplomas recognised, because after all the Polytechnic was a Government institution and it seemed rather anomalous that other Government department should not recognise diplomas granted by a department of Government itself. But a funny situation has now arisen—at least that is what I gather from the students—that they are very keen on a discussion in this House; and they feel that the atmosphere would be considerably cleared if there were a discussion in

[Shri Sri Prakasa]

this House and if Sir John Sargent could repeat his assurances in the House itself so that they would be made more public than the assurances so far given, have been made even though I have published the matter in the press

Therefore it would perhaps help both students and guardians and the House itself, if you permitted a discussion of this motion and if Sir John Sargent said here what he has already told me—with which I personally am quite satisfied—namely, that he will look into this matter and do his best to meet the difficulties of the students I have every confidence that after the motion has been debated, the strike will be called off and normal conditions restored At least that is my hope, and I have stated the position quite frankly

Seth Govind Das: Sir, another point is that if on the ground that certain negotiations are going on adjournment motions are not allowed, it will be a precedent and we will not be able to move any adjournment motion here

Mr. President: As I said on a former occasion, every adjournment motion will have to be considered on its own special facts and circumstances

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab Muhammadan) Sir, I endorse practically all that has been said by my Honourable friend Shri Sri Prakasa In fact he and I held consultations with each other and each of us separately talked to Sir John Sargent about this matter, and had also a long conversation with the students We were of course struck by the genuineness of the students' grievances They appear to have believed all along—on the basis of the prospectus issued by the authorities of the institution and some other matters, *e g* . speeches made by Mr Wood, the Principal—that after the three years' senior course they would get an all-India diploma which would be practically equivalent to a certificate of pre-engineering and that they would on the strength of that diploma be accepted as qualified candidates for employment in certain Government institutions and factories It now appears that they have had difficulty in getting that diploma accepted in practice, and therefore they urge that all their time spent in undergoing training there and all the money spent by their fathers and guardians has been useless

Mr. President: Order, order, I do not want the Honourable Member to go into the merits of this question All I want to know from him is, whether he thinks that a discussion in the House is not likely to prejudice a peaceful settlement In that case I may be inclined to allow it But if the feeling is the other way, I should postpone it for some time and take it up after two or three days

Dr. John Sargent: Sir, may I make a suggestion, which will perhaps meet the view of the Honourable Members concerned? I do not want the House to think that there has been any delay on our part in going into this matter I only heard of it the week before last when I was on tour in southern India I came back as quickly as I could and I spent most of last week in trying to ascertain the facts of the case There are certain other inquiries in hand the answers to which I hope to get in the course of a day or two. I suggest that, as I believe there is another adjournment motion dealing with this subject, No 86, which will perhaps come up in the course of the next day or two, the matter might be pursued in connection with that motion By that time I hope either a satisfactory solution will be reached or I shall be in complete possession of the facts which will enable me to make a satisfactory statement before the House

Diwan Chaman Lall: Sir, it is a very good suggestion made by Sir John Sargent that we should wait until that other motion is reached. Meanwhile negotiations are going on and it is possible that Government may be in a position to find a satisfactory solution—satisfactory from the point of view of the students, and if they are unable to do so we can debate the subject on that other motion when you may be pleased to permit either of the movers to move the motion.

Mr. President: It will be rather an unusual procedure However, for the present, instead of disallowing it, all that I would do, with the general agreement of the House, is to take up this motion along with No 86

RATIFICATION OF SAN FRANCISCO CHARTER

Mr. President: No 71 is from the Honourable Member Dr Sir Vijaya Ananda It runs as follows "Whereas the Government of India have ratified the San Francisco Charter without consulting the Indian Legislature and thus committed India to serious obligations inspite of ample time to consult her and their admission of the necessity to give an opportunity for a debate in the Central Legislature, Whereas the Indian fears were confirmed by the Indian Delegation's deliberate failure even to advance India's claim for a non-permanent seat in the Security Council, Whereas the composition of the delegation is so meagre and unrepresentative of Indian National opinion as to involve the possibility of repudiation of the obligations undertaken by the existing Government, Whereas her military commitments under the Charter are of a grave import in view of the explosive situation in Indonesia, Indo-China, Persia and Turkey, Whereas it is necessary to express the opinion of the Indian Legislature even at this stage when the first meeting of the Central Assembly is going on in London, I propose that the House may be adjourned to discuss the failure of the Indian Government to consult the Indian Legislature before its ratification "

It includes so many matters, but, as I have said, I will not merely go on technicalities, but I do not understand what the Honourable Member is driving at What does he want to discuss?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member) The Honourable Member is not here

Mr. President: As the Honourable Member is not here, the motion falls through

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GRIEVANCES OF R I A F MEN IN KARACHI

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion is to discuss "the failure of the Government of India to redress the grievances of 2,000 R I A F. men such as slow demobilisation, longer hours of duty, unsatisfactory residential accommodation, unpalatable food and unsatisfactory transport facilities, and for allowing them to continue on hunger strike in Karachi owing to non-satisfaction of these demands "

Will the position be made clear by the Honourable Member?

Mr. P. Mason: These difficulties in Karachi arose initially from purely local circumstances Some 2,000 airmen of the R I A F were brought into Karachi at very short notice and the arrangements for them were, I agree, to begin with somewhat makeshift They were housed in old tents with sand floor and 20 out of these 2,000 men had actually had to sleep on the floor. There were various other complaints about which I will say a word later But what happened was that that evening, the evening after they arrived, they refused to take their evening meal, and the next morning they refused their morning meal They have three meals a day and immediately after their refusal to take their morning meal, the Officer Commanding of the Station called them together and spoke to them to find out what their grievances were and what could be done about them He was able to take immediate action to meet most of their local difficulties and to start enquiries about the other matters they complained of, and the meeting broke up quite happily and they had their mid-day meal as usual Since then there have been no reports of trouble from these men at Karachi I do not know, Sir, if you would like me to go into all the points they raised—I think there were nine of them—but steps were taken in each case either to meet them or, when they were more difficult and complicated problems such as the difficulties about promotion, enquiries are

[Mr. P. Mason]

being made and we hope something may be done about them But everybody wants to be promoted rapidly

Diwan Chaman Lall: What are the other grievances?

Mr. P. Mason: The first one was that they were housed in old tents with sand floor Arrangements have been made to move them into better tents. Twenty of them had to sleep on the floor, they were provided with beds Some of them complained about unsatisfactory lavatory and washing accommodation. Work has been immediately put in hand to put it right Some complained about insufficient illumination at night, and a number of new generators have been brought into the station This was put right. Then there were some general complaints one was about the speed of promotion That, as I have already said is being looked into Everybody wants to be promoted more rapidly Some of them were refused permission to go on leave, they were allowed to proceed on leave Some complained about hair-cutting facilities and satisfactory arrangements were made with regard to this also

I suggest that this is not an urgent matter of public importance

Mr. President: I take it the hunger strike is not now on It does not seem to be a matter of urgency, apart from importance I, therefore rule it out of order

POLICE FIRING IN BOMBAY

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion is from the Honourable Seth Govind Das namely, Firing, lathi charge and use of tear gas in the city of Bombay on the 23rd January, 1946, on peaceful demonstrators, resulting in at least ten deaths and about 500 casualties, as reported in today's press, *i e*, on the 24th of January

Seth Govind Das: Sir, Bombay now is under 93 Rule and Bombay Assembly is not sitting This is the only place where this matter can be discussed This firing in Bombay was not the only incident, it is being resorted to not only in one place but so many places Presumably it is being done under the orders of the Government of India, and it is a matter of urgent public importance The ultimate responsibility certainly lies on the Government of India, particularly when the Bombay Assembly is not sitting

Mr. President: Have the Government issued any instructions generally to the provinces in this matter?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member) No, Sir

Mr. President: I am not inclined to give my consent to this

INACTION re REMOVAL OF SECTIONS 111 TO 121 OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT

Mr. President: The next motion is from the Honourable Mr Manu Subedar who wants to discuss, "the failure of Government to give information which was promised to this House regarding the progress of negotiations over the question of the removal or modification of the commercial safeguards in terms of the Assembly resolution passed on 4th April, 1945"

We have had some motions on this subject I should like to know what further the Honourable Member has to say on this?

Mr. Manu Subedar: If you will kindly bear with me for a minute, I would like to show both the great public importance of this subject and the urgency

When this Resolution was not only passed by this House but accepted by Government in the assurance given by the Honourable the Planning Member, that Government will immediately take up this issue with His Majesty's Government and Government will keep this House informed as to the progress

of these negotiations, then, Sir, there was a Mission of Sir Ardeshir Dalal, assisted by Sir Jeremy Raisman as a special officer, in the United Kingdom Various steps were taken on the last occasion when, for technical grounds, this was thrown out in a different form in which I put in that the Parliament alone could deal with it, Sir Ardeshir Dalal told this House that various steps had been taken and various steps are being taken and that he admits that information is due to this House Now, Sir, I submit that no such information as was promised last year when the Resolution was passed and as intimated by the Honourable the Planning Member in this House has been given to this House until now, and therefore the urgency arises

May I say a word on the public importance question Beyond two little booklets dealing with Government's policy, we have had no statement of policy by the Government of India with regard to their programmes and plans These programmes and plans not only the industrialists of this country are waiting for, but they affect labour and the re-engagement of soldiers, and, lastly, they also affect the whole financial question as to how much money this country would want and therefore whether we shall go to Bretton Woods again And therefore the importance of this question in the words of my Honourable friend, Dr Sir Zia Uddin, affects four-hundred million people of this country It is not a limited and isolated issue and it is an issue of the greatest importance If the Honourable Member for Planning will give an assurance that not only the information will be given to us but that Government will set aside a day for the discussion of the plans and programmes of Government, in connection with which Sir Ardeshir Dalal said and admitted more than once that these particular clauses were interfering, and also tell the House what steps Government have taken for the removal of these safeguards, then I will not press the motion

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari (Member for Information and Broadcasting) I would prefer the Honourable Member instead of raising this question on an adjournment motion to have first a talk with me when I could explain the position to him, and then if he wants a discussion on the subject, I would be willing to fall in with his wishes I do suggest that this is not a suitable subject for an adjournment motion My predecessor who gave this promise did not consider that the matter had reached a stage when he could disclose anything to the House I am willing to give my Honourable friend opposite such information as I have in my possession, but I cannot disclose it on the floor of the House.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member give an opportunity to the House to discuss it?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This is a question in which not only the Honourable Mover is interested I am more interested than he, and therefore, Sir, an opportunity may be given to know how things are going on

Mr. Manu Subedar: I shall not proceed with the adjournment motion if the Government position is what my Honourable friend says But I would like an assurance from him that a day would be given to us to discuss the Government plans generally, and specifically the steps which they have taken to implement the Assembly's Resolution on the subject

Mr. President: What is the position of the Government in regard to this?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I would like to consult with the Leader of the House whether the House can be given a day

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, so far as that is concerned, I could probably arrange it

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Then I am willing

Mr. Manu Subedar: In that case I am not pressing it

INADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLY IN AJMER-MERWARA

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion (No. 75) is in the name of Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava who wishes to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, "the callous indifference and hopeless inefficiency of the Government of India in not providing adequate supplies of foodgrains in the province of Ajmer-Merwara with the deplorable consequences that its people particularly in rural areas are on the verge of starvation and have to live on mere boiled vegetables and even oil seed cakes to keep their body and soul together"

This falls through as the food situation is being discussed

INDIA'S PARTICIPATION IN ANGLO-SIAM TREATY

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion is in the name of Maharajkumar Dr Sir Vijaya Ananda who wishes to adjourn the business of the House for "the failure of the Government of India to consult this House in dragging India as a party to the imperialist treaty of Britain with Siam which provides for the immediate extortion of her rice to the tune of 15 lakhs of tons and of all surplus rice in the next 21 months, control of Siamese export trade of rice, tin, rubber and tea, and prohibition on Siam from cutting a canal across the Siamese peninsula to link with the Indian Ocean and the gulf of Siam without the British consent, thus completing an economic, political and military stranglehold and reducing independent Siam to the Indian pattern of slavery and degradation"

Is the Honourable Member not here? Since he is not here it falls through

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural): Has it been also disallowed by the Viceroy?

Mr. President: No

POLICE FIRINGS ON I N A DAY

Mr. President: The next adjournment is also in the name of Maharajkumar Dr Sir Vijaya Ananda He wishes to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely "the firings in Madura, Calcutta and yesterday at Bombay, all significantly in connection with the demonstrations relating to the I N A and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, thus pointing to a uniform Central Government Policy lurking behind the hand in the Section 93 provinces, where the people have been rendered utterly voiceless by section 93 to ventilate their grievances and the indecent haste of the Governors in dissolving the provincial assemblies even before the Labour Government in Britain had declared its policy"

He still continues to be absent So it falls through

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion is in the name of Pandit Govind Malaviya He wishes to adjourn the business of the House to discuss "the gravity of the repercussions of recent firings by the police in different parts of India and specifically the police firing in Bombay yesterday, reported in this morning's newspapers, resulting in at least 10 deaths and 71 firing casualties".

This shares the same fate as before.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is slightly different if you will refer to the first motion.

Mr. President: Is the Honourable Member present?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The Honourable Member is unfortunately absent

Mr. President: Therefore it falls through. I might make one point clear: that the decision of the Chairman by common agreement among Parties was up to the time the Assembly started this session, and these are all motions after the 21st Of course, I may repeat that I am considering this question I have not had time to look into it.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Before you do give your opinion you might choose to hear Members of the House on the point.

Mr. President: I think that day, there was a discussion A few Members of the House had expressed their views and I have with me the report If any Member of the House wishes to say anything further, I should have no objection

Point of Order re Admissibility of Adjournment Motion of Absentee Member

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I should like to say a word If you will recall when this question was being discussed, you promised us a considered ruling I invited your attention on that occasion to Rule 51 I repeat it again The position as far as adjournment motions are concerned is very clear A Member gives notice of his adjournment motion, before House meets and the subsequent procedure is laid down as follows —

"If the President is of opinion that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, he shall read the statement to the Assembly, and ask whether the member has the leave of the Assembly to move the adjournment "

It is nowhere laid down that a Member who has given notice should be present at the Assembly at the time It is for you and you alone, to consider whether the matter of which notice has been given is in order As soon as you have come to the conclusion that the matter is in order, the duty is laid upon you, Sir, to read the motion to the House and then ask the House whether they will give leave for the moving of the adjournment motion, and in doing so, if there is an objection, you naturally find out whether there are as many as 25 Members present who will support it If there are 25 Members who will get up and say they will support it, there is nothing else for you but to say that the motion will be taken up at such and such time And this is the procedure laid down

"If the President is of the opinion that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, he shall read the statement to the Assembly, and ask whether the member has the leave of the Assembly to move the adjournment "

And if anyone on the Government side, or from any other side of the House says that he has an objection, then this is the procedure

" . . If objection is taken, the President shall request those members who are in favour of leave being granted to rise in their places, and if not less than twenty-five members rise accordingly, the President shall intimate that leave is granted and that the motion will be taken at 4 P M , or if the President with the consent of the Member of the Government concerned so directs, at any earlier hour at which the business of the day may terminate If less than twenty-five members rise, the President shall inform the member that he has not the leave of the Assembly "

This is the procedure laid down I do not find any provision anywhere in these rules for a Member who has given notice of an adjournment motion to be present at the time when you are reading it out to the House, after having come to the conclusion that the motion is in order If it is not in order you simply rule it out Therefore, I see no reason why the absence of a Member who has given notice of an adjournment motion should operate as an automatic failure of that motion If he is not present at the time when it should be taken up, say at 4 o'clock, or at an earlier time, naturally the motion falls to the ground because the Member is not present in the House to move it. That appears to me to be the proper procedure Of course we are waiting for your considered judgment Whether you give it today or later on it is for you to decide. But the sooner we get it the better

12 NOON.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: Europeans): May I, Sir, draw your attention to Standing Orders 21 and 22. Before an adjournment can be moved leave has to be asked for and if leave is to be asked the Member concerned must ask . . .

Mr. President: The point has been discussed sufficiently. The Honourable Member's point is . . . . .

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: The point submitted by Mr Asaf Ali . . . . .

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Sir, on the question of the interpretation of these Standing Orders may I make my contribution?

Mr. President: I just wanted to suggest that practically the matter has been discussed fully and the only person whom I would like to hear on this point would be the Honourable the Law Member or any Member of Government who has to say anything in the matter.

(At this stage Pandit Govind Malaviya entered the Chamber.)

I notice that the Honourable Member who has given notice of the adjournment motion is present in the House now and therefore the point is only of academic interest. Even on merits, I am unable to give the matter my consent, but that is a different matter.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Sir, in considering this matter I think you must take into consideration Standing Orders 21, 22 and 23 together. My Honourable friend Mr. Asaf Ali drew your attention to Standing Order 23 alone and based his arguments on that. If you take Standing Order 21 you will find that it starts with these words:

"Leave to make a motion for an adjournment of the business of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance must be asked for after questions and before the list of business for the day is entered upon."

You will find, Sir, that it is necessary for a Member to ask for leave to make his motion at a particular point of time, that is before the list of business for the day is entered upon. If you look at Standing Order 22, it says "The member asking for leave must, before the commencement of the sitting of the day . . ." (Interruption by Mr. M. Asaf Ali.) May I go on, Sir, without interruption? I will not give way to the Honourable Member. You will find there, Sir, that the Member asking for leave has to do certain things before the commencement of the sitting of the day and also he has to ask for leave at a particular time on that particular date, on the day on which he wants the House to adjourn. Then, Sir, you come to Standing Order 23. It says:

"If the President is of opinion that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, he shall read the statement to the Assembly, and ask whether the member has the leave of the Assembly to move the adjournment. If objection is taken, the President shall request those members who are in favour of leave being granted to rise in their places, and if not less than 25 members rise accordingly, the President shall intimate that leave is granted" etc., etc.

Therefore, you must have a member asking for leave and that member can ask for leave after he has done certain things before the commencement of the sitting of the day and also he must ask for leave at one particular moment of time and that is after questions and before the list of business for the day is entered upon. After he asks for leave, you, Sir, will have to consider if the matter proposed to be discussed is in order. You should read the statement to the Assembly and, Sir, further, if necessary, ask whether the Member concerned has the leave of the House to move his adjournment motion. The motion is, "That the House do now adjourn." I submit, Sir, that the Standing Orders are quite clear and if the Member concerned does not choose to be present in his seat and ask for leave to make his motion, the motion must fall through.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, a very important point has been raised by the Honourable the Law Member. I do not deny for a single moment that the interpretation he has sought to put upon these provisions is possible. But I am rather surprised that the Honourable the Law Member has laid stress on the words "the member asking for leave" and has left out the rest of the rule. It means nothing more than this. It may be capable of the interpretation which the Honourable the Law Member has sought to place upon it but that is not the only interpretation that can be placed upon this provision. The provision is as follows (Rule 22):

"The member asking for leave must, before the commencement of the sitting of the day, leave with the Secretary a written statement of the matter proposed to be discussed."

That is to say, that the member who is asking for leave leaves a notice with the Secretary. There the matter ends. He is not required to be present here. I am not aware of any practice, in this House at any rate, of a member actually getting up and asking for leave of the House to move an adjournment motion. I have never heard of it Probably the Honourable the Law Member is new to this House and therefore he is seeking . . . . . .

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Sir, I have been nearly three years in this House.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I do not give way I am simply interpreting the law as I find it It is no use your saying that it contains provisions which it does not contain All that it says is that the member asking for leave should leave the notice of his motion, with the Secretary before the House meets He is not required to be present in the House at the time when the President decides whether the matter is in order or not And the next Standing Order says.

"If the President is of opinion that the matter proposed to be discussed is in order, he shall read the statement to the Assembly, etc., etc.",

It means that the decision lies with the President and not with anybody else as regards the question whether the matter sought to be discussed is in order or not and once the President has come to a decision the member concerned is not required to say anything more. All that is necessary is that the President should read the subject matter of the motion to the House and the President will ask the House whether the member concerned has the leave of the House, etc. Therefore I do not see where the Honourable the Law Member's interpretation comes in

Mr. President: The Honourable Member need not address on the point of order any more now. I think it has been sufficiently discussed

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) If you would permit me, Sir, I would like to say just a word on another point The legal point has been argued before you The rules as they stand demand that notice should be given of an adjournment motion on the day on which it is sought to be moved, and whether the Member who has given notice of it is supposed to be in his seat or not is a legal point about which you will give us your ruling But I submit that the special circumstances which prevailed in the present case should be taken into consideration, namely that the notice of this adjournment motion was not given today it was given several days ago There were probably one hundred other adjournment motions before this particular motion, each one of which had to be taken up before this motion, and no human being could know as to when his particular adjournment motion would come up for consideration. I am very sorry, Sir, I was busy elsewhere. But the moment I was informed that my motion was likely to come up, I have rushed to this place and I am here. Eminent lawyers have put before you different view points. I wish to submit that the rules, even if you interpret them to mean that the Member concerned must be present in his seat at the moment when his motion is taken up, should be interpreted in common sense in relation to the particular set of circumstances existing at a particular moment. And, therefore, Sir, I submit that even if you should hold that normally speaking a member should be present in his seat at the time when his adjournment motion is taken up, that rule should not apply today. You should rule that this adjournment motion can be taken up, even though the Member concerned was not present in his seat That is all, Sir. If you will permit me, when the stage comes, I will say something about the admissibility of the motion

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): Sir, you will kindly see that Standing Order 21 refers to the time for asking leave to make a motion for an adjournment. Then Standing Order 22 refers to the method of asking for leave Now, as to whether leave is to be asked in the House or outside, there are two factors which must be there—one, the observance of the rule as regards the time, and secondly, the observance of the rule as regards the method. Let us take first the method: the method is that the Member asking for leave must, before the commencement of the meeting, leave

[Dr Sir M. Azizul Huque]

with the Secretary a written statment He complies with it Then comes the time . . . . . .

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Not in this case.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: The whole question is—when is the time when leave must be asked for and it is for you, Sir, to interpret whether the Member who carried out his part of the duty as contemplated in rule 22—*viz* , compliance with the method—has not also to comply with rule 21, by which he must at a particular time ask for leave for the motion of adjournment Then after he asks for it, it is for you to say whether it is in order

There is another point. You can decide straightaway whether it is in order, but usually you are kind enough, as has been the practice, to ask the Member whether he has got to say anything, so that you can understand the admissibility of it and then say whether it is in order If the Member himself is not present, I doubt whether you can come to the conclusion whether it is in order, not knowing what actually is the Member's point of view In any case, there are three stages one, the method by which he leaves a copy with the Secretary, second, the time by which he must ask for leave, and third, the stage when you have to decide as to whether it is in order After deciding that it is in order you ask if there is any objection I can quite understatnd Mr Asaf Ali s point The presence of the Member is not referred to in that rule, but you cannot interpret the rule in that way I do not think it was ever the intention that because the Member leaves a copy of the motion with the Secretary, that he has carried out also his obligation, as regards the time In other words, his obligation to ask for leave of the House after the end of questions and before the commencement of the session is not complied with unless he actually does it and merely carrying out rule 22 does not abrogate the necessity for his complying with the other rules

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I make a suggestion that your ruling on this point may put an end to this discussion at this stage?

Mr. President: That is exactly what I was about to do. The matter has been sufficiently argued I will give my considered ruling The point is academic now So far as this motion is concerned, the Honourable Member is already present in the House, but I am afraid it may not be possible for me to accept the plea that, each time the rules have to be interpreted, I should take the peculiar circumstances of that time into consideration and either enforce the rules strictly or relax the rules They have to be enforced as they are If they are inconvenient, they may be changed that is a different matter, but I do not think I shall arrogate to myself the right to change the interpretation of the rules as to suit the convenience of this or that special circumstance That clarifies the ground as regards special circumstances

I refer to the difficulty which the Honourable Pandit Govind Malaviya has urged when a large number of adjournment motions had come in, and there was a special pleading which Sir Cowasjee Jehangir had advocated I was more guided by the practice laid down by him than by the pleading he made before the House

One further point has been made by the Honourable Mr. Asaf Ali as regards the practice of this House There is therefore all the greater necessity of inquiring into the practice that existed formerly, before I come to a conclusion on this matter A long-standing practice may perhaps help me in interpreting the rule.

So far as regards the point of order that has been raised. Now, on the merits of the motion; as I said, it is of the same character as the previous motion, and we had it from the Honourable Home Member that there are no instructions issued by the Government of India

Pandit Govind Malaviya: If you are going on the merits, may I have your permission to submit one or two points?

Mr. President: As regards the admissibility of it, not otherwise

Pandit Govind Malaviya: The matter on which I wanted to move the adjournment of the House does relate to an event which occurred in one province. That goes without saying Unfortunately I was not here when the previous motion was taken up and I do not know whether the fact of that province being under a Governor's rule under section 93, was taken up by some other friends I assume it must have been (*Honourable Members* 'Yes') That point is therefore before you Now, Sir, one point which I wish to submit about this motion is that so many human lives have been lost and so much excitement has been created on account of only one plea by the police and the administration, namely, that if the procession which was to go through a certain route was allowed to go through the route which had been originally sanctioned, then the Mussalman residents of that locality would have taken exception to it and there might have been danger of public riots I beg to submit for your consideration Sir, that in the absence of any such statement by the Muslim residents of that locality, that plea amounts to a slur upon one of the big minority communities of India, the interests of which, under the Government of India Act, is the special domain of the Governor General, and, as such, I submit, that the very foundation of the whole episode about which, I wanted to seek leave of the House to move an adjournment motion, is a matter which is the special domain of the Governor General and therefore, I submit, that it should be permitted and should be allowed to be taken up

Mr. President: I am afraid the connection is rather far-fetched It is one thing that one may blame individual officers for mistakes they committed in the administration in any province, and it is quite another that there may be general instructions issued by the Government of India on their policy with reference to a particular type of matter As I understand the Honourable Home Member to say, in this particular case, there had been no general instructions issued . . .

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Quite correct

Mr. President: If that be so, then, whatever the number of deaths and injured may be, it becomes a matter not of an all-India importance to be treated as a matter for discussion in this House I am afraid I cannot give my consent to this

FAILURE TO PROTECT INTERESTS OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion is by Seth Govind Das to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely "The imbecile attitude of the Government of India—the wording is far from happy—and its failure to protect the vital interests and peaceful existence of our nationals in South Africa, threatened by the introduction of the Bill to freeze property deals between Indians and other races in South Africa, as announced by General Smuts, the South African Premier on 22nd January 1946 and reported in the press of this country on the 24th January 1946"

What has the Government to say on this?

Mr. B. N. Banerjee: Sir, the matter is no doubt very grave and of urgent public importance, but the Bill to which the motion refers has not yet seen the light of day Apart from that . . .

Mr. President: Order, order As the Honourable Member admits that this is a matter of definite urgent importance there need not be a discussion about the merits at this stage. That may be discussed when the matter comes on for debate.

Mr. B. N. Banerjee: Sir, I understand that the rules say that it must be a specific matter and I was trying to make out that there is no specific matter at this stage. There might be one later. The Bill, as I said, has not yet seen the light of day. All I have had is a Press summary outlining the speech made by

[Mr. R. N. Banerjee]

the Prime Minister of the Union Government in which he has given a very general idea of what the Bill is to be and I thought that it would be better to discuss a matter of this importance after the House and the Government have full details of the Bill Apart from that Government has no desire to obstruct discussion on this subject if the House desires to do so at this stage, but we feel that a discussion without full details of the Bill would be rather premature Our High Commissioner has been here recently and he should be back there today or tomorrow and we are expecting more detailed and authenticated information about the contents of the Bill, and I should have thought that there would be a future opportunity for this House to refer to this subject but we have no strong objection to discussion being undertaken now

Seth Govind Das: The Honourable Member has admitted that the matter is of public importance

Mr. President: The details of the Bill are not yet known but I find that it is the principle of the Bill that is objected to by this motion If the principle were accepted, then the House may wait for the details, but if the House wants to object to the principle of the Bill, it does not seem to be necessary to wait for the details of the legislation That is how I look at this matter I give my consent to the motion It is admitted and will come up for discussion at 4 o'clock, unless the House wants some other day

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official) You yourself very kindly said that you have no objection to this being taken up on Wednesday. in view of some outside functions, if the House so desires

An Honourable Member: There is no meeting on Wednesday

Mr. President: Outside functions need not come in our way, unless the House decides otherwise I am entirely in the hands of the House The other day, the feeling seemed to be against the practice of postponing adjournment motions The Honourable the Leader of the House also expressed the view that adjournment motions are urgent motions and we should not resort to the practice of adjourning The motion will be taken up for discussion today at 4 P M

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR FOOD DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Tuesday, the 29th January, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Food, eleven nominations were received Subsequently, one member withdrew his candidature As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected to the Committee for the unexpired portion of the financial year 1945-46 and for the financial year 1946-47: (1) Mr E L C Gwilt, (2) Nawab Sir Syed Muhammad Mehr Shah, (3) Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah, (4) Mr Muhammad Rahmat-ullah, (5) Raja Sir Saiyid Ahmad Ali Khan Alvi, (6) Rai Bahadur D. M Bhattacharyya (7) Sri Bhagirathi Mahapatra, (8) Mr M R Masani, (9) Babu Debendra Lal Khan, and (10) Prof N G Ranga

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO INDIAN COCONUT COMMITTEE

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Wednesday, the 30th January, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Indian Coconut Committee three nominations were received. Subsequently one member withdrew his candidature As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Mr A. Karunakara Menon and Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth to be duly elected to the Committee.

Mr. President: The House will now resume further discussion of the Resolution moved by Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang on Thursday, the 31st January, 1946

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to pass an emergency ordinance compelling cotton textile mills to release at least one-third of the yarn manufactured by them for the use of handlooms"

Mr Ramalingam Chettiar will continue his speech

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras Indian Commerce) Mr President, I was trying to impress on the House the necessity and the urgency of settling this question of the adjournment to be made between the handlooms and the mills in the immediate future before the large increase that is contemplated both in the handlooms and in the factory looms actually takes place There are a very large number of applications for increasing the number of looms in the factories and in the factories where there are no looms at the present moment they are contemplating adding looms The result will be that competition with the handlooms will become much severer and the position of the handlooms will suffer very much unless something is also settled as regards the demarcation with reference to the production between the handlooms on the one hand and the power looms on the other I was saying the other day that the House will have to face that and settle it without any further delay, especially when we are talking of expansion in every direction, the question ought to be settled without a moment's delay The Government ought to take up the matter immediately and come to some decision There are a number of difficulties bristling in this matter I have been referring to two or three There is the question of what you are going to allow to the handlooms on the one hand and to the factories on the other For instance in the old days we were thinking that the bordered cloth, especially *saris* and other things in which flowers were worked would be a convenient section of production which can be reserved for handlooms.

Now, Sir, the jacquard has come into existence and it has been developed with the result that the factories are doing as good work in this bordered cloth as any handloom can turn out So, the position becomes more and more difficult if you are going to demarcate between the handloom and the factory If you are going to suggest, for instance, that the bordered cloth should be reserved for handlooms, the power looms will certainly protest. They have developed this section already to a very large extent and if you allow this sort of thing to go on without actually controlling the production both by the handlooms and by the factories, any amount of trouble will come I have already said that the cost of production with reference to the handlooms is much higher than that in the factories If that is admitted, as it has to be, then the question will arise whether the handlooms will survive at all if the power-looms are able to turn out all that the handlooms can manufacture That is the position which we will have to deal with

Sir, I do not want to take very much more time of the House, but I would only impress on the Government, as I said, whether it is this Government or some other Government, that they should take up this question immediately without any delay whatsoever and come to some understanding before they allow the expansions of looms either in the factories or in the handlooms. That is the first responsibility which the Government ought to feel and which they should take up

As regards the additional yarn that is to be given to the handlooms, I have already said that the spinning mills have been working at a very great pressure and it is not possible to increase the output of yarn by these spinning factories As regards the factories which have got looms also, they have been using the yarn for the purpose of producing cloth for war and other purposes. Now that the war is over, what are you going to do? Are you going to allow these factories to work at the same high pressure at which they were working? If you do that, the result will be that they won't be able to spare any yarn for

[Sri T A Ramalingam Chettiar]

outsiders. Well, Sir, that is the position which you will have to consider also Now that the war is over, do you want the mills to work for 22½ hours a day, as they had been doing all this time? During the last three or four years both the spinning mills and the weaving mills had been working in several parts of the country for 22½ hours a day Do you want these factories to continue the same? If you want more yarn for the handlooms, than the spinning mills will have to continue that work As regards the weaving factories, what is going to be your policy? So, this is a matter which will have to be taken in hand again Taking things as they are at present, as I said, will not be possible to find spare yarn available at present Apart from the combined factories, that is, those factories which are doing both spinning and weaving, it is not possible to increase very largely the supply for the handlooms That being the case, how are we going to find the increased yarn that these people want?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural) Will the Honourable Member in future purchase only the spinning factories and not weaving factories?

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: I would suggest that so far as weaving is concerned, we will have to go very slow indeed

Then, there is the question of the consumers also and I was talking about this matter the other day The consumers want more cloth and at cheaper prices If we have got only the handlooms, then this will not be possible Then, the handloom weavers want yarn of higher counts—80's, 100's and 150's —, which will directly compete with Ahmedabad and Bombay That is also a position which will have to be taken into consideration If the handlooms are not allowed these higher counts, the income will be very low indeed I was asked the other day what would be the difference in wages earned by the handloom weavers if they took up the different counts? The higher counts pay better wages and the lower counts pay lower wages And if you are going to have the higher counts, then the question is whether the Indian mills can supply you these higher counts At present, the Ahmedabad and Bombay mills are not in a position to supply you with yarn. Before the war most of the higher counts came from outside India We were getting from other countries most of the yarn which the handloom weavers were using I had several demands made to me when I was in charge of the Provincial Handloom Weavers Society that I should make arrangements for getting yarn from outside, but the trouble always was whether you want to safeguard the interests of the producers of the higher counts or not On the one hand, the handloom weavers wanted it and, on the other hand, the mills did not want it I am only saying this that if you are going to satisfy the needs of the handloom weavers, then you have got to provide for the supply of yarn of different counts which the people require Some weavers, for instance, in my part of the country want the yarn of higher counts Then, there are other places where they want lower counts So, how are you going to provide for them? One of the difficulties of the present distribution of the yarn by the Government Controlling Department is that they are supplying to places like Madura, counts of yarn which they do not require But in places like Coimbatore where we want yarn of higher counts, we do not get it That is a sort of disparity in the yarn that is supplied to the various parts of the country, with reference to various requirements, that is the difficulty Not only that, even with reference to the quantity, the requirements are differing For instance, fly shuttle require more and a power loom or a cottage loom, when it is put up, will require much more than the ordinary loom which we used to have There *is no distribution according to the requirements at all* The black market *comes into existence because of this disparity, both with reference to the* quantity required as well as the quality of yarn that is supplied

Sir, a suggestion was made by the Honourable Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai that the handloom weavers will have to depend on hand-spun yarn for their requirements I do not know whether he made that suggestion seriously.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association Indian Commerce). Certainly.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: I am not questioning the advisability or the sincerity of the proposal that has been made The handlooms, as I have already said, are more costly I have also said that they are handicapped by the larger wages that they have to pay and they are not able to compete with the mills As a matter of fact, the price of handloom cloth is about twice as much now as that of the mill-made cloth Now, if the handloom weavers are going to use the hand-spun yarn, what will be the result? The cost will increase We all want hand-spinning and we all want to encourage it, but we want it only as a sort of supplementary occupation for people, so that they may be able to spin yarn for their own requirements But if you are going to have it as full time occupation by itself, certainly it won't compete with other occupations

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Government should subsidise it

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: If you are going to throw these handloom weavers on hand spun yarn, in the first place, there is not enough yarn, in the second place, it is very much more costly You will be handicapping handloom weavers very much by asking them to go in for hand spun yarn That is not the quarter from which you can expect the increased yarn which is wanted So, it seems to me as a long term policy we have got to increase spinning mills making available more and more for serving handloom and the short term policy will have to be practically the same The Government will have to be alert They ought to see that there is no delay made in supplying the machinery necessary for starting or expanding these spinning mills They should be chary to sanction any priority or giving any help for adding to the looms in existing factories or in allowing more weaving factories to come into existence Sir, this is only a temporary relief They will have to consider as soon as possible the question of adjustment between mills and handloom weavers

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What proportion of available yarn should be given to handlooms?

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: There is no question of proportion As I said already, in my part of the country, we have got very few weaving mills The biggest mill in the whole world is Harveys and it is only a spinning mill It does not manufacture cloth Similarly most of the mills in Coimbatore are merely spinning mills We do not weave The yarn from all these mills are available to handloom weavers But what is done is this Handlooms have grown around these spinning mills For instance, in this area where you have got spinning mills, handlooms have increased enormously, very considerably But the supply from all these mills is not adequate The only source I can think of now at the present moment is to indent on the yarn or cloth supplied to the military department

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What portion taking the whole of India?

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: It depends upon the quantity that has gone to military supply The military has been taking a large percentage

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Military is out of question

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: What I am saying is that the Military were taking a large portion of production of both yarn and cloth that we were making in the mills What I am saying is that military requirements are no longer necessary. The military does not require yarn or cloth. What is released by the military from out of their requirements will have to go to handloom weavers What exactly it will be will have to be worked out. I cannot say just now That seems to be the only means by which you can increase the supply of handlooms Having done that, the disparity in distribution will have to be dealt with also For instance, we are asked to send yarn from far off Coimbatore to Assam It is a waste of money, waste of everything.

[Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar]

There are handlooms which are requiring yarn in the locality Instead of supplying from that stock to the locality you are asking far off Coimbatore to supply yarn to Assam This is practically from one end of the country to another

Mr. President: How long does the Honourable Member propose to take?

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Just a minute or two. So, this disparity in distribution will have to be set right, both with reference to quantity and with reference to quality and also the distribution of the area from which it is being sent at the present moment to far off places If that is done, probably some relief can be given to handloom weavers,at present As I said the only source from which they can get is the additional supply earmarked for military purposes If they do these two things, probably some relief can be given to handloom weavers Otherwise, it will have to be a matter of long term arrangement between mills and handloom weavers

Choudhury Muhammad Abid Hussain (Bhagalpur Division Muhammadan): Sir, I fully support the Resolution moved by the Honourable Mover Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang I do not want to go into details by enumerating the statistical figures of handloom yarns or the number of weavers which were given by the Honourable Mover I will try to give a picture of the real difficulties of weavers who mainly depend upon this industry The other day it was rightly pointed out by Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad that the millowners were not always looking to the interest of handloom weavers and they always tried to have a lion's share in the import of yarn I am of opinion that both textile mills and handlooms should work side by side without competition with each other with a view to meeting the demands of the people of India In order to achieve this end, the Government will have to compel mills to set apart at least one third of their yarn stock for the use of these handloom weavers The handloom industry itself has been neglected by the Government though both the Government and the public feel that cottage industries should be encouraged Though machine is playing a very great part in our life, still in India the small industries should not be given up because a large section of the people of India depend upon their livelihood on this industry We know that one crore Indians are dependent for their livelihood mainly on this handloom industry and if the Government should neglect this industry, the result will be hunger and unemployment In my Province of Behar where a large section of people, both Hindus and Muslim are weavers, they mainly depend for their livelihood on this industry But during this war, owing to shortage of yarn and scarce supply of this, they have suffered much and great unemployment has come up The result of this unemployment affected agriculture, very much, because these unemployed weavers do go to cultivation which was the only course open to them, and this extra burden upon agriculture could have been avoided by the supply of yarn to the weavers

Now, I want to cite some examples of the aboriginals,—the Santals of the Santhal Parganas, the Kols and Bhils and Mundas of Chota Nagpur,—who are used to having their clothes woven with their hands and never depend upon mill-made clothes Owing to the shortage of yarn and the difficulty of getting it, they have had to give up that industry and now they are depending upon the quota of cloth which is to be given to them But the question arises whether the full quota, *i e*, 12 yards per head, which is given in my province, goes to these Santals and Bhils. Certainly not Their shares of cloth go into the black market which prevails everywhere I will further give some examples of the villagers who suffer from this in my district, the villagers who are out of touch with the officers who issue permits of cloth and to whom these villagers hesitate to go Do they get their proper share of the quota? The answer will be in the negative, their shares go into the black market I personally know the helpless condition of the villagers of Bihar who have no cloth to cover their nakedness. The most deplorable thing is that the village women cannot go out of their houses due to shame as they have no cloth to cover their bodies In

some families we find that the same cloth is used by both husband and wife at intervals when they have to go out because they have got just one and the same cloth. The reason is that no one cares for what others want. The distribution of controlled cloth is in the hands of officers and people in the towns, and the villagers have no hand in the distribution. When a man like Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad can complain that he gets as his share of the quota only half a *saree*, what can we say of the difficulties of the villagers who are always neglected and who do not know the proper quarters to be approached This bad state of things can be remedied if the weavers in remote villages can get yarn for their handlooms because the villagers generally purchase their cloth from the village weavers A few months ago every province has got some quota of the yarn to be distributed among the handloom weavers, but the method of distribution in my province is unique, and the actual weavers do not get yarn for their looms The organisation set up for distribution consists of officers and those men in the towns who do not know the A, B, C, of the weaving class people The ignorance of the actual needs of the weavers and the number of looms has helped to give birth to middlemen who are profiteering by it Hence, the position of the weavers in the villages is the same as it was before I want to draw the attention of Government to a column in '*Dawn*' of the 3rd February which says that the officers are misusing the machinery for distribution of yarn in my province The distribution has taken a political colour which Government should see and try to check. It says·

"In places like Hazaribagh, Arrah and Santhal Parganas where the Momin voters are in a majority the Hindu officers are openly distributing yarn to them on the definite understanding that they will vote for the Congress Momin candidates."

The distribution in the villages should have been made by the Weavers' Co-operative Societies and not by these officers and townspeople, because these co-operative societies know the real demands of the weavers. These defects are somewhat mitigated in handlooms by which *tussore* is made, and this is made in Bhagalpur and by it a large section of the people is supplied with cloth and *tussore* Sir, my suggestion is that Government should import yarn rather than export it and yarn should not be exported so long as the people of this country suffer from shortage of yarn In conclusion I suggest that at least one-third should be set apart for the handlooms and this yarn should be well distributed among the weavers

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural)· Sir, I rise to support the Resolution so ably moved by my Honourable friend Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang urging on Government to pass an emergency Ordinance to make more yarn available to handloom weavers. Let me reiterate what Mr Nairang has already said, that at least one-third of the yarn produced by the textile mills should be earmarked for the use of the handlooms. Sir, living in a country where nearly a crore of people depend for their daily sustenance on the handloom industry one can hardly fail to recognise the importance of such an industry.

Mr. President: Is the Honourable Member reading something?

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: I am reading from my notes and I will add something too.

Mr. President: If he proposes to read his speech, of course he knows the Parliamentary procedure, I do not like to go against the procedure of this House.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Sir, I have seen many Members reading their speeches.

Mr. President: That should not be so I would ask the Honourable Member to read very slowly so that members may follow his speech.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I have always seen that practice followed here and the other day you allowed the Leader of the Opposition to read, sentence by sentence, his great speech which was so sonorous that it sent me to sleep.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, Government Members always read their speeches.

Mr. President: I should like to discourage the reading of written speeches, but I do not like to go against the established practice of this House But if possible, I should discourage such speeches Honourable Members may, however, refer to their notes—that is one thing—they may be elaborate or long; but if previously prepared speeches are to be read out, the debate, to my mind, loses its effect Other Honourable Members are not able to touch what one Honourable Member has read and cannot give suitable replies to them or take into consideration the arguments advanced That is the disadvantage of written speeches, and I feel that in the interests of good debate this should not be done I do not wish to show any favour to one Honourable Member as against another, Honourable Members may refer to their notes

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Sir, you did not pull up the Leader of the Opposition, I protest against this discrimination

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I would like to point out that it will surely not be possible for the Government Member to make an extempore budget speech I quite agree with your suggestion that the prerogative still enjoyed by Honourable Members of reading their speeches should be used very sparingly and not on all occasions. But the position will be made very difficult if it is strictly observed

Mr. President: I do not mean to suggest that no statement can be read to the House I am myself reading statements about elections, and similarly important statements of policy or statements the wording of which is to be correctly given to the House will certainly be read by Government Members as well as Members of other parties I am only making a suggestion in the interest of proper debate It is not that I want to prohibit written or any other kind of speech, and I am sorry that Mr Siddiqi thinks that I am taking one view about one Honourable Member and another view about another Honourable Member It is very sad that he should take that view of the matter Nothing is further from my mind I will not allow one Member what I will not allow another Member to do

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: But the Leader of the Opposition was not pulled up

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is not proceeding as he should. I do not want to say anything more at this stage

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I am prepared even to leave the House, but I repeat that the Leader of the Opposition was not pulled up

Mr. President: The Honourable Member forgets that he is making an imputation of partiality against the Chair

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Yes, definitely, of discrimination

Mr. President: Then the Honourable Member should either withdraw that statement or leave the House.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I will leave the House with great pleasure but I will not agree to discrimination being made between one Member and another

(Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi then withdrew from the Chamber)

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Sir, it has been always my practice to make extempore speeches as I did the other day But seeing my Honourable friend Mr. Morris read a written speech on the food debate I was encouraged to do so this morning, specially because I have a long speech to deliver

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will now proceed

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: I think the difficulty will be solved if I speak slowly so that the Honourable Members may follow me easily.

Sir, living in a country where nearly a crore of people depend for their daily sustenance on the handloom industry, one can hardly fail to recognise the importance of such an industry The Honourable Commerce
1 P.M Member, Sir Azizul Haque, has already admitted that the class of weavers as a whole is economically the most exploited in India It would be therefore not something out of place if I rise to vindicate the class of handloom weavers whose position in India today is in the most deplorable state. Compared with others, it is a class which cannot speak for itself, and as such requires the utmost attention of the Government of India to be reformed *de novo*

Sir, before entering into a detailed discussion of the problem, let me further impress the point before the House that in an agricultural country like India, where almost 90 per cent of the population lives in villages—where it is almost impossible for an ordinary peasant to make both ends meet, where many are born in debt, live in debt and die in debt -it is far from being true that they will depend on cloth manufactured by mills And it would be all the more ridiculous to imagine India as self-sufficient in matters of manufactured cloth, especially during these days of disorganised rationing I would like to ask the Honourable Member of Industries and Civil Supplies if he can himself live on the usual quota of cloth without resorting to the so called informal rationing. It is a pity, Sir, that the officials entrusted with the duty of checking uneconomic use of cloth are the very individuals who are a drain on the entire national economy of this country

Looking into the conditions of India, we find the handloom spinner being placed in a most degraded position Not only has he to cope with the unsurmountable contingencies of foreign competition but also the internal hardships of getting sufficient cotton for spinning The results are disastrous In the first place an excellent source of employment is jeopardized Secondly, the villagers have to remain under-clothed Thirdly, there is a burden on their resources as they have to purchase cloth manufactured by mills which they cannot afford to purchase In this connection let me venture to say that one of the many causes of Indian famines has been the lack of proper subsidiary and cottage industries Handloom industry can serve as a veritable boon for the Indian agriculturist, especially in times of distress and hardships.

There has been a good deal of theoretic verbosity as to the desirability or otherwise of the future of Indian handloom But, Sir, let me make it clear in this connection that we can understand better than any other as to the utility of the handloom industry in India Before India is able to equip herself with adequate machinery, skilled labour and the required capital, it is in her own interest to develop as much as possible cottage industries and subsidiary industries which can absorb the greater part of her unskilled labour.

Now, Sir, coming to the success which such industries have been able to achieve it is sufficient to point out in this connection that they have achieved superb success in the various parts of this country In South India particularly there are a number of important places which are remarkable for handloom industries: Dharampuri and Conjeevarem are only two of the many important handloom centres in Madras Presidency In Bombay too there are some important places where handloom has received sufficient impetus like Ilkal and Bagalkot in Southern Division, Malegam in Central Division, Surat in Northern Division But, really speaking, it is in the United Provinces, Bihar and Bengal that handloom industry is at its best In the United Provinces particularly excellent handloom work is being done in places like Gorakhpur, Faizabad, Azamgarh and Sandila In Bihar this industry has received sufficient stimulous in places like Monghyr, Gaya, Hazaribagh and Bhagalpur In Bengal similarly the handloom has excellently developed in many places like Dacca, Jessore and Santipur.

It will be futile to recount the history of handloom in India It is sufficient to point out here that India has been a country of handloom weavers from times immemorial. As early as the 5th Century Egyptian mumies were found wrapped

[Mr Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer]

with Indian muslin Besides this, she used to export to China and other countries like Persia and Turkey fine cloth produced by Indian manual labour So what I really want to impress at the present moment is that the development of handloom industries in India is not something new. On the contrary it is an industry cultivated from times immemorial

The vagaries of fashion in India have no doubt exercised a decisive influence on the expansion of the Indian handloom industries None the less it has continued to be the sheet anchor of the Indian people However great the influence of the western culture may be, it has remained an integral part of the Indian society for many reasons One of the reasons is that India is still a conservative country

There are, however, some other difficulties which discourage the expansion of such industries. In the first place, there is a lack of proper statistics; secondly, foreign competition tends to jeopardize the future of the Indian handloom, thirdly, the stepmotherly attitude of the Government of India in granting protection to the indigenous handloom industries But in this connection let me point out that the real bottleneck is the improper system of yarn distribution to the mills and the handlooms The Government of India has never tried seriously to save the Indian handloom and the large rural population of India from the terrible grip of privation and famine In this connection it is remarkable that this war has created circumstances and contingencies which are different from those of the last war The last war, I may say, was more favourable for the development of the Indian handloom industry than the present one. There are two reasons for it In the first place, during the last war yarn was available from Japan which is not available this time Secondly, Indian manufacturing industries were not so developed as they are now Consequently it is now inaccurate to say that the present war has hit the Indian handloom weaver harder than the last war

I summarize the position I suggest that the share of handlooms should be determined not in terms of yarn but in terms of cotton Out of six million bales of cotton which we grow in this country every year, four millions should be reserved for cotton handlooms and one million should go to the textile mills Textile mills may be allowed to import long-staple cotton from Uganda and Egypt and in lieu of the increase of this import, we may allow one million bales to be exported to China That will be an equitable distribution Further I press that the only machinery for textile, which you are now introducing in this country, should be spinning mills and not weaving mills, and these mills should be installed in suitable places in all the provinces The Government has got a large number of shadow factories These factories may be utilized to locate yarn factories

Sir, I have done

Mr. R. C. Morris (Madras European) Mr President, Sir, the proposal compelling Cotton Textile Mills, which both weave and spin, to release a percentage of their yarn for use of handlooms is, I think, quite impracticable Such mills have a very limited reeling capacity if they possess any at all, so that the proposal would not result in any increased delivery of yarn to handlooms If yarn cannot be reeled it cannot be packed and delivered to weavers To the extent that the proposal might be practical, mill weavers would be thrown out of employment, and all those workers who would dye, bleach or finish mills cloth to the extent by which production is reduced.

Sir, I should also point out that the price of handloom goods is uncontrolled, and that the proposal would merely reduce the amount of cloth released to the public at controlled prices It is well known that handloom cloth is being sold at exorbitant prices.

The proposal, Sir, to prohibit totally the export of cloth and yarn to countries outside India is undesirable, because India expects to receive from most of these countries urgently needed supplies, *e.g.* wheat from Australia, rice from Burma and Siam. India is the only country to whom other eastern countries

may look in the immediate future for supplies of cotton textiles, and India cannot afford to take a selfish view and refuse to share what she has when she herself wants so much. Reasonable exports are certainly to India's present advantage.

Sir, from a long term point of view India requires to develop an export trade particularly with the object of finding customers abroad for her short staple cotton in the form of coarse cloth and yarn.

It is well known that there is a surplus of short staple cotton in India, which formerly was shipped largely to Japan, and from which Japan manufactured coarse cloth and yarn for domestic and export sale. Under Post-War plans for the expansion of the Cotton Textile Industry in India, it is desirable that Indian Mills should have an export trade. The proposal would prevent Indian mills from developing their export market at a time when it is most favourable for them to do so

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) What I am surprised at is that my Honourable friend who spoke last, naturally speaks in terms of his own country His country only produces coal and iron, and unless he exports that in exchange for goods from other countries, he cannot expect his country to live My difficulty is that I have plenty of raw materials and I want more to export Two million handloom weavers are starving Though in his country he has to offer inducements to bring forth children, it is not so in my country, where in every family there is a minimum of 5 children. Two million handloom weavers, constituting families nearly of one crore persons, are not fully employed Most of them are half employed and many of them are absolutely unemployed My Honourable friend, and some of them who are mill-owners, ask us to spin once more I have no objection Spinning must be introduced. But I say that the *charka* is unable to stand up against the giant machines from the west and therefore in the contest it may go to the wall We will have to practise that sooner or later, but for the present spinning mills must be established. Therefore must be a halt to weaving mills We shall no more increase the number of weaving mills in this country My friend is undertaking a suicidal policy Before the war they were unable to compete with Japan or Lancashire. They were producing 50 per cent of the goods required in this country. Of the balance 50 per cent, about 25 per cent was made by handlooms and the remainder 25 per cent came from Manchester They would rather allow Manchester or Japan to continue to import into our country rather than allow indigenous handlooms to produce clothing so that there may not be any unemployment

Mr. President: The Honourable Member can continue his speech after lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I have said enough I support the motion

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh (Member for Industries and Supplies): Sir, I shall not detain the House I have very little more to say. I think the discussion on the Resolution has been most valuable in focussing the limelight on one of the most important classes of the rural community and in underlining the need for developing rural industries up to the hilt

As regards the complaints which we have heard and which I am sure are at least partly true, about maldistribution and about despatch of unsuitable yarn to weaving centres, Government have taken note, and will take up with the Provinces any particular instances which are brought to notice

On the question of exports, Sir, I would only like to add that what is now being allowed in the way of export of yarn amounts to less than one-third of one per cent of the total consumption of yarn by handloom weavers in the country, and this very negligible amount goes to our neediest neighbours.

[Mr A A Waugh]

The trend of the debate has shown that it is our duty to concentrate to the best of our endeavours in securing machinery for spinning yarn and I would like to assure the House and those who have spoken that Government put the greatest emphasis on this aspect of the import of spinning machinery and give only a secondary place to the import of more weaving machinery

On the remedy proposed in the Resolution, I can only say that Government consider that the interests of the consumer must come first, even in advance of this very important rural class, whose interests we all have at heart There is an overall shortage of yarn and merely to divert at the present time more yarn from mills to handloom weavers would, I think, cause dislocation and a temporary falling off in the production of cloth which would be hard on the consumer at a time when there is an overall shortage of cloth, and particularly it would be hard on the poorer consumers What we propose to do is to concentrate with the utmost speed on getting more spinning machinery I have at the present moment the Secretary of the Department in conference with the Textile Commissioner at Bombay, discussing how soon we can put in train really effective steps to get textile machinery I hope they will be successful If we are successful we will then have at the disposal of the handloom weavers a much greater amount of yarn than has been asked for in the Honourable Member's Resolution and I hope we shall have the support of this House in all our efforts to get this machinery, and even if necessary, to go into the business ourselves particularly on behalf of the handloom weavers I do not think Government can adopt the rather drastic suggestion of robbing Peter to pay Paul by taking more yarn than we already take from the mills and get it into the hands of the handloomers Our best hope lies in getting more spinning machinery from abroad I would like to add that the consumption of cotton yarn by handlooms has been steadily going up in the last few years and it is becoming increasingly evident that the number of looms is outpacing the increase in the production of yarn and the allotment of the yarn to the weavers. There could hardly be this rapid increase in looms if there was not more arn to feed them Handloom weavers are now getting on the average something like 85,000 bales a month of cotton yarn, as compared with an average of 71,000 bales per month in the ten years ending in 1939 That is a genuine rise, though I admit it is not a satisfactory rise, but I do not think we can improve the situation simply by shifting more yarn from the mills to the handloomers The real necessity is more yarn and I hope we will be able to get it I would like to assure the House that it will be the Government's endeavour to do its best to get additional spinning machinery and get it into action as soon as possible.

Mr. President: The resolution is to be put to the House now I do not know what the position now is so far as the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution is concerned In view of what has been stated by the Honourable Member for Government, does the Honourable the Mover wish me to put the resolution to the House?

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab Muhammadan) I do, Sir.

Mr. President: There are now five amendments Amendments 2 and 3, though numbered separately, were moved as one amendment by the Honourable Mr Ananthasayanam Ayyangar Then there is the amendment of Mr Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal, one by Nawab Siddique Ali Khan and another by Prof Ranga. I propose first to put to the House the amendment of Mr Avyangar, No 2, (1) and (2) on the agenda

The question is

"(1) That for the words 'pass an emergency ordinance' the following be substituted · 'take immediate steps by legislation or otherwise for'

(2) That at the end of the Resolution the following be added ·

'and with a view to facilitate the same prohibit all export of yarn and cloth for trade purposes to countries outside India for a period of one year or until such time as it takes for this country to become self-sufficient, whichever is earlier'."

The motion was adopted

Mr. President: The amendments of Mr Sanyal and Prof Ranga practically seem to be the same except that there is a little difference. The first amendment says

"and that steps be taken to so distribute the released yarns as to cover the largest number of handloom weavers' families"

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural): That concerns, the distribution of yarn, mine is different

Mr. President: I know, it is different I am just explaining what is in my mind The other amendment says

"and take other necessary steps to ensure adequate supplies of yarn to handlooms calculated to provide full and remunerative employment to the one crore handloom weavers of the country"

Practically the one seems to be covered by the other How can there be distribution unless there are supplies? If there are supplies, then of course the distribution must follow

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The amendment of Mr Sanyal can follow mine Mine comes first after Mr Nairang's resolution In Mr Nairang's Resolution there is the phrase "the largest number of weavers"

Mr. President: No The resolution merely says "release at least one-third of the yarn manufactured by them for the use of handlooms"

Prof. N. G Ranga: And take other steps to see that this yarn is distributed in the manner suggested by Mr Sanyal That is the idea

Mr. President: My point is that the amendment which speaks of ensuring adequate supplies calculated to provide full and remunerative employment etc, includes the distribution also. Does it not?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No, first of all there is the distribution as between mills and handlooms then there is the distribution as between district and district and between weavers and weavers in the same district It is very common knowledge that these officers have been doing lots of mischief and bringing about black markets by distributing yarn in an arbitrary manner as between weaver and weaver and as between one district and another

Mr. President: That is a matter for argument I am trying to confine my attention on the wording of the two amendments

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You can say "Providing full employment to the weavers" The other words may be dropped

Mr. President: How can that be done unless there is distribution?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The first thing is you are evidently thinking of distribution of yarn between mills and handlooms . .

Mr. President: No I am not thinking of that I am just trying to see as to how the two amendments are mutually exclusive, they do not appear to be so That is my difficulty I am sorry I am unable to convey my point of view to the Honourable Member, but if he wants, I will put both the amendments—though I do not see how it can be done One speaks of ensuring adequate supplies

Prof. N. G. Ranga: To all the weavers, and that will be a question of distribution of that yarn

Mr. President: But how are the supplies to be dealt with if not distributed? The amendment itself does not speak about the method of distribution. However, I am afraid if the two parts are taken separately, as the Honourable Member suggests, then some further amendment may be necessary

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): If I have understood my honourable friend, he simply follows up my amendment and makes it a little more explicit. If you think there is difficulty in putting the two amendments together I do not mind my amendment being

[Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal]

dropped, because supply carried with it the implication of distribution and distribution over a large number of weavers is what I also want.

Mr. President: Then I shall put Mr Ranga's amendment, and I take it from what the Honourable Member said that, he also agrees that his amendment is covered by Professor Ranga's I will therefore put Prof Ranga's amendment. The question is.

"That at the end of the Resolution the following be added

'and take other necessary steps to ensure adequate supplies of yarn to handlooms calculated to provide full and remunerative employment to the one crore handloom weavers of the country'."

The motion was adopted

Mr. President: I now put to the House the amended Resolution of the Honourable Member, Mr Nairang

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to take immediate steps by legislation or otherwise for compelling cotton textile mills to release at least one-third of the yarn manufactured by them for the use of handlooms, and with a view to facilitate the same, prohibit all export of yarn and cloth for trade purposes to countries outside India for a period of one year or until such time as it takes for this country to become self sufficient, whichever is earlier, and take other necessary steps to ensure adequate supplies of yarn to handlooms calculated to provide full and remunerative employment to the one crore handloom weavers of the country"

The motion was adopted

RESOLUTION *RE* RELEASE OF INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY MEN AND POLITICAL PRISONERS

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I beg to move —

"That in view of the universal expression of public opinion throughout the country in the matter, this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to give up the trials of the officers of the Indian National Army and to release immediately all men and officers of the Indian National Army as well as all other political prisoners under detention or imprisonment"

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) Sir, I want to raise a point or order on this Resolution may I raise it now or later on?

Mr. President: Let the amendments be moved

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Is he going to speak on the Resolution now?

Mr. President: He will make his introductory speech, and then at the end, according to the practice of the House, as I am told, he will say " I move". Then the amendments will be put before the House and then I will consider the Honourable Member's point

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: I am on the point of the admissibility of the Resolution

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Sir, I am not very happy in having to bring forward this Resolution before this House This Assembly was constituted by an Act passed in 1919 It should therefore be an antiquated affair But the times have changed, and while this Assembly still happens to be governed by the Act of 1919, the spirit of this country and of its people is very different from what it used to be in those days The country no more believes in resolutions and petitions The country does not look to the Government, which happens to be functioning in this land today, to protect the rights of its citizens and to uphold the honour of its men and women The country therefore will neither appreciate nor understand that Members of this House who happen to come here as the result of a popular vote, should ask the Government which unfortunately is in power in this country today, to do things which they think should be done. And yet, as we are governed by that Act, there is no other course for us.

Therefore, before I proceed further, I should like to express my regret, almost my apology, to my countrymen for almost the insult that I offer them by asking this Government, with the record that the present Government has, to release its patriotic sons and daughters who have made it the rule of their life to suffer for their convictions and to put up with all troubles, and imprisonment and detention and what not, for the sake of the liberation of this country But, Sir, if there is this gloomy aspect to it, there is another aspect which is a little more hopeful and that is that if the times have changed that change has not left the Government Benches here and the Government in England altogether unaffected. The Act of 1919 came as a result of the well known declaration of the 17th of August 1917 In those days, a Secretary of State, Mr E. S. Montague, who dared to make a declaration even in that halting manner could not remain long on the Treasury Benches in England As compared with that, now we have declarations by successive Prime Ministers of England We have now repeated declarations by every Secretary of State for India We have had declarations by the Viceroy of India, and we have had other declarations and Statements which have protested that the policy of the British Government is to make India free Therefore I said that these are hopeful signs that though we happen to be governed by an Act which was passed in 1919, Government Benches will look upon things in the spirit of today.

There has been another hopeful feature also the attitude of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in commuting the sentences of death which had been passed by Courts Martial against three officers of the I N.A , who are today the star heroes of this land I wish respectfully to offer my congratulations to the Commander-in-Chief on that far sighted action I should like to bracket with him in that congratulation the Viceroy of India, Lord Wavell also. That one act, all the more remarkable for its rarity, by its realistic appreciation of the situation, does kindle in our minds a spark of hope, that after all, Government might take a sane and a practical view of things Unfortunately, there have been a number of omens, ill omens, against that hope There is the attitude of the Government regarding Indonesia There was the attitude of the Government with regard to the election of the President of this House There was the attitude of the Government with regard to the police firings in Bombay and in various other parts of the country There is the attitude of the Government with regard to the students. Two days ago read that the Government are going to post Indian troops also in Japan for the occupation of that Island and, of course, without any consultation with the leaders of this country and without caring as to what the reactions of the people will be to that These things do not help to foster that hope and yet I wish to hope, that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the Field Marshal Viceroy of India will adopt a liberal policy in these matters I hope, Sir, they will not be carried away by their advisers and their "well-served India" colleagues of the Viceroy's Council as his Excellency called them. I hope they will be able to read the signs of the time, and they will be able to respect the wishes of the country, and they will be able to do what is actually expected of them at this moment For that reason and in that hope, I put this Resolution before this House

Sir, I am not one of those who are unduly unnerved by the mere fact of arrests and detentions, of troubles and sacrifices, or of even firings and hangings We have grown used to all that in this country We know that that is the price we have to pay for freedom I know that every single one of those brave men who formed the I N A., and every one of those brave patriots who are rotting in the jails of India, would feel unhappy that any one of their own should stand on their behalf to ask for their release, to ask for any leniency towards them, to ask for any clemency or amnesty for them until their goal had been achieved. Still, I bring forward this Resolution, as a Member of this House who on the first day took the oath of allegiance to the King Emperor, and undertook to discharge his duties faithfully as a member of this House. I feel, Sir that it is the duty of the Members of this House to put before the

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Government the view point of the country with regard to this matter We represent certain constituencies If on any particular matter of public importance a certain view prevails in the constituency, it is part of our duty to bring the matter up before this House I do it in that spirit I hope the Government will be able to see the wisdom of the course which we advocate. If they do so, they shall really be doing something which will be helping them and will be in their own interest I hope therefore, Sir, that they will be able to rise equal to the occasion and take a sane view of things

Coming to the Resolution, it can be divided into three parts The first relates to the trials of the I N A officers and men The second relates to the release of the I N A officers and men and the third part to the political prisoners and detenus in this country. Before I proceed any further I should like to mention, Sir, that I am most happy at the amendment of which my friend Mr Sanyal has given notice I do wish that the cases of those who are outside India should also be included in the scope of this Resolution Similarly, before I proceed any further, I should like to include in the scope of this Resolution not only the prisoners who are rotting in the jails in India and the detenus, but also those who on account of any action of the Government or their orders, have got to live under ground and have to carry on their work and their activities and their duties, as their light directs them, without being able to function like normal persons in society I wish to include everyone of them also in the scope of my resolution

I will now come, Sir, to the first part, namely, the trials The Government has already had some of these trials and their effect in the country

3 P. M. is well-known The merits of the case, which has now been completed, are there before the whole world It is possible for me, it is possible for anyone, to go into these and to show up step by step why these trials should never have taken place But I shall not do that I shall try to take an uncontroversial line

The basic difficulty about this matter is that in the very nature of things the view-points of Great Britain and of India are bound to be different I do not deny that from the point of view of England, in the circumstances of the time, those who should have taken up arms against England, irrespective of their motive, should have been regarded as England's enemy I am not unaware of the writings in the English press, which has called these fine patriots Quislings and similar names I have no quarrel with that because I can understand the British view-point about it But what I wish to submit is that the matter is one which relates to India, it relates to people who belong to India, and it relates to operations which concerned India The trials have been held and are being held and, in case they are still persisted in, will be held in India They are affecting the people of India and therefore, the view-point of India should find the uppermost consideration in this matter And Sir, in the view of India, these men and officers of the I N A have become heroes Have we had before, at any time, that universal and wild expression of joy, of admiration, of love and of esteem which reverberated throughout the length and breadth of this land on the question of the Indian National Army? It has been unprecedented That is the view point which India has in that matter How can you blind yourselves to it? I know I cannot possibly have all the time that is needed to say all that one would like to say about it It is, therefore, not possible for me to go into the details of this matter But, during the first and subsequent court martial trials, it has been argued out most ably, and, if I may say so, most conclusively, that it was the motive of these people which should be the most important consideration in the whole case With the motive, with the spirit, with the attitude and actually with the course which the I N A adopted, there could be nothing which would appear more absurd to the people of this country—I will not use any stronger word—than that they should be regarded either as criminals or traitors or as people who were guilty of any dereliction of duty

The Government have said that they would differentiate between those of the I.N.A. who have been guilty of brutality and the rest. If I read aright, their intention seems to be—the indication comes also from the notice of the amendment which we find tabled in the name of the Honourable the War Secretary—that out of the I N.A men those are going to be picked out for punishment who, might be alleged to have been guilty of brutality. It is a funny thing, for this Government, Sir, to talk of brutality Brutality can be of different types; but, I can think of no type of brutality, the guilt of which does not lie writ on the forehead of this Government during the past 200 years. And that guilt is not merely of the past. As day follows day and as incident follows incident, the people of my country are face to face with brutality after brutality, which is sometimes severe, sometimes light, sometimes harsh and sometimes unimaginable, which is being perpetrated in one part of the country or the other I am not indulging in platitudes We are prepared to take any member of this Government, or anybody from outside, who wishes to come, to the inner parts of the country and show him how the hirelings of this immoral Government—I call it immoral because there can be nothing more immoral in this world than to dominate over another country without its consent—are harassing and oppressing my people in different parts of the country in matters, small and large, with a brutality which is difficult to imagine For such a Government to complain of brutality against people who were on a field of battle and who had put their lives in the palm for the liberation of their motherland, who were face to face with machine guns and bombs and aeroplanes and what not, for this Government, to talk of brutality about them, Sir, is, as I said, funny. But, Sir at the moment, this Government is the top dog and being the top dog, other dogs might bark, we might say what we will, we might feel as we might, but the Government can always have their way so long as they are there, and, therefore, right or wrong, it is open to them today to say that they will persist that so and so and so and so were guilty of brutality and therefore they shall be dealt with in a particular manner Even then, I submit that the evidence that has been adduced before the various trials that have taken place so far, if it is carefully looked into, I do not wish to refer to any matter which might be *sub judice*, I am only saying what the general impression of the people about that evidence is, the evidence does not disclose a definite, certain, unchallengeable case, a case free from doubt, that brutality was practised Therefore, I would ask the Government not to persist in their stand behind that one small word. I suggest it will be unwise on their part to let matters stuck on account of that one word and say that some men were going to be singled out for brutality.

I hope, Sir, the Government will realise that the greatest blunder which could have been committed from the point of view of Great Britain was that they should ever have started these trials. That is a patent fact and I shall not labour the point, because everybody is saying it and everybody is realising it. I hope the Government will be able to respect the opinion which has been expressed throughout the country. I base my plea upon non-controversial ground, upon unchallengeable ground, and that is that from one end of the country to the other there has been unanimous expression of opinion against these trials demanding that they should be given up The Government will be losing nothing by responding to that expression of public opinion and I hope they will have the wisdom to do it I am tempted to refer to some other parts of the world, I am tempted to refer to the Free French Forces under General De Gaulle which were raised for the liberation of France. I am tempted to refer to the Polish Exile Government which lived and worked from London There were several others The world knows all that If England could foster,' support, utilize and honour those who were working against a Government established in their own country by their own countrymen, then, how dare they condemn the I.N.A., a similar group of patriots in exile, who wished to liberate their motherland from the clutches of a foreign rule. I think, Sir, mine is a case which is so patent that it does not need much

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arguing I therefore hope that the Government will not be blind to the need of the hour and will drop these trials

Then I come to the I N A personnel. The first thing I should like to enquire is why there should be all this "Top Secret" attitude about the men. After all, whatever had to happen has happened, the episode is over, you have now got the men under your lock and key Why all this secrecy about them? Why create a mystery about them Looked at from the Government point of view, it does not really help them It enables people to imagine things about the whole affair which may not be true I therefore ask, why all this secrecy about it? Why not give us figures" Why not give us details as to where these men are, how they are, how many of them are there, how they are being dealt with and what is going to be done to them? That would clarify the situation. It would be as much in the interest of the Government as of anybody else

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) Let the Government release them and be done with it.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I agree, but, if it takes time for that wisdom to dawn upon them, let them improve upon the situation by telling us how things are, because it is not easy for us to find out accurately and reliably as to where they are and how many of them are there Our reports are that there are 3,778 of them in Jiggargacha camp Our reports are that—there are two reports—one, that there are 2,000 of them, the second, that there are 1,293 of them in the Bahadurgarh camp The Secretary of the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee tells me that there are about 7,000 or 8,000 of them in the various camps of the Punjab I suppose these two are included in them The Secretary of the U P Provincial Congress Committee tells me that there are about 2,380 of them in the U P We have other details To go into all of them will not have much bearing upon what I am going to say, because whether they are only one or whether they are lakhs, that is not the point Whatever be their numbers, it is wrong to keep them in detention They should be forthwith released.

Sir, regarding the treatment which is being meted out to them, I should have liked to go into that also But, I know that my time is limited and therefore, I would leave it to my other Honourable fellow Members to bring that before you All I would say is that though the Government said that these men were to be treated as "Recovered Prisoners of War", which I believe is the same thing as "Indian Officers Under Arrest", the treatment which is being meted out to them is of a very different nature In the Bahadurgarh camp they are not allowed to have any interviews whatsoever They are not allowed any newspaper except the *Statesman* Many of the undertrials even are not allowed to receive the eatables or food that their friends and relations bring to them There are other small troubles and pin pricks which I hope the Government will look into But there are other more serious things The Government said they would prosecute or punish only those who were guilty of brutality We find that there are a number of people—I can give the names of some of them, who had been charged only with the offence of waging war against the King, who have actually been hanged For instance, Chattar Singh, a Sikh youth of the Punjab, Nazar Singh, Hazara Singh, Bal Bahadur Thapa, Kesri Chand Sharma, Naik Jogindar Singh, Naik Gurcharan Singh,—these have been hanged There have been many others also That is the information we have Then, there are others who have been sentenced to transportation for life An old man of fifty named S M Chopra, B G Gowd, Shiv Charan Singh, and others have been sentenced to transportation for life, though they also had been charged only with waging war against the King Chopra and these other men have been placed in the 'C' class The other day I heard the Honourable the Home Member saying something about conditions in jails I do not know if the Home Member would like to have some experience of these places as we have had so many times in our lives. We know what it

means to be a 'C' class prisoner and, I ask, if it is true that you said that these people would be treated as Indian officers under arrest, I ask, why then should they be put in 'C' class and why should they be treated as if they were not human beings. S. M. Chopra, I understand, is a man who is 50 years old He comes from a high family but is confined in 'C' class I understand that all the 24 hours, day after day and week after week and month after month this old man has to remain in shackles I wish the War Secretary and the Home Member would put shackles on their wrists and feet 24 hours and see what it means, then they would not like to put them on any one else again I hope that these things will be looked into and, if found correct, will be righted

Then let us look at the whole question of these prisoners from the general point of view What did they do? What were the circumstances in which they formed this National Army or joined it? The whole world now knows the details and I want to take as little time as possible Therefore I will only put a question and ask every one in this House to put his hand on his heart and tell me what he would have done in those circumstances, as a man of honour, if his country had been in the condition in which the country of these young men is I will speak for myself

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will please note that he has almost reached his time limit

Pandit Govind Malaviya I will say, Sir, what I would have done and what, I believe, every honourable man in this country would have done, we would have done what the I N A people did Are you, then, justified in treating these men as criminals? Are you doing a wise thing in exasperating this country by keeping behind the prison bars these men whom the country looks upon as heroes and martyrs? What do you gain by it? Your war is over, there is no emergency, there is no danger. What is the benefit that you are going to derive by continuing to keep these men in detention? If you have any sense—leave alone any question of justice and generosity—you should change your policy. And these men are not ordinary people In 1944—I am not talking of 1942—they had won over the whole of Kohima and Imphal They had pushed back the 4th Indian Corps six to seven hundred miles They had surrounded them and it was in the air that the British Commander signalled to his headquarters asking for permission to surrender to the I N A Such were these brave people They could do all that with all the handicaps and odds in their way If only God had willed it a little otherwise, if these people had not been so terribly short of arms and ammunition, of provisions and equipment, I believe, they would have reached this country. And, if they had come to this country, I have no hesitation in saying, I am proud to say, that I believe every one in this land, man, woman and child would have stood up behind these men, as distinct from the Japanese, and under their lead would have liberated this land and turned the British out The fact that they failed does not matter It is the effort, it is the earnestness, it is the outlook, it is the motive, which matter in life, and all honour and glory to them, therefore, for having taken the step that they did. That is how this country looks upon them. You claim to be the Government in this country.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): No, they are not.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I knew they are not, but they make that claim I ask you, Sir, whether we cannot expect that, if for nothing else, at least for the sake of what they say, *viz*, that they are the Government of India, they would respect the wishes of India in this matter and release all these men?

Sir, I will now come to the last part of my Resolution which relates to political prisoners As I said, the scope of my Resolution should be allowed to include people who are underground also I should also like to repeat, Sir, that I do not ask for any mercy, for any clemency for these brave men who are rotting in the jails of India or are under detention. I know they will feel

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angry, they will not be happy, if any one of them asked for any favour or clemency or leniency for them so long as the goal is not achieved. I will only say this I know my time is limited and I will therefore finish as quickly as possible I will only say this that so long as men like Jai Prakash Narain and Achyut Patwardhan, so long as men like Baba Raghav Das and Shibban Lal Saxena, so long as men like Ram Manohar Lohia and Satya Ranjan Bakshi and so long as men like Jogesh Chatterji and Sardul Singh are not allowed to be free to take then rightful and natural place in the life of the country, so long, all that talk about co-operation and good-will which this Government or *the Government in England or any one else* might indulge in, is not only futile but is also puerile Sir, these men, each one of them, would be the pride of any country and I hope the position of love, admiration, and esteem which they have earned in the hearts of the people of this country is not lost on Government The figures which the Honourable the Home Member gave us about them on another occasion are not correct The wearer best knows where the shoe pinches I do not wish to charge the Home Member with deliberately giving us wrong information, he is probably not likely to know much about the provinces In every town and every village people are hauled up for their political activities and chalaaned and tried and sentenced under the ordinary criminal laws of the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code And they are not classified as political prisoners, they are thrust into the jails to rot like beasts with the ordinary criminals I believe the Home Member does not know about these things

An Honourable Member: He should know

Pandit Govind Malaviya: There are several other things The Honourable the Home Member's figures are not dependable The Secretary of the United Provinces Provincial Congress Committee tells me that in the United Provinces alone there are more than seven hundred of these prisoners today The figure which the Honourable the Home Member gave for the whole of India was less than this I shall leave the details for others

I should, however, like to refer to one point which has often been raised and which the Home Member was raising the other day also in this House with regard to an adjournment motion, namely, the question of violence or otherwise He said he had gone to meet Mr Jai Prakash Narain etc and to find out what their views were about violence This is a very serious thing If I had time I would have dealt with it properly, I can not do so now—but, Sir, it is an awful thing, it is an entirely new thing in history that we should begin to distinguish between the political prisoner who has done something which was violent and a political prisoner who has done something which was not violent From the beginning of history there have been political offenders, there have been agitators, there have been revolutionaries, there have been assassins, and what not Sir, nobody ever asked as to what actually they had done It was their motive, it was the purpose for which they acted, which determined that they were political prisoners It is a most unfortunate and regrettable tragedy that in this country during the Gandhi-Irwin negotiations, for the first time in history, the Congress countenanced that distinction of political prisoners guilty of violence or otherwise. But, Sir, it is wrong, and it is even more wrong for this Government to take that plea. With their very existence, every minute of their existence being dependent upon the most unmitigated violence, this Government cannot have the face to raise that plea. But, Sir, I would go further and say that it would be wrong for Mahatma Gandhi himself to take that plea Mahatma Gandhi is not an ordinary man; he has given the greatest gift of this age to mankind—his non-violence. The future hope of the world depends on that alone. I believe, Sir,—If you will permit me another two or three minutes I shall finish— . .

Mr. President: Two minutes, each consisting of sixty seconds only

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I am very sorry I have taken more time than I should have As I have said, we believe in non-violence That is our faith, religion and policy I believe, that India's freedom, to be permanent, must be won through non-violence alone But, in spite of all that we cannot possibly agree to a differentiation between a man who has been guilty of violence as a political prisoner and another I hope that distinction will not be made

I shall not go into the condition of these prisoners at present I will only refer to the hungerstrike that is going on at different places I hope the Government is not deaf and blind in that matter

An Honourable Member: They are

Pandit Govind Malaviya: In these jails we have lived off and on during the last 25 years It is not merely the physical discomfort which matters it is the insolence, it is the impudence of the jail staff in charge of whom the prisoners are The late R S Pandit, my elder brother, Rama Kan Malaviya, and Chandrabhal Jauhari, and Khedan Lal both Members of this House died as a result of the shocks they had in jail

Mr. President: Honourable Member will remember his time limit

Pandit Govind Malaviya: My time is up I will only say that if this Government wants that there should be peace and goodwill in this country, if this Government wants that people should believe that they really want to do something which may be good, the only course open to them is to accept this Resolution and to act accordingly

Sir, I have done But if you will permit me, I shall say only one word to the members of this House If the amendments which have been given notice of are an indication of what is to come from the members of the Muslim League Party in this House, I would appeal to them with folded hands not to let small considerations deflect them from the path of duty They sit here as the custodians of the safety and the liberty and the honour of everyone of our people Let them not allow it to be recorded in history that there was a single elected Member in India today, in the days of February, 1946, who voted for the detention of innocent people, people against whom no charge has been levelled, people who have not been found guilty of any offence, people who have sacrificed their lives and their all for the good of the whole of the country and irrespective of caste, creed or community I hope they will rise equal to the occasion Sir, I beg to commend my Resolution for the acceptance of this House.

Mr. President: Resolution moved.

"That in view of the universal expression of public opinion throughout the country in the matter, this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to give up the trials of the officers of the Indian National Army and to release immediately all men and officers of the Indian National Army as well as all other political prisoners under detention or imprisonment."

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Sir, I rise to a point of order I want to make it quite clear that the first part of the Resolution has my fullest sympathy, but the rules of procedure laid down have to be considered and I am raising this point In the proviso to Standing Order No 59 (on page 162 of the old manual)

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is the Honourable Member in order to refer to old rules in this new Assembly?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is referring to the old edition of the Manual of Business Procedure.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: That proviso clearly lays down that a Resolution "shall be clearly and precisely expressed and shall raise substantially one definite issue". I maintain that the Resolution should raise only one definite issue. Here in this Resolution two separate issues have been

raised. I want your ruling whether this is admissible The resolution deals with the I N A.—that is one issue—and political prisoners, under detention or imprisonment, which is another I maintain, Sir, that both these cannot be dealt with in the same Resolution

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab Sikh) Standing Order 60

Mr. President: What is it that the Honourable Member wishes to say?

Sardar Mangal Singh: This objection is too late It is for the Honourable the President to admit the Resolution It has been admitted Now this point cannot be raised Standing Order 60 lays it down

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural) But not against the Standing Orders

Sardar Mangal Singh: The President has already decided

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: May I be permitted to say this. In this House very often these questions have been raised after the resolution has been admitted by the President and these objections have been upheld.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division. Non-Muhammadan Rural) Apart from the fact that it has been admitted by you there is one issue involved whether the man is under trial, detained or imprisoned, the common fact is that he has been deprived of his liberty The substantial issue is that several people have been deprived of their liberty and on that public opinion has expressed itself strongly No man should be deprived of his liberty

Mr. President: As regards the point of Standing Order 60 I do not think I need go into that technicality just at present In a way, personally, I should welcome an opportunity of having some views on any decision I take so that I may get guidance for the future. It does not mean that my rulings are open to discussion in this House but I get an opportunity for reconsidering any ruling for the future In case I once decide a particular resolution is admissible, I do not think I should bar discussion on its admissibility because of Standing Order 60 Members may express their opinions That disposes of the technical point raised

As regards the other matter which the Honourable Member has raised, there is here one issue in view of the preamble to the Resolution One issue may consist of several matters which may be illustrative, or one issue may give rise to many matters Looking into the substance of the thing, as it appears to me, the purport of the Resolution seems to be to convey that the country has universally expressed a particular view with reference to the treatment of political prisoners, whether they are I N A or other prisoners, it does not matter The view seems to be to recommend to the Government certain things which the public in the country desire the Government to do, particularly in view of the constitutional changes that are being talked about Taking that into consideration, the issue seems to be that Government should so act as to appease public opinion and see that nothing remains undone for the peaceful settlement of the big issues before the country That seems to be the one issue to me It is all a question of interpretation If one were to divide the issue one can say that there are separate matters To my mind the point of order does not hold

I will now call upon Honourable Members who have tabled amendments to move them

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar Muhammadan) Sir I move

'That for the original resolution the following be substituted

'That in view of the special circumstances under which most of the personnel of the Indian National Army joined it and in view of the policy laid down by the Government and the action taken by the Commander-in Chief in dealing with the sentences passed by the Court Martial, this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to release all officers and men of the I N A whether under detention or under trial' "

Mr. President: Amendment moved

'That for the original resolution the following be substituted .

'That in view of the special circumstances under which most of the personnel of the Indian National Army joined it and in view of the policy laid down by the Governm nt and the action taken by the Commander-in-Chief in dealing with the sentences passed by the Court Martial, this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to release all officers and men of the I N A whether under detention or under trial' "

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India Nominated Official) Sir, I move

'That to the Resolution which the amendment proposed by Nawab Siddique Ali Khan seeks to substitute for the original resolution the words 'except those charged with brutality' be added at the end "

Mr. President: Amendment to the amendment moved

'That to the Resolution which the amendment proposed by Nawab Siddique Ali Khan seeks to substitute for the original resolution the words 'except those charged with brutality' be added at the end "

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Sir, I move

'That the words 'as well as all other political prisoners under detention or imprisonment' occurring at the end of the Resolution be omitted "

Mr. President: Amendment moved

"That the words 'as well as all other political prisoners under detention or imprisonment' occurring at the end of the Resolution be omitted "

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Sir, I move

'That at the end of the Resolution the following be added .

'and further recommends to the Governor General in Council to persuade His Majesty's Government in England to secure the release of such men and officers of the Indian National Army and such other prisoners outside India and to secure their repatriation forthwith' "

Mr. President: Amendment moved

"That at the end of the Resolution the following be added

'and further recommends to the Governor General in Council to persuade His Majesty's Government in England to secure the release of such men and officers of the Indian National Army and such other prisoners outside India and to secure their repatriation forthwith' "

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: The Resolution which I wish to be substituted in place of the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Mr Malaviya refers to three things. (1) the policy of the Government of India regarding the Indian National Army trial (2) the attitude of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in commuting the death sentences passed by Court Martial and (3) immediate release of the officers and men of the Indian National Army

Sir, the policy as declared by the Government of India is that only those people should be tried who have committed heinous offences His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief as the head of the Indian Army has released Captain Shah Nawaz and others who were convicted Sir, one will surely be justified in questioning the advisability of prosecuting these men, getting them convicted and then releasing them afterwards. Sir, no doubt it is beyond one's comprehension as to why this enormous expenditure was incurred on the trial and why this farce is being enacted at the cost of the taxpayers Mr President, in the good old days, Hindu and Muslim warriors used to believe that death on the battlefield was a matter of glory and pride, but, Sir, in the twentieth century, war strategy has altogether changed and the new war strategy lays down that retreat is the best part of valour and according to this new war strategy the British Army and the army personnel deserted their fellow-Indian soldiers in Singapore and Burma Thus these unfortunate people were left undefended and uncared for In the circumstances there was no other alternative for them than to lay down their arms before their conquerors or to join the new army which was in making As you know, this army is popularly known as the Indian National Army Mr President. the evidence which was recorded during the court martial trial disclosed that Capt Burhanuddin had advised Muslim soldiers to join the Indian National Army in

[Nawab Siddique Ali Khan]

order that they may be saved the illtreatment at the hands of the Japanese. Capt Abdur Rashid also stated—here I am sure my Honourable friends will not agree with his views—that if India is conquered there was every possibility that Hindu Raj would be established instead of British Raj (Interruption) I have already stated that my Honourable friends sitting on my right will not agree with the view but that is his statement which cannot be challenged by anybody here Sir, some people are said to have joined the I N A with a view to conquer India and restore that status and position which it enjoyed before the advent of the East India Company The reasons for joining the Indian National Army may be various Some people may shout, as some people had done in this very House, "Jai Hind" and some may shout "Pakistan Zindabad"

An Honourable Member: Did anybody shout "Pakistan Zindabad" in the I N A?

Mr. President: Order, order Let the Honourable Member proceed

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: But the fact remains that the Muslims and Hindus desired to shake off this forced humiliating foreign subjection Sir, it is true that the two paths which lead to freedom are quite different from each other One is Pakistan and the other is Hindustan

Mr. President: Order, order Will the Honourable Member take more than five minutes?

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: No, Sir

Mr. President: I do not want to put any time limit Then the Honourable Member may so adjust his speech as to make a point therein cover five minutes

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: The formation of the I.N A and the I N A. trials conclusively proved that Hindus and Muslims wish to be free from the bondage of slavery Our rulers should take a lesson from this that we are determined either with a united front or without a united front to fight and win the battle of freedom

Sir, I do not plead for mercy for the I N A men as my Honourable friend Mr Ma'aviya has done, because I do not think that they have committed any offence. In my opinion they are innocent and most oppressed people Our heartfelt sympathies go to them Mr President, I demand as a matter of right that my fellow countrymen who are in detention and under trial should be set at liberty immediately Mr President, I am sure that the unanimous support of the Honourable Members of this House will show our resentment against the unsympathetic and harsh treatment meted out to these I N A men and it will also show our firm determination to be free in our own country

Mr. President: Mr. Mason

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, I would prefer to reserve my speech, because there are only three or four minutes left and my friends on the other side . . . . .

Mr. President: I know it will be difficult for anybody to say much in the two or three minutes left When I called upon Mr Mason, my idea was that, before the debate proceeds any further it would be better if, whatever the Government may have to say on this question may be said at this stage, so that other speakers, being in possession of the matter which the Government may have to lay before the House, may be in a position to advance their arguments. The Honourable Member need not curtail his speech, he can take his own time and I do not propose to restrict the time limit at all. When I say "at all", I mean that I would not be put to that necessity. The Honourable Member may just begin . . . . . .

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: For these two minutes we can raise some point of order!

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member be allowed to speak again?

Mr. President: Yes, he will have the right of reply

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, in two or three minutes it is rather difficult to do much more than introduce the subject, a vast and important subject on which there is so much feeling in the country I shall confine myself to one or two of the points already mentioned in the few minutes at my disposal

The motion moved by Nawab Siddique Ali Khan with the amendment which I propose today is entirely acceptable to us and that is all that I would really like to say about Nawab Siddique Ali Khan's speech

With regard to the speech of the Honourable the Mover, there are a number of points made, on which it seems his facts are not altogether quite accurate He has produced a story about the battle of Imphal which is entirely new I made at that time a daily study of the maps which appeared in the war rooms of the South East Asia Command and the India Command and I studied the battle situation every day But certainly the story produced by my Honourable friend never reached us

Then with regard to the reports which he has received from his friends in the Punjab and the U P about the number of prisoners kept there and his charges of secrecy about the I N A. If there is any secrecy it is not my intention that there should be We have published a number of press communiques on the subject We have given the figures of the various classes of prisoners who are still detained and I told the House the other day the places where they are detained If the Honourable Member would like to know the number detained in each camp or any other information of the kind, I should be delighted to give it to him either by a short notice question or by a private letter

(It being Four of the Clock)

Mr. President: Order order Seth Govind Das

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

FAILURE TO PROTECT INTERESTS OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move.

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

I want to move this adjournment motion for discussing the situation which is created on account of the statement of Field Marshal Smuts which he made in South Africa

[At this stage, Mr President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (one of the Panel of Chairman)]

He said that the Government of South Africa is going to introduce legislation in the Union Parliament which is going to restrict not only the occupation of property in South Africa but also acquisition there. Racial discrimination in South Africa is not only known in this country but it is known throughout the whole world, and today when it is said that India is going to be made an equal partner in the British Empire such legislations are going to be introduced in that colony We are simply surprised at this attitude of the Union Government The condition of Indians in South Africa is deteriorating every day There have been temporary compromises between the whites of that land and the Indians there, such as the Gandhi-Smuts Agreement of 1914, and the Cape Town Agreement of 1927. But that does not show that there has been any real change of heart as far as the Whites of South Africa are concerned When this Pegging Act came into existence it was said that it was a temporary measure: it is to lapse on the 31st March 1943, and before it lapses further legislation is going to be introduced and passed in South Africa, which will practically

[Seth Govind Das]

make the present Pegging Act a permanent one Before this Pegging Act no restrictions were imposed on Indians for acquiring property or even occupying it in Natal, and therefore when this Pegging Act was put on the Statute Book there was such a great opposition to this Act that the whites had to sit in a conference with representatives of South African Indians and an agreement emerged from that conference which is called the Pretoria Agreement After this agreement it was announced by the Government of South Africa

"Discussions took place as the result of representations made by the Indian Congress to find an alternative method of controlling occupation of dwellings in towns and boroughs in Natal to that adopted under the Pegging Act It was agreed that the situation would best be met by the introduction of an ordinance into the Natal Provincial Council this ordinance would provide for the creation of a board consisting of two Europeans and two Indians under the chairmanship of a third European, who would be a man with legal training The object of the legislation would be to create a machinery for a board to control occupation by licensing of dwellings in certain areas and application of the Pegging Act in Durban will be withdrawn by proclamation on the passing of this ordinance"

Now, this agreement was never given effect to, and the ordinance which emerged was entirely a different thing The ordinance was not only with respect to the occupation of the property in Natal, but also about the acquisition of that property, and the beauty of it is that after this ordinance was promulgated, this Pegging Act was not repealed—it is still in existence.

Field Marshal Smuts is one of the authors of the United Nations Charter, and it is said that the humanitarian preamble of that Charter has been drafted by the Field Marshal himself Not only this The Field Marshal once said about the Indian question that—

"Indians should not be made to feel that they were outcastes The country must be fair to the Indian people as regards landholding, housing schemes and all the amenities and rights to which civilised people were entitled and that white South Africa is big and strong and honest enough to do justice to all races and all colours and we shall do so"

This is what Field Marshal Smuts said, and now this is the attitude which has been taken by the Field Marshal himself I think there is a definite reason for it In the Parliament of South Africa there are 153 members out of these 153, 83 belong to the United Party of Field Marshal Smuts Before November last the question of acquisition of property in Natal never occupied the attention in that land It was said that only occupation is to be controlled But in November last, 9 or 10 European members of Natal waited in a deputation on Field Marshal Smuts Though what happened in that conference has been kept as a guarded secret, yet it can be guessed because the attitude which the Field Marshal has adopted, about the Indian occupation and acquisition of property has come before us after this deputation waited upon the Field Marshal Now, I feel he is afraid of losing the support of these Natal Europeans; and if he loses the support of these Natal Europeans in a house of 153, he will lose 10 more, and he will have only about 73 or 74 members in his party in the House, and it is quite clear that he will not be able to have a majority in that House In his eightieth year, it seems that the Field Marshal has become greedy of power, and greediness in old age is considered to be a very dangerous thing

Whatever may be the reason for the change of attitude as far as the Field Marshal is concerned, we cannot take things lying down and what I feel is that the Government of India is satisfied by sending only certain representations. Therefore I call the attitude of the Government of India with respect to this—imbecile attitude There was a little laughter in this House when the Honourable the President read that word I have brought the biggest dictionary available in the library and I shall just read what the word 'imbecile' means Imbecile means—having the mental faculties feebled or undeveloped, half witted, weak minded, as an embecile king

Now, I want that the economic sanctions should be applied to South Africa immediately and the High Commissioner for India should be recalled. I am

not asking for anything new On the 6th November 1944 this is what this House asked for and this is what the Honourable Dr Khare said in this respect

"The surgeon's knife will have to be applied if and when necessary, I know that two of the Honourable Members have also suggested the recall of the High Commissioner Honourable Members will agree that a decision on this matter requires the most careful consideration but I have no intention of taking any unduly long time over it The Government of India have also been considering most activity the question of enforcing economic sanctions Here again I should like to assure the House that I have no intention of delaying unduly our final decision"

May I know from the Honourable Secretary of the Commonwealth Relations Department whether the knife of his Chief has become blunt or whether he does not think that the time has come for a surgical operation I know that the economic sanctions are not going to harm South Africans much but that is not the reason why I ask for economic sanctions In the civilised world of 1946 one part of the British Empire applying economic sanctions on the other part, has its own moral value Some people are talking about the Round Table Conference. I had been to South Africa and I am not against the calling of Round Table Conference but I do not want that the proposal of the Round Table Conference should go from the Government of India If the economic sanctions are applied to South Africa, if the High Commissioner is recalled there is going to be a satyagraha movement in South Africa Then the real time for the Round Table Conference would come I know the conditions there. If the satyagraha movement which is a non-violent substitute for war is going to take place in South Africa, the proposal for the Round Table Conference will not go from India but it will come from the South African Whites As I have said, this attitude of the Whites of South Africa has been a continuous affair and unless and until the Government of India take a strong attitude in this respect and unless and until the Government of India help the people in South Africa, things are not going to improve Therefore I move that this House do now adjourn

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved

"That the Assembly do now adjourn"

Mr. S. T. Adityan (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevelly Non-Muhammadan Rural) It has been said that South Africa is a very strange country not only in its flora and fauna but also in the political opinions held in that country It is the strangest country one can imagine in this world. The colour bar and racial discrimination are rampant there. The administration of the country is so very blind as to distinguish between blind Indians and blind Europeans in the allowances made to them There the administration is so far removed from sobriety that there is distinction made between the drunken Indians and the drunken Europeans There, Sir, the administration is so childish as to distinguish between Indian children and European children in the amount that is spent on their education. In this very strange country of South Africa, naturally enough we find that the leaders of political opinion there are following the strange hobby of breaking their own promises They have broken what is called the Cape Town Agreement of 1927 by which Indians had certain rights They had again broken a certain offer which was made in Pietermaritzburg before Justice Broome himself They offered certain lands for Indians and they asked the Indians to accept them The offer was made before a commission presided over by that learned judge Indians were given 15 minutes to think over it and consent to it and when the offer was accepted by Mr Pather on behalf of Indians, the mayor of the Pietermaritzburg Municipal Council said—"We retract from the offer" That is the kind of game or pastime in which the leaders of that country are indulging And then again another agreement took place on 18th April 1944 This is the famous Pretoria Agreement That has been broken also I do not want to take up the time of the House by going over the history of the Pretoria Agreement but I shall say a few words about the effect of the agreement and how it has been broken I think the House knows the general effect of the Pegging Act which was passed in 1943

[Mr. S. T. Adityan]

because this Honourable House itself has discussed it more than once. Its effect was fourfold Firstly it restrained the Indians from purchasing any new properties in a certain area of Durban Secondly Indian companies or companies in which Indians had a share were prohibited from purchasing any property, and thirdly any agreement of purchase entered into between an Indian and an European of house property in the place called Old Borough in Durban was to be invalid, and fourthly Indians were disallowed from trading in certain parts of Durban These are the four fold effects of the Pegging Act Against this Act, our compatriots in South Africa raised a hue and cry and in sympathy with our countrymen there we in this country also passed an Act, the Reciprocity Act After the Pegging Act was passed, the troubles which the Indians in South Africa had to endure were increased tenfold and finally they met the Prime Minister General Smuts in a place called Pretoria In Pretoria before the Prime Minister of that country, before the Minister for Interior of that country and before seven members of the Indian Natal Conference and before the Controller of Emigration of that country, in fact, before everyone of that country who really counts, there was made an agreement that was entered into between the Indians of that country and the administration of that country The agreement was to the effect that the Pegging Act had to be repealed Then, again, in future, any legislation, which is to affect the interests of Indians, had to be passed only in consultation with the Indians of that country Thirdly, free acquisition of property and investment of money was to be allowed Only the occupation of houses in certain areas was to be disallowed Fourthly, a Committee was to be set up in which Indians had to be represented to a certain extent. All these things have now been thrown to the winds

It is interesting to discuss what is going on actually now in South Africa They set up a Judicial Commission to inquire into the present state of Indians. That Commission was again presided over by the same Justice Broome That Commission recommended that Indians may have at least a restricted kind of franchise in that country I forgot to tell you, Sir, that in that country Indians are not even allowed to vote in Municipalities, let alone the Legislative Assemblies The Broome Commission also recommended that the representatives of India may be called over to attend a Round Table Conference in South Africa and that the future of Indians in that country may be considered in that Conference That was the recommendation of the Broome Commission In spite of it, agitation was going on in that country by the Europeans of that country and the House may be interested to hear a few samples of it One paper "*Die Trasvaaler*" said

"If Indians in South Africa preferred alignment with India, they must be regarded as foreigners and should be repatriated The Union must act now and impose absolute segregation while India is still powerless to carry out the threats which were so freely voiced"

That, I submit, is the psychology that is working in the minds of the Europeans of South Africa They are very clearly able to see that this country is not going to remain a slave and that it is going to become a free country in the near future So, they want to take the time by the forelock Before this country is able to achieve its freedom, they want to work out the havoc they have got in their minds because they know it for certain that if this country becomes free, they will not be able to do the things that they are now dreaming of Under these circumstances, seeing that a great progress in the political status of this country is going to take place, and knowing the fact that the original Pegging Act is to expire on the 31st March 1946, they are now intriguing and hatching up a new idea of making the Pegging Act permanent This was announced on the very day this House met here, namely, the 21st January 1946. On that day we were taking oaths of allegiance here and just at the same time General Smuts was breaking the promise in the South African Assembly, a very solemn promise that had been given earlier by the Minister of the Interior.

He announced that he was going to pass a new Act which will be placed permanently on the Statute-book of South Africa and which will take away all the rights that the Indians in that country possessed During the time the Pegging Act was passed in the South African Legislature a promise was given by no less a person than the Minister of the Interior At the second reading of the Bill he said "We must make provision not on compulsory but voluntary lines" He also stressed the fact that the Pegging Act was only a temporary measure for three years He definitely said that the Pegging Act was only a temporary measure and further amenities for Indians were to be considered on a voluntary basis and not on a compulsory basis That is exactly what he said

As I have already observed, in that country perhaps one of the hobbies of men in power is to break their promises That is a strange game that they are in the habit of playing I do not know from what country they have inherited it, but the fact remains that they are addicted to that particular game The Minister of the Interior promised that their future Act will be on voluntary basis but we now hear from General Smuts that he has again taken the law in his own hands and he is again coming into the open with a new Act which he is seeking to pass And the effect of this new Act is this Not only in a place like Durban and not only in the province called Natal but throughout the South African Union the extension of the Pegging Act is contemplated The original Pegging Act was to be confined only to a small city Durban, but now throughout that wide country the provisions of the Pegging Act are to be extended. That is the first thing. In the second place, Indian trade is to be restricted. Thirdly, if an Indian wants to purchase any property in any part of the country, he has to get first the sanction of the Minister. These are the facts I think this House knows that all these things are contemplated. The real reason is this They are not able to compete on ordinary terms with the Indian traders there Let them come into the open, let them compete under ordinary trade usage with the Indians there, let us acquire property there and let them also and then we will show what we can do But they are not prepared to do this In a cowardly fashion they will seek the protection of law, so that Indians who have got money may not be able to purchase any property there I may tell you one more reason why we are so particular to purchase property in that country It so happens that most of the Indians in South Africa are Muslims and the religious susceptibility of the Muslims is this that they do not want to lend money on interest That is why they want to purchase property there Of course, we are not so very particular about the property there, but we do want to invest money which we are able to save We, who are able to earn some money there, want an outlet for it

Sir, my time is getting up and I will conclude my speech by quoting a sentence from Sir Shafaat Ahmad Khan, who has been there as High Commissioner This is what he has said today:

"It is unfortunate that the Union Government should identify itself in a measure which, if passed, in its present form will 'doom Indian race in Natal to political and economic servitude'."

Well, Sir, the Indians in South Africa are doomed to political and economic servitude. They are looking up to this country, to this motherland, to retaliate; if possible, to do the same things as are being done to the Indians there, by all economic pressure, by all political pressure and if possible by all moral pressure. That is what they want us to do

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sri S. T. Adityan: Sir, this is my maiden speech and I thank the House for the indulgence shown to me, and I thank you, Sir.

Sir Hassan Suhrawardy (Burdwan and Presidency Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, this question of South Africa has been debated on the floor of the

[Sir Hassan Suhrawardy]

House time and again and I think the Honourable Member who is now in charge of Commonwealth Relations will bear me out that he has taken a strong attitude in this matter. But what has happened to the Government of India now? Now that we are on the threshold of the promised liberty to all the Asiatic nations and to all the small nations, what has happened now that India which has given so much support and so much man power that Indians are being treated in such a way in South Africa? Who are doing it? The British and the Dutch, the very people whose actions were unanimously condemned in this House on the motion relating to Indonesia They are the people who are doing this It is not a question of Hindu or Muslim It is a question of Indians, the self respect of India is at stake It is of course a breach of promise and this is nothing new in this Government which is represented in a certain form, as pointed out by Diwan Chaman Lall, in many places like Indonesia, in Palestine and in India There are subtle excuses by which the Government are giving the go-by to the most sacred promises The Cape Town Convention or agreement of 1927 is forgotten It suits them now We can have ordinances, we can have new measures, but what would be the result The poor Indian who at one time could own land, but he could not live on that land that he owns Why? Because the climate of the land was salubrious and the Indians were told "your standard of life is low, you cannot live there". That was a discrimination, which after a lot of agitation was proposed to be removed But now you are not only not giving the Indians the right to live, but you are also depriving them of the right to own property As my friend from South India, Mr Adityan, just now pointed out, the Muslims living there could not indulge in usury, they could not engage themselves in those business concerns which would multiply money, double and treble the money, and so if they have got any saving, they want to invest it in property You are shutting them out from purchasing property They cannot do it However, I ask the Honourable Member in charge of the Commonwealth Relations that if we Indians were asked by the British Government to be a member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, is this the way to treat a free and equal partner? What has happened to the Government of India? I think the name of my Honourable friend is 'Khare' which means a man who can speak out straight—*Khara-bat*! I hope he will go and tell his colleagues in the Governor General's Executive Council that they should treat Indians as Indians ought to be treated because of their great background of culture, of their great political and economic importance because of her geographical position about which we hear so much and because of the great sacrifices India has made in men, and money. General Smuts, the Field Marshal of England, ought to be ashamed of himself that he should table such a resolution How would he like himself having such a resolution passed against the nationals in Great Britain, for instance.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Turn coat

Sir Hassan Suhrawardy: We now hear that the Jews have been allowed to come into Palestine They are converting a majority into a minority. They are white Jews from Europe and so it is a question of Europeans coming into Asiatic country in unlimited numbers Unabashed, you give the Jews sanction to come into Palestine But when our own people—Indians—want to have some land, it is not that they want to migrate, the Dutch are not South Africans, the British are not South Africans and so are Indians not South Africans, all went there in order to eke out a livelihood, in honest enterprise but you want to bar Indians from acquiring any land The Indians have survived there on account of their honest work and perhaps you cannot stand their great powers of endurance. It is not the survival of the fittest there. You are taking all kinds of mean advantage by passing certain laws and certain bye-laws to deprive them their human rights May I ask my Honourable friend Dr Khare who is a distinguished Member of the medical profession, "Has God even made any kind of distinction that when a white man gets malaria or when a black man gets malaria or when an Indian gets it, different kinds of medical treatment should

be given them". Does not the same infection catch them, no matter whether brown or black or white? I would ask my Indian friends on the Treasury Benches to rise to the occasion, they should resign in a body. I may assure them we do not want to take office It is not that we want to step in their place It has been said by our Leader in so many words, these interim governments are no catch to us But I say, if as self-respecting Indians, while you sit on the Front Benches, you hear these things and you swallow these things in the Governor General's Executive Council meetings, it is not worthy of you as Indians India desires, India expects much better from her people who have the background of a political career, who have got strength of character If as my Honourable friend the Mover of the resolution has said, the Government of India has become imbecile, spineless, if the Indian Members have become *jo-hukums*, very well, that is a different thing Then the Government of India consist of Indian Members who are merely 'yes-men', and there is no meaning in what they say, that it is a Government for the people by the people We know what it is then

I do not want to take much of the time of the House This is a matter of great importance, and this has raised the same kind of feeling which the bad treatment of Arabs by the Jews and by the European nations has done for Palestine It is the same in Indonesia, it is the same in South Africa. It is struggle for freedom, for our existence Nations whom God has placed in more healthy places and better circumstances do not want to share those healthy places with their less fortunate brethren who wish only to have a small share Sir, I support the motion to recall the Indian High Commissioner and apply economic sanctions.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department). Sir, I venture to rise at this stage because I feel that the House would perhaps like to have some idea of what our information is regarding the latest developments. The House will recollect that this matter was last discussed here on 9th February 1945 They would like perhaps to hear what has happened since then. On that occasion, it was explained on behalf of the Government that the enforcement of the Reciprocity Act in the first week of November 1944 had some effect The three Natal Ordinances which were designed for the segregation of Indians and which were the immediate occasion for the enforcement of Reciprocity Act were abandoned. The Governor General's assent was not given to those ordinances and they lapsed after the expiry of one year.

Raja Sir Saiyid Ahmad Ali Khan Alvi (Nominated Non-official) Why were they not cancelled as a protest?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: They were cancelled really The Union Government did not proceed with that legislation They did not become the law of the land.

Sri S. T. Adityan: Is it not a fact that the Legal Adviser advised that the ordinances were *ultra vires* of the Provincial Governments?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: But it was open to them to re-enact legislation in the Union Parliament, but they did not do it

Then, Sir, Field Marshal Smuts made a public declaration that these Ordinances were contrary at least to the spirit of the Pretoria Agreement. He also made a statement that alternative settlements would have to be explored. We therefore thought of lying low a little and, as my Honourable Member has explained to this House more than once, in view of the fact that this question is a very old one and in view of our position of comparative disadvantage in this matter we have always thought it best to exhaust all possible resources of negotiation and compromise.

Then, Sir, our new High Commissioner reached South Africa about the end of February last year and the Housing Emergency Ordinance was introduced in the Union Parliament The object of this Ordinance was to provide better housing facilities for all classes, particularly Indians In the drafting of this Ordinance in so far as it affected India interests, our High Commissioner in consultation with the leaders of the local Indian community and their legal

[Mr. R N. Banerjee]

advisers played rather an active part Our High Commissioner was taken into confidence at every stage of the drafting of this Bill, and the Bill as it emerged finally was pronounced by competent authorities to be formally non-discriminatory The Bill, however contained a provision for the establishment of provincial Housing Boards under provincial legislation In pursuance of this provision of the Bill in August last year the Natal Government introduced a Housing Board Bill, and this Bill became law towards the end of November last In the scrutiny of this Bill also our High Commissioner in consultation with the leaders of the local Indian community and also their legal advisers played some part He was taken into confidence at every stage and the Bill as it emerged finally contained but one minor provision to which the Indian community took exception That provision gave the new Housing Board the power to dispose of lands with a servitude aimed against Asiatics We did not make a very serious grievance of this although we recorded our protest, because even without this legislation in cases of sales of land by individuals and municipal committees they have now the right of adding what is called an anti-Asiatic clause We acquiesced in this under protest, particularly because Field Marshal Smuts issued a public statement on the date this Bill became law in which he gave a very definite assurance that all these measures would be worked without any injustice to the interests of Indians It was after this that our High Commissioner left South Africa and came here for purposes of private discussion about the position We agree that the latest developments have therefore come as rather a surprise We had good reasons to hope that all these measures culminating in the Natal Housing Boards Ordinance would solve the question of the occupation and acquisition of land by Indians and that the Pegging Act would be allowed to lapse in due course after the 31st March next. I told the House earlier this morning that we have no official intimation about the exact provisions of the new measure, but we have some unofficial information which, I regret to have to say, is the same as the Honourable the Mover of the motion and the other speakers have derived from the press. It seems that the Pegging Act will lapse but a new Act is to be introduced to take its place which will provide for restrictions on the Indians' right of keeping and acquiring land more or less on the same lines as the existing restrictions in the Pegging Act. The new Act is also to be made permanent We have also been told that the measure may contain some elements of enfranchisement for the Indian community The utmost that we have been encouraged to hope is that there will be a loaded franchise for Indians, that is to say, Indians possessing certain minimum property or educational qualifications will be allowed to vote for European representatives who would represent them in the legislature That is all that I am able to say at this stage I need hardly add that Government fully realise the implications of the proposed legislation and the gravity of the situation We have had full discussions with our High Commissioner who should be in South Africa today or tomorrow We have, as advised by the leaders of the Indian community in South Africa, asked our High Commissioner to place before the Union Government the suggestion of sending a representative delegation of Indians from this country to South Africa to explore the possibilities of an alternative settlement We are hoping that something will come out of this suggestion

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): May I ask my Honourable friend whether the delegation that he is contemplating will also be segregated like the Indians in South Africa?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Honourable Members who are conversant with the earlier history of our relations with that country will recall that some time about 1924-25 they had what is known as the Class Areas Bill. The position today is more or less analogous to the position in 1924-25. It was on that occasion that a delegation went from India and their efforts resulted in the Cape Town Agreement.

Several Honourable Members: That is scrapped now

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: This is all that I am able to tell the House today I wish this motion came a few days later so that I might be able to give the House some idea of the results of our High Commissioner's efforts But as soon as we have any further information we shall make an occasion to place it before this House

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I interrupt my Honourable friend? When the High Commissioner came here did he communicate to the Government of India what information he had regarding this projected measure now before the South African Union?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I think I made it quite clear in the beginning of my speech that we have a certain amount of unofficial information. But the High Commissioner did not bring us a copy of the Bill because the Bill had not been drafted by the time he left there

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I take it, then, that even the High Commissioner is useless in this matter and powerless to give the Government of India any information of such a vital nature?

Mr. Chairman: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I venture to think that that does not follow Our High Commissioner has kept us well posted and I can tell the House that the unofficial information, we have, was from him, and it is mainly due to his tact and diplomatic efforts that we have been able to obtain rather early information about this

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it then a fact that we are back again to the days of pre-1927 agreement? This is the result of all your efforts?

Mr. Chairman: That is a matter of inference.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The only thing I can say at this stage is that we are still awaiting—we will have to wait for some time . . . . .

Diwan Chaman Lall: For how long?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: . the results of the discussion which our High Commissioner will have with the representatives of the Union Government, and as soon as we have had that, Government will be able to take a decision about their further line of conduct in this matter I need hardly repeat, Sir, that Government fully realizes the implications of this measure and the gravity of the situation, and they will do their very best in giving the Indian community all possible assistance

Diwan Chaman Lall: What can you do?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: What the Government can do will depend on the sort of reply that our High Commissioner is able to send us . . . .

Diwan Chaman Lall: And if the reply is 'no'?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I do not propose to go into detail about the enforcement of economic sanctions and the recall of High Commissioner at this stage, but I would reserve my observations on these points for some suitable occasion in the future.

Seth Govind Das: May I ask the Honourable Member that fifteen months have already elapsed when this House adopted the Resolution on economic sanctions and recalling of High Commissioner? When is the Honourable Member going to make up his mind about that?

Shri Sri Prakasa: When will the High Commissioner become Field Marshal?

Mr. Chairman: Order, order

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, I have been prompted to enter into this debate by what I just heard from the Government Member. Quite frankly—and that is no reflection on him—I have not at all been reassured by his statement We in this House have heard over a long period of time of similar action on the part of Government, similar protests, communications and representations and we are today exactly where we were many

[Mr. Frank R. Anthony]

years ago. This whole thing has become a Hardy Annual and one which to any self-respecting Indian, including my Honourable Friends on this side, is galling. We have heard before that the Government is in complete sympathy with the Indian sentiment in this matter, they even simulate with us a good deal of righteous indignation in this matter, but nothing further has resulted And, I believe, for too long have we acceded to this policy or accepted this policy of arrogant racial discrimination and antagonism which has been and continues to be pursued by the South African Government One feels reluctant to say it, Sir, but I have been a student of Anthropology and Biology, and I cannot help feeling that this whole policy can be traced very directly to the fact that the two million Whites in South Africa have branded themselves by this policy as a community of moral and physical cowards I have had occasion—it is a hard thing to say, but these things must be said—I have had occasion to meet many persons who fought with South Africans in the last war and in the war which has very recently ended, and they all testify to the fact that while South Africans have their exceptions, men who have distinguished themselves on the battlefields, that, on the whole, they make very poor soldiers. And that these same people should have initiated a policy of discrimination, of affecting an attitude of superiority towards Indian soldiers, but for whom South Africa might conceivably have been overrun, is something which to us today must be absolutely intolerable

And after all what did my Honourable friend over there say? What is the real motive behind this policy? Let us try to strip the veil from this policy and see what is the motive behind? It is a fear motive, it is inspired by the complex of fear, fear that a community,—the Indians, essentially more virile even physically—may not only overrun the South Africans economically, in time, but perhaps exterminate them physically That to my mind is the whole motive which to-day inspires this anti-racial, anti-Indian policy of South Africa

I am sorry to have to say it, but my Honourable friend there, in quoting figures, has touched on the real problem What is behind the policy which is being adopted today by Smuts? Smuts has been said to be a very great, and a very able leader I wish he could have immortalised himself in that niche, but by lending himself to this shabby anti-Indian policy I feel that he has brought himself down to the level of the veriest mediocrity one who has lent himself to this rabid form of racial prejudice and racial inhibition which is rampant in South Africa today It is unfortunate that he has today in lending himself to this policy lent himself to cheap political expediency That is what it amounts to. We know that there is a deep feud and deep division between the Afrikans and the English-speaking people in South Africa And it is a peculiar coincidence, but it is true, that whenever Smuts, because of his pro-English policy, has been in danger of losing the support of the Afrikan-speaking section, he has immediately trotted out this ever ready weapon of racial discrimination It is one with which he has remained in saddle and which has always whipped the Afrikan-speaking people into supporting him. That is the tragedy of the whole situation Whenever he feels he is losing their support, he beats this drum of anti-racial and anti-Indian policy. That is why I feel that the Government of India can no longer indulge in protests, or indulge in sending delegations, because I believe that nothing will ultimately result We have our limitations, we have certain disabilities. I believe that if we were in a position to send twenty thousand soldiers to demonstrate against South Africa, they would put their tails between their legs and recile from this policy. We are not in a position to do it, but let us use the few weapons which we can, and my Honourable friend has referred to it—economic sanctions. What is there to prevent the British Indian Government from implementing immediately the policy of economic sanction? I believe that you will immediately make the South African Government come to heel if you make them feel that

you are serious about implementing the policy of economic sanction. I am told that many articles very valuable to the trade of White South Africans—hides, for instance—are exported to South Africa. I know because I drink them—sherry, whisky and brandy, large quantities of liquor are imported from South Africa And there are other commodities. If we implement immediately this policy of economic sanctions, you will make the South African Government feel, which you have not made them feel hitherto, that you are in real earnest about it. I do not know why my Honourable friends should be so reluctant to implement a policy of retaliation South Africans in India should be subjected precisely to the same economic and social disabilities to which our fellow-Indians are being subjected in South Africa It is surprising that we still have South Africans as officers in the Indian Army and also holding important positions in different parts of the country This is something which ought to be stopped immediately

Finally, I would make an appeal to the British Members of the Government This is a very serious matter —When Hofmeyer, the Deputy Prime Minister of South Africa, spoke to a meeting in the House of Commons recently, I am afraid I struck a discordant note I told him that although he labelled himself as a Liberal their policy gave the lie to that claim And that if South Africa persisted in this anti-racial and anti-Indian policy they would be blazing the trail of another bitter war South Africa will sow the seeds if it continues this policy, and I am not indulging in hyperbole when I say that South Africa will sow the seeds of a racial, class and colour war You will set a trail which will blaze around the world Today Britain is preoccupied with the intentions of Russia Larger interests should make them feel that South Africa's present policy will ultimately recoil adversely against the interests of the Commonwealth If you start this racial bitterness in South Africa it will spread around the world You are afraid and you feel that Russia is cutting across your vitals —Russia is an Asiatic country Her leader is a fellow Eurasian like myself, proud to call himself an Asiatic If you start this feud between coloured people on the one hand and non-coloured on the other, you will be inviting the intervention of Russia into this field You will be condoning a policy which will ultimately perhaps lead to a more bitter struggle and war than we have ever seen before

5 P.M.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa Muhammadan) Sir, I rise to support the motion which is before the House. The Mover has very ably explained all the facts and the pacts and the documentary guarantees which came to our country from time to time and I would only say that they have only proved so much scrap of paper —In the last debate that we had in 1945 in this House the Honourable Member in charge of the Commonwealth Relations was very loud in saying that he would not lose one minute in doing what he could for bringing in economic sanctions and other measures against that country, the South African Union, in order to see that the Pegging Act was abolished and that no discrimination was introduced against ownership of property by Indians in the union. What do we find, Sir? He is just sitting tight and the most helpless reply that we ever heard came today from the Secretary of the Commonwealth Relations It expressed absolute bankruptcy of the administrative capacity of these officials of Government of India. They have not been able to know as yet what they are going to do and Government of India thinks that they should still wait for certain legislation to be introduced in the Union It means that things were not bad enough according to Government of India to warrant an action which would keep the self-respect of this country for Indian nationals who are settled in the Union. Indian nationals have a claim on the land because it was their money, their labour which had been responsible for bringing up South Africa to the position that it occupies today on the globe. History is full of such incidents, that in matters like this armies of nations have marched forward and they have revenged themselves not only by putting sanctions but by conquering those lands. I am not here

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman]

to repeat those incidents I will just give one single advice which Russia, the old Russia of the Czars, gave to the Kaiser about Greece If you lay hands on that poor fellow, I will tear off your ram shackle Empire Cannot we say also to South Africa that 'if you lay hands on those Indians we will tear off your Union?' This is what we have come here to tell the Government of India as our trustee and impress upon them our own feelings Do you think the Union Government would have had the courage to do what it has done so far if we assumed this strong attitude' I would like to know whether the Honourable Member in charge of the Commonwealth Relations is in a position to give this definite assurance to the House that he is going to take action now and here. He says "we are weak and we would not be able to compel the Union Government' He thinks "We would not be able to inflict a greater loss on the South African Union Government Gain or loss makes no difference It will be a satisfaction to ourselves that we have avenged what we thought was injuring our integrity and our prestige On the one hand, we have not examined the whole economic structure of South Africa as it competes with economic structure of this country and we are not in a position to fathom the real values of the sanctions in effect, but we have no doubt that we will be gaining in prestige Supposing we do not gain anything in the real trade balance sheet, I am sure it does not make much difference If we cannot have our armies march to South Africa we can at least non-cooperate with the union That is the only solution that we can ask this Government to bring in What is the use of an Indian High Commissioner who cannot influence anything there? Has he got the prestige and power which an Ambassador of any independent country would? Can he go to the Union Government with the prestige which the Ambassador of America or France can go? And the British Government is certainly very anxious not to offend those children because the parenthood of the parent Parliament stands as a safeguard for all the white races in the world

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural) He is not even as good as the Canadian representative!

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Yes, too true Sir, I would like to impress on this House and the Government the futility of having a High Commissioner when he has no powers whatsoever He is just like one of those show boys who can travel about and shake hands in society but carries no prestige or influence, as he has no sanction and no authority to speak with that force which a representative of an independent and sovereign country would That is the whole position only because we are a subordinate of His Majesty's Government and the only assurance which would satisfy this House in the present circumstances would be that this Government should state in unequivocal terms whether they are prepared to apply economic sanctions here and now We are not going to discuss what effect it will have Whether it will be for our gain or for our loss, we are prepared to take the consequences for whatever it may be worth It is the will of the people It is the desire of the country and this is being represented through this House and you as Government of India have to act Are you prepared to give that assurance? With these remarks and this advice, I take my seat

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): I am very pleased to find my Honourable friend, Dr Khare, in this House on this occasion and should have very much liked him to have given this House an idea as to the measures that he had adopted in pursuance of the strong feelings that were expressed in this House just about a year ago on this very question My Honourable friend, Mr Banerjee, has no doubt given us a summary of the events that have taken place since we discussed that adjournment motion last But he has not dwelt upon the two particular points on which non-official opinion in this House expressed itself very strongly, namely, that the High Commissioner should be withdrawn and that the economic sanctions should be put into

force without any further delay. My Honourable friend's attitude today is almost the same that was taken up by his Honourable Chief on the last occasion. He said that the Government are now engaged in continuing their search for compromise. This is what he exactly said. They would like to exhaust all possible avenues for compromise". I do not know whether my Honourable friend would be able at any time to exhaust all possible avenues of compromise, but if they have . .

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Unless they exhaust themselves!

Mr. K. G. Neogy: . . exhausted anything, it is the patience of this House and the country and the patience of Indians in South Africa.

Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Nauman, referred to the question of the recall of the High Commissioner. I would remind the House that about the time when we debated this question last year, there were ungracious observations made by responsible South African politicians about the status and the utility of the Indian High Commissioner. They said, 'Who is this fellow? Why is he interfering in our affairs? Why does not he leave?' That was the attitude of the South African people as represented by responsible politicians in Parliament and outside.

Sir, we felt that apart from the question of sentiment, the spirit of the Capetown Agreement having been violated, there was no meaning in continuing the High Commissioner in South Africa any longer. It is well known that the very appointment of the Agent General, as he was called then, was just an incident of the Capetown Agreement of 1927, which was brought about as a result of certain discussions that took place in South Africa between representatives of India and representatives of the South African Government. Now, Sir, one of the objects as stated in the Capetown Agreement was that the appointment of an officer of this kind was necessary to pursue the lines of compromise that were laid down as a feature of that agreement, and that the presence of an officer of this kind would enable the promotion of good feelings and friendly relations between the two countries. My Honourable friend has already stated that we are back to the same position that obtained before the Capetown Agreement was concluded.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I said that this legislation was analogous to the legislation which was contemplated in 1925.

Mr. K. G. Neogy: I merely tried to interpret my Honourable friend. The position is exactly the same, because what is known as the Segregation Bill, rather the Class Areas Bill as it was really called, had the very same object as the present enactment, broadly speaking. There was tremendous opposition raised to that measure in this country as also in South Africa, so much so that it was, I believe, at the intervention of His Majesty's Government that the Government of India decided to send a delegation under the able and dignified leadership of Sir Mohammad Habibullah. The delegation succeeded in its efforts in bringing about an understanding between the two countries, which was embodied in what is now known as the Capetown Agreement. If my Honourable friend admits that, the circumstances that prevailed before the Capetown Agreement have again arisen as a result of the present attitude of the South African Government. Was I very wrong in saying that we are back where we were before the Capetown Agreement was concluded?

Now as to the question of economic sanctions, the only serious objection that I heard raised in this House to the enforcement of the economic sanctions last year was that India may have to go without wattle bark. Now, Sir, I thought that India could very well afford to go without wattle bark, and I should like to know from my Honourable friend whether that position has been examined since we debated this question last year, and how the position of wattle bark stands today.

A very interesting statement was made by my Honourable friend about this particular measure and that is this: that whereas our High Commissioner was being consulted in regard to various ordinances he had absolutely no idea about the particular measure which is now under discussion.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Our High Commissioner did bring unofficially the broad outlines of the legislation to us.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I think that my Honourable friend said that apart from non-official information, he had no information on the subject

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I said 'unofficial information'

Mr. K. C. Neogy: It seems to me that whatever the measure of success that he may have achieved, he has seriously failed in carrying out the main purpose of his appointment, namely, to prevent the reversion of circumstances that prevailed before the Capetown Agreement was concluded

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The Bill yet remains to be introduced.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: From the determination of General Smuts we know that the Bill is going to be introduced, and therefore we can take it that the Bill is as good as passed

But there is another very interesting information which my Honourable friend gave to the House and that is this I think he was referring to Natal He said that there is in this Bill a provision for a qualified enfranchisement I suppose it applies to Natal

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: It applies both to Natal and to Transvaal, I believe

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The whole question is this that so far as Natal is concerned, it is a well-known fact that indentured labour was lured from India on a definite promise that later on, after the period of their indenture was over, the labour population would be placed exactly on a footing of equality with South Africans in Natal There was nothing in the law up till 1896 to deny them Parliamentary franchise, and it was in that year that Indians were excluded by parliamentary legislation from the voters' role, because (I am reading from an official paper called the Broom Commission's Report) they were "persons who were not of European origin, who were natives or descendants in the male line natives of countries which had not hitherto possessed elective representative institutions founded on the parliamentary franchise" So, the misfortune of our countrymen in South Africa is derived from the fact that we in India enjoy a status of political subordination

Now, Sir, in this situation the Honourable Member opposite, particularly the Indian Members opposite, can do a great service and that is by inducing their white masters to quit India, because unless and until the Britishers leave India we are not likely to get our rightful place in the world recognised by any other country

Now, Sir, as regards the composition of the white people in South Africa—I am not an anthropologist like my Honourable friend Mr Anthony—(But I know this, that the white population in South Africa is of a cosmopolitan composition And the fact remains that the present opposition to Indians on racial grounds is mainly inspired by people of British origin It is this section that influences the rest of the white population in South Africa I should like to know whether it is or is not a fact My Honourable friend can easily make an enquiry on the point from the High Commissioner, but this is the information which we have received from sources that are open to us.

I should have very much liked my Honourable friends of the European Group to participate in this debate and express their views on this particular point Their silence is very enigmatical and is liable to be misunderstood

An Honourable Member: They are scratching their heads

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I should like to know from them as to what they propose to do to convince their countrymen in South Africa of the utter disservice which they are doing to the Empire, of which, I take it, they are so very proud, by maintaining an attitude of racial antagonism of this character

My Honourable friend the Mover of this motion gave a quotation from one of the speeches made by Field Marshal Smuts I am afraid he, rather unconsciously, omitted a very material portion from that speech My Honourable

friend quoted only a portion of the speech where the Field Marshal described the white South Africa as being big and strong and honest enough to do justice to all races and all colours and all that But he omitted the following words which were used by Field Marshal Smuts on that occasion

"And we shall do so—(*that is, do justice to all races*)—taking into consideration our known attitude of separatism in housing, work circles and associations"

That is Smuts That is really the South African attitude, and I should like to know from my Honourable friends as to when they propose to take any effective action for the purpose of telling the South African Government and particularly Field Marshal Smuts, that we are not going to take this kind of attitude lying down, and that weak as we are, we are going to enforce economic sanctions against South Africa and recall the High Commissioner from there as a protest

Some Honourable Members: The question be now put

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Commonwealth Relations Member): Sir, I do not think I can tell the House anything new since I met this House last time, about a year ago, and spoke on this subject on an adjournment motion Adjournments may come and adjournments may go

Diwan Chaman Lall: But you go on for ever!

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: but this question of South Africa will go on for ever, as long as myself and my Honourable friends opposite are not as free as any free country in the world We were asked what measures have been taken in this last year which has elapsed after the motion was moved on the floor of this House As my Honourable friend here told the House, we were going on with the method of negotiations and compromise, and as the House would readily agree, these things take a very very long time—an unconscionably long time in fact So I was impatient as to what was happening in that country, and I thought it would be better if I called the High Commissioner here for a personal consultation because I had a presentiment that something much worse than the Pegging Act was going to happen to our unfortunate countrymen there—I had a presentiment, a sixth sense if I may say so, and that actually happened The new measure which is going to be shortly introduced in that legislature—I have no doubts about it—is a definitely harmful thing to our nationals there It is more intensive as well as extensive in its baneful effects At the same time it is not temporary So if that comes to pass I am sure we shall be relegated to ghettos there—there is not the least doubt about it—and the self-respect of our mother country, Mother India, will be very badly assailed I quite realise all that I therefore called the High Commissioner and had a personal consultation with him as to how the land lay there He has gone back with certain instructions from the Government of India, and though those instructions cannot be disclosed at present, he will certainly talk to the representatives of the Union Government and he will tell us from there by correspondence as to what we should do and what are the effects of the negotiations or instructions So far as I am personally concerned, I am convinced that all our efforts will fail—I have not the least doubt about it: and inspite of whatever we may do, the Government of South Africa is not going to listen to our negotiations or advice: that is my own inner feeling because after all it is Smutty When that happens we have to think what we should do in defence of the position of Indians there

Some friends have referred here to anatomy—I was very pleased to hear the voice of a fellow medico from that corner—I may tell him that I am also a student of anatomy, and that there is no structural difference between any human being and another, be he a Hindu, Muslim, European, Jew, Chinese or anybody: and so there should be no difference in treatment also I agree with him But unfortunately psychology, which I also claim to have studied, tells me that certain races in this world have degraded themselves: their heart and their brain which are two anatomical organs do not function It is an integument of a particular colour that functions, that is wrong with them: and that

[Dr N B Khare]

is why all these troubles are arising in this unhappy world, and that is why we have got this reward from our friends of South Africa for all that India has done in war efforts or for the United Nations, and all that Indian soldiers have done even to defend and prevent an attack on South Africa itself I am sorry for it I may assure my friend over there that I am not a Yes-man, and if you persist in calling me a Yes-man, I will call you No-man

Some friends referred to economic sanctions All that will depend on the advice, if any, we get from the negotiations, which are bound to fail, I am sure But one friend here referred to it—he is not in his seat just now—and asked "Why does not the Government of India apply economic sanctions?" All right But at the same time he says that he drinks all the time the whisky and Scotch and everything that comes from South Africa What a strange anomaly is this? If he wants the Government of India to apply economic sanctions and boycott South African products, why should he not begin by boycotting them himself? This is the kind of people we have to deal with and that is our great handicap He should have told

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I interrupt my Honourable friend? Is he really serious in advancing this argument? Will my Honourable friend give way?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I will not give way It is quite relevant —I know that Ultimately it comes to this that whatever we may do will not be effective but I assure the House that I shall do all that I can

Diwan Chaman Lall: What have you done so far?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: All that I can

Diwan Chaman Lall: That is nothing!

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: The House knows that the Reciprocity Act was enforced against South Africa, although it is only a psychological solace as I have myself said, but it is something, and my friend behind told the House that it had some effect although it was transient as it was bound to be

Raja Sir Saiyid Ahmad Ali Khan Alvi: May I ask the Honourable Member whether he is willing to accept the mandate of this House to apply sanctions if he did not receive any response from the South African Government?

Diwan Chaman Lall: You are merely wasting our time

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: We are not constitutionally bound to accept it Everybody comes to waste his time here—I am not the only exception

Diwan Chaman Lall: This is how you look after the interests of India—wasting time! But you get well paid for it!

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: You are not doing anything better and you are also paid I assure the House that this is not a question which can be easily solved I have said before in my previous remarks that until and unless India becomes independent this question can never be solved, and for that we are all responsible It is no fault of mine alone that we are slaves

Diwan Chaman Lall: You said that last time too

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I repeat it, because it is so true

An Honourable Member: No use of getting up then

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: As regards the recall of the High Commissioner, I still hold very strongly that he should go on functioning and helping our people The time may come for it, after we break with South Africa, not before that

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 5 February, 1946

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

MEMBER SWORN

Captain Syed Abid Hussain, M.L A. (North-West Punjab: Muhammadan).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) Oral Answers

Constitution making Body

1. ***Pt. Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House kindly state when, according to his estimate, the Constitution-making Body will start work, how much time it will take, and by what time the Constitution drawn up by it will start functioning?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Government's intentions are indicated in His Excellency the Viceroy's statement of the 19th September last and in his address to this House on the 28th January The exact plans for the composition and programme of the constitution making body will depend upon the discussions which His Excellency will hold with British Indian and States representatives after the Provincial elections. I am unable to indicate any time schedule

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has His Excellency the Governor General initiated any discussions, preliminary or otherwise, in regard to this matter with the representatives of the Indian States?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no information except that which is set forth in His Excellency's statement

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the Government of India made any recommendation either to the Governor General here or to the British Government in regard to this time table?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No; I said I am unable to indicate any time table

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether the Government of India have discussed this matter with the British Parliamentary delegation?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No

Ordinances during War Period

2. ***Pt. Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Law Member kindly state how many ordinances the Government of India promulgated during the war period, and how many of them are still in force?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Ordinances are promulgated by the Governor General. 261 Ordinances have been promulgated since 24th August, 1939, of which 124 are now in force

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government even now any more power to promulgate any Ordinance in the name of war emergency?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I have told the House that Ordinances are promulgated by the Governor General and not by the Government of India.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that the ordinances that have been repealed are only amending ordinances and that the substantive ordinances are just where they were before?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: No, that is not quite correct

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are ordinances now issued in the name of war emergency?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: If my Honourable friend would look at the provisions of law which entitle the Governor General to issue ordinances, he will find the answer to his question

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the war emergency is over, will the Government of India make recommendations to the Governor General that no more ordinances in the name of the war emergency should be issued?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: The war emergency is not over

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly look into the list of ordinances that have been repealed and tell me whether it is not a fact that the substantive ordinances remain just where they were?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: That is not quite correct

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Is it or is it not a fact that in so far as ordinances are concerned, the normal procedure is that when the Assembly is not in session and an ordinance is passed, within six months of the passing of the ordinance it must be brought before the House, but when the Assembly is in session, there is absolutely no occasion for passing ordinances?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will put only a question.

Mr. Asaf Ali: I want an answer I have put the question

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: That is not the correct position in law

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I should like to know the correct position.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I think that this is not a supplementary question which arises

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Is it or is it not a fact that ordinance is always a substitute for legislation? When the House is in session I do not see where the ordinance comes in I want an answer

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is asking for opinion on a question

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am not asking for an opinion· I am simply asking the Honourable Member to tell us whether it is or it is not a fact that ordinance is always a substitute for legislation.

(No answer was given)

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly issue a list of ordinances still in force in view of the great confusion that has been caused?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I want to have notice of that question I cannot give an answer now

Mr. President: The Honourable Member wants notice.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I want to know whether the Honourable Member will consider the desirability of issuing such a list The answer to that should not take very long

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I will consider the desirability.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Government considering how many of these ordinances which are still in force can easily be withdrawn immediately?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Government is always considering it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When will Government decide when the war emergency is over, in view of the fact that it is six months now after the war with Japan is over?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: If my honourable friend will have a little patience he will find the answer to a later question which will give him all the information

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Is it or is it not a fact that ordinances are promulgated to put through schemes which are essentially of peacetime nature?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Sir, I must protest against this sort of supplementary questions May I draw your attention to Rule 10 of the Legislative Rules? I submit with confidence that these questions are not put for the purpose of further elucidating any matter of fact regarding which an answer has been given. I was asked how many ordinances are still in force and how many ordinances have been promulgated during the war period and by way of supplementaries I am asked to enter into a debate as to when and how ordinances can be passed and what sort of ordinances have been repealed, etc I submit they are not supplementary questions.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Is that an answer or is it an argument?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: That is my submission to the Honourable Mr President.

Mr. President: We may go to the next question.

LIFTING OFF OF CONTROLS

3. *Pt. **Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Law Member kindly indicate the probable time when food, cloth and other controls on the necessaries of life will be lifted?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The existing controls are for the most part operated on the authority of legislation enacted at the Centre by virtue of section 102 of the Constitution Act. Under the operation of sub-section (4) of that section such legislation will cease to have effect six months after the revocation of the Proclamation of Emergency. It is the intention of His Excellency the Governor-General to revoke the Proclamation on the 1st April, 1946, and Government hope to be in a position to make an early announcement in regard to the future treatment of controls. Their intention is to maintain controls of a few essential commodities including foodstuffs and textiles in some form.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that these controls were brought into existence under the D.I R. Rules where specific provision is made for such controls?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthal: Not wholly.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable gentleman take this House into confidence if controls are to be continued beyond the 1st of April?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir; we will make a statement to the House and give an opportunity for the House to be informed.

PRODUCTION OF CASTOR SEED

4. *Pt. **Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary kindly state the annual production of Castor Seed in the Country in the five years preceding the war and the annual production of Castor Seed during the years of war:

(b) How much Castor Seed and Castor oil were exported out of the country during the five years before the war and during the years of war?

(c) Is it a fact that before the war Castor oil was used by the E. I. R. Administration for lubrication of axles and other similar purposes?

(d) Is it a fact that during the war other Railway administrations also used Castor oil for lubrication of Vehicles and other similar purposes?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) and (b). A statement giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member is laid on the table.

(c) and (d) Yes.

Statement showing the production of castor seed in India and the quantities of castor seed and castor oil exported from India during the five years preceding the War and during the years of War.

(Thousand tons)

Years	Production	Exports	
	Castor seed*	Castor seed†	Castor oil‡
1934-35	105	74	5·6
1935-36	121	64	6·3
1936-37	128	46	6·3
1937-38	104	44	6·8
1938-39	111	11	4·7
1939-40	97	43	5·4
1940-41	105	72	5 2
1941-42	91	20	4 6
1942-43	147	30	4 1
1943-44	140	28	0 2
1944-45	130	19	0 3

*These estimates relate to the crop in Madras, Bombay, Bihar, C P. and Berar Orissa, U. P , Sind, Hyderabad, Baroda, Mysore and the Bombay States These tracts cover practically the whole area cultivated with castor seed in India

†Including exports through British India Ports and the Kathiawar States Ports The figures for 1944 45 represents exports during the whole year for the British India Ports but for 8 months only (April to November) for the Kathiawar States Ports.

‡Exports through British India Ports only No castor oil is exported through the Kathiawar States Ports

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Railways have been using more and more of castor oil and also in view of the fact that more castor oil is needed by rural people in view of the existing scarcity of kerosene oil supply, what steps do the Government of India propose to take to encourage the greater production of castor seed?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Perhaps that question might be appropriately put in connection with question No. 5.

CASTOR OIL FOR RAILWAYS

5. *Pt. Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary kindly state how much Castor oil was purchased and used by the Railways during the years 1943, 1944 and 1945, and how much Castor oil was purchased and used by the Railways during 1936, 1937 and 1938?

(b) Is it a fact that the Castor Cake is extremely useful by way of manure and its demand has grown of late years as a result of the 'Grow More Food' campaign?

(c) Is it a fact that the increase in the demand of Castor oil in the Country has led to the growth of the industry of crushing Castor Seed and also resulted in the cultivation getting a much better price than before for the Castor Seed?

(d) Do Government propose to continue the use of Castor oil for lubrication and similar purposes by Railway administrations and thereby foster the growth of the industry of crushing Castor Seed?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) A statement giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member is laid on the table.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is a fact that more castor seed is crushed in India now than before the war and that it fetches a higher price.

(d) Castor Oil will continue to be used as a lubricant where found suitable so long as the quality offered, price demanded and performance afforded continue to provide economic justification

Statement showing Caster oil purchased and Used by Railwages During the Years 1936—39 and 1943—45

(in tons)

Railways	1936		1937		1938		1943		1944		1945		Remarks
	Purchased	Used	Purchased	Used	Purchased	Used	Purchased	Used	Purchased	Used	Purchased	Used	
B. A.	11	10	9	9	2	8	1,383	1,283	3,120	3,027	1,400	2,096	
B. N.	...	22	4	22	27	22	631	920	992	1,096	942	396	
B.B. & I.	560	560	675	675	607	607	537	837	970	970	1,090	1,090	
E. I.	366	366	1,655	1,165	1,266	1,266	2,432	2,432	188	3,188	3,027	3,027	
G. I. P.	13	13	13	1	12	12	1,401	1,401	1,409	1,409	733	733	
M. & S. M.	70	70	70	70	77	77	941	941	1,154	1,154	904	934	
N. W.	125	202	16	41	40	50	2,348	1,951	1,612	1,453	1,261	1,371	
O. T.	14	14	14	14	14	14	229	229	229	229	286	235	
S. I.	356	240	356	340	319	240	658	463	215	308	311	463	
	1,515	1,598	2,322	2,349	2,290	2,356	10,600	10,107	13,159	12,814	10,934	10,944	

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I put that question now. What steps are the Government of India taking in order to push up the production of castor seed?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: One of the proposals is to set up an Oil Seed Committee about which a Bill will come before this House in a few days' time. At the same time the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research are financing schemes for research on castor seed which will produce better yields of oil.

POLICY *re* PAKISTAN.

6. ***Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state if Government will consider the question of recommending to His Majesty's Government that before the constituent assembly is convened, a clear statement of the policy as regards the establishment of Pakistan be made by Parliament?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I regret I am unable to make any statement on the question raised by the Honourable Member. The intentions of His Majesty's Government in regard to the constitutional programme are indicated in the reply which I gave to Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava's question No. 1 today

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: I would like to know from the Honourable Member whether His Majesty's Government have accepted in principle the question of establishing Pakistan? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already said that I regret that I am unable to make any statement on the question

Mr Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Why not?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable gentleman in a position to make a statement on the points with which he is familiar and knows about?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am afraid I cannot make any statement

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether the Government of India have considered this matter in the Executive Council?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am unable to add anything to my previous answer.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Have the Government of India addressed any communication to His Majesty's Government about this matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I cannot add to my previous answer.

Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan: May I know if the Government of India have ever considered this question?

(No reply.)

7. *[Withdrawn].

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In view of the publicity that has already been given to this question which has been struck off, may I have your permission to publish its reply because I am the victim The official influence has always been against me They shut up the voters and drove them like sheep to the polling booth and worked against me

Mr. President: I will consider the matter afterwards.

INDO-BRITISH TARIFF RELATIONS

8. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state.

(a) if he will consider the question of informing the Secretary of State for India and the British Premier, Mr. Attlee, that Mr. Attlee's statement in his Mansion House Speech of the 9th November, 1945, that "Ever since 1921, the Indian Government has had unfettered responsibility for its tariff policy entirely free from control by the British Government" is unsubstantiated by facts of Indo-British tariff relations, negotiations and political relations; if not, why not; and

(b) whether it is not a fact that the Ottawa Pact has not been abandoned by the Government of India, despite the Assembly's recommendation that it be ended?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No, Sir, Government do not consider it necessary to address the Secretary of State for India in the matter, because the statement actually made cannot be described as 'unsubstantiated by facts'.

(b) I presume that the Honourable Member's question refers to the Ottawa Trade Agreement, 1932. This agreement was terminated in 1939. The second part of the question does not, therefore, arise.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware of the fiction which has been promulgated particularly in the U.S A. that India is enjoying tariff autonomy, meaning that when the Government of India and this Legislature agree the United Kingdom will not interfere? Are they not aware of this fiction?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware of any fiction. I am aware of the convention

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I ask then whether the Government of India have considered this fact that so long as the Government is controlled from London any agreement arrived at must be an agreement approved of by their superiors in London and therefore the tariff convention has no meaning whatsoever.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: The Honourable Member has entered into an argument and opinion I stand by my reply that there is a convention

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Government stop this propaganda in the United States of America that this country possesses tariff autonomy

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid I am not aware of the propaganda

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the present position? Is India free or not to impose any tariff duties it likes upon the United Kingdom imports if it so chooses?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: The position is exactly the same as that mentioned by Sir George Rainy in 1930 and that stands

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is rather difficult for us to remember what was said in 1930 May I ask the Honourable Member to give us the contents of the statement made in 1930?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: This was the reply given by Sir George Rainy as he quoted then from the report of the Joint Select Committee. The convention is grant of liberty to the Government of India to devise those tariff arrangements which seem best fitted to India's needs as an integral part of the British Empire. That stands as a matter of convention.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that in spite of the repudiation of the Ottawa Agreement, preferential tariffs are allowed in the case of the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: The whole question of tariffs is examined on its merits with reference to each country and whatever tariff arrangements have to be made will be made in the best interests of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Oh, oh.

DATE FOR OFFICIAL TERMINATION OF WAR

9. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House kindly state why no declaration has yet been made fixing the date for the official termination of the hostilities?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos 9 and 16 together.

An Ordinance is being promulgated today providing that, for the purpose of references in statutory provisions and in contracts to the present war or the present hostilities, the present war and the present hostilities shall be deemed

to continue to, and to end on, the date on which the Proclamation of Emergency under section 102 of the Constitution Act is revoked It is the intention of His Excellency the Governor-General to revoke the Proclamation on the 1st April, 1946

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: Is that proclamation going to include three dates, those for the end of the war with Italy, Japan and Germany?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: All wars will be included in it

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I take it that on the 1st October, 1946 all ordinance rule will end, that is six months from the official declaration of the cessation of the war?

I am sorry to have confused the Honourable Member like that

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think I should ask not ce of that question I think the answer is probably contained in my reply to question No 3

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask if the Defence of India Rules will also cease to operate on the 1st of April, 1946?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They will cease to operate on the 1st of October, 1946

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why have the Government taken so long to come to th s decision as to the date of the stoppage of hostilities?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member will have patience until Question No 18 is reached, he will get the answer.

ENLARGEMENT OF APPELLATE POWERS OF FEDERAL COURT

10. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Law Member please state

(a) when Government propose to arrange a debate in this House on their resolution, dated the 15th January, 1945, regarding the enlargement of appellate powers of the Federal Court as promised by them in the last Budget Session, and

(b) whether the Government of India or the Secretary of State for India have reconsidered their decisions in the light of the opinions received in response to the publication of the resolution and have come to some decision; if so, what the new decision is?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) I have given notice of a Resolution on this subject which appears in Admitted List No 2, dated the 30th January, and I propose to consult Party Leaders before deciding when to move the same.

(b) The Resolution dated the 15th January, 1945, did not purport to embody decisions It contained proposals on which opinions have since been obtained and circulated to Honourable Members The views of Government on the action which should be taken on a consideration of these opinions are embodied in the Resolution referred to in the reply to part (a)

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that the Federal Court is so overloaded with work that it will be dangerous for the Judges to have more work added to it?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: That is a matter of opinion My Honourable friend may keep his opinion to himself

CONSTITUTION-MAKING BODY

11. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state

(a) whether an opportunity will be given to this House to discuss the plans for setting up the Constitution-making Body in India,

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, when the day or days are likely to be appointed for the discussion;

(c) if the answer to (a) above be in the negative, how Government propose to consult this House with regard to the plans of setting up the Constitution-making Body; and

(d) whether it is proposed to give this House due representation on the Constitution-making Body?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b), (c) and (d) I regret I am unable to give any reply to the Honourable Member's question at this stage His attention is invited to the reply I gave earlier to Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava's question No 1

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask if the Honourable Member has consulted His Excellency the Governor General whether an opportunity will be given? We are not asking him to fix exactly the time-table or the dates but will an opportunity be given to this House to consider the plans that are sought to be made?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I regret that I cannot add anything to His Excellency's pronouncement of September 19th

Sardar Mangal Singh: Part (b) is entirely different If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, then it is entirely for the Leader of the House to say.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have not answered part (a) in the affirmative

CONSTITUTION-MAKING BODY

12. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state whether Government intend appointing a small committee or a special officer to collect materials for the use of the Constitution-making Body to be set up after the general elections?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Material which is likely to be of assistance to the Constitution-making Body is being collected by the Reforms Secretariat which has recently been strengthened by the appointment of Sir B N Rau as an Officer on Special Duty.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Government of India have said that they have no responsibility whatsoever in regard to this matter and that it is a special preserve of the Governor General, how is it that the Government of India have placed the services of their Secretariat in regard to the gathering of the material for this Constitution-making Body?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is part of the Governor General's Secretariat and I presume that the Honourable Member does wish some material to be collected

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We would like that information to be collected by the Governor General on his own responsibility

Mr. President: Order, Order· that is no question

FORFEITURE OF DEPOSITS OF CENTRAL ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES

13 *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state

(a) how many candidates forfeited their deposits during the last general elections to the Central Assembly, how many of them were sitting members?

(b) to which parties did they belong?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) 50 and 4 respectively

(b) Government have no official information but they believe the following figures to be approximately correct

Hindu Mahasabha	20	
Independents	20	including one candidate who sought to stand on behalf of the Muslim League but did not receive the League ticket.
Nationalist Muslims	7	
Congress	3	
	50	

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know what the Government does with this forfeited money and under what head it is credited in Government accounts?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: I presume it goes into the general revenues of Government.

STUDENTS SENT ABROAD FOR HIGHER STUDIES

14. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Secretary of the Department of Education please state·

(a) how many students have been sent abroad for higher studies by (i) the Government of India, (ii) the Provincial Governments, (iii) the Indian states, and (iv) private institutions and individuals;

(b) to what countries they have been sent and how they are getting on; and

(c) whether there was some trouble when the first boat carrying Indian students was about to leave Bombay, if so, what the trouble was and what its details are?

Dr. John Sargent: (a) The following numbers of students have so far been sent abroad for advanced studies:

(i) By the Government of India, 144 to the U K and 93 to the U S A

(ii) By the provincial Governments, 103 to the U.K and 66 to the U S A.

(iii) In respect of Indian State candidates, the Government of India have so far recommended the grant of priority passages to 34 students for U K and for 17 students to the U S A It is not however known how many of such students have actually sailed, as some States have made their own travel arrangements

(iv) No figures are available regarding the number of students sent by private institutions and individuals

(b) The Government of India have set up organizations both in U K and in the U S A to look after the welfare not only of students sent as Government scholars but also of private students going at their own expense There have been and still are difficulties arising mainly for post-war conditions abroad but it may be said that on the whole the students are settling down satisfactorily

(c) On the 4th October, 1945, some students who were to have sailed by a troopship declined to do so mainly because they were not at the time aware of the conditions attaching to travel on troopdeck All these students were however accommodated on other vessels

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: What is the proportion of the Muslim students?

Dr. John Sargent: I am afraid I shall want notice of that question With regard to the scholarships actually awarded by the Central and, I believe Provincial, Governments the proportions laid down for communities in the Home Department regulation were observed

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government received any complaints from any of those students who have been sent to the United Kingdom?

Dr. John Sargent: There have been certain difficulties which the officers deputed abroad from my Department are now endeavouring to sort out, but they have been very few

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the Government of India would be willing to give priority in the passage to those students who have been selected by the Universities from the members of the staff?

Dr. John Sargent: I am afraid that is a question I cannot answer So far as we are concerned, we advise the Civilian Passage Control Department as to the priority which, we think, should be allotted to different students The decision remains with them

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member's Department be prepared to make recommendations?

Dr. John Sargent: Oh, yes; we do so.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether the Government of India is getting periodical reports from the United Kingdom and the United States of America?

Dr. John Sargent: Yes, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that a report appeared in the *Hindustan Times* and is not the Honourable Member aware that students are not admitted in the proper Universities or given those facilities for getting into such studies as are necessary or required by them? Is it not a fact that they are asked to change from one subject to another?

Dr. John Sargent: With regard to this end, no student selected by the Central Government was asked to undertake any subject except that for which he himself had expressed preference unless with his own consent But we have to face the fact that owing to the difficulty in getting passages certain places in certain subjects which we had previously obtained in institutions abroad, owing to the delay on the part of the students in reaching there, have lapsed Wherever I have seen a case of a student who appeared not to have been satisfactorily placed with regard to the subject which he wished to study, I have asked for a report from our Liaison officer in the country concerned

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask how many of them have had to change over to other subjects?

Dr. John Sargent: I cannot give the exact number

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that no difficulties have arisen so far as the Government of India students are concerned and that the students selected by the Provincial Governments are undergoing difficulties?

Dr. John Sargent: I am afraid I cannot answer that

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are not the Honourable Member and the Government of India looking after the welfare of those students also who were sent by the Provincial Governments?

Dr. John Sargent: Our organisations abroad are for the service of all students whether sent by the Central Government, the Provincial Governments, the State Governments or students who proceed at their own expense and on their own initiative. We are endeavouring to help all of them equally.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Therefore may we take it that the Honourable Member has not yet received any reports of complaints from those persons who have been selected by Provincial Governments regarding accommodation in Universities and colleges in England or America?

Dr. John Sargent: A certain number of complaints have been received I personally looked into one or two of those reports But I am afraid I cannot say offhand whether they were in regard to Central Government scholars or provincial scholars or others We are treating all alike

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable Member aware that students even holding first class tickets were not allowed to travel in cabins but were thrown on the deck?

Dr. John Sargent: Last year when the passage position was very serious the only kind of passage which became available for students at that time was troopdeck accommodation in troopships I regret that in the beginning, although the students were quite clearly informed that it would be troopdeck accommodation, exactly what was involved was not made clear After the incident which I referred to occurred, every step was taken to make it quite clear to students what accommodation would be available. I am glad that the position in regard to actual accommodation has since then improved

Seth Govind Das: Are there any fresh complaints regarding accommodation?

Dr. John Sargent: I have not heard of any

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have all students sailed or are there still some left?

Dr. John Sargent: There are still a considerable number of students for whom we have not yet been able to obtain passage.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Government take special care to see that such difficulties do not recur in the case of students who are going to be selected?

Dr. John Sargent: Yes, Sir

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Have the Government taken into consideration the possibility of utilising the total amount which is to be spent on these students for the purpose of opening training centres in India and getting experts from abroad and giving training to students here?

Dr. John Sargent: Yes, Sir

Pandit Govind Malaviya: With what result?

Dr. John Sargent: Proposals are at present under consideration. We are trying to provide improved facilities for training in higher technical studies in this country

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member approach the authorities of the British University to be more considerate in the admission of Indian students, particularly in view of the fact that admissions in Universities are at present closed?

Dr. John Sargent: When I was in England in 1944, I met the Vice-Chancellors of British Universities and pressed upon them the claims of Indian students I think on the whole they have been very sympathetic in their attitude towards this matter, but at the same time one has to realise that there is tremendous pressure on Universities for accommodation not merely from students now being demobilised but also in view of the promises which were given to the Governments of devastated countries in Europe that university education facilities would be provided for their nationals also.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Have Government any well thought out plan as to the way they will utilise these specially trained students from abroad when they return to this country or is it simply a general pious feeling that they will help in the better development of things in this country?

Dr. John Sargent: No, Sir The students have been selected with reference to particular demands set out by the different departments of the Government of India and those demands are determined with reference to specific prospects of employment for the students when they return

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Do I take it then that on return every one of these students has practically before hand been allotted the post to which he will be sent?

Dr. John Sargent: Not any particular post but employment within the range of the subject which he has been studying.

STEAMER COMMUNICATION IN INDIA'S WEST COAST

15 ***Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state why steamer communication in the West Coast between Bombay and North and South Kanara is not resumed in spite of the cessation of hostilities and better shipping position?

(b) Are Government aware of the resultant inconvenience to the public? If so, what do Government propose to do in the matter, and when?

(c) Do Government propose to look into the matter and ask the authorities concerned to resume the means of communication?

The Honourable Dr Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The cessation of hostilities has not yet made it possible for Government to release from requisition the cargo *cum* passenger steamer of the Bombay Steam Navigation Company with the exception of one which is plying between Bombay, Cutch Mandvi and Karachi So far as commercial shipping is concerned, the shipping position has not therefore improved

(b) and (c). Government fully sympathise with the people of the North and South Kanara Districts who have been seriously inconvenienced for want of shipping facilities. The matter is, however, receiving the urgent consideration of Government and it is hoped to resume the Bombay/Mangalore passenger service in the near future.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Instead of sympathising with the public, may I suggest to the Honourable Member to take the trouble of going to the district by road and rail. . . .

Mr. President: The Honourable Member must put a question

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member take the trouble of visiting the district and see for himself the great inconvenience caused to the public?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I can better utilise by trying to arrange service as soon as possible

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the consideration that Government is giving to this question of resumption of shipping facilities for inland ports, will Government be pleased to consider the needs of the East Coast also?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think the Government are considering the whole aspect of the question so far as they have been able to do it

DATE FOR OFFICIAL TERMINATION OF WAR

†16. ***Mr. Leslie Gwilt:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state the dates which the Government of India propose to declare as the official end of the war against the European Axis partners and Japan?

U. K. C. C.'s ACTIVITIES

17. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if it is a fact that the Commerce Secretary said to the Indian Merchants' Chamber that the activities of the U K C C in India would cease?

(b) Have these activities actually stopped, if so, from which date?

(c) Is it a fact that the operations of the Food Ministry of the United Kingdom are still continuing in India?

(d) Have Government any information as to the volume and value of different items of food purchased by this organization in the country? If so, what are they from the 1st January, 1945?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes

(b) Yes, from 31st January 1946.

(c) Yes.

(d) It is not clear whether Honourable Member's question refers to the Ministry of Food or United Kingdom Commercial Corporation but neither of them has purchased any foodgrains or foodstuffs except that during the twelve months ending 31st October 1945 the Ministry purchased 371,184 tons groundnuts against a quota of 500,000 tons

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the food distress in this country, may I know if Government have decided definitely and finally to prohibit the export of groundnut from this country?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: That question is being considered May I inform my Honourable friend that the groundnut production in the whole of India is a little over 3½ million tons and my Honourable friend should realise that only about 200,000 or 300,000 tons are being exported That question is being considered.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why then was even this small quantity permitted to be exported in view of the food crisis in this country?

†For answer to this question, *see* answer to question No. 9.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Because the organisation which my Honourable friend represents and other economic organisations had drawn attention repeatedly that some small quantities should be available for export in order to keep up our export market.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Was that not before the dire fact about the impending famine in this country was revealed?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have already said that that question in view of the food situation in the country is under careful examination. I am afraid I am unable to say anything more just now. I hope my Honourable friend would get an answer very soon on that point.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if the Food Ministry of United Kingdom is still operating in this country and they are not buying food, what are they doing here?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have got no information on this point except on this question of groundnut which I have answered

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to part (b), may I know if this includes, the total quantities of food and food grains that are placed at the disposal of British and American troops in this country?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think that question does not require any answer from me.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who else will answer that?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I cannot understand why I should be asked to give the world requirements of food in a question relating to Food Ministry which I have already specifically answered

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that U K C C purchased sugar in this country from January 1945 to the close of the year and sold it in Persia at many times the purchase price here?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are not exports of foodgrains going on still?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Certain foodgrains are totally prohibited But there are certain food articles such as pepper, for example which are exported in small quantities.

DATE FOR OFFICIAL TERMINATION OF WAR

18 ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state whether Government have considered the desirability of declaring, as early as possible, the date of the formal cessation of hostilities, on which many private contracts depend?

(b) What is the reason for having delayed the declaration of this date so long after the hostilities stopped both in the East as well as in the West?

(c) Do Government regard the operations, which the British Government is carrying on in Indonesia, as hostilities against the principal enemies concerned in the war?

(d) When will Government make an announcement on this subject?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (d) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply which I have just given to questions 9 and 16

(b) There is no question of undue delay. In the absence of statutory intervention, the wars with Germany and Japan would have continued for statutory purposes until Peace Treaties, had been signed and ratified, and I would remind the Honourable Member that the statutory date for the termination of the war of 1914-1918 was in August 1921.

(c) No.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government say something which will allay the feeling in this country that the principal reason for this delay has been the desire of Government to use the Ordinances, particularly those relating to currency, finance and economic affairs, which were promulgated during the war emergency?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have just said that there is no question of undue delay

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In regard to the U K. is it a fact or not that the cessation of hostilities has been published already?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I shall require notice.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What is the exact position regarding the cessation of Ordinance rule?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have replied to that in my answer to question No 3

Mr. Manu Subedar: If the answer to part (c) is in the negative why are Indian troops still in Indonesia?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I refer the Honourable Member to the debate which took place on the adjournment motion on the opening day of this session

Mr. Manu Subedar: I want the Honourable Member either to deny that there are Indian troops in Indonesia today or to say that they have been withdrawn

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It does not seem to arise in any way.

Mr. Manu Subedar: It arises from part (c) If hostilities have ceased in Indonesia there is no purpose of keeping Indian troops there I want to know whether these troops have now been withdrawn from there.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The question was whether Government regard the operations, which the British Government is carrying on in Indonesia, as hostilities against the principal enemies concerned in the war; and the answer was in the negative.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In the light of the Honourable Member's reference to the debate that took place in this House the other day, have Government considered the opinion of this House as expressed on that occasion and decided to withdraw our troops from Indonesia?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There are a number of questions on this subject put down for the 7th instant.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is His Majesty's Government also making a similar announcement regarding the termination of hostilities?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am afraid I have no information

Disposal of American Shipping

19. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the Honourable the Commerce Member opened any negotiations with the Government of the U S A, or has he received any communication from the Agent-General in U. S. A, with regard to the disposal of American shipping?

(b) Have Government formulated any proposal for bringing in a larger amount of shipping under Indian registration and for offering any special facilities to Indian shipping companies to acquire more ships either in the United Kingdom, the Continent of Europe, or U. S A ?

(c) How many ships taken over during the period of the war from the coastal trade for war purposes have been returned to their respective owners? *

(d) Does the Ministry of Shipping in the United Kingdom still function in India in regard to the allotment of shipping space?

(e) What steps have Government taken in order to terminate this arrangement since the stoppage of hostilities?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part, Government have been kept informed by their Agent General from time to time, of developments in the United States of America in this matter

(b) The question of expansion of the Indian Mercantile Marine is now being looked into by a Sub-committee set up by the Shipping Policy Committee in October last, and Government's policy on this question will be formulated on receipt of the Sub-committee's report Meanwhile Government are endeavouring to assist in every possible way Indian Shipping Companies in their effort to acquire additional tonnage.

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

(d) Yes, but only in regard to ships on the British Register

(e) The possibility of terminating the existing shipping control was considered recently but it was decided that the control should continue for the present The position will be reviewed in the next few months

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the United States administration have declared that they will give preferences to Governments in acquiring the surplus of U S A shipping, may I know why this Government have not negotiated with the U S A for the purchase of some ships to be distributed to the mercantile marine?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have given every assistance to all Indian companies who are anxious to procure tonnage from abroad by not only supporting their cases but taking steps to see that they go abroad and their representations receive proper consideration

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, a private shipping company when it goes to the U S A to purchase does not come within the preferential category It is Government which come in the preferential category, and may I know if after ascertaining these facts the Government of India will in their own right make some purchases and then distribute these ships to these private companies?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: If my Honourable friend will kindly send me a memorandum on this point I will certainly have this question looked into

FIRMS IMPORTING PROVISIONS INTO BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

20. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if it is a fact that there are only four firms who have been given licences for importing provisions and tinned food into the Province of Bombay from abroad, and that all these are European firms?

(b) Will Government give the names of parties, who have been given licences for importing provisions and tinned food into India since the 1st of January, 1945, and the quantities for which such licences have been issued?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No Sir At Bombay licences for imports of the foodstuffs mentioned have been issued to thirteen firms of which seven are European and six Indian

(b) I regret it is not possible for me to disclose these names and other details in public interests

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why only six Indian firms are taken and seven European firms and why the names cannot be given in the public interests, just in order to allay the charge of discrimination?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I categorically deny that there has been any discrimination The principle on which this allotment was made as regards the import was on the basis of a pre-war figure or figures which were available in the basic period And the reason why I am not prepared to disclose the names is that it will really cut across all commercial practice if Government disclose the names of importers and the quantities imported

Mr. Manu Subedar: Cannot my Honourable friend even give information as to the names of licensees?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir, I do not think it will be fair to these people that I should give all these names

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why this *purdah* or mystery is being maintained with regard to the names of these licensees?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said quite definitely that public interest demands that names of those who have received licenses should not be disclosed in public

Mr. Manu Subedar: Were the Provincial Governments and the Chambers of Commerce consulted on this subject?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: If import licenses have to be issued after receiving the opinions of Provincial Governments and Chamber organisations, my Honourable friend will set down an adjournment motion censuring me for the long delay

Mr. Manu Subedar: If monopoly licensing is given to a few firms, may I know why this House should be denied information as to their names?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have denied that it is a monopoly, there are seven Europeans and six Indians And for the information of my Honourable friend I may say that there are cases where Indians also have received the largest amount of import as against Europeans

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable Member give the percentages of the Indian and European firms?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is very difficult for me to isolate Bombay from the rest of India If my Honourable friend wants figures as to the different articles,—which include things like jam, jelly, canned food and a number of other imported things,—and if I have to dig into each item, I am prepared to give the information but it will take a very long time to collect these figures Again, it will not be fair on my part to give information only with reference to one part, I am prepared to consider it with reference to all parts of India, and I can assure my Honourable friend that I am having this question examined

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether all these licensees belong to Bombay only?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said that licenses are issued for all ports in India

Sardar Mangal Singh: Have Government issued licenses to traders living in inland towns?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Licenses are not issued to traders but to importers, and if an importer belongs to an inland town and has done business in the past, he is given a license But I cannot answer off-hand

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Sir, it is either not in the public interest or it is a very long list which the Honourable Member cannot waste his time upon Sir, I am drawing your attention to my difficulty in understanding his point of view Either it is in the public interest or it is not But if the matter were to be left to ordinary trade channels it is different When Government . . .

Mr. President: Order, order, the Honourable Member should ask his question and not argue

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: No, Sir, I am trying to ask a question

Mr. President: He has to ask a question and not merely try for it

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I will try to frame my question as best as I can Does he make any distinction between private trade channels and Government licenses being granted?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid I am in equal difficulty in not being able to understand the question

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member give information in private interest if not in the public interest?

(No reply was given)

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: I want percentage in money value of the business with the Indian firms and the European firms

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I want notice of that question I am quite prepared to answer that question.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Is it the decided policy of the Government to reinforce in India all pre-war things however iniquitous or unfair they were?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not prepared to allow any iniquities when I am satisfied that there has been an iniquity

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member whether the secret policy of not disclosing the names of those persons has not a tendency to encourage blackmarket? People do not know where articles are available, and they can sell it anywhere

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: My Honourable friend knows that there has been blackmarketing going on in India on a large scale Mine will not add even one-thousandth part of the blackmarket transactions

Mr. P. K. Salve: What does the Honourable Member mean by 'public interest'? And what is the public interest?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is the usual parliamentary form and the second part of the question does not arise as to what is the public interest

PROTECTIVE TARIFFS POLICY

21. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) When does the Honourable the Commerce Member propose to enunciate his permanent policy in regard to protective tariffs?

(b) Has the interim Tariff Board been entrusted with the work of formulating a tariff policy of the Government of India?

(c) If the reply to above is in the negative, how do Government propose to use tariffs to implement their objective of increased industrialisation declared in their statement of Industrial Policy issued in April last?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (c) The matter is still under consideration, but Government hope to come to a decision before long

(b) No, Sir

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the same reply was given to this House when we raised this point last year when the matter was being considered, namely that Government hope to come to a decision before long, may I ask whether Government will either through the Tariff Board, or through an independent committee, get the tariff system of this country put on a scientific basis?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I have said that Government has taken immediate steps to appoint an interim tariff board The interim tariff board has so much preliminary work to do for at least next two years, that I am afraid to burden them again with the task of framing a permanent tariff policy will not be right in view of the work they have got. At the same time, my friend, of all persons, should realize the international, economic and commercial situation today; it is not in a definite condition and I can assure my Honourable friend that we are constantly watching it and, as I have said, we hope to come to a decision before long

Mr. Manu Subedar: I thank the Honourable Member for the assurance he has given But my question is simple If Government have not announced

then permanent policy with regard to tariff nor set up any particular organisation for this purpose, has the Honourable Member given the power to this tariff board to overhaul the tariff, and particularly to avoid the anomalies where raw materials, half finished goods and finished goods are taxed at the same rate?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said that the three points which were raised as to what should be the nature of the future permanent tariff policy are before us just now, but in view of the world conditions and in view of the fact that we are investigating and have not yet decided what steps should be taken within the next two or three years, we are not able to formulate our permanent policy yet

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have you given power to this tariff board?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have not given that power to the Tariff Board You have seen the terms of reference, that term is definitely there But after their report comes and after we know the international situation, we hope to come to a decision on all aspects of the question which my Honourable friend has narrated

Mr. Manu Subedar: My submission is very simple and if I may persist on this most important question to all industries in India, it is this: I think Government should formulate the policy themselves or for the time being this Interim Tariff Board should be given the power Will Government consider giving power to the Tariff Board for issues which come before them, because without this decision how can the Tariff Board report to you?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will refer my Honourable friend to the Press Communique which was published in the Department of Commerce on the 3rd of November, 1945, showing the lines on which the present Tariff Board has been appointed As regards the other question it is still being considered by us

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will you give wide powers to this Tariff Board?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Whether we will give wider powers or whether we will appoint another committee or whether we ourselves come to a decision in this matter– all these questions are under consideration.

Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In view of the enormous changes in the fiscal situation in the world, may I ask whether the Honourable Member is contemplating to appoint a fiscal commission, similar to Rahimatulla's Commission in 1921 to formulate a policy which the Government of India may follow?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: If I know that today the world has come to a static conclusion on all aspects of the question which should be thought out, I could come to a decision in this matter But I am saying that the world itself is still in consideration stage and I do not know where to find a decision on all aspects of the question Till that is known, I think it will be premature for us to come to any conclusion in the matter, but that aspect of the question will also have our consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government keep before themselves the policy for post-war planning or planning and reconstruction that was decided upon by Government before they come to any sort of decision in regard to this tariff policy?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have not been able to understand my Honourable friend

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government place before themselves their own post-war planning policy, which was announced recently, while they consider what decision they must come to in regard to their post-war tariff policy?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is so jumbled up that I have still not been able to follow what the Honourable Member is driving at

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is not so very difficult to understand Will he take into consideration their post-war development policy also when he decides the post-war tariff policy?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I have tried somehow to understand something of this, and if I have been able to understand him aright, surely the whole question—not merely the trade and commerce of India as has developed in war time but the industries and commerce which will come in not merely in the immediate future but in the distant future also—all these question will have to be considered before a permanent tariff policy can be settled

Mr. President: Next question

HAJ PILGRIMS

22. *Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, be pleased to place on the table a short statement with figures showing

(i) the total number of Haj Pilgrims that left Indian Ports from 1939 to 1945 December,

(ii) the total number of deaths amongst the Indian Pilgrims for the above period, and

(iii) what proposals Government have in view to improve shipping and other accommodation for the Indian Haj Pilgrims for the future?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The statement asked for is placed on the table of the House

Statement

(i) 36 895

(ii) 785

(iii) The question of providing improved facilities to Hajj Pilgrims was examined by Mr J A Rahim, I C S, Officer on Special Duty In the light of his recommendations and in consultation with the Standing Committee on the Pilgrimage to Hejaz, steps have been taken to provide berthed accommodation in the existing as well as in new ships to be constructed for the transport of pilgrims Necessary arrangements have also been made for providing the prescribed quantity of fresh air, water taps, improved latrines and medical facilities Proposals for the reconstruction of the pilgrims camp at Karachi are also in hand and a budget provision of 27 lakhs of rupees has already been made The construction of Musafirkhana, exclusively, for pilgrims at Calcutta, is also under consideration

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: What is the reply to part (iii) of the question?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: It is included in the statement laid on the table of the House

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: We want to ask supplementary question on this

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that thousands of pilgrims have been turned away from Karachi Port for want of sufficient shipping accommodation?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I believe, Sir, about two or three thousand pilgrims, who had been to Karachi without having made sure of reservation of their berths, had to leave the place after a few days

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member admit that the blame entirely lies on the part of Government for not having set up a proper machinery to inform the public with regard to the rules and regulations for obtaining the passage?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: No, Sir We do not plead guilty to the suggestion

An Honourable Member: You never do

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: that Government had not done sufficient propaganda We feel that ample notice had been given to the public

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member give an assurance on the floor of the House here and now that similar difficulties will

not be encountered next year, and that better arrangements will be made in the interest of public next year?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: We shall do our very best

An Honourable Member: As usual

HIGH EXCHANGE RATE OF SAUDI DUES

23. *Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, please state.

(a) whether he has received a note from Khan Bahadur Haji Hasanally P. Ebrahim pointing out that on account of the high rate of exchange at which the Saudi dues and transportation charges were pre-collected by the Government of India from the Haj pilgrims during the 1944-45 Haj season, the pilgrims suffered a loss to the extent of Rs 19 lakhs,

(b) whether he had received protests from the pilgrims and the general public against the high rate of exchange at which the Saudi dues were collected;

(c) whether the Government of India made any profits directly or indirectly on account of this pre-collection, and, if so, how much,

(d) whether the payment to the Saudi Government of the pre-collected dues was made in cash or in kind and, if in cash, how and at what rate of exchange it was made, and if, in kind, what was supplied and at what rate and whether the Government or the suppliers made any profits on the transaction; if so, how much, and

(e) if the answer to (c) be in the affirmative, whether Government intend to refund to the pilgrims the excess amount collected from them, and, if so, what steps Government have taken to effect this refund?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) Yes

(b) Yes

(c) Government of India made no profit in any way

(d) Payment was made in cash The amount collected was paid in rupees to the Saudi Arabian Government through the usual agency of banks Payment was made at Rs 1-11-0 per Rial at which rate the collections had also been made

(e) Does not arise

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: With reference to his reply to part (d), will the Honourable Member say whether the rate of exchange, namely Rs 1-11-0 per Rial, was correct according to the market rate, or was it dictated by the Saudi Arabian Government?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: That was the rate at which we were asked by the Saudi Arabian Government to make the collections The market rate of exchange prevailing at the time in Saudi Arabia was about Rs 1-4-0 per Rial

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Was the Reserve Bank of India consulted when they fixed this rate of exchange?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The rate was fixed by the Saudi Arabian Government.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: It is rather a very strange procedure that the foreign Government should fix the rate of exchange between this Government and the foreign Government

Mr. President: Order, order The question hour is over

(*b*) WRITTEN ANSWERS

INADEQUATE ACCOMMODATION FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

24. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state·

(a) the number of clerks and assistants in Government Departments who have applied for quarters but have not yet been allotted accommodation in New Delhi,

(b) the number of superintendents who have applied for but not given any Government accommodation so far,

(c) the number of houses or flats requisitioned in New Delhi and Karol Bagh areas for the use of persons in (a) and (b) above during the war;

(d) the number of houses and flats in New Delhi and Karol Bagh which have been handed over or proposed to be handed over to their owners on and from the 1st January, 1946, and

(e) when he expects those who have applied for accommodation before the 1st January, 1945, will be allotted Government accommodation?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b) Applicants for quarters are divided into two categories, *viz*, (i) officers drawing a pay of less than Rs 600 and (ii) officer drawing a pay of Rs 600 or more All clerks and Assistants and some Superintendents come under category (i) The number of applicants under this category, who have not been allotted accomodation is 16,256 Information regarding the number of clerks and assistants or superintendents, who applied for but were not allotted quarters, is not readily available

(c) The number of flats requisitioned in New Delhi and Karol Bagh areas for officers, drawing a pay of less than Rs 600 is 188

(d) 3

(e) It is not possible to furnish the information as an applicant's prospects of securing an allotment of quarter depend on many factors which cannot all be foreseen, such as the date of his posting to New Delhi, the amount of his pay, whether he is single, married or with family, his preference for a particular type of quarter etc

SURPLUS GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN DELHI

25. ***Sir M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state

(a) if any of the barracks and buildings built to the north and south of the Imperial Secretariat Buildings and in other places in New Delhi for the use of the American, British and Indian personnel have now become superfluous for such use, if so, how many,

(b) the total number of rooms, etc, in the buildings in (a) above,

(c) whether any offices are now located therein, if not, what is proposed to be done with them,

(d) whether it is proposed to allot such buildings now or in the near future for (i) office use, and (ii) for residential accommodation with slight alterations for kitchens and bathrooms where necessary,

(e) if the answer to (d) above is in the affirmative, whether any have been allotted so far, if so, how many, and

(f) in particular what is proposed to be done with the American barracks on the Talkatora Road, Gurdwara Road, Queensway and Connaught Place?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) and (b) I take it that the Honourable Member is referring to temporary buildings which were till recently occupied by personnel other than that of the Government of India

A statement containing the necessary information in respect of such buildings as have been surrendered to Government or as will, according to the information in the possession of Government be surrendered within the next three months is laid on the table

(c) I confine my answer to this part of the question to the buildings which have actually been surrendered to Government The answer is in the affirmative except in the case of the buildings surrendered only very recently which are also required by Government and are proposed to be used by them

(d) I confine my answer to this part of the question to buildings which will be surrendered within the next three months Such buildings are also required by Government and are proposed to be used for one or the other purposes

(e) No, the latter part of the question does not arise

(f) The buildings on Talkatora Road and Gurdwara Road are being used by Government for office purposes and will continue to be used so long as these

are required by Government. As regards the American buildings on Connaught Place and Queensway, the method of their disposal is under consideration but they are likely to be required for Government purposes

Statement showing the buildings surrendered or to be surrendered to Government within the next three months in New Delhi

Name of the buildings	Number of rooms, etc, available therein	
L Block	74	
M Block	107	
Gurdwara Road	106	
Talkatora Barracks	11 barracks	49,000 sft.
	1 barrack	2,890 sft.
	Office rooms (18)	4,446 sft.
	Recreation Hall with 4 adjoining rooms and godown	5,000 sft.
	Kitchen and Dining hall	2,813 sft.
Officers quarters on the Central Vista	288 rooms	...
Jodhpur Mess	120	...
(To be surrendered in April 1946)		
Canning Road Barracks 'B' Block	6 barracks (double storeyed)	62,406 sft.
(To be surrendered on 21-2-46)	1 barrack	4,598 sft.
	10 office rooms	4,566 sft.

APPOINTMENT OF MR HARKNESS AS TOWN PLANNING OFFICER, DELHI AND NEW DELHI

26. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state

(a) if it is a fact that one Mr Harkness has been appointed as Town Planning Officer for Delhi and New Delhi recently,

(b) the terms on which his recruitment has been made,

(c) if the post was advertised in India and applications called for from qualified or capable Indians for the post, and, if so, whether any applications were received,

(d) if the appointment was made through the Federal Public Service Commission, and, if not, why not;

(e) if he has satisfied himself that no Indian of the necessary ability was available before Mr Harkness was given the job, and

(f) whether Mr Harkness has had previous experience of town planning in a country like India or whether his experience has been confined to Europe and other countries?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes

(b) The post has been sanctioned for a period of 3 years and is non-pensionable It carries a pay of Rs 2,000 per mensem

(c) The answer to both parts of the question is in the affirmative

(d) The post was first advertised by the Federal Public Service Commission but no suitable candidate was available in India

(e) Yes

(f) Mr Harkness's experience has been confined to Europe and countries other than India

INDIA HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE IN LONDON.

27. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member kindly state

(a) what the total expenditure on the High Commissioner's Office in London is for the current year,

(b) the number of officers and clerks employed in that office with their designations;

(c) if any portion of the expenditure is met from the British treasury;

(d) how many of the staff are Indian nationals,

(e) whether in the High Commissioner's Offices of other dominions, such as Australia or Canada or South Africa, the staff is wholly dominion nationals and not British nationals; and, if he is not aware, whether he will make necessary inquiries, and

(f) what steps have been taken so far and are proposed to be taken in the future to employ in this office only nationals of Indian origin drafting personnel if necessary from time to time from the Central and Provincial Secretariats or other Indian establishments?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The budgetted expenditure for the current year is Rs 29 61 lakhs

(b) and (d) The latest information has been called for and will be placed on the table

(c) No, Sir

(e) Information has been called for and will be laid on the table

(f) The High Commissioner is fully aware of the need for preferring suitable Indians in making appointments in his office and is constantly endeavouring to achieve this end He is, however, handicapped by the unwillingness of Indians to commit themselves to a career in England

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA'S OFFICE

28. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member kindly state·

(a) what portion, if any, of the expenditure, in pounds or rupees on the Secretary of State for India and his establishment in England is borne by this Government,

(b) if any portion of such expenditure is paid from the Indian revenues, whether any Indian nationals are employed in that office, and, if so, how much they are paid, and

(c) if the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, whether he proposes to take steps to employ Indian nationals to the utmost possible extent in that office and inform the Assembly as to what steps are being taken in that direction?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: This question concerns the Finance Department and will be replied to by my Honourable colleague the Finance Member

FOOD DEPARTMENT STAFF

29. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar· Will the Secretary Food Department please state

(a) the total number of officers, assistants and clerks in his Department in the Secretariat proper,

(b) the total number of officers and clerks employed in the Delhi and New Delhi Rationing staff,

(c) the number of (i) officers, and (ii) assistants in his Secretariat who are over the age of 55 as on the 1st October, 1945, and who are still kept on in his Department, and the reasons for keeping such superannuated men after the ending of hostilities, and

(d) if such superannuated men cannot be replaced by younger officers and, if not, why not?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Officers 78, Assistants 200, Clerks 292

(b) Officers 50, Clerks 730

(c) and (d) (i) Officers 5, (ii) Assistants 4

The officers are occupying posts of a technical nature or key posts which require men of experience, and cannot, therefore, be immediately replaced.

Of the four assistants, one has been discharged from the 1st February 1946 and two more will be relieved on the 1st March 1946 The case of the fourth also being reviewed

'QUIT INDIA' DATE

30. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state whether he is aware of the intense desire of the Indian public in general and this House in particular that, for the true and free constitutional reforms in India, the Honourable the Leader of the House and the Government he represents should immediately Quit India' If so, what date has been fixed by him and his Government for quitting this country?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With reference to the first part of the question, I have heard such views expressed by unappreciative persons. As regards the second part, if the plan which His Majesty's Government and His Excellency the Governor-General has in mind for the reconstruction of the Executive Council is fulfilled, my colleagues and I will be only too happy to make way for the new Government

HAND-MADE PAPER FOR MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

31. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether he proposes to procure for future use of and sale to the Members of this House, handmade paper only which is manufactured as a village industry by institutions organised on co-operative basis?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If all the Members of the House agree to accept and use handmade paper of the kind referred to by the Honourable Member, such paper will be procured for sale to them whenever it is available in acceptable qualities

HAULAGE ALLOWANCE OF MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

32. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state the reasons why haulage charges for cars or coach and horses have been discontinued?

(b) Are Government aware that the new system of giving a fixed conveyance allowance per day to the Members works out inequitably in the case of such Members who come from long distances and are now required to bring the conveyances at their own cost?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Free haulage of cars was suspended on account of transport difficulties This decision was taken in pursuance of the report of a Committee of this House appointed on the 14th September, 1942

(b) Yes, where Members are able to bring their conveyance from distant stations notwithstanding the existing transport restrictions Where Honourable Members prefer to hire conveyance in Delhi, the grant of a fixed conveyance allowance at the present rate of Rs 15 per day may in the generality of cases be found to afford more equitable compensation for so long as present conditions prevail

WELLS AND ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION FOR MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURE

33. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of bungalows for the residence of members of both the Houses of the Central Legislature? If so, what steps Government are taking to construct sufficient number of additional bungalows so as to provide residence for all the members?

(b) Are Government aware that the absence of wells in these localities causes great hardship to such orthodox members of the families of M L As who have objection to the use of tap water?

(c) Do Government propose to take steps to construct wells, at suitable distances and places in these localities, before the members take up their residences for the next session?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Until the beginning of this Session no shortage was reported to Government and no complaint of shortage was received by them A small shortage of bungalow type accommodation has just been brought to the notice of Government and the matter is now under their consideration

(b) No

(c) Government have not at present any such proposal under consideration

HARDSHIPS OF ISTAMRARI TENANTS IN AJMER-MERWARA

34. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Is the Agriculture Secretary aware of the hardships and insecurity to which the tenants of the Istamrari areas in Ajmer-Merwara are subject? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to ameliorate their conditions?

(b) Will he lay on the table the Reports of enquiries conducted by the De la Fargue Committee in 1933-34 and by Mr Irwin in 1939, into the conditions of the tenants of the Istamrari areas, and what steps have been taken or are intended to be taken to carry out the recommendations made in the two Reports?

(c) Are Government aware that along with the Settlement Operations in the Khalsa area of Ajmer-Merwara the settlement of the Istamrari tenants was also taken in hand, but was given up after the new Settlement Officer took charge? Why was this step taken, and do Government contemplate re-starting settlement operations in the Istamrari areas?

Sir P. M. Kharegat: (a) Yes A proposal is under consideration for appointing an officer on special duty to draft the necessary tenancy legislation as also the amendments needed in the Ajmer Land and Revenue Regulation of 1877 In the meantime the powers vested in the Revenue authorities in the matter of ejectment of tenants are being exercised with due care and discretion so as to mitigate hardships and insecurity

(b) The reports are of a confidential nature and have therefore not been published It is regretted therefore that they cannot be placed on the table of the House The settlement officer took up the preparation of a Record of Rights, *i.e.*, a statement of facts in regard to rent, period of occupancy, village customs and other relevant matters as a preliminary to undertaking legislation

(c) The enquiries referred to in the reply to part (b) were taken in hand when settlement operations started and continued even after the new Settlement officer took over charge in December 1942 They were completed in May 1944 Further operations cannot be taken up satisfactorily without tenancy legislation It is proposed to take up these further settlement operations after the necessary legislation is enacted

CHAIRMANSHIP OF BEAWAR MUNICIPALITY

35. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava. (a) Is the Health Secretary aware that the right of the Beawar Municipal Committee to elect its own Chairman was taken away in 1931, since when the Sub-Divisional Officer of Beawar acts as the *ex officio* Chairman of the Committee?

(b) Are Government aware that the said right has not been restored notwithstanding several representations made by the citizens and resolutions passed by the Municipal Committee?

(c) What are the reasons for depriving the citizens of Beawar of their democratic right, and do Government propose to take steps to restore the right now that the newly elected Beawar Municipal Committee has come into being?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) to (c) Information has been called for and will be furnished to the House when received

RE CONSTITUTION OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

36. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state what action has been, or is proposed to be, taken in the matter of (i) reconstitution of the Geological Survey of India in order to make it "a potent instrument for the furtherance of Government's mineral policy", and

(a) undertaking legislation for the purpose of establishing control over minerals in terms of his statement in the Legislative Assembly on the 12th March, 1945, while defining Government's policy regarding mineral resources of India?

The Honourable Dr B. R. Ambedkar: (i) A very large expansion of the Geological Survey has been undertaken by the Central Government The superior gazetted staff of the Survey has been increased from its pre-war strength of 27 to 102 which includes specialists, like Geophysicist, Mining Engineer

A copy of the brochure showing the Functions and Organization of the Geological Survey of India is available in the Library of the House

(ii) Provincial Governments were consulted in the matter and their replies are under consideration

ABOLITION OF UTILISATION BRANCH OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

37. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the circumstances that led to the abolition of the Utilisation Branch of the Geological Survey of India?

(b) Is it a fact that the Advisory Committee attached to the said Branch was at one stage, expected to function as a post-war planning committee with reference to minerals?

(c) Which Committee, if any, is now engaged in considering questions relating to post-war policy about minerals?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The Utilization Branch was established with a view to utilizing undeveloped mineral resources of the country for furtherance of the war effort On the termination of the war the emphasis changed from that of war-time production to that of a planned policy of mineral development in the country The development of such planned policy is an integral function of the Geological Survey of India and is being pushed forward but the necessity for a separate branch for productive purposes no longer exists

(b) Yes, but the change-over in function has necessitated a change in the personnel of the Advisory Committee

(c) The Government of India have recently formed an expert Advisory Board to advise them on problems connected with the mineral development of the country A copy of the Labour Department Resolution No M102(4), dated the 9th January, 1946, constituting the committee is available in the Library of the House

INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

38. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary Commonwealth Relations Department be pleased to lay on the table a comprehensive and up-to-date statement dealing with

(i) the present position of Indians in South Africa;

(ii) the operation of the Reciprocity Act as passed by the Central Legislature; and

(iii) any further action that may have been taken by Government to remedy the situation?

Mr. R. N Banerjee: (i), (ii) and (iii) I would refer the Honourable Member to the debate that took place in the House yesterday on the adjournment motion on the subject

REPORT ON POST-WAR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

39. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state whether Government have completed their consideration of the Report of the Central Advisory Board of Education on Post-war Educational Development in India? If so, with what result? And if not, what stage in the consideration thereof has been reached, and when final decision of Government can be expected in the matter?

Dr. John Sargent: The Government of India have accepted generally, subject to the limitation of finance, the principles and the objects of the Scheme prepared by the Central Advisory Board of Education on Post-War Educational Development of India and have decided

(a) that until the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board of Education that educational opportunities should be available for all has been fully implemented, steps should be taken to secure the provision of adequate facilities for Muslims and other minority communities and to accelerate the progress of the scheduled castes and backward communities,

(b) that with this object in view the Education Department should examine all schemes submitted by Provincial Governments and Local Administrations with a view to seeing that both in the selection of areas for development and in the provision of facilities for education generally the needs of Muslims and other minority communities, the scheduled castes and backward communities, are adequately satisfied

The Provincial Governments have been addressed in the matter The Schemes submitted by them will now be examined in the light of the decision of the Government of India

INDIAN BEVIN BOYS

40. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state how many Indians were trained in Great Britain under the Bevin Training Scheme?

(b) How many of them have been employed in factories engaged in war production?

(c) How many of the latter have since been discharged?

(d) Is it a fact that a number of Indian technicians trained under the Bevin Training Scheme have been asked by the Government of India to accept places other than those in which they have specialised? If so, for what reasons, and what is the number of such technicians?

(e) Is it a fact that, though there was no guarantee of service, assurances were freely given during the stay of the Indian Bevin Boys in the United Kingdom that their services would be utilised for the betterment of the industrial status of India? If the answer be substantially as above, what steps have been, or are proposed to be, taken to ensure the proper employment of these trainees?

(f) Has any representation been received from these trainees indicating their grievances? If so, to what effect and with what result?

(g) Is it a fact that one of the objects of the Bevin Training Scheme, with reference to Indian trainees was to give them an appreciation of the British methods of co-operation between the employers and workers, and the value of sound Trade Union principles? If so how is it proposed to utilise in India the training of these technicians in Trade Unionism?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) 712 A batch of 75 is at present under training

(b) 414 Another 168 trainees were engaged on essential work in Defence Services in Government (Central, Provincial and Indian States) undertakings including Railways

(c) 111 from the factories engaged on war production and 9 from the other undertakings

(d) Orders for employment of Bevin trainees on their return from United Kingdom were issued by the Government of India under the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance In most cases Bevin Trainees were placed in employment consistent with the training received by them in the U K In a few cases they could not be engaged on work for which they specialised and were entrusted with other work which they could perform by virtue of their general training Government are making a scrutiny of all such cases and every effort will be made to find suitable employment

(e) No such assurances were given, so far as the Government of India is aware The Prospectus clearly stated that no guarantee of employment could be given but that every endeavour would be made to place trainees in suitable posts

(f) Yes Their main grievance relates to their prospects of employment in suitable posts in the post-war period Every endeavour is being made to find employment for the unemployed Bevin trainees in Government and private undertakings Managers of all Employment Exchanges have been instructed to do their best to help Bevin trainees who register for employment The position regarding unemployment among Bevin trainees will be reviewed periodically and, as far as practicable, suitable action will be taken to remove legitimate grievances

(g) Yes Facilities for the study of the working of trade unionism in Great Britain were made available to Bevin trainees It is hoped that the experience gained will enable Bevin trainees to take their part in the development of trade unionism on sound lines in India

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

CURTAILMENT OF JURISDICTION OF DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE, AJMER

1. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state if it is a fact that the District and Sessions Judge, Ajmer, was also the District and Sessions Judge for the Rajputana Railway Lands up to March, 1945, and that the latter jurisdiction has now been vested in another officer styled as "District and Sessions Judge, Rajputana Railway Lands, Baroda and Central India" with Headquarters at Rajkot? If so, will Government explain the advantages accruing from such change?

(b) Are Government aware of the resolution submitted by the Ajmer Bar Association to the Government of India laying down the difficulties and hardships occasioned by this new arrangement? Do they propose to take any action on the said resolution?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes The correct designation of the officer is District and Sessions Judge, Rajputana and Baroda, Western India and Gujarat States Agencies The present arrangement is not only economical but also advantageous from the administrative point of view

(b) Yes After careful consideration of the resolution Government have come to the conclusion that the balance of advantage lies in maintaining the existing arrangement, and the Ajmer Bar Association has been informed accordingly

REPRESENTATION OF CHIEF COMMISSIONERS' PROVINCES ON CONSTITUTION-MAKING BODY

2. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state

(a) if it is a fact that the Cripps' proposals and the others discussed at the Simla Conference have ignored the question of Chief Commissioners' Provinces and have not considered what position and representation will be given to them on the Constitution-making Body?

(b) Will Government inform if the Chief Commissioners' Provinces are to be represented on the Constitution-making Body? If so, in what manner?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) This matter will undoubtedly engage the attention of the Preliminary Conference (announced in His Excellency's broadcast of 19th September last) proposed to be convened after the Provincial elections are over.

TAX ON PILGRIMS TO DILWAR TEMPLE, MOUNT ABU

3. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Is the Honourable the Leader of the House aware that the famous 'Dilwar' Temple at Mount Abu which commands great religious and cultural importance is visited by a large number

of British Indian people every year and that the Sirohi State authorities are charging a heavy tax of Rs 1/4/- from each visitor per trip?

(b) Do Government propose to investigate the possibilities of getting this tax abolished in case of all the British Indian subjects?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, though the actual rate is Rs. 1/3/9 and the tax covers a visit not only to the Dilwar temple but to other temples in the Abu hills

(b) No, because the tax is justified by ancient usage and is required to assist in meeting the heavy annual expenditure incurred on the maintenance of these temples in a fit condition

LAND REVENUE ENHANCEMENT IN AJMER-MERWARA

4. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Is the Agriculture Secretary aware that in the report of the new settlement operations in Ajmer-Merwara land revenue has been enhanced without proper regard to the conditions obtaining in the Province?

(b) Are Government aware that the objections to the enhancement of land revenue were made to the Settlement Officer, Ajmer-Merwara, on behalf of the tenants of Khalsa areas, but they were turned down and that the report has been submitted to the Government of India for final orders?

(c) Do Government propose to take into consideration the objections made regarding the enhancement of land revenue and make such reductions in the rates as are necessary in the light of these objections?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) It is a fact that the report proposes an enhancement in the land revenue by a little over Rs 40,000 raising the incidence per acre from Rs 1 5 5 to Rs 1 7 It is claimed that this has been done after due regard to the conditions prevailing in the "Province" including the precariousness of the tract, want of irrigation facilities the indebtedness of khewatadars, etc

(b) Yes The objections were examined by the Settlement Officer, the Settlement Advisor and the Chief Commissioner

It has been pointed out that the rent rates proposed for a circle are not higher than the rents which are actually being realised by khewatadars and that the rates are not intended for general application but will be modified at the time of actual assessment to suit the circumstances of individual villages or soils The report with the objections and the recommendations of the forwarding officers has been submitted to the Government of India for orders

(c) The objections will be further examined by Government It is not possible to say at present whether any reductions are likely to be made or not

FOOD SITUATION IN AJMER-MERWARA

5. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Is the Secretary Food Department aware of the high prices of foodgrains in the rural areas of Ajmer-Merwara?

(b) Are Government aware that acute scarcity of foodgrains at present exists in Ajmer-Merwara, particularly in the rural area, where this paucity of grain is obliging people to live upon boiled sweet potatoes or oil cake in many villages?

(c) Do Government now propose to investigate into the causes leading to the food situation in Ajmer-Merwara?

(d) What immediate steps do Government propose to take in order to relieve the said condition?

Mr B. R. Sen: (a) The prices of wheat, barley, gram, "guji" and "bejar" are controlled The prices of millets and maize which are not controlled rose temporarily owing to the failure of the Kharif crops but with the recent import of large stocks of bajra and maize into Ajmer-Merwara the prices of these two foodgrains are also being controlled

(b) and (d) The rural area of Ajmer-Merwara is normally self-sufficient in foodgrains A temporary scarcity of coarser grains arose this year owing to the failure of the Kharif crops but adequate steps have been taken to meet the situation and considerable stocks of foodgrains have been sent to the affected areas.

(c) Does not arise.

GUR IMPORTED INTO AJMER-MERWARA

6. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Secretary Food Department kindly state if Government are aware that a large quantity of the *gur* imported into Ajmer was of a very inferior quality and some of it even unfit for human consumption?

(b) Who is responsible for this import, and what steps do Government propose to take to see that Ajmer-Merwara gets a sufficient quantity of good quality *gur* which is urgently needed by the people during the cold season?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) From the report of the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, it appears that some of the *gur* moved was of poor quality

(b) The imports were through the trade According to normal procedure, a part of the supply of *gur* from U P was arranged under permits issued to persons holding stocks in the U. P and the balance through the Agents nominated by the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara

During the current season all arrivals of *gur* in Ajmer will be assigned to the Ajmer authorities who will exercise control over the quality supplied

STATEMENT ON FOOD SITUATION

7. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Secretary Food Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement

(i) covering the period February, 1945, to December, substantially on the lines of the memorandum on the food situation in India and development of food policy up to the 2nd February, 1945, that was placed on the table of the House on the 9th February, 1945, in reply to starred question No 36, and

(ii) specially indicating the prospects of importation of an adequate quantity of foodgrains this year from abroad?

Mr. B. R. Sen: A statement is laid on the table of the House

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD

MEMORANDUM ON THE FOOD SITUATION IN INDIA AS DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY UPTO THE 21ST JANUARY 1946

Although the War has come to a successful end, conditions which led to the introduction of the Basic Plan for distribution of available supplies with its attendant controls have not materially altered The world food situation in 1946 is not likely to be less difficult than in 1945 The devastated countries in Europe will need food in large quantities from outside Though with the defeat of Japan rice markets of Burma, Siam and French Indo-China have reopened, the quantities to be offered for export, are likely to be small as compared with those in pre war times, and in any case, there are other countries which, owing to devastation caused by the War or for their normal dependence on imports from those areas are strong claimants to whatever is available for export Production and movement all over the world will take time to return to normal levels and in the meanwhile world allocations must continue to be made by the Combined Food Board, Washington While this continues, neither the Government of India nor Indian traders can operate as free agents in procuring supplies from abroad and therefore our own resources will have to be carefully husbanded

The elements too have not been very kind this year The vagaries of the monsoon have adversely affected crops in certain parts of the country while cyclones have caused considerable damage to crops in other parts All this calls for increased vigilance and greater control over our internal resources The present controls with regard to procurement, distribution, movement prices and rationing will have to continue for some time longer They will be reviewed from time to time with a view to their relaxation which must, however, be a gradual and regulated process consistent with the need for establishing a permanent and fair system which will assure a market for the producer and a fair distribution of food to the consumer, and will stabilise prices at levels fair to both

The Woodhead Commission have dealt with the question of food administration at length in their final report and have urged that Government must assume the obligation of feeding the population in India and that a policy of *laissez faire* in the matter of food would end in disaster The recommendations of the Commission are now being examined and as a result of this examination it will be possible to formulate a programme of action which can be the basis of Government policy in the post-war period

A —Summary of Crop Prospects

The monsoon, though generally adequate in total, was irregularly distributed It did not break in full strength over several parts of the country till late in the season Up to the end of August rainfall was below normal in South West Bengal, Bihar, Eastern parts of the U P, Orissa, Western parts of the C P, Mysore, Southeast of Madras and the northern coast of Madras The effect of these unsatisfactory monsoon conditions was, that sowings and transplantation of rice were delayed especially in Bengal, Bihar and parts of Orissa Hathia (September-October) rains were, however, satisfactory and improved crop prospects considerably The Aman crop in Bengal is now reported to be average In Bihar, however, the crop is expected to be somewhat below last year's Crop Cyclonic weather developed in Orissa towards the middle of October and caused damage to early winter paddy crop in Cuttack, Balasore and Puri districts

In the U P, rainfall was irregularly distributed and the Kharif crop is likely to be below normal

Summer Monsoon in the Punjab was generally satisfactory, but heavy rains in October caused some damage to Kharif crops in parts of Ambala and Jullundur Divisions The total rainfall in the N-W F P from the beginning of June to the end of October was considerably below normal

Rainfall in Madras was both inadequate and irregular Crops in Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah and Chittoor suffered seriously from lack of adequate rain During October, strong winds accompanied by rains and tidal waves caused severe damage to the rice crop which was ready for harvesting The districts affected by cyclone, were East and West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur which form a compact bloc of surplus rice producing areas The damage in East and West Godavari which were worst affected was estimated at about 60 per cent and the total loss to early and late crops was estimated at about 400,000 tons

In Bombay, the rainfall during August was not enough for the paddy crops in Gujrat districts, while in Panchmahal, maize crop was adversely affected by excessive rains During September, excessive rains caused damage to the millets crop in Gujrat districts but were beneficial to the paddy crop Rainfall was, however, inadequate in the Deccan and Karnatak areas during September, October and November and as a result, the Kharif crops have been seriously damaged and the prospects of a fair rabi crop have been ruined It is estimated that the additional quantity of foodgrains which might be required as a result of the above mentioned damage would be in the neighbourhood of 400,000 tons

In Madras & Mysore the north east monsoon has almost completely failed and there has been drought of unprecedented severity Crops in large areas have failed and extensive assistance will be necessary to save the situation

Kathiawar, on the other hand, suffered from excessive rains which damaged the bajra and jowar crops.

In the Punjab, N-W F P and U P the absence of late December and early January rains is causing anxiety Unless rain falls soon, there is danger of the young shoots of the rabi crop withering in the soil

B —*Progress of the Basic Plan*

The Kharif and Rabi Plans 1945-46 taken together attempt the distribution of 3 2 million tons of foodgrains including about 0 2 million tons arrears from the preceding years' plans, from surplus to deficit areas and to the Defence Services Against the above combined total movement target of 3 2 million tons, about 1 1 million tons have been despatched upto the 13th December, 1945 The total quantity of foodgrains despatched to each of the principal deficit areas up to the 13th December, 1945 is as under :—

Area	Quantity
Bengal	178,900 tons
Bombay	154,800 ,,
Madras	33,200 ,,
U. P	143,900 tons
Trav./Cochin	..
W. I. States and Baroda	9,400 tons

The table below gives the total export quotas and the total despatches from surplus areas (including overseas imports) to the deficit areas :

(In '000 tons)

Food Grain	Total Quota	Despatches upto 13th December, 1945 (for Kharif Grains from 1st November, 1945 and Rabi Grains from 1st May, 1945)	Percentage of despatches to quotas
Rice	1,098 7	72 3	6 6
Millets	279 0	26 3	9 4
Maize	60 7	..	..
Wheat	1,719 8	1,057 3	61 5
Barley	61 4	37 9	61 7
Total .	3,217 6	1,193·8	37 1

The Wheat quotas given above include 760,000 tons of Wheat from overseas imports (for May, 1945 to April, 1946)

Rabi Plan 1945 46

Wheat —The allocations made in May, 1945, had to be revised shortly afterwards owing to certain changes which were brought to notice during the following two months The Plan was, therefore, revised and re issued in July, 1945, as being effective for the year May, 1945—April, 1946 The declared internal surpluses under this Plan amounted to 9,11,000 tons including 35,000 tons of Central Government's stock in the depots In addition, 7,60,000 tons of wheat was promised by H M G from overseas The total quantity available for distribution was thus 16,71 600 tons The defects declared to the Food Department amounted to 20,24 000 tons As the Plan progressed, the Central India States offered, for the first time, a surplus of 15,000 tons wheat On the other hand, a deterioration in the internal declared surpluses arose to the tune of about 40,000 tons The position was rendered all the more difficult owing to the slow progress of procurement in the Punjab The wheat position in the U P also worsened with the result that a quota very much in excess of the original deficit of 1,00 000 tons had to be provided In addition to the 7,60,000 tons of imported wheat, the distribution of which was made under the Plan 2,00,000 tons of wheat is expected to be received by the end of April, 1946, out of further imports of 400,000 tons promised by H M G

Kharif Plan 1945 46

The total rice and millets surpluses offered to the Food Department by the Provinces and States for 1945-46 at the commencement of the Kharif Plan amounted to 7,91,000 tons and 2 31 000 tons respectively while the declared deficits of rice and millets amounted to 27,42,000 tons and 4 80 000 tons, respectively In addition to the internal surplus 1,61,000 tons of Burma rice was also promised to India by the end of December, 1945, of which only half was received The failure of the monsoons and the damage caused by cyclones have however completely changed the picture Bombay, Madras, Mysore, the Deccan States and the Western India States have increased their demands considerably which it is not possible for the Food Department to meet except from increased imports of wheat and rice from abroad, particularly in the next four months The matter has been taken up with the Combined Food Board, Washington

Experience of the working of the Basic Plan during the last two years has indicated the need for exercising more pressure on the deficit areas to relate their declared deficits more correctly to the actual requirements with a view to reducing cases of belated surrenders of allotted quotas to the minimum Such belated surrenders besides causing inconvenience and some time a possibility of financial loss to the surplus areas, deprive the other deficit areas of foodgrains at a time when they are most needed With the same end in view, it has been laid down that deficit areas will have to make good financial losses, if any, that are suffered by the supplying administrations due to the diversion of quotas late in the season At the same time the surplus administrations are being persuaded to offer grain of acceptable quality so that complaints regarding bad quality may be reduced to the minimum

C —*Price Control*

(i) *Rabi Prices*

On the 31st March 1945 the Government of India after considering the views of the Governments of the main wheat producing areas and the recommendations of the Price Advisory Committee, decided that there should be no change during the Rabi crop year 1945 46 in the existing statutory maximum prices of wheat nor in the statutory maximum prices of gram and barley which were in the ratio of 8/10ths and 7/10ths, respectively of the statutory maximum price of wheat It was also decided that there should be no change during the next 12 months in the guaranteed minimum price of Rs 7-8-0 for fair average quality wheat

In June, 1945 the Sind Government approached the Government of India with a request that they should be permitted to reduce the statutory maximum price of wheat in Sind from Rs 9-8-0 to Rs. 8-10-0 This step was necessary because dealers in Sind were purchasing large quantities of wheat at rates in excess of the Government's fixed purchasing rate (viz , Rs 8-10-0) in anticipation of ultimate requisitioning for which the Provincial Government would be compelled to pay the statutory maximum rate as compensation The Sind Government's proposal was agreed to and they reduced the price of wheat to Rs. 8-10-0 per maund from the 21st June, 1945

(ii) *Kharif Prices*

The question of the fixation of rice and paddy prices in Sind for 1945-46 was considered at a special meeting of the Price Advisory Committee on the 5th September, 1945, as the Sind Government represented that Sind paddy started coming to the market in the first week of October and therefore it was absolutely essential in the interests of cultivators that the price of paddy for Sind should be fixed and declared by the middle of September After full consideration of all aspects of the case and the recommendation of the Price Advisory Committee, the Government of India decided that the Sind Government's purchase price of Kagni rice should be reduced from Rs 9 to Rs 8-12-0 and that of paddy, from Rs 5-8-0 to Rs 5-3-0 per maund The prices of joshi and red rice were also similarly reduced from Rs 8-8-0 to Rs 8-2-0 per maund

Kharif prices in the Eastern region were considered at a Regional Conference held at Calcutta on the 22nd September, 1945, attended by representatives of the various units forming the region and presided over by the Secretary, Food Department The Conference made the following recommendations —

(i) Continuance of existing prices in Bengal and Bihar

(ii) Scaling down of procurement prices in Assam to the Bengal level and some reduction in prices in the Eastern States

The above recommendations were approved by the Price Advisory Committee and the Government of India and in pursuance thereof the Assam Government made suitable reductions, with the approval of the Government of India, in their procurement prices for 1945-46

Rice prices in the Eastern States have also been reduced in the case of hand pounded rice from Rs 9-8-0 to Rs 9-4-0 and in the case of milled coarse rice from Rs 10-8-0 to Rs 10 per maund The Government of Orissa have also reduced their statutory maximum prices of rice and paddy as follows —

	Rice				Paddy			
	Common		Fine		Common		Fine	
—	From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To
	Rs a	Rs a	Rs. a	Rs a	Rs a	Rs a	Rs a	Rs a.
Puri, Cuttack, Balasore, Ganjam	7 12	7 2	9 12	8 14	4 8	4 2	5 12	5 4
Sambalpur	No change		9 12	9 8	4 8	4 8	5 12	5 8

Kharif prices for the rest of the country were considered at a meeting of the Price Advisory Committee held on the 12th October 1945 and the following decisions were taken —

(1) Statutory maximum price for coarse quality rice should be reduced from Rs 13-8-0 to Rs 12 4 0 in the Punjab and to Rs 13-4-0 in the U P Existing maximum prices or existing price ceilings should be maintained in Bombay Madras and C P

In view of the existing disparities in rice prices in various parts of the country and as the rice grower was assured of a ready market in the country the announcement of a floor price for rice was not considered necessary The cultivator is however, protected by the general guarantee given by the Government of India in connection with the "Grow More Food" campaign that they would enter and support the market should foodgrain prices fall unduly

(2) The maximum wholesale prices of bajra and jowar in primary markets should be reduced by 0 4-0 each from existing levels the revised statutory maximum price being Rs 7-4-0 a maund for bajra and Rs 6-12-0 a maund for jowar

The guaranteed minimum prices for jowar and bajra should also be reduced by 0-4-0 each the revised guaranteed minimum prices being Rs 5-12-0 for bajra and Rs 5-4 0 for jowar

In October last it was decided that the price of maize need not be controlled on an all-India basis The uncontrolled state of maize price was however reported to be exercising a bullish effect on the prices of other foodgrains in certain areas It was, therefore, decided at the end of December, 1945 to fix the statutory maximum price of maize at Rs 7 per maund in the main maize producing areas

D.—*Rationing*

(1) *Extension of Rationing* :

Since the last memorandum presented in February, 1945, rationing has been extended to 40 more towns representing a population of over 3 million people. In all, 556 towns covering a population of over 53 million persons have been fully or partially rationed. It is expected that before long about 60 more towns covering a population of nearly 1½ million persons will be brought under rationing.

(2) *Nutrition*

The extension and intensification of rationing has brought to the forefront the nutritional aspect of the food problem in India as malnutrition and under-nutrition are widely prevalent amongst the poorer classes in this country A new Directorate has been created in the Food Department since January, 1945 to deal with several new problems of Nutrition of a technical and semi technical nature, *e g*, feeding of children, nutritional and balanced diets, provision for heavy manual workers of cooked food through Industrial Canteens, milk priority schemes, food and nutrition publicity through publications, lectures, posters, radio talks and films

(3) *Publicity* :

Food Department have for the last 12 months been publishing two procures "Nutrition" and "Canteens in Industry" to stimulate popular interest in dietetics. "Canteens in Industry" is a quarterly publication directed at Industrialists and other employers of labour encouraging them to establish cheap cooked food canteens and to improve the feeding arrangements for their workers

E—*Storage*

Proper storage of foodgrains has been and will always remain a question of great national importance Food production in India even during normal times is inadequate to meet the demand of the growing population if every man is to be properly fed The food supply of the country, however, depends not only on its production but also on the prevention of waste The extent of loss which occurs as a result of damage to stored grains by insects, rodents and natural causes is not generally realised Conservative estimates put this loss at 3 million tons annually which shows what tremendous scrope there is for improvement in this direction

With a view to minimize these losses as far as possible, Food Department undertook the responsibility of initiating and co-ordinating measures of improvement and set up a Storage Directorate in November, 1944 with the following main functions :—

(i) A survey of existing storage conditions and advice on conversion, adaptation or improvement of existing buildings for storage purposes

(ii) Dissemination of scientific advice on scientific methods of storage and grain handling

(iii) Preparation of detailed schemes for construction of extra storage accommodation in areas where the existing storage is inadequate

(iv) Training courses for Provincial and State officials entrusted with the responsibility for storage

(v) Liaison with trade to induce modern scientific methods of conservation

(vi) Research

As a result of the general survey it was found necessary to provide extra storage accommodation at important ports for imported foodgrains and at suitable centres for transit storage to facilitate procurement of foodgrains and their transportation by rail from one inland centre to another More storage had also to be provided in the surplus areas specially in the Punjab, Sind, C P and Orissa, to give effect to the policy of putting into consumption imported grain first and storing surplus indigenous produce These new constructions fall under three categories.

(a) *Godown built at the entire cost of the Central Government*

They comprise the following—

Location of godowns	Capacity
Bombay	35,000 Tons
Vizagapatam	10,000 ,,
Coimbatore	14,500 ,,
Bulk storage bins at 5 centres in Sind (Nawabshah, Shahdadpur, Mirpurkhas, Digri and Jhudo)	30,000 ,,
Dhamtari (in C. P.)	750 ,,
Bhatapara (in C. P.)	500 ,,
Khurda Road (in Orissa)	500 ,,
Sambalpur (in Orissa)	3,000 ,,
Bobili (in Madras)	2,000 ,,
	96,250 ,,

The capacity at the first three places is mainly intended for the storage of imported grain, the bulk storage bins in Sind for long term storage of surplus indigenous produce and the godowns at the last mentioned 5 places for the surplus produce of the Eastern States which it was felt could not be tapped to the maximum extent in the absence of suitable godowns for its reception in British India

(b) *Godowns constructed on the 50 50 basis*

An arrangement was arrived at with the surplus producing Provinces of the Punjab, Sind, C P and Orissa for the construction of additional godowns, the cost of such constructions being borne by the Central and Provincial Governments on a 50 50 basis The following additional accommodation is being provided under this arrangement —

Punjab	30,000	tons
Sind	25,000	,,
C. P.	24,000	,,
Orissa	15,000	,,

The ownership of these godowns will be joint and the residual value of the assets, when they are no longer required, will also be shared by the Provincial and Central Governments on the 50 50 basis

(c) *Godown for the construction of which a subsidy will be paid*

As there was acute need to provide extra storage within the Eastern States territory for their produce and as some of the States concerned were reluctant to undertake constructions on their own accord, the Government of India offered to some of the State (detailed below) a subsidy of 0-6-0 in the rupee on the cost of godowns constructed at locations and for capacities approved by the Government of India provided the godowns were completed before the 31st December, 1945

Name of State	Location	Capacity	
Patna	Katabhanji	1,500	tons
Kalahandi	Kesinga	2,000	,,
Do.	Rupra Road	750	,,
Khairagarh	Dongargarh	1,000	,,
	Total	5,250	,,

In addition, it has been possible to lease suitable godowns at other places notably at Karachi and Calcutta As early as 1943 storage accommodation had to be secured at Karachi for the storage of imported foodgrains as well as the surplus production of the Punjab and Sind which had to be moved to the southern parts of India by sea. The necessary accommodation was leased from the Karachi Port Trust and other parties and this depot has at present capacity for 2,00,000 tons

In February, 1945, a Central Depot was formed at Calcutta 70,000 tons of storage accommodation has been leased from two agents on reasonable terms and they have been appointed Storage Agents of the depot

At Shamli in the Muzaffarnagar district of the U P cement khattis with capacity of about 12,000 tons of foodgrains have been leased from the owners

Owing to the necessity for keeping a part of the central reserve at some of the important wheat centres in U P, *e.g.*, Hapur, Meerut and Muzaffarnagar, arrangements have been entered into with the U P Government for keeping a part of the Central Reserve in khattis owned by the Provincial Government at these places

Besides the godowns referred to above in which the Government of India are financially interested, the Provincial Governments, States and Administrations as well as private enterprise have been encouraged to build storage accommodation at their own cost, the Food Department arranging to secure necessary supplies of controlled materials These materials include iron, steel, cement, etc., and todate more than 1,00,000 tons of such materials have been made available Private enterprise has been persuaded to undertake construction of good stores and marked progress in this direction has been made in Bombay, C P and Bihar All the Provincial Governments have on hand a storage construction programme Mention in this connection may be made of the Punjab who are undertaking a scheme for the construction of bulk storage bins to accommodate 70,000 tons of foodgrains spread over some 40 important mandis in that Province

The Technical Officers of the Storage Directorate have visited almost all parts of the country and given advice to the officers and others of the Provincial and State Governments about correct methods of storage on the spot To demonstrate to them correct and hygienic methods of storage and conservation of foodgrains a training class was held in November, 1944, at Delhi at which many representatives from Provinces and States were present A similar training course was held in November, 1945, also attended by more than 100 representatives from various parts of the country A manual entitled 'The Principles of Cereal Storage prepared by Dr F P Coyne, who was the first Director of

Storage, has been made available to the public at a nominal price which contains practical advice to the layman about the proper conditions and methods of grain storage

The value of propaganda to inculcate correct ideas of grain storage in the public mind has not been overlooked Radio talks on the subject and propaganda through the press have been arranged A film entitled 'Save the Nation's Food' is also under preparation Attempts are also being made to utilise the services of the Boy Scouts Organization in the campaign for proper storage

The experimental side of the work has also been steadily pursued Experiments to test the insecticidal value of the two new chemicals DDT and 666 against stored grain pests have been arranged in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and the Provincial and State Governments and the possibility of putting into general use these chemicals under Indian conditions is being explored Work is also in progress on the best and safest methods of fumigating and recovering infested foodgrains

Although hostilities have terminated the storage problem in India will continue to be of vital importance for a long time and can only be said to be satisfactorily solved when the present enormous wastage of foodgrains is prevented Whatever storage accommodation has been newly constructed is merely a fraction of what is required in India The exigencies of the situation created by the war demanded immediate constructions at ports and surplus areas but it cannot be said that all the accommodation required even at these places has been provided A great deal has also to be done to improve the existing storage conditions in surplus areas in mandis, in deficit areas as well as the cultivators stores Apart from such improvements the importance of the hygienic maintenance of godowns, elementary knowledge about stored grain pests and the seriousness of the damage that they cause, have to be brought home to all concerned in the handling of grain This is by no means an easy task and will require sustained efforts and attention over a long period Countries like America and Australia have made great strides in this direction as they have looked upon this problem as one of national importance even during normal times and India must profit by their experience

F —*Sugar and Salt*

(1) *Sugar* —The total production of sugar during 1944-45 (1st December, 1944 to 30th November 1945) amounted to 9 72 lakhs tons In addition, a carry over of 1,60,000 tons from 1943-44 production and 30,000 tons *khandsari* were available for allotment during the above period After meeting demands for the Defence Services exports, industrial requirements and carry over a quantity of 9,63,350 tons was allotted to various provinces and States for civilian consumption The production of factory sugar during the current year (1945-46) is estimated at 11,14,400 tons which is 1,44,000 tons more than last year The increase will be shared by U P and Bihar—1 00 000 tons by U P and 40 000 tons by Bihar A quantity of 15 000 tons *khandsari* sugar is also expected to be available from the U P The final position regarding production will not, however, be known until the end of March In the meantime, after meeting the usual demands for Defence Services, Exports, Industrial requirements and carry over, a provisional allotment of sugar (including *khandsari*) amounting to 10,29,900 tons has been made to various Provinces and States for civilian consumption during the year 1945-46 This increased allotment over that of last year has been possible owing to an estimated increase in sugar production and of about 50 per cent reduction in the Defence Services requirements

The *ex*-factory price of Standard D24 quality sugar, *viz* , Rs 15-4-0 per maund remains unchanged except in the case of Bengal where the sugar factories have been allowed an extra price of Rs 3 per maund to meet the higher cost of production due to conditions created by the War

In order to secure maximum production of sugar, it has also been decided to encourage gur refineries in the U P and Bihar to manufacture sugar by refining cane gur To enable the manufacturers to do so without incurring a loss, the price of D24 quality sugar produced by gur refineries has been fixed at Rs 22-13-0 per maund till the end of October, 1946

The Sugar Panel set up by the Planning and Development Department has recently submitted its report in draft regarding the development of the sugar industry in the next five years This is under examination In the meantime, action has been taken with the concurrence of the Planning and Development Department to recommend to the Chief Controller of Imports suitable applications for import of machinery and to the Examiner of Capital Issues applications for issue of capital

(2) *Gur* —A total surplus of 424,120 tons gur is estimated to be available during 1945-46 in U P , Bihar, N -W F P and Madras (U. P 2,95,000, N -W F. P. 72,000 and Madras 56,720 tons) and has been allotted to deficit provinces and States.

To enable our merchants to establish connections with the Middle East countries a small quota of gur is proposed to be allotted for export to Iran and the Persian Gulf Shiekhdoms.

(3) *Salt* —The supply position has been generally satisfactory Bengal has become overstocked with salt—their present stocks being equal to six months requirements Fresh imports have therefore been discontinued for some time Other parts of India are being supplied from internal sources War time controls over distribution are being examined with a view to their relaxation.

G —*Edible Oils and Oil Seeds*

As a result of an increase in peoples' purchasing power and shortage of ghee and kerosene due to war time conditions there has arisen a general shortage of oils and fats in the country and this shortage has been accentuated in particular areas, particularly in Eastern India There has also been an increase in the demand of oil cake as manure Another development has been the very large expansion of the milling industry mainly in seed producing areas like the U P

All Provinces have at one time or another instituted various degrees of control over seed, oil and cake The U P imposed an elaborate control on these items as the agricultural economy of that Province is so mixed that control over foodgrains must go hand in hand with control over oil seeds In Bengal the position became so acute that the Provincial Government had to resort to individual rationing of mustard oil in Calcutta A planned distribution of mustard seed and oil from the U P to Bengal Bihar and Assam had also to be made Similarly in the case of ground nut and oil from Southern India, an *ad hoc* distribution plan for export and internal consumption was drawn up This, however, suffered distribution plan for export and internal consumption was drawn up This, however, sufficed to meet local difficulties only partially and it has become increasingly clear that control over oil seeds, oil and cake on an all-India basis is essential Collection of information necessary for this purpose is already in hand and the policy as to what form such control should take and how far it should go is now actively engaging the attention of the Food Department The Food Department propose to make a distribution of oil seeds and oil on a proper coordinated plan with a view to securing a fair distribution of edible oils and proper utilisation of the milling capacity In such a plan due regard will also have to be paid to the needs of different areas for oil cake in consultation with the Department of Agriculture It is not proposed to disturb normal trade, but the idea is to bring it under effective Government control

H —*Command Co ordination Committees for Foodstuffs*

The Command Co ordination Committees continue to do useful work in their own limited sphere of co ordinating Army purchases After the cessation of hostilities the important question before the Co ordination Committees both in the Commands and at the Centre, has been how to meet the needs of deficit areas satisfactorily The question of the future of these Committees was considered in consultation with the War Department who have agreed that the work done by these Committees should now be gradually taken over by civil organisations provided the Army was represented on any organisation set up and the Army demands were promptly and adequately met Accordingly Provincial and State Governments were addressed and their views invited as to what form future control over perishable commodities should take and how co-ordination should be brought about While replies from a few Governments are still awaited the majority are in favour of utilising existing Regional Food Commissioners Organisations in some form as the co-ordinating body in regard to allocations The whole question of the future of controls and co-ordination of provincial policies in respect of fresh and protective foods is actively engaging the attention of the Food Department and decisions will soon be taken

I —*Imports and Exports*

1 *Import* —The full quota of 11,00,000 tons of foodgrains promised by His Majesty's Government for the period October, 1943 to December, 1944, arrived by 25th May, 1945

For the period from January, 1945 to December, 1945 a total quantity of 7,60,000 tons of wheat was promised by His Majesty's Government Out of this quantity 621 364 tons has already been received and the balance is expected to arrive by the end of February, 1946

In addition to the above quantity of wheat, a quota of 75,000 tons of rice from Burma was allotted for the last quarter of 1945, the whole of which has been received Negotiations regarding the import quota for 1946 are still in progress The Government of India have urged upon His Majesty's Government with all the emphasis at their command The necessity of allocating to this country quotas of foodgrains on a scale sufficient to meet the present difficult supply position arising out of crop failures in various parts of the country. Sir Robert Hutchings, Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Food has been deputed to the United Kingdom and U S A to place India's case before the London Food Council and the Combined Food Board, Washington

2 *Exports* —The ban on export of foodgrains outside India still continues

J —*Deputation of Technical Experts to United Kingdom and United States of America*

Dr B C Guha, Chief Technical Adviser and Mr M L Khanna Technical Adviser, returned from deputation from U K and U S A in March, 1945, after investigating methods of food technology with particular reference to dehydration, refrigeration, canning, etc They have submitted a report on this subject with their own recommendations regarding future development of food technology in India The report is being printed for distribution

K —*Technical Panel*

The Technical Panel of the Food Department which has been set up with a number of eminent Indian scientists representing different aspects of food and food industries has met twice during the year and has formed the following seven committees —

1 Food Processing Committee,
2 Edible Oils and Fats Committee,
3 Vitamin Technology and Food Fortification Committee,
4 Food Standards Committee,
5 Entomological Committee,
6 Alcoholic Beverages Committee,
7 Microbiological Committee

All the above Committees except the last have already met and made their recommendations The Food Processing Committee set up a Sub-Committee to consider the reconversion of existing fruit and vegetable dehydration factories to peace time uses

L —*Production of Food Yeast*

Food Department's report on the production of Food Yeast has been approved by the Planning and Development Department and is now being examined in this Department in respect of the financial and other commitments involved in establishing a factory of a 10 tons daily capacity

M —*Processed Foodstuffs*

A Laboratory has been set up in the Food Department for current analysis and investigation of processed foodstuffs These investigations coupled with those carried out at the Peshawar Fruit Processing Factory are expected to lead to the improvement of the fruit dehydration industry in India Research in respect of other food industries is also done, on a small scale which may serve as a starting point for the Institute on Food Technology, the establishment of which has been recommended, and is being considered actively by the Planning and Development Department

Food Department are also collaborating with the Agriculture Department to establish facilities for cold storage and refrigeration As now envisaged, the Agriculture Department will establish a chain of subsidized refrigerating centres, as a nucleus to a larger plan in respect of which information is to be obtained from the provinces

N —*Vanaspati Industry*

To overcome the existing shortage and to correct the deficiency of fat in the general diet the planned development of the Vanaspati Industry was undertaken

(a) *Immediate Expansion Scheme* —For the immediate needs of the country particularly areas where the fat consumption was low it was decided to permit establishment of 27 Vanaspati factories (18 in British India and 9 in Indian States) of a total annual capacity of approximately 1,36,500 tons, keeping in view the availability of groundnuts which is the main raw material required All the 27 factories have been assisted in obtaining controlled materials and import of plant and machinery from abroad

(b) *Future Expansion*.—A Committee was appointed under the chairmanship of the Vegetable Oil Products Controller for India to examine and report on the scope and extent of further expansion of the industry The Committee will also examine and report on other important questions affecting the industry

O —*Army Demands*

The end of the war, and the consequent demobilisation has resulted in a considerable reduction in the Defence Services demand for foodstuffs for 1946-47 This reduction has affected firstly the civilian economy for which a larger proportion of food taken previously by the Army is now released Secondly Government schemes for production have been curtailed or terminated Three vegetable dehydration factories, and the concommittent Vegetable Production scheme in the U P have been closed down The number of Ghee Centres and Controlled Flour Mills have been reduced from 6 to 3 and 9 to 3, respectively The Fruit Canning Factory at Nasarpur has been leased to a private agency Only the seven meat dehydration factories are unaffected and will probably work in 1946-47 Thirdly and most important of all, has been the effect on private food industries under contract of supply to the Army Most important of these are the Biscuit and Vegetable dehydration factories Conferences of the representatives of both industries were held In respect of Biscuit factories, it was decided that the Central Government should make an allocation of controlled materials sufficient to assure economic production to all factories It was also decided to allow factories to export up to 5 per cent of their production in order to enable them to make up for the loss of the Army demand and to establish themselves in new markets In respect of dehydration the prospects of maintaining existing production for the civil market is poor and the owners have been advised to divert their equipment to other food production for which they have been promised due assistance In respect of other industries, Provincial Governments have been addressed to help in converting production for the civil market At the same time planning and development of all food industries is being undertaken by the Food and the Agriculture Departments Every effort is being made to capitalise the development of food industries, which the war started or enlarged This is with a view also to conserve food which unless processed is liable to be wasted in some places and seasons for want of a demand for the fresh product

ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAMINE ENQUIRY COMMISSION

8. Mr. K. C Neogy: Will the Secretary Food Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement indicating action that has been, or is proposed to be taken on the principal recommendations of the Famine Enquiry Commission (1944-45) in their Report on Bengal as well as Final Report?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Action on most of the recommendations in the Bengal Report of the Famine Inquiry Commission is the responsibility of the Provincial Government A report of progress up to the end of 1945 is placed on the table of the House

The Government of India have generally accepted the main recommendations in the Final Report of the Famine Inquiry Commission The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the statement on Food and Agriculture Policy issued by the Government of India, a copy of which is placed on the table of the House The Government of India have set up a special machinery to co-ordinate and progress the implementation of the recommendations, and progress reports will be placed before the House from time to time

Statement showing the principal recommendations of the Famine Inquiry Commission Report on Bengal and action taken or proposed to be taken thereon

Progress Report upto 31st December 1945

Serial No. (1)	Recommendations (2)	Action taken (3)
1.	District Health Officers should be brought into a provincial cadre under the control of the Director of Public Health With regard to the status and duties of Health Officers, legislation along the lines of the Madras Public Health Act, 1939, is desirable (Part II)	The recommendation is under consideration of the Provincial Government It will be further examined in the light of the Bhore Committee recommendations and necessary action will be taken in due course
2	Whatever future advances are planned, the need for the existing emergency medical and Health Organisation will persist until the end of 1945 Not only should there be no premature retrenchment, but that full use should be made of developments during the famine as a foundation for further progress	It has been decided to retain and strengthen the emergency medical organisation and to merge it into Province's post-war schemes 20,000 emergency beds will be retained for a period of 3 years, the buildings in which they are located will be looked after The Provincial Government also propose to appoint 4 additional Assistant Directors of Public Health
3	The rationing of towns with a population of about 25,000 or more should be carried out as quickly as possible and in the light of experience gained rationing of smaller towns considered (Part III, Chapter I)	The Provincial Government have accepted the recommendation Statutory rationing of rice, wheat, wheat-products, sugar and salt is functioning in Calcutta, Dacca, Narayanganj and Commilla. It is proposed to extend statutory rationing to Chittagong on 11th February 1946 and Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and Kurseong on 25th February 1946. The Provincial Government have also under examination the question of extension of rationing in April 1946, subject to requisite quantity of wheat being available, to Asansol, Burnpore, Hirapur, Kulti, Kharagpur, Midnapore and Burdwan
(a)	Immediate steps should be taken to review licences issued since May, 1943, under the Food Grains Control Order and to remove from the register of licensees persons who are not traders by profession	The Bengal Food Grains Control Order was brought into force on 13th December 1945 in supersession of the Foodgrains Control Order of 1942 Dealers have been defined as persons dealing in purchase and sale of foodgrains and includes persons so dealing or storing on behalf of another as commission agents or arhatiyas. Dealers licensed under the Food Grains Control Order of 1942 will be allowed time up to 15th March 1946 to renew their licences. By an executive order the Provincial Government have directed that no licences shall be granted to any applicant who does not already possess a licence under the Food Grain Control Order of 1942. The Provincial Government have also taken power to suspend or cancel any licence or permit issued under the Order.

Serial No.	Recommendations	Action taken
1	2	3
4 (ss)	Cultivators holding land exceeding 25 acres should be brought under the scope of the Food Grains Control Order	The Provincial Government have accepted the recommendation and incorporated it in the new Bengal Food Grains Control Order. Section II, Clause (e) defines a large producer as a person who cultivates land the area of which is not less than 25 acres at any one time.
5	Embargoes round the surplus districts should be effectively enforced and adequate number of launches should be made available for the purpose	Against 121 power-driven river-craft asked for by the Provincial Government 71 have been supplied so far and attempts are being made to supply the remainder as soon as possible
6	Requisitioning from traders and large producers should be undertaken and public opinion should be enlisted in support of requisitioning by suitable propaganda	The register of producers holding land about 25 acres will constitute a register of large-holders. The Provincial Government accept the recommendation regarding requisitioning in principle They, however, do not favour propaganda.
7	Official procurement agency should be appointed in place of the present system of procurement through Chief Agents chosen from the trade	The Provincial Government have accepted the recommendation in principle Direct procurement was taken up in 1944 before the publication of the Famine Inquiry Commission Report in Patukhali Sub-division of Bakergani District and it has since been extended to the whole of that District, Mymensingh, Murshidabad, Pabna, Nadia, Rajshahi, Malda, Bogra, Khulna, Jessore and Basirhat Subdivision of the 24-Parganas District Extension of the system of direct procurement by Government officials has been hampered to a certain extent for want of suitable staff
8	Monopoly procurement system in force in Orissa and C P should be studied and applied as an experiment in a selected district or districts of Bengal.	The Provincial Government have examined the system of monopoly procurement in force in Orissa and C P They do not consider that the system suited to C P and Orissa can be adopted in Bengal but favour the extension of official procurement.
9 (a)	The respective functions of District Magistrates and Dy Directors of Civil Supplies in regard to the procurement and distribution of supplies and the enforcement of controls should be clearly defined	(a) (b) & (c) The Provincial Government have accepted the recommendation and have issued the necessary orders
(b)	The District Magistrate should be responsible for all matters concerning the distribution, storage, and movement of supplies and the enforcement of controls in the district	
(c)	In those districts where a staff is specially employed for making purchases on behalf of the Government or for controlling and supervising such purchases the District Magistrate and his staff should have no responsibility in regard to procurement and operations connected therewith. In other districts, District Magistrate should be authorised to undertake procurement, should this prove necessary, in local surplus areas in order to provide supplies for other parts of the district.	

Serial No.	Recommendations	Action taken
1	2	3
25	Production of milk should be increased by developing Agriculture and Animal Husbandry and also by importing more milch cattle	The Provincial Govt have accepted this recommendation as a part of the long-term Development Plan Arrangements have been completed by them for the establishment of a Central Livestock Research-cum-breeding Station at Haringhatta (35 miles from Calcutta) The station will be used to produce high-grade bulls An experimental Dairy Farm will be set up It is hoped to put the scheme in operation by the middle of 1946 To relieve immediate milk supply position, following measures have been taken — (i) A separate Dairy Development staff will be appointed to increase milk supply of urban areas. The Govt of India in the Agriculture Deptt have sanctioned a grant of Rs 60,569 to meet half the cost of the scheme for a period of 17 months from 1st October 1945 to February 1947 (ii) Arrangements have been made with the U P and the Punjab Govts for the import of 1500 heads of milch cattle every month Efforts are being made to increase this import quota (iii) The question of salvage of dry cows is being considered (iv) Arrangements are being made for Veterinary aid at selected centres which will also have stud farms attached to them (v) Licensing of cattle by the Calcutta Corporation.
26	Railway Board should be asked to do whatever is possible to improve and accelerate the transport of fish	The Railway Board have instructed the Railways concerned to pay special attention to the expeditious transport of fish They are considering the possibility of providing refrigerator vans
27	A Rationing system on Bombay lines should be introduced whereby infants, young children, and expectant and nursing mothers are given prior claims on available supplies This system is recommended for adoption by other municipalities all over India	The Provincial Govt consider that a scheme of supply of milk to priority consumers on the lines of the system in force in Bombay will involve considerable expenditure which they are unable to undertake in the present state of the Province's finances They will, however, consider it as a post-war measure when financial position improves
28	The use of milk for non-essential purposes should be prohibited	The Provincial Govt consider that prohibition of the use of milk for non-essential purposes is undesirable as at the prevailing milk prices the milk so released will not find a market
29	Local milk market in Bengal should be relieved as far as possible of military demands	The question is under consideration of the Central Government A scheme for the establishment of a Military Dairy Farm at Calcutta is under preparation The end of war have, however, altered the position a good deal.
30	Duck-rearing should be encouraged on the basis of the experience gained in the Military venture	The Central Government in the Agriculture Deptt, have sanctioned a grant of Rs 1,11,000 a year for a scheme for the multiplication of poultry in Bengal for a period of three years One military Duck Farm has been established in Bengal at Barrackpore for meeting a part of the Army demand.
31	To remove present scarcity of vegetables of all kinds a vigorous "Grow More Vegetables" Campaign should be undertaken	The Provincial Govt have sanctioned the following three schemes immediately — (a) A scheme for the production of Vegetables on 1,400 acres of land for supply to Calcutta (b) A scheme for the Distribution of summer vegetable seeds in rural areas, seeds worth Rs 1,525 are being distributed through the Govt. Seeds Stores (c) A scheme for the establishment of 178 seed and seedling stations covering an area of about 8060 acres in rural areas.

Serial No.	Recommendations	Action taken
1	2	3
32	With regard to military purchases the establishment of Regional Control Boards including Military and Civil representatives to co-ordinate military purchases of various foods is strongly recommended	See reply to item 24

A Statement on Agriculture and Food Policy in India

The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in June 1944 prepared a memorandum defining the needs, and the means for the attainment of maximum efficiency in agricultural production, aiming at the fullest possible development of the productive potential of all the resources of the country, as a basis for an all India agricultural policy These proposals were generally endorsed by the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries The recommendations of this Committee were also generally accepted by Provincial Governments, and in June 1945 were approved by the Standing Committee of the Legislature

Since then the Famine Inquiry Commission have included in their Final Report a series of connected recommendations which define the broad lines of an Agriculture and Food policy designed to prevent any future threat of famine, and to improve the diet of the people These recommendations state objectives and principles, suggest lines of further investigation and advise specific action over a wide field which, in the words of the Commission, is for practical purposes, co extensive with the whole future development of the country

Proposals have been included in the post-war development plans, both of the Central and of the Provincial Governments, and measures have already been undertaken, which reflect agreement on the main essentials of a common policy for Agriculture and Food

The development of agriculture and the supply and distribution of food, are among the most important statutory responsibilities of Provincial Governments The events of recent years have emphasised the inter dependence of the various Provinces and States on each other in the matter of food supply, and have shown that freedom from want can, in future, only be achieved by the closest co operation of all, in an all-India policy of agricultural development, food production and distribution, and, in these circumstances, it is for the Central Government to co-ordinate that policy

The Government of India therefore consider, after careful examination of the various suggestions and recommendations made, that it is now opportune to announce, in general terms, and subject to acceptance by Governments of Provinces, an all-India policy for Agriculture and Food, as well as the objectives to be achieved, the measures to be adopted and the respective roles of the Centre and the Provinces for their attainment The policy will be implemented by the Provincial and Central Governments in their respective spheres in consultation with each other, and to the extent that is appropriate and necessary in each case The degree of success will depend upon the degree of co-operation between the Central and other Governments, and among the people themselves, in working out a common policy for the common good of all

This general Statement of Policy, and the objectives and measures included in it, will also be submitted to the Governments of States for their co-operation

2 *The Policy*—The all-India policy is to promote the welfare of the people and to secure a progressive improvement of their standard of living This includes the responsibility for providing enough food for all, sufficient in quantity and of requisite quality For the achievement of this objective high priority will be given to measures for increasing the food resources of the country to the fullest extent, and in particular to measures designed to increase the output per acre and to diminish dependence on the vagaries of nature. Their aim will be not only to remove the threat of famine, but also to increase the prosperity of the cultivator, raise levels of consumption and create a healthy and vigorous population The Central and Provincial Governments will bring all available resources to bear to achieve this end in the shortest possible time

3 *The Objectives*—The Cardinal objectives of this policy are as follows —

(1) To increase the production of food, both of foodgrains and protective foods, required to meet the basic needs of the present and future population of India and thus reduce dependence on imports.

As an indication of the magnitude of the task, it has been estimated that existing production falls short of present requirements for a balanced diet by the following margins.

Cereals	by 10 %	(6	million tons)
Pulses	by 20 %	(1½	,, ,,)
Fats and Oils	by 25 %	(5	,, ,,)
Fruit	by 50 %	(3	,, ,,)
Vegetables	by 100 %	(9	,, ,,)
Milk	by 300 %	(70	,, ,,)
Meat, Fish and Eggs	by 300 %	(4½	,, ,,)

The increases in the production of cereals and pulses must be proportionately greater, until the required standards of production of other foods have been attained

(2) To increase the efficiency of the methods of agricultural production, marketing and distribution

(3) To stimulate the production of the raw materials of industry, both for domestic manufacture and for export

(4) To secure for agricultural produce an assured market at a price remunerative to the producer, and fair to the consumer

(5) To secure fair wages for agricultural labour

(6) To improve the standard of living of the rural population, and for this purpose to solve the problems of rural economy which stand in the way of agricultural improvement

(7) To secure continuous and profitable employment in agriculture by the introduction of intensive scientific agricultural methods, the development of agricultural and cottage industries, and the bringing of new areas under cultivation

(8) To enlarge the market for agricultural produce and augment the national wealth with a view to improving the national diet and for this purpose to promote industrial development

(9) To ensure a fair distribution of the food produced

(10) To promote nutritional research and nutritional education, as a prominent part of the public health programme

The sum of these objectives is an expanding production and consumption, and adequate purchasing power in the hands of the people It is now the task of the Central and Provincial Governments, in co operation with the people, to translate them into practical achievement

4 *Programme of Action*—In the wide field of action necessary to attain these objectives, the first essential is the enlargement and intensification of the measures taken during the war for the increase of food production The facilities, goods and services necessary for increased production will be made available to primary producers At the same time they will be educated to make use of better methods of cultivation, production and animal husbandry and to appreciate improved standards of living

In the matter of distribution of food, waste and deterioration must be eliminated as far as possible by improved arrangements for storage, methods of pest control, and the application of scientific processes to the conservation of perishable foodstuffs Arrangements for transport will be improved and modernised, and movement rationalised

Health prosperity and increased employment must be brought to the villages by such measures as the provision of education, in the widest sense of the word especially of women, eradication of endemic diseases, the improvement of village communications, the promotion of co operative marketing and credit, and the encourage of village industries

The particular measures which will be required are described in succeeding paragraphs, and will be included in a programme of action prepared in consultation with provinces, and designed to achieve specified goals over a specified period of years Many of the measures are already in hand where preparatory work is necessary, it will be completed before the end of 1946

5 *The Measures*—The measures which will be included in the programme of action cover an immense field In order to bring the task within manageable dimensions it is necessary to select for immediate attention certain measures, which appear to hold out the best promise of a considerable increase of production over a short period, and to proceed with the utmost despatch to complete the necessary preliminary enquiries and surveys These measures, which already find a place in the development plans of Provincial and Central Governments, and on which much work has already been done, are —

(1) The supply and conservation of WATER, by the construction of wells, tanks, dams and canals

(2) The conservation of SOIL and the proper use of LAND.
(3) An increase in the production and utilisation of all resources of MANURES and fertilisers, on a subsidised basis, if necessary.
(4) The production and distribution of improved varieties of SEED
(5) Measures for the PROTECTION OF CROPS and STORED GRAIN against pests and diseases.
(6) MALARIA control
(7) The development of FISHERIES.
(8) An increase of MILK PRODUCTION.
(9) The establishment of a network of DEMONSTRATION AND DISTRIBUTION CENTRES

(10) The TRAINING OF AN ABUNDANT supply of workers for the practical work involved, and building up on the basis of the village, or a group of villages as the primary unit, an adequate and efficient administrative organisation to ensure practical results

6 Other measures which will be included in the programme of action are as follows —

(1) A sufficient supply of iron and steel will be made available to meet all demands for agricultural implements, and mechanical cultivation will be introduced in suitable areas.

(2) The results of research on improved methods of cultivation will be extended progressively throughout the country, and pilot schemes in new methods of agricultural organisation in villages by means of co-operative and collective farming and joint management will be carried out

(3) The production of fruit, vegetables and tubers will be progressively increased, and their distribution improved

(4) The production of oilseeds will be increased and the seeds crushed in India, so as to make more oil and oilcakes available both as a cattle feed and as manure

(5) The quality of plough and milch cattle, sheep and goats will be improved by the establishment of breeding farms, by the distribution of selected animals for breeding, and by development of goshalas

(6) The quantity and quality of cattle feed will be improved and better facilities for grazing made available

(7) Facilities for the protection of cattle against disease will be extended

(8) Dairy and poultry farming will be developed making use where possible, for civil purposes, of developments introduced by the Army during the war

(9) Conservation of forest resources will be developed and extended, including the development of village forests

(10) Agricultural statistics of acreage and yield will be improved

(11) The regulation of markets and the improvement of marketing facilities will be extended in respect of both agricultural produce and the products of cottage industries

(12) An adequate marketing organisation will be set up to ensure that middlemen's profits are related to services rendered and the producer gets a fair share of what the consumer pays A Committee has been appointed to advise on the subject and action will be taken without delay on its recommendations when received

(13) Communications between villages and markets, and methods of transporting perishable foodstuffs will be improved

(14) Accommodation for the storage of foodgrains will be multiplied and improved

(15) Assistance will be given to the establishment of industries for food processing, and the preservation of foodstuffs

(16) The standards of quality of foodstuffs will be improved and enforced

(17) Facilities for obtaining special beneficial foods for mothers and small children will be increased

(18) School feeding and industrial canteens will be extended

(19) The consolidation of holdings will be encouraged and the fragmentation of holdings discouraged

(20) Consultation with Provinces will be undertaken to ascertain the extent to which the existing systems of land tenure, including the rights and obligations of holders and tillers of land, impede the full productive use of land, and the measures to be taken

(21) Co-operative farming, credit and marketing will be encouraged, and other forms of providing agricultural finance will be extended The reports of Special Committees appointed on rural credit and the Development of the Co-operative Movement have been recently received Their recommendations are being taken into urgent consideration

(22) Such economic measures will be taken as may be practicable for the regulation of prices so as to ensure an adequate return to the producer and a fair price to the consumer A Special Committee has been set up to advise how agricultural prices should be fixed and made effective Its recommendations will be examined as soon as they are received

(23) The question of subsidization of foodstuffs is under consideration by a Committee

(24) Suitable measures to regulate the wages or remuneration of agricultural labourers and crop shares so as to ensure to them a reasonable standard of living, will be encouraged

(25) Legislation will be undertaken, when necessary, to secure these objects, including legislation to ensure that beneficial measures are not held up by the opposition of a minority to such matters as the control of pests and diseases, measures of soil conservation, consolidation of holdings, and improvement of live stock

(26) The fullest consultation and co-operation is necessary between officials and the public in the preparation and execution of local plans, and it is therefore intended to promote the setting up of village agricultural associations, committees or co operative societies for better farming, as well as similar tahsil district and provincial bodies, so that the people immediately concerned and Government officials may work together to achieve the common goal of promoting the welfare of the people

7 By these and other measures future production of food can and will be increased, and its distribution improved, Imports and distribution of food, and the holding of reserves, will be regulated to the extent that and for as long as may be necessary It is intended that the trade shall in due course resume its normal functions The relaxation of controls will be a gradual and regulated process, and not inconsistent with the need for establishing a permanent system which will assure a market for the producer and equitable distribution of food to the consumer, at prices fair to both

8 *The Role of the Centre and of Provinces*—Agriculture, and the supply and distribution of food are Provincial subjects and on Provinces will rest the first responsibility of making plans in the light of local needs and capacity, and the final responsibility of carrying them out But it is necessary for the Central Government to take the initiative in co-ordinating the proposals and bringing them into the framework of a common plan for agriculture and food Subject to what follows, it is intended that both in planning and execution the Provincial Governments should have the fullest freedom of action and scope for local initiative

9 It is the first and most urgent task of the Centre to assess the requirements of the country as a whole in respect of the different types of agricultural produce and of nutrition The Centre will estimate, on an all-India basis, what is required to be produced This will be compared with the Provincial programmes of increased production It will then be determined, by mutual consultation between the Centre and the Provinces how the gap should be reduced, what additional amounts should be produced in each area what measures should be taken and facilities provided to achieve these ends and in what period they should be completed

The Central and Provincial plans will be examined from this point of view to make sure that between them they include the measures necessary to achieve the objectives and make adequate provision for the administrative machinery required for the performance of these tasks Steps will also be taken by mutual consultation and joint agreement to ensure that a balance is maintained between the projects in each local plan and between the efforts of each area and that the sum of that balanced effort and its results are applied to the objectives of the common policy

10 *Financial assistance*—The Centre will give grants to Provinces for schemes of agricultural development except in respect of such productive schemes as are self supporting The form scale and conditions of such financial assistance will be related to the over-all requirements of the all India plans for development, and will be separately prescribed

Proposals will be judged not merely on the basis of the direct financial return, but full account will be taken of the indirect economic and social benefits to the country as a whole A liberal and expansionist policy will be followed in regard to agricultural development Recoveries in respect of long term productive schemes will not be restricted to a short term period

11 *Other Central Functions*—Some of the other main functions of the Centre in contributing to the achievement of the common objectives for Agriculture and Food will be to provide certain facilities for training, to conduct research to make available expert advice to Provinces that need it, and to set up special organisations to serve particular all-India purposes (These are further elaborated in an Annexure)

12 *Preparatory Measures.*—Much preliminary work has already been undertaken and progress made To the extent that all preparatory measures have not been completed, programmes of action framed and the administrative machinery to carry them out set up this will be done in 1946 The preparatory measures include the training of staff the carrying out of surveys, the framing of detailed schemes the obtaining of materials and the combination of the various schemes into a clear programme of action for the achievement of the local objectives All this will be the responsibility of Provincial Governments in consultation with the Central Government

13 *Liaison*—The progress and continuity, and the inter relation of Central and Provincial planning for Agriculture and Food, and its execution, will require frequent and personal consultation For this purpose the Government of India have set up a small special organisation, whose function it shall be to visit the Governments of Provinces and to assist by all possible means the removal of any obstacle in the way of the early completion of measures undertaken consistently with this declaration of policy

14 *A New Spirit.*—The Famine Inquiry Commission have called for a new spirit of determination to face the great tasks, they have defined These will be hard, but worth accomplishing and must be accomplished They will call for the highest degree of administrative and technical skill, for enthusiasm and for the co-operation of the whole population This declaration of policy has been made in the confidence that there will be no lack of determination in the efforts now demanded, of governments and people alike, along the strenuous road which will lead them away from the menace of famine to a new vigour and prosperity

ANNEXURE

Training —The training, of agricultural staff up to the degree standard is primarily the function of the Provinces and States concerned The Centre will endeavour to arrange for the admission, at the larger Provincial colleges, of students from adjoining areas up to a certain limit

In addition the Central Government will itself set up an Agricultural College and an Animal Husbandry College to meet the needs of the Centrally Administered areas and the smaller Provinces and States, which cannot afford to have separate colleges It is hoped that these institutions will also serve as a model for other similar colleges

The Central Government have also increased the facilities for post-graduate training in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry The number of post-graduate students admitted to the Agriculture Institute has already been increased from 16 to 50 per year and it is proposed to increase the number to 100 in a couple of years Admissions to the Veterinary Institute have been doubled

The facilities for training in special subjects like Dairying, Fisheries, Fruits and Vegetables, etc, are also being expanded Admissions to the Forest Rangers College have been increased fourfold—from 36 students every alternate year to 75 students every year—and those to the Forest Officers College have been doubled

The Centre is also arranging for post-graduate training in special subjects overseas About 100 students have already been sent and it is hoped to send another 76 in 1946

Research —Higher training and research have to go together The Centre will undertake to develop intensive research, in collaboration with the Provinces, on a sufficiently large scale in regard to agricultural matters

For this purpose, the Central Government will expand the facilities for research at the Agricultural, Veterinary, Dairy and Forest Institutes and will also set up Institutes in respect of Rice, Potatoes, Vegetables, Fruits, Grasslands, Livestock breeding and Fisheries Research on Cotton, Jute, Lac, Tobacco and Sugarcane and Coconuts is being attended to by special commodity committees and it is hoped to set up a similar committee for oilseeds shortly

The Central Government will not only set up high grade research institutes, but will also establish substations at suitable centres, for experimentation on a sufficiently large field scale, either in conjunction with Provinces or otherwise as may be found convenient, Provincial Governments will supplement this by research work of an applied nature to suit local conditions and for the practical country wide utilisation of the results of research

In particular, the Central Government will take the initiative in carrying out pilot schemes of co operative farming, joint management, testing the use and extension of mechanised farming, etc

Special organizations —The Centre will also set up and maintain, in certain cases, special organisations requiring central co-ordination or management and for providing expert guidance and advice on technical matters to those who need it

A *Statistical* and Economic Organisation will be set up for the collection, compilation and interpretation of data relating to the production and distribution of agricultural commodities

A Central Agricultural *Marketing* Organisation already exists, but it will be strengthened and placed on a firmer footing A special committee has been appointed to suggest the lines on which this should be done In particular it will deal with the improvement in the facilities for the marketing of agricultural produce by the organisation of co operative societies or depots for the collection, grading, cleaning standardisation and sale of agricultural produce by the construction of godowns and cold stores and by the establishment of regulated markets

A Plant *Protection* Organisation is being established which will look after quarantine stations for plants and take up the study of birds in their relation to agriculture A similar organisation will also be set up on the Animal side, particularly for dealing with rinderpest

A Soil *Conservation* Bureau will be set up which will, in collaboration with provinces, advise on anterosion work and guide and train the provincial staff in this line of activity

The Centre will provide expert advice to Provinces in the preparation of their plans to co-ordinate the various activities and to undertake such other special functions as may be necessary from time to time For instance there are advisers in respect of emergency

and minor irrigation works, Fish development, Dairy development, Fruit development, Fertiliser Production and Utilisation and so on

The advisability of expanding the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research into an all-India *Council of Agriculture* will be examined, in order to provide a permanent machinery for the promotion of agreement between the Central and Provincial Governments and help in solving problems which are likely to arise from time to time.

The question of establishing an all-India *Council of Co-operation* will also be looked into particularly for dealing with problems of rural credit and marketing and the steps to be taken to provide both long term and short term credit to Agriculture The suggestions of the committees appointed for co-operative planning and for rural indebtedness will be examined in this connection, and action taken thereon without delay

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

OFFICIAL INTERFERENCE IN ELECTIONS TO DELHI DISTRICT BOARD

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to State

(a) if his attention has been drawn to the items of news in the *Evening National Call* of January 31, 1946, and the *Hindustan Times* of February 1, 1946, relating to the alleged interference of officials in the forthcoming elections to the District Board of Delhi,

12 NOON.

(b) if Government have had any report regarding the interference of Revenue Officers, Naib-Tahsildars and Zaildars in the matter of these elections, and if the officers have been taking any active interest in the matter as asking the village voters to vote one way or the other, and

(c) if Government propose to take immediate steps to inform all officials concerned to forbear from taking any interest in the elections and ensure full freedom to the electors in regard to them?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I have seen one of the articles

(b) I have received no complaints, neither has the Chief Commissioner nor the Deputy Commissioner

(c) Government servants are well aware that they may not interfere with elections

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that these complaints have been published in the public press, even if the officials concerned themselves have not informed the Honourable Member will the Honourable Member kindly take steps now to inform all officials that their policy is that Government servants should not interfere with these elections?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, Sir As I say, Government servants know what their duty is If any particular Government servant fails in his duty, it is open to anyone to make a complaint to the authority concerned

Shri Sri Prakasa: Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to the speech delivered at a police parade by His Excellency the Governor of the United Provinces to the effect that Government servants are not to interfere with these elections and whether it would be *infra dig* on the part of this Government to issue similar instructions here?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: My attention has not been drawn to it, Sir

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that I am drawing his attention to these things, will the Honourable Member kindly take steps now?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I think it possible—I do not know—that His Excellency the Governor of the United Provinces was referring to complaints made in his Province As I have said, no complaints have been made in Delhi Province

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Is it or is it not a fact that this complaint is being brought to your notice and are you going to treat this subject quite so lightly? Is it not your duty now to tell your officials that they shall be dealt with severely if they interfere with the elections?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, Sir. I think I have already answered it.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: You must answer!

Shri Sri Prakasa: If the Government servants themselves are expected to know their duty, as the Honourable Member says, I hope he also thinks that Government is also expected to do their duty forwards those servants and in view of the complaints made, would it not be desirable for the Honourable Member to issue such orders?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: May I suggest that this is rather like the attitude of the mother who says, go and see what the child is doing and tell it not to

Shri Sri Prakasa: Does the Honourable Member seriously expect that the Chief Commissioner himself will complain to him about these things? Does the Honourable Member expect the Chief Commissioner to complain to him? I cannot understand the situation and he refuses to take any action unless the Chief Commissioner himself complains

Mr. President: That is a matter for argument What is the question?

Shri Sri Prakasa: The question is whether the Honourable Member is prepared—that is in the form of question, putting the predicate before the subject to take into consideration the complaints that have been voiced through the public press and whether he is also prepared to issue instructions in this behalf to the officers concerned?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I should be prepared to wait for some specific complaint

Shri Sri Prakasa: Does he not realise that the elections will be over before the specific complaints reach him? Are they not to start today?

Mr. President: Order, order Next short notice question

BURMA RICE FOR INDIA

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Secretary Food Department be pleased to state as to the approximate date by which he expects Burma rice in the Country?

(b) Will he be pleased to state the quantity of it and the agency or agencies through which the said rice is going to be imported?

(c) Will he kindly give any idea as to the price at which the said rice will be sold in this country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Burma rice started to arrive in this country from the 29th November 1945.

(b) So far 75,000 tons have been imported All exports have been made by CAS(B) and imports into India by the Central Government

(c) The price which India will pay for this rice is still under negotiation with His Majesty's Government, but in the mean time the rice is being sold in this country at the prices in force in the areas to which it is being sent

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How has it been distributed over the rice-eating provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: It has been distributed according to the needs of the different areas

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What do the Government mean by this prices in force? Do they mean the selling price or have they fixed any price?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The prices at which rice is being sold retail in those areas

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Is any profit being made?

(No reply)

Mr. President: The answer is in the negative

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May we know what quantity, from what the Honourable Member has in his possession, has been sent to the Madras Presidency?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I want notice

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Has the whole quantity of rice, already received, been distributed to the consumers?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: What is the quantity for Bihar?

(A pause)

Mr. President: What is the quantity for Bihar?

Mr. B. R. Sen: This rice will be distributed according to the comparative needs of the different areas There is no fixed quantity for anybody

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As applications are made they are being distributed indiscriminately In the southern provinces there is famine Has not the Honourable Member taken note that particular areas are affected more than other areas and that there are surplus and deficit provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Everything is taken into consideration

Shri Sri Prakasa: Have the fat and the lean equal rations?

Mr. President: Order, order

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who decides this matter of distributing Burma rice between different provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: This is done by the Central Government They have the whole picture of India before them and they decide according to needs

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member lay on the table the method of distribution and the allocation already made so far?

(No reply)

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I want an answer

Mr. President: He shook his head in the negative He is not prepared to give an answer

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He has to give an answer

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: He must give an answer He cannot insult the House

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have said that the rice received is distributed according to the comparative urgency of the different areas There is no fixed quota for this particular consignment of rice from Burma

Mr. Manu Subedar: How much further quantity is expected in the next two or three months from Burma?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am unable to answer that question

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member appoint a kind of Tariff Committee to advise them as to the manner of distribution among the different provinces?

Mr. President: Order, order We now go on to the adjournment motions

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

INTERFERENCE IN SIND ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS BY EUROPEAN OFFICIALS

Mr. President: I have an adjournment motion from Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon He wishes to adjourn the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance namely, "the behaviour and misconduct of European Indian Police Service personnel and European Indian Civil Service personnel in creating hitches and harassing the Muslim public from exercising free franchise in the recent Sind Assembly elections"

The adjournment motion has been disallowed by the Governor General

INTERFERENCE BY I C S PERSONNEL IN ELECTIONS IN KARACHI

Mr. President: I shall now take up the next adjournment motion by Nawab Siddique Ali Khan relating to

"The interference and behaviour of the Indian Civil Service personnel at Karachi during the recent provincial elections in harassing and entering in election booths of Muslim purdah nashin ladies"

This motion has been disallowed by the Governor General

RIGHTS OF INDIANS IN KENYA COLONY

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion is one by Seth Govind Das regarding "the complete failure of the Government of India to take any steps to counteract the growing danger to the civic rights and rightful position of the Indian community in the Legislative Assembly of Kenya Colony in East Africa as threatened by the European elected members of the Council and Lord Francis Scott, a member of the Executive Council and the Legislative Council in Kenya, by categorically rejecting the proposals for legislative reforms and the proposed elected representation of Indians on it"

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions. Non-Muhammadan): If the Honourable Member for Government has any objection to the motion, then I shall make my point

Mr. President: It seems to be a matter of importance Is there any objection?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department): May I know, Sir, what the specific matter is in this adjournment motion?

Seth Govind Das: The specific matter is that on the 12th December the Colonial Office issued a white paper, wherein a proposal had been made about an Inter-territorial Organisation in East Africa A cable from *Reuters*, which was published in the press of India dated the 26th January, from Nairobi, says that this proposal of the Colonial Office is being opposed by the Whites of East Africa and these Whites are led by a very important person of Kenya I mean Lord Francis Scott, who is a member of the Executive and also of the Legislative Council of Kenya Sir, the question of Indians in East Africa about the Highlands of Kenya and about other things have been engaging the attention of this House for a long time and this is a most recent occurrence, in which the Government of India are sitting tight and are doing nothing and therefore I want to raise this question on the floor of the House It is a matter of recent occurrence and urgent public importance

Mr. President: Has the Honourable Member for Government to say anything?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: We have no objection, Sir, to a discussion of this motion

Mr. President: The motion is admitted and will be taken up at 1 O clock

An Honourable Member: Today, Sir?

Mr. President: Yes, it will be taken up today, unless the House decides otherwise

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Tuesday, the 29th January, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Agriculture, twelve nominations were received Subsequently, two members withdrew their candidature As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected to the Committee for the unexpired portion of the financial year and for the next financial year (1) Sardar Sampuran Singh, (2) Mr C P Lawson, (3) Chaudhri Sri Chand, (4) Raja Sir Saiyid Ahmad Ali Khan Alvi, (5) Mr. Tamizuddin Khan, (6) Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj Syed Sher Shah Jeelani, (7) Sri V Gangaraju, (8) Khan Abdul Ghani Khan, (9) Mr G B Dani, and (10) Mr Sukhdev Udhowdas.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Tuesday, the 29th January, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Legislative Department, seven nominations were received Subsequently two members withdrew their candidature As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected to the Committee for unexpired portion of the current financial year and the financial year 1946-47. (1) Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, (2) Chaudhri Sri Chand, (3) Lt -Col Dr J C Chatterjee, (4) Mr K C Neogy, and (5) Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar

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ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: In view of the resignation by Mr M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, of his membership of Standing Committee for the Department of War Transport, a vacancy has occurred on the Committee In order to fill up the vacancy, I appoint the period upto 3 P.M. on Tuesday, the 5th February. within which nomination will be received The election, if necessary, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, on Friday, the 8th February, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member) Sir, I present the Report* of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of 1943-44

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions Non-Muhammadan) With respect to the report of the Public Accounts Committee it has been the practice of the House to discuss this report and two specific days are allotted for the purpose Will the Honourable Member please state whether he proposes to allot two days for discussing this report and if so, when does he propose to do it?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I understand, Sir, that it is not done at this stage First an opportunity is given to the House to study the report and an opportunity will be afforded at a later stage for discussion

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General) Sir it has always been the practice of this House to have two days towards the end of the session to discuss the Public Accounts Committee Report All that the Honourable Member, Mr Govind Das, has suggested now is that the Government should allot two days for the discussion of this Report towards the end of the session We are not asking for it tomorrow

Mr. President: If I understood the Honourable Member aright, he said that the report is presented and at this stage, there is no discussion An opportunity is given to members to study the report And then, he said, in due course time will be allotted for its discussion

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural) The point is that two days should be allotted instead of one day as happened during the absence of the Congress Members from the Assembly

Mr. President: Whatever may have been the practice of the House in the past will be adhered to

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*Not printed in these Debates, but copies have been placed in the Library of the House — *Ed. of D.*

ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Mr. President: I have to inform the House that Sardar Mangal Singh has intimated to me withdrawal of his candidature for the office of Deputy President. There is, therefore, only one candidate left, namely, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan whom, I declare to be elected as Deputy President Under Section 63C(2) of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935, this election requires His Excellency the Governor General's approval which will be communicated to the House when obtained

MOTION *RE* FOOD SITUATION—*contd*

Mr. President: Further consideration of motion moved by Mr B. R Sen.

"That the food situation in India be taken into consideration"

I think there are certain further amendments also tabled by certain Honourable Members

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural) On a point of order, Sir Members have to sit down when the President is standing I see that several Government members are standing now

• **Mr. President:** I am thankful to the Honourable Member for having drawn my attention to the matter

About these amendments which have been tabled very recently, I should like to invite Honourable Members' attention to the practice of tabling amendments as the debate proceeds from day to day I do not like to insist upon notice—I am prepared to waive notice in the interests of having a better debate, but the general practice should be that amendments should not be coming in as the debate goes on Of course, if there be an agreed amendment then certainly it may be brought in at any time But the great disadvantage of tabling amendments as the debate proceeds is, to my mind, that injustice is done to Members who have already taken part in the debate They have expressed their views and they lose the opportunity of expressing their views again over amendments that come in later Today, I am allowing all these amendments without taking any objection as to notice being given, but I trust Members will help me by not tabling amendments as the debate proceeds I may repeat again, that if necessary, agreed amendments may certainly come in there is no objection to them

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir we appreciate your observation that if amendments are agreed ones they will be acceptable without notice, but then there ought to be an opening for the President's discretion also, because as you have said there will be difficulty in respect of particular Members who have already spoken and who have not had an opportunity of considering the new amendments There will also be another difficulty by excluding them, because when the debate proceeds in a real and live manner certain questions come up and .

Mr. President: Order, order My observations of course do not exclude or do away with the authority of the Chair to allow amendments which are really necessary for the purposes of the debate But it is better, if the proposition is duly considered before, that amendments are not coming in as the debate develops It may be necessary in certain cases, but it will be a matter for the discretion of the Chair I am just giving a general rule I would now request Honourable Members to move these amendments and then they will speak, so that the debate will proceed on the assumption that all the amendments are before the House Mr Ishaq Seth will move his amendment

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) Sir, I move

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Mr M R Masani, the following be added, namely

'and urges upon the Government to take steps to obtain independent representation for India on the Combined Food Board'."

Mr. President: Amendment to the amendment moved

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Mr M R Masani, the following be added, namely

'and urges upon the Government to take steps to obtain independent representation for India on the Combined Food Board' "

To this amendment there is an amendment that will be moved by Mr. Ayyangar

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor. Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I move

"That at the end of the amendment proposed by Mr H A. Sathar H Ishaq Seth, the following be added, namely

'by sending—(*with your permission, Sir, I omit the word 'a' and say*)—competent Indians elected by the non-official members of this House from among its members or from outside' "

Mr. President: Amendment to the amendment moved

"That at the end of the amendment proposed by Mr H A Sathar H Ishaq Seth, the following be added, namely

'by sending competent Indians elected by the non-official members of this House from among its members or from outside' "

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava (Ajmer-Merwara General) Sir, I do not propose to move my amendment

Sri V. Gangaraju (East Godavari and West Godavari *cum* Kistna Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir I move

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Mr M R Masani the following be added, namely

'and urges that the Government should so reorganise its procurement and requisitioning of foodgrains as to eliminate the existing arbitrariness, corruption and oppression of peasants and to leave with peasants adequate quantities of foodgrains for their family and labour consumption and to obtain the wholehearted co-operation of the peasants in all their procurement and price fixing operations' "

Mr. President: Amendment to the amendment moved

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Mr M R Masani the following be added, namely

'and urges that the Government should so reorganise its procurement and requisitioning of foodgrains as to eliminate the existing arbitrariness, corruption and oppression of peasants and to leave with peasants adequate quantities of foodgrains for their family and labour consumption and to obtain the wholehearted co-operation of the peasants in all their procurement and price-fixing operations' "

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I move

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

'and having considered the same further urges upon the Government to take immediate steps to increase the production of foodgrains in the country by granting substantial subsidies to producers and by restricting if not prohibiting, the cultivation of crops other than foodgrains on lands where food crops can be grown until the country becomes self-sufficient in foodgrains' "

Mr. President: Amendment moved

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

'and having considered the same further urges upon the Government to take immediate steps to increase the production of foodgrains in the country by granting substantial subsidies to producers and by restricting if not prohibiting, the cultivation of crops other than foodgrains on lands where food crops can be grown, until the country becomes self-sufficient in foodgrains' "

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput Non Muhammadan Rural) Sir, the other day I was referring to the fact that the cost of cultivation per acre of paddy comes to about Rs 130 This Rs 130 is for crop rates on dry land including cost of irrigation So far as wet land is concerned, it comes to about Rs 90 to Rs 100, and the total income which he derives by way of foodgrains is about Rs 50, and including the cost of hay it will come to about Rs 65 to Rs 70 There is no provision for his supervision charges; and with all this, a man is expected to raise foodgrains on his land, losing Rs 20 to Rs 30 for every acre of crop which he raises I do not think any sensible agriculturist will raise foodgrains on his lands on these terms The Government must revise its policy of fixing the prices They say they look to the interests of the consumer What is obtained for one rupee from the producer is sold in the towns at Rs 1-8-0 or Rs 1-6-0. The co-operative stores

in our district which are entrusted with this task of procuring and distributing to the consumers make a profit of Rs 15 to Rs 20 for every Rs 65 worth of paddy that is delivered to them I want to insist that if they are not in a position to raise the price which is now offered to the cultivator for foodgrains, they must at least try to subsidise and make the industry a paying one Let them not kill the goose that lays the golden eggs They are not giving the agriculturists any help His necessities are not provided for Wages, cost of manure and the cost of cattle which are necessary for cultivation have risen by 400 per cent and the cattle are not having their food There is no bran and no cotton seeds available for the cattle No tyres and no implements of iron and steel are supplied to the agriculturists, though a lot of propaganda is being made and it is being said that a lot is being supplied to the ryots. Then the Honourable Member for Agriculture said that loans and grants have been offered to the cultivators To take a loan or a grant a cultivator has to spend nearly 75 to 80 per cent of the loan he obtains from the Government He has to spend lot of time before he can obtain the money There are other improvements which the Agricultural Department can resort to Silt clearing in the channels which are to cover about 10 to 12 villages can be resorted to this year I know for a fact that in my district a number of channels which irrigate about 10 to 12 villages have not been cleared of the silt This has been remaining there for the last 10 years and nobody has taken care about it, in spite of the fact that the attention of the Department was often drawn to it Even in Japan which is occupied by the Allies a calory amount of 2600 per head is provided for at the instance of General MacArthur The Japanese are already having 2200 and this has been found to be insufficient by General MacArthur and he has insisted that 2600 calories should be provided per head for the Japanese What is given in India is less than 1500 calories Even that is now sought to be reduced by the department They want to reduce it to 75 or 66 and 2/3 per cent Today I find in the papers that the ration in Delhi town is proposed to be reduced to two-thirds of what it was till now If this policy is adhered to and if only two-thirds of what is now being allowed is given to the producer, I am sure he will not be able to maintain himself and produce what is required of him

So far as procurement and distribution is concerned, I shall draw the attention of the Honourable Member for the Food Department to the report of the Foodgrains Policy Committee This is what is said by that Committee on page 102 of their Report

"We are unanimously of the opinion that any attempt to apply rationing in any strict, technical sense to the rural areas of India is hopelessly impracticable The utmost that could be achieved could be to apply to rural districts the principle of an aggregate quota and to attempt to secure that supplies over and above this amount should be made available for the sustenance of the urban population But we must not be implied as meaning that even the determination of an aggregate quota could possibly imply any significant lowering of the rural standard of consumption The reason for this is surely very clear It is impossible to raise the volume of food production in India, if the producer, already suffering from a shortage of producers' and consumers' goods, is to have his generally not too high volume of personal consumption reduced The only effect of any such attempt would be a reduction in the ryot's willingness to produce"

Then in para 19 on the same page, they go on to say

"To attempt to distribute available supplies on the principle of giving every body a pinch of what is available is simply to dissipate scarce resources"

I would draw the attention of the Food Department to these relevant passages in the report I have mentioned I would also draw the attention of the Department to an article appearing on page 10 of *Janata* of 3rd February 1946. This is what the article says —I would like to ask the Food Member what he was doing since August and September when the monsoon failed—

"On November 11, 1945, Sir J P Srivastava, Food Member to the Government of India, said, 'Unless the public allow themselves to be stampeded into an entirely unjustified panic, the Government of India and the Provincial Governments should certainly be in a position to prevent local shortage from developing, to honour their rationing obligations and to maintain full control of the situation'"

[Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar.]

This is the statement which he made on the 11th November. On the 11th November, the Food Member was confident that he could meet the situation without people creating any scare in the country On January 18th he had to revise his opinion—that is within two months The Food Member admitted "that the food situation in the country at the moment is not too easy" Even though he was aware that in August the north-west monsoon failed and he was not in a position to meet the situation, he was complacent enough till November and till very late in January Then he realised that the situation was not easy I draw his attention to the entire article on this page

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member) When did the monsoon fail in Madras?

Sri R Venkatasubba Reddiar: In August, September and, I think, November

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The north-east monsoon failed in November, if I may say so

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: The Honourable Member must know that Madras gets the north-west monsoon Malabar and Bombay have been affected and there is no water in Mettur Dam to provide for Tanjore and other districts to which electricity is supplied from the Mettur Dam

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable Member does not know where Madras is

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: In the Madras Presidency, for distribution of paddy and rice, the unit is 10 to 15 villages One must realise the difficulties of those villagers if they are asked to walk 4 or 5 miles every day to take their supplies of rice They cannot get it once a week or once a fortnight Every day they have to walk several miles to get their supply When we asked the persons concerned to make arrangements for distribution in each village, we were told that the Foodgrains Control Order stands in the way of licensing retail dealers It was said that only those persons dealing in rice in 1943 and 1944 could get the license This Government does not take a long time in passing all kinds of ordinances All these ordinances regarding the control of foodgrains come under the Defence of India Rules If only the Government takes it into its head to provide methods for easy distribution in villages, I do not think there will be any difficulty to amend this rule I commend all these suggestions for the consideration of the Food Department and I close my remarks

Mr. Mohammad M. Killedar (Bombay Northern Division Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I beg to support the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Mr Musaji from Bombay and the rider to that moved by the Honourable Member Mr Sattar Seth Sir, I have heard the speeches of the Food Secretary and also the Secretary for Agriculture very minutely and I have come to the conclusion that what European countries could do during the first year of war our Indian Government is able to do in the first year after the end of the war. We have not up till now completely stopped the export of foodgrains We still find that certain commodities are exported from India to Ceylon and other countries It has been pointed out by several Members in this House, that there is no proper control of the Central Government over the Provincial Governments There are various instances in which the Provincial Governments have overlooked the Central Government and have not cared to obey the orders of the Central Government Only last year a quota of about 53,000 tons of gram was granted to the Bombay Presidency from various provinces in India But the total quantity of gram that my Presidency got was about 15 to 20 thousand tons only and the rest of the quantity was not available even though the traders and other interested persons were prepared to pay more than the control price The Government of India could not help us in any way nor could the Bombay Government do anything in that direction The control price for gram is about Rs 8 to Rs 10 in various provinces, but gram is not available at this price It is being sold even in Delhi proper at the rate of Rs 15 to Rs 17

per maund in black market Owing to the corruption the black market is thriving not only here but in all the places

With regard to Bombay city, I wish to say a few words Bombay is not supplied with good quality of foodstuffs Very inferior quality of wheat is given to the Bombay city, the red Australian small wheat, which is of very inferior quality is supplied to the consumers in Bombay In 1944 barley was given instead of wheat, which was subsequently discontinued and the same barley was given to cattle owners for feeding their cattle Sir, the position of Bombay is very grave Poor people do not get nourishing food for keeping up their body and the things which keep up the body like fat, milk, etc , are not available to them Instead of that, skimmed milk powder is being introduced by the Government of Bombay for the use of the public All the restaurants in the City of Bombay are forced to use skimmed milk powder in place of the whole milk This skimmed milk powder is imported from Canada Some of that quantity, which was imported some time back was found to be so inferior that the Government of Bombay is now trying to feed with it the cattle which are kept in the Bombay City at present Even the cattle owners are not prepared to feed their cattle with that skimmed milk powder They think that it is of very inferior quality and is harmful to the cattle And yet the same skimmed milk powder was being given to the human beings in the Bombay City Such is the condition prevalent in the City of Bombay If proper quality of food is not supplied to the residents of Bombay it will be very hard for them to maintain their health Sir, the situation in Bombay, so far as the milk supply is concerned, is getting worse and worse every day In order to maintain a regular supply of milk in the City of Bombay there should be imported at least 6,000 fresh buffaloes every month, but at present we have hardly ₹,000 to 1,200 buffaloes I think this is known to the Government of India also, but, I understand, they are helpless in this matter because they cannot press other Governments and particularly the Gujrat and Kathiawar States to release some of their cattle to be exported to the City of Bombay The situation of food is worse but the condition of milk supply is still worse During the last four months the supply of grass for cattle was rationed in the City of Bombay The cattle was fed only on 10 lbs of grass per animal per day, though the usual quantity should be more than 20 lbs per animal per day It was very hard for cattle-owners to maintain their cattle on 10 lbs of grass per day

I now come to the rural areas of my province particularly the Northern Division I know it for certain that the Government of Bombay is not giving a fair treatment to the residents of the rural areas They are not supplying them with sugar in adequate quantity and no cloth of any kind is supplied to them I know it for certain that Broach district is supplied only half lb sugar per head per month, and the Government of Bombay expects the cultivator to come forward and give all the food he has grown for feeding the residents in urban areas This is not fair If the Government wants co-operation from cultivators, then the cultivators also should be given sufficient sugar for their use I know it for certain that in Bombay City about 12 oz of sugar is granted per head per week I know in Broach city about 8 oz of sugar is granted per head per week I do not know why this discriminatory treatment is meted out to the cultivators and those who are residing outside city limits It seems some favouritism is going on and I submit that the Government of India should poke its nose and try to mend matters Several representations have been made by these people, but the representations are not taken into consideration and they are thrown into the waste paper basket

Sir, the food problem is the problem of problems There is no problem which is agitating the minds of people more than the problem of food The absence of winter rains on which the supply of wheat mainly depends has made the position exceedingly serious There is every chance of the repetition of Bengal famine if timely action is not taken by Government There is no chance of getting any internal relief at the present moment There will be no surplus to help the deficit provinces There are no reserves I therefore

[Mr Mohammad M Killedar]

request the Honourable Member in charge to make every effort in order to get more wheat and more rice from foreign countries He is taking a deputation to U K to induce people there to allow some wheat exported to India An amendment has also been tabled requesting a seat on the committee But I believe that the most effective method would be to appeal to the people as well and with this object in mind, I suggest that the committee which is going out for the procurement of wheat should have a representative of the Congress and a representative of the Muslim League parties Official attempts are not always very effective When the question of famine, of life and death comes in, then an appeal by the people themselves who are seriously affected will be more effective than an official report or official document

The next thing which I would like to press upon the Honourable Member is the method of distribution This requires serious consideration Instead of giving small quantity of sugar irrespective of social position and irrespective of requirements, it will be more useful and economic if the two alternatives are adopted in distribution Either give the quantity of sugar at scheduled price or 2½ times the quantity of gur at the same price Sir, I am sure that a very large number of people, at least two thirds of the population will give up sugar and will take to gur and thus sugar thus saved can be utilised in increasing the rationed sugar The same thing applies to food grains A larger number of persons would prefer to have bajra, jowar or maeca in preference to wheat and we should apply the same alternative in this case also as in the case of sugar That is, you take either schedule ration or take double the quantity at the same price and offer these alternatives to the people

Mr. President: How long does the Honourable Member propose to take?

Mr. Mohammad M. Killedar: Only a few minutes more, Sir I suppose the people will jump at this idea The same thing applies to rice You give two qualities of rice, the Bengal variety and the Punjab variety and give them the option either to have double the quantity of Bengal rice or to have the Punjab rice at the same price This will be an equitable mode of adjustment The best way for such kind of adjustment is the trade channel I hope that this arrangement will soon be made in all the foodgrains, the option should be to have (a) larger quantity of inferior foodstuffs or (b) smaller quantity of superior stuff at the same price

The last thing I would like to press Sir, is the association of non-officials in the distribution of food It should be distributed under the supervision of non-officials presided over by officials if the Government so desires They will know the requirements of the people and I think there is a chance of minimising corruption if non-officials are associated to a larger extent than at present Sir, I have done

Mr. President: I should like to invite the attention of the Honourable Members to the fact that, I find so many Honourable Members are anxious to speak The matter has been debated for two days and it should be brought to a close now Almost all the points that can be made out in the debate have been made out by several speakers and I would wish that we bring the debate to a close as early as possible now The House has heard the views of non-official members at great length The House would like to hear from the Honourable Food Member all the details on this important problem. I would therefore like to give him as much time as possible so that he may not have to curtail his speech or refrain from giving information to this House on the ground of want of time We are having an adjournment motion today at 4 o'clock That means that this matter has to end before that hour after giving about 45 minutes to the Food Member or more if he wants Then some time will be taken up by the voting on the amendments

1 P.M

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Thirty minutes will do for me

Mr. President: I am prepared to give more.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: If you give me more I will be happy, but I will be concise

Mr. President: My point is that the problem being a very important one it is desirable that the House should know the plans of Government as fully as possible, and therefore I would not like to curtail by even a single minute, the speech of the Food Member on this subject I would, therefore, appeal to Honourable Members either to give up the idea of speaking or to be as short as possible, because I find the same points are being repeated over and over again, of course, in their different provincial application But the general situation has been thoroughly discussed and I would appeal to Honourable Members to be very brief and not to repeat what has been already said

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras Indian Commerce) Sir, I suggest that the Food Member may speak now so that if there is any suggestion to be made after his speech there will be a little time for that

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava. No, Sir, I should like to wind up the debate

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: The Honourable Member can with your permission reply at the end to any point raised

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir if you approve and the rest of the House agrees the Food Member may speak now for half an hour and go on till half past one, and the debate can continue after Lunch

Mr. President: Looking at the course the debate has taken we will proceed as we have done without starting anything new at this stage

Mr. Leslie Gwilt (Bombay European) Sir, in rising to support the amendment of my Honourable friend Mr Lawson and apropos what you have just said, I am at some disadvantage in participating in this debate as I was not able to be present during its first day That does not in any way lessen my appreciation of the gravity of the situation As grave as is the situation created by food shortage, however it is unfortunately, not confined to the boundaries of India and, as my colleague Mr Lawson pointed out a day or two ago, hunger not only stalks this land but many others throughout the world It was but a few days ago that President Truman called the attention of the large grain producing countries—of his own, of Canada, the Argentine and Australia—to their responsibilities in the feeding of the deficit countries, to the greater tragedy of total war is yet to be enacted in the suffering it will cause to millions of souls throughout the world, through deficiency diseases due to shortage of food The percentage of man power of the Allied countries normally engaged in the production of food that had been drafted into the fighting services, has proportionately reduced the volume of food grown as has also the virtual extinction of agricultural production in the vast areas that the war has devastated The truth is that such countries as would normally have had a large exportable surplus of foodgrains are not likely to have a surplus until the fall of the current year Let no man speak lightly of another total war which might well mean the virtual extinction of the human race I have no doubt that there was implicit in President Truman's statement, to which I have referred, a hope that there will be forthcoming the whole-hearted co-operation and good will of every country with a normal potential surplus; and thus, one may well ask, whether in view of the world shortage of food the U S A is rationing her own people to the extent that such a situation demands Is she, for instance, rationing anything other than sugar and is her labour heading for a dislocation of transport which will retard the rapid distribution of food throughout the world? And are her farmers holding their produce for higher ceiling prices?

The food problem confronting India is a short term one, and, if I understand the position correctly, the shortage is likely to be between now and the end of

[Mr Leslie Gwilt]

September A delegation is proceeding to London and to Washington to seek a greater volume of imports of rice and wheat I am sure that every Member of this House will wish them God-speed, but they may not be able to obtain all they desire I have given reasons why exportable surpluses of the large grain producing countries may not—indeed will not, be normal, and for such stocks of grain as there are there will be that greater demand created by the virtual elimination of agricultural industry in the large devastated areas of Europe In addition to the seeking of increased grain imports and despite what my Honourable friend Mr Killedar has said, I would urge that the delegation also inquires into the world's potential of separated dried milk, and attempts to obtain a share of it for India Such a potential exists in America, New Zealand and the butter producing countries of Europe such as Switzerland. Separated dried milk is not a whole food but it is a protective food providing a very important protein adjunct in dietary, specially of the vegetarian

As the failure of rains and the cyclone weather India has recently experienced must inevitably cause wide spread damage of grass lands, which will affect the volume of cattle fodder available during the current year, I have no doubt but that the delegation will make every endeavour to obtain supplies of cattle food In these circumstances, I submit, that it is incumbent upon us to effect the best possible distribution of what food will be available to India I believe, Sir, that having regard to the enormities of the difficulties with which they have been confronted, the Food Department has served the country well If they have failed it is in the matter of enforcement of monopoly purchase, and I would ask whether in this respect the fault lies not with the Food Department but in the shortcomings of the provincial administrations and the breakdown or absence of adequate procurement measures in some of the surplus provinces? How can these administrative difficulties be removed? I suggest by the centralising of food control and by the formation of a central food committee, meeting at least once a month or more frequently if need be, and upon which every province shall be represented Moreover, I suggest the mobilisation of every appropriate unit of the army as an emergency organisation to provide transport and distribution facilities not only for food but also for medical supplies and clothing

Sardar Sampuran Singh (West Punjab Sikh) Sir, I rise to a point of order Have you held it that reading of speeches in this House is in order?

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: Sir, I referred originally to the disadvantage under which I was suffering

Mr. President: Order order A point of order has been raised by the Honourable Member

I find that on a point of order raised previously, it was ruled by the President that speaking does include reading,—some such form of ruling is there But I conveyed my own idea about this yesterday in the House that there should not be any written speeches read out here I quite appreciate the difficulties of those who are not accustomed to speak, but the greatest difficulty of written speeches is, to my mind, that the debate loses its real character of a debate People sitting in their own study rooms write on paper their own ideas and if such speeches are read out here, it is hardly an exchange of views, and there can hardly be any debate The only thing that will come out in a debate of that type will be that we hear some textual essays written by different people Really speaking that will not be a debate in the proper sense of the word Therefore, I should invite the co-operation of Honourable Members—it is not a question of legal right, I don't at present dispute the view of the previous ruling,—and by convention the House can encourage oral speeches It ought, to my mind, encourage them, if it wants to have a better discussion on any proposition and discourage the practice of reading out written speeches Of course one may refer to ones notes

I may also clarify the position as the point was placed before me, that there may be important statements, for example the Finance Member's Budget

speech or other important statements of policy whether by Government Members or other Members. They may have to be read There, the wording of the announcement has to be very exact, but barring such exceptions, ordinarily the practice should be that there should be no written speeches read in the House. I think that is the practice also in the House of Commons My difficulty is created by the previous ruling which I should not like to disturb, if at all I am inclined to depart from that practice, so early I should take some time to reconsider and set a different convention I can certainly appeal to Members to co-operate with me in this respect

Shri Sri Prakasa: I submit that an exception may be made in the case of Englishmen They find it difficult to speak their own language! The only person on the European benches who can speak English is a Welshman

Mr. President: Is the Honourable Member likely to finish his speech within a minute or so?

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: If you will permit, Sir, I would like to go on I will take four or five minutes more

Mr. President: It is about Quarter-Past One. The House may adjourn now and meet at 2-30

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: Sir, I was saying before the House adjourned that I would suggest the mobilisation of every appropriate unit of the army as an emergency measure to provide the transport and distribution facilities, not only for food but also for medical supplies and clothing, and that the Quarter Master General's Branch should work in close collaboration with the Food Department It was at the intervention of His Excellency the Viceroy that the army rendered such invaluable service in 1943 in this respect, and my proposal merely follows the lead which His Excellency then gave The army, I submit, is the only organisation within the country capable of handling a task of the magnitude that India is likely to be called upon to perform and in Major General Dunsford, India has an administrator of the highest calibre, with great experience that he has had with the central army in the handling and distribution of large scale food supplies I would also inquire whether the expansion of military farms and dairies will be permitted to continue at the rate at which they were progressing during the war and until the present crisis is past As a lesser measure I would ask what other Provincial Governments are taking steps similar to those of the Bombay Government in the salvage of calves in urban buffalo stables That is a long term measure, but one, I submit, which is of importance Moreover, what measures are the Food Department taking to put into effect the increase of the potato yield in hill tracts?

The urgency for the greater enforcement of food control measures will not have escaped Government's attention and I have no doubt but that since this debate began there are individuals throughout the country who have commenced the hoarding of food grains So much for the short term measures.

I cannot allow this opportunity to pass without again paying my tribute to the Food grains Policy Committee, and particularly to its Chairman, Sir Theodore Gregory Time has shown the wisdom of their recommendations They made their report during the war when a return to normal conditions seemed a far cry and when tens of thousands of tons of shipping was being sent to the bottom every month I believe that if they were to meet again now they would urge that at the earliest possible moment India's stock pile of food grains reserves should be increased from their recommended figure of half a million

[Mr. Leslie Gwilt]

tons to two million tons, and that this should be stored at strategic points throughout the country Much of our present difficulties is due to acts of God, to droughts and tempestuous weather and they will occur so long as the world exists

And now for another long term recommendation I would like to enlarge upon a point that was made by my Honourable friend, Mr Lawson—that of the urgency of action of Government to ensure not merely in the present emergency but as a long term policy, that the cultivator receives a fair price for his grain It is of course allied to the subject of monopoly procurement I would reiterate what I said when speaking on the food debate in this House on the 15th November, 1943, when I made the suggestion, which I repeated when speaking on the general budget on the 7th March 1944—that the Government of India should study the methods designed to this end and adopted by the Governments of South Africa and Argentine As I understand it, the system that obtains in South Africa is that the cultivator sells to Government and receives 50 per cent in cash of the price at which the Government estimates the grain will fetch in the world markets The grain is eventually sold by Government and the cultivator in due course receives the price paid to Government less selling commission, which I believe does not exceed one per cent Unless, therefore, there is something radically wrong with Government's forecast of international grain prices, Government could hardly be the loser, for a 50 per cent fall in grain prices in a matter of months is an extremely unlikely eventuality By this method which, I believe, closely approximates to that in force in Argentine and the South African Government, the Government have not only encouraged the growing of foodstuffs within their dominions, but what is equally important, they have greatly increased the standards of living of their cultivators, and were those methods adopted in India I submit that they would go far to equalise the balance of wealth between the urban and agricultural areas

Before I end I would express my appreciation of the manner in which the Bombay administration have handled the food situation within their province They have made the best possible use of their resources and their procurement and distribution methods are, I submit, an example to other provinces and I believe that had they been followed by others much of what has happened for ill in this country would have been avoided

In conclusion—and I say this with all the sincerity that I can command—a heavy responsibility rests upon every Member of this Honourable House This is no time, I submit, for political recriminations, for the dividing line between bare necessity and the destruction or damage by starvation of millions of souls is such that any obstructive methods employed by any group of men, whoever they may be, either for political or financial gain, must inevitably result in damage to human lives in numbers which will make pale in significance the toll taken of them by the war

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Sir, it was not my intention to speak at this stage I was thinking of speaking last so as to be able to answer most of the points made by the Honourable Members But since you have called upon me, I rise to make such remarks as I can at this stage

I have listened to the debate which has gone on for three days now with the attention which it deserved and I wish to congratulate the Honourable Members who have participated in the debate on the restraint which they have shown They realised, I feel, that the situation in the country is grave and it is not right that we should indulge in language which would make the situation worse The Honourable House knows that whenever there is scarcity, the worst enemy is panic, and it is important that we should restrain ourselves at this stage and rather unite in devising ways and means to meet the scarcity I do not wish to defend the Food Department in all it might have done or not done I realise that no organisation which has been built up during the stress of the war can be perfect. We have our defects and imperfections, but I submit that during

the last three years the Food Department has deserved well of the country (*An Honourable Member* "Question!") I say this not because I want any praise for myself, but because I feel that those who have worked under me have given of their best in a very difficult job I would therefore beg of the Honourable Members not to discourage those who are engaged in a very vital task It is necessary that at a time like this, they should feel that they carry the support of the Legislature with them and of the representatives of the people with them I entirely agree that in dealing with a matter like food the Government should be identified with the people That was one of the conditions laid down by the Leader of the Opposition when he spoke four days ago I entirely agree with him But as things stand today, the work of feeding the people of India has to be carried on and I submit that the Food Department has tried its best to carry with it all sections of people We have debated food in this Assembly so many times, for days together, and we have taken careful note of all the suggestions that have been made in this House We have a number of bodies with which the public are associated and let me assure everybody that we have not brushed aside their advice We have given most serious attention and consideration to whatever advice has been given to us.

The other day we laid down what the future policy of the Government with regard to food would be We issued a statement which was published in the papers at some length, and I would like to say in connection with that statement that, for the first time, the Government of India have accepted their responsibility that there should be food for all, and not only food in sufficient quantities but also food of the right kind I do not think that this responsibility was accepted by any Government in India before this As the House is aware, food is primarily a provincial responsibility and although we have had popular ministries in many provinces—all of them at one time—yet I do not think it was considered necessary that the Government should assume responsibility to provide food for all (Interruptions) Sir, I do not say this in any spirit of controversy, but I only want to repeat what I have said before, that I believe it is the responsibility of Government the first responsibility that there should be food for all Now, that is our long range policy That policy has gone unnoticed to some extent A great many of the things which are stated in our memorandum have been carried out during the war But I am not going to enter into those I feel those who have an unbiassed mind, those who want to examine the statement on its merits, will find that out for themselves The policy has been laid down so that in future India will have sufficient food for everybody and that everybody should get the right kind of food—a balanced diet. I am grateful to the Leader of the Opposition for pointing out that we should enlist the support of science in matters concerning food We are already doing that we have more than one scientific expert working on these problems and I hope when the results of their labours emerge it will be seen that we have made some contribution towards the solution of the food problem of India

Now, talking about the present emergency We have laid all our cards on the table Mr Sen, in making this motion placed before you what the exact position in the country is We have concealed nothing from you Although it was problematical as to whether at this time we should give full publicity to the scare which the scarcity has caused, yet we decided in favour of telling you everything The situation is serious but I do not think it is so serious as to be beyond all of us all of us, I say, you and me together. We are the victims of major catastrophes Some one argued as to why we did not know of this before and I was quoted as having said in the month of November last that the food situation in the country was not too bad That is quite right In November last I visited Bengal I visited eighteen districts in Bengal At that time there was a scare on in Bengal and after seeing arrangements that were made there I came to the conclusion that there would be no famine in Bengal and made bold to say that

Seth Sheodass Daga (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions. Non-Muhammadan) Did you go in the interior?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, I went to eighteen districts I toured the interior of eighteen districts in Bengal

Shri Sri Prakasa: How did you tour?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Just about that time a cyclone swept the north of Madras and we did not know how devastating it had been Then a drought set in in the southern parts of Madras and in Mysore and in the Carnatic We kept on gazing skywards They thought if there was rain in the month of December they could save some of the crops But the rain never came, with the result that a great deal of the crop was damaged.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban) Did you visit those districts?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Sir, the full survey of the extent of the loss was made in December I deputed the Director General of Food, Mr Sen, who visited all that area and he gave us a report I immediately deputed the permanent Food Secretary, Sir Robert Hutchings, to Washington to argue before the Combined Board and get us more rice and more wheat He left at twelve hours notice on the 4th January I also called a conference of the representatives of the various Governments and went with them into the question of supply and procurement This conference took place about the middle of January The representatives attending it, especially those from Madras, Mysore and Bombay told us that things were going to turn out to be much worse than they had anticipated because of the continued drought There is no rain still I visited about the same time Sind and the Punjab where the Rabi crop was suffering from want of rain and where procurement had stopped on that account Sir, I wish to assure the House that we have left no stone unturned and we have lost not a minute But I cannot legislate for monsoons or cyclones The magnitude of the catastrophe which is facing us is not yet properly realized It all depends on whether we shall have some rain or not in the near future I was told by a friend that never during the last thirty years have December and January been without rain in the Punjab This time, I am sorry to say, Sir, there has been no rain in the Punjab during those two months

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab Muhammadan) Was it not possible for the Government to build up a big reserve to meet this contingency?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am coming to the question of reserves and imports The House has rightly laid a great deal of stress on the question of imports I quite agree with the figures given by Mr Masani We have not got in the past sufficient imports and so we have not been able to build up reserves

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) Why?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Because there has not been enough food to go round There have been shipping difficulties But we have tried our level best I am not satisfied I am not trying to defend either the Combined Food Board or His Majesty's Government But I am relating the facts In spite of our best efforts we were unable to secure more than what we got Whatever we received went into current consumption, and, Sir, I would put it to you, that even if we had been able to build up a reserve of half a million tons or so, that would not have seen us through a calamity of this kind It would certainly have been a help

Pandit Govind Malaviya: How much?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We are short of three million tons today

Pandit Govind Malaviya: For 1945-46?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: For this year, 1946, taking into account all these various shortages in the country, computing them all, we need three million tons

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division Muhammadan Rural) All grains combined?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes everything—rice, wheat and millets That is roughly the extent of the shortage and I am doing my best to meet whatever portion of it I can

3 P.M

The House is aware, Sir, that there is a world shortage of foodgrains Europe is starving, Malaya is starving, China is starving and many other places are starving today and all the food resources of the world are distributed by the Combined Food Board at Washington They have got all the food resources and it is for every country to go and plead its cause before that Board We sent the Food Secretary to do that, and, although I would not say that his mission has failed, yet I think it is necessary for us to do more, to shout more, probably, and to press our case more strongly, if we are to get all that we need

With this object in view it is my proposal that I should go myself to London and then to Washington I want to take with me as members of a delegation representatives of the Governments of Madras Mysore and Bombay I would also like to take with me two or three non-officials I shall be very grateful if the parties in the House will give me two or three representatives I propose, after the debate is over, say tomorrow, having a talk with the Party Leaders on this subject Why I want non-officials is that I realise that they can put forward the popular point of view better In fact I would be very grateful for this assistance I see that that suggestion has been made by several Members of the House There have been various speculations about the composition of the delegation but I have all along been of the view that the delegation must consist of non-officials along with officials (Interruption) The officials must be there, because it is they who can answer as to what is the deficit, what is the distribution that they want to get It is they who can answer the relevant questions It must not be forgotten that on the Combined Food Board there are representatives of most of the starving nations and international experts and so we have got to go there with a well prepared case, we have got to argue with them, convince them and then get what we can from them It is not as if there was a lot of stuff lying about, and that it was at the sweet will of some one to give it away It is not that at all There is a world shortage of foodgrains and unless we can make out a very strong case indeed, our claim is not likely to receive serious consideration

Sir, I have decided to go, because I feel that so much depends on the question of imports If we can get sufficient stuff, then I am quite sure that we can ward off the disaster When I say this I do not mean that we should not adopt in this country measures which would enable us to fight the trouble with our own resources

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: They have already started in Delhi with a 1/3 cut in the rations

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Sir, I will now tell the House the steps which we propose taking in this country in order to meet the situation

Sir, reference has been made to the cutting down of the scales of ration. I wish to assure the House that it is very distasteful to me as also to everyone in my Department to have to make a cut of that kind But unless we conserve our resources, unless we economise now, we won't be in a position to fight the demon of starvation two months hence. It is true that cuts in rations are going to be very unpopular We shall not indulge in them unless we are absolutely driven to it or compelled to do it. So far as Delhi is concerned, we have started the cut so as to set an example to the Provinces I hope Honourable Members here will not mind if they have to go with one bread instead of two . . .

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Will that help the delegation?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: in the interest of the poorest of the poor in the country Sir, let me tell you that with regard to the reduction which we propose to make, we are consulting the Provincial Governments It will be on an all-India basis, it would not be confined to one province only It would be a uniform reduction all over India as far as we can do it

Several Honourable Members: Including the Punjab and Sind also?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I have taken it up with the Punjab too The House knows that the Provinces have a good deal of freedom in these things but still I want to bring them into line on a matter of this kind

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions Muhammadan Rural) Will the Indian States also be included in this?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, we shall bring them in too That is one measure which ought to give us a fairly large quantity of foodgrains The House knows that we are today rationing about 60 million people and saving in the scale of rations will result in a good deal of grain for the common pool to feed the deficit areas

Then, Sir, as I said in the beginning, I do not apprehend that famine conditions will set in in the near future but there is a risk and a grave one and we must prepare from now if we are to save the country With this object in view, we have set up at the Centre a Co-ordination Committee with the Secretaries of the departments which may be called upon to deal with famine conditions I shall myself preside over this Committee and it will meet regularly once a week We shall thereby be able to co-ordinate all those different departments whose assistance is necessary in fighting famine, like the Army Department, the War Transport Department, the Agriculture, Health, Finance and Political Departments We want team work and I think the House will appreciate that this is very important—that there should be co-ordination at the Centre

The next thing we are doing is to set up a special Co-ordination Board for the affected areas at Bangalore On this Co-ordination Board there will be representatives of the Governments of areas which are affected so that there is team work in regard to the measures to be adopted for those areas We hope that this committee which will be presided over by a high ranking officer would be able to co-ordinate and correlate the activities of the different provinces which are affected by famine conditions

Then, Sir, I propose calling together a conference of the Party Leaders of this Assembly from time to time to keep them posted with the situation as it develops I do not want to conceal anything from them and I shall be very glad to lay before them all that we have been able to do or that we have failed to do Sir, I hope that I may be able to have one such conference before I leave for Europe and the U S A

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) Will you enforce the procurement policy on the Punjab and Sind?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am coming to that We have taken up with the Punjab and Sind the question of the adoption of monopoly procurement They have so far resisted us on grounds which are peculiar to them but food is not the property of any one province It is all-India property in my view and I think the time has come when they should fall in line with the rest of the country

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam European) It is two years overdue

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We have tried our level best and if we have failed it is not our fault (*An Honourable Member* "Pass an ordinance") The Punjab and Sind are the defaulting provinces and my own province of U P

Shri Sri Prakasa: There you will have two chhataks a day

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There the procurement has broken down There must be some kind of compulsion introduced in the matter and we have taken up the matter with the Governments concerned. I hope that when the new crop comes in we shall see some kind of monopoly procurement functioning in these provinces

Then, Sir, I am grateful to my friend Mr Gwilt for several useful suggestions We shall mobilise the resources of the military and I hope if there be need we shall see that the military will come to our rescue

An Honourable Member: How?

Shri Sri Prakasa: Demobilise them and then you will get everything

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As the House knows they were extremely useful in Bengal in providing transport, medical facilities and in other ways They were the only people who were able to save a whole lot of people from dying They distributed foodgrains, they provided transport and hospitals all over the place and they did a lot of other work Those who have seen the Bengal famine will, I am sure, give them a great testimonial for what they did

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: I come from Bengal and I do not know of any hospital run by the military in Bengal

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I could give you the names of a dozen places which I myself have seen I am surprised to hear that the Honourable Member did not see this organisation working They saved many lives.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: We are prepared to give credit for what they have done and certainly we won't accept things which were not done

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Tell us what you propose to do for the future

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The Famine Commission Report gives a description of the work done by this body

Pandit Govind Malaviya: In other parts the same state of affairs will be allowed to come in which had come about in Bengal on account of the inefficiency of the Government and then the military will be called upon to help?

Mr. President: That is not the implication of what has been said

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am not assuming anything I am keeping them ready, so that in case any dire necessity arises they should be able to help That is the only thing that I have said We are not utilising them at this stage I hope the necessity will not arise and I hope and pray that it will not arise

Well, Sir, we have taken up with the Governments concerned such questions as organisation of medical relief, destitute relief and so on, so that we do not have a repetition of what happened in Bengal

Sir, the Agricultural Department has given you a detailed account of what they have done in the matter of the Grow-More-Food Campaign I hope the House is satisfied that under very difficult circumstances they have been able to achieve a great deal If you do not see surplus today, it is not because more has not been grown but it is because of the reasons explained by Sir Pheroze Kharegat I won't repeat them We have taken up actively the question of putting down short-term crops and vegetables particularly In case we are not able to give a sufficiency of cereals, we want to have protective foods and vegetables and things like that ready I hope we shall succeed in this We are instituting a real drive to that end and we have asked the military that they should keep on the farms In fact, some of these will be extended and utilised for this purpose Sir, these are some of the steps which we are taking to meet the present emergency, but I realise that in fighting a menace of this kind, I want—and any Government would want—the support of the people

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division. Non-Muhammadan): You cannot get it.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Not support, but substitution

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am prepared to be substituted tomorrow, come and take it. Sir, the subject-matter is too serious. We are doing our best It is not a political matter at all, I feel There is no room here for wranglings of any kind I feel that every man, woman and child ought to unite in saving the people from starvation That is the call of humanity itself and I do not see that there is any room for argument here As I started by saying, I wish the National Government had been here, if it is not here it is not my fault In fact, in June last, I remember, I was jubilant that I would be able to hand over the Department to my successor in a very satisfactory state of affairs and I was sure that my successor would bless me for what I was going to hand over to him The food situation of the country was under control There was no shortages anywhere Our cupboards were full.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural): Only there was no reserve

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am sure at that time I would have made over my charge with a much clearer conscience But in a country like India where the food is dependent on so many factors one cannot be sure of what the morrow has in store for us

Well, Sir, I would stress once more that I attach the greatest importance to this Delegation going to London and Washington

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Have you good hopes of the Delegation succeeding where Sir Robert Hutchings has failed?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Well, Sir, I cannot answer that question It is given to us to try The cause is too sacred and we must do our best

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division Muhammadan Rural) We wish you Godspeed

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: If you had no hopes of success, you would'nt go Why don't you say that?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: My Honourable friend is a doctor and I suppose he knows that even a dying patient is always in hope.

Sari Sri Prakasa: So you are dying!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: In this particular case, there is still time and I am sure that if the matter is put to the United Nations in the proper way, we may get at least a part of what we need.

Sir, I would make a last appeal to you .

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan Before you make that last appeal, please answer one question Why are you going to London? Are you going there to get food, potatoes or to get mere advice?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: My friend obviously does not know the way these things work There is a Food Board in London and it deals with the food resources of the British Empire I have got to go to that Board first It is called the London Food Council If they agree, then I have got to go to Washington That is the way these things work I do hope that the parties in this House will lend me their support over a very important matter of this kind I will not take up any more of the time of the House but I will say this that this is a matter over which there should be no difference of opinion I do hope the House will give us the support which I feel I have a right to claim of you

Sardar Sampuran Singh: Sir, the question of foodgrains, as we all know, is very serious We know that in this House most of the speeches that have been made, have been made from the consumers' point of view and it has even been thought proper that the producer should be paid as little as possible and all his resources should be commandeered and monopolised by the Government. I can fully appreciate the difficulty of providing foodgrains for the whole country and that some sort of measures will have to be taken to compel the agriculturist to sell a portion of his produce after allowing him to retain as much as is necessary for his own needs. What I am afraid of is that in this anxiety, we may kill the hen that lays golden egg The producer, if he is hard hit and if his resources dwindle so much that he will not have enough seed at the time of sowing or if he is compelled to fall into the temptation of stealing that seed or eating it, if he is driven to the extreme of not having enough seed to grow new crop, then I think you will perpetuate this famine in the country

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They are already spreading famine in rural areas

Sardar Sampuran Singh: I am referring to this long statement for which we are much obliged to the Secretary of the Department But he seems to be very much mistaken On page 5 of his statement he says, "during the war, the prices of agricultural produce have gone up three or four times and the producer can now meet his obligatory charges by selling a small proportion of his crop" Sir, this is wrong

Mr. President: May I invite the attention of all Honourable Members who wish to speak to the fact that we have an adjournment motion at four o'clock We have discussed this subject for three days and I think it would be better if we can finish this subject before four o'clock.

Sardar Sampuran Singh: I will not take more than ten minutes, or if you so desire, I shall finish sooner

Mr. President: As I have already said the debate has been going on for three days and no new points practically are coming in I would suggest to the Honourable Member to take as short a time as possible so that the Mover may have his say. He must be given some time

Shri Sri Prakasa: His boss has said everything

Mr. President: Technically he has the right to reply,

Sardar Sampuran Singh: I shall conclude soon, Sir I was saying, Sir, that the things which the producer has to buy have become much dearer than what he has to sell. Therefore he is not saving by selling his things. He is only spending it. Personally I am of the opinion and I say this from my long experience in agriculture that in ordinary years, farming does not pay at all The farmer goes on farming because he has nothing else to do. He does not like to leave his farm, he is so much attached to it that even though he has small acreage, he stays on there and works year after year

The other point which I should like to touch upon is that this parity of prices is a great problem and that was why this famine in Bengal was so severe When the price of wheat in Lahore was Rs 9, it was about Rs 22 in Calcutta It costs only about one rupee to take wheat from the Punjab to Calcutta and there was no reason why such high price should have been allowed at that place. I am glad to know from the statement of the Secretary that they are trying to remove this disparity, but I am afraid I cannot congratulate the Government on having started this obvious thing so late

Mr. B. R. Sen (Government of India: Nominated Official): It was started two years ago.

Sardar Sampuran Singh: But you have achieved very little. With these few words, I have finished.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi. General) Mr President, as a matter of fact, it was not my intention to intervene in this debate because Food is not my subject, but as the Honourable Food Member has made an appeal to this House, I think I may just as well tell him what we feel about it I need not remind Honourable Members of this House that the primary responsibility for providing food to the entire population of the country is that of the Government, whether it be this Government or any other Government. In this particular instance, I find that it is not this Government that is responsible for administering the food question in this country but it is another Government sitting somewhere, 6,000 miles away It is their duty to see that this country gets its food It is no use asking us to associate ourselves with the Government to get necessary food It is the duty of England to get the necessary food for India When war broke out, the British Government said that it was their responsiblity to defend India Well, Sir, in defending India, they have reduced this country to the plight in which we find it today Now, I ask them to find the necessary food for this country Thirtyfive lakhs of people died in Bengal and many are likely to die according to Government's fears Now that is their responsibility and not ours Who created these conditions? In so far as the question of influencing the Combined Food Board is concerned, it is quite obvious that it will listen more to His Majesty's Government than to this Government If they go there, they will cut no ice, because the Combined Food Board may say, "we know somebody else and that somebody else is not saying the same thing as you are saying" If H M G do not succeed they must clear out of this country, and if we take charge, we shall see that we get what we want The Honourable Food Member asks us further that in this state of emergency we must co-operate with him But what are we asked to do? Are we to dig there and find food out of nothing? If he has not imported enough food, if he is not prepared to get food from outside, in what manner can we help him, I ask? As for the history of the mergency that has been created, we have to look backwards I do not wish to waste the time of the House I should just like to remind this House of one particular incident Lord Linlithgow was brought here as an agricultural expert He was in this country for two years touring all over India, and produced a fat report He then came out to this country as the Viceroy and in what condition has he left this country after 7½ years of rule If any other person had left the country in such a bad plight, he would have been impeached publicly in any other country But what I want to know is this What has the British Government done in that respect? After having studied the conditions of the country, after having put forward certain proposals after Lord Linlithgow had been here for over 7½ years, what did he do beyond producing and presenting bulls all round? One third of the entire cultivable land of this country according to the Agricultural Commission report lay fallow I ask my Honourable friend Sir Pheroze Kharegat how much of this was brought under the plough during Linlithgow regime? What did his Government do to produce more food? Today you are talking of scarcity Scarcity there is bound to be if you do not utilise fully the fallow land which has never been brought under cultivation It is no use now my castigating those who are not here It is no use my castigating you who are here as their successors You should never have taken charge of Government You should not have been there You should have asked H M G to do the job themselves Even now your duty is to resign and ask the British Government to produce food which is so urgently needed in this country

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): Is the Honourable Member addressing the Chair?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am addressing them all Let them do it Let the whole Treasury Bench resign In so far as the question of delegation is concerned, the attitude of my Party is that we are not going to associate ourselves with them Let them carry their own burden But if they wish to do something in this country, let us know what their proposals are They have put

forward no proposals for co-operation of any kind whatsoever What is needed is, in my opinion, an urgent and immediate conference of representatives of consumers and producers It is not a case of merely asking for representatives of this Government or that Government Why did they not send for the ex-Premiers of various provinces to a conference? Why did they not ask them to come together and tell them about the needs of the provinces and how to get on? It is the representatives of the people, whether they are in the legislatures or outside, who can advise them properly They come and talk to us about delegations, they want to take some for a jaunt all over the world, and then do what? They will come back and say, 'The popular representatives were with us, we had their prestige, but even then we could get nothing Even though we have not been able to get what the country wanted, we did all that we could " So they get the credit and we get the blame No, Sir, we are not prepared to associate ourselves with any such effort, and this is my reply to the invitation I think we had better proceed to the voting now because there is not much time left

Mr. B. R Sen: Sir, I had no intention of speaking at this stage but now that certain points have been raised I think it is as well that I make those points clear My Honourable friend who spoke last said that no useful purpose would be served by a delegation proceeding to the U K and the U S A at this stage I think I may explain the international mechanism of distribution of supplies at present

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, on a point of order, Honourable Members are required to speak from their own seats, but my Honourable friend has monopolised the front seat

Mr. B. R. Sen: Sir, I crave your permission to speak from this seat

The Combined Food Board was established some time in the year 1942 when supplies of the united nations were getting short owing to sinkings and also loss of territories both in the east as well as in the west The Combined Food Board was originally composed of a representative of the United States and a representative of the British Government A year later a member was added from Canada Under this Combined Food Board, there are commodity committees, *i e* , committees to deal with different commodities like rice and wheat, and the membership of these commodity committees is drawn from various nations which are interested It is the function of these commodity committees to make a survey of supplies available and the comparative needs of the different areas, and it is in these committees that proposals for allocations are formulated So far we have had no representation on these committees, we had been represented by the British Food Mission which had looked after our interests as well as the interests of other Empire countries It seems to us that it would be useful if a delegation now proceeded to the U K and the U S A and approached the Food Board as well as the commodity committees and placed the case of India before them, and I think we can legitimately expect this House to support us in sending a delegation which will be able to serve its purpose The argument has been that this Government had been responsible for food administration in the country, and now that there is this difficult situation in the country it is this Government who should face it and not try to enlist the assistance of political parties But, as the Food Member has explained, the situation in the country is such that it is the duty of everybody whatever may be his political loyalty, to help in the common endeavour

Prof. N. G Ranga: Let the whole Government resign first

Mr. B. R. Sen: If any useful purpose could be served by this Government resigning I am sure they would have done so by now

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why don't they do it?

Mr. B. R. Sen: There are several other points raised in the course of the debate but I have no intention of replying to them in detail There is one

[Mr. B. R. Sen]

particular point raised which I might mention, *viz.*, the one raised by my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir. He said that if a province like Bombay did not get the food it wanted it should be allowed to use a commodity for which it had a monopoly as a bargaining counter with the surplus provinces. This argument was supported by more than one speaker from Bombay. I do not know whether those speakers were in earnest but I am sure that no patriotic Indian like Sir Cowasjee Jehangir or Mr. Haroon Jaffer would argue that this is the time for starting an economic warfare between provinces,—because this will amount to an economic warfare. What we want now is not economic warfare but economic understanding between the different provinces. What will happen to those provinces which have no bargaining counter as Bombay has in textiles or Bengal has in jute? The policy that the Government of India have adopted is that the shortage in this country should be equitably distributed all over India, whether surplus or deficit, and I am sure we will have the support of this House in continuing this policy.

Sir, I do not think I have very much more to say on any of the other points. I think the speech of the Food Member has covered the entire ground. I would only appeal for the support of the House in the steps that we are taking in trying to meet the shortage in this country.

Mr. President: We have before us several amendments to the original motion and the others are amendments to the amendments. The amendments to the original motion are in the names of Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, Mr. Masani, Mr. Lawson and Mr. Ayyangar, and the others are amendments to these amendments. I will first take the amendment of Mr. Masani and before I put that, I will first take the amendment.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, in view of the fact that if my amendment is carried the other amendments will drop, that should be taken up first. If the other amendments are carried along with my amendment, the position will be difficult.

Mr. President: If the other amendments are carried, the Honourable Member's amendment will fail. The result is the same whichever is taken first.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: We always take votes on the highest cut.

Mr. President: I will first put the amendments to the amendment of Mr. Masani. The first amendment stands in the name of Mr. Ishaq Seth to which an amendment has been moved by Mr. Ayyangar.

Mr. Ishaq Seth's amendment runs thus:

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Mr. M. R. Masani, the following be added, namely

'and urges upon the Government to take steps to obtain independent representation for India on the Combined Food Board'."

To that an amendment has been proposed by Mr. Ayyangar which I will now put.

The question is:

"That at the end of the amendment proposed by Mr. H. A. Sattar H. Ishaq Seth, the following be added, namely

'by sending competent Indians elected by the non-official members of this House from among its members or from outside'."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President: Now I will put the amendment of Mr. Ishaq Seth.

The question is:

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Mr. M. R. Masani, the following be added, namely:

'and urges upon the Government to take steps to obtain independent representation for India on the Combined Food Board'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: Now I will put the amendment proposed by Mr Gangaraju to Mr. Masani's amendment.

The question is

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Mr M R Masani, the following be added, namely :

'and urges that the Government should so reorganise its procurement and requisitioning of foodgrains as to eliminate the existing arbitrariness, corruption and oppression of peasants and to leave with peasants adequate quantities of foodgrains for their family and labour consumption and to obtain the whole-hearted co operation of the peasants in all their procurement and price-fixing operations' "

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: If you put it, as you have done, it will mean that Mr Gangaraju's amendment will be added after Mr Ishaq Seth's amendment has been added.

Mr. President: That is what it will come to Of course verbal alterations will be necessary The question is

"That at the end of the amendment moved by Mr M R Masani, the following be added, namely

'and urges that the Government should so reorganise its procurement and requisitioning of foodgrains as to eliminate the existing arbitrariness corruption and oppression of peasants and to leave with peasants adequate quantities of foodgrains for their family and labour consumption and to obtain the whole hearted co-operation of the peasants in all their procurement and price-fixing operations' "

The motion was adopted

Mr. President: I will now put Mr Narayanamurthi s amendment

The question is

"That in the amendment proposed by Mr M R Masani between the words 'deficit areas' and 'and records' the following be inserted namely

'and to assure remunerative prices for the producers of foodgrains so as to encourage them to produce more foodgrains and make India less dependent on imports' "

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I believe that completes all the amendments to the amendment of Mr Masani This is how the amended amendment will stand

"That at the end of the Motion the following be added namely

'and having considered the same, this Assembly expresses its dissatisfaction at the failure of the Government of India to import adequate supplies of foodgrains for building up a reserve and meeting the needs of deficit areas and to assure remunerative prices for the producers of foodgrains so as to encourage them to produce more foodgrains and make India less dependent on imports, and records its grave apprehension that, unless substantial imports are immediately made available, a situation will arise, particularly in the Southern and Western parts of the country, in which the existing ration, which is already inadequate, will be endangered and large sections of the people will face starvation, and urges upon the Government to take steps to obtain independent representation for India on the Combined Food Board, and urges that the Government should so reorganize its procurement and requisitioning of foodgrains as to eliminate the existing arbitrariness, corruption and oppression of peasants and to leave with peasants adequate quantities of foodgrains for their family and labour consumption and to obtain the whole-hearted co-operation of the peasants in all their procurement and price-fixing operations' "

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: I suggest that after Mr Gangaraju's amendment, after the word 'and', 'further' be added.

Mr. President: Ordinary verbal alterations will be made I hope the House will agree to that

Some Honourable Members: Yes, yes

Mr. M. R. Masani (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, in order to avoid our perpetrating a literary monstrosity, would you kindly have a new sentence for each of the clauses?

Mr. President: It cannot be done immediately at the moment It will require some consideration but I will see that there is no literary monstrosity. At least I shall try to reduce as much as possible the hideousness of it.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): May I rise to a point of order I wonder if the Chair has the power to alter the language of an amendment or a motion already agreed to by the House.

Mr. President: If that is the sense of the House and if that amendment is verbal, it can be done

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Under what rule?

Mr. President: The proceedings are to be conducted in a manner best conducive to the business of the House

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: It is about the monstrosities that I am talking about Verbal alterations do not matter.

Mr. P. J Griffiths: I do not say it in an obstructive spirit, but it is a very dangerous precedent to start having changes made in the motions agreed to by the House And in any case in spite of making alterations this motion will still remain a literary monstrosity Nothing could make it anything else

Mr. President: I will try to reduce its hideousness as far as possible Now I will put the amended amendment The question is

"That at the end of the Motion the following be added namely

'and having considered the same, this Assembly expresses its dissatisfaction at the failure of the Government of India to import adequate supplies of foodgrains for building up a reserve and meeting the needs of deficit areas and to assure remunerative prices for the producers of foodgrains so as to encourage them to produce more foodgrains and make India less dependent on imports and records its grave apprehension that, unless substantial imports are immediately made available, a situation will arise, particularly in the Southern and Western parts of the country, in which the existing ration which is already inadequate, will be endangered and large sections of the people will face starvation, and urges upon the Government to take steps to obtain independent representation for India on the Combined Food Board, and urges that the Government should so reorganize its procurement and requisitioning of foodgrains as to eliminate the existing arbitrariness corruption and oppression of peasants and to leave with peasants adequate quantities of foodgrains for their family and labour consumption and to obtain the whole hearted co-operation of the peasants in all their procurement and price fixing operations "

The motion was adopted

Mr. President: The amendment of the Honourable Member, Mr Lawson, is practically covered by one of the amendments, though not in words but in substance

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal European) I do not think, Sir, that anywhere in the amended amendment, as you have read, is this amendment covered

Mr. President: The Honourable Members amendment refers to the representation on the Combined Food Board Unless the object of that is to urge upon the United Nations Organisation to grant assistance to India, the amendment would be meaningless The Honourable Member will refer to the first amendment by Mr Ishaq Seth, namely "and urges upon the Government to take steps to obtain independent representation for India on the Combined Food Board"

Mr. C. P. Lawson: I am inclined to agree, Sir, that it does cover my point and if the House wishes I am prepared to withdraw that amendment

The amendment was by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn

Mr. President: Now I will put Mr Ayyangar's amendment The question is

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

'and having considered the same further urges upon the Government to take immediate steps to increase the production, of foodgrains in the country by granting substantial subsidies to producers and by restricting, if not prohibiting, the cultivation of crops other than foodgrains on lands where food crops can be grown until the country becomes self-sufficient in foodgrains' "

The motion was adopted

Mr. President: The abolishing of the Food Department is the next amendment That does not survive

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I would myself have withdrawn it by giving good
4 P.M reasons But now you have killed it You put the other amendments to the vote first whereas you should have put my one first

Mr. President: Order, order

Shri Sri Prakasa: It does not appear to me to be inconsistent We can abolish the Department and still urge upon Government to do this or that

Mr. President: To me it appears that it is inconsistent The matter ends there. I have already explained the position If the House was inclined to accept this, it would have rejected all other amendments

The original motion, as now amended and after making verbal alterations, reads as follows

"That the food situation in India be taken into consideration and having considered the same, this Assembly—

(a) expresses its dissatisfaction at the failure of the Government of India—

(i) to import adequate supplies of foodgrains for building up a reserve and meeting the needs of deficit areas, and

(ii) to assure remunerative prices for the producers of foodgrains so as to encourage them to produce more foodgrains and make India less dependent on imports;

(b) records its grave apprehension that, unless substantial imports are immediately made available, a situation will arise, particularly in the Southern and Western parts of the country, in which the existing ration, which is already inadequate, will be endangered and large sections of the people will face starvation, and

(c) urges upon the Government—

(i) to take steps to obtain independent representation for India on the Combined Food Board,

(ii) to so reorganise its procurement and requisitioning of foodgrains as to eliminate the existing arbitrariness, corruption and oppression of peasants and to leave with peasants adequate quantities of foodgrains for their family and labour consumption and to obtain the whole-hearted co operation of the peasants in all their procurement and price-fixing operations, and

(iii) to take immediate steps to increase the production of foodgrains in the country by granting substantial subsidies to producers and by restricting, if not prohibiting, the cultivation of crops other than foodgrains on lands where food crops can be grown, until the country becomes self sufficient in foodgrains"

The question is that the motion as now read out to the House be adopted

The motion was adopted

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: My amendment was never put to the vote Please put this on record

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MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

RIGHTS OF INDIANS IN KENYA COLONY

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move

"That the Assembly do now adjourn"

On the 12th December 1945 a White Paper regarding the inter-territorial organization of East Africa was issued by the Colonial Office It is being opposed by the White Settlers of East Africa headed by Lord Francis Scott, the Executive Councillor and a Member of the Kenya Legislative Council And while this opposition of the white settlers is going on, the Government of India is keeping mum on the whole affair Sir, we also do not support this White Paper—but on different grounds, namely (1) this White Paper might be the first step of the Colonial Office to give effect to the Pan-African White Plan of Field Marshal Smuts which he proposed in the year 1944 (2) proper justice has not been done in this White Paper as far as the Indians and natives are concerned

Now, Sir, let us see what this White Paper contains We are told that the proposals include an East African High Commission consisting of the Governors of Kenya, Uganda and Tangyanika and a Central Legislative Assembly of these three territories with 36 members, 12 officials and 24 non-officials Sir, out of these 24 members, 6 will be European members elected by the territorial Legislative Councils, 6 Indian members elected by the territorial Legislative Councils, 6 members, as many as possible of whom would be Africans nominated by the High Commission as trustees for African interests, 2 from each territory, 2 members nominated by the High Commission to represent Arab interests and 4 members nominated by the High Commission.

[Seth Govind Das]

Now, Sir, let us take the figures of the population of these territories into consideration According to the Dominion Office and Colonial Office List of 1939 this was the position of the population of East Africa

Kenya	Natives	32,53,689
	Asiatics	61,231

(Of these Asiatics, 42,368 were Indians)

	Europeans	19,211
Tangyanika	Natives	51,82,289
	Asiatics	33,019

(and though the figure of Indians is not given, but it is about 90 per cent)

	Europea	9,128
Uganda	Natives	36,92,127
	Asiatics	17,256

(out of these 13,000 were Indians)

	Europeans	2,111

Sir, we do not understand how equal representation of all these three major communities is proposed in this Central Assembly which is going to be formed according to this White Paper Then, why should these natives be nominated? I have met these natives personally, Sir, when I was in East Africa and I say that they can certainly elect their own representatives to the Central Assembly which is being proposed Then, Sir, why should there be as many as twelve officials in this Assembly? But leaving this matter where it is, because I am not going to deal with each recommendation or each proposal of this White Paper, I am surprised to see that even this proposal is being opposed by the White Settlers of East Africa, and Sir, what does the Leader of this Opposition, I mean Lord Francis Scott, say? He says that this is a direct attack which has been made on the political position of the British colonists who were virtually threatened with reduction to the level of disloyal Indians and illiterate Africans Sir, we the Indians, are disloyal! In the last war and the present war, Africa has been saved by us Before these white settlers entered that land, much before that, we were there When centuries ago, Vasco de Gama visited East Africa he found Indians trading on the coasts of Kenya What did we not do for that land? We taught cultivation to the people there We built railways there Our currency was current there and so was our penal code The Europeans entered that land in the year 1866 and even after their entry up 1895 the expenses of the administration as well as of the military were borne by India I ask the Government to look into their own records to see whether what I am saying is or is not a fact

And what do we get in return? The Highlands of Kenya are reserved for the Europeans, though their number is much less than ours Immigration has been stopped from India from the time the war started At that time it was said that this measure of stopping immigration was a temporary one On the 6th November 1944, the Honourable Dr Khare said in this respect

"The regulations have been enacted for one year for the present and that period is due to expire within the next three or four months The Government of India would make every possible effort to prevent the extension of these regulations"

Though these regulations were to lapse within a few months (and that is what the Honourable Dr Khare said on the 6th November, 1944) you will be surprised to learn that these regulations are still there, still the immigration of Indians is not allowed

Then, Sir, something happened more recently In the Executive Council of Kenya though there were non-officials, yet these members were without portfolios Recently the white members of the Executive Council of Kenya have been given portfolios, while the Indian members of the Executive Council of Kenya are still without portfolios May I ask the reason for the discrimination? In spite of these discriminations the Government of India are sitting tight they are not doing anything

Before this White Paper was issued, the Standing Committee of the East African Indian Congress urged the British Government to send a Royal Commission to investigate the whole matter The British Government did not do anything in this respect and I do not know what the Government of India did and what they urged on behalf of the Indians of East Africa Sir, while Lord Francis Scott and the white settlers are opposing these proposals of the Colonial Office on the ground that equality is given to Indians, the Indian Government is not fighting on our behalf and telling them that this is an injustice that equality is given to Europeans with Indians, while Indians are in a much greater number than the Europeans there Sir, the whole history of East Africa shows that the Government of India have never taken into consideration what has been happening there, and the same thing continues today Hence, Sir, I move that this House do now adjourn and I want to censure the Government of India and charge them with callous disregard as far as the Indian question in East Africa is concerned

Mr. President: Motion moved

"That the Assembly do now adjourn"

Mr. R. N. Banerjee (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department) Sir, the idea of a closer union of the three East African colonies is not a new one Honourable Members who are conversant with the history of this matter would recall that a similar proposal was made in the twenties In 1924 an East African Commission, commonly known as the Ormsby Gore Commission, was appointed In 1927-28 was appointed the Hilton Young Commission which submitted its report in 1929 This Commission investigated how closer union and co-operation between these three territories could be best secured The recommendations of this Commission provoked controversy in all quarters and Sir Samuel Wilson was sent to examine possibilities of the maximum measure of agreement that might be secured in East Africa on those proposals When such proposals were made in the past, the Government of India took special measures to ensure that the interests of the Indian community were safeguarded in any new constitutional schemes that might be adopted For example, the Government of India deputed Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh and Mr R P Ewbank to help the Indian community in preparing and presenting their case before the Hilton Young Commission Similarly the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri was deputed by the Government of India to act as a liaison officer between the Indian community and Sir Samuel Wilson I refer to these details to indicate to the House that the Government of India have even in the past been quite vigilant in respect of any such developments not only in East Africa but also in other countries of the Commonwealth, where there are large Indian populations and Indian interests. The Government of India are fully cognisant of the fact that the Indian community of East Africa have always looked askance at any idea of the closer union of the three colonies This has been mainly due to an apprehension on their part that with the union of the three colonies the policy of exclusiveness, if not of discrimination, adopted in Kenya might vitiate the policy of all the three colonies. Kenya, as the House is aware, is the major partner in East Africa and the Indian community have always feared that with the unification of the three territories the policy of the new Government might also be Kenyaised to the detriment of the Indian community. We fully recognise this danger. Our view has always been that while we could not legitimately claim to stand in the way of any natural constitutional evolution of the three East African colonies we must take every possible precaution to safeguard Indian interests The same is our policy now. I hope, Sir, I have told the House enough to meet the first charge that the Honourable Mover of the motion levelled against the Government of India that they have failed in their duty in this respect. I hope, Sir, that the House will agree that this charge has been levelled at the Government rather prematurely on this occasion The White Paper was published on the 12th December. At the time the publication of this paper was considered, a representative of our department, our Controller General

[Mr R N Banerjee]

of Emigration and Joint Secretary, happened to be in London and he had an opportunity of discussing this matter unofficially with the Colonial Office. We have an assurance from the Colonial Office that full opportunity will be given to our Government to examine these proposals and to place before His Majesty's Government any suggestions and views that we may have with a view to safeguarding the interests of Indians in any new scheme of co-ordination

What is the position? As paragraph 11 of the White Paper would show these proposals have now been published for information and as a basis for discussion The proposals have been published for eliciting public opinion particularly in East Africa and the House can rest assured that our countrymen in East Africa are politically puissant enough to see that their voice is heard. In any case, Sir, we are examining these proposals very carefully and we have been slightly handicapped in this matter by the absence of any accredited representative of our Government in these colonies We have set action in motion to ascertain the views of the Indian community You will agree that without first ascertaining the reactions of the Indian community it would not be possible for us to formulate our views I would not take up the time of the House by entering into the merits of this proposal at this stage All I want to emphasize again is that the Government is not sitting quiet over this matter The Government of India are fully seized of this They have been studying these proposals They are in correspondence with the representatives of the Indian community and are expecting to obtain their views It is possible that we may have an occasion to have personal discussions with some of their representatives and as soon as our views are formulated they will be placed before His Majesty's Government and we have at this stage every hope that our views will be carefully taken into consideration and whatever may be the final shape that these proposals take we have still good grounds for hoping that the interests of the Indian community will be duly safeguarded Perhaps Lord Francis Scott, of whom the Honourable Mover of the Resolution seems to know a great deal and about whom I regret to say I do not know very much—perhaps Lord Scott has scented that even this representation of six non-official members given to the Indian community might be only part of the measures which the scheme provides for safeguarding Indian interests but I do not see how, at a stage when these proposals are published for the opinion of the people of East Africa, an expression of opinion by an individual like Lord Francis Scott should lay the Government of India open to the charge of neglect of duty This is all that I have to say about the main proposal and I hope the House will be satisfied that after the explanation I have given there is hardly any case for pressing this motion

Incidentally the Honourable Member referred to certain other measures aimed against Indians in East Africa The grievances about the Highlands of Kenya is a very old one and I do not think I need say much more on the subject As regards the emigration regulations, as promised in this House, we did urge their immediate repeal but the continuance of war conditions was pleaded and all that we could obtain was that permits for re-entry should be granted freely even to such old residents as had been absent from the colonies for even more than two years That is the position even now and we have been recently told by the Colonial Office that these regulations will be finally repealed some time about the middle or a little later this year The ground urged is that war conditions which necessitated the enforcement of this measure have not completely disappeared Well the middle of this year or even the third quarter of this year is not very far and we have not thought it worth while pursuing this matter any further but we have every hope that these temporary regulations will disappear before the end of this year The Honourable Member has also referred to the expansion of the Executive Council in Kenya in which Indian interests have not been proportionately represented That is a legitimate grievance and we have taken it up with His Majesty's Government We have urged that if in

practice two non-official European members were to occupy seats on the Executive Council and were put in charge of portfolios, either the present Indian councillor should be put in charge of a portfolio or the Indian community should be given increased representation on the Executive Council. The matter is still under correspondence and I regret to say that we have not yet had a final decision.

These are some of the points which the Honourable Member raised incidentally and I have given the House an idea of how matters stand. I hope I have said enough to make out that the Government have not been remiss in this matter and I can only end with an assurance that Government will pursue this matter and the Indian case will not suffer by default or on account of lack of vigilance on the part of the Government of India.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): Yesterday when this House discussed the question of the legislation now contemplated in South Africa, my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy threw out a challenge, a friendly challenge perhaps but still a challenge, to the European Group and the British community, to state plainly where they stood with regard to this important matter It is partly in response to that challenge that I rise today on a cognate issue to make clear once and for all our attitude towards this question of the rights of Indians overseas. Let me begin by saying that if our silence in the debate of yesterday was interpreted as meaning that we disagreed or were indifferent or were actuated by timidity or by political expediency, that interpretation was wholly unfounded On the main issue then under discussion, we are entirely at one with our Indian friends Our only reason for non-participation in the debate of yesterday is a long-standing dislike of discussing matters before we have in our hands full details with regard to those matters We were unwilling to discuss legislation when we ourselves had not seen the draft and, indeed, understood that no such draft yet existed It was for that reason and that reason alone that we took no part in yesterday's discussion Today, too, I do not intend to embark on a detailed discussion for a very similar reason There is much that we do not yet know about the details of the proposed legislation and about the detailed reactions of Indians on the spot to it There are many connected matters which we can discuss better at a later date In the meantime, I want to content myself by stating our general position. That position is simply this that we stand entirely with India in demanding equality for Indian citizens in other parts of the Commonwealth

An Honourable Member: Except in India

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: And in India too Every member of this Group expects that it will be possible in the very very near future for that equality to be achieved in this country to the very last degree We stand for this equality of rights because to us, such equality is implicit in the very notion of the Commonwealth What is, after all, the main change, the main difference between the old conception of Empire and the new conception of a Commonwealth? Is it not simply this that the conception of Empire was based on the belief that one country should dominate other countries; while the conception of the Commonwealth is based on the belief that all countries in that Commonwealth must be brought to equal status and must occupy positions of equal rights and equal importance A Commonwealth, after all, means nothing more than this, that a series of countries, inhabited by people of different races speaking different languages and with different cultural backgrounds are linked together, firstly, by a sense of common interest, secondly, by the intangible bonds of sentiment and, thirdly, by common allegiance and devotion to the King Emperor. Those intangible bonds and ties can mean nothing unless they are based on equality And it is for that reason that to us it seems axiomatic, that if there is a British Commonwealth, then the claim of India to equal rights in that Commonwealth must be accepted That view is re-inforced still more strongly in our minds by the part which India and the Indian army have played

[Mr. P. J. Griffiths]

in making victory possible, a victory without which neither rights nor claims for equality nor privileges would have meant anything to the peoples of the Commonwealth. We cannot accept an attitude which, in effect, would amount to saying to the people of India, "You are good enough to fight with us, you are good enough to fight for us, but you are not good enough to have the privileges which that comradeship would entitle you to." We will not accept a distinction of that kind. If Indian soldiers were good enough to fight under common cause then Indian citizens should be good enough to occupy the status to which they are rightfully entitled in the other parts of this great Commonwealth. So, for this Group there is no dubiety about this matter. Nor am I enunciating a principle stated by us for the first time. This Group has consistently, for years past, advocated the cause of Indian rights throughout the Commonwealth. Let me remind you that, when this matter was discussed in November 1944, my Honourable friend, Sir Frederick James, came out in no uncertain terms with his statement of our views on this question. He said:

"There will never be any racial harmony in the Union as long as important racial groups are excluded from every form of political representation and denied representation even on local and municipal bodies. These are rights which are fundamental to any minority or any community in the country, and as long as these are denied to Indians in any part of South Africa, there will be trouble not only in the Union but between India and South Africa."

That was our attitude then, that is our attitude today and that will be our attitude as long as the need for representation, for agitation and perhaps even for action, on this important matter remains. This is one matter with regard to which there can be no reasonable room for any difference of opinion between different sections of the House.

I wish myself that it had been raised in some other form than an adjournment motion, for an adjournment motion, by customary Parliamentary convention, implies censure and no Government is very ready to accept censure. I wish rather that the subject before the House had been put forward in the form of a Resolution, a Resolution asserting firmly that we in this House demand that India's rights shall receive just treatment and just consideration throughout the world. If a Resolution of that kind had been put forward, I take it Government would have had no hesitation in voting for it. It would have gone forth as the view of every single man in this House, British or Indian, official or non-official. I trust that the Government, in spite of the usual Parliamentary convention, will agree not to treat this adjournment motion as a censure but to regard it as a deep and forcible expression of something which they themselves feel and will thus make it clear that the spirit of this adjournment motion has behind it the support of everyone of us, of every Group in this House. If they will do that and if, having done that, they will make it clear to the countries concerned that they will not stop at words but that, if necessary, they will take whatever action is suitable and required to enforce India's will in this matter—if the Government will do that, they will have taken a very great step forward, they will have done something to make us feel that we are bringing India nearer the day when India will count among the nations of the world on an equality with any other nation and will occupy the position to which her greatness and her size entitle her.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the adjournment motion before the House. We had a full-dress debate on this issue only yesterday or at least on an issue which was similar to the one we are discussing now. We are really glad to see that Mr. Griffiths, the Leader of the European Group, has very strongly said that he shares those very feelings which we have in this House regarding the rights and privileges of our nationals in other countries. He quoted Sir Frederick James also, who made the same claim on an issue of the same nature which was raised in this House last year.

[At this stage, Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. P. J. Griffiths (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

Mr. Chairman, you thought that the adjournment motion was not the right thing for ventilating the feelings on a matter in which the Government of India and the representatives of this House were of the same opinion. When you were saying this, the Leader of the House said "Hear, hear", sharing the same feeling This is certainly very gratifying, to us, but this adjournment motion has been brought to see that the Government of India's helplessness in this matter is removed It will give a fillip to the officials of Government of India. I am not prepared to concede to the point which was raised by you Mr. Chairman, in the speech that you made just now before me that we should not give expression to our opinion as we have not got the documents of legislation of Africa before us. The White Paper is already there and the idea of the unification of those States is already there. Instead of making a *post mortem* examination when the legislation would have been passed in Africa we should express an opinion here and now. It is the duty of the representatives of this House to say exactly what our feelings are on this very important question, so that the Government of India's hands may be strengthened to approach the Colonial Office on the lines that we suggest. The speeches that we make here in the short time at our disposal not only give expression to the feelings that we have but also place the concrete suggestions that we want to be embodied for safeguarding the representatives of Indian nationals who are in other lands Agreement would be secured in the best possible manner and in the same way as negotiations between two independent countries would do This is the main idea behind this adjournment motion. The Honourable Mover has brought out very clearly the point at issue I do not want to take up any more time of the House on this question I would just say that as the Secretary in Charge of the Department was making his speech a few minutes ago he said the Colonial Office of His Majesty's Government gave the assurance that Government of India will be given full opportunity of representing the views they may have The point is whether on the White Paper he has expressed any view so far He says that he has no representative in some parts of East Africa and as such he has not been able to contact Indian opinion on that side I think the White Paper has been out for a sufficiently long time, and this Government by this time ought to have been able to gather the reaction and the feelings of the people of our nationals in those parts of the world Not having done so is a failure of this Government

Mr. R. N Banerjee: I made it quite clear that action is in progress for obtaining the opinion of the Indian community

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Exactly, but the Honourable Member did not say whether he received any opinion The Honourable Member used a diplomatic sentence that 'action is in progress to secure opinion' Well, I do not know in what stage of progress it is We must know definitely what opinion you have received and whether you are taking necessary action to represent those views to the Colonial Government or not. Why should you be shy to make the statement, why try to make a diplomatic statement that would cover everything but mean nothing

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I made a clear statement that action is being taken. We shall formulate our views in consultation with the representatives of Indian community in East Africa and place them before His Majesty's Government There is time for that yet

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: However, Mr Chairman, I do not wish to take up more time of the House. Enough has been said by the Honourable Mover and by you Sir, when you were speaking before I got up to join the debate and I think I need not make any further remarks With these words I support the Motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore. Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am glad you have put the case of Europeans in this House and also in this country as sympathetically as you possibly can. I am glad also that you have associated yourself and your community with the rest of us in this country in our anxiety to protect the interest of Indians abroad and also in our effort to try to achieve equality of status with all other peoples of all colours here as well as outside. But at the same time I cannot agree with you, Sir, in your eloquent plea in favour of British Commonwealth and its extreme anxiety to achieve this particular equality. I wish to remind you, Sir, of the fact that the British sense of equality of race and equality of people is rather very queer. For instance the present socialist government of England has suggested through this White Paper equality of representation both in the executive and in the legislature in this proposed sub-federation between Indians, Europeans and Negroes, the local people there. Sir, what is this conception of equality of races worth when you look at it in juxtaposition of their respective populations? In you take only Kenya, there are 30 lakhs of Negroes, they are to be treated as equal to 18,000 Europeans and also equal to 38,000 Indians. Is this their idea of equality? This is a very strange arithmetic indeed. It comes to this. They wish to convert a hopeless minority of people into an overwhelming majority of rulers. Two-third representation in the executive and in the legislature is to go to about 50,000 people, whereas only about one-third representation is to go to 30 lakhs of people. This is their idea of equality and since that is a fact, it is no wonder that all patriotic Indians in this country do not wish to associate themselves with this British Commonwealth and avow their loyalty to this Commonwealth and their wonderful conception.

Coming to the other point, why it is that so late as the year 1940, it is given to the Socialist Government of England to make this wonderful proposal and say this is a very liberal proposal. Till now Indians have been treated very badly in these colonies. Englishmen and other Europeans have been favoured in every manner and the Negroes were of course completely ignored. Now, Sir, the Labour Government comes forward with this proposal. In whose interest is this? It is certainly not in the interest of the Natives themselves. It is not even in the interest of the small minority of Indians. It is certainly in the interest of the absolutely insignificant minority, microscopic minority of Europeans. What is the idea behind it? In the name of equality of treatment between different races, they want to establish political and economic hegemony of Europeans in these colonies and yet they want to go and parade their conception of equality before U N O. I know, Sir, that Indians as well as Europeans are not Africans. Therefore, they ought not to be treated in any sort of favoured manner apart from the natives of the African Continent. Whereas Indians have gone there and are reported to have rendered some definite service to those countries, there is no such record in favour of Europeans. The Europeans themselves have stated that "Indian labour was responsible for most of the manual part of the original construction of Kenya Uganda railways. Indian contractors and traders have been there to develop the Kenya colony including native resources. Indian lorry drivers are pioneers to drive to any of the most outlying districts of the colony. I can add to this list in many directions." This was said by the Governor in 1940. The same thing can be said of India's contribution in other colonies also. Can the same thing be said about Europeans? They have gone there as exploiters, outright exploiters. Indians went there, it is true as traders, as merchants, as businessmen. They have gone there and they tried to give *quid pro quo* for all they received from the country. But what did the Europeans go there for to claim this one third representation in the new dispensation. Sir, I protest against this. Our friend Lord Scott is not satisfied with this one-third representation that he has got from socialist dispensation. Evidently he wants to get two-third representation from the next communist dispensation that may come in England tomorrow or day after. It is the duty of the Government to protest against this. I am rather surprised at

the unwillingness of the Government representative to tell the House in what respects he takes objection to this white paper He wanted us to wait until he in his own good time makes his submission to Government in England or the Government in England comes . . . .

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Sir, on a point of personal explanation, I feel that that is an obvious misunderstanding of my speech because I made it quite clear that we are examining the proposals before formulating our views. The matter has a long history and we must take some time over it And that I failed to indicate today what exact objections we have to these proposals, would not justify the suggestion that we are doing nothing in this matter

Prof N. G. Ranga: Of course it is not true that my Honourable friend is not doing anything, he certainly interrupts my speech But what a popular minister on that side would have done, according to my conception of his duty anyhow, is to take the House into his confidence in the matter of his reactions to this white paper proposal and then say that this is the result of his provisional examination and he is specially to be put wise by the House as a whole, and in the light of the remarks that fall from various members and also after other consultations that he may make, it will be open to him to make a fuller report to the authorities concerned either in England or in the colonies Instead of that my Honourable friend, as has always been the case with his Government, simply comes and says, "We are going to consider it in good time later on We shall make our representation and then it would be high time for the Britishers to have their own final decisions Thereafter we shall come to this Legislative Assembly " Sir, I cannot accept that attitude of the Government of India What is it that we want in these countries? That is another matter. Sir, I am not one of those,—and I think I can associate my party also in saying this,—I am not one of those people who wish my people to go into all these various other countries and gain undue advantages at the cost of the local people themselves I do not wish to be a partner in this world's economic exploitation or political exploitation, with this British Commonwealth and its eloquent advocates like yourself If we go at all into any other country we wish to go there with the consent of its people and for mutual advantage, in order to serve those people and at the same time to be served by them And we wish to be there as welcome guests and as honoured guests of the people of those countries But up till now unfortunately it is the British Government that has been dragging Indians into all those various countries as participators in their economic loot or the imperialistic loot They have taken us into Burma, into South Africa and into all these other countries first not as free men but only as indentured labour tied hand and foot, kept us there under a sort of contract and afterwards released us and would not even raise their little finger in order to protect our interests, our honour, our self-respect and our lives in those countries against the rapacity of your own countrymen the Englishmen and other Europeans It is against this kind of injustice that I rise in my place, and my party is also here to protest and we will continue to protest until we are able to put an end to this kind of imperialist, economic and political exploitation We also protest against this sort of enforced partnership of India in their economic loot Sir, I support this adjournment motion and I hope the House will certainly pass it and make this Government awaken to the discharge of its own duties in a more satisfactory manner than it has been accustomed to.

Sir, one word more and it is this. Yesterday my Honourable friend Dr. Khare asked us what more he could possibly do Well, why does he not resign? Why do not my other friends there resign? Those other powerful men in the Executive Council smile. The heavens are not going to fall if they resign. I am not going to impute to them any ideas of money or the attraction of high salaries, or anything like that. But they are there for some sort of imaginary kudos, in that I think these Executive Councillors are very foolish and they are suffering from a suicidal mania also In Egypt they wanted something to be

[Prof N G Ranga]

done by England, they could not get it, and their ministers resigned. In Persia they could not get their way with Soviet Russia upon which they resigned and another ministry came in They took a stronger stand and Soviet Russia was obliged to take these people into confidence in their discussions Similarly it is one of the diplomatic things that are going on all over the world for any Government to have its own way to resign and express its resentment An alternative Government comes into the country and goes with a newer mandate from the legislature and gives its point of view If Dr Khare were to resign and the news were to go there to the U N O and the new Member were to take up this question with the U N O, certainly South Africa will be on a better behaviour and Field-Marshal Smuts will not behave in the smutty manner in which he has behaving Similarly in regard to this matter also, if and when the necessity arises, this Government must be prepared to take strong action and make a gesture by resigning and showing their resentment to the British as well as to the colonial Governments Sir, I support the motion.

Sardar Sampuran Singh (West Punjab Sikh): Sir, a few brilliant speeches have been made on this subject and, if I may say so, your own speech has been a very refreshing one In your outspoken speech you gave a definite and clear statement that your sympathies were with Indians,—not only personally of yours own but those of all the Europeans domiciled in this country as well On that support and on the support which Government are willing to extend in this matter we should be very sanguine and hopeful about the result of the negotiations which are said to be going on between the Government of India and the Government of the colony We should expect something really magnificent from these negotiations because if this House is united I think we can bring pressure upon His Majesty's Government and through them or directly upon the Government of East Africa, and in that way we may expect to bring about very favourable results But when I look into the history of this connection of ours with the colonies of East Africa or South Africa, I find it is a very dark chapter in that history We have had many set-backs, the only good association that we have in connection with these colonies is that we got our Mahatma Gandhi trained in South Africa who was so helpful to us afterwards But even with all his sacrifice and everything else he could not achieve much in that country Reading the past history of our relations with those parts and despite the hope that has been extended to us by the Honourable Member for Government I feel on the whole pessimistic He feels happy not over promises but only over the idea that the Secretary of State for the Colonies will be glad to receive our representation and hear us before he makes any decision Personally I think there is nothing in that Any civilised man will listen to another person who has got to tell him something, although in the end he may agree or disagree with him So I rather feel disappointed at this happiness of the Government Member just on that little promise or hope I am afraid that if he starts feeling satisfied over such a small promise he will not be able to do very much for the Indians in the colonies The only thing which we really need consider is what sanction we can bring forward in case the

5 P.M. Colonial Office does not agree to our demand When the question of exerting pressure upon them comes, when the question of reprisals comes, when the question of exerting force comes, the Indian Government will fail as it has always failed in the history of this country What we expect from the Government is that they should treat the people of those countries as they are treating us If they pick up some strength and are ready to take that attitude and if they are able to convince them that if they do not agree to the legitimate demands of Indians, India will certainly take reprisals, we can expect something, otherwise I do not think we need expect much

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): The House appears to be singly unanimous on these questions with one exception which is perhaps a matter of detail The exception is that this motion has unfortunately

come forward on an adjournment motion which begins by referring to the "complete failure of the Government of India to take any steps." As to the substance of the idea behind the motion, we are, as the speakers have shown, entirely in agreement I must reiterate again however that this White Paper, which was the origin of the discussion, was published quite recently "for information and as a basis of discussion" and what the mover seeks to do is to censure us for not taking action because some individual,—however important, but still an individual in East Africa—has said something against His Majesty's Government's proposals. Whether these proposals are adequate or not is not a subject on which the Government of India has yet expressed an opinion They appear to be a distinct step forward, and I even understood the mover to indicate that he was satisfied with the measure of equality given by His Majesty's Government

Seth Govind Das: On a point of personal explanation—I never said that we were satisfied with what has been said in the White Paper because the population of India is much larger there than those of Europeans and we must be satisfied with this sort of proposal

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Very well, the Honourable Member was not satisfied, but nobody has put forward precise demands as to what India does want Until it has consulted the people on the spot Government is not itself in a position to say what precisely is wanted But as I say the proposals appear to be a step forward and they appear at least to have the merit of rousing the anger of what appears to be one of the most conservative elements in Kenya If this were—as you said, Sir, when you were speaking from your place—if this were a Resolution, we should have no hesitation in accepting it It is unfortunately in the form of an adjournment motion which is a form of censure on Government a censure which Government does not deserve, and I must therefore formally oppose it but in formally opposing I do not do so with any heart because Government is in fact heart and soul with the sentiments expressed elsewhere in the House and particularly, Sir so eloquently by yourself

Mr Chairman: The question is

"That the Assembly do now adjourn".

The motion was adopted

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday the 7th February, 1946

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 7th February, 1946

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

MEMBERS SWORN:

Mr Vishnu Sahay, I C.S , M.L A. (Government of India · Nominated Official),

Mr Muhammad Azim Hussain I C.S , M L A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY MEN

• **41. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the War Secretary kindly state the number of the I N.A. men captured by them and made prisoners?

(b) How many of them are still prisoners?

(c) How many of them have died in custody or been shot or hanged?

(d) How many of them have been punished, what was the nature of punishment awarded, and what were the offences with which they were charged?

(e) How many of them are undergoing imprisonment by way of punishment?

(f) How many of them have been released unconditionally?

(g) If some have been released conditionally, what are those conditions?

(h) How many cases are still pending against them, and how many are in contemplation?

Mr. P. Mason: I would like to point out that the War Department are concerned only with I N A personnel who belonged to the Indian Army My reply therefore does not cover civilian members of the I N A. ·

(a) About 19,500 members of the Indian Army of the I N A have been recovered ;

(b) About 6,000 are in custody in India and 2,000 in ALFSEA

(c) Twenty seven military members of the I N A have died in custody. Two—Captain Maghar Singh and Lt Ajmer Singh—have died from self-inflicted gun shot wounds as announced in the Press None have been hanged

(d) The number of those who have been punished as a result of courts martial is 27 Of these, 23 were convicted before the Recovery of Rangoon. The punishments awarded included death, transportation for life, rigorous imprisonment, cashiering and forfeiture of pay and allowances The charges included waging war against the King, murder, abetment of murder, grievous hurt and desertion in the face of the enemy

(e) 15

(f) and (g) Approximately 11,000 have been released, all unconditionally.

(h) Four cases are pending before Courts Martial at present I cannot say how many more cases may be brought before the Courts Martial until the interrogation of all members of the I N A is completed

Seth Govind Das: With respect to clause (b) may I know why the remaining I N A prisoners are not being released?

Mr. P. Mason: I propose to explain this matter fully in the debate on Monday I suggest that it is a difficult matter to explain in answer to a question.

Seth Govind Das: With respect to part (e) of the question, is it not a fact that when three prisoners of the I N A. have been released unconditionally why are these imprisonments and other punishments being meted out to other prisoners?

Mr. P. Mason: As explained in the press communique of the 16th November, the position during the war was very different from that now and the punishments given during the war were very much more severe. The question of the review of those punishments is at present being considered

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that even after the war is over certain prisoners are being punished?

Mr. P. Mason: Only those guilty of crimes of brutality.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (c), may I know the place where these men were hanged and what was done with their remains?

Mr. P. Mason: I should require notice of that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government give the public details in regard to these gentlemen who were hanged, nine of them, why they were hanged and their names?

Mr. P. Mason: I should require notice of that

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member please state the nature of the Courts that sentenced these men to be hanged, the place where these Courts were held and whether the trials were in secret?

Mr. P. Mason: The Courts were military courts As regards the place where they sat and their exact composition, I should require notice

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member give dates when these prisoners were hanged?

Mr. P. Mason: I should require notice

Shri Sri Prakasa: Did the trials take place secretly or publicly, and was there any difference between the Courts that tried them and the Courts that have been sitting in the Red Fort and the Cantonments?

Mr. P. Mason: They took place secretly because the war was then in progress As to any difference between the Courts, I am not quite sure that I understand the Honourable Member They were not composed of the same persons but they were not substantially different The trials took place under the Indian Army Act

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know the reasons why those trials were held secretly and why publicity has been given to these trials?

Mr. P. Mason: As I explained the war was then in progress and it was operationally necessary not to reveal the facts of the I N A

Mr. Manu Subedar: Did the accused in these trials get the benefit of Defence Counsel?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir

Seth Govind Das: With respect to clause (h) may I know whether now that the war is over the Government is contemplating to withdraw all the cases against the I N A prisoners?

Mr. P. Mason: I propose to explain the whole policy on Monday I do not think that question arises just now.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Arising out of (f), will the Honourable Member say whether the policy as regards release is the same in the case of every prisoner or is there any discrimination with regard to the parties who defend these prisoners?

Mr. President (addressing Mr Mason). Parties who defend these prisoners.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Political organisations which defend these prisoners. Any discrimination?

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, no difference is made.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will my Honourable friend tell us why there has been discrimination with regard to Capt Abdul Rashid *vis a vis* these prisoners who were released?

Mr. P. Mason: No discrimination is made against any prisoners

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: What about Capt Abdul Rashid?

Mr. P. Mason: It was because he was guilty of crimes of brutality

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Not the others?

Shri Sri Prakasa: One of the charges made against those men who were hanged was that of murder May I know if murder included shooting of the enemy while they were at war?

Mr. P. Mason: I should require notice of that question

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: According to which section of the Indian Army Act can the trials be held secretly?

Mr. P. Mason: I am afraid I require notice of that question

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: May I know whether my Honourable friend thinks that murder is not included in brutality?

Mr. President: That is asking for an opinion

Seth Govind Das: In respect to the secret trials which the Honourable Member mentioned in answer to one of the questions, may I know whether the prisoners were allowed defence counsels and if so, how were they selected?

Mr. P. Mason: I should require notice of that question

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Member to take note of those questions in which he wanted notice and answer them himself on Monday

Mr. P. Mason: I will answer as many of them I can remember

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I know, Sir, whether the relations of these prisoners were given information that these prisoners were being tried secretly?

Mr. P. Mason: I should require notice of that question

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: I require your ruling, Sir, on a point Whenever a question is put, which arose out of the Honourable Member's answer to the main question, he says that he requires notice Why does the Honourable Member take shelter saying "I want notice"

Mr. President: Obviously it means that the Honourable Member has not got the information ready at hand and requires notice to get the information.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: With reference to the request of Mr Ayyangar that the Honourable Mr Mason should take note of these supplementary questions and answer them on Monday, will he prepare himself and be ready with fuller particulars with regard to the trial that I mentioned?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly, that is one of the points that I wish to explain.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member please enlighten the House as to whether there is any codified standard of brutality?

Mr. President: Order, order Next question

AMNESTY FOR I N A. MEN

42. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that many Burmans fought against the British and the Allies and that the Governor of Burma publicly announced general amnesty for such Burman forces as fought against the Allies?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, why was not a similar policy adopted towards the I.N.A.?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) In the first place, these Burmans were civilians They were not soldiers and had therefore taken no oath of allegiance In the Second place, the Burmans joined the Allies and fought against the Japanese in the closing stages of the campaign

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what was the treatment meted out to the civilian section of the I N A by the Government of India?

Mr. P. Mason: That is a question which should be addressed to the Home Member

POLICY TOWARDS I N A MEN

43. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Is the War Secretary aware that there is great unrest in the Army and great uneasiness and resentment among the general public on account of the policy and treatment of the Government towards the I N A personnel?

(b) Do Government propose to allay this feeling by releasing the I N A. men and dropping the cases against them and announcing general amnesty for the I N.A personnel?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b) Government are aware of the feeling on the subject and I will endeavour to explain the policy of the Government in the House on Monday

USE OF INDIAN TROOPS IN INDONESIA

44. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Is the War Secretary aware that the Indian public very strongly resents the use of the Indian Army for the suppression of the Indonesian and the Javanese?

(b) Is it a fact that many leaders of Indian public opinion have openly condemned this policy and many public organisations have raised protests in regard to such use?

(c) Do Government propose to ban such use in future at least without the express consent of the Legislative Assembly?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Sir, I cannot agree with the implication that the Indian Army is being used for the suppression of the Indonesians, but Government are aware of Indian feeling on this subject

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to my speech on the 21st January in the debate on Prof Ranga's adjournment motion on this subject

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government reconsidered their position in regard to this matter in the light of the adjournment motion passed in this House and given any orders to the Indian section of the Allied armies which are there in Indonesia and asked them to come back to India?

Mr. P. Mason: No such orders have been issued

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My question is whether Government have reconsidered their position in the light of the adjournment motion . .

Mr. P. Mason: The position is always being reconsidered

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government reconsidered their position since the adjournment motion was passed by this House?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir

Seth Govind Das: May I know what orders are being sent or are they going to take a very long time over it?

Mr. P. Mason: No orders are sent

Seth Govind Das: May I know what orders are going to be sent?

Mr. P. Mason: As I explained in the debate, Government do not admit that their policy requires any change

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that the Government's policy is not to use these armies outside India?

Mr. P. Mason: I am afraid I do not understand the Honourable Member's question

Seth Govind Das: Is it not the policy of the Government of India not to use Indian armies outside India?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir. Certainly not

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Member please state whether there has been no change in the policy of the Government of India since the passing of the Adjournment Motion?

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Does it mean that the Government does not care for what is decided in this House?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Are the armies which are used outside India being paid for by the Indian exchequer or by the British Exchequer in these cases?

Mr. P. Mason: By His Majesty's Government

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: May I know whether Government propose to recall the Indian army from Java and if so, what will be the approximate date of their recall?

Mr. P. Mason: As I explained, those armies will be recalled when the objects for which they were sent there have been achieved

BRITISH AND INDIAN TROOPS IN JAVA OPERATIONS

45. *Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: (a) Will the War Secretary please state the proportion of British and Indian Troops at present engaged in the Java operations?

(b) Have Governments' attention been drawn to the statement made by Lt.-General Sir Phillip Christison, Officer Commanding British Forces in Java, on 29th September last to a correspondent wherein it was stated. "Our sole job is to rescue prisoners of war and *disarm the Japanese. We are not going in to interfere* with the political situation in Java I have made it clear that we are not going in to put the Dutch back into power, I am going to keep law and order only *Japanese troops in Java and Sumatra will also be used to maintain law and order*, until the administration can be handed over to the Dutch"?

(c) Do these views expressed by the Officer Commanding, British and Indian Troops in Java, receive the support of the British Government and the Government of India?

(d) What is the number of casualties suffered by British, Indian and Japanese Troops in maintaining law and order in Java since the above statement by the Commanding Officer was made?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) I am afraid that I am unable to disclose the number of troops at present engaged in these operations I can however, tell the Honourable Member that at present Indian troops are in the majority as compared with British

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the debate on Prof Ranga's adjournment motion on the subject which took place in this House on the 21st January in which I endeavoured to explain the views of the Government of India and His Majesty's Government

(d) The total of Indian Army casualties is killed—171, wounded—544, missing—193 No information regarding British or Japanese casualties is available.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member at least try to reduce the majority of Indian troops to minority by recalling them to India?

Mr. P. Mason: I will do my best.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Will the Honourable Member enlighten the House whether it was not the policy or at least the convention which was sought to be created in this House that no Indian armies will be used outside India without the express consent of this House and it was on this issue in 1939 that the Congress Party absented themselves Do the Government propose to pursue a policy of non-consultation even when peace has been restored?

Mr. P. Mason: As I explained in the debate on the subject, no specific decision was taken to move troops forwards It followed automatically on the Japanese collapse In peace, the policy would be the same and we should endeavour to consult the House, if occasion arose for sending troops out of India, but in this case the troops were already outside India

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Is it a fact that the Commander-in-Chief receives orders from the Chiefs of Staff in London with regard to the despatch of troops overseas?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir

INDIA'S STERLING BALANCES

46. *Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what exactly India's stake in the matter of sterling balances is?

(b) What efforts, if any, were made by Government's representatives at Washington to get a hearing before the Anglo-American Financial Agreement was signed?

(c) Do Government propose to assure the House that India's financial position has not been affected adversely as a result of the Financial Agreement signed at Washington?

(d) Were all the Creditor Nations affected by the Agreement consulted in any way before the Agreement was signed?

(e) Within the framework of the Financial Agreement, do Government propose to suggest the following

(i) that there will be no scaling down of the debt due by Britain to India and that no free gift of contribution will be made having regard to the poverty of the Indian Masses; and

(ii) that whatever portion of India's sterling assets is immediately released it should be substantial and sufficient to carry India through her planning programme until 1951?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) £1,254 millions as on 4th January 1946

(b) None, as India was not a party to the negotiations

(c) An agreement between two parties cannot, and does not, affect the rights of a third, and India is not bound, in any way, by the provisions of the Anglo-American Financial Agreement

(d) Government have no information, but I believe not

(e) I can assure the Honourable Member that if negotiations take place while the present Government is in office, they will leave nothing undone to obtain the best possible terms for India

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the importance which this question has assumed in India on industry, the future programme of Government, on prices and on wages, will Government now endeavour to bring about a very early negotiation so as to settle this question?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, Sir; as my Honourable friend knows, I have already taken steps in that direction

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When this clause 10 of the Anglo-American Agreement came to the Honourable Member's notice did he write to the Government of United Kingdom asking them what they propose to do in regard to the sterling balances?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: As my Honourable friend knows, it is not the usual practice to disclose the nature of negotiations and correspondence that take place between two Governments; but he can rest assured that the Government are doing their duty

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have the Government of the United Kingdom up till now taken any steps to implement that portion of the Agreement by writing to this Government?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That is trying to get the answer out of me by a second question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what amount of sterling balances are likely to be released in the near future and to what extent is the demand from the industrialists of this country?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That is a point which I do not think directly arises on my question, but again my Honourable friend can rest assured that we will present the full demands of India The exact quantum is a matter of judgment and investigation which is at present taking place

INDIAN TROOPS IN PERSIA

47. *Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the number of Indian Troops at this moment serving in Persia?

(b) Are these troops stationed in Persia for the purpose of maintaining law and order, or merely to safeguard the British oil interests?

(c) When do Government propose to withdraw all the British and Indian troops from Persia?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) I am afraid, Sir, that I cannot disclose the number of Indian Army Personnel in various theatres of War

(b) Allied troops including Indian Troops are in Persia in accordance with the terms of the Tripartite Treaty, dated the 29th January, 1942, between Great Britain, the USSR and IRAN, a copy of which has been placed in the library of the house

(c) Arrangements have been made for the withdrawal of all British and Indian troops from Persia by the 2nd March, 1946

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: With reference to part (a) may I ask why the Honourable Member is unable to give the information? Is it because this information may be useful to the enemy?

Mr. P. Mason: The reason is that—as the Honourable Member will hardly have failed to observe—the world is still in a very troubled state, and I think it would be highly optimistic to suppose that the conditions in which we now find ourselves are those of peace.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it true that the number of Indian troops in Persia is on the increase even now?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir; emphatically not.

BAN ON OBSERVANCE OF I.N.A. DAY, ETC.

48. *Prof N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state·

(a) if the Government of India had given orders to Provincial Governments to ban public processions and meetings on the Indian National Army Day organised in the first week of November, 1945, all over India;

(b) If they had given any instructions to Provincial Governments not to obstruct the peaceful observance of such days as the East Asia Day, the Palestine Day, the I.N.A. Day; and

(c) the policy of Government in regard to the restoration of Civil liberties, especially on the observance of such days during these peaceful times?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) and (b). No.

(c) The policy of the Government of India and, I believe, of all Provincial Governments is in general to permit the full enjoyment of civil liberties consistently with their responsibility for the preservation of public order; and in particular to disperse crowds by force only when such a course is necessary.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that processions are still banned in Delhi?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I shall require notice of that

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that on account of the policy pursued by Government the tendency to violence and unrest is growing in this country?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I suggest that, that Sir, is a matter of opinion

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In the light of their own experience of the banning of these processions in various provinces resulting in shooting and heavy casualties inflicted on the people, will Government consider the desirability of giving definite instructions to the provincial Governments that as far as possible they should not ban these processions when they are peacefully organised or inflict violence on them?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not think there is any need for the Government of India to issue instructions in that sense to the provincial Governments

Prof. N. G. Ranga: After the release of the Congress leaders have Government issued any fresh instructions to the provincial Governments in regard to processions and firings and also relating to civil liberties?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I am not quite sure what my Honourable friend means I have answered the question in respect of the particular occasions to which he has referred in his original question If he wants any further information as to instructions sent, I must ask for notice

Seth Govind Das: Are Government aware that whenever the provincial Governments or local authorities do not ban these processions or obstruct these peaceful demonstrations there is no trouble of any kind?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not think I can answer that.

RESTORATION OF REQUISITIONED PROPERTIES

49. *Mr. C. P. Lawson: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to inform the House approximately what percentage of requisitioned property has been returned to its original owners up to the 31st December, 1945, in the following categories (i) housing accommodation, (ii) office accommodation, and (iii) storage accommodation?

(b) Will Government please also indicate such percentages, separately, in respect of the various Military Commands in India?

(c) What steps are being taken to restore such property to a proper state of repair before it is handed back?

(d) Will Government also indicate approximately the progress in de-requisitioning which is expected up to the end of March, 1946, and the estimated date by which all requisitioned property is expected to be returned to its original owners?

(e) Can the Honourable Member assure the House that no requisitioned civilian property is being retained by the authorities if accommodation erected by the Services is available for use?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Statistical information is available showing the position upto 30th November, 1945, but details under the separate categories of Housing, Office and Storage accommodation have not been maintained.

The all-India percentage of requisitioned properties returned to original owners by 30th November, 1945 is 8·3 per cent.

(b) The percentages by Commands are as follows:

	Per cent.
Northern Command	24·1
Central Command.	8·4
Eastern Command	7·4
Southern Command	5·7

(c) The Lands, Hirings and Disposals Services are responsible for negotiating with the owners as regards the work that may be required to restore the property to its original state When an agreement has been reached Lands, Hirings and Disposals are responsible for making the necessary arrangements to implement the agreement.

(d) A steady progress in de-requisitioning is expected and it is anticipated that most of the requisitioned property will be returned to its original owners by the end of 1946

(e) It is the policy to vacate requisitioned hired property wherever suitable alternative military accommodation becomes available. I am writing personally to Army Commanders asking them to ensure that the policy is carried out

Mr. C. P. Lawson: May I ask if this percentage that he has indicated of not more than 8·3 can be compared with the reduction in service personnel in the country in any way?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir It is definitely behind the reduction in service personnel I think there will inevitably be a time-lag in reaching this percentage I might explain that one of the difficulties from which we are at present suffering is the shortage of trained officers in the Lands, Hirings and Disposals Directorate, where we have only between 30 and 40 per cent of the total strength which is really required to carry out what we want to do. But the speed of release will gradually quicken up

Mr. C. P. Lawson: In view of the undetailed nature of the Honourable Member's reply can he give me any indication of how hotel accommodation stands in respect of this percentage of 8·3?

Mr. P. Mason: I shall require notice of that question

Mr. Manu Subedar: Having regard to the fact that in Bombay the pressure on accommodation was the maximum in all-India, will my Honourable friend inquire and find out whether it is not true that certain buildings requisitioned and certain other buildings constructed for the military have remained vacant for long stretches of periods, and even now the inefficiency of the requisitioning staff is causing unnecessary inconvenience to the civil population?

Mr. P. Mason: I have already made inquiries in that respect since I spoke to the Honourable Member on the subject some days ago

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: May I know what the policy of Government is with respect to de-requisitioning of agricultural land taken during war time?

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, that hardly arises out of the question put down on the paper

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is it a fact that some of these buildings have been requisitioned for a definite period, *viz*, till six months after the termination of the war, and that although they are not being required by the military they are still under requisition?

Mr. P. Mason: I believe that is a fact, Sir, but, as I have explained, when a building is due for release negotiation has to take place in the first instance for its restoration to its original condition and secondly, for financial settlement.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that the military authorities are telling the Civilians that if properties are not leased to them then their more properties will be requisitioned and, if not, will the Honourable Member make it publicly known that no more properties will be requisitioned in future?

Mr. P. Mason: With regard to the first part of the question 'No'. With regard to the second part, I should like to make inquiries before I can say that no property will be requisitioned in future

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member give an assurance that all the premises that were requisitioned were really needed and were not so requisitioned due to the cussedness on the part of the local staff?

Mr. P. Mason: That would involve an undue amount of labour.

MUSLIMS IN ROYAL INDIAN NAVY, BOMBAY

50. *Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if Government are aware of the possibility of injustice being done to the claims of Muslim Government servants in the several Departments of the Central Government and in particular in the clerical and Store House Staff of the Royal Indian Navy, Bombay?

(b) Will the War Secretary be pleased to lay a statement on the table indicating the total strength in the Royal Indian Navy, Bombay of (i) the clerical staff, (ii) the Store House Staff, and (iii) A N S O, the representation of Muslims in these cadres, the representation of non-Muslims in these cadres, and the percentage of Muslims and non-Muslims employed in these cadres?

(c) Will Government be pleased to clarify their policy in regard to the retrenchment of personnel as a result of the cessation of the war?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) I lay a statement on the table from which it will be seen that Muslims in this staff are under-represented I am grateful to the Honourable Member for bringing this case to my notice Over 90 per cent of these personnel on the staff however, are employed on a temporary basis and the number of Muslim applicants for posts filled by direct recruitment has not been sufficient to maintain the proper percentage Muslims will not be reduced except on grounds of inefficiency until the communal proportion is restored A considerable number of these temporary posts will become permanent and I can assure the Honourable Member that in filling them, due regard will be paid to Communal representation.

(b) I lay on the table a copy of a press communique, dated 4th October, 1945, issued by the Home Department

STATEMENT

	Total	Muslims	Non-Muslims	Percentage of Muslims	Percentage of Non-Muslims
(i) Clerical Staff	148	2	146	1·4%	98·6%
(ii) Stores house staff	157	14	143	8 9%	91 1%
(iii) A. N. S. O.	16	..	16		100%

Press Communiqué

Enquiries have been received by the Government of India whether the communal rules affecting appointment to Government service will be applied to the recruitment of 'war service' candidates to the vacancies reserved for them When the decision to reserve for 'war service' candidates was first announced in March, 1941, the undertaking was given that young men joining His Majesty's Forces would be afforded substantially the same opportunity to enter the civil service after the war as they had at that time. This undertaking requires, and it has been decided accordingly, that in making appointments to war-reserved vacancies in the All-India and Central Services the existing rules of reservation in favour of the minority communities should apply.

It has also been decided that, in retrenching temporary staff from the Central Services consequent on the cessation of hostilities, temporary Government servants should be so discharged that the composition of the retained temporary staff is, as far as possible, in accordance with the ratios observed for the purposes of recruitment.

HOME DEPARTMENT;

New Delhi, October 4, 1945.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member warn the officers of the Department that no such thing will happen?

Mr. P. Mason: If it should again happen that we should have to take on an enormous number of temporary staff and if the number of Muslims forthcoming is not sufficient to maintain the communal proportion, we should have to do the same thing as we did on this occasion.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether temporary Indian staff including Muslims and others are not being reduced and in their places British personnel is being introduced in the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member sure that in all categories and age groups this is the position?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir.

POLITICAL ABSCONDERS

51. *Mr. M. R. Masani (on behalf of **Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop**) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) the number of political absconders in respect of authorities responsible to the Central Government have issued orders;

(b) their names;

(c) the particulars of the charges against them,

(d) what rewards have been offered for the arrest of each; and

(e) whether Government are contemplating to withdraw the warrants for their arrest, if so, when?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) One

(b) Jwala Pershad son of Pran Sukh of Aligarh and Ajmer

(c) Escaped from detention under Defence of India Rule 26

(d) Rs 250

(e) This is under consideration

Shri Mohanlal Saksena: Am I to understand that there are no warrants against any others?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Yes, Sir

Shri Sri Prakasa: All the others can come back safely?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Who are the others?

MR. JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN'S ARREST

52. *Mr. M. R. Masani (on behalf of **Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop**) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state.

(a) in what circumstances Sreeyut Jayaprakash Narayan was arrested;

(b) what amount of reward, if any, has been paid for his arrest;

(c) how many officials were promoted to higher grades in connection with Sreeyut Jayaprakash Narayan's arrest; and

(d) the grades to which they were promoted?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I understand that he was arrested on the 18th September, 1943, in a train between Amritsar and Lahore

(b), (c) and (d) I have no information on these points which are a matter of Provincial concern.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the reward was offered by the Government of India.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, Sir.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that the warrant of arrest against Jai Prakash Narain was issued by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, Sir.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Then he is a prisoner of the Punjab Government and not of the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: He became a prisoner of the Central Government on the 27th June, 1944

Shri Sri Prakasa: What was the exact circumstance in which from a provincial subject he became a Central subject?

Seth Govind Das: Since he is now a prisoner of the Central Government will the Government be pleased to make inquiries about (b), (c) and (d)

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not think that is necessary It is a matter for the Punjab Government whose prisoner he was in 1943 As I said he did not become a prisoner of the Central Government until 1944

Shri Mohanlal Saksena: Have the Government considered the question of his release after the House passed the adjournment motion?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I spoke on that the other day

Mr. M. R. Masani: Was he made a prisoner of the Central Government in order to dodge the jurisdiction of the Lahore High Court?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not remember the exact circumstances I was not holding this office then If my Honourable friend wishes to have an answer to his question, I should be glad to give it either on notice or for his personal information.

Shri Mohanlal Saksena: May I know whether the question of his release was considered by the Government since the passing of the adjournment motion in this House?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: It is still under consideration

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member inquire of the Punjab Government and give an answer to the various clauses of the question on the order paper and let the House know?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have answered that

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member give a date by which this consideration will be over and Government will come to a decision?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot make a precise statement on that question at this moment

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Central Government make sure that the condition of Mr Jaiprakash Narain when they took charge of him was the same as on the date of his arrest by the Punjab Government

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not understand what is meant by 'condition'

Shri Sri Prakasa: The state of his health, his weight, his eye sight and all such matters

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I doubt if it will be possible to do so

An Honourable Member: Was any representation made by the Provincial Government to the Central Government about maintaining the detenus of the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I must ask for notice

Shri Sri Prakasa: Our definite information is that he was treated very badly by the Punjab Government and I should like to know if the Honourable Member will make sure from records that Mr Jai Prakash Narain was handed over to the Central Government in exactly the same physical and mental condition as he was in when the Punjab Government arrested him?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I doubt whether it will be possible to make any such verification.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that a prisoner is weighed every fortnight? If that is a fact, is there any difficulty in the Home Member getting the exact facts?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: If my Honourable friend wants the figures I am quite prepared to get them.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is great resentment throughout the country, especially in the province of Bihar, at the further detention of Mr Jaiprakash Narain?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I am aware that there is strong feeling.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Will the Honourable Member give an assurance to this House that the files of these prisoners will not be tampered with or any papers destroyed for fear of a popular Government coming into power, as has been alleged and reported to have been done in some of the provinces from time to time?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: That is an entirely new question of which I must have notice

FACILITIES FOR MR. JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN AND DR RAM MANOHAR LOHIA

53. *Mr. M. R. Masani (on behalf of **Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop**): Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state what facilities are provided for Jayaprakash Narayan and Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: They enjoy all the facilities permitted by the United Provinces Security Prisoners Rules.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are those facilities? Are they in any way special to them or are they the same as are being given to the 'C' class prisoners of the United Provinces?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: A copy of the Rules is in the Library of the House It has been in the Library of the House for some years I can assure my Honourable friend that the conveniences at the disposal of these two gentlemen are such as to arouse no complaint

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the United Provinces Government permit one interview per fortnight and in view further of the fact that the Honourable Member himself and Mr Sorensen have been visiting him, may we take it that he will be deprived of visits from his wife for two weeks now?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I should think that very unlikely.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is the Honourable Member aware that the rules in the United Provinces have been changed since the last rules were passed?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I believe all amendments made in the rules are carried out in the copy which is in the Library of the House But if my Honourable friend thinks that it is not so, I will see that it is done

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I take it that the Honourable Member had special permission of the United Provinces Government before he visited Mr Jayaprakash Narayan?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I certainly did not do it without prior intimation to the United Provinces Government

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I ask if the Government was consulted when the rules were changed?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I must have notice of that I cannot say off-hand

TORTURE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

54. *Mr. M. R. Masani (on behalf of **Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop**): Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state·

(a) if he is aware of the fact that a large number of political prisoners of the Central Government were tortured;

(b) whether this torture by the police was as a result of the direction issued by the Central Government,

(c) whether it is not a fact that, among others, Sreeyut Jayaprakash Narayan, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Ramanand Mishra, Shilbhadra Yaji and Arvind Bose were tortured in the most inhuman way,

(d) whether he has seen the statements issued by Shilbhadra Yaji and Arvind Bose and the copy of the letter addressed to the Prime Minister of the Punjab giving details of tortures by Shri Ramanandan Misra,

(e) whether any steps have been taken to bring the persons concerned in these tortures to book, and

(f) whether he is prepared to appoint a committee to enquire into the allegations of torture, if so, when?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I can speak only for prisoners of the Central Government In regard to them, the answer to (a), (b), (c) and (f) is—"No"

(d) Ramanandan Misra was not a prisoner of the Central Government. I have seen newspaper reports of statements made by the other two prisoners.

(e) Does not arise

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member aware that Dr Ram Manohar Lohia and Mr Ramanand Mishra were not allowed to sleep day or night while they were under interrogation?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: As I have said, I cannot speak for Mr. Ramanand Mishra I am aware of the allegations made as regards Dr Ram Manohar Lohia The allegations have been denied by the Punjab Government and I understand that Dr Lohia has had access to the Lahore High Court I have not myself any evidence which would cause me to disbelieve the denial by the Punjab Government

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that this Government has cultivated the habit of declining and repudiating all these allegations without any inquiry?

(No answer)

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I ask if the answer applies to those who were kept in the Jail lock-up in Delhi?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: My answer applies to the persons named in the question

Shri Sri Prakasa: Did the Honourable Member himself inquire from Dr Lohia in the Agra Jail on the subject?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: We had some conversation on the subject.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Did Dr Lohia deny that he was being kept awake for long periods of time during his interrogation?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: He made to me then the same allegations that he had made previously

Mr. M. R. Masani: Has the Honourable Member any reason to disbelieve those allegations?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The allegations are very serious May I submit that I do not in any way burke this subject It is a very important subject and I hope that I shall be given an opportunity later in the course of the Budget discussions or Demands for Grants to deal with it fully. It is difficult to deal with it in an answer to supplementary questions My Honourable friend's question, I understand, is whether I had reason to disbelieve Dr. Lohia. The question is of weighing Dr. Lohia's statement, which is uncorroborated—I do not say that it was easy for him to get corroboration, but it is uncorroborated against the considered denial of the Punjab Government.

Mr. M. R. Masani: Will the Honourable Member not agree that it is a question of judging or evaluating Dr Lohia's honesty against that of the Punjab police?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, Sir

Shri Sri Prakasa: Can the Honourable Member suggest any method of corroboration of the statement of a person when he is being handled roughly by another man in the secret cell?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have said that I quite recognise that it is not easy

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Did the Honourable Member receive any letter from me from the Central Jail, Lucknow, making complaints about the treatment in the police lock-up in Delhi by prisoners who were transferred from the Central Jail, Lucknow?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not remember

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the serious allegations, will the Honourable Member appoint an independent tribunal to inquire into these charges?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have answered that question

Shri Mohon Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Member inquire from the Provincial Government of the United Provinces whether this letter of mine was withheld? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I suggest my Honourable friend may give me the details of the letter and I will then make inquiries

Mr. President: Next question

Sir R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Was the police report corroborated by anybody?

Mr. President: Next question has been called.

PERSONS UNDER DETENTION

55. *Mr. M. R. Masani (on behalf of **Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop**) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) how many detenus are at present detained in the various prisons, and

(b) whether it is a fact that many of them continue to be detained in spite of the fact that the charges against them were withdrawn and that a number of them have been acquitted of the charges on which they were tried?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) The total number of persons in detention on the 1st February 1946 in all prisons was 2,934 Of these only three are persons detained by order of the Central Government

(b) I have not the information required in regard to prisoners detained by orders of the Provincial Governments One person detained by an order passed in a Chief Commissioner's Province was acquitted in a criminal case

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know when the cases of the prisoners of the Central Government were last examined and the nature of the fresh orders that were served on them?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: They are still under examination Speaking from memory, the last extensions of the orders were made in November and December.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that the Government have to inform these prisoners every six months as to why they are being detained?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The provisions are to be found in the Ordinance

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know when their cases are reviewed after subsequent periods of six months, what are the fresh materials which these reviews take into account? Is it their conduct inside the jail, that is taken into account?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: There may or may not be fresh material, but surely the circumstances in India and the areas for which the Central Government are particularly responsible are constantly changing

Seth Govind Das: In view of the fact that there are only three prisoners of the Central Government, will the Central Government instruct the Provincial Governments to release the remaining detenus in their respective provinces?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, Sir

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: When was the case of Mr Nair taken into consideration last? He is a detenue of the Central Government

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot say when the order was issued, but my impression is that it was in November or December. It has been taken into consideration since then

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that he had been a Congressman all along?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: He told me that he had been a Congressman for a long time

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: What is the number of detenus in Bihar?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have not the figures here

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Was not Mr Nair acquitted of the charge brought against him by the Court?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I believe he was given the benefit of doubt on one charge, the charge on which he was acquitted

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: But the Executive Government does not give him the benefit of doubt? What are the grounds on which he is still kept under detention?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Not on precisely the grounds on which he was discharged

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have any new grounds developed after he was incarcerated?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Quite a lot of grounds

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: How long has he been under detention since the acquittal order was passed?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I am afraid I have not the date of that order

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not more than a year?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot say from memory

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: The Honourable Member has just given the figure for the whole of India How is it that he cannot give the figure for Bihar?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have not got the figures for separate provinces I will give the Honourable Member the figures outside the House if he w

I N A. PRISONERS

56. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state

(a) the conditions of food, clothing, reading materials, smoke, soaps, water supply, companionship and other creature comforts which are being allowed to the I N A prisoners,

(b) in how many P O W camps are they being kept and what are they;

(c) what is the present total number of I N.A. prisoners;

(d) whether powers to shoot, to inflict corporal punishments, or to punish them with single-cell imprisonment are given to the jail authorities, and, if so, in how many cases, and in which jails were the I N A. prisoners shot at and how many of them were killed or injured,

(e) whether any complaints were made by these prisoners about their conditions of living, and, if so, what action was taken thereon to relieve their troubles;

(f) whether Government propose to order a public enquiry into the shooting incidents in these camps and also into the conditions subject to which these I N A prisoners are being kept in these P O W. camps?

Mr. P. Mason: (a), (b), (d), (e) and (f) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the debate on Diwan Chaman Lal's adjournment motion which took place in this House on the 30th of last month Officers get Rs 30 per month, V C Os —Rs 11-4-0 and I O Rs —Rs 5-10-0 as subsistence allowances for the purchase of cigarettes and other amenities

(c) Approximately 6,000, as explained a few minutes ago.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know why no information has been given with regard to part (d) whether these powers are given to jail authorities?

Mr. P. Mason: These military I N A prisoners are not kept in jails

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are they kept in camps and if so, are the camp authorities given these powers?

Mr P. Mason: Yes, Sir

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are these powers?

Mr. P. Mason: The camp authorities have exactly the same powers with regard to them as they have in regard to other personnel of the Indian army whose charges are undergoing investigation

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that some of the I N A. detenus are kept in jail?

Mr. P. Mason: Seven men in whom the Honourable Member is particularly interested and who are from Lucknow were not members of I N A , but persons detained under Ordinance No IV of 1944

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the answer to part (e)? Were any complaints made by these prisoners?

Mr. P. Mason: I mentioned several complaints in my speech the other day Whenever complaints have been made they have been investigated, and as far as camps are concerned, I have had no specific complaints which would bear investigation

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the Honourable Member ever visited any of these camps or all these camps at least once and got into touch with these prisoners to find out whether their complaints are genuine or not?

Mr. P. Mason: As I explained the other day, I had been to the Red Fort and I had no time to visit others because my time is fully occupied in preparing answers to questions put by Honourable Members in this House

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will he visit them in future?

Mr. P. Mason: As I said, all my time is spent in answering supplementary questions

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The point is how does he satisfy himself that proper attention is being given to their complaints and necessary satisfaction is being given to these people?

Mr. P. Mason: I am afraid in this matter I have to rely on reports

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Am I to understand that a number of these prisoners to whom I referred are not included in the total number given here?

Mr. P. Mason: I have already answered that question

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Are there other prisoners like those of the prisoners from Lucknow?

Mr. P. Mason: They have all been released except one

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why does not the Government order public enquiry into the shootings and other incidents in these camps?

Mr. P. Mason: I have already been through every instance of shooting which has been alleged I have explained the whole position in my speech. I

think it is hardly proper to explain the whole matter again in answer to questions.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that the Honourable Member constitutes himself into a court of justice? Has he ever served as a District Judge?

Mr. President: Order, order That does not arise out of this question

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Mr. President: Question No 57 Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: The Honourable Member, Mr Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, is absent

Mr. S. Guruswami: May I put that question Sir, on behalf of Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon?

An Honourable Member: Have you been authorised by Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon?

Mr. President: I would invite the attention of the House to Rule 44, (Standing Order 19) which says

"If on a question being called, it is not put or the member in whose name it stands is absent, the President, at the request of any member, may direct that the answer to it be given"

There is no question of any authority being given to another member to put the question It is only a request to be made to the President and usually the President will direct the answer to be read out

The Finance Secretary will give the reply to Question No 57

INCREASE IN ESSENTIAL COMMODITY PRICES

57. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please refer to his reply to my starred question No 212 (a), dated the 14th February, 1945, in which it has been stated that the increase in prices of essential commodities to the extent of 238 per cent over the pre-war rates has been overstated?

(b) What approximately is the rise in the percentage of the following essential commodities over the pre-war rates (i) food stuff, (ii) clothing, and (iii) toilets?

Mr. B C. A. Cook: (a) and (b) According to the index of wholesale prices maintained by the Economic Adviser, the following is the percentage rise in the cost of certain essential commodities over the rates prevailing in August, 1939: on an all-India basis

Food articles 137 per cent up to the quarter ended December 1945

Clothing 168 per cent up to the quarter ended September 1945

Toilet articles There is no all-India index number in respect of toilet articles. Only the figure compiled by the Madras Government in respect of washing soap for the city of Madras is available, and that is given as 160 per cent

Mr. S. Guruswami: May I ask whether the figures include the black market price?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that the Economic Adviser in computing the index number takes the control prices as declared by Government?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: I must ask for notice

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has any effort been made by the Economic Adviser or by his office to ascertain the percentage of total distribution of these various articles here which can be purchased only in black markets?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: I must ask for notice.

DEARNESS AND WAR ALLOWANCES TO NON-GAZETTED STAFF, AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

58. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman (on behalf of **Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon**): (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the percentage rate of the dearness and war allowances sanctioned to the non-gazetted staff in the Audit and Accounts Offices in India getting up to Rs 100 per month and from Rs 101 per month to Rs 200 per month?

(b) Do Government consider that the grant of this increase from 1st January, 1945 in the dearness and war allowances is adequate?

(c) Are Government aware that there is a wide spread resentment and disappointment on this meagre relief? Do Government propose to reconsider the whole position and to revise immediately the present rates of the dearness and war allowances commensurate with the rise in prices of all the necessities of life in the case of the non-gazetted staff? If not, why not?

Mr. B. C A. Cook: (a) A statement showing the percentages of dearness and war allowances admissible to the non-gazetted staff in the Audit and Accounts Offices in India getting pay upto Rs 200 per mensem is laid on the table of the House

(b) and (c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the replies to his starred questions No 213(b) and (c) on 14th February 1945, and 176 (d) on the 8th November 1944 The position is constantly under review

Statement showing the percentages of Dearness and War Allowances admissible to Central Government Servants drawing pay upto to the limit of Rs. 200/ p. m.

Pay	Rate of Dearness Allowance	Percentage rate of pay	War allowance percentage rate of pay.
AREA A			
Below Rs 40 p m. . .	Rs. 20 p m. . .	From about 154 % to 50% of pay.	.
From Rs. 40 to Rs. 100 p m.	Rs 22 p m or 17½ % of pay whichever is greater.	From 55 % to 22 % of pay.	..
From Rs. 101 to Rs. 250 p m.	Do. .	From 22 % to 17½ % of pay.	.
AREA B			
Below Rs. 40 p.m. .	Rs. 16 p m. . .	From about 160 % to 40 % of pay.	..
From Rs. 40 to Rs. 100 p m.	Rs. 18 p m. or 17½ % of pay whichever is greater.	From 45 % to 18 % of pay.	
From Rs. 101 to Rs. 200 p.m.	Do. .	17½ % of pay . .	..
AREA C			
Below Rs. 40 p.m. .	Rs. 14 p.m. . .	From about 100 % to 35% of pay.	..
From Rs. 40 to 100 p.m..	Rs. 16 p.m. or 17½ % of pay whichever is greater.	From 40 % to 17½ % .	.
From Rs. 100 to 150 p.m.	Do. .	17½ % of pay . .	..
From 151 to Rs. 200 p.m. and onwards.	..	.	17½ % of pay

Pandit Govind Malaviya: There are a number of new Members in this House. May I ask the Honourable Member to repeat those answers which were given last year?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: I have them here, Sir, and can read them out if desired.

Mr. President: That will take time

Mr. P J. Griffiths: They are in the records

DEARNESS AND WAR ALLOWANCES TO NON-GAZETTED STAFF, AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

†59. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Has the Honourable the Finance Member received a copy of the resolutions passed at the 21st Session of the All-India Audit and Accounts Offices Conference held at Nagpur on the 14th and 15th April, 1945?

(b) Have Government taken note of the feelings of disappointment and dissatisfaction as expressed in resolutions Nos 2 and 3 relating to the recent meagre relief afforded in the increase of the dearness and war allowances and in the refusal of the revision of the existing scales of pay?

(c) Do Government propose to reconsider the matter in the light of the reasons and argument given in both the above resolutions for the immediate increase in the rate of the dearness and war allowances and to revise the existing scales of pay to the extent demanded in the above two resolutions? If not, why not?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) My Honourable friend did not receive copies of the resolutions referred to The Auditor General of India however received them and duly replied to the points raised

(b) The two resolutions referred to do not relate to the increase in the rates of dearness and war allowances and revision of scales of pay

(c) In view of the answer to part (b), the question does not arise

IMPROVEMENT OF AUDIT AND ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

†60. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Has the Honourable the Finance Member read resolution No 4 passed at the 21st Session of the All-India Audit and Accounts Offices Conference held at Nagpur on the 14th and 15th April, 1945, a copy of which was also sent to him? If so, does he propose to appoint a Post-war planning Committee to improve the system of Audit and Accounting and to ameliorate the condition of living in this country? If not, why not?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: My Honourable friend cannot reconcile the question with the Resolution referred to

LEAVE RESERVE FOR TEMPORARY STAFF, AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

†61. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please refer to his reply to my starred question No 210 of the 14th February, 1945, in which it has been admitted that no leave reserve has been sanctioned for the additional temporary posts in the Audit and Accounts Offices, although the rules permit the recruitment of substitutes for the temporary staff?

(b) Is it a fact that there are at least 40 per cent of men employed purely on temporary basis in all the Audit and Account Offices in India?

(c) Is it also a fact that recruits having requisite qualifications for each cadre are not always available to be appointed to substitute the temporary staff on leave?

(d) In the circumstances stated in (c) above, do Government propose to sanction an additional leave reserve of 12½ per cent for the temporary staff as well to avoid the recurring hardships to permanent men in getting leave at present? If not, why not?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

Mr. B C. A. Cook: (a) and (b) About 54 per cent of the staff in the Indian Audit Department are employed against temporary posts

(c) No

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (c) above

CAPTAIN MOHAN SINGH OF I N A.

62. **Shri Sri Prakasa** (on behalf of **Sardar Mangal Singh**) Will the War Secretary please state

(a) Whether Capt Mohan Singh, founder of the first I N A is under custody, if so, whether he is likely to be tried by a Court Martial;

(b) whether it is a fact that after some time, on account of his differences with the Japanese, he disbanded the first I N A and was imprisoned by the Japanese and also ill-treated by them, and

(c) whether, in view of the special circumstances of his case, Government are prepared to release him forthwith?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Captain Mohan Singh is in custody and I am afraid I cannot yet say whether or not he will be brought before a Court Martial

(b) and (c) Government do not agree that the reasons for the disbandment of the first I N A were as stated by the Honourable Member, and in any case it was during the recruitment period for the first I N A that the worst acts of coercion were committed The extent of Captain Mohan Singh's knowledge of what took place in the concentration camp at Bidadari must be fully investigated

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that he was ill treated by the Japanese? That is part (b) of the question.

Mr. P. Mason: The implication of the question was that he was imprisoned entirely on account of differences of opinion with the Japanese My reply is that we are trying persons only on charges of brutality, and his conduct in this respect must be investigated Since my words are invariably suspect, it might interest the Honourable Member to hear the opinion on this subject of Mr Rash Behari Bose who will be accused by no one of being a tool of Imperialism. Mr Bose was the President of the Council of Action of the Indian Independence League and in a pamphlet which he published himself he made the following statement

"Mr Mohan Singh in his speech made statements which now appear to be misrepresentation of facts because he solemnly gave us to understand that a majority of the Indian army personnel were prepared to join this movement without any threat or force and that they had acclaimed him as their military leader I was horrified at a later date to learn of the atrocities meted out to officers and men of the Indian Army for which the blame actually falls on Captain Mohan Singh Many of our poor brethren were ill treated and humiliated or sent to concentration camps and thus by sheer threat and violence he demoralised the majority of officers and men and compelled them to become volunteers which is against our principle."

I think the Honourable Member would agree that this requires investigation.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Does the Honourable Member agree only with this statement of Mr. Rash Behari Bose or all his other statements as well?

Mr. P. Mason: I never agree with any statement until it is investigated

Sardar Sampuran Singh: What authority the Government has to say that this pamphlet was written by Mr. Bose?

Mr. P. Mason: His name on the cover.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May we know how the Honourable Member got into possession of this document?

Sardar Sampuran Singh: Is he a Court of law?

Mr. P. Mason: This is not a court of law I was only saying that investigation is necessary.

Sardar Sampuran Singh: There must be some legal evidence to prove such documents before action taken on their authority.

Mr. P. Mason: That is why we are investigating

Prof N. G. Ranga: Is that document in the handwriting of Mr Rash Behari Bose?

Mr. P. Mason: This is a printed document which I shall be glad to lay on the table if it is so desired

An Honourable Member: Is the name of the printer and publisher given there?

Mr. P. Mason: Published by the Indian Independence League Headquarters

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How have the Government satisfied themselves that it is not a forged document?

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

DOLLAR POOL

63. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what proposals have been made by the Government of India to His Majesty's Government in regard to the Dollar Pool since the stoppage of hostilities?

(b) What proposals have been received by the Government of India from His Majesty's Government with regard to the Dollar Pool since the stoppage of hostilities?

(c) Are Government in a position to announce their policy in regard to the availability of dollars to India, in view of the very great anxiety entertained on this score throughout the country?

(d) To what extent does the figure of twenty million dollars per year, over and above the normal figure mentioned by the late Finance Member, stand modified by the Anglo-American Agreement and Loan and the declarations connected therewith?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) and (b) As the Honourable Member is aware communications between Governments are confidential, but I would draw his attention to the provisions of the Financial Agreement between the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom dated the 6th December, 1945 and in particular to Section 7 thereof which, if it is ratified, will involve the termination of the foreign exchange arrangements known as the Dollar Pool

(c) Dollars are, as before, made available for essential imports into India

(d) The arrangement explained in paragraph 35 of the Finance Member's Budget Speech for 1945-46, by which an amount of $20,000,000 for the calendar year 1944, and a similar amount for 1945 subject to re-examination of the relevant statistics for that year, were earmarked specifically for India's post-war development, has not been modified by the Anglo-American Loan Agreement or the declarations connected therewith

INDIA'S SHARE IN DOLLAR POOL

64. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the share of India in the Dollar Pool beginning with the year 1939-40 for each year?

(b) How much, if any was used for strictly Indian purposes and how much was appropriated by the United Kingdom?

(c) What was the total of dollars standing to the credit of India in the Dollar Pool on the 31st of December, 1945 (or any earlier available date)?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) The arrangement is that the total dollar earnings of all member countries are surrendered to the Empire Dollar Pool from which each country draws dollars according to its needs No share was, therefore, allotted to India in any year.

(b) In view of the arrangements governing the working of the Dollar Pool, as explained in (a), the question does not arise.

(c) By the very nature of the pooling arrangement no amount can be said to have stood to the credit of India at any particular date.

DEATHS OF LT. MAGHAR SINGH AND LT AJMER SINGH

65. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please state,

(a) the circumstances under which Lt Maghar Singh of the Kapurthala Infantry and Lt Ajmer Singh of 6/1 Punjab Regiment died in the Red Fort, Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that the deaths took place on the 5th November, 1944;

(c) when the next of their kin were informed;

(d) where the bodies were cremated, and who performed the obsequies, and

(e) whether any enquiry was held into the circumstances of their deaths, and what the result of the enquiry was?

Mr. P. Mason: (a), (b) and (e) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my speech on the 30th of last month on Diwan Chaman Lal's Adjournment motion

(c) The 29th of January, 1945

(d) In Delhi Cantonment, under the supervision of Risaldar Balwant Singh.

DEMAND RE REMAINS, ETC., OF LT MAGHAR SINGH

66. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please state

(a) whether any telegram by the widow of Lt Maghar Singh was sent to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief at the time of his visit to Kapurthala State on the 9th December, 1945, demanding the ashes, *Kara* (iron bangle) and other remains to be kept as *souvenirs*,

(b) whether the ashes or other articles demanded by the widow were sent to her, and

(c) whether any reply to her telegram was sent, if not, why not?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir The telegram contained many requests all of which are receiving consideration.

(b) No, Sir, some delay has occurred in tracing these articles as the Subedar-Major responsible for their final disposal has left the service

(c) An acknowledgment has now been sent, but I regret that it was not sent until the Honourable Member brought the matter to notice and I am grateful to him for this

DETENTION OF SJT SATYARANJAN BAKHI

67. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) the period during which Sj Satyaranjan Bakshi, formerly editor of *Forward Liberty*, etc., has been in detention,

(b) the places in which he has been detained and the period of detention in each such place;

(c) his present condition of health setting forth the nature of his ailments and disclosing the approximate time when each such ailments were discovered;

(d) the treatment which has been given to him for the ailments from which he has been suffering,

(e) the medical reports that have been made available to Government from time to time regarding the condition of his health;

(f) whether Government have considered the anxious representations made for his release on grounds of health; and

(g) what the Government attitude at present is with regard to his being released on grounds of health?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Mr. Satyaranjan Bakshi was detained under the orders of the Central Government from the 14th March, 1942 to the 14th January, 1946 I understand that he is at present detained under the orders of the Government of Bengal.

(b) After his arrest in Bengal, he was brought to the Delhi Fort on the 21st March, 1942 and kept there till the 29th June, 1942 when he was transferred to the United Provinces He was there kept first in the Central Prison at Bareilly and later in the Central Prison, Naini From Naini he was transferred to the Presidency Jail, Calcutta, on the 19th November, 1945.

(c) to (g). I can answer only for the period when he was a Central Government prisoner During that time monthly reports of his state of health were received In April-May, 1941 he was for the first time reported to be suffering from occasional palpitation and insomnia and from anaemia. In June he was removed to the Civil Hospital at Allahabad and treated there up to the middle of July when he was discharged. I have no details of the treatment administered. At the request of the Central Government he was examined by a Medical Board who reported on the 26th July 1945 that his condition was not such as to make prognosis grave In December, 1945 after his transfer to Bengal he was again examined by a Medical Board who reported that he was suffering from heart trouble but that his condition was not serious The question of his release on grounds of health is now for the Government of Bengal to decide

EXCISE DUTY ON BETELNUTS

68. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) whether he has received representations from many parts of the country including Malabar pointing out that the excise duty on betelnuts has been a heavy burden on the cultivators and that the cultivators are running the plantations at a heavy loss and consequently cutting down the trees,

(b) that as this duty was introduced purely as a war measure, whether he proposes now to abolish it and thus give relief to the cultivator and

(c) what steps he is taking to prevent the dumping into India of the great quantity of betelnuts that is now lying in Malaya?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Representations have been received to the effect that the trade, instead of passing the excise on to the consumer, has tended to pass it back to the producer; but there has been little suggestion that producers may feel disposed to cut down trees and there is no evidence that this has taken, or is likely to take place

(b) I cannot anticipate my budget proposals, but would point out that the tax was not introduced as a purely war-time measure

(c) The Government is already investigating the position and keeping a watch on the market conditions with a view to taking necessary steps for the safeguarding of the internal market against a sudden fall in prices due to exceptional imports from abroad

RELEASE OF REQUISITIONED ACCOMMODATION IN BOMBAY

69. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) (i) the number of British military personnel, Officers and other ranks, and (ii) the number of civilian non-Indian personnel and displaced persons from countries in Europe and Asia, who came to India as refugees,

(b) the number of such personnel for whom houses and flats have been requisitioned in the Bombay City and suburbs,

(c) the number of houses, requisitioned by Military or Provincial Government authorities in the Bombay City and suburbs which are occupied by the Class of persons in (a) above as on the 1st January, 1946;

(d) when it is proposed to restore the houses back to their owners, and

(e) if he proposes to issue instructions that any remaining persons in such requisitioned houses or flats should be removed to military camps or tents which might be available owing to the end of the war and the repatriation of Italian, German and other prisoners of war from India?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) (i) The number of military personnel, officers and other ranks, in Bombay on the 1st December 1945, was 40,263

(ii) This part of the question should have been addressed to the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department

(b) and (c) It has not been possible in the time at my disposal to ascertain the exact number of British military personnel for whom accommodation was requisitioned in Bombay, but I may inform the Honourable Member that the total number of buildings requisitioned by the Military authorities for purposes in Bombay was 412, of which 25 had been released by the 1st of January and orders for the release of another 40 have issued since.

(d) Derequisitioning is proceeding as speedily as possible and it is anticipated that the majority of the requisitioned buildings will be restored by the end of 1946

(e) Instructions have already been issued that in order to release buildings as soon as possible, the fullest use should be made of suitable alternative military accommodation as it becomes available

OFFICERS UNDER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

70 ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) the total number of officers in the Imperial Secretariat in New Delhi and in all the attached and subordinate offices under their control throughout India as on the 1st January 1946,

(b) how many of them are Europeans and how many of them are Indians,

(c) how many both Europeans and Indians there were on the 1st April 1939,

(d) how many of these Europeans were obtained from England during the war and for what purposes;

(e) how long it is proposed to retain their services in India under Government; and

(f) if he proposes to place on the table a detailed statement showing the pay and allowances and any other benefits paid to each?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The collection of the information desired would be an enormous task, which I should not be justified in inflicting on the many Departments concerned. Some information was collected in 1944 about experts and special officers brought from abroad and appointed since the beginning of the war. I lay on the table a statement containing the information.

Statement showing the number and other particulars of experts and special officers brought from abroad and appointed from time to time in the Departments of the Government of India since the beginning of the war

Serial No.	Name of Department	Number of officers	Qualifications	Post held	Pay	Date of appointment	Period of appointment	Reasons for appointment	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Military Finance Department	1	Officer of the Air Ministry in U. K. with long experience of Air Force establishment work.	Dy. Financial Adviser (Air Force).	.	24-1-'43	.	To strengthen the Military Finance Department in dealing with the rapidly expanding Air Forces in India and to assist the Department in the exercise of the enhanced powers of sanctioning Air establishments conferred by the Air Ministry.	...
2.	Department of E. H. & L.	1	..	Irrigation Adviser to the Government of India.		17-5-'43		..	..
		1	..	Animal Husbandry Commissioner to the Government of India.	.	3-3-'44	.	..	...
		1	..	Director General of Archaeology in India.	..	..	..	..	...
3.	Department of Food.	1	..	Food Adviser, Rs 1,000 (compensatory allowance).			..	..	Reverted to the Ministry of Food on 20-9-'43.
		1	..	Rationing Adviser Rs. 2,800.	..	..	..	.	.

	1	..	Dy. Director of purchase Rs. 1,750 (fixed).	..	..	..	..	Appointed as Dy. Director on 28-10-'41, in the Directorate General of Supply and transferred to Food Deptt. on 1-1-'42.
4. Department of Information and Broadcasting.	1	..	Special officer for work connected with the production of Cinematograph films relating to the war.	£. 1,000/- per annum plus Rs. 700 p.m.	December 1940 to 31-12-'41	..	..	..
	1	..	Chief Engineer, All India Radio	Original Scale of pay 1,650—50—1,850 Scale of pay after extension Rs. 1,900—50—2,100.	Brought before the beginning of the War.	Extention for 5 years from 18-8-1941		In addition a number of persons were imported from China, Burma, Iran and Baghdad for work in connection with the Chinese, Burmese, Thai, Persian and Arabic broadcasts given by All India Radio but they do not seem to fall in the category of Experts and Special Officer.
	1	..	Director of News.	Rs. 1,000—50 + 1,200 O P. £ 30 (original scale) = Rs. 1,650—50 1,850 (Scale after extension).	Ditto	Extension for 5 years from 9-9-1942		
5. Department of Labour	1		Labour Adviser to advise H. M. Labour on labour matter.			December 1942 to June 1943		Returned to U. K.
	1	..	Do.		January, 1944.			..

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		100	..	For imparting training to War Technicians.	..	..	..	..	..
		1	..	Officer on Special Duty.	.		7-2-1942 to 9-8-1942	..	Returned to U. K.
		1	..	Superintending Inspector.	..	..	30-4-'42 to 5-8-43 and 1-9-1943 to 21-9-1943	..	Do.
		1	..	Inspector	..	..	Ditto . .	..	Do.
		1	..	Structural Precautions Adviser.	..	..	1-10-'42 to 1-1-1943	..	Do.
		1	..	Technical Officer (Structural Engineer).	..	..	4-6-'42 to 18-7-1942	..	Services placed at the disposal of the Civil Defence Department.
		1	..	O. S. D. Chief Technical Officer Joint Chief Adviser.	..	..	7-2-'42 to 13-5-43, 14-5-'43 to 7-1-1944	..	Contract being extended from time to time.
		1	..	Essential Services Officer.		3-4-1942	..	..	Do.
		1	..	Inspector		3-4-1942	..	..	Do.
6.	Department of Posts and Air (Civil Aviation Directorate).	1	..	Reserve Pilot Instructor, Pilot Training Scheme.	..	3-6-1941	Up to 2-6-1943	..	Returned to U. K.
		1	..	Engineer, C.A.R.E.	..	..	17-7-1941 to 28-2-1942	..	Services transferred to Air Force Forces.
		1	..	Inspector, C.A.R.E.	..	..	16-5-1941 to 20-10-42	..	Went over to U.P. Govt. Repair Workshop, Cawnpore.
		1	..	Do.	..	..	7-6-1941 to 6-2-1942	..	Went over as Tool Room Foreman at Mathematical Instruments Office, Calcutta.
		1	..	Aircraft Shop Supdt., C.A.R.E.	..	..	11-7-1941 to 3-1-1944	..	Was AAI grade I with effect from 19-1-'42.

	1	..	Inspector, C.A.R.E.	..	..	8-7-1941 to 28-2-1942	..	Now with Messrs. Tata Aircraft Ltd. Was AAI. grade I with effect from 20-2-42. Went over to Tata Aircraft Ltd.
	1	..	Do.	..	..	17-7-1941 to 13-3-1943	..	Transferred to Supply Deptt. with C.A.R.E.
	1	..	Draughtsman C. A.R.E.	..	..	14-8-1941 to 31-12-1941	..	Went over to Tata Aircraft Ltd.
	1	..	Inspector, C.A.R.E.	..	..	21-7-1941 to 20-10-1941	..	Went over to Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., Bangalore.
	1	..	Asstt. Foreman C.A.R.E.	..	..	20-10-1941 to 19-11-1942	..	Went over as Asstt. Manager, U.P. Govt. Workshop, Cawnpore.
	1	..	Supernumerary Officer at Hqrs. from 5-9-'42 & S. T. (Mechanics) from 10-10-1942.	..	5-9-1942	..	..	Went over to Tata Aircraft Ltd.
	1	..	Specialist Instructor, M.T.S.	..	21-4-41	1942. Exact date not readily available.	..	No longer in service.
	1	..	Do.	..	28-2-41	Do.	..	Do.
7. Department of Posts and Air (P. & T. Directorate).	1	..	Deputy Superintendent, Telegraphs Workshops, Calcutta.	..	24-11-42	..		...
8. Central Board of Revenue.	1	..	Excess Profits Tax Adviser to C.B.R.	Rs. 3,250 (on usual contract terms up till 7-7-1945).	..	..	Was Chief Inspector of Taxes under the Board of Inland Revenue in the United Kingdom and had wide experience of Excess Profits Tax legislation in that country.	...

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9.	Railway Department.	24	..	Fire Sub-Officer Grade II.	..	..	..	Fire Sub-Officers from the National Fire Service were recruited from the United Kingdom for employment on Indian Railways. They have been appointed against non-gazetted posts. The persons were obtained through the Civil Defence Department.	
		1	..	Production Engineer.	..	..	..	A representative of M/S Baldwins was appointed to assist in the erection of X-Eagles and to report on the defects of Mac-Arthur's locomotives	Arrived in India in Decr 1945 and returned to America in March, 1944.
		1	..	Locomotive Engineer, Canadian Pacific Railway.	..	—	..	Reassembly of 145 X. Dominion locomotives being shipped from Canada for Indian State Railways.	Period of employment about six months.
10.	Defence Department (Civil Defence Branch).	38	..	—	—	Appointments were for varying periods between the end of 19'41 and beginning of 1944.		—	..

11, Department of War Transport.	1	..	Coal Commissioner	Rs. 5,550 p.m.	27-12-43	One year.	..	..	
	1	..	Movements Planning Officer (Ports and Coastal Shipping).	Rs. 2,000 p.m.	1-3-44	One year.	..	..	
	1	..	A. R. P. Officer, Vizagapatam Port.	Rs. 1,750 p.m.	19-10-43	31-3-44	..	Resigned with effect from 1-4-44.	
	1	..	Fire Officer, Cochin Harbour.	Rs. 600 p.m.	..	..	..	Has since resigned.	
Total .	203								

71. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state.

(a) the present price per ounce of gold and silver in London,

(b) the present price of the same in India (Bombay),

(c) the reason for the difference in price and to whom the difference goes,

(d) whether the Reserve Bank of India is the only authority which can import gold and silver from abroad and sell it to the market in India, and whether it is proposed to allow private imports of bullion direct, and

(e) how far the Reserve Bank of India is guided in their purchase and sale of bullion by the Government of India or other authorities?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) The present price of gold in London is £8-12-3 per ounce and of silver 44d per ounce

(b) The ready price of gold in Bombay on the 30th January, 1946 was Rs 94-4-0 per tola and of silver Rs. 142-14-0 per 100 tolas.

(c) The difference between the prices of gold and silver in India and those in London is accounted for by the fact that there are no free sales of these metals in the United Kingdom and by the various economic factors in India. As there is at present no free movement of gold and silver between India and London, the latter part of this question does not arise

(d) It is not correct to say that the Reserve Bank of India is the only authority which can import gold or silver from abroad The Reserve Bank of India is only the authority for issuing licences for the import of these metals and licences have been issued by that Bank for the import of gold and silver in consultation with Government and in accordance with their policy from time to time It would not be in the public interest to disclose whether and to what extent it is proposed to allow private imports of bullion

(e) The Reserve Bank of India makes no purchases of bullion on its own account The sales of bullion which have been made by it in the past have been either on account of the Government of India or on behalf of the Government of the U K or the Government of the U S A The role of the Reserve Bank of India has been merely that of a selling agent, and its operations have been in accordance with the policy of the authorities on whose behalf the sales were made

WAC's AND WACI's

72. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the War Secretary please state

(a) if his attention has been drawn to a report in the *Hindustan-Times* of the 14th November last, about the behaviour of certain WACs in Barrackpore or some such place near Calcutta, towards the Indian WACIs, a question about which was put and answered in the House of Commons,

(b) the number of European and Anglo-Indian WACs in India as on the 1st January, 1946, and how many of them have been posted in Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay, Madras and other places;

(c) the monthly salary paid to them, and whether it is chargeable to the Indian or British revenues,

(d) the number of Indian WACIs in India, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and other places showing the number of officers and other separately;

(e) the monthly salary paid to the persons in (d) above for officers and others,

(f) if the necessity for continuing the WACs and WACIs in India still exists; if so, what the detailed reasons are;

(g) the reasons for not replacing such WACs and WACIs by the Indian trained Army male personnel from the various Army Training Centres; and

(h) the duties these WACs and WACIs are called upon to perform both during the war and now?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir The matter was investigated and the true facts published in a Press Note which appeared on the 16th December 1945.

(b) The term W. A C is used of an American Corps. It is presumed the Honourable Member means the Auxiliary Territorial Service. These are all

European. There are 31 officers and 89 other ranks. The totals are 80 officers and other ranks in Delhi, 25 in Calcutta, 5 in Jhansi and 10 elsewhere.

(c) A statement showing the rates of pay is laid on the table. The expenditure is not wholly chargeable either to India or to His Majesty's Government. It is allocated between the two Governments in accordance with the cost of the units or formations in which they are employed.

(d) and (e) Statements giving the number of Indian members of the WAC(I) by Commands and certain large Provinces, and the rates of pay admissible to them, are laid on the table.

(f) and (g). The WAC(I) was raised in an attempt to relieve the serious manpower shortage which arose during the war. Although the situation is now not so critical as it was, the volume of work in Commands has not diminished as much as might be expected because of the demobilization, resettlement and the re-organization of the services to suit peace time conditions

An India Army Order is however under issue, calling for volunteer clerks rendered surplus to the requirements of disbanding units, for transfer to the Indian Army Corps of Clerks, with a view to replacing, among others, Auxiliary Territorial Service and WAC(I) personnel serving in clerical appointments.

(h) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement in reply to part (c) showing the rates of pay admissible to A. T. S. Personnel

(i) *OFFICERS*

	Rs.
Senior Controller	900 p. m. plus free board and lodging at a cost not exceeding Rs. 300 p m.
Chief Commander	930 p. m
Senior Commander	720 p m
Junior Commander	500 p. m } inclusive of
Subaltern	395 p m. } Japanese Cam-
2nd/Subaltern	355 p. m. } paign pay.

Staff/additional/charge/corps pay is admissible at 2/3rds of the rates payable to male officers in the same appointment

N.B.—Officers have to pay for their own board, lodging, furniture, etc.

(ii) *AUXILIARIES*

Auxiliaries rates of pay, including Japanese Campaign Pay, vary between Rs. 95 and Rs. 276 p m according to rank and trade group.

2. In addition to the above rates of pay, war service increments are admissible to both officers and auxiliaries on completion of a minimum of 3 years war service.

Statement in reply to part (d)

INDIANS BY COMMANDS (OFFICERS & AUXILIARIES)

	Officers	Auxiliaries
Northern Command	11	312
Southern Command	23	1,140
Eastern Command	11	494
Central Command	36	1,013
W. R I. N.	63	280
AIR WING		866
	144	4,105

	Officers			Auxiliaries		
	Army	Navy	Total	Army	Navy	Total
Bombay	3	29	32	531	80	611
Madras	6	7	13	141	17	158
Calcutta	13	5	18	218	15	233
Delhi	12	14	26	296	28	324
Total	34	55	89	1,186	140	1,326

Statement showing the rates of pay excluding war service increments of members of the WAC (I) in answer to part (e).

(i) *OFFICERS*

	Pay	Servants allowance if in GS terms	Bombay Calcutta Allowance	If employed ex-India Ex Allowance	Jap Camp. Pay	Field Allowance
	Rs	Rs	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Senior Controller . .	980	30	55	50	...	30
Controller . . .	865	30	55	50	...	30
Chief Commander .	575	30	55	50	...	30
Senior Commander .	380	30	35	50	. .	30
Junior Commander . .	220	30	35	40	40	30
Subaltern . . .	175	30	35	40	40	30
2nd/Subaltern . .	150	30	35	40	40	30

Staff/additional/charge/corps pay is admissible at 2/3rd of the rate payable to male officers in the same appointments.

(ii) *AUXILIARIES*

They are enrolled as recruits non-trade at the rate of Rs 65 p m After a period of training extending over one month to four months they are classified as tradeswomen and are then paid according to the rank of the appointment held The rates of pay of tradeswomen vary between Rs 95 and Rs 185 p. m exclusive of war service increments

If employed ex-India they receive ex-partiation allowance at Rs 30 p m and Japanese Campaign pay ranging between Rs 13 and Rs. 26 according to rank of employed in countries to the east of India.

(iii) In addition, both officers and auxiliaries, if no general service terms, which involves liability to serve at any station in India, are provided with free board and lodging at Government expense.

Messing allowance is admissible to local service personnel at the rate of Rs. 1 per diem to officers and Annas 12 per diem to auxiliaries

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Statement in answer to part (h).

List A below shows the trades in which WAC(I) auxiliaries were employed during the war—List B those in which they are now employed

WAC (I) officers were and still are employed in WAC (I) administrative appointments, E R E appointments and on the staff of Army, Navy and RAF formations

E R E appointments include Signals officers, Personal Assistants, Mess Caterers and Mess Secretaries, Officers to run Officers Shops and D I Ds, Assistant to Matrons in I M Hs or B M Hs and certain Education appointments

WACs (A T S) officers in India are employed as staff officers, Intelligence officers, Signals instructors and WAC (I) OCTU/RTC Instructors

A T S other ranks are employed as switchboard operators, storewomen, RAOC, Clerks General Duties, Clerks Signals Intelligence Duties, Medical orderlies and Chiropidists

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List 'A'.

Cipher Clerks
Cipher Operators
Clerks General Duty.
Clerks Provisioning
Clerks Pay & Accounts.
Clerks Others
Confidential Book Correctors.
Dispensers
Drome Teacher Operators
Draughtswomen.
Driver Mechanics
Driver Motor
Electricians
Equipment Assistant
Fleet Mail Clerks.
Issuers
Keyboard Operators.
Kitchen Supervisors.
Laboratory Assts
M T Orderlies.
Messengers
Mess Caterers
Mess Sergeants
Modellers/Photographers.
Operators Special W/T.
Operators Special W/T.
Operators Switchboard
Packers parachute, etc
Plotters/Tellers
Radiographers
Recruits
Stenographers
Storewomen Hospital
Storewomen RAOC/IAOC.
Storewomen unspecified
Non-Trade Tested Women.
Telephonists
Teleprint Operators.
Transfusion Orderlies
Typists
Unspecified.
Censors
Clerks Non Trade Tested
Radio Mechanics.
Storewomen Non-Trade Tested

Last 'E'.

Cipher Clerks.
Cipher Operators.
Clerks General Duty.
Clerks Provisioning
Clerks Pay & Accounts
Clerks Others
Confidential Book Correctors.
Dispensers
Dome Teacher Operators
Draughtswomen.
Driver Mechanics
Driver Motor
Electricians
Equipment Assistant
Fleet Mail Clerks
Issuers
Keyboard Operators.
Kitchen Supervisors
Laboratory Assts.
M I Orderlies.
Masseuses
Mess Caterers.
Mess Sergeants.
Modellers/Photographers
Operators Special W/L
Operators Special W/T
Operators Switchboard
Packers parachute, etc
Plotters/Tellers
Radiographers
Recruits
Stenographers
Storewomen Hospital
Storewomen RAOC/IAOC
Storewomen unspecified
Non Trade Tested Women.
Telephonists
Teleprint Operators
Transfusion Orderlies
Typists
Unspecified

CONVERTIBILITY OF STERLING BALANCES

73. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether the sterling balances are convertible in hard currencies as and when required by India, or whether the Government of India have accepted any limitation on such conversion imposed by His Majesty's Government? If so, what is the limitation, and what is the understanding on this subject?

(b) Have the Reserve Bank of India Board, at any time, represented to Government the desirability of not issuing any further notes and of not using the machinery for the issue of paper currency against sterling accumulating in the United Kingdom? If so, will Government indicate the gist of such representation and place the detailed papers on the table of the House?

(c) Has the Reserve Bank of India, through its Board or Managing Governor, made any representation to the Government of India with regard to the assets of the Reserve Bank accumulating in the United Kingdom? If so, will Government indicate the gist of such representations and place the detailed papers on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) As a voluntary partner in the Empire Dollar Pool, India has reduced its demands on hard currencies to its minimum essential requirements.

(b) and (c) Communications between Government and the Reserve Bank of India are confidential

VOLUME OF STERLING BALANCES

74. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the volume of sterling balances on the nearest date, for which figures are available, of the stoppage of hostilities in the west, and the volume of sterling balances for the last date for which information is available?

(b) How much of these balances belong to the Government of India, and what is the reason for the conversion of the Government of India funds into sterling and their removal into the United Kingdom?

(c) What is the reason for the increase of these balances after the stoppage of hostilities, and what steps have Government taken to prevent the growth of these balances?

(d) Has any proposal been made or received by the Government of India with regard to the repayment of these balances?

(e) Have any negotiations been started, and has any commitment been made by the Government of India in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Rs. 13,94,26,28,000 on the 11th May 1945. Rs. 16,77,43,47,000 on the 25th January 1946

(b) The answer to the first part is none, Sir and therefore, the answer to the second part is also none.

(c) The factors which led to these did not cease with the end of hostilities. The expenditure incurred in India on behalf of His Majesty's Government is being greatly curtailed, as a result partly of the decision to discontinue from 1st April 1946 (except in respect of certain limited and agreed categories of stores) the use of India as a source of supply for His Majesty's Government's demands and partly by the reduction in the strength of the Indian armed forces employed overseas at His Majesty's Government's expense.

(d) and (e) As the Honourable Member is aware, negotiations are pending between the two Governments with a view to discussions as to the treatment of these balances

FORMATION OF MILITARY UNITS OF SWEEPERS FOR SERVICE IN BURMA

75. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to reports in the press about *bhangis* and sweepers being recruited in the Indian Army and sent to Burma for service in Rangoon and other places in Burma as part of regular military units,

(b) if he is aware of reports in the Indian press that requests of the Burma civil authorities for sending Indian sweepers for service in Burma were turned down by the Commonwealth Relations Department of the Government of India,

(c) if it is true that sweepers and other menials have been as a matter of fact, recruited in the Indian Army and sent to Rangoon and other places in Burma for menial work, thus by passing the reported refusal of the Commonwealth Relations Department,

(d) if the facts are as stated in (c) above, whether the Commonwealth Relations Department was consulted before a decision was reached in the War Department, and, if not, why not;

(e) whether the War Department are aware of the deep feeling in this country against sending out Indians as sweepers and menials of foreign countries—in any capacity, military or otherwise, and

(f) if the answer to (e) above is in the affirmative, what steps the War Department propose to take to respect that feeling?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b) No, Sir

(c) and (d) Indian Army units normally have their own sweepers sanctioned on their authorised establishments and these sweepers accompany their units overseas along with other authorised 'followers'. The question of consulting the Commonwealth Relations Department or by-passing the refusal of that Department to send out civilian Indian sweepers for service in Burma does not arise.

(e) and (f) No, Sir, in so far as sending out of Indian sweepers as authorised followers of the Indian Army is concerned The policy regarding sending abroad of Indian sweepers in a civil capacity is the concern of the Commonwealth Relations Department

No case has been brought to my notice of military sweepers being lent to any civilian organisation

COST OF I N A. TRIALS

76. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the War Secretary please state·

(a) the cost of the various I N A trials held in the Delhi Red Fort or elsewhere from the time the decision to try these people was taken;

(b) the cost of counsel for the prosecution and any assistants to such counsel, Army Officers or others, in the various trials,

(c) the cost of bringing witnesses for the prosecution or defence incurred by Government so far, and

(d) the cost to the Indian Exchequer of the various I N A. camps throughout India?

Mr. P. Mason: (a), (b) and (c) The cost of counsel incurred up to and including January 1946 is Rs 20,220 and that of the stenographers Rs. 6,625. The Members of the Court and most of the witnesses were Military persons and almost all were brought by Service means of transport, which was carrying other persons as well The extra cost of the trials on this account was therefore small;

to work out actuarially the proportionate cost would involve a great deal of work and would be of little practical value.

(d) With the exception of the Bahadurgarh camp all the other camps, which are being used for the I N.A , were already in existence. The expenditure on the Bahadurgarh camp together with the expenditure incurred on converting the other camps is estimated at approximately 7 lacs of rupees The question of the incidence of this expenditure is under consideration.

INDIAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN PERSONNEL IN GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

77. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the War Secretary please state: (a) the number of Anglo-Indian personnel of all ranks in the General Head Quarters (i) male, and (ii) female as on the 1st April, 1945 and as on the 1st April, 1939, before the war;

(b) the number of Anglo-Indian steno-typists employed in the General Head Quarters at present, both male and female, and the scale of pay which is given to them,

(c) whether it is a fact that Indian steno-typists with the same technical qualifications get less,

(d) whether it is proposed to replace all Anglo-Indian steno-typists by Indian steno-typists on lesser or equal scales of pay, and if not, why not;

(e) whether there is any reason for preferring Anglo-Indian female steno-typists to Indian steno-typists such as are employed in other Branches of the Secretariat;

(f) whether he is aware of the common impression outside the General Head Quarters that female Anglo-Indian typists are employed on jobs which are not properly those of a steno-typist such as bringing tea to the officers to whom they are attached and such like jobs and that that is the reason why they are preferred to male steno-typists, and

(g) whether he proposes to take steps to see that steno-typists for the General Head Quarters are recruited hereafter on the same terms and conditions as those for other Departments of the Secretariat and by the same authority, and if not, why not?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The number of Anglo-Indian personnel of all ranks (excluding officers) in GHQ, on the 1st of April, 1945 was 74 males and 71 females, and on the 1st of April, 1939, the figures were 9 males and 11 females.

(b) The total number of stenographers at present employed in G H Q is 267, of whom 251 are men—all Indians The following is the composition of the 16 female stenographers·

W A C (I)—13, of whom 7 are Anglo-Indians

Civilians 3 of whom 1 is an Anglo-Indian The 7 Anglo-Indian W A C (I) stenographers get their pay of rank *plus* a short hand allowance, and the Civilian gets paid in the scale of Rs. 125 rising by increments to Rs 300

(c) No, Sir All civilian stenographers are appointed in the same scale of pay, whether male or female, Indian, Anglo-Indian or European

(d) As 7 of the 8 Anglo-Indian stenographers are members of the W A C. (I) they will, undoubtedly, be replaced by Indian male stenographers on the terms and conditions of service applicable to stenographers in all Departments of the Secretariat, as they waste out on being released from the Service But they will not be reduced on racial grounds

(e) As supply will not meet the demand, the question of preference does not arise We are still below establishment by 39 stenographers

(f) This may be the impression outside G.H.Q but the facts do not bear it out.

(g) The general terms and conditions of service are already the same. The normal recruiting authority (Home Department) are unable to meet demands.

DETENTION OF SARDUL SINGH CAVEESHAR

78. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state

(a) the period of detention of Sardul Singh Caveeshar, the place or places in which he has been kept during such detention, and the period spent by him at each such place of detention,

(b) the reasons for such detention;

(c) how many times his case has been considered in connection with the question of release, and when it was last examined;

(d) the result of the examination referred to in (c) above, and

(e) the present state of his health?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Mr Sardul Singh Caveeshar has been in detention since 9th March 1942 He was kept in the Lahore Fort up to the 11th October 1942 and thereafter in the Campbellpur Jail up to the 25th March 1943 when he was transferred to the Jail at Dharamsala.

(b) He was detained in order to prevent him from acting in a manner prejudicial to the Defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order and the efficient prosecution of the war

(c) The six-monthly reviews prescribed by law have been carried out in 1944 and 1945, but his case has been considered at other times also and is under consideration at present

(d) At each of the periodical reviews the decision was to extend the detention order.

(e) The last report received was that his health is satisfactory except for occasional pain in the back

DETENTION OF S. NIRANJAN SINGH TALIB

79. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether Sirdar Niranjan Singh Talib, Editor and Proprietor, Punjabi Daily *Desh Darpan* of Calcutta, was arrested and detained without trial under the orders of the Central Government? What was the reason for his arrest, and where and under what circumstances was he arrested?

(b) Where was he kept during his detention and for how long?

(c) Did he suffer from any ailments during his detention? If so, what are the details of the ailments?

(d) During the period of his detention, did Sardar Niranjan Singh Talib make any representations to the Central Government about his medical treatment, and did he ever complain about the places (jails) where he was kept? If so, what are the details of the same?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Mr Niranjan Singh Talib was arrested in the Punjab under the orders of the Punjab Government on the 6th February, 1942, and was detained under the orders of the Central Government on the 11th February, 1942, with a view to preventing him from acting in a manner prejudicial to the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order and the efficient prosecution of the war

(b) He was detained up to the 11th October 1945 and was kept at the following places

Lahore Fort—from 6th February, 1942, to 20th June, 1942, then in various jails in the Punjab till 11th October, 1945

(c) He suffered from the following ailments during his detention:

Chronic rhinitis, chronic gingivitis, caries of teeth; tartar deposit; dysentery; liver trouble, anaemia, dyspepsia; enlarged prostate; malaria; Hay fever.

(d) On the 28th February 1944 while he was undergoing treatment at Lahore, he informed the Central Government that he considered Montgomery and Jhang to be unsuitable places for his detention. He did not complain about his medical treatment.

RESTRICTIONS ON S. NIRANJAN SINGH TALIB

80. *Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether Sardar Niranjan Singh Talib has been released? If so, when? Are there any restrictions on his movements now? If so, what are the restrictions?

(b) Are Government aware that he is still ailing and that he is experiencing great difficulty in getting proper medical aid on account of the restrictions put on him?

(c) What happened to his Printing Press and Daily Paper after his arrest?

(d) Do Government pay any allowance to him or his family after his release when all the sources of his income have by the action of Government been dried up and he has been restricted in a place where he has no means to earn for himself and his family?

(e) What objection, if any, do Government have to remove this restriction and allow him to resume his previous profession?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Mr Niranjan Singh Talib was released on the 11th October, 1945 The Central Government have placed no restrictions on his movements but I am informed that he has been externed from British India by the Government of the Punjab.

(b) I have no information except that he has been permitted by the Government of the Punjab to reside temporarily at Amritsar since the 26th November, 1945

(c) I am informed that his paper ceased publication from the 2nd May 1942 and that in 1944 his brother-in-law came to Calcutta, sold the press and left with the sale proceeds for delivery to Mr. Niranjan Singh Talib's wife

(d) The Government of India do not pay allowances to persons who are no longer detained or restricted under their orders

(e) Does not arise

APPEALS FROM V C.O.'s re DEDUCTIONS

81. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the non-enforcement, in the case of Indian personnel, of the statutory provision contained in the proviso to the Royal Warrant dated 22nd February 1902 requiring that in every case in which a deduction has been made, and if the soldier so desires, the case shall be forwarded for the orders of the Secretary of State for India in Council, and is he aware that in no case the request of the soldier or V C.O to forward the case to the Secretary of State has been acceded to?

(b) Is he aware that almost every case of total stoppage or of partial deduction or reduction has been disposed of by the Controller of Military Accounts (Pensions) and by General Headquarters without dealing with the issues raised by a complainant?

(c) Is he aware that appeals have been returned with reference to the previous disposal of the case as distinct from the fresh issues raised in the appeals or fresh law relied upon by the complainant?

(d) What action does he propose to take in cases referred to in (a), (b) and (c) above?

Mr. P. Mason: (a), (b), (c) and (d) No, Sir, I am not aware of any cases of the nature referred to, but if the Honourable Member will give me specific instances, I will have them examined.

PROFESSIONAL TAX IN NASIRABAD CANTONMENT

82. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Is the War Secretary aware that the Cantonment Board authorities of Nasirabad have imposed a heavy Professional Tax on the residents?

(b) Is it a fact that such tax does not exist anywhere else in India?

(c) Is it also a fact that in levying this tax a single person or firm is being taxed under more than one heads which are over-lapping?

(d) Are Government aware that there is a strong opposition to this tax by the residents of Nasirabad? Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of instructing the Cantonment authorities to stop collection of this tax?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). As in many other cantonments, a professional tax has been in force in the Nasirabad Cantonment since the year 1910. The rates prevailing at Nasirabad are not heavy compared with those in other Cantonments.

(c) Where any person carries on more than one trade, profession or calling, he pays the full tax for the one which carries the highest rate and half the tax in respect of the remaining trades, professions or calling, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 per annum.

(d) The proposal was published locally, inviting objections under section 62(1) of the Cantonments Act, 1924, but none was received within the statutory period of thirty days prescribed by that section. The necessary notification imposing the tax was therefore published Certain representations against the imposition of the tax were, however, subsequently received Government do not intend to instruct the Cantonment Board to stop the collection of this tax.

RELIEF TO CERTAIN INDIAN ARMY MEN PROSECUTED IN CRIMINAL COURTS

83. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please refer to his reply to starred question No. 489 of the 22nd February, 1945, declaring that any person who joins His Majesty's Indian Forces and becomes subject to Military law does not thereby cease to be subject to civil law of India and state the difference between the privilege that governed (i) Havaldar Gauri Shankar Sarma, referred to in that question to become triable by a civil court for an offence alleged to have been committed in respect of military stores from the Central Ordnance Depot, Delhi, while on "Active Service" and while such stores were alleged to be taken out under colour of Military duty and (ii) the personnel of the Indian National Army who for purely civil offences alleged to have been committed whole prisoners of war are being tried by court martial?

(b) Does he propose to compensate such persons as in (a) who on discharge or without discharge have been tried by a criminal court as distinct from Court Martial?

(c) Does he propose to remit their pay in view of their agreement for the "duration of war" read with section 43 (h) (iii) Indian Army Act and section 44 (6) of the Army Act?

(d) Does he propose any other relief on the ground that the statutory obligation to pay them during the war has not been honoured and the Indian soldier has been put to the unnecessary cost of prosecution in a criminal court as distinct from a prosecution by Court Martial for a civil offence on "Active Service"?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) By joining His Majesty's Forces a man subjects himself to an additional legal code superimposed on his normal rights and liabilities as a citizen If, therefore, he commits a civil offence, he becomes liable to the ordinary process of criminal law; Section 41 of the Indian Army Act, however, provides that military personnel who commit a civil offence shall also be deemed to have committed a military offence and may be tried by a Court Martial It is therefore a matter of discretion whether a man is tried by Civil or Military law

(b) I am unable to see, Sir, how any question of compensation arises.

(c) No question of remission of pay can arise since the persons concerned have been duly discharged in accordance with the provisions of the law

(d) As regards the first part of the question—No, Sir As regards the second part—a person subject to Military Law who is tried in a Civil Court for a Civil offence is in exactly the same position as any other citizen.

HINDI POLICY OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

84. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that there is great discontent in the Hindi speaking public of this country over the present

language policy pursued by the All-India Radio in broadcasting in the so-called Hindustani, which is highly Persianised?

(b) Is the Honourable Member prepared to modify this policy to meet the demand of the Hindi speaking public as voiced and put forth by the All-India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) I am aware that there is discontent on this subject among some sections of the Hindi-speaking public.

(b) I recently summoned a small expert committee to advise me on this subject consisting of (1) Dr Zakir Hussain, (2) Dr Tara Chand, (3) Nawab Siddiq Ali Khan, M L A , and (4) Honourable Rai Bahadur Sri Narayan Mehta.

I would refer the Honourable Member to the Press Note summarising the recommendations of this committee which I have accepted A copy of this Press Note is placed on the table of the House.

Press Note

At the invitation of the Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari, Member for Information & Broadcasting, a Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha, Member, Council of State, Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, M L A (Central), Dr Zakir Hussain and Dr Tarachand, met on the 26th of January 1946 to advise the Government of India on the following questions

(i) Should the Hindustani news of All-India Radio continue to be broadcast in a common language or should it be broadcast separately in Hindi and Urdu

(ii) If in a common language, what steps should be taken for the selection of vocabulary which should be satisfactory and generally acceptable?

(iii) What programme composition would achieve a fair representation of Hindi and of Urdu in spoken-word items other than news?

All the previous discussions on the Hindi-Urdu question which had taken place under official auspices, including the debates in the Legislature, were placed before the Committee and the difficulties that had arisen on account of the rival demands of the various sections of the people regarding the language of the Hindustani news bulletins and the composition of the Hindustani programmes of All-India Radio were brought to their notice.

2 So far as the language of the Hindustani news bulletins is concerned, it was pointed out to the Committee that during the last ten years or so the linguistic style of the Hindustani news bulletins had been fluctuating either from purely practical considerations or in response to the varying demands of the public The language of these bulletins was, therefore, to be regarded as an experiment which had been in progress for some years, and the question for consideration now was whether this experiment should be continued and, if so, on what lines In this connection, All-India Radio had compiled a Lexicon of about 8,000 English words commonly used in news, together with their Hindi and Urdu equivalents and suggestions for simple Hindustani synonyms, with the intention of circulating it to experts in the country for their comments on the simple synonyms suggested The Lexicon was placed on the table

3 After a full discussion, the Committee unanimously came to the conclusion that the use of Hindustani as the common language for news bulletins though not free from difficulties should not be given up without a further attempt at arriving at a generally acceptable vocabulary For this purpose the Committee recommended that a Standing Advisory Committee should be set up to advise the Director General, All India Radio, on the choice of vocabulary for Hindustani and that the All India Radio Lexicon, which was a very valuable and constructive compilation, should be circulated to suitable experts in the country for comments which, when received, should also be considered by the Standing Advisory Committee suggested above

4 One member, while agreeing with these recommendations, proposed that of the four Hindustani bulletins broadcast daily, two should be given in Hindustani, one in Urdu and one in Hindi This was not agreed to by the rest of the Committee as they feared that the existence of an Urdu and a Hindi bulletin side by side with bulletins in a common language would tend to defeat the purpose of the latter reducing its chances of success as an experiment and the Urdu and Hindi bulletins, because of their separatist character, would tend to become literary and would, therefore, be less widely intelligible

5 For spoken-word programmes other than news, such as talks, plays, poetry recitations, etc, the Committee unanimously recommended that items in Hindi and items in Urdu should continue to be broadcast in spoken-word programmes other than news as it was most desirable to help and not to hinder the literary development of the two languages and that the question of fair and adequate representation, as between the two, should be referred to the Standing Advisory Committee mentioned above, as the matter would require detailed examination.

6 As for the composition of the Standing Advisory body, the Committee recommended that it should consist of experts representating the Anjuman-e-Taraqqi-e-Urdu, the All India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan and the Hindustani Prachar Sabha, with temporary members to be co-opted by Director General, All India Radio as and when the questions coming up before the Committee required it

7 It was also suggested that as an auxiliary to the Lucknow Station of All India Radio, a studio should be installed at Allahabad where spoken-word items could be arranged for inclusion in the programmes of the Lucknow Station as it was felt that, pending the installation of more radio stations, this arrangement would enable the Lucknow Station to utilise the talent in the Eastern part of the United Provinces, more adequately than it could at present, in view of the long distance involved

8 The Government of India have decided to accept all the recommendations of the Committee Steps are being taken to set up a Standing Advisory Committee on the lines suggested by the Committee, to circulate the All India Radio Lexicon to suitable experts in the country for eliciting opinion and to install an auxiliary studio in Allahabad as early as possible

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BROADCASTING STATIONS FOR CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

85. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether the Government of India have approved of the installation of a Broadcasting Station at Nagpur? If so, does the Honourable Member realise that the claims of the Hindi speaking population of the Central Provinces and Berar have been overlooked in spite of the fact that this population is far greater in number than the Marathi speaking population of the said Provinces, including Berar?

(b) In view of these facts, do Government propose to cancel the permission and direct that the Broadcasting Station in question be constructed at Jubbulpore or any other suitable place in Mahakoshal?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) The Government of India have not yet taken a decision

(b) The question does not arise

EXTENSION OF SERVICE TO MR BOKHARI OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

86. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state if Government have given a further extension to Mr Bokhari, Director General, All India Radio, and are they prepared to consider revision of their decision?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: First part—Yes Second part—No

DIRECT BROAD GAUGE RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN NAGPUR AND JUBBULPORE

87. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that the two biggest and foremost towns in the Central Provinces and Berar, *i e*, Nagpur and Jubbulpore are not connected by shortest Railway route?

(b) Is the Honourable Member, prepared to consider the claims of the said Province in post-war planning and development to connect these towns by a broad gauge Railway, passing through Seoni as was contemplated and planned after the first world war of 1914 and is recommended by a committee set up by the Central Provinces Government which is carried on under Section 93 Government of India Act?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: The reply will be given by the Honourable Member for War Transport on the 22nd February, 1946

TRAFFIC CONTROL BY MILITARY POLICE IN CENTRAL PROVINCES CITIES

88. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the reasons why the traffic control duties have been taken over by the Military Police at various places and particularly at Jubbulpore, Nagpur, Raipur, Bilaspur and Seoni in my Province?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware of the discontent prevailing in the areas on account of the annoyance, hardships and humiliation caused to the vehicular traffic due to the enforcement of this measure?

(c) What does the word locality mean in the notification issued in this connection?

(d) Is the Honourable Member prepared to exempt the civilian traffic from the operation of the order and limit the authority of the Military Police over Military and Military Engineering Service traffic only?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (d) I would refer the Honourable Member to my speech in this House on the 4th February 1946, on his adjournment motion on the subject

(b) No Sir No complaints have been received by the local authorities either the Civil or Military

(c) The notification was issued by the Provincial Government, as I have not seen a copy of it I am unable to comment on the meaning of the word "locality" used in it

RECRUITMENT TO INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE AND INDIAN POLICE

89. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a comprehensive statement regarding the future recruitment to the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police, particularly indicating the arrangements that may have been adopted as a result of consultations on this subject between the Secretary of State and the Governor General in Council on certain proposals of the former referred to by Sir Richard Tottenham in reply to a short notice question asked in this House on the subject on the 9th April 1945?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I can give the information orally The consultations in question referred to recruitment to vacancies in the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police reserved for men with war service The Recruitment Regulations and details of conditions of service are contained in the pamphlet 'Civil Appointments in India and Burma' which was published on 1st June 1945, a copy is in the Library of the Legislature The Secretary of State has since decided that the reservation of vacancies in favour of men with war service should cease with the vacancies which accrued in 1945

Recruitment to these war-reserved vacancies has begun but will take some time to complete owing to the large number of candidates

ACCOUNTS IRREGULARITIES *re* DENIAL MEASURES IN BENGAL

90. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to refer to the debate that took place on the report of the Public Accounts Committee in the Legislative Assembly on the 8th February, 1945, with reference to certain grave accounts irregularities connected with Denial measures in Bengal on which the Auditor-General had made strong comments, and make a statement whether any comprehensive report has been received from the Bengal Government on this subject since the said debate took place?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to place on the table all reports that may have been received by Government from the Government of Bengal and Audit authorities on this subject, subsequent to the 8th February 1945?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to refer to starred question No. 697 of the 7th March, 1945, and the reply thereto, and state the final result of the local audits on this subject referred to in the reply to part (a) of the said question?

(d) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table a summary of the final accounts referred to in the reply to part (d) of the said question?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) and (b) In pursuance of the recommendation made by the Public Accounts Committee in their Report on the accounts for 1942-43, the Auditor General presented to the Committee at its last session a comprehensive report on the expenditure on the 'Denial Policy' and other similar measures in Bengal This report, which is printed as Appendix X of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of 1943-44, has been accepted by the Bengal Government as a fair presentation

of the facts. In addition, the Government of Bengal presented a comprehensive report on this expenditure to the Government of India in June 1945. The view taken by the Public Accounts Committee of this matter will be found in paragraph 11 of its Report and paragraphs 115 to 117 of its Proceedings

(c) The facts brought to the notice of the Auditor-General as a result of the local audits conducted in Bengal were taken cognizance of in the Auditor-General's Memorandum referred to above

(d) I have applied to the Bengal Government for these accounts and I will lay a summary of them on the table when they are received

PROGRESS *re* POST-WAR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

91. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to make a statement indicating the progress made by the different Committees and the Industrial Panels concerned with the question of post-war industrial development, and has any detailed plan yet been adopted by Government with regard to the establishment of any new industry, or expansion of any existing industry, as a result of the activities of the said Committees and Panels?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: In answer to the first part of the question, I lay a statement on the table of the House

The answer to the second part of the question is that while some plans are near completion none except the one for the expansion of the Cement Industry has yet been finalised

* *Statement showing the progress made by Industrial Panels*

1 Cotton Textiles.	The Planning Sub-Committee (Textiles) of the Textile Control Board, which has functioned as the Panel for drawing up a plan for the development of the Cotton Textile Industry, has submitted its report which has been communicated to Provincial Governments for their comments
2. Non-Ferrous Metal Industry. 3 Sugar, Alcohol and Food Yeast 4 Iron and Steel (Major)	Meetings of representatives of Provincial Governments and major Indian States and their Industries Committees will be held this month to discuss draft reports embodying the provisional conclusions of the Panels
5 Heavy Chemicals 6 Electro-Chemicals 7 Rayon & Artificial Silk	These Panels have completed their deliberations and the drafting of the reports has been taken up
8 Paper, Pulp and Wood Pulp 9 Plastics and Celluloid 10 Leather 11 Glass 12 Refractories and Ceramics 13 Ready made Clothing 14 Hosiery 15 Wool 16 Fine Chemicals, Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	These Panels have nearly completed their deliberations and the draftang of the reports will be taken up shortly
17 Silk 18 Coir, Rope, Cordage, etc 19 Scientific Instruments	The deliberations of these Panels are in progress
20 Soaps & Oils, 21 Paints & Varnishes	The factual data to be placed before the Panels have been collected.
22 Industrial Plant and Machinery 23 Prime Movers	Questionnaires have been issued to manufacturers and consumers as well as Industrial and Trade Associations and replies are being collated
24 Automobiles and Tractors 25 Electrical Machinery and Equipment 26 Machine Tools 27 Ship-Building and Marine Engineering	These Panels have held preliminary meetings and factual data are being collected

28	Light Engineering Industries	Factual data are being collected.
29	Iron & Steel (Minor) .	Regional Sub-committees have been formed as this Panel deals with six industries which will be run partly as cottage industries, partly as small-scale and partly as large-scale industries Questionnaires have also been issued to various important firms, etc., and on receipt of their replies, the Panel will examine the data and visit important factories in the country

IMPORTATION OF CONSUMER GOODS *vis a vis* POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT

92. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to refer to the second paragraph of his reply to part (c) of starred question No 123 of the 10th February 1945, and make a statement of the result of the consideration stated to have been given by his Department to the repercussions of the policy of importation of consumer goods on post-war development in respect of the different individual industries that may be affected thereby?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the notification on Open General Licence and to a press note dated the 22nd January 1946, issued by the Commerce Department, copies of which are laid on the table of the House Articles not covered by these notifications are subject to import control Before deciding which articles should be covered by Open General Licence and which subject to import control, careful consideration is given to the effect of the decision on the development of indigenous industry.

Press Note

IMPORT CONTROL AS AID TO INDUSTRIAL EFFORT
SCOPE OF OPEN GENERAL LICENCE EXTENDED
NOT TO INCLUDING COMPETING GOODS NOW

With a view to aiding the industrial effort of the country, a new Open General Licence has been published in a Gazette of India, Extraordinary,* dated January, 22, 1946, which extends decontrol of Imports to a number of important industrial requirements and makes it applicable to goods not only from the U K but also from most other parts of the Empire Inclusion of further items is under consideration, but it is not at present intended to relax control over imports of goods which are subject to special procurement programmes (such as foodstuffs) or which are produced or manufactured in India in appreciable quantities

Among the new items included in the Open General Licence are ball, roller and taper bearings, electrical instruments and accessories, chemicals in bulk (with some important exceptions), woollen yarn, printing and lithographic material, hosiery needles, optical, scientific and surgical instruments, moulding powders and metallic ores

The new Open General Licence replaces the existing Open General Licence No VII, which was originally issued in March 1945 and expanded in October 1945 and which made it unnecessary for importers to obtain import licences for a wide range of consumer goods from the U K, mainly falling in Part IV of the Import Trade Control Schedule The scope of the revised Open General Licence has been widened so as to include various classes of industrial requirements falling in Parts II and V of the Schedule, and it has been made applicable to imports not only from the United Kingdom, but also from any part of His Majesty's Dominions (excluding Canada and Newfoundland) any British Protectorate or Protected State and any territory in respect of which a mandate is being exercised by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom or in a Dominion It will however, only cover imports of goods produced or manufactured in those territories

Commerce Department;

New Delhi, January 21, 1946

RECONDITIONING OF BOATS REMOVED UNDER 'DENIAL POLICY' IN BENGAL

93. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the War Secretary be pleased to refer to starred question No 368 of the 19th February, 1945, regarding the construction or reconditioning of boats removed from certain areas of Bengal under 'Denial Policy' and restoration thereof to the persons concerned, and supply the information that was promised in reply thereto, bringing such information up-to-date?

*Not printed in the Debates, copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The total number of boats constructed and reconditioned is 2,000 and 4,288, respectively.

Information in respect of the last part of the question is not yet available

(b) The expenditure on reconditioning the boats which is approximately Rs 14,09,000, is debitable to "64-Miscellaneous connected with the war-expenditure on denial measures"

(c) It is impossible at this distance of time to obtain accurate figures of the persons who actually lost employment. The total amount paid upto-date on account of value of boats, compensation for loss of earnings and other incidental charges is Rs 1,24,81,000, but the proportion of this amount directly attributable to compensation is not readily ascertainable

BURMA GOVERNMENT SERVANTS EMPLOYED UNDER GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

94. *Raizada Hans Raj: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state

(a) whether it is a fact that those evacuees who were the servants of the Government of Burma are not eligible for employment in India under the Government in preference to Indians,

(b) whether any such evacuees have been employed in offices and organisations under the Central Government particularly the General Headquarters and the Medical Directorate, and

(c) what steps, if any, have been taken to repatriate the Burma Government servants, if they are not eligible for appointments under the Government in this country and if they are blocking the legitimate promotions of the inhabitants of this country?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) No particular orders were passed about servants of the Government of Burma The position is that British subjects of Indian descent evacuated from any country within the Commonwealth were made eligible for appointment under the Central Government

(b) Some evacuated Burma Government servants were employed on a temporary *ad hoc* basis owing to the shortage of staff Information as to the total number so employed under the Central Government is not readily available, but only nine such persons were employed in General Headquarters and the Medical Directorate

(c) The Government of Burma are themselves taking steps to repatriate their servants

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ARECA-NUT CULTIVATION IN MALABAR AND SOUTH KANARA

9. Sri A. Karunakara Menon: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state.

(a) the total area of areca-nut cultivation in the two Districts of Malabar and South Kanara;

(b) the rate of excise duty collected from the above districts;

(c) the total amount collected as excise duty for the years 1944-45 and 1945-46 from the two districts;

(d) the average extent of holding in each district;

(e) whether Government have made an enquiry about the cost of cultivating an acre of areca-nut garden in Malabar and South Kanara, if so, what it is; and

(f) whether the system of flow irrigation or lift irrigation is prevalent in the Malabar District?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a), (c) and (d)

Districts	Area under areca-nut cultivation (a) (Acres)	Excise duty collected, 1944-45 (c) Rs.	1945-46 (Upto December 1945) Rs.	Average extent of holdings (d) (Acres)
South Kanara . . .	12,038	17,06,938	10,26,948	1 38
Malabar . .	61,535	14,37,436	11,72,124	0 50

(b) 2 annas per lb

(e) No, but a marketing survey is being carried out

(f) Both lift and flow irrigation are practised in the Malaba. District

MARKETING OF ARECA-NUTS IN MALABAR AND SOUTH KANARA

10. Sri A. Karunakara Menon: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) whether any steps have been taken to facilitate the marketing of areca-nuts in the two Districts of Malabar and South Kanara, and

(b) whether any scientific research was undertaken at any time to benefit the growers?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) A complete survey of the betelnut industry has already begun with a view to organising the marketing of betelnut in order to secure the maximum benefit to the growers

(b) A report has been prepared on the subject of the diseases of areca-nuts and the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research will consider this

IMPORTS OF ARECA-NUTS

11. Sri A. Karunakara Menon: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state

(a) the extent of imports of areca-nuts into India and the home production in normal years,

(b) the rate of duty levied on the imports, and

(c) what relation the excise duty in India bears to the import duty on areca-nuts per lb ?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) The average pre-war imports of areca-nuts into India amounted to 1 7 millions cwts During the war imports declined to an average of 1,50,000 cwts

It is exceedingly difficult to form an accurate estimate of normal home production but the average probably lies in the neighbourhood of 3 million cwts

(b)

Description	Tariff value per cwt	Rate of Duty: Standard, i e, from foreign countries	Rate of Duty: From British Colonies other than Burma	Rate of Duty: From Burma	Effective rate of Duty: From foreign countries	Effective rate of Duty: From British Colonies other than Burma	Effective rate of Duty: From Burma
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.				Rs. per cwt.	Rs. per cwt	Rs. per cwt.
Betelnuts (huskod):							
Whole from Goa .	50	54% *ad valorem*	...	.	27 0		...
Whole from Ceylon	53	...	45% *ad valorem*	20% *ad valorem*	..	23·9	...
Split from Ceylon:							
(a) Mature .	40	...	...	...	...	18 0	...
(b) Immature	60	..	...	...		27·0	..
All other sorts	40	...	..	...	21·6	18 0	...

(c) Import duty varies with different kinds and qualities of nuts. Speaking generally, it is higher than the excise duty by from 54 per cent to 98 per cent. in the case of foreign nuts, and from 29 per cent. to 93 per cent. in the case of nuts from a British Colony other than Burma Imports from Burma are *non-existent or trifling*

DETENTION OF S. NIRANJAN SINGH TALIB

12. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state when and why Sirdar Niranjan Singh Talib, Editor and proprietor of the Punjabi Daily *Desh-Darpan* of Calcutta was arrested and how long he was kept in detention?

(b) What are the places where he was kept while he was in such detention, giving the period of each such place of detention?

(c) What was his weight at the time of arrest, and what was his weight when he was released?

(d) What are the ailments from which he suffered, and what was the treatment that he obtained?

(e) What are the complaints that he made regarding his medical arrangements and regarding the unsuitability of the places where he was kept in detention so far as medical facilities are concerned?

(f) What has happened to his paper and the printing press?

(g) Have any restrictions been imposed upon him since his release from detention? If so, what is the nature of such restrictions and the reason for the imposition of such restrictions?

(h) Have Government considered the question of granting him allowances for the period after his release upto now?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Mr Niranjan Singh Talib was arrested on the 6th February 1942 and was detained by order of the Central Government on the 11th February 1942 with a view to preventing him from acting in a manner prejudicial to the defence of British India, the public safety, the maintenance of public order and the efficient prosecution of the war He was released on the 11th October, 1945

(b) He was kept in the Lahore Fort from the 6th February 1942 to the 20th June 1942, in the Central Jail, Montgomery, from the 21st June 1942 to the 20th December 1942, in the Central Jail, Rawalpindi, from the 21st December 1942 to the 12th May 1943, in the District Jail, Jhang, from the 13th May 1943 to the 16th October 1943; in the Central Jail, Lahore, from the 17th October 1943 to the 21st June 1944, in the District Jail, Jhang, from the 22nd June 1944 to the 13th October, 1944, in the Central Jail, Rawalpindi, from the 14th October 1944 to the 7th December 1944, and in the New Sub-Jail, Gujrat, from the 8th December 1944 to the 11th October 1945

(c) His weight at the time of arrest was 154 lbs and at the time of release 120 lbs

(d) The various ailments from which he suffered from time to time during the period of his detention are

Chronic rhinitis, chronic gingivitis, caries of teeth, tartar deposit, dysentery; liver trouble, anaemia, dyspepsia, enlarged prostate, malaria, hay fever

He was treated in the jail hospital for ordinary ailments and by experts in the Mayo Hospital and the Punjab Dental Hospital at Lahore for chronic troubles.

(e) His complaints were that:

(i) the allopathic treatment had proved ineffective in his case;

(ii) the climate of Jhang was unsuitable for his health; and

(iii) adequate arrangements for his medical treatment did not exist at Gujrat.

(f) I am informed that his paper ceased publication from the 2nd of May 1942 An unsuccessful attempt was made in September, 1942 to revive its publication. Subsequently Mr Niranjan Singh Talib's brother-in-law came to Calcutta in 1944, sold the press and left with the sale proceeds for delivery to Mr Niranjan Singh Talib's wife.

(g) The Government of India have imposed no restrictions upon Mr Niranjan Singh Talib since his release I am informed that the Punjab Government have externed him from British India on the 12th October 1945 but have allowed him to reside temporarily at Amritsar since the 26th November, 1945.

(h) No

IMPORTED MEN IN CERTAIN OFFICES OF AJMER-MERWARA

13. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Home Member please lay on the table a statement showing appointments given to persons imported from provinces outside Ajmer-Merwara in the Departments of Price Control, Rationing, Law and Enforcement Education and Area Rationing in Ajmer-Merwara during 1940 to 1945? Will Government explain why in each case the appointment was given to an outsider in preference to local talent?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I lay on the table a statement giving the information asked for

Men from outside the Province are appointed only when suitably qualified local candidates are not available.

LIST OF PERSONS RECRUITED FROM OUTSIDE IN AJMER-MERWARA DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1940 to 1945

No.	No of outsiders appointed.	Province from which recruited	Posts to which recruited	Remarks
			EDUCATION DEPARTMENT	
			1940.	
1	1	United Provinces . .	Agriculture teacher, Govt Secondary School, Bhinai.	
2	1	"	Manual Training Teacher, Govt Secondary School, Sawar.	
3	1	Delhi . . .	Manual Training Teacher, Govt Secondary School, Pisangan.	
4	1	United Provinces .	Assistant Mistress, Govt Normal School for Women, Ajmer.	
5	1	Kotah State . . .	Headmistress, Govt Pry Sch Chousla	
			1941	
6	1	United Provinces . . .	Agriculture Teacher, Govt Secon Sch, Sardhna.	
7	1	"	Manual Training Teacher, Govt Secon Sch, Masuda.	
8	1	Kotah State . . .	Assistant Mistress, Govt Pry Sch, Deoli	
9	2	"	Headmistresses, Govt Pry Schs, Bandarwara & Para.	
			1942.	
10	1	Jodhpur State . . .	Headmistress, Govt Central Girls High Sch., Ajmer	
11	2	United Provinces . . .	Agriculture Teachers, Govt Secon. Schs, Srinagar & Jaha.	
			1943.	
12	1	Kotah State	Headmistress, Govt Pry. Sch., Ghantiali.	
			1944	
13	1	Jaipur State	Agriculture Teacher, Govt Secon Sch, Jaha.	
14	1	Delhi	Headmistress, Govt Normal School for Women, Ajmer.	
15	1	Bengal	Assistant Lecturer, Govt College, Ajmer	
			1945	
16	1	United Provinces . . .	Demonstrator, Govt College, Ajmer.	
17	1	Central India . . .	"	
18	1	United Provinces . . .	Assistant Mistress, Govt. Central Girls High School, Ajmer,	

1944.

1	1	United Provinces	Assistant Director of Civil Supplies, A./M.
2	1	Tonk State	Inspectress, Civil Supplies.
3	1	Jaipur State	Inspector, Civil Supplies
4	1	United Provinces	Inspector, Hoarding & Profiteering.

1945.

5	1	Tonk State	Sub-Inspector, Civil Supplies.

RATIONING DEPARTMENT, AJMER-MERWARA

1944

1	1	Bombay	Town Rationing Officer, Ajmer
2	1	United Provinces	Dy. Town Rationing Officer, (Storage and Issue), Ajmer.
3	1	"	Ward Officer.
4	1	Central Provinces	Ward Officer
5	1	Delhi	Statistical Officer.
6	1	Kishangarh State	Godown Keeper.
7	1	Bharatpur State	Inspector Rationing
8	1	United Provinces	" "
9	1	Punjab	" "
10	1	Kathiawar	Upper Division Clerk
11	1	United Provinces	" " "
12	2	Dacca (Bengal)	Lower Division Clerks.
13	1	Punjab	" " "

1945.

14	1	Dacca (Bengal)	Inspector Rationing
15	1	United Provinces	Assistant Manager, Godowns
16	1	Central India	Upper Division Clerk.
17	1	Punjab	Lower Division Clerk.
18	1	Tonk State	" " "
19	1	Baroda	" " "
20	3	United Provinces	Lower Division Clerks.

LAW AND ENFORCEMENT BRANCH

1945.

1	1	United Provinces	Inspector.

AREA RATIONING AUTHORITY DEPARTMENT

1945

1	1	United Provinces	Area Rationing Authority.
2	1	Punjab	Lower Division Clerk.

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POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION OFFICER, AJMER-MERWARA

14. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Is the Honourable the Home Member satisfied that the gentleman who has been appointed Post-War Reconstruction Officer for Ajmer-Merwara possesses the special qualifications necessary for the highly technical work of Post War Reconstruction?

(b) Will Government state whether a highly qualified person could not have been secured on the salary that is being given to the present incumbent, and why the appointment was not made through the agency of the Federal Public Service Commission?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) The Government are satisfied that the officer appointed is suitably qualified for what is an administrative and not a technical post

(b) Efforts were made but without success to obtain a suitably qualified officer before the present incumbent was recalled from another post The appointment of this officer did not require consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FOR AJMER-MERWARA

15. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Is the Honourable the Home Member aware of the widely-felt complaint of the public in Ajmer-Merwara against favouritism and nepotism in the matter of appointments to Government Service?

(b) Have Government ever considered the possibility and advantages of establishing a representative Public Service Commission in Ajmer-Merwara for recruiting to Provincial Services, so as to provide full facilities for local talent? If not, do Government propose to take up the question now?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Government are not aware of the existence of any such feeling.

(b) The number of appointments to be made is too small to justify the establishment of a separate Public Service Commission for Ajmer-Merwara Nor does the Government of India Act, 1935, contemplate the establishment of separate Public Service Commissions for Chief Commissioners' Province.

NEWSPRINT QUOTAS FOR NEWSPAPERS

16. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please lay on the table a statement showing (i) the newsprint quota given to papers newly started after 1942, (ii) the newsprint quota given to newspapers that suspended publication in 1942 but reappeared subsequently, and (iii) the names of newspapers to whom newsprint quota was refused?

(b) Are Government aware that newsprint quota was refused to the *Rajasthan Kesari* of Ahmedabad which suspended publication in 1942? If so, will Government state the reasons for such refusal and will Government now see that it is given the required quota?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: This question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies.

SUPERSESSION OF CANTONMENT BOARD, NASIRABAD

17. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Is the War Secretary aware that the Cantonment Board at Nasirabad has been superseded on account of War and all the powers are placed in the hands of the Executive Officer?

(b) Is it a fact that a representation signed by a number of the citizens of Nasirabad has been addressed to the Secretary, Government of India, Defence Department complaining against the high handedness of the Executive Officer?

(c) Now that the War is over, are Government contemplating restoration of the elected Cantonment Board? If so, when?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The constitution of the Cantonment Board, Nasirabad, has been varied in accordance with section 14 (1) of the Cantonments Act, 1924 The Board now consists of the Officer Commanding the Station and

two nominated members. The Executive Officer is the Secretary of the Cantonment Board.

(b) Yes, Sir. On enquiry the allegations were not substantiated.

(c) Yes, Sir, we expect to hold elections before the autumn

WATER SCARCITY IN NASIRABAD CANTONMENT

18. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Is the War Secretary aware of the acute scarcity of water in Nasirabad and the great difficulties that are being experienced by the residents of the Cantonment area to get sufficient water for their daily use?

(b) Is it a fact that most of the water of the Nasirabad Water Supply is taken for the use of the Military stationed there and the residents are doled out only a very small portion?

(c) Do Government propose to take steps to relieve the residents of Nasirabad by ensuring an adequate supply of water for them before the hot season starts?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir The supply has to be supplemented by well water both for Civilians and the Military.

(b) The supply of water is restricted for the military as well as the civil population, although the former have priority

(c) Measures for improving the supply of water are already under the consideration of the local authorities Substantial improvement in the supply situation in the near future will, however, be difficult, as the rainfall on which the water supply in the Cantonment depends has been below average recently

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Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Sir, before you take up other business, may I draw your attention to the fact that there are a very large number of questions down for answer but we have been able to get through only a small number and for the replies to the others we do not know what they are I do not know when they are going to be replied or if they are replied to at all

12 NOON

Mr President: I see the difficulty But I might just suggest that a number of questions which are put down as starred questions might as well go as unstarred ones that is one way of doing it Then, members themselves are giving the dates That is another And except in the case of questions which are of importance, the supplementaries may be shortened That is the only way of getting through the list

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: May I also suggest that as in some of the Provincial Assemblies, the answers to these questions may be placed on the table of the members a few minutes before the meeting, so that they may be gone through, and the supplementaries may be regulated according to the needs of the day

Mr. President: I might inform the Honourable Member that I was myself thinking of this procedure which was being followed in the Bombay Assembly (*An Honourable Member* In Madras also) There, the questions were circulated the previous day and the answers were placed on the table of the members about an hour before the question hour, and the Honourable Member putting the question used to say "Question No so and so," and the Honourable Minister would reply "As printed" Then supplementaries began But this is a matter in which, I do not think, I can exercise my discretion If the House so desires, then it is principally for them to devise some ways and means I have suggested one way and I do not know whether it is acceptable to the House Anyway the matter will be considered later on.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

APPLICATION FOR DOLLAR EXCHANGE

Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) What are the instructions of the Honourable the Finance Member to the Reserve Bank of India in dealing with applications for dollars?

(b) On what basis is priority given as between (i) consumer goods, (ii) capital goods, (iii) travelling expenses, (iv) study expenses, and (v) expenses in connection with American technical advisers brought to this country?

(c) What is the percentage of rejections in such applications made?

(d) Is it a fact that applications are held up pending for months at a time, and businessmen and industrialists approaching the Reserve Bank for dollar exchange for legitimate purposes are kept hanging?

(e) Will Government state their policy on this question generally and give an assurance that the position will be made easier hereafter?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) and (b) Dollar exchange is granted only if (i) the expenditure of dollars is essential in the national interests and (ii) subject to certain exceptions, the goods, services or other facilities to be purchased are not available in the sterling area. As all applications which fulfil these two conditions are granted the question of priorities between various classes of expenditure does not arise

(c) I regret it is not possible to ascertain this information without a disproportionate expenditure of time and labour

(d) Not as a general rule Individual applications might have been subjected to delay at times on account of the necessity for obtaining fuller information

(e) The policy has been stated in answer to part (a). the easing of the position will depend on the increasing availability of dollars

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know, with regard to those articles or services which could not be secured in sterling areas, when applications are made by various people, what is the method of sorting out those applications? Are any preferences or priorities given and is any discrimination made or have Government fixed any particular proportion by provinces or by trade or in certain other ways?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: There is no discrimination as between class and class Obviously this is a question of judgment in individual cases as to whether, in the judgment of the department or the province concerned, it is essential to obtain, in the interests of general policy, the articles sought to be obtained in the hard currency area

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is this judgment exercised by the Reserve Bank authorities or is it exercised by any section of the Honourable Finance Member's Department here?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It is not exercised solely by the Finance Department The Commerce Department, the Planning and Development, the Industries and Civil Supplies Departments or the Supply Department will be consulted according to the commodities sought to be imported

CHECKING UP OF DECLARATION AND CASH OF SCHEDULED BANKS

Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether, in connection with Ordinance No II, dated the 12th January, 1946, the Reserve Bank of India checked up the declarations of all the Scheduled Banks and their branches?

(b) Is it a fact that the Reserve Bank used discrimination against Indian Banks by checking up their declarations and cash, but did not take such action with regard to (i) Exchange Banks, and (ii) the Imperial Bank of India?

(c) What was the object of such checking up, and what was the object of such discrimination?

(d) Have any discrepancies been found between the declared cash and the actual cash? If so, in the case of which banks?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) and (b) I understand that the Reserve Bank of India, Bombay, received numerous returns from scheduled banks and other banks established all over the country and it has not been possible to check up all such returns with the figures shown in the books of the banks Under the orders of the Government of India instructions were, however, issued by the Reserve Bank of India to their Managers to inspect at their centres the books of all banks whose declared balances exceeded Rs 10 lakhs and others where they had reasons to believe that the returns

might not have been prepared in conformity with the requirements of the Ordinance. No discrimination in this regard was made between the Indian Banks and the Exchange Banks. In fact several Exchange Banks were inspected in Bombay and other centres. The Imperial Bank of India were exempted from this inspection being the statutory agents of the Reserve Bank of India.

(c) The object of checking up the returns was to ensure that the requirements of the Ordinance had been duly complied with and no means were employed to circumvent the provisions of the Ordinance.

(d) From the reports received so far by the Reserve Bank of India from its offices I understand that no discrepancies have been detected between the notes declared by banks and those shown in their books though it was found that in certain cases the balances of high denomination notes as on the 11th January 1946 were unusually high as compared to their normal holdings. These cases are being examined by the Reserve Bank and will be reported to the Central Government in due course

Mr. Manu Subedar: This limit of ten lakhs which was fixed is an arbitrary limit May I know whether in effect a very much smaller number of exchange banks got inspected under this arbitrary limit?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have no particular information about the proportion of banks compared to the total number of banks. The limit was not rigidly applied

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

Point of Order re Admissibility of Adjournment Motions of Absentee Members

Mr President: We have now to deal with the adjournment motions The first one stands in the name of Diwan Chaman Lall, about the imminence of a general strike in the Posts and Telegraphs Department in pursuance of the decisions taken by certain unions

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General) We have reached only No 80 so far, Sir.

Mr. President: No 82 was discussed last time

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural). There is a similar notice given by me, which is coming later on so this may be held over and we will move the other one

Mr. President: As the Honourable Member, Diwan Chaman Lall, is not present, this motion goes A point of order was raised as to whether leave can be granted for moving an adjournment motion if the member giving notice is absent

When a motion of adjournment standing in the name of Sardar Mangal Singh was called on on 30th January 1946, the Honourable Member was not present and a point of order was raised as to whether the motion could be taken up for grant of leave, notwithstanding the absence of the Member who had tabled the adjournment motion I had then stated that I would consider the point and give my ruling The same point was again raised on 4th February 1946 in connection with a similar motion standing in the name of Pandit Govind Malaviya.

It was argued, on the wording of Standing Orders 21 and 23, that the Member's presence was not necessary at the stage of grant of leave, though it was necessary at the time the adjournment motion was actually to be moved in the House The opposite view was also urged upon the said Standing Orders read with Standing Order 22

The decision turns upon a proper interpretation of Standing Orders 21, 22 and 23 Standing Order 21 lays down the time of asking leave for motion of adjournment It does not specifically mention as to who is to ask the leave, but Standing Order 22 makes it clear that the person who asks for leave must be the Member who has given notice of the motion and no other.

[Mr. President]

Standing Orders 21, 22 and 23 all deal with the subject of adjournment motions and the various stages thereof. They have to be read together as they deal with one entire subject which is divided for the sake of clarity into three parts The first stage in the House is the time of asking leave and that is provided for by Standing Order 21. Standing Order 22 provides the condition precedent on which leave to make a motion can be asked for in the House It states that the Member asking for leave must leave with the Secretary a written statement of the matter proposed to be discussed Therefore, though Standing Order 21 does not mention as to who is to ask the leave, it is clear from Standing Order 22 that the only person who can ask for leave is the person who has left with the Secretary a written statement of the matter proposed to be discussed Some further conditions in this respect are laid down by Rule 11 (2), but they are not relevant for the present purpose Standing Orders 21 and 22 thus make it clear that the Member who has left with the Secretary a written statement on the matter can alone ask for leave

Standing Order 21 is peremptory and says that leave "must be asked for" and then follows Standing Order 23 which gives the procedure to be followed Obviously, this is the procedure after leave is asked for The Member, therefore, must be present at the time of asking the leave as also at the time of grant or refusal of leave Standing Order 23 makes it very clear It mentions the words "the member" at two places If Standing Order 23 had stood by itself, without Standing Order 21 and 22, it could possibly be argued, as was done, that the words "the member" occuring for the first time may or may not be the Member who had given notice but the matter is clarified by the last sentence of Standing Order 23 which says

"If less than twenty five members rise, the President shall inform the Member that he has not the leave of the Assembly"

When and where is the President to inform the Member, if he were absent from the House? Could it be contended that a duty is cast upon the President to find out the whereabouts of the absent Member and inform him about the refusal of leave at the place where the Member is? How is the President to discharge this duty if the Member was absent? Obviously, therefore, it means that Standing Order 23 contemplates that the Member is present in the House when the President reads the statement of the motion to the Assembly and asks whether he has the leave of the Assembly to move the adjournment The position is made crystal clear by Standing Order 22 which recognizes no other Member but the Member who gave notice as competent to ask for leave and by Standing Order 21 which makes it compulsory to ask for leave

In the light of what I have said above, it becomes unnecessary to consider the analogy of questions or of resolutions As the analogies were raised, it may, however, be not out of place to mention that in the case of questions, answers can be given even when the Member is absent, at the request of any other Member (*vide* Standing Order 19), and in the case of resolutions, they can be moved if the absent Member has given written authority to another Member to move the resolution (*vide* Standing Order 61)

Absence of any such provision enabling absent Member to authorize any other Member to ask for leave to move an adjournment motion as in the case of ordinary resolutions as also the absence of any provision authorizing the President to put the question of leave to the House in the absence of the Member, on the analogy of the President's discretion to direct an answer to a question as provided for by Standing Order 19, also go to show that leave for an adjournment motion cannot be asked for by any person other than the Member who has given notice of the same and that, that Member and that Member alone has to remain present and ask for leave

The reason for this difference in respect of questions and resolutions on the one hand and adjournment motions on the other is also very clear An adjournment motion is not part of the business of the House for the day, but is a method of introducing a new matter, outside the order of the day, on the

ground of the urgency and importance of the matter sought to be introduced. It would, therefore, be naturally expected that the Member seeking such deviation must remain present not only in token of the urgency and importance of the matter but also to ask for leave and explain to the House, if necessary, the importance and urgency of the same.

In my opinion, therefore, it is clear that leave for an adjournment motion cannot be asked for by any Member other than the Member who has given notice of the motion

Apart from what I have said before, I find that the practice in the House of Commons is the same Under their Standing Order No 8 it is the Member who submits to the Speaker in advance the terms in writing of the motion, and who is to rise to obtain the leave of the House

It was stated during the course of arguments that it was the practice of this House to grant leave even if the Member who gives notice was absent and that the motion for leave need not be made by that Member I do not find any support for such practice in the previous records of decisions from the Chair

It is, however, possible to visualize circumstances in which a Member who has given notice of a motion for adjournment may not be able to remain present to ask for leave Such cases will of course occur rarely and under exceptional circumstances If the House so desire, it may amend the Standing Orders and provide that a Member giving notice of an adjournment motion may be permitted to authorize another Member to ask for leave on his behalf, but till such amendment is made, the procedure will be as ruled above by me

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REFUSAL OF LEAVE TO EMPLOYEES IN CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO PROCEED TO SIMLA TO CAST VOTES IN THE PUNJAB ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion (No 84) is in the name of Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang who wishes to adjourn the business of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely,

"The refusal of the Government of India in its Departments of Labour, Education and Finance and the General Headquarters to grant leave to its employees who are recorded as Simla voters for the Punjab Legislative Assembly for proceeding to Simla to cast their votes in the Punjab Legislative Assembly elections which are to commence on the 1st of February 1946"

I should like to know the position

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab Muhammadan) I gave notice of my intention to move this adjournment motion on news appearing to that effect in the papers and later on I discussed this subject with the Honourable the Home Member He gave me certain particulars which showed that any applications that had been made to the Departments concerned for leave to proceed to Simla to vote had been granted and there had been none which had been refused So on that assurance of the Honourable the Home Member I decided not to press this matter

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PROSECUTION OF PERSONS IN PUNJAB UNDER SECTION 196, CR P CODE

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion (No. 85) is in the name of Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi who wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely,

"The failure of the Government of India in not taking action against the orders issued by the Government of the Punjab empowering District Magistrates, under Section 196 of the Criminal Procedure Code to sanction prosecution of persons invoking divine displeasure if their votes in the coming elections were not cast to a certain manner thereby interfering with the religious belief of Muslims guaranteed to them in the proclamation of Queen Victoria in 1858"

This has been disallowed by the Governor General.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I want to say just one word We have heard during the last three or four days, or rather during the last week or 10 days over and over again that the Governor General has disallowed this or that motion. May I know whether the Governor General, before disallowing these motions consults you in any way?

Mr. President: Consults the Chair? It is entirely his province There is no consultation There cannot be.

Mr M. Asaf Ali: It is entirely your province, Sir, even if it is disallowed to allow the House to discuss it.

Mr. President: I am afraid the whole constitution will have to be revised and new rules will have to be framed.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am throwing out a suggestion

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) Is it necessary for the Governor General to state reasons for his refusal?

Mr. President: The reason is that this matter is not the primary concern of this House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is that stated?

Mr President: Yes.

STRIKE OF STUDENTS' OF DELHI POLYTECHNIC

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion (No 86) is in the name of Diwan Chaman Lall who wishes to discuss a matter of urgent public importance of recent origin, namely:

"The strike of 758 students of the Delhi Polytechnic"

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (Dharbhanga *cum* Saran Non-Muhammadan). Before giving your ruling, I wish to say that I had a talk with the Leader of the House May I request either of these members to make a statement on this before you give your ruling

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: If I may remind you that when this motion came up last I think a notice of it was given by Sardar Mangal Singh—some discussion ensued and Sir John Sargent made a statement and my honourable friend, Sri Prakasa said that negotiations were going on between Sir John Sargent and himself and that Mr Sri Prakasa himself was negotiating on behalf of the Polytechnic Institute and it was suggested that in view of the delicate nature of these negotiations it would be better if the adjournment motion was held over, and it was postponed pending the negotiations that were going on We should like to know what has happened to these negotiations before we can say one thing or another about the subject

Mr. President: I will just correct a slight misstatement in what the Honourable Member has said We had before the House the motion, I believe No 70, standing in the name of the Honourable Member, Sardar Mangal Singh Then it was that I remarked that a similar motion is also coming later on and we held over No 70 just with a view to see that, by any discussion in this House a position is not created which would interfere with a peaceful settlement of the situation That is how it was held over

Mr Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce) May I bring to your notice that on my prompting my friend Chaman Lall got up and you said you would permit either party to move this motion

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The point is that Sardar Mangal Singh's motion, after having been admitted, was held over to await the result of these negotiations. The motion still stands It still stands and it should be called up at 4 o'clock unless we know something about the result of the negotiations which may satisfy the House that the result of the negotiations is reasonable

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): I suggest, Sir, that if the records are searched . .

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is committing a slight mistake. The motion was not admitted The question for leave came up I read the

motion Before admitting it, this point of postponing it in the interests of a settlement arose and therefore the whole matter was held over. One thing could be said that if that matter was held over by common consensus of opinion in the House or by the Chair, it would not be fair to the Honourable Sardar Mangal Singh that it should not be again postponed till such time as he is able to remain present in the House. I do not find him in the House today.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sardar Mangal Singh could not anticipate the coming up of this motion today, and as you have suggested, it would be perfectly fair if this motion was held over for say, another day, pending a report of the result of these negotiations We do not know what has happened in the meantime

Mr. President: What is it, that Mr Sinha wants to say?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I have given notice of a similar motion

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I may respectfully say that you have just ruled that if an Honourable Member is not in his place the adjournment motion will not be moved Neither of the two members is in his place. There is however another motion by Mr Satya Narayan Sinha on the same subject which will come up later.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I object to what the Leader of the House has said for the reason that according to your ruling a member who gives notice of an adjournment motion—and mind you Sir, this ruling has been given today—may or may not be in the House at the time its admissibility is being considered The original position was different when you suggested that this particular motion should be held over, pending the discussions that were going on between Sir John Sargent and Sri Prakasa We must know something about the result of these negotiations before the question of the adjournment motion can come up again.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) You have also said that the special circumstances of each case will be taken into consideration These are special circumstances here which must be considered.

Mr. President: My ruling is very clear on the point If a Member is absent no other can ask for leave to move the adjournment motion. That is very clear.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: From today!

Mr President: From today And if I have come to the conclusion today, it should be retrospective also in application But that is a different matter. The real point of difficulty which I feel, on account of the absence of Mangal Singh is, that, on the day that he was present to ask for leave, he was induced into a course of conduct of postponing the taking up of the consideration of that motion on the assumption that it would be taken up along with this motion and I suggested the course of postponement just to give some time to see that the negotiations proceeded peacefully without the interference of any heat or arguments in the debate. Sardar Mangal Singh could not expect that his motion would come up today. So the only course which I would suggest to the House (and of course with the agreement of all sides of the House) is that we take it up at a later date.

As regards the suggestion of the Honourable the Leader of the House, I may point out to him another difficulty which may arise According to the previous rulings in this House, if this motion is not taken up now, it will be urged that the urgency of the matter has ceased by lapse of time.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: My suggestion would be to take up Mr Satya Narayan Sinha's adjournment motion in priority to the others, which stand higher on the list. We are prepared to deal with the matter here and now.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division Non-Muhammadan Rural). I rise on a point of order, Sir. You have observed that your ruling may have retrospective effect. I agree that even if it has retrospective effect, it will

[Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal]
not prejudicially affect Sardar Mangal Singh's present motion, because I admit . . . . . .

Mr. President: Order, order The Honourable Member is not saying anything new He is merely repeating what I have been saying

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: The question of the leave of the House does not arise, because of some negotiations between the parties That, Sir, is perfectly in order The question is whether it should be discussed today at 4 P M or whether by consent of all the parties the consideration of urgency should be waived and the matter taken up later

Mr. President: There is no use entering into all these technicalities Here is a suggestion from the Honourable the Leader of the House, that he is prepared to give priority to Mr Satya Narayan Sinha's motion on the same subject (which comes later on) and that it may be taken up today

Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury (Bengal Landholders) Sir, there is another standing in the name of my friend Mr Gadgil

Mr. President: Practically the subject matter is the same So by agreement of the House then

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, in regard to the question of priority, it is very kind of the Leader of the House to agree to give priority to this particular motion but I am only thinking of other members who have given notice of their adjournment motion and they may consider their subjects to be more urgent and important than this particular subject Therefore I should not like a new precedent to be created It will, in these circumstances, be by far the best to let this motion come up in due course In the meantime negotiations can continue Sir John Sargent will then have time to come to some decision and we shall know where we stand

Mr President: The House has practically agreed that this subject should be discussed that is how I think It is now a question of procedure, as to whether we discuss it now or later But I do see the difficulty which is pointed out by the Honourable Member, Mr Asaf Ali, that we should not give priorities It is a difficulty which we will have to consider

Shri Sri Prakasa: There is an additional danger, Sir At that time it may be said by Government that the notice was given long after the urgency had arisen

Mr. President: I think the better course would be to take up the original motion of Sardar Mangal Singh That would be the best solution of the whole difficulty Another additional advantage would be some more time will be gained to complete the negotiations This course will not interfere with the question of urgency The only argument that can be advanced is that the urgency has ceased

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government will not advance that argument We are only too anxious to keep to the rules on the one hand and on the other to accommodate the views of the House

Mr President: For the present we keep over these motions Sardar Mangal Singh's, Mr Dewan Chaman Lall's and Mr Sinha's These motions are practically speaking the same Sardar Mangal Singh's motion is kept over

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official) Till when?

Mr. President: Till we are able to dispose off all the other motions It is an equitable solution and the Honourable Member himself has created this exception. Any way, we keep that motion over and the other one (No 86) also has to be kept over

EMPLOYMENT OF NON-INDIAN W A C

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion is No 87 in the name of Mr. Ayyangar with reference to

"The continued employment even after many months of cessation of hostilities of Non-Indian W A C at the cost of the Indian Exchequer"

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India Nominated Official) Sir, I am not quite clear as to what exactly the Honourable Member has in mind I think he is under some slight misapprehension on this subject, partly due to the wording of his motion and also to various questions on this subject which he has asked to which I was unable to reply just now I think, perhaps, I shall just explain the position in full

He refers to a corps, the W A C , which he distinguishes from another corps, apparently the W A C I The W A C is actually a purely American corps and there is no corps under the British or Indian governments with those initials I think, however, that the Honourable Member may be referring to the A T S , that is the Auxiliary Territorial Service, which is the British women's army service If that is his intention, the answer is that the numbers of the A T S in India have always been extremely low At the moment there are 120, altogether, other ranks and officers The corps was started considerably earlier than the W A C I It had a good three years' start and therefore we drew on the A T S to some extent for officers to help us to train the W A C I and for certain other ranks in specialised appointments The number, as I say, is small If, on the other hand, by non-Indian W A C the Honourable Member refers to the European and Anglo-Indian members of the W A C I , they are of course in exactly the same position as Indian members of the corps and no distinction is made between them from start to finish If that is what the Honourable Member is referring to, his point is really met by the press note which we issued on the 30th of last month announcing that the entire corps is to be disbanded It is to be finally disbanded, we hope, early in 1947, which means that it will be substantially reduced during the current year These reductions will take place not on a racial basis but on a basis of appointments, and appointments will be reduced as they can be filled by other means or abolished The corps will entirely vanish in the course of the next 16 months I submit therefore, Sir, that the matter is not one of urgent public importance

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I do not want to press my motion

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Mr. President: The next adjournment motion is in the name of Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, about the failure of the Government of India in not removing the restrictions after the cessation of hostilities placed on the export of Indian hides and skins and permitting the Governments of U K. and U S A. to purchase at uneconomic prices fixed by them

I see the Honourable Member is not here

Then there is the motion by Seth Govind Das to discuss the deposition of the Maharaja of Rewa.

The Governor General withholds his consent to this

PROPOSED EVACUATION OF VILLAGES IN THE PROSECUTION OF THE DAMODAR SCHEME

Mr. President: Then there is the motion of Mr Ram Narayan Singh, about the proposed and forced evacuation of thousands of people of hundreds of villages of the Hazaribagh, Manbhum and Santhal Parganas districts of Bihar from their homes and hearths in the process of the prosecution of the Damodar Scheme I should like to know what exactly the Honourable Member means by this motion

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan) Sir, land acquisition proceedings are going on in some of the districts. In the process of the prosecution of the Damodar Scheme, several villages are going to be occupied by the Government and the people are about to be asked to evacuate those areas.

Mr. President: May I know when the scheme was started and how far it has proceeded?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): I would like to submit that at this stage there is absolutely nothing to be discussed. Government has no doubt under contemplation putting certain dams on the Damodar River, which flows through Bihar and Bengal, but with regard to the specific questions raised in this adjournment motion, which speaks of forced evacuation, all I have to say is this that we are at a very very preliminary stage we are merely making an inquiry as to how much land would be submerged by the enclosure of this water, what would be the area that would be affected, etc., and we are trying to see how many persons will have to be evacuated, the nature of their holdings and what rights they have There is really nothing specific, no action has been taken by government at this stage which could be the subject matter of discussion, and what I would like to say is this that I hope when the government has come to some definite conclusion in this matter I shall be able to circulate a paper to the House containing the conclusions of government and members can then raise the matter for discussion in any way they like

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: My information is that the land acquisition proceedings are going on in the Hazaribagh district and they are asking people to go away

Mr President: Is the Honourable Member sure that those proceedings are in respect of this very scheme?

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Yes

Mr. President: But it appears that the Government has done nothing so far

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Government are merely acquiring some land for the purpose of having access roads

Mr. President: In connection with this scheme?

The Honourable Dr. B R. Ambedkar: Yes they have only served notices in order to prepare some access roads No question of evacuation has arisen at this stage . . . .

Mr. President: The acquisition is for the purposes of collection of data?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: There is no question of acquisition at this stage at all No doubt if government decide to construct certain dams on the Damodar River, certain approach roads must be made for that purpose, and for that purpose they have served notices on a few people in order to acquire small strips of land for the purpose of making roads As to the specific question raised in the adjournment motion regarding forced evacuation of thousands of people in hundreds of villages in the Hazaribagh district and Manbhum and Sonthal Parganas, from their homes, it certainly does not arise at this stage because government has no idea as to what will happen, if I may say so It is very very preliminary.

Mr. President: The difficulty I am feeling about this is that, if Government have decided that the dams should be put up and if they are taking steps initially for approach roads, what does it matter whether they have been able to ascertain or not as to how many people will have to be evacuated, because the dam will be an established fact?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: No, Sir; we are still consulting consultants from outside to help us as to what correct decision we should take. I submit it is very preliminary I can make no statement to the House at all.

Mr. President: What I want to know is, have the government decided that the dams should be put up?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is their project—it is not a final project as yet.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I understand that it will come up before the House?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is under examination We have not yet got the financial sanction for it

Mr. President: The position seems to be that it is in a very initial stage

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Then the question may arise as to whether even when the scheme is not finally adopted and is only in the stage of investigation, the government can be justified in acquiring so much land merely for the purpose of making roads for investigation with the result that so many people are asked to evacuate

Mr. President: The quantum of land to be acquired is not mentioned They say it is for approach roads As I understand the position, it is for the purpose of enabling the Government to investigate the matter further

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I do not know the facts I take the facts from what has been said by the Honourable Member who has given notice, and, I should also say that projects of dams in the very nature of things are not bad They are beneficial projects But I am only dealing with the question which is before you, that, the Honourable Member who has given notice has stated that a number of people are going to be ejected and the project has not even been decided upon Is that therefore not a matter which the House might be allowed to take up?

Mr. President: What the Honourable Member says or believes does not seem to be the fact that appears from the statement made by the Honourable Member for Government. The scheme is still to commence they have decided nothing yet, they are going on with preliminary investigations; and for the purpose of these investigations they are having certain approach roads they have not yet decided where the dams have to be put in and they may abandon the whole idea even!

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: In view of the statement made by the Honourable Member, I do not like to press the motion now

Mr. President: Very Well Then there is the motion of Pandit Balkrishna Sharma the Honourable Member is absent from the House, and the subject seems also to have ceased to be urgent as I read in the morning papers that Mr Chatterji has given up his fast

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE WORKING CAPITAL OF U. N O.

Mr. President: Then there is one more motion of Mr Manu Subedar, about the failure of Government of India to protest against the fixing of India's contribution towards the working capital of the U N O at 4 8 per cent of the whole, or one million dollars, by the Organisation's financial experts, as reported in the *Hindustan Times* evening edition of 2nd February and the *Statesman* of the 3rd February 1946

Mr. Manu Subedar: If there is a certain kind of assurance coming from government I will not press my motion May I explain the position?

Mr. President: Yes

Mr. Manu Subedar: If this country has to contribute, it has to give 4 8 per cent But when it gets reparations we get only 2 per cent.* To the League of Nations we contributed 160 lakhs on a basis of about 10 lakhs a year average; where as here the starting basis is 33 lakhs, which is the first and preliminary estimate of this vast organisation, with about 3,000 employees—this United Nations Organisation The United Nations Charter is not to be applied to us* our questions are not even discussed there and I would like to know if the Government of India at this stage have committed themselves If, however, the Government of India say they will produce a White Paper and give us an opportunity and some definite information and give the House an opportunity to deal with this issue, I will not press the motion.

Mr. H. Weightman (Secretary, External Affairs Department) I think there has been a little misunderstanding about this It is not a matter of a committee having fixed India's annual contribution to the U N O It is a matter of a committee of the Organisation having proposed to the General Assembly that a working capital fund should be created and that member states should be asked to make advances Those advances will be adjustable against the annual contributions which will be asked for later

Now, the scale of those annual contributions will not even come up for consideration by the General Assembly until the second part of its first session, which we believe in all probability will take place in September, but this present matter of a working capital fund is merely a matter of a temporary advance which will be adjustable at a later date against the annual contributions to be fixed

Mr. Manu Subedar: Would Government then consider, in view of India's financial stress and India's dire famine condition that this Government should not be in a hurry and pay out this money Let the richer nations pay Pending that, will the Honourable Member circulate a White Paper giving all the information on this subject We do not want to pay these international organisations which yield nothing for us and certainly as it is merely a provisional call for funds, let those pay who stand to benefit from this international organisation and I want an assurance that the Government will wait for the time being at all events

Mr. H. Weightman: It is not possible to give any such undertaking

Mr. President: Does the Honourable Member wish to press the motion at this stage?

Mr. Manu Subedar: My colleagues seem to think that we had better take this up at the time of the Budget I warn the Finance Department that they are taking very grave risks in throwing out this country's money in this manner for such purposes I do not press the motion

Mr. President: The next motion is in the name of Dr Sir Vijaya Ananda The Honourable Member is not present No 94 in the name of Mr B B Varma is withdrawn

IMMINENCE OF STRIKE IN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: The next one, No 95 is in the name of Mr Gadgil He wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the imminence of a general strike in the Posts and Telegraphs Department in pursuance of the decisions taken by certain Unions.

I do realise that the matter is undoubtedly of importance It is undoubtedly of urgency also but the difficulty I feel is that an identical motion, No 83 tabled by Diwan Chaman Lall on the 28th January has fallen through How can this be taken up on the score of urgency?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: In the intervening period, two other Unions have passed similar Resolutions and the fact has been intimated to the Secretary of the Department concerned I submit the question of not admitting the motion of Diwan Chaman Lall does not come in the way of admitting my motion for the simple reason that the situation has worsened after the 28th The day on which I and my Honourable friend Mr D K Lahiri Choudhury gave notice a number of unions have passed Resolutions to the effect that if adequate satisfaction is not given by a certain date, then a strike notice will be given to the Department on the 9th February The All-India conference of Postal Workers held at Mymensingh on the 25th and 26th December 1945 also passed a Resolution that if provision was not made for the revised scales in the Budget of 1946-47 a strike would be ordered In today's papers and in yesterday's papers we find that unions all over the country are passing similar Resolutions after Resolutions. I think it is a matter not only of public importance but of urgent importance, because from the middle of February right up to the middle of

March there will be elections in most of the provinces If this department does its tools, then one can easily imagine what will be the fate of the general election campaign Apart from this, the Department is a Public Utility department It is worked on commercial principles and therefore if I am able to convince this House that there is enough money left out of which it can satisfy the legitimate demands, I think this House should allow this motion to be moved

Sir Gurunath Bewoor (Secretary Posts and Air Department) The motion relates to the imminence of a strike Sir, in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, it is a fact that the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs has received during the past two months certain Resolutions passed by recognised Posts and Telegraph Unions They refer to a variety of demands and generally conclude by saying that if these are not granted the members may have recourse to direct action The demands relate mainly to fear of retrenchment, increase of dearness allowance, revision of scales of pay and better pension conditions The latest of these Resolutions presented jointly on behalf of some Unions was received only on the 4th of February The Director General has brought these Resolutions to the notice of Government who have the matter under their very careful consideration I myself have had a number of discussions with the President, Vice-President and Secretaries of a number of Unions The problems raised in the demands made involve issues of great importance and of far-reaching consequence to the whole class of Government servants and to Government finances as a whole and not merely to those of the Posts and Telegraphs Department They need therefore very careful consideration I will not deal with any of these demands individually or say how important they are but there is one very important demand which Mr Gadgil mentioned in the course of his speech That relates to revision of the scales of pay introduced during the period 1931-35 and known usually as the revised scales of pay I am authorised to announce in this House that Government intend to appoint a commission which will be predominantly non-official in character to go into the whole question of the scales of wages, pensions and other conditions of service for the whole class of Central Government servants, suitable in post-war conditions, as also the question—and this is important—of setting up some machinery for negotiation between Government and its employees somewhat on the lines of the Whitley Councils in the United Kingdom As regards the fear of retrenchment the danger of any retrenchment on a large scale immediately in the Posts and Telegraphs Department does not exist and no permanent servant of the Posts and Telegraphs will be compulsorily retrenched I hope to issue a statement on this subject so far as the Posts and Telegraphs Department is concerned for the assurance of its employees As regards the other demands, Government will be able to announce their decision in the near future Government are fully aware of the general situation and of the demands and of the reasons for them and as I have said they have the matter under sympathetic consideration In the circumstances I hope it will be realised that there is no need whatsoever for any strike by the staff and Government are confident that the fine record of the P and T Department for devoted public service will not be affected in any way and that this essential service will continue to be performed efficiently and without any interruption in these critical days In view of this statement, perhaps the Honourable Member will not care to move his motion

Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury: After listening to the Honourable Member, I am not at all satisfied that any purpose will be served by his statement As a matter of fact, I happen to be the President of the All-India Posts and Telegraphs Union whose Council is to be held today and we shall seriously take up this matter and the Resolution which was passed at Mymensingh I think the Honourable Sir Gurunath Bewoor will bear with me that these Committees and Commissions have got little effect on these points which have just been brought before the House. I do not want to go into the details
1 P. M. but I want a definite answer as to the time when these matters will be settled I can say this that last time on a similar matter I had a communication

[Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury]

with the Secretary for Posts and Air and after the assurance that he gave me that the matter will receive sympathetic consideration, what I found was that the matter did not get sympathetic consideration to the extent that we wanted It was a burning question regarding the second grade clerks The grade was abolished without giving any relief to the employees in matters of pay This time my Honourable friend has come up with a statement that the Government will give them sympathetic consideration, but we want to know categorically from him how much time he will take and in what way he wants to deal with the affairs The matter is not a new one Agitation had been going on for more than a year Time after time deputations of different character have waited on the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs without any effect The time has now come when the employees have become very impatient and today in the All-India Council a definite decision is to be taken Before the Council takes that decision, I warn the Government to take this matter in right earnest and be serious about it They should not refer to Committees and Commissions but take a definite step today to do something substantial for the solution of the troubles of these unfortunate postal employees

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I do want to move my motion because we had bitter experience of such Inquiry Committees In 1945 an Inquiry Committee was appointed when a similar notice was given by the Poona Postal Union The Committee took evidence, but the report has not been published as yet Unless some points with respect to this Committee are made clear, it will not be in the interests of the employees, on whose behalf I propose to move this motion, to agree immediately I, therefore, request you to allow this motion If in the course of the debate we find that there is something on which we can act up, I may not press the motion to a division

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Sir, my only point is this that I want time to settle the question of the revision of scales of pay Government have decided to appoint a Commission and it is not a matter which can be decided on any answer given in the course of a debate

An Honourable Member: Why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: You could not revise the scales of pay of 120 000 men in the course of a debate I merely mention that these questions are under consideration and I think that a debate is unnecessary We are fully aware of the reasons for the demands, but Government has the matter under consideration and I hope to be able to give a reply to the Unions It does not follow that because they are threatening a strike, Government should yield everything Government is prepared to consider fair and just treatment, but I would not be able in the course of a debate this afternoon to deal with these demands, because, as I have said, the demands are at present under consideration and the debate is not likely to serve any useful purpose We have had discussions with the Unions and we have got their request before us We have got their written statements as well as verbal statements and Government has the matter under consideration The latest resolution was received by us only on the 4th February I think in those circumstances Government should be given a sufficient time to decide the matter

Mr. President: From what has come out, I see that there is urgency in the matter The Honourable Member perhaps wants to know the definite time in which the Commission will come to its conclusions. That is how I understood the trend of his pleading Whether the adjournment motion should be moved or not in the interests of the employees or the Government is a matter of propriety which the Honourable Members have to decide I am concerned with the importance of the matter, the definiteness of the matter and the urgency of the matter It appears that, as days pass on the situation is getting more and more grave and the latest intimation was on the day on which this notice

was given I am inclined to allow this motion It will be for the Honourable Members to decide as to whether they should move it or come to an agreement The motion will be taken up at 4 o'clock

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

Mr. President: I have received a message from His Excellency the Governor-General which reads as follows

"In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 63C of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Archibald Percival, Viscount Wavell, hereby signify that I approve the election by the Legislative Assembly of Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, C I E, as Deputy President of the said Assembly"

(Sd.) WAVELL,
Governor General

NEW DELHI,

The 5th February, 1946

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, on a point of order I draw your attention to the fact that, despite the very explicit Standing Order on the subject, Honourable Members opposite have a habit of standing when you stand I think this habit must be discontinued

Mr. President: Stray instances do not make a habit

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Wednesday, the 30th January, 1946, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Planning and Development, twelve nominations were received Subsequently, two members withdrew their candidature As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following members to be duly elected to the Committee for the rest of the current financial year and the whole of the next financial year, 1946-47 (1) Mr P J Griffiths, (2) Sri R Venkatasubba Reddiar, (3) Pandit Govind Malaviya, (4) Mr B B Varma, (5) Mr M Asaf Ali, (6) Raja Bahadur of Khalikote, (7) Rai Bahadur D M Bhattacharyya, (8) Mr Tamizuddin Khan, (9) Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, and (10) Mr Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: I have also to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 1st February, only one nomination was received for the eighth vacancy in the Standing Committee for the Department of War Transport I, therefore, declare Khan Bahadur Sharbat Khan to be elected to the Standing Committee in that vacancy

As regards the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr M, Ananthasayanam Ayyangar of his membership of this Standing Committee, I have to inform the Assembly that upto 3 P M on Tuesday, the 5th February, only one nomination was received. I, therefore, declare Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia to be elected also to this Standing Committee, the election of which is now complete.

[Mr. President]

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Mr. President: I have further to inform Honourable Members that I nominate the following Members to constitute the House Committee for the year 1946:

(1) Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (*Chairman*),
(2) Mrs Ammu Swaminadhan,
(3) Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar,
(4) Khan Abdul Ghani Khan,
(5) Shri Mohan Lal Saksena,
(6) Babu Ram Narayan Singh,
(7) Dr Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad,
(8) Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth,
(9) Mr Muhammad Nauman,
(10) Mr C P Lawson,
(11) Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, and
(12) Sardar Mangal Singh

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member) Sir, I move

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, nine non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Commerce Department is concerned for the unexpired portion of the current financial year and the financial year 1946-47."

Mr. President: Motion moved

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, nine non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Commerce Department is concerned for the unexpired portion of the current financial year and the financial year 1946-47."

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, may I request the Honourable Member who makes this motion to take us into his confidence and tell us what was done during the past year with the help of this Committee? What subjects of importance were placed before this Committee? How far was this Committee of any use to him or how far has the Government reposed confidence in this Committee?

The Honourable Dr Sir M. Azizul Huque: I can be quite frank in this matter Last year during May, June and July nobody knew what the position was going to be Every one was busy at that time in discussions of which the House is quite aware After that the Assembly was dissolved Previous to that, I called for several meetings of the Committee and I remember many important questions of the Commerce Department arising at that time, such as contributions to U N R R A and several other matters, imports and exports, were all discussed Last year, to be quite frank, the Committee did not meet

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural). I learn there is soon going to be Empire Trade Conference or some such conference which will be held in London I do not know whether the Government of India has been invited to it If so, what the agenda is going to be and what is the attitude of the Government of India regarding the same? May I know if the Honourable Member propose to take this committee into his confidence before the Government finally decides upon this matter in regard to the agenda and also in regard to the attitude which they will adopt there It is quite possible that imperial preference might again be brought up there for discussion That is a subject on which India holds very strong views. The House has expressed its disapproval not once but repeatedly on the infamous Ottawa duties and preferences Therefore, I suggest that this House ought to be given an assurance that this Committee will be taken into the fullest confidence in this matter.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is very difficult for me at this stage to give an answer off hand specifically regarding one particular item I shall certainly comply with the wishes of this House in consulting this Committee in as many matters as possible

Prof. N. G. Ranga: This is a matter of outstanding importance. It is not every day that such an important matter comes up before the Commerce Department After all the Commerce Department has got to deal with this matter in as serious minded a manner as possible I sincerely trust that the Honourable Member will find it possible to give an assurance to this House that on this particular matter he will certainly take the committee into his confidence in time

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I have answered already, I shall bear the wishes of the House in mind

Mr. President: There is an Amendment to this Motion

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgris Muhammadan) Sir, I move:

"That in the original Motion for the word 'nine' the word 'ten' be substituted"

Mr. President: Amendment moved

"That in the original Motion for the word 'nine' the word 'ten' be substituted"

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque. I have no objection if that would satisfy the House Last year, I increased the number This year, again one more is asked for I have no objection

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I submit, Sir, we have got a number of motions relating to Standing Committees for various Departments I would like, Sir, that before each one is moved, a statement is given to the House about the activities in which the Committees engaged themselves in the previous year Otherwise, with a plain charter like this, it is useless for the Assembly to vote particularly in view of the fact that during the previous year this Committee was completely in the dark

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: My difficulty was this In the previous year, I consulted the members In at least one or two matters, I remember distinctly the Members were not able to give their own opinion They simply said that they would abide by whatever the Party decided

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in the original Motion for the word 'nine' the word 'ten' be substituted"

The motion was adopted

Mr. President: The question is

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Commerce Department is concerned for the unexpired portion of the current financial year and the financial year 1946-47"

The motion was adopted

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock

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The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh (Member for Industries and Supplies) Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Industries and Supplies is concerned during the unexpired portion of the current financial year and the financial year 1946-47"

Mr. President: Motion moved.

'That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Industries and Supplies is concerned during the unexpired portion of the current financial year and the financial year 1946-47"

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran Non-Muhammadan) Sir, I move:

"That in the original motion for the word 'eight' the word 'ten' be substituted"

Mr. President: Amendment moved

"That in the original motion for the word 'eight' the word 'ten' be substituted"

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Sir, I am prepared to accept the amendment

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in the original motion for the word 'eight' the word 'ten' be substituted"

The motion was adopted

Mr. President: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Industries and Supplies is concerned during the unexpired portion of the current financial year and the financial year 1946-47"

The motion was adopted

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Sir Pheroze Kharegat (Secretary, Agriculture Department) Sir, I move

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, two members of the Assembly to serve on the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and its Governing Body"

Mr. President: Motion moved

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, two members of the Assembly to serve on the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and its Governing Body."

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, this Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has not improved the agriculture of this country and it has not extended its research throughout the length and breadth of this country We have not had any tangible results of that research at all Whatever researches have been made up till now, there was no occasion for those researches to be tested and put into action in the past five years The Honourable Member from year to year has been moving this House for the formation of a committee of this House to advise the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research but he has not taken this House into confidence as to what results have been achieved and how far they have been given effect to by this Government I really want that whenever any Honourable Member moves for the formation of a Standing Committee he should circulate a paper or make a statement on the floor of the House as to what has been done, what is proposed to be done in the coming year and what sort of advice is required I want this particularly for this Imperial Council of Agricultural Research I am afraid it has been receding into the background, it has not been pulling its weight or doing enough in the critical days through which our country is now passing I want an answer in regard to all this from the Honourable Member who moved this motion

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Sir, I shall be very pleased to lay on the table of the House a report on the work of the Imperial Council In fact, an annual report is published every year and my information is that a copy is placed in the Library of the House But if it is desired that every Member should be supplied with a copy that shall be done in future

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What I want to know particularly is, what is the kind of co-operation that is required from this committee to be elected and how this co-operation is to be given, how many meetings were called in the last year and what opportunities were given to the members, etc A statement may be circulated on these points and I want my Honourable friend to enlighten us on them.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Sir, I am afraid there is some misunderstanding here. The Honourable Member is referring to a Standing Committee This is not a Standing Committee this is the Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the House has simply to elect two members to serve on that Governing Body

Mr. President: The question is

'That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, two members of the Assembly to serve on the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and its Governing Body"

The motion was adopted

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari (Member for Information and Broadcasting) Sir, I move

'That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Information and Broadcasting for the unexpired portion of the current financial year 1945 46 and for the financial year 1946-47 '

Mr. President: Motion moved

'That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Information and Broadcasting for the unexpired portion of the current financial year 1945 46 and for the financial year 1946 47"

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga cum Saran Non-Muhammadan) Sir I move

'That in the original motion for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted '

Mr. President: Amendment moved

'That in the original motion for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted"

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Sir, I accept the amendment

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I wish to make one submission, I am sorry I did not make it earlier when the motion was first put I find that in the provinces the practice is for Government to supply them various administrative and other reports dealing with general problems to every member of the legislature But here unless a member specially asks for a particular report after coming to know that such a report has been published, it is not supplied to him And it so happens that even when a member asks for the report he is told that he has to apply in the usual way to the Manager of Government Publications who will supply on payment, and so on with the result that most of us are handicapped for want of proper literature and information It may suit the convenience of Government to keep as many of us as possible in as much ignorance as possible in regard to the activities of their various departments, but I would certainly like you, Sir to strengthen our plea that Government should, as far as possible, place their published reports at our disposal If they can legitimately plead shortage of paper or any other difficulty they may at least take the trouble to inform us what reports have been published so that those of us who are interested in any one of those reports may write to them and get it free

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) In addition to that I will show how absurd the conduct of Government is in this matter I have been writing to various departments to supply me with these reports so as to enable me to address the House much better They would say that many of them were not available, and after two years we would get an intimation from the Manager of Civil Publications, Delhi, that those reports which we wanted while they were current were all there and at our own cost we could carry them home But by that time they have become out of date Instead of repeating that mistake I suggest that Honourable Members on that side would do well to circulate these reports to Members By that Government which are spending 400 to 500 crores are not going to lose.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: In so far as my two departments of Information and Broadcasting and Planning and Development are concerned, it is not my wish to keep Honourable Members in the dark, and I shall be glad to have a statement prepared of the several publications of the two departments which are for sale Honourable Members can then tick off the publications they want and they will be sent to them free of charge

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I hope other Honourable Members would also do likewise

Mr. President: I may add that in Bombay, this is the practice A circular is sent to Members mentioning all the publications which Government publish from time to time—reports and such other things—and then Members are requested, as the Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari has just said, to tick off the publications each individual Member is interested in, and then those publications are supplied to him regularly free of charge without waiting for any requisition on his part

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras Indian Commerce) The same practice is followed in Madras also

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava (Ambala Division Non-Muhammadan) This was the practice in this House also with regard to Railway Reports which were made available on application

Mr. President: The question is

"That in the original motion for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted"

The motion was adopted

Mr. President: The question is

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Information and Broadcasting for the unexpired portion of the current financial year 1945-46 and for the financial year 1946-47"

The motion was adopted

Mr. President: I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees, namely

		Date for nomination	Date for election
1	Standing Committee for the Department of Commerce	11-2-1946	13-2-1946
2	Standing Committee for the Department of Industries and Supplies	11-2-1946	13-2-1946
3	Imperial Council of Agricultural Research	11-2-1946	14-2-1946
4	Standing Committee for the Department of Information and Broadcasting	11-2-1946	14-2-1946

The nominations for all the four Committees will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House between the hours of 10-30 A M and 1 P M

ELECTRICITY (SUPPLY) BILL

The Honourable Dr B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the nationalisation of the production and supply of electricity and generally for taking measures conducive to the electrical development of India

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the nationalisation of the production and supply of electricity and generally for taking measures conducive to the electrical development of India"

The motion was adopted

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I introduce the Bill

TRANSFER OF PROPERTY AND SUCCESSION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, the Hindu Disposition of Property Act, 1916, and the Indian Succession Act, 1925.

Mr. President: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, the Hindu Disposition of Property Act, 1916, and the Indian Succession Act, 1925".

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: Sir, I introduce the Bill

INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): Sir, I move.

"That the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, be taken into consideration"

Sir, it was in November 1944 that the Bill was first introduced in the Assembly and after a full debate referred to a Select Committee. Amongst the present Members of the Assembly Mr. Satyan Narayan Sinha, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Essak Sait, Mr. Nauman, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer and Mr. Gwilt were members of that Select Committee. Others, but no longer in this Assembly, were Sir Vithal Narayan Chandavarkar, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, Mr. N. C. Chunder, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, Sir Bhagchand Soni, Mr. Abdul Qayum, Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee and Mr. Bhulabhai Desai. I should acknowledge here the valued work done by those who are not in our midst today, specially at the Select Committee stage, and I should specially like to mention about the great help and assistance we had received from Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, the distinguished Leader of the Opposition in the last Assembly and an eminent lawyer of All-India fame. The Bill was very carefully considered at the various sittings of the Select Committee in January 1945. While the Select Committee substantially agreed to the main features of the Bill, either in their original form or with a few minor changes, a few new features of far-reaching importance were introduced at the Select Committee stage, the most important being two clauses relating to limitation of overall expenses of both life and non-life companies. As borne out by the Report of the Select Committee, there was a sharp difference of opinion in the Committee on this point, and it was a subject of minutes of dissent for some reason or other from almost every member of the Committee; even those who were definitely in favour of the principle of overall limitation suggested in their notes to have the figures recommended by the Select Committee further investigated.

The Report of the Select Committee was presented to the House on the 11th February 1945, and Government were anxious to proceed further with the next stage of the Bill and take up all the provisions of the Bill as recommended by the Select Committee excepting the two new clauses added at the Select Committee stage, and which were both controversial in nature. But unfortunately the Budget discussions, voting of grants and other business of the Assembly filled up almost the entire time-table and there was not enough time left for further consideration of the Bill within its time-limit fixed for the last Session of the Assembly.

In the meantime, the attention of Government had been drawn to certain evil trends in the management of insurance companies, prejudicial to the best interests of insurance business in India. Government immediately appointed a committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Cowasjee Jehangir with Mr. Wajahat Hussain—the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank who unfortunately died sometime ago and was a great loss—Sir Alan Lloyd, Sir George Morton, Mr. K. R. P. Shroff, Mr. J. K. Mitter and Mr. Vaidyanathan, Superintendent of

[Dr Sir M Azizul Huque]

Insurance, as members of the Committee That Committee submitted its report to Government sometime in July 1945, and in accordance with the recommendations of this Committee, a Bill is being drafted which, I hope, to bring before the House as soon as possible As the new clauses introduced at the Select Committee stage of the Bill I introduced in 1944 focussed a good deal of attention from insurance interests in India and were not free from certain amount of controversies from a section of Insurance interests, I have excluded these two clauses from the present Bill, so that the present Bill may deal as far as possible with more or less non-contentious items or clauses that were generally agreed to by the last Select Committee I propose to incorporate the two new sections which are subject matters of controversies at the second Bill which I propose to introduce as soon as possible

Since that time our attention has also been drawn to certain other flaws and lacunae, more or less of a minor nature, and opportunity has been taken to include a few clauses to remove them with a view to clarifying some of the provisions of the main Act

The present Bill also introduces two or three new proposals which I hope will be agreed to by the House and some of them very urgently necessary Under the Indian Insurance Act, the Superintendent of Insurance must be a qualified actuary Unfortunately the number of qualified actuaries is extremely limited, only about 15 in the whole of India, and all of them are in most responsible positions in Insurance companies and it is almost impossible to get a suitable man from amongst actuaries with experience and knowledge to fill this very important post, I am grateful to the Oriental that at a critical moment in war time they came to our assistance and let us the services of Mr Vaidyanathan Mr Vaidyanathan has been an asset to us and I wish to take this opportunity of placing on record his invaluable service to the cause of insurance in India But it will not be possible for Government to have the services of Mr Vaidyanathan after March next and it was with extreme difficulty that we have managed to keep him on till the end of March We have tried our best to find out some suitable person after Mr Vaidyanathan's eminent services with his experience and talents, but without any success, and I am sure the House will not desire me to get the Superintendent of Insurance from abroad I am advised, after consulting the best insurance opinion that the time has come when with actuarial assistance under him it should be possible for the Superintendent of Insurance to administer the Act, even if he himself is not an actuary Some of the most intricate technical, financial and economic places are being ably manned by Indian personnel as recruited from the various services or from the public life of this country The Governor of the Reserve Bank is from the Civil Service, and I do not therefore see any reason why we should not be able to find a suitable Indian for this post, even if he is not an actuary himself Government therefore feel that the relevant clauses of the Act should be urgently modified to enable us to appoint a suitable Superintendent of Insurance Necessary provision has therefore been made in the present Bill to incorporate an amendment on this point

Sir another new proposal relates to the stage when the Superintendent of Insurance can step in to ensure better management among the insurance companies Under the Statute, he can under Section 22 question the valuation and under Section 33 he has powers to order an enquiry into the affairs of the company under certain contingencies But he has no power, as the law stands, to step in to correct the affairs of any company at the proper stage In fact, he can only exercise his power after all the mischief has been done It will be realized that in the long run the soundness of insurance business depends on the rates of premia and the conditions on the basis of which these insurance contracts are issued If premium rates on which the working of a company depends are unsound, the result of the valuation will be naturally such as to

invoke ultimately the exercise of power under Section 22 by the Superintendent of Insurance That happens at a later stage when the wrong as I have said has already been done It has recently come to our notice that some companies have been quoting special reduced premium rates for special classes of policy-holders, *e g*, "Directors and their friends" In one case, the House will be surprised to learn the category was further improved upon by the inclusion of "acquaintances" also in the list All these discriminatory and unfair rates of premium must naturally affect the soundness of the company and ultimately its valuation It is therefore proposed that the Superintendent of Insurance should have some power to have the rates of premia and conditions on the basis of which insurance contracts are issued to be certified by an actuary approved by him, if he has reasons to hold that the original rates are *prima facie* unworkable This will avoid the necessity of questioning a valuation under Section 22 at a later stage and will obviously give an opportunity to the insurance companies to rectify their defects at an early stage The relevant clause of the Bill seeks to secure this end

Another minor addition purely of a formal nature, is proposed to give power to the Superintendent of Insurance to issue duplicates of registration certificates on payment of a fee Insurers themselves sometimes desire more than one copy as original certificates may be mislaid or lost or the companies themselves may desire to have duplicate copies exhibited in their Branch offices

The next change is to allow commission to an agent who may revive a lapsed policy which he is himself not the agent who actually secured the original policy Old agents sometimes do not pursue their policies and the proposed section provides that it will apply only in case of genuine lapse In other words, it cannot be revived without a fresh medical examination and that only after giving proper notice to the original agent, and therefore it should be possible for another agent to revive a lapsed policy

Sir, the present law also provides for penalty to an agent for offering rebates or to anyone insuring his life accepting such rebates But the penalty is very small to be in any way effective In fact, the penalty is only Rs 100 for the agent and Rs 50 for the man who has insured his life It is an open secret that in spite of this penalty the rebate trade has been going on all through and it has been represented that the penalty in both cases should be substantially increased and necessary provision has been made in the Bill to that effect

Barring these few additions, the present Bill is practically the same as the old Bill, omitting, as I have said before, the clauses about the limitation of overall expenditure But as most of the Members of the House are new, I should like this opportunity to explain a few main provisions of the Bill

Firstly, the provision about the separation or earmarking of the investments representing the assets of life insurance policy-holders Honourable Members are aware that the insurance company may be either a life insurance company or a composite company representing fire, marine, accident and other contracts But whatever may be the nature of the company, the life insurance fund is in the nature of a trust and should always be available most readily and no-one should be allowed to play with that money if the interests of the policy-holders are to be protected and safeguarded till their dues mature But a composite company, representing fire, marine or accident may invest its life funds in non-life ventures and that it may have to incur serious loss and may meet even with disaster in the long run upon its non-life business Anything that prejudices the interests of the life policy-holders must be scrupulously safeguarded so that no disaster or loss in any non-life business may affect the interests of the life policy-holders, such as it may possibly be in marine, accident or fire business Again if a purely life insurance company goes into liquidation its other creditors who are not policy-holders should look to the realization of their dues only from the assets of the company outside the fund representing the life insurance interests They cannot impinge in any way upon the interests of the

[Dr Sir M. Azizul Huque]

life policy-holders This was exactly what was recommended by the Clauson Committee in the United Kingdom It strongly advocated this course being adopted Recent legislation in the Commonwealth of Australia have also provided for this In America, in fact, the Government have gone further. A company transacting life business is prohibited from transacting any other type of business, including other types of insurance business, so that any bad trading under any class of business may not in any way adversely affect the interests of the life policy-holders This was also the idea behind legislation in

3 P.M. fund should be separately earmarked and separately invested, as 1938 namely that the investments representing the life insurance would appear from the Notes on Clauses which form the Annexure to the Bill as originally introduced But the section, as it stands at present, does not achieve this end The clause in the present Bill only seeks to ensure the position so that the life insurance fund may be separately invested and earmarked as funds which cannot be touched upon by any other class of business or in any other transaction

Secondly, there has recently been a tendency among insurance companies transacting life business to expand into other classes of business While this should not in any way be discouraged, it is only reasonable that they should not be allowed to transact other classes of business before they are able to bring up their life insurance fund to such a size as would cover their liability to their life policy-holders Otherwise a composite company would start with a deficit to its life policy-holders The life policy-holders of a company which transacted only life business at the start naturally look to the original share capital as a security only to the life policy-holders but once other classes of business are entered into the share capital would then provide joint security to all classes of policy-holders and to that extent the fund to which the life policy-holders will look to, should adversity set in, is diminished The present Bill therefore proposes to raise the life insurance fund to an amount equal to the liabilities under life insurance policies before an insurance company may be permitted to undertake any other class of insurance business, namely fire, accident and marine

Thirdly, there have not been a few cases in which a company transacting life insurance business was *prima facie* unable to meet its liability towards life policy-holders taking into account only the paid up capital In such cases the companies deemed themselves to be solvent taking into account uncalled capital as if it was cash in hand It is manifestly unfair to the life policy-holders for a company receiving its funds from the life policy-holders to spend away its money and then to plead the uncalled capital and try to equate a part of the liability to policy-holders from the uncalled capital Uncalled capital represents nothing but promises and may not in several cases be realisable, particularly when the concern is driven to the necessity of calling the uncalled capital in times of emergency to cover their thoughtless expenses and then to try to meet its liabilities to the policy-holders from the uncalled capital In view of the law as it stands at present it has been held that uncalled capital could not be ignored and should be considered as available to meet the position of insolvency and no action for taking the company to liquidation could arise unless it is proved that the uncalled capital was unrealisable You can understand how difficult it is to prove that the uncalled capital is not realisable and this is an unsatisfactory position, having regard to the interest of the life policy-holders and the present Bill tries therefore to rectify this defect. I can quite easily visualise the case of a company which started with a paid up capital of a lakh of rupees and a very large unpaid capital of 99 lakhs They go on merrily spending the life insurance fund of the policy-holders to the tune of 99 lakhs or near that amount When that stage is reached it can easily be seen how very difficult it would be to realise even a small fraction of the uncalled capital in time In any case that is a contingency which will depend upon the realisation and life policy-holders must always be sure of prompt payments.

Fourthly, there are some cases in which companies sit tight on claims even when they have been decreed by Courts of Law; without paying their liability as decreed by the Court they still go on merrily roping in new policy-holders, while profusely advertising their strength and, amongst other things, their prompt settlement of claims The present Bill provides that this should be stopped, so that any company against whom payment of claims is outstanding should be debarred from securing any new life business before it is able to pay off their claims to policy-holders

Fifthly, with a view to enabling companies to settle claims promptly, the 1938 Act desired to give policy-holders the facility of nomination as distinguished from assignment under the Married Women's Property Act, as the latter is somewhat more rigid than the former. It was not at that time contemplated that the nomination which in most cases may be for the benefit of the wife or children or both, should attract the rigid provisions of the Married Women's Property Act While it was not in any way desired that a policy-holder wanting the security provided by the Married Women's Property Act should in any way be deprived of it, however rigid such conditions may be, it was intended that the policy-holder specifically desiring the elasticity provided by the nomination under the Insurance Act should not be subject to any rigidity as contemplated under the Married Women's Property Act As the language of the law stands, it is open to a doubtful interpretation and this has to a certain extent militated against many policies getting the privilege of nominations as was desired by the legislature when this Bill was passed into law An amendment seeks to remove this lacuna and confer on nominations the elasticity originally contemplated

Sixthly, the Bill provides facilities for amalgamation and transfer of business of Provident Societies as between themselves with the sanction of the Superintendent of Insurance, and without resorting to heavy expenditure in a court of law There are some societies which are struggling for existence and if they, should they wish to do so, can be amalgamated with stronger units, they can improve their condition The amendment contemplates to make this possible without loss of time and without much expenditure that may be necessary for effecting amalgamation, if they are to do it through court proceedings, which will naturally involve heavy expenditure There are actually some societies and as Honourable Members are aware these provident societies reach a class of people which cannot be reached by the ordinary insurance business They are so small and their means are so small that if they had to make the transfer a court affair, there would be nothing left for them It is only with a view to prevent that that this power is given to the Superintendent to direct the amalgamation of the company subject to his being satisfied on all particulars.

I do not wish to lengthen my speech I have tried to explain the main features and provisions of the Bill Barring a few additions which I have tried to explain in the Bill The present Bill is actually what was before the Select Committee except the controversial clauses about the limitation of overall expenditure, about which I hope I may be able to introduce another Bill as soon as possible

Sir, I move

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, be taken into consideration"

I would now request Honourable Members to move their amendments

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir I move:

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the Honourable the Commerce Member the Honourable the Law Member, Messrs L S Vaidyanathan, Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, T Chapman-Mortimer, Ali Asghar Khan, N V Gadgil, Sri Prakasa, M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar and Ahmed E H Jaffer, with instructions to report by the end of February 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five"

Mr. President: I take it that the Honourable Member has given up the idea of moving his first amendment

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Yes, Sir

Mr. President: Amendment moved

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the Honourable the Commerce Member, the Honourable the Law Member, Messrs L S Vaidyanathan, Abdur Rahman Siddiqi T Chapman Mortimer, Ali Asghar Khan, N V Gadgil, Sir Prakasa, M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar and Ahmed E H Jaffer, with instructions to report by the end of February 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five"

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Sir, Reading the Statement of Objects and reasons it is mentioned that "certain alterations mostly of a minor nature including those necessary to rectify defects which have come to light since the introduction of the above-mentioned Bill in 1944 have been made, and certain provisions requiring further consideration have been omitted" The very fact that there are so many amendments to this Bill clearly shows that it contains matters of a controversial nature which should be referred to a Select Committee After all the Select Committee has got to submit its report by the end of February and I can see no objection to it, because the report has to be submitted to the House and I see no reason whatever why the Bill should be pushed through now All over the world in matters of insurance changes, the Bills are brought to the notice of the public The Bill which is now presented has come out from the one which was presented before, and I suggest that we sit together and examine it minutely There are so many clauses in the Bill now proposed that they require definite scrutiny

One of them suggests the question of the appointment of an insurance superintendent The old Act says that he should be an actuary this Bill seeks to remove that qualification Secondly the changes are of a vital nature and they should be properly laid before a committee who can go into all these questions I suggest there can be no better remedy than to refer this Bill to a Select Committee, which I have proposed

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) Sir, I have no desire to block the transfer of this Bill to a Select Committee, but personally I think that most of the clauses (though it looks a voluminous Bill there is nothing really in it), are simple the two or three new clauses which have been introduced into this Bill have been explained by the Honourable Mover, and I think they are non-controversial so far as we are concerned The surprise is that the state of the law was such that hitherto the provision made in clause 25 with regard to the calculation of unpaid calls, that these unpaid calls could be considered in the question of valuation in the past is itself a lacuna, and I am surprised that the Government permitted it in the past Anyway now that they are bringing it in, none of us quarrel with it and it is very welcome

Similarly, the provision with regard to the isolation and determination of the life fund before a company is permitted to indulge in insurance activities in other fields This is a very salutary and good provision and it is all right But even if one life company is not permitted to enter into another field until their finances are carefully scrutinised—clauses 8 and 17—even if this is provided, how are you going to deal with those cases in which promoters and managers of insurance companies are interested not only in one class of insurance but in various other classes of activities and the whole question of the inter-locking finance? Really, there is no meat in this Bill, if I may say so, and I must say that I am not at all happy or satisfied with the statement made by the Honourable Commerce Member explaining the reason why it has been necessary not to bring in all the items which were included in the last Bill; why have they not brought them into this Bill? So far as the question of limitation of expenses is concerned, I do not know whether that was also a topic given to my friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir and his committee, but it is

that kind of question which would require directly a reference to the Select Committee Why has the Honourable Commerce Member omitted the two or three clauses which were formulated at the time of the last Select Committee —40B and the other one—why have they not been included in this Bill? Why is he afraid? He says he is formulating another Bill Had he not got enough time? The Cowasjee Jehangir Committee reported, I take it, in July 1945 There have been more than six months in the hands of the Government since then to formulate a Bill which could have been knocked into shape in Select Committee and the members of the Select Committee would have had adequate time to deal with the matter Why, may I know, has all this time been taken and why has he thought it necessary to defer those items? Now he is promising—he is not even promising—he has said that the Bill is being drafted! We are quite familiar with Treasury Bench announcements which are always guarded and always leave a door of escape I am not happy I want a clear assurance that the rest of that Bill, the rest of the important clauses —and really the most important clause with which we were concerned—that these will be embodied into law as early as possible and that he will not try to lock the door after the horse has flown Even today, as I am talking, various negotiations are going on at various places some of which I know, which are not entirely to the advantage of the insuring public or the policy-holders Why is government putting in causes of delay? I hope the Bill will be introduced and that in his reply he will give us an assurance that it will be introduced soon and he will give adequate time to the Select Committee to sit on it and finish it before the end of this session

Now, with regard to the post of superintendent of insurance This post has been to my knowledge —subject to correction—occupied by two persons since it was instituted and both of them have it is acknowledged done very good work We are on our side glad to associate ourselves with the tribute which has been given to Mr Vaidyanathan by the Commerce Member for the very good work which he has done, and it is regrettable that the requirements of the company to which he belongs do not permit an extension of his service in this place But the solution does not seem to be satisfactory and happy The Honourable Commerce Member seemed to imply that as an I C S man has been found good enough for the Reserve Bank, why should not an I C S man be found good enough to do the work of the superintendent of insurance?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: On a point of personal explanation, I never said I C S I said from the services and from the public life of this country

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am very happy to have this elucidation and I am happy that the Honourable Commerce Member has not already made up his mind with regard to the filling of this post by an I C S I have no quarrel with the I C S Many distinguished men have done very good work in various fields, but I do say,—and I say this with some intimate knowledge of the task involved not only in running insurance but in detecting and checking the evils which are likely to grow if things are not run properly—and I do say this that I would like to see in the superintendent of insurance qualities not only of the head and capacity as an intelligent administration in general, but I would like to see in him an intimate knowledge and familiarity with the operations of insurance companies and the questions which arise, particularly the border-line questions which arise, and I say, without any fear of contradiction, that I cannot think of an I C S man, picked up from the district, or even picked up from the lower ranks of the Secretariat in Delhi, who can promptly and efficiently discharge what we conceive to be the function of the superintendent of insurance If I may venture to make a suggestion, my suggestion would be that on this occasion at all events and for the next few years the Honourable the Commerce Member should make an attempt to fill this post with a man who not being an actuary is still engaged in the business of insurance or has been intimately associated with it so as to enable him to have inside knowledge of the practices of insurance companies and of

[Mr Manu Subedar]

the malpractices which some of the insurance companies may be resorting to I want them to pick out a man who has general experience, and to put him in the place of Superintendent of Insurance even if he does not happen to be an actuary because I take it that a number of actuaries are already engaged by Government themselves and their advice, as and when required, would be available to the Superintendent

I again say that it is deplorable that in our country legal reform in the organisation of business is slow When the Companies Act was passed in the United Kingdom, India followed the U K after many years with a number of necessary alterations When an adequate Insurance Bill was passed in the United Kingdom, India came a few years behind as usual and now we are today amending something which was passed in 1938 In a country in which the Government is alert, in which the people and the country are co-operating, the evils get known at once and Government ought to be ready with an amending Bill within a period of 12 months to put right all the little details When you draft a very large Bill, these are likely to escape attention and that sort of thing cannot be expected in India Here we must wait for years Why could not this Bill be rushed through on the last occasion Most of the useful clauses of this Bill could have been put through in the last Assembly itself

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I gave notice.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Therefore I say that my friend is the victim of the general tendency on the part of the Treasury Benches to leave things to grow until the evil becomes too great They are not prompt in calling for reports from the provinces on the subject and not prompt in bringing forward amending Bills I do not speak in any spirit of quarrel or controversy I only urge that in the case of this and various other Acts relating to business organisations and business contracts, there are various lacunae which I am surprised Government does not bring in amending Bills to stop them Sir, I support the motion

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Nominated Non-Official) This Bill of 48 clauses looks on the face of it very formidable but as the Honourable the Commerce Member and my Honourable friend opposite have pointed out, in fact it is much less formidable than it looks It is more in the nature of a tidying up measure following on the great work done by the late Sir Nripendra Nath Sircar in 1937 Most of the amendments proposed in this Bill are of a minor nature so that there is some reason for the Bill being dealt with straightaway on the floor of the House, more especially as it was thrashed out in a Select Committee of this House just a year ago. In these circumstances our Group would not propose that the matter should be referred to a Select Committee On the other hand we recognise that there are many new members of this House and if the feeling were strongly in favour of a Select Committee to report at a very early date before the end of February, we on these Benches should not resist that On the other hand, I have been asked by my party to draw attention to the fact that whereas in the past we were given two members on the Select Committee on this occasion only one name from our Group has been put forward

With regard to the Bill itself, there are, I think, five major points that call for attention The first of these is in clause 2 where Government propose, and, in my opinion in our Group's opinion, rightly propose to do away with the rigid insistence on the Superintendent of Insurance being a qualified actuary. We recognise that Government in this matter should be free to choose the best man available After the 1937 Bill was introduced, it was vitally important that in the early stages the work should be done and supervised personally by a trained actuary and we were very fortunate to get first Mr Thomas and then Mr Vaidyanathan; and I should like on behalf of the European Group to

associate myself fully with what the Honourable the Commerce Member said about the excellent work done by the Superintendent of Insurance. This Bill, though I call it a tidying up measure, in one respect, is a tribute to Mr Vaidyanathan himself in that he seeks to fill up all these lacunae in the law which were left after the great struggle in 1937 when the Bill was debated for some 4 months We do associate ourselves fully with the tribute paid to him

Then the second point is in relation to clause 3, where, I am very glad to see, Government are going to take further action to deal with people who, under the guise of calling themselves something else, are in fact managing agents. I refer to the words of sub-clause (g) which says.

"(g) in sub-section (5), for the words 'The Superintendent of Insurance' the words, figures and letter 'Subject to compliance with the provisions of sections 5, 10 and 32 and of any order made ' should be substituted "

Now, Sir, by this amendment the Superintendent of Insurance will now be able, without any excuse whatever for saying that he has no power, to deal promptly and effectively with managing agents, to deal with them whether they are disguised as managers or managing directors or in any other shape or form; and in that connection I should like to draw the attention of the House and of the Government to the definition of a "managing agent" It says· "*Managing agent*" means any person, firm or company entitled to the "management of the whole affairs of the Company by virtue, etc ," then it goes into details and finally ends with the words 'by whatever name called' When Sir N N Sircar agreed to that amendment he thought, in my opinion rightly, that it gave Government full power Actually Government have felt for various reasons with which I do not agree but which I recognise are strong reasons that they could not act against people who were evading the provisions of section 32 They now propose to arm themselves with the necessary powers I am sure, and indeed I hope that Government will immediately, as soon as this Bill becomes law, deal with the said persons We welcome the new provision

I do not propose to deal with the Bill clause by clause I would however like to deal with clause 4 and two others because they are very important In clause 4 Government propose to arm themselves with powers of a most desirable nature and I should like to take this opportunity to express on these Benches our welcome to the strong powers that they propose to take, for two reasons, one that they are strong and secondly, they are flexible In other words Government do not propose to tie themselves in bundles of red tape They merely say that power should be given to Government to decide whether in fact the insurance company concerned, when they apply for the registration of the company or for the renewal of registration, in fact is offering terms which are sound and proper There are cases of companies that make a valuation on the basis of 4½ or 5 per cent and say that that is the assumed rate of interest that they are going to earn and on that basis they made all their actuarial calculations In fact it is quite obvious from their accounts that instead of earning 4½ or 5 per cent they are in fact earning 3 per cent —or even less, when you take into account the losses on investments and so forth By means of the provisions that Government seek to incorporate in the Act that kind of company should be dealt with immediately I hope Government will take very prompt action with regard to about 20 or 30 companies whose affairs are in a very "dicky" state, to say the least

Then, Sir, the fourth point to which I should like to draw the attention of the House is in clause 8 The Honourable the Commerce Member has made it quite clear that Government, for good and sufficient reasons, desire to insist upon a rigid line to be drawn between life business and all other classes of business Sir, as he pointed out, this is a recommendation of the Clauson Committee It is very sound and we on these Benches whole-heartedly support it It will secure the assets of the policy-holders and prevent a lot of the rather undesirable activities that have been taking place, more especially within the last two or three years I should like in that connection to inquire whether the proposed new sub-clause (2A) will be used by Government promptly and effectively in

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[Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer]

connection with powers they seek to take for themselves under the proposed new section 3B. It is most necessary that having got the law changed they should promptly act upon it and not simply put themselves on the back for having got the new Act through and do nothing effectively.

Then, with regard to clause 20 I am afraid I do not quite agree with the arguments put forward by the Honourable the Commerce Member. I myself sat on the Committee in 1937 and took some part in the subsequent debates in this House I do not recollect that at any stage the then Law Member had it in his mind that the proposal now in the Bill should, in fact, be the effect of the change made at that time Indeed, I have got here the report of the Select Committee and I find that what they said was this

"Clause 32 (now 34) —We have supplied an omission in sub-clause (5) and by a new sub-clause (7) we have made a necessary provision excluding from the operation of the clause insurances by a married man for the benefit of his wife or children which are subject to the provisions of Act III of 1874"

Act III of 1874 is the Married Women's Property Act and, if Honourable Members will look at that Act, they will see that one of its main provisions relates to this very subject It is headed "Insurance by husband for the benefit of his wife' It may be that I have misinterpreted the position, but, when we come to the clause itself, I should like to hear more adequate reasons than Government have given up-to-date as to why they seek this amendment of the section

And, lastly, Sir, clause 35 In this clause the Government seek to substitute for the word "Government" the word "approved" We have no strong objection to this and, in fact, it is obviously desirable in certain respects that Provident Societies should be given a slightly greater facility in the matter of investments than they have at present On the other hand, I do hope that Government will recognise the full effect and meaning of what they seek to do, because what they propose will have the effect, though I do not say that is the intention, of putting Provident Societies in a more favourable position than a small Insurance Company It may, of course, be their intention that most of the small insurers will disappear and that the better Provident Societies will thereby benefit At the same time, I draw attention to this point because I feel sure that whatever Government are doing in the matter, it is most important that the House as a whole should recognise fully the significance of what is being done more especially when we remember that Insurance Companies can acquire Provident Societies and some, who do, would thereby reap an advantage over those who do not do that I mention the point because it is a matter which we should fully consider

Now, earlier in my remarks I made a reference to the late Sir Nripendra Sircar and, with your permission, I would like to say a word or two about that Of his great qualities as a lawyer, I have nothing to say There are others who are better qualified to speak on that subject But I should like to say a word or two about his qualities as a parliamentarian and as a man When he came to this House, the business of the House was conducted very much as it is conducted today and he was faced with an Opposition which was, as far as the Congress were concerned, suspicious of him because he was a notable and redoubtable critic of the Congress As far as the Muslims were concerned they were not quite sure, because he was known as a great champion of the Hindu cause Within a very few months Sir Nripendra had established himself as the undoubted master of the House and I am sure that all those who worked here with him will agree with me that he achieved that mainly because of his own great qualities,—his courage which none of us would deny and many of us envy his sincerity and his integrity He could not bear humbug Sir Nripendra was one of those men who want to know the truth If you believed in the thing, he expected you to prove why you wanted it He was not satisfied with the usual

kind of excuses or reasons of expediency which are frequently advocated or advanced by politicians and business men when they seek their own advantage All that Sir Nripendra wanted to know was is it right or is it wrong? If it was right, he fought for it with all those qualities which he had, and they were great qualities of mind and character If it was wrong, he opposed it tooth and nail. And, finally, of Sir Nripendra as a man those of us here who had the privilege of knowing him knew him as a man of great kindliness. As a man, he was a loyal friend and in his later days he was greatly concerned and saddened by the miseries that overcame his people Sir, I support the motion

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhamadan Rural) Sir, I have no quarrel with the Bill as brought before the House now But I find that it is a bald and sapless Bill In a few respects it wants to tighten the loopholes here and there, which may unavoidably creep into the administration of any Insurance company To that extent, I welcome it But there are a few retrograde measures which are sought to be imported into this Bill I have got a particular quarrel with them First of all, it was with very great difficulty that in the original Act of 1938 a clause was introduced that the Superintendent should be an Actuary My Honourable friend from the European Group Mr Chapman-Mortimer, who spoke just now, welcomed the change that he is foregoing that qualification that the Superintendent should be an Actuary I am surprised that his Group should have changed their mind, because I find that in 1938 it was the spokesman of that Group Mr Aikman who wanted to introduce this qualification, where in the original Bill there was no such qualification He wanted to introduce the qualification that the Superintendent should be an Actuary of 15 years standing My Honourable friend Shri Sri Prakasa removed the 15 years qualification lest it should stand in the way of any Indian being appointed to that post because at that time, Indians did not have the requisite qualification of 15 years standing In that form, Sir N N Sircar, who was piloting the Bill adopted the amendment I am really surprised that all the arguments have been turned down which were used by the European Group originally which were also accepted by the Government for having a fully qualified Actuary as the Superintendent How overnight changes came about to alter the mind of the European Group and also the Government, I cannot understand It is no excuse to say that men with that qualification are not available I learn that there are about 15 persons in this country who are fully qualified They may be young men. Young men are competent to rule large tracts of country, big Provinces They must only have a different colour But of our own men are here who are fully capable and qualified, their only sin is they are dark in colour, their age stands in the way I am surprised how my Honourable friend should have lent himself to accepting this modification in the qualification for a Superintendent, namely to bring in an I C S man or even an outsider

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I never said I C S men in my speech

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You must have it in your mind not to bring in an Actuary That is enough for me

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: You are entering into the domain of astrology

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As far as a human being can judge from the remarks made by the Honourable Member, it prompts me to think that he is thinking of bringing in an I C S man If he is not an Actuary whom else can he put in as Superintendent Sir, I emphatically protest against this There is no reason why the head of the administration should not be an Actuary We do not say that the Engineering Department should be manned by persons other than Engineers. I do not say that electricity should be put in my hands who has not qualification in electricity It is already wrong and bad enough on this side of the House and also the country to some extent that

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I C S man has been suffered to occupy all kinds of jobs. This is the act of a foreign government I am really surprised that a seasoned statesman like my Honourable friend who is now occupying the position of an Executive Council Member here should easily lend himself to this that he can put an I C S man for any job, whether he is qualified to hold it or not I cannot understand how anybody other than an Actuary will be able to discharge the duties of a Superintendent of Insurance satisfactorily. That is one retrograde step, that is one amendment which has been allowed to creep into the Bill Sir, I oppose this provision and I hope that clause will be removed

The next point is this A very wholesome provision was made regarding insurance made by married persons where the r nominees are their wives or their children As early as 1874 the Married Women's Property Act was passed and one of the main objectives of that was to provide for a husband who insures his life to nominate his wife as beneficiary When once the wife or the children are nominated as the beneficiary on the face of the policy, it becomes a trust and the assured can no longer deal with that property It is for the benefit of the wife or the children as the case may be That is why such a restriction was placed in the Married Women's Property Act But when that Act was passed it was not extended to persons professing Hindu religion, Jains or Buddhists or Muslims Later on in 1913 that Act was extended to all communities in the country and in 1923, it was made applicable fully In the 1938 Insurance Act, that provision was incorporated in section 39 of the Insurance Act That is a substantive law We know that in Hindu families which are governed by Mitakshara law as soon as a son is born, he is entitled to half a share of the father's ancestral property (Interruption) I am referring to the first born son I am obliged to my Honourable friend that he seeks to put more limitation because with each son, the right of the father to alienate the property goes down and with each son the share of the father also climbs down That was a provision made not trusting fathers, lest in a bad mood they should alienate the property or they should fall into evil ways and alienate property leaving the children helpless It was on similar grounds that a provision was made in the Insurance Act of 1938 that once an assured nominates his wife or children, the policy becomes a trust in favour of the wife or children and it is no longer possible for the person assured—the husband or the father—to deal with it as he likes That provision is now sought to be taken away by indirect methods

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I have tried to study the provisions of this measure I shall wait for a reply at leisure I say once again that by backdoor methods this wholesome provision is sought to be removed It is sought to remove this substantive piece of law by improper methods The only argument I have been able to hear from the other side both inside this House and outside for this removal is that it works to the disadvantage of Agents who go about canvassing business, that once the prospective policyholders are told that they may not be able to deal with the policies as they liked, if they nominate their wives or children as beneficiaries, then they feel reluctant to insure at all, they refuse to insure That is the only excuse given, namely that the Agents want this But the Government forget the fact that besides speaking for the Agents of the insurers, they must also speak for the country at large in the interest of those persons for whose the policies are held My Honourable friend does not seem to have advertised this provision broadly If the All-India Women's Association should get to know this they would have raised a great hue and cry over this matter. They would have crowded all the galleries here and would have protested against this provision being adopted I say Sir, this is an improper modification that is sought to be introduced in this Bill.

The next point I wish to refer is this I have studied that portion relating to Agents commission I feel the provision relating to Agents commission in the case of policies revived has been wrongly worded I feel that that provision cannot fit in here Under the existing law no policy is allowed to lapse if it has been in existence for over three years Therefore that new provision which the Honourable Mover is introducing in this Bill thinking it is a wholesome provision is really ineffectual It will apply only to very few instances for which this horrid amendment ought not to have been tabled

Then, Sir, it is true that regarding provident society transactions, the limit has been raised from Rs 500 to Rs 750 and also a higher limit is given so far as annuity is concerned To that extent the provident societies will be benefited My own impression is that the higher limit must be Rs 1,000 instead of Rs 750 It is meagre The provident societies are really crumbling down though they are capable of doing good work From 350 or 400 provident societies which were in existence a few years ago the number has now come down to 150 The value of money has now gone down The amount of Rs 500 which was the highest limit as fixed a long time ago is now equivalent to Rs 1,500 Therefore I suggest that a maximum of a thousand rupees may be set up for transactions of provident insurance companies I hope some day my Honourable friend will have all the credit and all the courage which the late Sir Nripendra Sircar had when he brought into existence the old Bill of 1937 and got it passed into law, he was the pioneer of insurance legislation in this country Before that in 1912 there was only a skeleton Act which was not at all useful, it was only an adjunct to the Indian Companies Act I thought my Honourable friend would muster up courage and nationalise this insurance We must move with the times If the Government here is an appendage of that other Government ruling in the United Kingdom, he must have introduced socialistic legislation by this time He offered some sop to us that very soon he will introduce another piece of legislation which will radically alter or substantially improve the existing institution of insurance companies I am expecting, therefore, that he will try to nationalise as much as possible most of the institutions in our country

Then, Sir, in any case in the previous Bill, though they were not at that time prepared to nationalise all insurance companies, the late Sir Nripendra Sircar was prepared to go to this extent that he allowed on the directorate of insurance companies, in proprietary companies, 25 per cent of policyholders But in the previous Bill of 1944 my Honourable friend did not even try to extend the percentage of 25 for policyholders to 50 That is the natural consequence of a principle that was started in 1938 Even in that matter my Honourable friend did not muster up sufficient courage. I am sure he will modify his views and will at least try to make all proprietary companies into mutual companies in the course of 10 or 15 years There is no reason why, so far as insurance companies are concerned, small persons who invested small amounts as shares should have in their hands as directors large amounts to deal with by way of premium income I can give one instance of an insurance company which carries on business in Madras and of which the paid-up capital is only Rs 74,000 (the authorised capital being 1 lakhs), all the shares were purchased by one or two individuals and every year the premium income is one crore of rupees,—small savings of various people from end to end of this country. Would you allow that state of affairs? The policyholder directors are there but we do not know the names of the policyholders The previous Act says that the names need not be made known to all the persons because there are rival companies who would go and catch hold of them, try to get their policies lapse and make them take fresh policies in their own company. Therefore even the names of policyholders is kept secret So 25 per cent representation of policyholders in proprietary companies is not working well and you must increase that proportion. I know also of a case where

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directors cornered all the shares and did away with one manager on the plea that one thousand rupees was too much by way of his salary, and after his dismissal one of the Directors became the managing director and took Rs. 2,500 a month as remuneration That is how they are managing these affairs Policy-holders are not getting any benefit, they are going to the wall under some ground or other Insurance companies are not declaring bonuses nowadays Are any steps being now taken in the Bill to remedy these defects? There are 44 and odd clauses in this Bill Most of them deal with removing a bracket here and inserting a bracket there or putting a comma here and a semi-colon there But with respect to one or two provisions of substance they disturb the joint family life of this country and they disturb the small property which an unwary husband, soon after his marriage, on account of love and affection may settle on his wife Later on he may go to the races or become immoral, change his mind and change his affection, and then my Honourable friend on the other side wants to give him a long rope so that he can deny the benefit to his wife and children and transfer the policy to some other party. That is the policy of my Honourable friend I can show that wherever this Bill seeks to do something it does not go far enough, in other cases it treads on dangerous ground and tries to unsettle many of these matters

I will now come to one or two circumstances with respect to which it is necessary or useful that sufficient attention may be paid to it in the Select Committee I have tabled a number of amendments to the clauses, I thought originally that without the Bill going through the Select Committee we may get these amendments through in the House But in as much as my Honourable friend laid sufficient stress and gloated over having given us a boon by way of removing the clause with respect to married women and also removed the qualification of the Superintendent being an Actuary, I submit that these matters should have some attention given to them in the Select Committee

As regards assets there is a differentiation of keeping life assets separately from the other assets This is certainly an improvement But I find that even in that matter my Honourable friend has been very halting In the Banking Bill introduced during the last session—I am sure it will be reintroduced this session—there was a provision making it incumbent on banking companies whether incorporated in the United Kingdom or in this country to have 75 per cent of their assets kept in this country I do not find a similar provision here Provision was made in the Insurance Act of 1938 for 55 per cent of the assets being invested in Government securities or in other approved securities 30 per cent in one and 25 per cent in the other Insurance companies are competent to deal with the balance of 45 per cent in the manner they like in profitable investments or at a higher rate of interest, so that they may be able to meet the expenses But there is no provision insisting upon all the assets at least 55 per cent of the assets being kept in British India We have known of cases where foreign banking companies have transacted business in the country and when they went into liquidation it was not possible for those persons who invested monies in those banks in this country reaping the full benefits of all the assets Take for instance the Travancore National Bank Those persons in Travancore, depositors and others, who kept a rupee there got a full rupee back where we others got only about 12 or 13 annas for our rupee that we invested Therefore provision should be made in this Bill where sect on 27 of the original Act is sought to be amended that 55 per cent of the assets at least must be kept in this country, whoever may transact the business That provision is necessary and I am sure that in the Select Committee my Honourable friend will consent to such a modification which will be in the interest of all the policyholders in this country

Sir as regards amalgamation of provident societies I am afraid that this Bill is trying to place too much power in the hands of the Superintendent.

The power is given to him and not to the court. In the original Act of 1938 this amalgamating power is vested in the court so far as insurance companies are concerned but here it is the Superintendent who is given all power from the beginning to end For cancellation and registration it is the Superintendent who is given power, when it is a question of moving the court for winding up it is the Superintendent that is given power I know the present Superintendent Mr Vaidyanathan is an exceedingly lovable person, he is absolutely devoted to justice and truth and interested in the welfare of all insurance companies in this country But other persons may come into the place with some prejudices It ought not to be left in the hands of any one person, however important or however great he may be, to deal exclusively, even with the aid of courts, with the fortunes of private companies or insurance companies

Mr. President: Order, order, it being 4 o'clock, the House will now take up the motion for adjournment

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

IMMINENCE OF STRIKE IN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir I move

"That the Assembly do now adjourn"

Sir, I wish to discuss the imminence of a general strike in the Posts and Telegraph Department in pursuance of the decisions taken by certain Unions Before I go into the merits of the question, I want to make one thing clear In the morning Sir Gurunath made a statement that a Commission is to be appointed by the Government of India to go into the larger question of revision of scales of pay He stated that it was a large question, that it affected not only the employees in the Posts and Telegraph Department, but in fact all the Government servants of the Central Government I do not want to minimize the importance of this, but I want to state very frankly that the experience which the public had about these committees and commissions has not been very happy To-day, Sir, I am speaking about one lakh and seventy thousand non-gazetted employees of the Posts and Telegraph Department There is a class of 'new poors', those who are getting just a thousand and more per month and for whom special dearness allowance has been very recently granted I am not pleading their cause because they have always had the ear of the Government at their disposal I am pleading the cause of those who are really poor and who are finding it extremely difficult to make their both ends meet

[At this stage Mr President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (one of the Panel of Chairmen)]

Sir, in the month of October 1945, the Bombay Postmen and the Lower Grade Staff R M S Union passed several resolutions In one of them it stated that if within a reasonable time the demands made by them were not satisfied necessary action should be taken Similarly, the All-India Postal and R M S Conference, which was held at Mymensingh, passed a Resolution and among other things stated that if in the Budget for 1946-47, which was going to be presented to the Central Assembly in January-February, no effect was given to the resolution demanding revision of scales of pay, a Council of Action be appointed for the purpose of taking such action as was necessary to enforce the demands

Sir, the main demands of these postal workers are

(i) revision of scales of pay, (ii) working conditions, (iii) retrenchment, (iv) the pension they are entitled to get.

Before I go into these questions, I want to impress on the mind of this House that this Department is not like other departments of the Government

[Sjt N V Gadgil]

of India, this Department is a commercial department and it has always claimed it to be so

"(In this Department) the expenditure must be as nearly as possible in economic relation with the receipt It has, therefore, not been possible to extend to the lower paid staff of the department the same immunity from the cuts which has been extended to the other Departments"

That was in a letter dated 21st December 1931

Now, let us see the present financial position of the Department In 1942-43 this Department earned a profit of Rs 4,51,00,000, in 1943-44 Rs 9,02,57,000, in 1944-45 Rs 10,24,65,000, and in 1945-46 I am told it will be more than ten crores With this background the House will judge whether the employees of this Department are adequately paid

Taking the first question of revision of scales of pay, I know that a Commission will be appointed and it will go into the larger question, but it is only necessary to understand how injustice was done until now and the appointment of a Commission may be good for the future but it does not detract from the fact that injustice has been done to these employees Sir, with your permission, I will briefly read out what was the position from the memorandum submitted by the Bombay Postmen Union to the Enquiry Committee that was appointed by this Department in 1944-45

Minimum pay of Overseer and Postmen before 1914 was Rs 15 In 1920 it was Rs 27, in 1927-28 it was Rs 30, in 1935 there was a revision and it was reduced to Rs 24 The pay of the packer in 1914 was Rs 12 In 1920 it was raised to Rs 20 In 1927-28 it was Rs 25 In 1935 it was reduced to Rs 16

The Boy Peon in 1914—minimum Rs 7 In 1920 it was Rs 15 In 1927-28 it was Rs 18 In 1935 it was reduced to Rs. 12

You will find, Sir, that there has been a reduction in 1935 from anything like 33 to 42 per cent , that was the position The reason given then was that the prices had gone down The Government is very quick to take advantage when there is a decline in prices, but when it is a question of rise in the cost of living, the Government is not equally prompt This will be obvious from the way in which these employees were treated in the matter of dearness allowance during the period of war

For the first nine months nothing was paid From the 1st of April 1941 to December 1941 from 2 to 3 Rupees From 1st January 1942 to 31st July 1942 Rs 3 to Rs 5 From 1st of August 1942 to 31st December 1942 Rs 6 to 9 Then from 1st September 1943 to May 1944—from 7 to 10 From 1st March 1944 to 31st August 1944—from 14 to 18 During this time the price index doubled and the working class cost of living also showed an upward rise In the month of September 1939 it was 106 and in the month of December 1944 it went to 247 Now, if during the whole period of war we were to compare the rise in the index number and take an average, the average is 163, deducting 105 that is the index before the war started, there has been an average increase of 58 whereas whatever this Department has granted by way of dearness is taken into consideration, the average neutralisation effect has not been more than 10 per cent for a man drawing Rs 60 by way of basic pay In some cases it has been less than 3 It has been laid down in many disputes decided by the Industrial Disputes Court and also in England that at least those who are getting just above the minimum living wage should not be so reduced in their income that they should fall below that Now, it has been laid down in one of the decisions by the Industrial Court in Bombay that the neutralisation should be 66 per cent at least Nowhere, in no grade has this been achieved by whatever has been done by the Department up till now Therefore, Sir, leaving aside the wider question of revision of scales of pay and till that is achieved, I should like to make a constructive suggestion for the time being to the Honourable Member in charge of the Department, that he at least should restore those scales which were available in the

year 1927-28 and further he should increase the dearness allowance to such an extent that the rise in the cost of living should be neutralised to the extent of 66 per cent at least What great suffering is being undergone by these persons is a matter which is in the knowledge of the Honourable Member. The Committee that was appointed by him toured several provinces, prepared a report, submitted it to the Department, but it has not been published It that were to be published, the public would know what recommendations the Committee made That is one of the demands made by the several unions. Before that Committee evidence was laid to show that many postmen had to go without footwear Many had to go without proper and protective food. Many had to live under roofs practically comparable to stables.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member has got one minute more

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Most of them are in the clutches of sawkars, the violent pathan and the non-violent marwari. The few that are left are subject to the penal interest clauses of the co-operative societies I doubt whether there is one or two per cent of the non-gazetted employees of this Department who are free from indebtedness This is the position During the war they did good work That was a compliment paid to them this morning What has been their reward? They have incurred debts and in many cases they have sold their ornaments During war they proved loyal, now the war is over, and when they merely ask for living wage their demand is practically turned down Sir, the other question of retrenchment is a wider question and it is not possible to do justice to it within the short time of fifteen minutes If this Government accepts that it is the duty of every Government to provide sufficient food and of requisite quality for everyone then it must find employment for everybody If it does not it is not doing its duty by the people I maintain that every citizen has a right to employment and if they are retrenched without provision, they will be thrown on the streets If they are honest they must perish and die If they become criminals they will be fed, clothed and looked after in jails This is present society and the present state!

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member's time is up

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: I will finish In view of the profits made by this Department, I submit, Sir, that maintenance of a decent standard of living for all its employees is the first charge on the profits and unless that is done I think this Government ought to be condemned Sir, I move

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved

"That the Assembly do now adjourn"

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa Muhammadan) I rise to support the motion for censuring the Government for not having done anything substantial so far for the employees of this particular Department of Posts and Telegraphs The Honourable mover has very ably given the House the figures of the dearness allowance and has also stated how they compared with the index of price levels from 1939 to 1945-1946 He has also given to the House the figures of the profit that this Department has been able to earn during the period of the war from 1939 to 1945, which he calculates to be in the neighbourhood of about ten crores, and he has accepted the claim of the Government that it is a commercial organisation I personally do not accept his assertion of Posts and Telegraphs being Commercial Department I believe that it is a public utility department and should be paid accordingly; whether the Department earns any profit or not is a question immaterial to the issue This Department has got to run efficiently inspite of losses, being a public utility service department and it cannot be argued that it should be treated as a commercial organisation and I am not going to base my argument on the line that because this Department has earned larger income that it should necessarily give away a bigger part of it towards salaries or dearness allowances of the employees My argument is this: that this is the only Department which has been able to earn a better reputation

[Mr Muhammad Nauman]

of honesty and hard integrity than any other department of the Government of India so far. If you do not give encouragement by way of better emoluments to employees, then it only means that you are discouraging honest employees in their discharge of duties I am not here, Sir, to take the brief of those who have been engaged in the Supply Department or in the Food Department, although there may be honest people there as well, but the notoriety those other departments have earned is enough indication of the fact that whatever the index prices may be, they have been able to earn more than they required in view of higher index prices in India This is a point which I placed before the Honourable Member in charge of Posts and Air (the Secretary was present and the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs) last year when I led a deputation in my capacity as President of All-India Posts and Telegraphs Union I impressed on the Honourable Member for Posts and Air that although the question of revision of the scales of pay may be a question which requires scrutiny on behalf of the entire service section of the Government of India as certain uniform regulations regarding salaries and scales of pay have to be maintained, yet it was so necessary in the meantime that this particular Department should be given a higher dearness allowance to compensate it for the particular conditions under which it has been working in these hard times

You will notice Sir, as the Honourable the Mover has proved to the House, that for a period of four years they did not pay anything to this Posts and Telegraphs Department more or less—for nine months no dearness allowance was given and for the other three years the allowance given was in the nature of Rs 2 to Rs 6 You will notice that the higher index prices have been mostly for those commodities which are among the essentials of life, I mean foodgrains and cloth and it was not possible to cut out a certain amount of luxury for these poor people and even then to make both their ends meet On this point I think the Honourable Secretary, Sir Gurunath Bewoor, will appreciate when I say that he has not been doing what his conscience prompted him to do in such particular circumstances I remember the reply given to me, during the discussion, was that effort was being made to do something more substantial as soon as the report of the Enquiry Committee was laid before them The report probably is with them It has not been given out to the public and we are not in a position to know exactly what the report contains In any case I would like to know whether any action has been taken on that report Although the question of revision of pay, may be a larger issue, which may involve not only the Posts and Telegraphs Department but also other departments of Government of India, yet surely the increase of dearness allowance to suited conditions which would allow those people to exist is a matter of emergency and is within the powers of the Department itself This Government has failed so far and has done nothing for Postal Employees which is more or less criminal I would only suggest that they should rather compensate them by making such allowances as would take effect not from 1946 but from 1939 or at least 1940, since the time they have been victims of such abnormal rise in prices of essential commodities of life

On the bigger issue of revision of scales of pay I have no doubt in my mind special regard has got to be given to this Department The Government have got to look into the integrity of this Department, they have got to see how this Department has worked over a period of fifty or sixty years and whether any other department of the Government of India has been able to earn that reputation for honesty, that reputation for integrity and regularity as this Department has earned so far How has that Department earned this reputation? Not only because the Director Generals or the Honourable Secretaries have been good people or that the Secretary to the Department has been very alert, but because the small man, the postal and telegraph peons, the man who deals with the humbler sections of the people, have been good hard working and honest There was an argument advanced by someone that

the chances of dishonesty were very remote in this Department but can you say that there were absolutely no chances of indulging in corruptions by employees of this Department You cannot say that at all for instance, telegraph peons or postal peons who distribute letters could have indulged in taking an anna or two pice per letter or per telegram if they so chose to do They have kept up their honesty so far and you must appreciate that This is the only Department that has earned that reputation even from those critics of the Government of India who have not seen eye to eye with them on any other matter I would only impress upon this House that it is high time that immediately some sort of arrangement should be made so that the Government of India could give some relief to these poor people of Posts and Telegraphs Department soon

I am not going to say that they are justified in going on a strike That may not be a very correct thing for them to do but it is the last resort If a man cannot find any appreciation or redress of his grievances to get the authorities to a proper sense of consciousness to do their duty they have to resort to such measure, to risk everything that they have It is in a spirit of helplessness rather than defiance that they are probably resorting to a general strike I have always advised the Postal and Telegraphs Department employees whenever they came to me not to resort to this method and I will continue to give them that advice provided I am given assurance by Government that some thing will be immediately done I want Government to give me an assurance that they are prepared to give immediately here and now some such concession which would eventually satisfy those people and which will also satisfy us as the representatives of the country We are not here to tell the Government that they should be extravagant The money has to be found from the general exchequer and we are the subscribers to that general exchequer We do not for a moment suggest that the salaries of Posts and Telegraphs Department employees should be increased by five or ten times Of course we feel that so far as this Department is concerned you have not done anything for your employees nor have you tackled this question in the manner in which you should have done I ask the House to look into the whole question and ask for an assurance from the Government here and now that they are immediately going to set up a committee to see that the old grades of 1927 are immediately brought into existence and grant dearness allowance on the lines I suggested to them that is—those people who get less than 100 should get a minimum of Rs 50 as a dearness allowance those who get 100 and above up to Rs 500 should have a certain percentage, with a minimum increase of Rs 100 per month towards dearness allowance I am not here to say that this will satisfy the interested people but at least it will satisfy the House Government will be able to satisfy representatives like us that they have done something substantial for these honest people who have worked hard all these days and have earned a reputation for honesty and integrity for themselves and for their Department in all conditions

With these words, Sir, I support the motion

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, if I intervene in this debate, it is merely because I wish to support the plea made on behalf of public servants like postmen and telegraph peons and people working in these Departments who play such an important part in the everyday life of the people of this country I feel, Sir, that these men, whatever their faults may be, deserve well of the public Every householder knows how welcome the visit of a postman is and equally that of the telegraph peon, even though he may occasionally bring bad news One waits in the morning for the postman to bring his letters or bring his newspapers and there is some sort of void in the daily life of a householder until the arrival of the early postman

Sir, sometime ago, in the days of my youth, in this city of Delhi, I do not know for what reason but somehow, I was asked to become a chairman—I do not know what they call him, perhaps the President of the Union of Postmen In those days I used to do a certain amount of social work and came to know

[Lt.-Col Dr. J. C. Chatterjee]

these people and to like them immensely They are a very respectable set, of public workers who are not well to do and yet as my Honourable friends have said, they are people who have earned the esteem of the general public in a city like Delhi or even outside and I have always had a great deal of affection for them and have felt a great deal of concern over the way in which they have had to face their many difficulties Most of them are literate They have to send their children to school and I have often wished that I could get them admitted free into schools These are the people who have been very hard hit by the difficult times through which we have passed Anything that can be done for them is well deserved

I was surprised to hear the Honourable the Mover say that they were very badly shod I thought that this Department generously, or shall we say equitably, supplied them with uniforms Till recent times they used to appear quite respectably clothed in their postal uniforms Lately things have deteriorated immensely and they appear in all kinds of multi-coloured clothes Probably my friend has not supplied them with uniforms lately

Sir Gurunath Bewoor (Secretary Posts and Air Department) Lack of cloth

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Lack of cloth? This is not his fault I hope he will do his best As far as I remember in England all postmen and telegraph peons are very well shod Is it true that my friend's department, though not able to give them good uniforms lately, has also deprived them of shoes? If that is so, I hope he will supply them in with shoes before long

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General) And umbrellas too

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: And even ice-containers in the hot weather because they do have to do a great deal of trudging in the hot weather

My friend just now said they are the only species of public servants who have a reputation for integrity and honesty I agree with him to a very great extent; but I feel that that is not quite and completely hundred per cent true always, may be because the dearness allowance is so small I do not know whether my friend goes into the villages very much, but if he did he would know that whenever a money order is received even by a poor man or the family of persons serving overseas, the postman does occasionally get a certain amount of shall we call it a commission or good will offering

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is only a tip

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: It is sometimes a little more than a tip

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: That is your hearsay evidence you have no experience of it I know the villages more closely

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: That is a matter of opinion anyway, but if my friend would face facts, he could know that it is common in a great number of cases that illiterate people and even others have to give some consideration to obtain their money orders or their telegraph forms written, and knew the various kinds of vexations which one has to undergo when one has the misfortune to go to a post office counter It may not happen in a place like Delhi, but I cannot say it is not true that these gentlemen do things occasionally which they are not entitled to I am not blaming them; it does not in any way detract from their qualities as a class, but I do want to point out that these things do happen and perhaps these things will not happen when their dearness allowance is increased As I began by saying, it is perfectly true that these men are some of the hardest working individuals and very heavily worked; but when I am told and it is claimed that the work of the posts and telegraphs in recent years has become excellent, though I agree generally, I do demur to a certain extent I feel that any one who has the misfortune of using the telephone in Delhi would agree with my view—it may be due to war conditions; but I still maintain that the telephone in Delhi (the number is not even one-tenth of the telephones in London) and other large towns is very unsatisfactory. Does my honourable

friend remember these sub-exchanges which he has now introduced with anti-diluvian machines and that some peoples' telephones have been taken away for the use of officials or other favoured people? The fact remains that any one who lives in Delhi cannot really compliment my friend on the efficiency of his telephone exchange I am a man who does not have a reputation for losing his temper often In fact even in senates where members are very unruly I keep an unruffled temper But if anything makes me lose my temper, it is the telephone exchange which my honourable friend provides and for which he is responsible

In the same way, talking of money orders which are sent, and that to poor people, I could quote instances which have come to my notice lately, where a money order from Agra to Delhi takes something like two months to travel, and if ever a complaint is made, no acknowledgment is even received, and that is particularly true of the very efficient telephone system here You may write to them, you may telephone to them, but nothing happens

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Have you ever written to them and received no reply?

Lt.-Col Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Many times and not received a reply They only maintain their serene majesty because they have the whiphand over every one, and if you complain they say you can get your telephone disconnected or may be they can sell it at a premium of a thousand rupees to some one else. Therefore I cannot fully agree with my friend that there is any great reason to compliment the Posts and Telegraphs Department on the good work of these men I do not know who is responsible

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Which other department are you prepared to compliment then?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: The question does not arise

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: But it does I have (?) (inaudible)

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: If he wants a comparison, let him have it As regards this honesty and integrity, they may be more honest than others anyway I will not quarrel with him over that matter

The last thing which I want to say is this that whereas I fully support this motion which has been so ably moved, I do hope their dearness allowances will be increased but I also wish to make it equally clear that I am not one of those who support dearness allowances to officers drawing large salaries (Interruption) I have never drawn dearness allowance myself The point is that I do not think for a moment that it is necessary to give dearness allowance for persons getting over one thousand and two thousand rupees a month I do not quarrel with my friend over this matter The sooner such allowances are withdrawn the better When a commission of inquiry is appointed by my friend, the Honourable Member incharge, he should also tell them that they make it part of their business to see as to how they should improve the efficiency of the working of the telegraph and postal and telephone departments I think an inquiry of this kind should not be confined only to one matter I fully agree that if you pay a man well he will do better work Let them by all means do all in their power to improve these men's efficiency by clothing them better, by 'shodding' them better, and also by raising their dearness allowances, and improving their efficiency by any other means that he can find I would also urge him to exercise greater vigilance, or may be perhaps he has already taken that action, over the working of these departments, which I quite realise do very hard work, and have passed through difficult times Yet I think when normal times return, as they are now returning and when we are anxious to provide them with better food and clothing, they will also see to it that their efficiency is increased in like manner.

Mr. S. Guruswami (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I rise to support this adjournment motion. In doing so, I am sorry to state that the statement made

[Mr. S. Guruswami]

by Sir Gurunath Bewoor this morning explaining the attitude of the government leaves the position as unsatisfactory as ever Why do I say that? I judge them by their conduct in 1944 and 1945 There was universal discontent in the department in 1944 A committee of inquiry was appointed Hopes were given that the conclusions of that committee would be implemented and something better would happen But what did happen? That committee's report is still a secret Government is ashamed to reveal the recommendations of that committee I challenge the government to tell me whether or not it is a fact that the committee has recommended that the inferior service employees should get the same pension as the subordinate employees, and this government is sitting silent on that If that is the attitude, in regard to the committees appointed by them, then what confidence will the workers have in regard the government's announcement that a commission, a roving commission with indeterminate terms of reference, will be appointed to conclude its task perhaps by 1950 or 1960? That will not do What are the demands of the workers? The demands of the workers are in respect of wages, that they should be better off than what they were twenty years ago Is that an irresponsible demand? Nothing of the kind The implication of this demand is that new scales of pay which were introduced in 1931 must go lock, stock and barrel If the Honourable Member had made a categorical statement this morning that he is prepared to recommend to the Government the abolition of the new scales of pay he would have been in a better position to ask for our co-operation Not only that, Sir Even in regard to the old scales of pay in 1927 there was discontent and the Government told them—have patience What is more, in regard to the scales of pay, we have a new situation after the war These men are not able to have the conditions of service or the conditions of standard of living which they had at the time of the declaration of war Therefore they have been demanding an equitable dearness allowance and this department had a new system of dearness allowance partly covered by a system of so called good conduct pay Is it that men under 125 are men with good conduct and above that without any conduct? I say, Sir that this discrimination in regard to conduct pay is an inequitable discrimination and what is more, this committee known as the Krishna Prasad Committee which was appointed in 1944 wanted to recommend the opening of grain shops In the wake of that agitation of 1944, they opened cheap grain shops in Bombay City and soon after the conclusion of the labours of this Committee the department went to sleep I condemn this department strongly for not opening cheap grain shops throughout the length and breadth of India, wherever practicable Not only that They have not been able to implement the other recommendations of the Krishna Prasad Committee There are different sets of leave rules for people doing the same job and I say that this inequitable system must go, whether the workers are railwaymen or employees of the Postal Department or the Telegraph Department Whether these men belong to these departments or other departments, we will fight for them tooth and nail I say that any Government which is responsible for the continuance of that system of discriminatory conditions of service for the same work will stand self-condemned

I do not want to make a big speech I would appeal to the Honourable Member to give a categorical assurance here and now that the new scales of pay will go Not only will it go but the men who are subjected to the iniquity of the new scales will be fixed in the corresponding positions in the old scales That is No 1 No 2—that dearness allowance on a rational basis based on the findings of the several courts of inquiry in different parts of the country will be fixed No 3—that pensions for inferior service employees will be on the same basis as that granted to subordinate employees in the light of the recommendations of the Krishna Prasad Committee report and to take the old employees of the Department into confidence and discuss the post war schemes of absorption of the so-called surplus men The Honourable Member has been referred to as the most intelligent officer of the Department and therefore when

the question of retrenchment came he said that so far as the permanent employees are concerned, their positions are safe and in regard to others unfortunately styled as temporary he did not have the courage to give any assurance The other day, when there was a debate on the railway question, the whole discussion was derailed by misleading questions that were put It was alleged against the workers that they are such impossible men that they were against all retrenchments, that there would be necessity for retrenchment and that the workers are not taking a reasonable stand but what is the position today Two issues are involved in the question of the temporary staff One is the grant of privileges which the permanent employees enjoy and which are denied to people who have been treated as temporary from 1942 No 2 is insecurity of service which threatens them unnecessarily not because the activities of the Department are going down but because of a policy which was irresponsibly indulged in by this Government by saying that 70 per cent of the vacancies after 1942 would be reserved for ex-service men I have already said on a previous occasion that we are not against the employment of ex-service men but I say that these employees of the Department who served the Department loyally during the period of the war who were subject to the provisions of the Essential Services Maintenance Order and were not allowed to seek better jobs should not be kicked out as if they are men of no consequence They should be continued to be employed as long as there is work in the Department If you want to give employment to ex-service men, give them employment in regard to the future vacancies when you think of extending the post war activities of the Postal Department Take the Unions into confidence and consider various alternative methods Until you do so it would be premature on the part of this Department to send away from employment any single employee of the Department If you do so, you will be liable to be tried one day for the crime of forcing unemployment on the citizens of this country I say this, because this is an occasion, the second of its kind which has been given to me, to respectfully warn this Government that their policy in regard to the temporary men is wrong, is unfair and unjust If you indulge in that policy, it will be creating a situation which will be very difficult for the responsible officials of the Department who will come hereafter I therefore appeal to Sir Gurunath Bewoor to give the three types of assurances that I have asked for, so that under a good atmosphere this roving commission which he contemplates may have some success and may do justice both to the workers in this Department and to the public who are the real owners of this Department

Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal Landholders) On behalf of the All-India Postal and R M S Union I feel it my duty to support this motion which has been so ably moved by my Honourable colleague Mr Gadgil In supporting this motion, I can tell Sir Gurunath Bewoor that if he thinks that he can divert from the real issue by some means of setting up a committee or a commission he is much mistaken Only this afternoon we were having the meeting of the All-India Council where we will have the pleasure of meeting representatives of different parts of India What I find is this There are so much dissatisfaction with the existing state of things that they are prepared to go even to the extreme steps I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the recent statements of no less a responsible man than Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru where he says if the postal employees owe a duty for the public then public and Government owe a duty to the employees Even today he says that before things take a serious turn it is the duty of the Government to look to the interest of these employees of theirs It is not out of any bad spirit that they are bent on strikes The question touches their bread and butter When I was coming to Delhi from Calcutta I have had the privilege of meeting the employees at the different main stations I heard harrowing details of their daily life They could not provide milk even to their children That is the position, not to speak of clothing When the war started there were instructions that Government servants could have their places of duty in case of extreme

[Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury]

emergency such as bombing but so far the postal employees are concerned it was definitely instructed not to leave their duty and take shelter when such emergency arises Now after the war is over these unfortunate Postal, R M. S and Telegraph employees are not even given the benefit of their legitimate demand This is the reward they are getting And what is their demand? The Honourable Member wants to take time. May I ask him what for does he want time? This question of the revision of scales of pay is not a new one. Last year in Bombay a resolution was passed to that effect At that time they gave a definite scheme and also suggested how to fix up that scheme. It was not an excessive demand If you look at that scheme, which I have got in my hand, you will find that it is not at all excessive It is a most moderate one and I do not think Sir Gurunath Bewoor should take time to consider it Last time, if I may say so, when I had the pleasure of meeting Sir Gurunath Bewoor, he gave me the assurance that the case of the second grade clerks was to be dealt with sympathetically What is the result of that sympathy? Just before he departed for England, I tried to find out what had been done with that scheme and to my utter surprise I found that no relief had been given to the employees The only thing that has been done is that the second grade has been abolished Can any man with commonsense understand that if the grade is abolished the pay will remain the same? But it is only possible in the Department of Sir Gurunath Bewoor If any untoward things happen I tell him that the responsibility will rest with him for it It was he who introduced the new scale of pay in 1931 and it is for him to revise it If he does not do that, the whole blame will be on him I want a categorical reply from him to the question as to what he is going to do? If there is any Commission or Committee, let it take place in due course But what is the immediate relief that the employees are going to get? There is a concrete suggestion that has been made by my friend Mr Guruswami It is a pity that in this House we have only a nominated member of labour when in other parts of the globe labour conducts the destinies of the nation His Excellency the Governor General could add one nominated member more on the ground of enlargement of portfolios but he could not think it expedient to add one or two more labour representatives amongst the nominated members It is a disgrace to the present administration to have such a poor representation of labour in this House Mr Guruswami spoke very rightly and I entirely endorse his views If Sir Gurunath Bewoor wants the goodwill from this side of the House, he must come out with a categorical reply What we want him to do is that he must abolish forthwith that new scale system and introduce immediately the scale which prevailed before 1931 with point to point system

As regards the dearness allowances, everybody knows how the prices have gone up They have granted the dearness allowance to the extent of 17½ per cent When there was depression there had been a reduction of pay to the extent of 30 per cent only, when there is so much increase in the price of every commodity they sanction dearness allowance only 17½ per cent It is a great pity Sir Gurunath Bewoor ought to consider this matter in a very serious way and not in a light-hearted manner by suggesting the appointment of Commissions and Committees I know it fully well that at present there is a great dissatisfaction among the postal employees and the entire administration may collapse if their grievances are not redressed in time Let me give him this warning that before any crisis happens, he must look into things in their proper perspective and avert it It can only be averted by a definite assurance that the Honourable Member can give on the floor of the House, namely, that the system which prevailed before 1931 will be immediately introduced and the dearness allowance will be increased by 60 per cent If you look at the index figure, you will find that the price level has gone up by more than 150 and in some cases 200 per cent even to day as compared to the price-level

before the war. So, there is no justification for the Honourable Member to refuse this.

As regards the work of the postal employees, I can tell him that after the termination of 30 years service, their work is 25 per cent. more than that of any other Government servant. Here I have got the whole calculation. In 30 years service he works 55,000 hours more than the employee of any other department.

My Honourable friend Mr. Chatterjee made some remarks about the efficiency of the postal employees. Can you expect efficiency from people who are dissatisfied and underfed who have to work with enormous pressure of work with most insufficient hand? I can tell you a particular instance. I was meeting some of postal employees and my Honourable friend was telling us about the issue of money orders. Now, the instructions of the Government are that each clerk should receive and discharge 90 money orders per day. But they receive as many as 250 money orders per day and there is no extra hand to help them. There is a sort of understanding that they should take help from their co-counters, which is generally not forthcoming. In these circumstances, how can you expect efficiency when no extra hand is granted for extra pressure of work? Furthermore, so far as honesty is concerned, I can say without any fear of contradiction that it is only the Postal Department which is working with honesty and dignity in the whole of the Government of India. I am sure Sir Gurunath Bewoor cannot deny that fact. And the reward of their honesty is this that they cannot make both ends meet. Sir, this is a very grave situation.

Before I resume my seat—and I am not in the habit of making long speeches, my speeches are short, terse and positive—I would like to tell him that if no direct step is taken immediately and if no relief is given forthwith by the Government of India, they will have to face an unprecedented situation and the entire administration will come to a stand still. As the President of Union, I give him this warning.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I rise to support this motion because I have seen the hardship that is experienced by the subordinate staff of the Postal Department. I feel that the Posts and Telegraphs subordinate staff work harder than most other staff in the other Departments and yet they never have a proper encouragement from the Government nor have they been given enough pay for a decent life. Sir Gurunath Bewoor told us this morning that they were going to appoint a Commission to look into the matter of the revision of pay. We know too well about Commissions and Committees and we know how long they sit and how long it takes them to write out a report. Even after the report is written, we know how long it takes to put that report into effect. If they are not satisfied with the effect of the report or if they think that the report is not exactly of the kind that they wanted, then another Commission is appointed to go into that report. So, if we are going to delay the matter of increasing the pay of the subordinate staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, then they are going to have a great deal more hardship and suffering than they are having now. I know with regard to branch post masters, for instance, their pay is about Rs. 8 a month and out of that pay, they are supposed to buy stationery, also pay rent for the building in which the branch post office is situate. Sir, I want to know if Government is going to encourage dishonesty deliberately. How does Government expect any man to live on Rs. 8 a month. It may be that in England Branch Post Masters perhaps occupy themselves in some other job which gives them enough livelihood. Moreover, in England perhaps the Branch Post Masters have the post office in their own houses. I have seen that done, they also run a small shop which brings them some money, apart from their pay as Branch Post Masters. In India it is not the same case. You know very well that in little villages, Branch Post Masters have no other job at all. Post office work more or less becomes his full time

5 P.M.

[Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan]

job. With regard to postal runners and carriers, I believe their pay is about Rs. 6 to Rs. 12 a month and the maximum they get is Rs. 16 with a promise to grant them a pension of Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 a month, after they worked in the job for over thirty years, after their health is ruined It was already brought to our notice that they have been granted certificates for having worked hard during the war Indeed postal employees have been most loyal, they never struck work. I feel that if they brought on a strike at that time, they would have got whatever they wanted Because they were loyal, because they did not strike, because they did not create trouble during the war, they are suffering now, while others who have given trouble are also being given better pay. I submit that if the Government feel that each person who does work for the Government should get at least a decent living wage, then they must soon revise their cadre of pay and give them something better than what they get now. You can never expect us to live on Rs 8 a month and out of that Rs 8 a month, he has to purchase stationery and give house rent also Surely the Government do not expect them to live on that pay and work here also. Their health fails and still they go jogging along day to day and month to month and year to year With regard to runners and carriers, I am sure Sir Gurunath Bewoor has seen them run in the hot sun If my Honourable friend should come down to South India in May and June, he can see for himself how these poor runners run from one village to another I want to know whether for this job, they should be paid a pittance of Rs 12 a month They have nothing to look forward to in later life at all

With regard to subordinate services, they have no prospects in their own Department, and they have no opening in other departments also They cannot get a transfer to another department, once they enter the Postal Department I understand this is the rule I do feel that the setting up of Commissions and Committees will not help them It is necessary that the Government should approach this question with a human touch They have to see whether it is possible for any man to live on such a low salary You might as well not give him any salary at all Ask him to find his own food and clothing rather than pay him this pittance of Rs 8 I should like to know why the postal staff have not been given this dearness allowance I feel that the Government should not give any of their servants less than a basic pay of Rs 50 Dearness allowance should be given to them whenever necessity arises I always hear of people drawing higher salary getting dearness allowance It is only people who kick up a row get their grievances redressed, whereas people who are docile are always put off with the promise that a commission will be appointed to look into the matter It takes months and months before they come to any decision at all The man who gets a small salary is kept on the same low salary with no prospects to look forward to. I feel strongly that it is not enough for Sir Gurunath Bewoor to give us an assurance that a commission will be appointed Surely he has got the data in his office, surely he knows what people in his Department are getting, surely he can find out all details for himself. Is that not enough? It is not necessary for him to appoint a commission to find out these things I hope that Government will see that before things get worse than it is now, I do not think it can be much worse as far as the lot of the people are concerned, the situation in the country might become worse, and I hope before that, something will be done and people in the subordinate ranks of the Posts and Telegraph Department will be given much better pay so that they can live and carry on their work, so that they won't have to have recourse to bribery or any other dishonest modes of living. We feel that Government themselves are encouraging dishonesty in this class of Government servants.

Sir, with these words, I support the motion.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Sir, the debate has ranged over a very wide field and it is quite possible that I may not be able to cover all the points raised. I would first of all like to express on behalf of the Posts and Telegraph Department our appreciation of the remarks made by various speakers about the loyal and devoted service of the staff of the Department and about their honesty and integrity. I am sure it will make them proud and make them work more efficiently

Remarks were made about the inefficiency of the service I should like to be honest about it I would not ascribe it to inefficiency of staff. It is due to the fact that we have a very large number of inexperienced staff, but it is not their fault. Large expansion of business came after the war broke out and it has been impossible for us to secure all the additional staff required on account of the large demand of various other Departments at the same time Further no amount of training can be a substitute for experience The equipment is worn out, we have not been able to secure new apparatus and a great deal of the inefficiency is due to causes and difficulties created by the war and it would be wrong to blame the staff of the Department for this inefficiency

Now, Sir, this morning, I made a short statement to the effect that we had received communications from various Unions and that these were under consideration We have in the Department about 12 to 13 recognised Unions each of which has its provincial, divisional and district branches There is an arrangement by which these Unions have opportunities of discussing their various grievances with the local officers Indeed the Unions have large opportunities of placing their cases before the Director General and before Government Mr Nauman mentioned the instance of the interview he had last year I am merely mentioning this to show that so far as Government are concerned, they have a complete appreciation of the case as presented by the Unions

An Honourable Member: With what results?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Now, Sir, we have received from time to time numerous demands for remedying a large number of grievances We do our best to deal with each of them individually Recently I have had discussions, as I mentioned, with the office bearers of the new Federation which has been organised quite recently and I told them that I would like to have in brief what their main demands are and they were good enough to give me a statement of which I have no doubt that Diwan Chaman Lall Mr Gadgil and others are fully aware One of these related to retrenchment Mr Guruswami in the course of his talk referred to that I think you would like me to deal with this very briefly The question of railway staff retrenchment was dealt with the other day in connection with an Adjournment Motion about railway retrenchment I need not repeat all the arguments that were then advanced on behalf of the Government I should like to say that so far as the Postal Department is concerned, there is really no need for any great fear of retrenchment on a large scale in the near future

The total number of permanent employees in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department is about 1 lakh and six hundred in round figures and the temporary employees are about 24,700 We have sent on military service on a voluntary basis about 2,170 men of the grade of clerks and other persons When these are demobilised—and they are not going to be demobilised in one lot—they will revert to civil employ, and we estimate that an equal number of temporary employees will have to be discharged We have in addition reservations, made under the promise given by Government, of a total of about 3 177 non-gazetted and about 1,150 inferior servants, *i e* , men of the class of packers and porters Thus taking both those who have volunteered and those for whom reservation has been made, the total number of possible discharges from the Posts and Telegraphs Department is about 6,500.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural): Why were these reservations made? Were they previously employed by the Postal Department?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: *This reservation is made,* as was explained the other day, on the general orders of Government in all departments, that the reservation is for discharged war service personnel, that 70 per cent of the permanent vacancies occurring during the war would be reserved for returned or discharged war service personnel. The reason was that people who volunteered for war service lost their chances of permanent employment in the civil services and this was considered as an unfair thing for those who went to risk their lives in the war.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab Muhammadan): How are these retrenched people to live?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am coming to that. I said the total number of people who may be discharged is 6,500 out of a total of 26,000 temporary employees,—roughly 25 per cent. Now, Sir, we do not expect this retrenchment to occur in one day or in one month, this will be spread over a long period, it can only occur when the demobilised personnel have been discharged and they have applied for employment in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, have been tested to see whether they possess the minimum qualifications and training, and then they will displace these people. In the meantime, in the Posts and Telegraphs Department there is an annual intake of about three thousand persons,—due partly to the creation of new posts and partly due to retirements, discharges, dismissals, deaths, resignations etc. Now so far as these vacancies occur, such temporary personnel as have been discharged will have the first claim to all such vacancies which occur after the 1st January 1946. In addition we have a large programme of post-war expansion, particularly in the rural areas, and we hope that there will be new posts created in order to meet this expansion. The total traffic of the Posts and Telegraphs Department may possibly fall, our own anticipation is that it is not likely to fall in the near future to any appreciable extent. But the point I wish to make clear is that there is no great fear of immediate retrenchment in the Posts and Telegraphs Department. There will undoubtedly be discharges here and there, particularly in areas where due to the moving away of the population or industry the post and telegraph traffic falls, but this is one of the normal features of the Department.

Sir, before I deal with the main point I should like to remove an impression which my Honourable friend Mrs. Swaminadhan must have given to this House namely, that we pay Rs. 8 to our branch post masters. This is a matter which this House knows very well. These are what we call extra-departmental agents, and they are not employed unless they have independent sources of income. When these people are first employed an inquiry is made as to whether they have an independent source of income. A very large number of our branch post masters in villages are schoolmasters, pound-keepers, railway station masters or Government pensioners, either of the Postal Department or of other departments. The idea is that the amount of work involved is so small in the small post offices that a man can carry on the work of the post office in addition to whatever his normal profession is. If the work is too much it is open to the agent to say that this is taking too much of his time, and we then increase his allowance up to a maximum of Rs. 20.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You only replace him by another, that is the trouble.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Then the other man has an independent source of income.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There is so much unemployment and you exploit it.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: That is a matter of opinion. Anyhow I want to remove the impression created by Mrs. Swaminadhan. The other thing that she said was that runners get a very small salary and get three rupees as pension. That is not correct. The pay of runners is from Rs. 12 to Rs. 17 per month and they get dearness allowance now.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran Non-Muhammadan): Not in all cases; I know of runners who are paid Rs. 5.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: They must be extra-departmental men. Their pension is the same, it is subject to a minimum of Rs 8 and they get Rs 4 as dearness allowance on pension

Sir, I find that I am not dealing with the main points in trying to answer these various questions, and I have a limited time Now taking the main grievances advanced by the Union I explained this morning that on the question of the revision of the scales of pay Government have decided to appoint a commission which will be a commission on a very high level and will be, as I said predominantly non-official in character, and it will examine the whole range of Government salaries, particularly what should be the minimum wage We cannot decide the question of posts and telegraphs in isolation It is because attempts have been made in the past to fix a scale for each different department that we have reached a chaotic condition in which one department represents that another department is getting a higher pay and therefore it should get the same, and when the Posts Department gets a higher pay the other department says that there was always a difference of Rs 5 say between them and so they must get more, and so on It is in order to get over all this chaotic condition that Government now intend to appoint a commission which will examine the whole basis on which Government servants' wages are fixed and what is still more important, provide means by which such disputes as arise today are not taken to a stage at which threats of strike have to be made I think it will be an excellent thing if we have a national tribunal before which all disputes can be placed and the award of the national tribunal could be taken as the final word in the matter I would urge on Honourable Members that this is not a case which could be decided for the Posts and Telegraphs Department however great in numbers they are

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): How long will the commission take?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I cannot say I myself feel that it will be a very big job and will take some time

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: How are they expected to carry on in the meantime?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am trying to deal with that The new revised scales of pay have come in for a good deal of criticism These were introduced during the depression period of 1931-34 We recognise that these scales of pay are unreal in the present condition Government have tried by the grant of dearness allowance to bring them to meet the present day cost of living I am aware that there is a difference of opinion as to whether the amount of dearness allowance given is adequate or not It is true that various comparisons could be made, various percentages could be calculated We are however giving quite an adequate dearness allowance Take a man who is on the lowest scale of pay —a packer for instance on Rs 16 in Bombay—he is now getting altogether Rs 54, before the war he was getting Rs 27, so that there is in this case a hundred per cent increase But if you take a man on higher pay, the percentage is lower until you come to a stage where we give 17½ per cent uniform dearness allowance

An Honourable Member: What do you call "higher pay"?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am merely showing the percentage I recognise that there can be difference of opinion on this point Also the question of pensions of inferior servants has been advanced There again it has been advanced more than once in this House in budget debates and so on

These and various other suggestions, or demands if you like to call them, which have been made by the Unions we intend to examine, to give them immediate consideration, and we hope to be able to communicate our decision to the Federation of Unions who have presented this case to us

An Honourable Member: When?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: As soon as we possibly can I think Honourable Members are rather inclined to think that you could grant these things just by a stroke of the pen . . .

An Honourable Member: Where there is a will, there is a way.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: One has to see the consequences of giving something and see what it is going to cost I agree with Mr. Nauman that the Post and Telegraph Department is not just a commercial department and there is no justification that because it is making a profit it should throw away money to its employees I would like to point out here that when Mr Gadgil spoke of the ten crores of profit, as he calls it, he must remember that this is a wartime income and it would be very unwise to build on this surplus in the future We look upon the Posts and Telegraphs Department as both a commercial as well as a security service Its accounts are maintained on a commercial basis To pay fair wages to its employees in the right thing in any commercial concern But you must give time to Government to examine what is a fair wage In the meantime we shall examine very carefully the proposals or the demands made by the Unions and we shall give them a sympathetic consideration, and we shall give our considered decision on the demands made, but I consider that it would be entirely unjustified for the Unions to take any desperate action, and I hope that in this matter Members of this House would support the Government Mr Gadgil himself has referred to the situation in the country and with the food position being what it is, surely no one in this House would like any upsetting of the communication system of this country It is in the general public interest that I plead that there is no need for any desperate action, that Government will do its best to give consideration to the demands, but it will be very wrong to compel Government under a threat to do something which fairness or justice does not demand

Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury: It is a legitimate demand

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official): There have been so many speeches from so many different points of view and with so many inflexions of voice that I do not know that I can add very much more to what has been already said I may from the point of view of some of the Union representatives, seem to strike a discordant note when I say that I am partially thankful to the Honourable Sir Gurunath for his statement But I would also like to sound a warning to the Department After all I speak for a section of the workers who can claim that they have founded and built up this Department and whose vital services have over and over again maintained the stability of this Department in periods of crisis But I have just come to know during my recent tour—I do not know if the authorities already know it, but they ought to be told —that there is a very serious and widespread feeling of unrest among the employees of this Department And while I realize the proportions of the problems which face this Department, and it may be necessary to undertake a most careful investigation by a Commission I would also ask Sir Gurunath to consider giving some immediate relief to the lower paid employees. These people are in very dire circumstances and while they are still motivated by an impulse to maintain the stability of the administration, they feel that unless they join some movement, with which they may not be in complete sympathy, they cannot get anything from the administration I would ask the administration at this stage, as gracefully as possible, to make some concession to the lower-paid employees Later on the whole matter may be explored and investigated on the basis of a commission There is a feeling that there is not sufficient sympathy towards the lower-paid employee on the part of the senior official If you make some gesture now—I am not only pleading for the menial employee; I am talking of the lower middle class and the middle class worker, the man who is getting up to 300 rupees per month—if you make some gesture now it will be very much appreciated The revised scales are quite justifiably regarded by the employees as a matter for resentment It is not for me to elaborate the figures here,

but as far as I remember, so far as the Telegraphists, Telegraph Masters and clerical cadres are concerned, the revised scales give these people at the end of their service what people in the old scales of pay got as a starting wage. The continuation of this state of affairs is entirely unjustified

There is another matter which I would like to bring to the notice of the Department, and that is the undue insistence on high technical and academic qualifications As I have claimed—and I believe I have claimed quite justifiably—it is my community which founded and built up this Department. And nobody can say that it has not maintained this Department at the highest level of efficiency and integrity But today your Department seems to have been over-born by a fetish of requiring very high academic qualifications. You are prepared in pursuance of this fetish, call it a *babu* complex if you like, to sacrifice efficiency, aptitude, real ability to the demand for a paper degree or a high technical qualification This is the matter which is causing and which will continue to cause very considerable hardship

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The qualification required for the posts of Clerks and Telegraphists is a pass in the Matriculation Examination or its equivalent.

Mr. Frank E. Anthony: My community instead of passing the Matriculation Examination take the School Certificate Examination which is considered as its equivalent, but from the academic point of view it is higher than the Matriculation Examination. In a country like England do the authorities require qualifications, such as the School Certificate, for the posts comparable to those in India In the past you took people who did not have a School Certificate Examination to offer you Did your departmental efficiency or your integrity suffer? On the contrary it is a matter which is admitted by people who controlled this Department in the past that in spite of the fact that you did not insist on these very high paper academic qualifications, the Department was run at the highest possible level of administrative and technical efficiency.

Finally, Sir, I do want to say a word on this matter of retrenchment Here again various leaders of the Unions, particularly my Honourable friend on my left, may not agree with me I am in complete sympathy with the desire to try to whittle down to the lowest possible scale unemployment in this country. But at the same time I am one of those who feel that you do owe a duty to the ex-soldier. And the Government has made it very clear on the basis of what I regard as a solemn pledge that you have reserved—and I believe quite rightly—70 per cent. of appointments in certain Central Departments for ex-soldiers. I believe that if the Government attempts under pressure or under threat to resile from this promise that it will be guilty of a gross breach of faith As I say, I am not in any way arguing against the man who is temporarily employed, but after all you are under no pledge to him. More than that you are under no contractual obligation to him, the temporary employee was specifically employed on the understanding and on the agreement that he would be employed only for the duration of the war. You are under no obligation, legal or moral, to employ them for a longer period Whereas you have, as I say quite rightly undertaken, as a result of a solemn promise to employ 70 per cent. of ex-soldiers. If you resile from it, then I wish to give a warning, not only to the Posts and Telegraphs Department but to all departments of Government, if under any pressure you adopt or are driven to an ill-conceived policy of resiling from this promise then you will be creating a most serious position for the Government itself. You owe your first duty to these people After the last war you fell down on many promises made to the ex-soldier. If you repeat that mistake you will be creating the most serious repercussions from the point of view of administrative integrity and stability.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: These are good soldiers

Mr. Frank E. Anthony: I include Muslim ex-soldiers.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: These are as good soldiers.

Mr. Frank E. Anthony: Government are under no obligation, moral, contractual or legal to employ these people. I am not unsympathetic towards them. I hope they can be all reabsorbed into permanent employment but your first duty is due to those people to whom you have given a solemn pledge, I would repeat my request to the Honourable Member that he will—even though it may be necessary in order to produce a complete report to appoint a Commission—give whatever redress is possible immediately to the lower paid employees and also consider restoring as far as possible the old scales of pay.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: The question be now put.

Mr. Chairman: The question is.

"That the question be now put"

The motion was adopted

Mr. Chairman: The question is

"That the Assembly do now adjourn"

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 8th February, 1946.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 8th February, 1946

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*a*) ORAL ANSWERS

BRITISH POLICY *re* PALESTINE

95. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for External Affairs be pleased to state

(a) if Government have informed the British Government about the strong feeling prevailing in this country against the British policy regarding Palestine and also as to how the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League and other political organisations have extended support to the Palestine Day celebrated in November, 1945, all over India as a protest against the British policy;

(b) if so, the reply of the British Government; and

(c) if not, why not?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) The Government of India have not failed to keep His Majesty's Government apprised of Indian opinion on the Palestine problem

(b) Such informatory communications do not call for a specific reply

(c) Does not arise

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable Member please state whether this matter was discussed in the Executive Council before His Majesty's Government was apprised of Indian opinion?

Mr. H. Weightman: No, Sir

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know which Department of the Government of India forwarded the communication to His Majesty's Government—is it the Commonwealth Relations Department or the External Affairs Department?

Mr. H. Weightman: The External Affairs Department

PETROL RATIONING

96 *Mr. C. P. Lawson: (a) Will the Honourable the War Transport Member be pleased to state whether it is intended to discontinue the rationing of petrol in the near future, or whether he can give any indication as to how long such rationing is to last?

(b) In the event of the continuance of petrol rationing, will he be pleased to indicate whether any steps are contemplated to co-ordinate the system under which supplementary petrol rations are issued so that the present inequalities between provinces in this respect may be removed?

(c) In the event it is found necessary to maintain petrol rationing in order to conserve dollar exchange, do Government propose to undertake to examine the position of petrol supply as compared with the supply of other products from outside the sterling area so that this need is considered in its proper perspective?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that the shortage of petrol for civil consumption is retarding the resumption of peace-time activities in commerce and industry as opposed to war production and does he propose to review the whole question in the light of the altered circumstances?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The intention is to discontinue Petrol rationing as soon as the supply position permits, but it is not possible to give any indication at present as to how much longer rationing will have to be continued

(b) The grant of supplementary petrol rations to individual consumers is left to the discretion of the local rationing authorities who fix the ration according to the essential requirements of each applicant Some variation in scales cannot be avoided but there does not appear to be any necessity for issuing any futher instructions

(c) Yes

(d) I am aware of the disadvantages resulting from the existing shortage of petrol The desirability of improving the supply position has already been strongly represented to His Majesty's Government

Mr. O. P. Lawson: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (b) of the question, is he aware that there is a very considerable difference between Provinces in the granting of supplementary rations—a difference amounting to 50 or 100 per cent?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There is of course a certain difference, because supplementary rations are issued for essential purposes and essential purposes vary in different Provinces Also, of course, we cannot eliminate the human factor One Officer is perhaps more generous than another but I have examined the figures in the past and there did not appear to be any unreasonable deviations

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the military use of petrol has been considerably reduced and also whether they have any idea as to when Government expect more petrol from Burma?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative it has been reduced As to the second part of the question, when we expect further supplies, that question I cannot answer

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that the petrol which is supplied to the military, generally goes into the black market and is not used by the military?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not think so There is an occasional leakage in anything

Mr. O. P. Lawson: With reference to his reply to part (b) of my question, will the Honourable Member please state whether any attempt is made to equate the actual consumption of petrol in the Provinces to the number of cars registered in those Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The answer is in the affirmative

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reference to the 'human' factor, may I ask if it is not a fact that many persons in dire need have been denied petrol in a most 'inhuman' way, and there have been district magistrates who have liberally given supplementary coupons to their favourites in a most 'sub-human' manner?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. I am not aware of it

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether it is a fact that American producers of petrol in the Near East made an offer to the Government of India of increased quantities in order to enable them to raise the basic ration and that the Government of India refused such an offer?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not in a position to answer that question It is not only a question of available supplies but also of available tankers

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: With reference to part (d) of the question, is the Honourable Member aware that in the United Provinces the election campaign is being handicapped for want of sufficient petrol? Only 100 gallons are supplied to each candidate. . . .

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. The Honourable Member himself applied for an extra allowance and got it

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: That was about Central Assembly elections With reference to the Provincial Assembly elections, is the Honourable Member aware that a candidate in U. P is allowed only 100 gallons whereas in the Punjab 1,000 or 1,200 gallons per candidate is allowed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not think that the Honourable Member's figures are correct

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Member make an enquiry?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, I will

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Choudhuri: Is it a fact that there is a fairly large reserve with the oil company at Digboi and that the company is asking for permission to dispose of that quantity?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware of that fact There may be transport difficulties

PETROL CONTROL

97. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please mention the reasons for not giving relief to Civilian population by increasing basic ration of petrol?

(b) Will he please state definitely by what time he will be able to lift the control over the supply of petrol?

(c) What are the difficulties on account of which the control is not removed? What steps are Government taking to overcome these difficulties?

(d) Is it not a fact that control has been lifted in some other belligerent countries?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Some relief has already been given to Civil car and motor cycle owners by the doubling in August last of the basic petrol ration

(b) It is not possible to give any indication at present of the date when it will be possible to withdraw petrol rationing

(c) The reasons why petrol rationing cannot at present be further relaxed or withdrawn have been fully explained in the Press Communique issued in the first week of January 1946 Urgent references have been made to His Majesty's Government pressing for an increase in the supply of petrol allowed for Civil consumption in India

(d) Government have no information on this point

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT IN NORTH KANARA DISTRICT

98. *Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that North Kanara District is lacking in proper and sufficient means of communication and transport? If so, what do Government propose to do to alleviate the consequent inconvenience to the general public?

(b) Do Government propose to introduce Railway communication in the District in the immediate future as a measure of post-war reconstruction? If so, when and to what extent?

(c) Will Bhatkal, an important centre in the District, be linked up with the proposed Railway line? If so, when? if not, why not?

(d) Are Government aware that Bhatkal is isolated and cut off from the other parts of the District and the country due to unbridged big rivers? If so, what do Government propose to do in the matter?

(e) Do the Government of India propose to ask the Government of Bombay to look into the matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) It is difficult to determine without a full survey the means of communication and transport that would be sufficient for any given area As regards requirements of railways it is proposed to survey portions of the North Kanara district to determine whether there is sufficient justification for the construction of a railway line from Alnawar to Karwar The requirements of roads will be covered by the Provincial Government's five year road development plan

(b) The Railway construction in the district would depend upon the result of the survey referred to in the answer to part (a) of the question.

(c) It is not proposed at present to construct a new railway line leading to Bhatkal

(d) Government have no precise information as to the present condition of roads and existence of bridges leading to Bhatkal It is understood, however, that the Government of Bombay have included in their post-war road plan the development of a provincial Highway north from Bhatkal to link up with the provincial Highway system This would in all probability connect with any new railway in the district if one were built but until the railway survey has been completed it is not possible to suggest where the connection would be

(e) It is understood that the Government of Bombay have already studied this matter in the course of the preparation of the road development plan

KARACHI COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE FOR POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS STAFF

99. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the P and T staff stationed at Karachi was in receipt of a local compensatory allowance prior to the year 1939?

(b) Is it a fact that this allowance was withdrawn in the year in which the world war II broke out, *viz* , in 1939?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that the Government of Sind have sanctioned the Karachi compensatory allowance at the increased rates with retrospective effect from the 1st November, 1944, considering the then existing rates of the Karachi compensatory allowance inadequate to meet the higher cost of living?

(d) Is it a fact that the P and T staff stationed at Karachi have pressed a unanimous demand at their mass meeting and submitted petitions for the grant of the Karachi compensatory allowance at the same rates and conditions as sanctioned by the Government of Sind?

(e) Is it a fact that the Central Government have rejected this demand without assigning any reasons?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Yes

(b) Orders were issued in December 1938 withdrawing the allowance from 1st January 1939

(c) Government are aware of the Sind Government orders but not of the reasons which are being ascertained

(d) Yes

(e) The demand was rejected because Government considered that the comparatively high cost of living in Karachi was compensated by the higher scale of pay of P & T staff in Karachi and the dearness allowance and other allowances drawn by the P & T staff

KARACHI COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE FOR POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS STAFF

100. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Railway employees stationed at Karachi get the following apart from salary (i) Port allowance, (ii) House rent, and (iii) Food stuff on concessional rates?

(b) Is it a fact that the employees of the Incometax Department are granted a local allowance?

(c) Why has this allowance been denied to the P. and T. staff, when the local Government have considered it necessary to sanction the Karachi compensatory allowance at increased rates for their employees to meet the higher cost of living?

(d) Was the grant of this allowance to the P. and T staff at Karachi strongly recommended by the head of the Circle, *i e*, the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Karachi, and the Director General P and T, New Delhi? If so, on what principle was this demand of the P and T. staff rejected?

(e) Are Government aware of the resentment and discontentment amongst the staff at Karachi due to the rejection of their just and equitable demand?

(f) Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to the editorials of the *Daily Gazette* and *Karachi Daily*, dated the 2nd and 10th December, 1945 respectively and do Government propose to sanction this allowance for the P and T. staff stationed at Karachi? If not, why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) (i) No (ii) and (iii) Yes subject to certain conditions

(b) Yes.

(c) It has been decided to restore with effect from 1st April 1945, the compensatory allowance which was withdrawn from 1st January 1939

(d) to (f) In view of the answer to (c), these do not arise but I may add that in view of recent representations, the matter is being further considered.

ORDERS PLACED OUTSIDE INDIA FOR GOODS OBTAINABLE IN INDIA

101. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) What steps has the Honourable the Industries and Supplies Member taken to see that no orders of any class of goods required by (i) Railways, (ii) War Department, (iii) other Departments of the Central Government, and (iv) Provincial Governments are sent out of India for articles which were during the war manufactured in India and supplied locally?

(b) Is it a fact that a circular has gone round to Railways asking them not to place any more orders in India, but to collect the orders for being sent to the United Kingdom?

(c) Is it a fact that a special officer has been appointed, who has already sent out orders to the United Kingdom for items, which were manufactured or purchased in India during the period of the war for the Railways?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) The procurement of stores required by Department of the Central Government is arranged by the Industries and Supplies Department except in the case of Food and some specialized items Purchasing Officers are aware of Government's policy of making the greatest possible use of indigenous productions, and particularly of those industries which have, under the influence of war needs, achieved production conforming to acceptable standards and specifications.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. A Controller of imported Railway Stores was appointed in 1943, and he has been successful in diverting to indigenous sources of supply requirements which might otherwise have been placed abroad.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government received any representations from industries established during the war in India and which supplied goods to the Government during the war that the orders had been suddenly discontinued? Is it a fact that the orders have been suddenly discontinued?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No, Sir. We have received applications that the Industries and Supplies Department should support cases for protection against foreign competition if it restarts. As regards cancellation of orders, orders for unserviceable stores which would be of no value in peace time were cancelled.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government made it clear to their Purchasing Officers, to the officers in the Honourable Member's Department, that with

reference to the price, the fact that foreign goods may be coming a little cheaper should not be allowed to interfere with the placing of these orders with Indian firms?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes, Sir That is well known to all officers of the Purchase Branch

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: In view of the reply given to part (b) of the question, may I know whether there is not a cloth famine in the country and is it not desirable that foreign cloth shou'd be imported from England and other parts of the world?

Mr. President: What is the information that the Honourable Member wants?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I want to know, in view of the cloth famine in the country, why should it not be possible to import some cloth from foreign countries?

(*No answer was given*)

PREFERENCE FOR GOODS MADE IN INDIA

102. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Industries and Supplies Member please state what steps have been taken for the co-ordination of the Commerce, Planning, Supply, Railways, War and the Industries Departments so far as orders for Government requirements are concerned to be placed in India?

(b) Have definite instructions been given that goods made in India will receive preference? If so, when were they given?

(c) Is it one of the duties of the Co-ordinating Department which has been set up? If so, what steps have been taken by them to see that goods useful for the purpose manufactured in this country are taken in the first instance and orders are placed abroad only for the surplus required, if any?

(d) Will a statement of the orders placed outside India since, the 1st of January, 1945, for the requirements of (i) Railways, (ii) War Department, (iii) other Departments of the Government of India, and (iv) Provincial Governments, be placed on the table with reference to materials and products, which were secured in India during the period of the war?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) With certain exceptions, such as food and some specialized items, the procurement of stores for the Central Government has been made the responsibility of the Department of Industries and Supplies, which will provide the necessary co-ordination

(b) Yes Definite instructions to that effect were laid down in 1929 in a Resolution of the Department of Industries and Labour, No S-217, dated 12th December 1929 This policy was reiterated in a Press Note, dated the 14th August 1945, an extract of which is laid on the table

(c) No, Sir The duty, as stated in answer to part (a) of the question, devolves on the Department of Industries and Supplies As regards the second part of the question, all Officers engaged on procurement duty are aware of the policy stated in (b) above and are required to conform to it in practice

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course

Extract from Press Note, dated the 14th August 1945

* * * * *

For the procurement of stores to meet post-war Government requirements, the policy of Government is to make the greatest possible use of indigenous production and particularly of those industries which have, under the influence of war needs, achieved production conforming to acceptable standards and specifications While commodities paid for from the public purse must in general be the best that can be produced at the price, it is the aim of Government to establish continuity of procurement from industries which maintain a consistent performance, and which pay attention to new modifications and developments To this end Government will assist with technologists and training, where welcomed, or in procuring technical knowledge and assistance

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to part (b) and the Resolution of 1929 referred to in the reply, is it not a fact that in the war emergency many of these old orders and resolutions were suspended and the operation of many of them was cut short, and the restoration is not yet complete because the Stores Department has not yet been instituted?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: It is a fact that goods that could not be obtained from Indian sources, because they were engaged in other forms of production during the war, and which were urgently required for the defence of the country, were obtained from abroad Since the war closed, the orders of 1929 have been immediately reimposed and nothing which can be obtained in India according to the orders of 1929 will be obtained from abroad.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the serious apprehensions amongst factory owners and industrialists in India, may I ask the Honourable Member to consider whether a press note giving Government's considered views on this point and reviving all the assurances given to Indian goods in the past cannot now be issued?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I shall consider the issue of a more comprehensive press note

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that there has been much less expansion of the currency in England than in India, and naturally the level of prices in England is much lower than that prevailing in India, will Government consider the advisability of increasing the percentage of preference that they had decided upon to give for Indian purchases in India?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I have not followed the question. I would reiterate that the intention of Government is to place as much of any orders required by India on Indian sources

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know with respect to purchases made outside India, whether attempts are made to purchase them in the cheapest market?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes

Surplus Government Material for Disposal

103. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Industries and Supplies Member please state whether any estimates has been made of the material for disposal belonging to the Government of India? If so, what is the figure?

(b) What steps have Government taken in order to achieve quick disposal so as to realise a fair price to Government and yet prevent the goods going into the hands of middlemen?

(c) What precautions have Government taken in order to see that the disposal by Government of the surplus will not interfere with, and affect adversely, the products of industries in India engaged in like production?

(d) Is it a fact that the material belonging to the U S A Government is being disposed of independently by a separate organization?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Not yet, Sir. The second part of the question does not arise

(b) Government have taken the following steps

(i) A Disposals Board was constituted and has laid down the principles of disposal The Board decides questions of policy referred to it It is the policy that sales shall as far as possible be to buyers who will be actual consumers of the material Where possible, normal trade channels will be used.

(ii) A Central Advisory Committee has been formed for Headquarters, and Regional Advisory Committees have been constituted for Bombay and Calcutta areas, on which consumers and producers' interests are represented

(iii) A Directorate General of Disposals has been established at New Delhi, and Regional Commissioners have been appointed at Calcutta, Bombay, Cawnpore and Lahore, with Branch Offices at Karachi, Madras and Cochin.

(iv) Provincial and State Governments have designated their own officers to contact the Disposals Organization so as to facilitate speedy transactions between the Disposals Organisation, and Provincial and State Governments.

(c) Central and Regional Advisory Committees, and Technical Advisory Panels for major categories of stores will be constituted to ensure an orderly rate of release in conformity with public needs, and also with regard to indigenous production

(d) No, Sir Before 24th December 1945, a small proportion of the U S Army surpluses was sold by the U S Foreign Liquidation Commission in accordance with an agreement between the Governments of U S A and India. On December 24th, 1945 the Government of India entered into a further agreement whereby they will dispose of all U S Government surplus property through the Director General of Disposals

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member in a position to tell this House now what progress has been made with regard to negotiations as to price and the date of the taking over of the U S A surpluses?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No, Sir, I am afraid I am not in a position to make a statement yet

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know with reference to the establishment of these central and regional advisory committees whether the members were nominated by the Government and what process was gone through for bringing them in?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: They were invited and asked if they would join

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: On whose advice?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Selections were made by the Honourable Supply Member

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Nominations, more or less—that is what I understand them to be?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: When will the Honourable Member inform this House as to the exact position with regard to the taking over of U S A surpluses, how much money will be involved, what is the price which we have paid over the original figure fixed by the U S A administration—when will he be in a position to give information to this House on the subject?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I am not in a position to say yet. The Honourable Member will realise that merely inventorying the surpluses is by itself a very formidable task, as the surpluses are spread over various areas On the question of value, I think the Honourable Member will realise that there are very many factors involved—location, condition, age, and usefulness of the stores concerned these matters are now being investigated, and I hope at a later date to be able to give the Honourable Member the information he wants

LOCOMOTIVES AND WAGONS IMPORTED

104. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state how many locomotives and wagons, separately, have been imported into India being (i) material sent out, returned from Europe, and (ii) new material purchased?

(b) What is the number of military specials still moving in the country every day as compared with the number this time, last year and the year before?

(c) Will Government make a statement indicating the extent to which the requirements of military transport have been reduced after the stoppage of hostilities?

(d) What are the reasons for the continued overcrowding in passenger and mail trains and the stoppage of the booking of goods between various important

centres for prolonged periods and other indications of congestion still prevailing, three months after the stoppage of hostilities?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take in order to mitigate the hardship to the civil population?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No locomotives or wagons were sent from Indian Railways to Europe I lay on the table a statement of the rolling stock sent to the Mid-Eastern Theatre of War and returned to India and of the rolling stock imported into India from 1st April 1939, to January 15th, 1946.

(b) The latest figures available are for December 1945 In that month the total number of Military Specials run was 654, or an average of 21 per day The corresponding figures for December 1944, are a total of 911 trains, averaging 29 per day, and for December 1943, a total of 802, averaging 26 per day.

(c) Movements of Military Personnel in connection with embarkation, internal demobilization and repatriation have kept up the transport demands on Railways, movements of stores by Military specials, and by ordinary trains have decreased but it is not possible at present to give an exact indication of the quantum of reduction

(d) The chief reason is the inability of Railways to resume passenger services on the pre-war level owing to the shortage of stock, much of which is still at the disposal of the War Department As regards goods traffic, the revival of trade and industry, the seasonal movement of crops, heavy special movements of food-stuffs to deficit areas, and difficulties of coal supply, arising mainly from an epidemic of sickness amongst running staff on the E I Railway, which have all had their repercussions on the wagon supply position, are responsible for periodical restrictions in goods booking of low priority Despite this, essential traffic has been moving satisfactorily

(e) Every endeavour is being made by Railways, within the limits of their power and stock resources to restore as many as possible of the public passenger services curtailed during the war Up to the 1st January 1946, 665 trains had been re-introduced or extended representing an increase of 39 317 train miles per day

Statement

I Rolling stock returned to India from the Mid-Eastern Theatre of War

42 M G Locomotives
254 B G Wagons
1,725 M G Wagons

II Rolling stock imported into India from 1st April, 1939 to 15th January 1946 :

763 B G Locomotives
554 M G Locomotives (including 515 for War Deptt and SEAC)
7,021 General Service B G. wagons
100 Special type B G wagons
9,040 General Service M G wagons (including 9,000 for War Deptt & SEAC)
2,615 Special type M G wagons (all for War Deptt and SEAC)

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the War Transport Member—and I do not see why he should be still continued to be called the War Transport Member—say whether representations have been made to the military authorities that the emergency having stopped the number of war specials may now be reduced and whatever work the military may have to do may now be done with a smaller number of trains, so that the civil population may get more accommodation?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have explained, Sir, in my answer to part (c) that there is still a great deal of military movement to be done

Mr Manu Subedar: With regard to the distress of industries producing goods for the consumption of civil population, such as, the rolling mills, paper mills and the textile mills, whose output is wanted by the general public, will not Government make a further effort to see that the necessary wagon supply is

forthcoming by curtailing the movement of military goods from one place to another, which do not appear to be very urgent now?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir As I have explained, the movement of military goods has been very considerably decreased

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member consider the question of discontinuing the use of saloons for the trips of Honourable Members here and there?

Mr. President: Order, Order Next question

TRANSPORT PRIORITY

105. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state whether the system of transport priority is still operating after the stoppage of hostilities, and whether the basis, on which it operates, is the same as during the war period?

(b) On what basis are the requirements for transport of industries, which are now engaged in supplying to the civil population, met in the matter of (i) coal, (ii) raw material, and (iii) finished goods?

(c) Is it a fact that representations have been made to Government to offer larger facilities for transport to industries, which have switched on from Government work to private work? If so, what steps are being taken to mitigate the hardship?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The system of transport priority is still operating The basis upon which it operates was revised in September, 1945, to suit the new conditions created by the cessation of hostilities

(b) Coal for all purposes, including the requirements of industries, is moved under the highest priority except for emergency movements under priority orders to ensure the success of civil or military operations to deal with an emergency The basis upon which the requirements of industries for transport of raw material and finished goods are met, is that the maintenance or development of essential industrial production takes precedence over the maintenance or development of transportation and communication services, the movements of foodstuffs and textiles, and movements in connection with urgent civil and military projects

(c) The general principle is that priority for rail transport is granted in consideration only of the essentiality of movements Pending, however, the preparation of a list of key industries to which special assistance may be necessary, no change has been made in the system of granting priority to firms which had hitherto been employed on the execution of war contracts and who are now switching over to the production of goods for civil consumption

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the assurance given to industries which were engaged on war production that when they went over from war orders to the production of civilian goods the same facilities will be continued to them for the transport of raw materials, semi-finished products, finished products and coal, will the Honourable Member institute an inquiry whether these assurances have been carried out or whether they have not been carried out, because I can tell him that they have not been carried out?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member will give me some information, I will look into it, but that is the general position.

REFUSAL OF PASSPORT TO PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU FOR INDONESIA

106. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary for External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) why Government have refused to grant a passport to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to go to Indonesia,

(b) whether their refusal was due to their own decision, or whether it was taken after consulting the British Government or on the orders of the British Government; and

(c) what attitude was taken by the Secretary of State for India in refusing a passport to Panditji?

Mr. H Weightman: (a) The refusal to afford facilities for Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to visit Indonesia was made with the agreement of the Supreme Allied Commander in view of the disturbed conditions prevailing there, which made undesirable the presence of any one not engaged in a task of military necessity.

(b) The decision was taken by the Government of India to whom Pandit Nehru's application was addressed.

(c) Does not arise

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The question here is whether they have consulted the British Government in regard to this matter?

Mr. H. Weightman: No, Sir,

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member satisfied that the reasons for refusing this passport were adequate?

Mr. H. Weightman: Yes, Sir

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Did he consult the Government of the Republic in Indonesia regarding the desirability of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru going there? Is it not a fact that the President of the Republic wanted the assistance of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru?

Mr. H. Weightman: I am not sure that there is an internationally recognised Republic yet

BHATKAL BUNDER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

107. *Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state whether Government are aware that a private Company styled as 'Bhatkal Bunder Construction Company' has been or is being formed and floated to construct a ship building yard to develop the port at Bhatkal? If so, what is the policy of the Government towards the proposed Company and the scheme?

(b) Are Government aware of the feeling of the local public about the proposed scheme?

(c) Has any representation been received by Government from or on behalf of the proposed Company? If so, of what nature, and how do Government propose to deal with it?

(d) Do Government propose to consult the local public opinion in the matter? If so, when and how?

(e) Had the Government of India at any time received from the Government of the Maharaja of Mysore, any representation about the construction and development of the port at Bhatkal, District North Kanara, Bombay Presidency? What was the Government's attitude towards the said Representation, if any?

(f) Was His Majesty's Government ever approached in the matter by the Mysore Government through the Government of India? If so, when and with what result?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (c) In July 1944, the gentleman who is now the Managing Director of the Bhatkal Bunder Construction Co , Ltd., applied for permission to float a public joint stock company to be known as the "Karnataka Ship Building and Transport Co , Ltd " for the construction of a ship building yard and a dock yard at the port of Bhatkal in the Province of Bombay After consulting the Provincial Government the Government of India decided to refuse the application

(b) No.

(d) As Bhatkal is a minor port, it is for the Provincial Government to consult local public opinion in the matter if they think fit

(e) Yes Such representations have been received from time to time but no positive decisions have been come to as the necessary measure of agreement could not be reached on the various issues involved

(f) No, but Sir Edwin Montagu, the Secretary of State for India was personally approached in the year 1919 by Sir Albion Banerji, Dewan of Mysore.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: With regard to the answer to part (a) of the question, will the Honourable Member explain the reasons for refusal to this Company?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Well, Sir, the reasons were varied. One of them was, I think, that in the opinion of the Provincial Government the development of the port would have to be undertaken by official action Another thing is that a ship-building panel has been set up which is examining the whole question of ship-building in India by official or non-official action and, I presume, they thought it advisable to wait for the results of that panel

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Will the Government re-consider the question and give similar facilities to this Company as were given to the Scindia Steam Navigation Company for building a ship-building yard at the Vizagapatam port?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Well, Sir, if the Company applies for its application to be re-considered, it will doubtless be re-considered

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: The Honourable Member said in reply to part (a) of the question that the Government will consider the question of developing this port officially and, if it is not so possible, then through non-official sources May I ask the War Transport Member if he will re-consider the development of this port through official sources?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is one of the subjects which will come under examination by the Ports Technical Committee which has been appointed to look into the question of developing minor ports on the east coast of India

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Is not the appointment of this Committee just an excuse to delay matters?

Mr. President: Order, Order: Next question.

RESTORATION OF NILAMBUR-SHORANPUR LINE

106. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the restoration of the Nilambur-Shoranpur Line in South India, the dismantling of which was a subject matter of an adjournment motion on the 25th November, 1940, is under consideration,

(b) when the matter is to be taken up, and

(c) whether he proposes to consult a committee of representative people in Malabar to lay down the Line in such a manner that it may prove remunerative to Government and useful to the people?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The restoration of the Nilambur-Shoranpur line has been considered in consultation with the Provincial Government

(b) It has been decided not to restore this line.

(c) Does not arise

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: May I just know the reason for deciding not to restore this line if it is not very long?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I understand that this was the subject of an adjournment motion in 1940 when the line was lifted It was moved by the Honourable Member and the situation was clearly set out then The line was originally put in for strategic purposes arising out of the Moplah rebellion It has never proved a remunerative line The area is well served by roads and it is not thought by the Provincial Government in consultation with the Railway Board to be a sound proposition to restore the line.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Was it placed before the Standing Finance Committee for examination?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I should require notice of the question.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: If I remember aright, on that adjournment motion there was a sort of promise that this line would be restored I was taken aback by the reply given by the Honourable Member and I would like him to look it up I would also ask him to consider the suggestion made in part (c) of the question

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Well, Sir, I have the debate here and I looked at it before coming to the House I think the only promise given at that time was that the matter will be discussed with the Provincial Government It has been discussed with the Provincial Government, who do not think that the replacement of the line was necessary or desirable I will, however, look into the matter again.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: In part (c) there is a suggestion thrown out that the railway people should consult a Committee of the representatives of the people I suggest that the Honourable Member should re-consider the matter and see whether this will be helpful?

Mr. President: Order, Order no suggestions for action

DOUBLING OF RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN MUTTRA AND DELHI

109. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state

(a) whether the doubling of the Railway line between Muttra and Delhi is under consideration, and

(b) whether he proposes to have this project examined in view of the great congestion of traffic on this section?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The doubling of this section is not included in present development plans.

(b) It is expected that traffic on this section will decline to the pre-war level and that the congestion which now exists will disappear. There is, therefore, no justification for doubling the line at present, but the situation will be watched.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Honourable Member please say on what his knowledge is based when he says that there was no congestion even on pre-war level, because our experience is just the opposite?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is not my information The capacity of the line is 15 trains per day each way The number of trains passing today is about 12 5 on an average each way and therefore there appears to be a margin even in today's circumstances, and as regards doubling, before doubling were considered, the proper action would be to put in additional crossing stations.

RECRUITMENT OF SUBORDINATE STAFF ON B B & C. I. AND SOUTH INDIA RAILWAYS

110. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) how recruitment of staff (subordinate) drawing over Rs. 100 *per mensem* on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India, and South India Railways is made, and whether there are any Selection Boards for the purpose,

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether they are part time or whole time officers, and whether they consider promotions or appointments purely on merit;

(c) whether there are different scales of pay for the Anglo-Indians and Indians for the same post, or whether there are in effect grades to which only Anglo-Indians are, as a rule, promoted and not Indians;

(d) whether any kind of preference is shown to any class of persons in recruitment to subordinate posts or gazetted posts, and, if so, what, and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any preference that may be shown to children or relatives of persons in the Railway service is shown only to the Anglo-Indians or the Parsis; and

(f) the number of persons recruited by promotion or direct appointment during the year 1945 on these two Railways, and how many of them were (i) Hindus, (ii) Muslims, and (iii) Anglo-Indians and others, for posts drawing Rs 100 per mensem and over?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The recruitment and promotion of subordinate staff on Indian Government Railways, including the B B & C I and S I Railways, is made in accordance with the rules contained in Appendices II and II-A to the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House These rules provide for the constitution of selection boards in the cases mentioned by the Honourable Member

(b) and (d) Selection boards consist of wholetime officers and selections are made on merit, due regard being paid, in the case of direct recruitment, to Rules 76 and 77 of the rules in Appendix II, referred to in my reply to part (a), regarding communal quotas and preference to sons of railway employees No preference in the case of sons of railway employees is shown in direct recruitment to a gazetted post

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply given to Mr T S. Avinashilingam Chettiar's Starred Question No 1776, asked in the Legislative Assembly on 11th April, 1945 The reply to the second portion is in the negative

(e) No

(f) Figures pertaining to promotion of staff to posts carrying a salary of Rs 100 per mensem and over are not maintained and the time and labour involved in collecting them would be incommensurate with the value of the results

As regards direct recruitment to such posts, the information in respect of the S I Railway is as follows.

Communities	Calendar year 1945
Hindus	4
Indian Christians	3
Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European	4

Similar information for the B B & C I Railway is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to part (f), may I know if the railways themselves do not send report to the Railway Board of the recruitment so far made, and do they not keep in mind communal proportions for the purpose before recruitment is made?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, sir, not before recruitment is made

Mr. Frank E. Anthony: On account of the narrow communal character of the question, will the Honourable Member convey to the Honourable questioner the suggestion that such intolerant questions are responsible for the growing distrust between the different communities in the country?

Mr. President: Order, order The Honourable Member is making a suggestion He must ask for information.

Mr. Frank Anthony: May I know if the Honourable Member will provide information to all such questioners that an Anglo-Indian is an Indian, legally defined as an Indian, and that the term 'Anglo-Indian' is merely a communal label in the same way as the terms 'Hindu' or 'Muslim' are?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member has answered his own questions.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Even now, the Honourable Member calls himself an Anglo-Indian

Mr. President: Order, order next question.

Mr. Frank Anthony: For the same reason that you call yourself a Hindu. Why does the Honourable Member call himself a Hindu?

Mr. President: Order, order, next question.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: One supplementary question, Sir.

Mr. President: Next question has been called.

INDIAN MEMBERS OF AND OFFICERS UNDER RAILWAY BOARD

111. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state·

(a) the present number of members of the Railway Board, and how many of them are Indians and how many non-Indians,

(b) the total number of officers above the rank of Assistant Secretary, who are at present in the Railway Board, and how many of them are Indians,

(c) the total number of General Managers and Deputy General Managers and officers drawing more than Rs 2,000 on all the State Railways in India, and how many of them are Indians and how many non-Indians,

(d) whether appointment to the posts mentioned in (a) to (c) above is by seniority or by selection and, if by selection, who the selecting authority is,

(e) whether any persons of non-Indian domicile are recruited direct to any kind of posts on the State Railways, and, if so, how many were recruited in 1945 and on what terms;

(f) whether it is proposed to stop non-Indian recruitment at any time in the next few years; and, if not, why not;

(g) whether it is proposed to bring out any non-Indian personnel from the United Kingdom for appointment to any posts under the Post-war Railway Schemes; and, if so, how many and on what terms; and

(h) whether it is proposed, as part of Post-war Railway Schemes to train purely Indian personnel, in India or abroad, for all posts on the Indian Railways, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (c) I lay a statement on the table of the House giving the required information

(d) Appointment to these posts is by selection As regards the latter part of the question, the selecting authority in the case of members of the Railway Board is the Governor General-in-Council, and of the officers referred to in parts (b) and (c) of the question, the Railway Board General Managers can, however, make officiating appointments to the Junior Administrative grades against vacancies of short duration.

(e) Due to conditions created by the war there has been, for the past few years, no direct recruitment of persons of non-Indian domicile from outside India to the Superior Services There have, however, been a few cases of non-Indians appointed in India during the emergency on a purely temporary basis

(f) As stated in the reply to part (e), regular direct recruitment of non-Indians to the Superior Services is in abeyance As regards non-gazetted establishment, there is no regular direct recruitment of non-Indians In both cases, however, it may be necessary on occasions to appoint against vacancies requiring specialised technical qualifications persons of non-Indian domicile Such appointments are, however, rare and are usually on a contract basis

(g) and (h) The question of obtaining, on short term contracts, two or three Designers from the United Kingdom or U S A in connection with locomotive building in India and of sending suitable personnel Indian and Non-Indian for training abroad is under Government's consideration.

Statement showing number and distribution between statutory Indians and non-Indians of certain officers in Railway Board's office and on railways as on 28th January 1946.

—	Total number	Indians (including Statutory Indians)	Non-Indians
1. Members, Railway Board (including Chief Commissioner and Financial Commissioner).	5		5
2. Officers above the rank of Assistant Secretary working in the Board's office.	38	29	9
3. General Managers .	9	1	8
4. Deputy General Managers . .	36	15	21
5. Other officers drawing more than Rs 2,000	65	16	49
6. Other officers drawing more than Rs 2,000 (in offices attached to or subordinate to the Board's office).	5	2	3
	158	63	95

Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there a single Indian Member on the Railway Board just now?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Not on the Board itself at this precise moment

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know who is the present Financial Commissioner? Is it a fact that all along, for the past 15 years, the Financial Commissioner of Railways has always been an Indian and not a European?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is correct.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has it been impossible for the Government to find a single suitable Indian to fill up that job?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There would have been a suitable Indian had it not been that the previous incumbent accepted a post elsewhere

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When do the Government propose to Indianise the Railway Board personnel entirely?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: In due course

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How many Indian General Managers are there?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That information is contained in the statement laid on the table

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will he refer to that statement and tell me now how many Indian General Managers are there?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: One out of nine.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the total strength of General Managers and what percentage does 'one' form out of that?

Mr Muhammad Nauman: It is one out of 9

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is that Indian retained though he has completed fifty-five years?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is correct.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is no other suitable and qualified Indian available to fill up this post or other posts of General Manager?

(No answer.)

Shri Sri Prakasa: If all go to them, who will come to us.

RECRUITMENT OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF POSTS OFFICES

112. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state

(a) if recruitment to the cadre of Superintendents of Post Offices is conducted partly through the Public Service Commission and if so, in what percentage,

(b) if a certain number of such posts are filled by promotion from subordinate ranks in the various Provinces,

(c) if a certain number used to be recruited formerly from capable Assistants in the Headquarters Office of the Director General Posts and Telegraphs, and that this has been discontinued for some years past,

(d) if he is aware that a certain number of Assistants from among capable young men in the Imperial Secretariat Departments are recruited by an Officers' Board to the Income-tax Department every year, and

(e) if he will consider the advisability of offering an avenue of promotion to deserving men in the Directorate as used to be the practice before?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Yes, 50 per cent

(b) Yes, 50 per cent by promotion from among Inspectors of Post Offices and of the Railway Mail Service and Head clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices

(c) Assistants in the office of the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs were eligible along with clerks in post offices, R M S Offices and Circle Offices for selection to appear at a qualifying examination for appointment as Superintendents of Post Offices and R M S This has been discontinued since 1937

(d) This arrangement has been discontinued

(e) No, Sir The deserving men in the Director's have their own avenues for promotion

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member when he proposes to continue the old practice? If not why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: If the Honourable Member means whether I will restore the old practice, the reply is, 'no'

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Choudhuri: Is it a fact that in making appointments to superior posts, in the postal department, the Province of Assam is entirely kept out of consideration?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir. Promotions are not made on provincial basis They are made on merit and seniority

RAILWAY SURVEYS FOR POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT

113. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state

(a) if he is prepared to lay on the table a list of Railway surveys made or proposed to be made as part of the Post-war Railway programme;

(b) if he is aware that the Section between Agra and Delhi on the Great Indian Peninsula route acts as a sort of bottle-neck and impedes fast traffic between these two places and that Mail and Express trains have frequently to wait at wayside stations to let opposing trains pass on account of the fact that it is only a single line,

(c) if the desirability of making it a double line has at any time been considered; and, if so, the decisions arrived at;

(d) if the doubling of the Agra-Delhi line is proposed to be taken in hand at once, thereby affording immediate employment to a number of Railway hands who might be due for discharge under one rule or another;

(e) if the answer to (d) above is in the negative, the full reasons for the same, and when the survey will be taken up; and

(f) if the answer to (d) is in the affirmative, when the work is likely to be completed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) A list of the projects which it has been decided to survey, is laid on the table

(b) I am aware that there is a certain amount of congestion on this section but it is expected that this congestion will disappear with the decline of traffic on the section to the pre-war level

(c) No project for doubling the line has so far been submitted to the Government of India

(d) The doubling of this section is not included in present development plans

(e) In view of my reply to part (b) there is no justification for doubling the line at present, but the situation will be watched

(f) Does not arise

List of projects approved for Survey New Constructions, Restorations and Conversions.

		Approx. Mileages Miles
	EAST INDIAN RAILWAY	
	(a) *Dismantled lines to be restored*	
1	Unao Madhoganj-Balamau	78
2	Bijnor-Chandpur Siau	21
3	Utra tia-Sultanpur-Zafarabad	136
	(b) *New lines*	
1	Kicha Chandausi	65
2	Bamitrapur Barwadih	120
3	Chirimri-Barwadih (Garhwa Road or Untari Road)	140
4	Barkagaon-Hazaribagh-Giridih-Dumka-Rampur Haut	225
5	Gaya-Sheoghati-Chatra-Ranchi	110
	BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY	
	(a) *Restoration of Dismantled lines*	
1	Shantaganj-Habiganj	8
2	Moranhat-Khowang	6
3	Amguri-Chapai Nawabganj	10
	(b) *New lines*	
1	Bahadurabad-Goalpara-Pandu with a bridge at Goalpara-Jogighopa and a link from the bridge to Bongaigaon, also Gouripur Mymensingh Mahendraganj.	283
2	Sylhet-Bazar-Chatak	21
3	Khowang-Dibrugarh	12
4	Faridpur-Madaripur-Barisal	80
5.	Santhia-Barhampore-Bhairamara	96
6	Rohanpur-Nathpur-Dinajpur	76
7	Jharia-Jhanjal-Baghmara-Siju-Jankaray	37
	(c) *Conversion*	
1	Tezpur-Balipara to be converted from N. G. to M. G	20
	BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY	
	(a) *Dismantled lines to be restored*	
1	Bobbili-Salur	10
	(b) *New lines*	
1.	Ramagundam-Bastar-Jagdalpur Jaypur-Salur (or Visanagaram via Padwa) The portion between Ramagundam and Bastar shall be surved by H. E. H. the Nizam's Railway.	290
	NOTE.—At the time of investigation it will be necessary to examine particularly the possibility of connecting Balharshah to Bastar.	

	Approx. Mileages Miles
2. Rajnandgaon (or Drug)-Bastar *via* Kankar and Taragaon	120
3. Sambalpur-Kondagaon *via* Kantabanji or Lanjigarh	247
4. Talcher (along the valley of the Brahmani river)-Kool Bank	100
5. Talbandh (or Bangriposi)-Badampahar (or Sulapat or Rairangpur) including conversion of Rupsa-Talbandh to B. G.	85 (including 70 miles of conversion).
6. Khurda Road-Bargarh	128
7. Vishnupur-Santragachi	68
8 Contai Road-Contai-Tamluk-Kolaghat-Ghatal-Chandrakona	150
9 Extension of Lohardaga to meet Barwadih-Birmitrapur	23
(c) *Conversion*	
1. Purulia to Lohardaga	116

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY

(a) *New lines*

1. Dindigul-Gudallur	70
2. Kollengode-Cochin Port	41
3. Tanjore-Pattukottai	29
4. Arantangi-Karaikkudi	20

M. & S. M. RAILWAY

(a) *New lines*

1. Ahavar-Haliyal-Yellapur-Karwar	70
2. Ellore-Saveri Valley	70

G. I P RAILWAY

(a) *Dismantled lines to be restored*

1 Cawnpore-Khairada	81

(b) *New lines*

1. Diva-Dasgaon	98
2. Manmad-Nardhana	79
3. Belapur Road-Sheogaon	45
4. Baramati-Pandharpur	70
5. Kurla-Palasdhari	35
6. Amraoti-Narkher	79

B., B. & C. I. RAILWAY

(a) *Dismantled lines to be restored*

1. Vasad-Kathana	27

(b) *New lines*

1. Bulsar-Dharampur	17
2. Khandwa-Hingoli	169

OUDH TIRHUT RAILWAY

(a) *New lines*

1. Kashipur-Kalagarh	30
2. Chakia-Alwalia-Sidhwalia	27
3. Sitamarhi-Sonbarsa	20
4. Muriganj-Madhepura	18

JODHPUR RAILWAY

(a) *New lines*

1. Pithoro-Kahi-Tando Mithakhan-Sanghar-Jhol	62

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

(a) *Dismantled lines to be restored*

	Approx. Mileages Miles
1. Nagrota Jogindornagar	35
(b) *New lines*	
1. Havelian-Garhi Habibullah	43
2 Charsadda-Mardan	17
3. Pezu-Dera Ismail Khan	40
4. Tando Mohd Khan-Moghalbin (Jati Taluka)	72
5. Badin-Gujrat (Bombay-Sind)	268
6. Karachi-Kalat-Quetta	410
7. Peshawar-Kohat	40
8 Kohat to Bannu	80
9 Rupar-Talaura	37
10. Khushab-Nurpur Darya Khan	70
11. Kashmore-Dera Ghazi Khan	90
12. Jhang-Malout	100
13. Khewra-Chakwal	40
(c) *Conversion*	
1 Mari Indus-Bannu & Manzai Laki Marwat from N G. to B G	158
2. Jacobabad-Kashmore from N.G. to B G.	77
3. Kohat-Thal	64

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that Government are giving preference to surveys and outlays on strategic railways over the projects which are required for the convenience of the civil population, like the one referred to in this question?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There are both strategic and purely commercial lines under survey, but no special priority has yet been settled

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if in the matter of taking up construction of these railways preference will be given to those dismantled during the war, wherever necessary?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: In some cases, Sir

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is there any proposal to connect the East Indian Railway colliery area with the Bengal and Assam Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I shall require notice of that question It has been examined but I am not sure whether it is one of those under survey at the present moment

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Member aware that the two most important cities in the Central Provinces Nagpur and Jubbulpur are not connected with any broad gauge railway? Will he consider this question also?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: All these questions are discussed with the provincial Governments and their views about the development of transport in their provinces are one of the predominating factors

SUPERIOR STAFF IN TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT, OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

114. *Mr. B. B. Varma: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the number of the superior European, Indian and Anglo-Indian staff according to their seniority in the Traffic Department of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that cases of senior Indian Officers have been ignored in giving promotion in the Traffic Department?

(c) Is it also a fact that the Station Masters and Guards of the said Railway have been ignored in giving promotion in the Traffic Department?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table of the House a statement giving the required information

(b) and (c) The reply is in the negative

Statement showing the number of European, Indian and Anglo-Indian officers according to their seniority in the traffic Department of the O T. Railway

Posts	Europeans		Anglo-Indians		Indians		Total
	No	Position on the seniority list	No	Position on the seniority list	No	Position of the seniority list	
Administrative	2	1st & 2nd					2
Senior Scale	6	2nd, 4th, 5th 7th, 9th and 10th			4	1st, 3rd, 6th & 8th	10
Junior Scale	1	3rd	2	2nd & 7th	8	1st, 4th to 6th, 8th to 11th	11

LOWER SALARIES ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

115. ***Mr. B. B. Varma.** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the pay of both the superior and subordinate employees of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway is low in comparison with other Railways and remain so even now when this Railway has been purchased by Government Do Government propose to consider revision of their pay?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The scales of pay of some categories of staff on the old B & N W and R & K Railways were lower on the whole as compared with the corresponding scales on other Government Railways As already stated in reply to Questions Nos 29 and 1428, asked on the 8th February and 28th March, 1945, respectively the scales of pay of certain non-gazetted staff have been revised with effect from 1st April, 1945.

As regards gazetted staff the revised scale for the Junior Scale officers on the old B & N W and R & K Railways being less favourable than the State-managed Railways' scale, the officers concerned have been given the latter scale from 1st April, 1945 In addition, the practice of the old B & N W and R & K Companies of granting subordinates on the old scales of pay, promoted to gazetted rank, pay on the revised scales of pay, has been abolished, and the usual rule on Government Railways under which subordinates on old scales of pay are eligible, on promotion to gazetted rank, for the old scales of pay of that rank, has been substituted

As regards the latter portion of the question, Government do not consider there is justification for further immediate revision of the scales, but the matter will be examined as part of the general question of postwar scales of pay

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that any discrimination that has existed between the scales of pay and allowances given to the employees of this railway and to the employees on the other State railways has been done away with?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There is no discrimination The old companies had their own scales of pay and these differ from the scales of pay on many other railways, just as the scales of pay on different Government railways also differ Certain adjustments have been made and of course further adjustments will be considered when the general question of post-war scales of pay comes under consideration, as it is at the present moment But even then the probability is that they will not be uniform.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why should there be different scales of pay even on the Government railways for similar work done by their employees?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is for historical reasons and also for the reason that costs of living vary in different parts of the country

LOWER SALARIES ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

116. *Mr. B. B. Varma: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Railway Member been drawn to the resolution regarding racial discrimination and increase in the scales of pay passed by the Employees' Association Conference of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway held at Gorakhpur in June 1945?

(b) Is any action proposed to be taken on it? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) Government have seen the resolutions in question and are satisfied that no racial discrimination as alleged exists As regards the question of increase in the scales of pay of staff on the O & T Railway, the Honourable Member is referred to the reply I have given to the preceding question

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Is the Honourable Member quite sure that there is no racial discrimination in the matter of pay on the O & T. Railway? Are the scales of pay of European or Anglo-Indian guards the same as those for Indian guards?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I was under that impression but I will make inquiries

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is it not a fact that Anglo-Indian and Indian guards are on different scales and in the officers' grades also European and Indian officers are on different grades, in this O & T Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I shall require notice of that question.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable Member at least make an inquiry on this point?

Mr. President: Order, order, next question

BAD LIGHTING IN LATRINES ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY TRAINS

117. *Mr. B. B. Varma: Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that there is no arrangement for lights and latrines in the Third class carriages of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway trains running from Narkatiaganj to Bhikhnathori, Bagaha, Samastipur and Muzaffarpur (33 Up, 34 Dn, 103 Up and 104 Dn) Narkatiaganj to Muzaffarpur?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government is aware of the difficulties which the O & T Railway has experienced in providing lighting arrangements on the trains referred to, but the position should now improve

With regard to latrines in the Third Class carriages on those trains, a large percentage of third class carriages on rakes running on 33 Up and 34 Down Narkatiaganj—Samastipur passenger trains and 103 Up and 104 Down Narkatiaganj—Muzaffarpur passenger trains are fitted with latrines, on rakes which are not so fitted, additional third class carriages are attached to provide latrine accommodation

Latrine accommodation is not provided in third class carriages running on trains on the sections Narkatiaganj—Bagaha and Narkatiaganj—Bhikna Thori, as they are short distance branches of 26 and 22 miles respectively

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member aware only of the difficulties of the railway administrations in providing these lights and latrines or is he also aware of the inconveniences and difficulties of the passengers themselves for want of these things?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, of course I am aware of them But the difficulties of the railways are that they have been unable to get the number of lamps that they had ordered, and in the case of the O & T Railway against an order of 34,200 lamps last year they got only 21,200—a shortage of 13,000

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Are there any other railways which have not been able to get the required number of lamps?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir, several other railways have been in difficulties about this

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is there any provision in the Railway Act by which railways may be stopped from running trains without lights and latrines?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir, not as regards lights.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member aware that even if there are difficulties about bulbs, there can be no difficulty about latrines, because it only means making a hole in the compartment?

(No reply was given)

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Member aware that on certain lines, particularly on trains running between Jubbulpur and Gondia, the metre gauge has no lamps even in ladies compartments?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The question does not seem to arise, Sir

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Is the Honourable Member aware that with regard to all third class compartments in all the trains on the O & T Railway no lighting arrangement has been made so far?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member is aware that Government have only fairly recently taken over these railways, and it takes some time—particularly in the conditions which have prevailed during war time—to improve the standard of travel up to that which we should like to see

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member aware that wherever latrine arrangements are made on the O & T Railway the room is so small that the Honourable Member could not get into it?

(No reply was given)

CONGESTION OF TRAFFIC AT LEVEL CROSSING NEAR NARKATIAGANJ RAILWAY STATION

118. *Mr. B. B. Varma: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that there is a heavy rush of carts carrying cane for the New Swadeshi Sugar Mills and which has to pass the railway crossing near the Narkatiaganj Railway Station and that the traffic of the passengers and cane carts is held up for a long time, due to shunting and the arrival and departure of the trains, to their great inconvenience?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to take steps for the provision of a underground passage and thus remove a crying want of the public, in general and the carters, in particular?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) From the statement of arrival and departure of passenger and mixed trains at and from Narkatiaganj, there appears to be no undue delay to road traffic at the level crossing Occasional shunting has to be performed over the level crossing during which the gates are closed to road traffic for short periods, particularly during the cane crushing season.

(b) It would not be feasible to provide a road underbridge at this site as the bank is about 3 ft in height only and is sometimes over-topped during floods

NOTICES OF TERMINATION OF PERMITS ON U P MOTOR BUS OPERATORS

119. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state whether it is a fact that the United Provinces Government have served notices under the Governor General's Ordinance XXXIII, on all the motor bus operators in the Province stating that their permit for plying the buses will be terminated by 30th April, 1946?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the motor bus operators of the United Provinces went on strike in the month of December, 1945, as a protest against the Rail Road Co-ordination Scheme of the Provincial Government?

(c) Is it a fact that the United Provinces Government are trying to enforce the aforesaid scheme from the 15th of February 1946?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) On the assumption that the Honourable Member refers to action taken under Ordinance XXXI of 1945 and not Ordinance XXXIII, the answer is in the affirmative

(b) The answer is in the affirmative

(c) It is understood that the Provincial Government hope to have the Joint Road-Rail Companies in operation by the date mentioned This will be subject, so far as the Central Government is concerned, to the undertaking which I have given in this House regarding new financial commitments being entered into by Railways

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena. Is it a fact that the Honourable Member has given an assurance in this House that no action will be taken against these bus-operators under the Defence of India Act or under any Ordinance promulgated under the Defence of India Act?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not remember having given any assurance with reference to this Ordinance

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena Is it not a fact that this Ordinance was enacted at the suggestion of the Provincial Government?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It was done in consultation with them

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that the whole matter is under the consideration of a Committee that was appointed by the House the other day, and, if so, will the Honourable Member ask the Provincial Government to withhold any action till that Committee has reported?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This House has no jurisdiction over the Provincial Governments

Prof. N. G Ranga In view of the fact that the Honourable Member has just now said that it was in consultation with the Provincial Government that he had issued this Ordinance, will it be impossible for the Honourable Member to suggest to the Provincial Government that they should stay action until the Central Government have decided to come to a definite decision in consultation with this House?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already said that so far as we are concerned, we are not making any new financial commitment

Prof. N. G. Ranga I am suggesting that the Honourable Member should make a suggestion to the Provincial Government that they should stay their action

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will consider that

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Although this House has no constitutional control over the Provinces, is it not a fact that in so far as the contribution of financial quota is concerned, they can easily say that they will not contribute the Central Government's quota, and thus bring pressure to bear on them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have said that I will make no new financial commitments while this question is before the House

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Ordinance was issued by the Central Government, will the Honourable Member withdraw its operation in the provinces that do not fall in line with the views of the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This question will be discussed in the committee, in the course of its next meeting

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the date—15th of February—is not far off, will the Honourable Member take action immediately?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already said that I will consider it

Sjt. N. V Gadgil. Is it not a fact that this Rail-Road Co-ordination scheme is a peace-time scheme? If so, why is it that the Government has promulgated an Ordinance which should only be resorted to in connection with the prosecution of the war?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This question again will be discussed on the Committee which has been appointed for the purpose, but I would point out that the Ordinance XXXIII of 1945 reduced the powers under a previous Ordinance and did not increase them

RETRENCHMENT IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES

†120. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state

(a) what instructions have been given to the Indian Ordnance Factories for the selection of temporary staff for reduction,

(b) whether the staff reduction policy, as explained by him, is being observed in practice also by the factories,

(c) whether he has read the news item published in the *Dawn*, dated the 11th January, 1946, under the heading 'Retrenchment in Ordnance Factory, Muradnagar',

(d) whether he has ordered an enquiry, if not why not,

(e) if he is aware that in a case the National Service Tribunal, Cawnpore, intervened and got an Assistant Foreman who was unjustly retrenched, reinstated,

(f) whether he is aware of the fact that men with over four to six years' service having quite satisfactory record have been discharged from the Muradnagar Factory, if so, their number, qualifications, and length of service,

(g) the circumstances under which the Government of India orders were ignored in each of the case, and

(h) whether Government propose to order re-instatement of such of the Foremen, Assistant Foremen and Chargemen who have been retrenched, in spite of the fact that they possess high academic qualifications

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Instructions governing the release of staff in Ordnance Factories are contained in the late Supply Department Office Memorandum No E-28(603), dated 13th September 1945 A copy of the instructions is placed on the table

(b) Yes, Sir All release proposals are submitted for scrutiny to the Additional Director General in charge of the Ordnance Factories

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) No, Sir The Additional Director General had already examined the case

(e) The Assistant Foreman concerned was released in accordance with the Departmental instructions and with the prior permission of the National Service Labour Tribunal, Cawnpore As the result of an appeal, however, the Tribunal, under instructions from Labour Department, ordered his reinstatement pending a decision on the appeal.

(f) Only one member of the staff with over four years' service has been retrenched from the Ordnance Factory, Muradnagar, against his will

(g) and (h) Do not arise

No E-28 (603)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

(MAIN SECRETARIAT)

New Delhi, the 13th September 1945

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT:—*Release of Temporary (War) Staff of Ordnance Factories*

Government has approved the following principles for the release of civilian personnel of Ordnance, Clothing (including Parachute) and Harness & Saddlery Factories consequent on the termination of the War

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

2 Eligibility for release shall be in accordance with the following order of priority —

1. (a) Permanent staff who has reached the age of retirement

(b) Temporary civilian staff or soldiers, whose services are required by their former employers for work of national importance

(c) Temporary civilian staff or soldiers whose services are required by prospective employers, other than their former employers, for work of national importance

2 Temporary civilian staff or soldiers, demanding release for urgent private reasons

3 Temporary civilian staff or soldiers whose release is demanded by former or other prospective employers for work not for national importance.

3 There should be little difficulty in dealing with the release of men category 1(a) above It is to categories 1(b), (c), (2) and (3) that the instructions in this Office Memorandum are meant to apply Staff in these categories may be divided into the following groups

I Men of non-Asiatic domicile recruited in the United Kingdom and serving under agreements executed in England, or recruited in India, or "called up" under Act XVIII of 1940

II Men of Asiatic domicile recruited in the United Kingdom and serving under agreement executed in England, or recruited in India, or taken into the national service under Ordinance II of 1940

III Soldiers

4 As soon as possible after the receipt of orders for reductions in output, officers-in charge of factories should submit a statement of posts to be surrendered or held in abeyance, the names of the individuals who can be released in consequence with the suggested date of release in each case

5 The individual to be released or discharged as the result of the surrender of a post may not in some cases be the incumbent of that post but some other member of the staff who, after any re arrangement of duties found necessary in the interests of efficiency and of fairness to be individual concerned, can be released (i) with the minimum of inconvenience to the factory, or (ii) to meet an urgent demand for his services, or (iii) because he claims release is legally entitled thereto

If the holder of an officiating or temporary appointment whose discharge on reduction of establishment is under consideration, is willing to accept an appointment in the lower grade, the possibility of retaining his services in the lower grade (which may involve the discharge or reversion of an individual in that grade with an inferior claim to retention) should be considered

In proposing the re-arrangement of duties referred to above Officers-in-charge will bear in mind not only the principles here laid down but also the necessity of allowing for reversion of staff to posts or grades on which they hold a lien, or to which they have other reasonable claims and the general suitability of an individual for the post in which it is proposed to retain him

6 In forwarding recommendations for release or discharge, Officers in-charge will indicate the reasons for such recommendations on a form to be supplied to factories for this purpose

7 The intention is, as far as possible, to accept the recommendations of the Officer-in-charge but, in the cases in which the release of an individual from another factory instead of the person suggested by the Officer in-charge will, in the opinion of the Directorate General Supply or the Additional Director General (Ordinance Factories), as the case may be, be in the interest of the State, orders will be issued accordingly and the necessary inter-factory transfers arranged

8 In addition to recommendations from Officers in-charge of Factories for the release of staff, demands for the release of men employed in the Factories or at headquarters may be received from other sources

On receipt, through the proper channel, of a recommendation or demand for the release of a member of the staff of a factory or of headquarters the possibility of complying with the demand will be investigated by the Directorate General Supply or the Additional Director General (Ordinance Factories), as the case may be If the required information is not available, a reference will be made to the factory in which the individual concerned is employed and a report on the implications of the proposed release including, if it appears to be in the interests of the State, suggestions for inter-factory transfer or other re-arrangements of duties, will be submitted to the Directorate General Supply or Additional Director General (Ordinance Factories) as the case may be, for a decision whether or not the name of the individual concerned shall be placed on the "redundant or replaceable" list on receipt of orders from the Directorate General Supply or the Additional Director General (Ordinance Factories) as the case may be, to place a name on this list the Headquarters of the Factories will take action as indicated in the table appended hereto for release

9 The Director General Supply or the Additional Director General (Ordnance Factories), as the case may be, will release any one called up under the National Service (European British Subjects) Act of 1940 without waiting for the concurrence of the Defence Department, who should however, be advised of all such releases. The existing procedure for the issue of exit permits in such cases will continue

10. This Department Office Memorandum No E-28 (603), dated the 15th August 1945 is hereby cancelled.

P R. NAYAK,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

To

1 Director General, Munitions Production, Calcutta
2 Director General, Supply, New Delhi.

Copy for information to :

1 Finance Department (Supply) New Delhi
2 Defence Department, New Delhi
3 War Department, New Delhi
4 Labour Department, New Delhi.
5 Master General of the Ordnance in India, New Delhi
6 Adjutant General in India, New Delhi
7 E-III Branch

P R NAYAK,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

RETRENCHED SIKHS IN METAL AND STEEL ORDNANCE FACTORIES

†121. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state

(a) the total number of each of the Foremen, Assistant Foremen and Chargemen in the Laboratory Section of the Ordnance Factories Metal and Steel, stationed at Ambernath, Katni, Cawnpore and Muradnagar respectively, as it stood on the 15th December, 1945, and how many of them were Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs, and the number of Europeans and Anglo Indians;

(b) the number and qualifications with total length of service of each of the Sikhs who have been brought under reduction in the said grades of the Section of each of the Factories,

(c) whether in retrenching these men, the instructions of the Industries and Supplies Department were strictly followed; if not, why not;

(d) whether he is aware that, in spite of the fact that Sikhs are very much under represented, they are being selected for retrenchment, and

(e) whether he proposes to issue necessary instructions for safeguarding their interests a so, if not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) The total number of Foremen, Assistant Foremen and Chargemen in the Laboratory Sections of the Factories in question on 15th December 1945, community-wise, are shown below:

Metal and Steel Factory	Foreman		
	Assistant Foreman	1	Hindu
	Chargeman	3	Hindu
Ordance Factory, Ambernath	Foreman	1	European
Ordnance Factory, Katni	Assistant Foreman	1	Hindu
Ordnance Factory, Cawnpore	Assistant Foreman	1	European
	„ Foreman	1	Hindu
	Chargeman	1	Hindu
Ordnance Factory, Muradnagar	Foreman	1	Hindu
	Assistant Foreman	1	Sikh

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent

(b) One Sikh only has been discharged He is an M.Sc. in Organic Chemistry of the Punjab University and had six years' service in the Ordnance Factories

(c) In discharging him the instructions prescribed by the late Supply Department, a copy of which has been placed on the table, were strictly followed

(d) No, Sir. Two Sikhs only of the grades mentioned in the five factories have been released

(e) Does not arise

CONSULAR AND COMMERCIAL AGENCIES

123. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Secretary for External Affairs please state·

(a) the foreign countries which have consular or commercial agencies in India of any kind,

(b) whether in those countries India is represented officially by any consular or trade or commercial representatives, and

(c) whether Government is considering the question of establishing such agencies in all countries which are represented in India, and in other countries also where it may be possible to do so?

Mr. H. Weightman: The question will be answered by the Honourable Member for Commerce

EXPANSION OF CIVIL AVIATION

123 *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state,

(a) the number and routes of Civil Air services in existence at the present day, and the period of their existence,

(b) the number of flying clubs, and the nature of the service these clubs render,

(c) the nature of management (whether European or Indian) of each of the services and clubs referred to in (a) and (b) above,

(d) whether Government have in contemplation expansion of air service (Civil) in the immediate future, if so, the nature of the proposed expansion, giving details of routes, composition of services and the approximate time for giving effect to such expansion,

(e) whether Government have taken steps for the creation of an Air Transport Licensing Board, if so, the nature and composition of the Board, the nature of rights with which they are proposed to be clothed and the nature of duties with which they are proposed to be entrusted, and

(f) the Government policy with regard to postwar planning for Civil Aviation in the country?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) (b) and (c) I lay on the table a statement giving the information asked for

(d) Yes The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the plans for the post-war development of Civil Aviation, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the Legislature

(e) The composition and functions of the Air Transport Licensing Board are defined in the rules for the licensing of air transport services, which have been published in the *Gazette of India*, of the 26th January, 1946, under the Posts and Air Department Notification No 11-M(A)/1-46, dated the 23rd January 1946 The Government of India are taking action to constitute the Licensing Board shortly

(f) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (d) of this question.

Statement

(a) The number and routes of civil air services at present in existence, and the period of their existing.

I *Indian Air Services*:

(A) *Tata Air Lines*—

Routes operated	Present Frequency	When started
1. Karachi-Ahmedabad-Bombay-Hyderabad-Madras-Colombo	Daily	15-10-32
2. Bombay-Ahmedabad-Delhi	Daily	16-4-45

(B) *Indian National Airways*—

Routes operated	Present Frequency	When started
1 Delhi-Cawnpore-Allahabad-Calcutta	Daily	27-6-40
2. Delhi-Jodhpur-Karachi	Daily	21-1-43
3. Delhi-Lahore-Chaklala-Peshawar	3 Weekly	19-8-43

II. *Foreign Air Service*

(A) *China National Aviation Corporation*—

1 Calcutta-Bhamo-Kunming-Chungking	(no regular schedule)	22-12-45

NOTE—This company started operations in India in December 1941 with a twice weekly service between Calcutta and Lashio During most part of the war with Japan, the services were operated on the route Calcutta-Dinjan-Kunming-Chungking The operations are conducted under a special agreement for the war

(B) *British Overseas Airways Corporation*—

"Sunderland" Flying Boats

1 Poole (England) Karachi-Calcutta (3 weekly)

2 Poole (England) Karachi-Calcutta-Rangoon Singapore (3 weekly)

"C" Class Flying Boats

3 Durban Cairo-Karachi-Raj Samand-Gwalior Allahabad-Calcutta (2 weekly)

4 Cairo-Karachi-Raj Samand Gwalior-Allahabad Calcutta (2 weekly)

"York" Landplanes

5 Hurn (England) Cairo-Basra-Karachi-Delhi Calcutta (2 weekly)

"Lockheed Lodestar" landplanes

6 Cairo-Aden-Jiwani-Karachi (1 weekly)

"Lancastrian" landplanes.

7 Hurn (England)-Lydda-Karachi Colombo Learmonth-Sydney (3 weekly)

NOTE—The England-India route was opened in 1929, the services were extended to Calcutta in July 1933, to Rangoon in October of the same year, and to Singapore on 18th December 1933 A year later the services were extended to Australia Since the beginning of the war, the routes and frequencies of services have been subject to frequent change

(b) *Number of Flying Clubs*

Active Clubs—Five Karachi Aero Club, Bihar, Bombay, Madras and Northern India Flying Clubs

Clubs whose activities were suspended owing to the war and are proposed to be revived soon—Three United Provinces, Delhi and Bengal Flying Clubs (There are also *two* Clubs in Indian States, namely Jodhpur and Hyderabad)

Nature of the service rendered—The active flying clubs are employed in flying for the Indian Air Training Corps, to give air experience to members

The normal purpose of flying clubs is to provide facilities for the public to learn and practise the art of flying

(c) the nature of management (whether European or Indian) of each of the services and clubs referred to in (a) and (b).

A. *Management of Air Companies.*

1. *Tata Air Lines*: Tata Air Lines is a department of Tata Sons Limited—an Indian Company.

2 *Indian National Airways Ltd.*—The company is an Indian Company with a Board of Directors appointed by the shareholders The managing agents are Govan Brothers Limited—an Indian Company.

3 *China National Aviation Corporation*—The Corporation is a Chinese concern.

4 *British Overseas Airways Corporation*—The Corporation is a public utility Corporation constituted by an Act of Parliament and managed by a Board appointed by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom

B *Management of Flying Clubs*

The Flying Clubs (except the Northern India Flying Club) are registered as limited liability companies Membership is open to Indians and Europeans. The management of the clubs is vested in Managing Committees elected by the members; the Government of India appoint two members on the Committee of each flying club in British India

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Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether Government will place before this House the proposed composition of the Licensing Board?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Sir, according to the provisions of the Indian Aircraft Act, these Rules will be placed on the table of the House very shortly.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Is there any possibility of amending the Rules so that the Central Legislature might be associated with this Licensing Board by having at least one of its Members on it?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I think the Rules provide for this, it is open to the House to make suggestions which will be considered.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether any applications are pending with the Government asking for opening of different lines all over the country?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I would require notice of that question, but in any case it will be for the Licensing Board to decide whether a licence would be given or not

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether the Government received an application from Airways Limited in which they asked for permission to open a route from Calcutta to Dacca and Sylhet?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I shall require notice of that question.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: With regard to part (d), is it not a fact that there is an application pending from a Muslim Company, and as there are no Muslim Companies will it be considered favourably and a licence given to them?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: As I have already stated, this will be for the Licensing Board to decide At present there is no provision for giving any licence to any Air Transport Company.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to consider the desirability of issuing a press communiqué giving a precis of Government's policy with regard to this matter?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: A press communiqué was issued on the 24th of May 1945, giving a clear statement of the policy of the Government of India with regard to the development of air transport services.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: My question was different In view of the fact that the matter under question is an entirely new thing and public is not very much used to these things, will the Honourable Member be pleased to consider the desirability of issuing a further communiqué in which the points raised by these questions and the answers made thereto will be set forth?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I take it the questions and answers in this House will be published in the newspapers and that will give the necessary publicity

Mr. President: Next question.

REPUBLICATION OF NATIONAL CONGRESS OF LAHORE

124. *Shri Sri Prakasa (on behalf of **Srijut Dhirendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury**) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last two years sanction has been granted by the Government of India for the publication of new daily and weekly papers in India and that quota of paper has also been allotted to those papers, and

(b) the reason why the weekly Urdu *National Congress* of Lahore has not been granted permission to restart publication, in spite of the fact that it was already getting a regular quota of paper up to the date when its publication was suspended on the 9th August, 1942 *vide* the Government of India's letter, dated the 5th February, 1943 saying that they have no objection to its re-publication under the Paper Control Order?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The letter of the 5th February 1943, referred to was issued by the Paper Production Commissioner who merely replied, to an enquiry from the management of the *National Congress*, that, in the circumstances explained by them, there was no objection to the resumption of publication This was with reference to the supply position of paper as it then stood The newspaper did not then start publication and came up again for permission in 1944 As the supply position had deteriorated meanwhile, permission was refused.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Did they not take any political consideration into account when they were refusing permission to this paper?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No Sir, not as far as I am aware

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is the Honourable Member aware that in respect of The Bengali *Harijan* an application had been made to the Department asking for a quota of paper, but that the matter has been held up although for the English and Gujrati publications quota has been obtained?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Sir, I am afraid I must ask for notice of this question

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to Honourable Member's reply to part (a) of the question, may I know if Government have any definite policy in the matter of granting or not granting permission?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: One object is to consider and provide some arrangements for publicity to various schools of thought which would otherwise get none whatever

Shri Sri Prakasa: May we take it that the Government have no political considerations in the matter?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Certainly

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to Honourable Member's reply to part (b) of the question, may I ask whether the present condition of newsprint position in India permits of giving permission to this paper to restart?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I am afraid not, Sir, at present

RESTRICTIONS ON NEWSPRINT QUOTA.

125. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state by which date or time the restrictions on newsprint quota will be removed?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that some of the leading Indian language daily newspapers of high standing and huge circulation have been given a quota far less than their actual need, and that a representation was made on their behalf by the 'All India Journalist Association'?

(c) What steps, if any have been or are being taken to meet their just demands?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Restrictions on newsprint quotas will be removed as soon as the supply position of newsprint sufficiently improves to justify such a step

(b) Newsprint quotas for newspapers were fixed on the basis of the figures of the actual consumption in the basic period, July-December 1942, which period was selected in consultation with the representatives of newspaper interests Due to the scarcity of newsprint, these quotas were less than the actual needs of all newspapers In August 1945, the All India Hindi Journalists Association addressed Government expressing the hope that supplies of newsprint would become easier and enable Government to lift the control Unfortunately that hope has not materialised yet Government are making every effort to get increased supplies of newsprint from Canada as well as the Scandinavian countries this year

(c) Representations received from individual newspapers have been considered and if it is found that the selection of the basic period has resulted in a definite hardship to any particular newspaper, its quota has been increased on the merits of the case

(*b*) WRITTEN ANSWERS

TELE-PRINTER NEWS SERVICE FOR CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

126. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that necessity for efficient news service through tele-printer is keenly felt in the Central Provinces and Berar and its absence is a great handicap in the Province?

(b) Is he aware that tele-printer lines pass through the town of Nagpur and Jubbulpore in the said Province?

(c) Does the Honourable Member, propose to take steps to introduce tele-printer service between both these towns and, if there be any technological and mechanical alterations and changes necessary to take steps to get these made?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Government are not aware of any general demand of this character from C. P. & Berar, but an application has been received from a news agency and there have been informal enquiries recently from another source

(b) Yes, but the towns of Nagpur and Jubbulpore are not served by those lines

(c) Government will make every endeavour to meet any firm demands which are received, having regard to the facilities available from time to time.

TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR SEONI

127. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state whether a telephone line is being constructed from Nagpur to Jubbulpore through Seoni to connect these two towns directly and by the shortest distance? If so, will this line be available for being tapped at Seoni for connecting the Seoni town with the rest of the country by giving the trunk telephone facilities there? If so, what arrangements are being made to that effect and will a local telephone system be installed at Seoni?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: A telephone carrier line is being constructed between Nagpur and Jubbulpore *via* Seoni The work is likely to be completed in May 1946

One of the trunk circuits on this line will be tapped to open a Public Call Office at Seoni to give trunk telephone facilities there The Public Call Office will provide for four extensions one of which will be utilised to meet a definite demand from the Local Government and the other three will be available to meet any other private subscriber's demands if required.

There has been no public demand for a telephone exchange at Seoni.

AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE EXCHANGE FOR JUBBULPORE

128. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state whether he is aware of the great inconvenience being felt by the residents of the Jubbulpore town, in general and the telephone subscribers, in particular, due to the absence of automatic connecting system of the telephone?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to institute an automatic connection system? If so, by what time?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Government are not aware of any special inconvenience felt by the telephone subscribers due to the absence of an automatic system at Jubbulpore

(b) There is no proposal at present to convert the manual system at Jubbulpore to an automatic system

POST-WAR POLICY *re* INLAND STEAM VESSELS

129. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to refer to the debate that took place on the 23rd February, 1945, on a cut motion, which was carried by the Legislative Assembly relating to the post-War policy regarding ownership and management of steam vessels plying in inland waters that either link up Railway systems or compete with them, and make a statement indicating what progress has been made in the determination of policy in this connection?

(b) When was this question taken up with the Provinces as promised by the Honourable Member, and with what result?

(c) Has the matter been considered by the Post-war Transport Policy Committee as also by the Transport Advisory Council? If so, with what result?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) As the House is aware, Inland waterways and traffic on them is a Provincial subject, and it was therefore necessary to consult the Provincial Governments concerned in this matter. Soon after the cut motion, to which the Honourable Member refers, was carried, two technical experts were called on to make an enquiry into the history of rail-river competition in North East India and their notes, which were received towards the end of July 1945, have formed the historical background for a consideration of this subject A memorandum setting out the major issues, as they appeared to the Government of India, was sent to the Government of Bengal in December and afterwards to the Governments of Bihar and Assam A reply has been received from the Government of Bengal

(c) The matter has not yet been considered by the Policy Committee on Transport It will be placed before the committee after replies have been received from all the three Provincial Governments concerned Whether it will be necessary to place the matter before the Transport Advisory Council will depend upon the views of the Provincial Governments

BREACH ON DARJEELING HIMALYAN RAILWAY LINE

130. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to make a statement regarding the breach that occurred in the Siliguri-Gielle Khola Section of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway during the last rainy season and indicate the time that may be taken for a complete restoration of service on that line?

(b) Have complaints been received by the Railway authorities regarding the delay in the restoration of the line, and failure to provide adequate interim transhipment facilities for the benefit of traffic? If so, what action has been taken on such complaints?

(c) Is it a fact that considerable traffic in Tibetan wool and other heavy goods traffic depend on this line, and that the connected trade has been suffering on account of the delay in the restoration of the train service and failure to provide adequate interim transhipment facilities?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) On the 3rd August 1945, the railway track at the 16th mile on the Teesta Valley Extension was breached owing to a landslip Government are advised that everything possible has been and is being done to move essential traffic and to repair the breach It is expected that through running will be resumed by the middle of this month.

(b) Yes, complaints have been received and the Railway Administration and the Managing Agents were urged to provide all possible transhipment facilities till the breach is repaired

(c) There is considerable traffic in Tibetan wool and other heavy goods which depends on this line for movement The railway authorities have made every effort to tranship essential traffic within the resources of road vehicles available to them, and the limitations of the new emergency road built to replace the road carried away by the landslip As soon as this new road was fit to take jeeps, transhipment started to the extent of about 2,200 mds per diem The amount transhipped now averages 5,400 mds per diem The traffic transhipped consists of foodstuffs, perishables (including oranges) and about 100 bales of wool

ACQUIRING OF COMPANY-OWNED RAILWAYS

131. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the intentions of Government in regard to the exercise of option of acquiring each of the twelve railway lines still owned by Companies, mentioned in reply to starred question No 896 of the 12th March, 1945, where the option lies with the Government?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government do not intend to exercise the first option of purchasing the railway lines Nos 8, 10 and 17 mentioned in reply to Starred Question No 896 of the 12th March 1945

The case of railway line No 3 is under consideration

The question of purchasing the others, being premature, will be considered in due course

WHEREABOUTS OF RAJA MAHENDRA PRATAP

132. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state whether the Government of India made any enquiries about the whereabouts of Raja Mahendra Pratap?

(b) Are Government aware that the Raja had become a pacifist and that prior to the outbreak of the second world war he had been carrying on an intensive campaign to stop all wars?

(c) Do Government propose to enquire from the American authorities in Japan the nature of charges, if any, against Raja Mahendra Pratap, and whether he is going to be tried for them?

(d) Have Government any information about his health? If so, what?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) No, Sir

The answer to parts (b), (c) and (d) is also in the negative

STRANDED INDIANS OUTSIDE BRITISH EMPIRE

133. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Foreign Secretary please state the number of Indians stranded in different countries outside British Empire, and how long it would take to repatriate them?

Mr. H. Weightman: The approximate numbers of Indians who are known to have been in various enemy-held foreign territories during the war are as follows:

(i) Japan	100
(ii) Occupied China	2,500—3,000
(iii) Philippines	800 – 900
(iv) Netherlands East Indies	2,000
(v) Siam	50,000
(vi) French Indo-China	2,000

No precise figures are available as to the number of Indians in Europe and foreign territories in Africa but the number is known to be small. Few of these persons can be said to be 'stranded', since the Indian communities had generally settled or resided for many years in those territories, continued to carry on their normal business during the war and the great majority have expressed no desire to return immediately to India

On the other hand Indian labourers who had been forcibly removed from Malaya to Siam by the Japanese and of whom roughly 17,000 have been recovered, are anxious to return to Malaya They are already being assisted to return to Malaya at the approximate rate of 4,800 a month

2 The repatriation of Indians from overseas has already begun, 1,159 Indians having been repatriated from China, mainly from Shanghai where conditions were acute, and smaller numbers from the Philippines, Japan and Java Steps are being taken to expedite the repatriation of those Indians who wish to return to this country from Siam, French Indo-China and other territories in the Far East, as well as from Europe and Africa, but it is impossible to say how soon this will be completed because that will depend on the availability of shipping

GRANT OF IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENCES IN AJMER-MERWARA

134. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies aware that there has been a regular practice in the Control and Supplies Department, Ajmer-Merwara to grant import and export licences to such persons only, who will agree to pay huge amounts in the so-called Charity Funds irrespective of their antecedents in business? If so, do Government regard this practice just and fair?

(b) Will Government disclose as to how much amount has been collected from the public in this manner and how does it contemplate to utilise this amount?

(c) Will Government take the representatives of the public into confidence before finally deciding as to how and in what manner this amount is to be spent?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The question relates to the Food Department, and will be answered by the Secretary, Food Department

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

REFUSAL OF IMPORT LICENCES FOR GUNMETAL

19. Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Is the Honourable Industries and Supplies Member aware that licenses for importing gunmetal from the United Kingdom are being refused in this country and that Government offers to supply gunmetal from their surplus stocks at a price which is about 154 per cent higher than the price ruling in the United Kingdom as a result of which Indian manufacturers using gunmetal are prevented from competing successfully against imported articles?

(b) What steps do Government intend taking for permitting the Indian users of gunmetal to get their raw material at a price commensurate with the price of the metal ruling in foreign countries?

(c) What is Government's general policy for making available to the Indian manufacturers industrial raw materials lying surplus with Government at prices commensurate with prices ruling in the foreign market and particularly in the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Licences for import of Gunmetal from the U.K. are not issued because there is a ban on export of this class of material from that country. The difference in price between the indigenous and imported material is due to the higher price of virgin metals and the scarcity of scrap in India.

(b) Every effort has been and is being made to import Gunmetal from the U.K and other countries, but for all metals containing tin the situation is not likely to improve until the world tin situation is eased.

(c) The general policy adopted in the fixation of prices of Government surpluses is to link them up where possible with the ruling prices of such materials in the Indian market, which in the case of controlled items, may be equal to or lower than the controlled prices Foreign market prices are one of the factors determining the level of current market prices

GRIEVANCES OF B. B. & C. I RAILWAY (METER GAUGE) STAFF

20. Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Railways been drawn to the editorial article appearing in the "Rajput Hero" of Ajmer dated 1st December, 1945 pointing out the grievances of the staff of the B , B & C I Railway Metre Gauge? Is it a fact that the allegations made therein about favouritism and suppression of appeals to higher authorities are true?

(b) Is it a fact that the Manager, B , B & C I Railway, has failed to take steps to investigate into and redress the aforesaid conditions?

(c) Do Government consider it desirable to take up the question now?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b) I have seen the article referred to in part (a) of the question and consider that the complaints and allegations made therein are of too vague and general a nature to warrant any special enquiry

(c) The reply is in the negative

PERSONS UNDER PREVENTIVE DETENTION

21. Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to lay a statement on the table of the House giving the names of persons who are undergoing preventive detention for reasons of State connected with External Affairs"

Mr. H. Weightman: By preventive detention the Honourable Member presumably means detention in jail The following ten persons are at present undergoing detention under Regulation III of 1918 for reasons of State connected with External Affairs

1 Sardar Ghulam Ahmad, s/o Sardar Ali Ahmad Jan
2 Sardar Faizal Ahmad, s/o Sardar Ali Ahmad Jan
3 Sardar Ali Mohamad, s/o Sardar Ali Ahmad Jan
4 Sardar Fakir Ahmad, s/o Sardar Ali Ahmad Jan
5 Musamat Shah Bano wife of Sardar Ali Ahmad Jan
6 Musamat Shah Gul, wife of Sardar Ghulam Ahmad
7 Musamat Mah Gul, wife of Sardar Ghulam Ahmad
8 Musamat Mah Gul, wife of Sardar Ali Mohamad
9 Sardar Abdulla Jan, s/o Sardar Mohd Ishaq Khan
10 Sardar Mohd Hasan Khan, s/o Sardar Mohd Ishaq Khan

POLITICAL PENSIONS IN CONNECTION WITH LAST WAR

22. Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving

(i) the names and addresses of persons, if any, who are being paid political pensions for rendering services abroad in connection with the last war as well as the respective amounts so paid, and

(ii) the names and addresses of persons deported from Afghanistan and at present detained in India with the amount of allowance paid to them?

Mr. H. Weightman: (i) The Honourable Member presumably refers to the 1914-18 War The information asked for is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

(ii) There are no persons deported from Afghanistan who are detained in India under the orders of the Government of India A number of Afghan refugees are, however, detained in Indian jails A statement giving their names, places of detention and allowances paid to them is appended

Statement showing names and places of detention of Afghan refugees detained in Indian jails and the allowances paid to them.

S. No.	Name	Address	Allowance
1	Sardar Ghulam Ahmad	Karwar sub-jail in Bombay. Presidency.	Rs. 300 p. m.
2	Must. Shah Gul wife of (1)	do.	
3	Must Mah Gul wife of (1)	do	
4	Sardar Fazal Ahmad	do	Rs 200 p m
5	Sardar Ali Mohammad	do.	Rs 230 p. m.
6	Must. Mah Gul wife of (5)	do.	
7	Sardar Faqir Ahmad	do	Rs 100 p m
8	Must Shah Bano	do	Rs 100 p. m
9	Sardar Abdullah Jan	Quetta Distt Jail	They have been detained very recently. No allowance yet sanctioned.
10	Sardar Mohd Hassan	do	

ACCOUNTS RE GORAKHPUR LABOUR IN COAL MINES.

23. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether all the expenditure incurred on account of the recruitment and employment of the Gorakhpur labour in coal mines has been regularly audited and has been found by audit to be entirely in order? Up to which date have such accounts been audited?

(b) What is the name and designation of the Officer in charge of the Labour Force and what is the name of his Secretary? What are the emoluments to which they are respectively entitled, and what is the extent of the financial authority of the Officer-in-charge?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The question Nos 23 and 24 will be answered by the Honourable the Labour Member on the appropriate day.

EXPENDITURE ON GORAKHPUR LABOUR IN COAL MINES

†**24. Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the amount so far spent on the Gorakhpur labour employed in coal mines,

(b) the amount realised so far from the owners of mines who employed the Gorakhpur labour;

(c) the number of members of the Gorakhpur labour force employed in (i) Railway-owned collieries, and (ii) collieries owned by public companies and individuals; and

(d) the names of those mines where the Gorakhpur labour has been employed?

DISCONTINUED AND RESTORED PASSENGER TRAINS

25. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement indicating under different Railway

(i) the number of passenger trains that were discontinued during the war, and

(ii) the number of trains indicated above that may have been restored?

†For answer to this question, *see* answer to question No. 23

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (i) Information regarding the actual number of passenger trains discontinued during the War is not readily available, and could not be compiled without the expenditure of time and labour incommensurate with the results to be achieved Statistics maintained indicate, however, that upto November 1943, the train services reduced on Class I Railways involved a reduction of 68,911 train miles per day on the B. G lines and 41,993 on the metre gauge lines, making a total of 110,904 train miles per day, equivalent to an overall reduction of 37 per cent on the corresponding pre-war daily train milage

(ii) Up to the 1st January, 1946, Class I Railways had re-introduced or extended a total of 633 train services representing an additional daily train milage of 38,107 on both Broad and Metre gauge Similar figures for Class II Railways are 32 trains involving the addition of 1,210 train miles per day

DISCONTINUED AND RESTORED RAILWAY LINES

26. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing under different Railways

(i) the sections of the Railway lines that had been removed during the war, and

(ii) which of the above sections have since been restored, or are proposed to be restored in the near future, and the programme adopted for the gradual restoration of such lines?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: A statement showing the information required is laid on the table of the House None of the dismantled lines have yet been restored, but certain sections have been selected for "priority" in restoration and they are marked accordingly.

STATEMENT

Railway lines dismantled during the war,

Sections of railway lines	Whether restored or proposed to be restored in near future	Programme for gradual restoration	Remarks
E. I. Railway			
1. Dalmau—Daryapur	No		
2. Akbarpur—Tanda	No		
3. Bijnor—Chandpur Siau	Proposed to be restored.	Priority	
4. Utraitia—Sultanpur—Zafrabad	do.		
5 Unao—Madhoganj—Balance	do.	Priority	
6. Auhadpur—Madhoganj	No		
7. Bhagalpur—Mandar Hill	No.		
8. Tinpahar—Rajmahal	No.		
9. Barabanki—Burhwal (third line)	No		
10. Burhwal Bahramghat	No.		
B. A Railway			
11. Ammura—Chapai Nawabganj	Proposed to be restored.	Priority	
12. Moranhat—Khowang	do		
13. Habiganj—Shaistaganj	do	Priority	
14. Cinnamara—Titabar	No.		
15. Gosaigaon—Kakilamukh Ghat	No		
M. & S. M. Railway.			
16. Cocanada—Kotipalle	No.		

Sections of Railway lines	Whether restored or proposed to be restored in near future	Programme for gradual restoration	Remarks
S. I. Railway			
17. Shoranur—Nilambur	No.		
18. Modura—Bodinayakanur	No.		
19. Morappur—Hosur	No		
20. Tirupattur—Krishnagiri	No		
G. I. P. Railway			
21. Cawnpore-Khairada	Proposed to be restored	Priority	
22. Darwha—Pusad	No.		
B. N. Railway			
23. Bobbili—Salur	Proposed to be restored		
24. Raipur Forest Tramway	No		Belonged to the Govt. of C. P
B. B. & C. I. Railway.			
25. Vasad—Kathana	Proposed to be restored		Either B. G. or N G
N. W. Railway			
26. Lyallpur-Jaranwala	No.		
27. Fort Abbas—Kut-el-Imara	Under consideration.		Belonged to the Bahawalnagar State.
28 Rohtak—Gohana—Panipat	No.		
29. Mahmudkot—Ghazighat	Under consideration		
30. Nagrota—Jagmder Nagar	Proposed to be restored		
31. From mile 86 (near Zardalu) to Bostan.	No		

CLOSED AND REOPENED RAILWAY STATIONS

27. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement indicating under different Railways

(i) the stations that were closed during the war, and

(ii) which of them have since been opened or are proposed to be opened in the near future?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for the information from the principal railways, on receipt of which I shall lay a statement on the Table

UNLIT PASSENGER COACHES ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY (METRE GAUGE)

28. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement in respect of the metre gauge section of the Bengal Assam Railway, showing the total number of passenger train services that were run during the months of October, November and December, 1945, separately, and indicating such of the said passenger trains as were not equipped with lighting arrangements in the passenger coaches during each of the said months?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am afraid it is not possible to answer the question in the form in which it has been put as no numerical record of lights in individual passenger coaches on each of the passenger trains services is maintained. The B A. Railway M G section runs a total of over 4,000 passenger train services of all types per month and though all passenger

coaches are equipped with lighting arrangements, there was and still is an acute shortage of bulbs The actual supply and fitment of these bulbs in passenger coaches must vary from day to day

2 For the Honourable Member's information however I give below a summary of the situation, as it exists, the main causes of the unsatisfactory lighting arrangements and the prospects of improvements in the future During the last two years the very high incidence of theft, especially on the B A Railway, and a very difficult supply situation have made it impossible to maintain a satisfactory standard of lighting in trains In peace time the B A Railway M. G section normally replaced approximately 1,000 lamps per year against every 1,000 originally fitted The B A Railway have estimated that the replacement of lamps attributable to thefts alone has amounted to 12 times that number Efforts to restore normal lighting have included measures such as running of escorts and the installation of anti-theft fittings Protection cages are being fitted as quickly as possible

3 The Railway Board made arrangements to import by air 10,000 bulbs in the middle of 1945 especially for the B A Railway The requirements for the financial year, however, have not yet been met in full

4 The general situation is now showing signs of improvement as there has been an increase in indigenous production and also in supplies from the U K and U S A We hope to obtain 4 lakhs of lamps from indigenous sources during 1946

PRODUCTION CESS ON COAL DESPATCHES

29. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state

(a) the total amount of production cess on coal despatches realised up-to date,

(b) how long the cess is proposed to be levied,

(c) the different heads under which expenditure is undertaken out of the cess fund,

(d) the total amount spent so far under the said heads, and

(e) whether the representatives of the trade have any voice in controlling the administration of the cess fund?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Total receipts as booked in the accounts up to the end of December 1945 were Rs 233 lakhs Figures of receipts after that date are not yet available

(b) It is intended to levy the cess so long as the need for special measures to improve the production, marketing and distribution of coal continues The position is kept under constant review

(c) The main heads under which expenditure is incurred out of the Fund are bonuses to colliery owners on increased production, deficits on schemes for the provision of colliery labour and the additional administration charges relating to the Coal Commissioner's organisation, incurred subsequent to 31st March 1944

(d) Total expenditure as booked in the accounts up to the end of December 1945 was Rs 138 lakhs Deficits on schemes for the provision of colliery labour from April to December 1945 are not included in this figure as expenditure under this head is adjusted at the end of the financial year

(e) While the fund is administered by Government, the views of the trade and of the other interests represented on the Coal Control Board are considered and taken into account

*SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

REFIXING BOUNDARIES OF BENGAL, BIHAR AND ASSAM

12 NOON

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Leader of the House been drawn to the news item published in the *Hindustan Standard* of the 29th January, 1946, to the effect that the recent visits of the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief to the Eastern Frontiers of Assam were connected with the creation of an Eastern Frontier Province which will also affect Bengal, that this plan will involve

partition of Bengal, Sylhet, Cachar and also that the eastern part of Bengal will form a Muslim majority Province under the name of East Bengal?

(b) Is it a fact that some parts of Bihar will be added to west Bengal to form a Hindu majority Province?

(c) Is it a fact that the Assam valley plains with some portions of North Bengal will make Assam Province and that Darjeeling Jal Paiguri and Siliguri will form a separate territory?

(d) Is it a fact that *Times of Assam* is strongly opposing the proposed scheme?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b), (c) and (d) The report referred to by the Honourable Member, which I have not however seen, is purely imaginary Government have no such proposals under consideration.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Thank you.

PURCHASE OF TEMPORARY BUILDINGS BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state

(a) if his attention has been drawn to the article under the heading "Stop the Loot" in the last column of the 1st page of the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 4th February, 1946,

(b) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, whether it is a fact that His Majesty's Government is pressing the Government of India to purchase the two buildings mentioned in the article, if so, whether the Government of India has taken a decision regarding that,

(c) the value of the buildings at present,

(d) the cost of the buildings to His Majesty's Government,

(e) the price at which these buildings are offered, and

(f) if the two buildings have only to be pulled down and are not fit for any use"

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes

(b) No the Government of India themselves have decided to purchase the buildings for housing their officers The terms of purchase are now under consideration

(c) No firm figure can be given as the estimates of the present value of the buildings, which depend on several factors, necessarily differ

(d) Rs 25,58,000

(e) Rs 21,31,667

(f) The buildings are being occupied by the staff of the Far Eastern Bureau as well as by the Government of India officers and it cannot be said that they are not fit for any use They are however temporary buildings and will be demolished when they are no longer required by Government

Prof. N. G. Ranga: For how many years are they expected to last?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not know I suppose it might be estimated between 8 to 10 years

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is it voluntary purchase or forced?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Voluntary. Why forced? If Government needs them they have to purchase them.

Mr. Manu Subedar: On what basis is the value fixed? Is it cost of depreciated value or knock down value?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The value is not fixed The matter is under negotiation.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How many years of life from the 8 to 10 years have already expired?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They were constructed during the war and I do not know the exact date at the moment.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the demand for the purchase of these buildings come before the House?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Why? It is an administrative act

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If they were constructed at the beginning of the war and the life is 8 to 10 years and they are to exist three years more, why does the Honourable Member think it necessary to spend Rs 25 lakhs"

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have said the matter is under consideration No figure has been fixed

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I do not quite follow the Honourable Member's last but one answer He said something about an administrative act which did not require the sanction of this House

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I did not say that I said it was an administrative act for which the House need not be consulted The money will be provided for in the Budget

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I want to know if the money is sanctioned

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It will come up for sanction

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: In what form are you bringing it up?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That is a matter for the Finance Member

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I want him to answer it It is no use the Honourable Member taking up that high-handed attitude and saying it is an administrative act He has got to answer us

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Answer

(No answer Interruptions)

Mr. President: Order, order We will now take up the adjournment motions

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. President: There is an adjournment motion (No 96) in the name of Mr Frank R Anthony who wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely,

"To censure the Government for the action taken by the Railway authorities in directing the compulsory re enrolment of Anglo-Indians in the Auxiliary Force"

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official) As the matter is now the subject of discussion between me and the authorities, I do not wish to move it

(Interruptions)

Mr. President: Order, order There is another motion to censure the Government for directing the compulsory re-enrolment of Anglo-Indians in the . .

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: That is one and the same There is only one motion

Mr. President: I am sorry There is only one

DELHI POLITECHNIC STRIKE

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion (No 97) is in the name of Shri Satya Narayan Sinha in connection with the strike of 758 students of the Delhi Polytechnic The motion of the Honourable Sardar Mangal Singh has already been kept over So, at this stage, this falls through

Adjournment motion No 86 in the name of Diwan Chaman Lall in the same connection also falls through

REVERSIONS FROM THE I A M C TO THE INDIAN MEDICAL DEPTT.

Mr. President: There is another adjournment motion (No 98) in the name of Mr. Frank R Anthony who wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely,

"To censure the Government for the action of the Military Medical authorities with regard to the Indian Medical Department in compelling them to revert from the I.A M C with the intention of ultimately retrenching most of them"

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I would like to hear the Honourable Member concerned.

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India Nominated Official) The old I M D has been held in abeyance during the war and the members of it have been given the opportunity of taking emergency commissions either in the I M S in which case they are seconded to the I A M C or direct into the I A M C. In both cases they were told they would be given an opportunity at the end of the war of being considered for a regular commission, and if not fitted for a regular commission they would either revert to their original status in the I M D or they could accept the normal terms offered to an emergency commission officer At present, however, the whole position of the Medical Services in the future is under consideration It is not clear at present whether there will be an I M D or an I M S in the permanent arrangements that will be made It is therefore impossible at present to offer them the chance which they were told they would have of a regular commission But under the release regulations any man when his turn comes up for release has the opportunity of deferring his release and can sign on for one or two years more If any of these men have not taken the choice of deferring their release, it has been assumed by the authorities that they do not wish to be considered for a regular commission There is no possibility of forcing them to revert to the I M D because the I M D does not at present exist except in abeyance I do not therefore understand why any case of compulsion is supposed to have arisen But I have had discussions with the Honourable Member on this subject and I will call a meeting with him and the authorities concerned and try to explain his difficulties fully to him and I hope that in that case he will agree it is not a matter of urgent public importance

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: There are two matters which I want clarified It is my information that members of the I M D of all communities have been told they must revert or accept release immediately There is implied compulsion in these terms with the result that men who have been served with these orders have reverted They have not been given the option of deferring If my Honourable friend will give me an assurance that every man has a right to defer his release

Mr. P. Mason: Yes

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Many of these men have been told that they must revert or be released Several of them have thus been compelled to revert

The next point is that I have been given to understand that the men who have been compelled to revert will be ultimately retrenched Is that the policy of the Government?

Mr. P. Mason: I certainly cannot give any assurance about the future of the I M D As I said, that is under consideration I can state that every officer, every individual whatever his category, has the opportunity of deferring his release and if any of them have not deferred their release, they must have misunderstood the regulations

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Sir, under the circumstances I withdraw my motion.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member does not press his motion

REPATRIATION FACILITIES TO INDIAN LABOURERS ON SIAM-BURMA RAILWAY

Mr. President: The next adjournment motion (No. 99) is by Seth Govind Das regarding

"The failure of the Government of India to take necessary steps to look after the welfare and facilities for repatriation of thousands of Indian labourers who were taken by the Japanese from Malaya and Burma to Siam to work on Siam Burma death railway"

Will the Honourable Member state what is the urgency in this matter?

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions Non-Muhammadan): Because, Sir, a message appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of yesterday from Colombo. According to this message Mr. Aney had been to these places and he has stated in a report to the Government of India that the conditions of Indians who are still there is as bad as it has been before. About 88,000 to one lakh Indian labourers were taken from Burma and Malaya to Siam by the Japanese and out of those only 35,000 are surviving and the condition of those 35,000 is so bad that it is said that in the camps at Bangkok and at Kanchanpuri, where Indian workers were living arrangements were being made for providing medical and food facilities. They were clad almost in rags and were badly in need of clothing, especially warm clothes. In Indo-China also the Indian community number 3,000, mostly residents of Saigon and its suburbs and were anxious to return to India and proper facilities are not being given to them for returning. Even after the cessation of hostilities and even today, their condition according to Mr. Aney, representative of Government of India in Colombo, is so serious that I want to censure the Government, as nothing is being done for their welfare. They are even today in need of clothes, in need of medicine, in need of food and they want to come back to India and proper facilities are not being provided for them. Therefore I feel that the matter is one of urgent public importance and the statement of Mr. Aney is most recent, it appeared only yesterday in the papers.

Mr. President: May I know from the Honourable Member for Government what the position is?

Mr. B. N. Banerjee (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department): Sir, I venture to think that this matter is not only not of urgent importance but that there has been no failure on the part of the Government to take the necessary steps. I feel, Sir, that the very press message which has inspired this motion and from which the Honourable Member has read out extracts, and some of those very extracts which he has read out, establish my case that the Government have already initiated measures for the welfare of these Indian labourers and facilities for their repatriation. This message purports to be a Press statement made by Mr. Aney, who is our representative in Ceylon and who was specially selected to represent the Government of India at the peace negotiations with Siam. Immediately after the signing of the peace treaty at Singapore, our Government sent Mr. Aney to pay a special visit to those areas in Siam. Mr. Aney has given us an idea of what he has seen there. He has also stated that the report which he has submitted gives details of his findings to the Government of India. Mr. Aney himself has said and it was also read out by the Honourable Member that in camps at Bangkok and Kanchanpuri where Indian workers were living arrangements were being made for providing medical and food facilities. All these arrangements have been made as desired by the Government of India. We specially sent Mr. Aney to those places. I think, Sir, the House will agree that without obtaining the actual facts no arrangements could be made for providing facilities for the welfare of those Indian labourers. Government sent Mr. Aney specially and his report has come to us. That report is at present under the consideration of the Government and Government will take such other action as they consider necessary after reading the report and in the light of Mr. Aney's recommendations. I venture to think that there has been no failure on the part of the Government of India in this matter. The Honourable Member's allegation is not established. Apart from that the press and the

public in this country have known for many months the fact that a large number of Indian labourers had been taken by the Japanese from Malaya and Siam for this railway

Mr. President: May I know from the Honourable Member whether steps are being taken for their repatriation?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Yes, Sir. Steps are being taken for their repatriation and I may mention that some of these Indian labourers have also trekked back to Malaya and as early as December 13th, 1945 we issued a communique on the report of Mr Chettur, our representative in Malaya and there also we said that many of the Indians were anxious to return to India for rest and recuperation " Immediate return of very large numbers will not be feasible owing to the shortage of shipping The British Military Administration have agreed to take action to facilitate their early return and non-official committees are also being set up at Saigon and Kanchanpuri to advise regarding suitable priorities for their return Some of these labourers are included in this lot too

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General) Mr President, I fear the statement which the Honourable Member has made in the House is most unsatisfactory in this respect Here are 35,000 Indians suffering in that part of the world and the Honourable Member feels that it is quite enough that Mr Chettur and Mr Aney should tour and send a report to the Government and that the Government should continue to read and examine the report while these people are suffering The point is what have they done to bring these people home? No answer has been forthcoming The Honourable Member says that the Government are examining this report The press has got it and they have not even read that report He was saying that the Government are reading that report and considering the measures that are to be taken The measures they ought to take are perfectly simple They ought to arrange for the repatriation of these people at the earliest possible opportunity I should like to hear what he has got to say on that

Mr. President: For how long is the matter likely to be considered?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The report was received only about 2 weeks ago I believe Mr Aney returned here sometime during the last month, so I do not think we have taken an unduly long time

Seth Govind Das: Sir, the Honourable Member just read out from a government communique issued some time in December that the Indians there are very anxious to come back, and now three months have passed and we want to know how many Indians since December, have been repatriated The cold weather has passed they were suffering on account of want of clothes, they had no warm clothing and they are still there I want to know, within these three months since that communique was issued, how many people from that land have been given facilities to come back to this country and why warm clothing and other clothes have not been provided for them, in spite of three months of cold weather?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: That refers mainly to the Indians who had already got back to Malaya from that area

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) We know the ways of the Government, it is the labourers who are now under discussion it is not quite clear how many of them have been given a chance to come back to India· how many of them trekked to Malaya we do not know and the Government of India does not know but out of that number how many of them were given a chance by Government to come back to this country It is a very important thing Generally, we know that Government gives the last priority to labourers when there is a question of providing shipping facilities and other facilities also; therefore it is most necessary that Government should be taken to task for having neglected the welfare of these 35,000 labourers in Assam, because they happen to be poor

Mr. President: It appears that we are not quite sure about the facts· at any rate some steps are being taken the exact extent of the difficulty which

[Mr President]
is there, in providing facilities is not very clear to me yet. I believe the real difficulty is about shipping for repatriation That seems to be the prominent difficulty The matter is such that I do not consider it necessary to give my consent, as I do not think any further matters can be brought out in discussion, over and above what has already been said

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Mr. President: The next motion is from Khan Abdul Ghani Khan to discuss the cloth famine in the North West Frontier Province May I know when the Honourable Member gave this notice to the office?

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North-West Frontier Province General) This morning

Mr. President: At what time?

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: At about 11-30 A.M.

Mr. President: It cannot be considered he has to present it before the commencement of the business

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Will it be considered tomorrow?

Mr. President: He might have given it tomorrow rather than at 11-30 today

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Mr. President: Then there is another motion by Mr Ayyangar—to discuss the proposal by the Government of India to accede to the request of the Nizam of Hyderabad to grant a corridor to East Coast through some districts of the Madras Presidency in the North

There are many difficulties in the way of this motion The first is that the notice was received at 12-15

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) I thought there were so many adjournment motions coming up and that this will come on tomorrow It is an important matter

Mr. President: It is an important matter but still it was not given in due time and the Honourable Member cannot be helped in that respect The other difficulty is that this will require the sanction of the Governor General so in any case we need not go into the question whether it is urgent or not

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I shall apply for the necessary permission

Mr. President: Now comes the adjournment motion that we have been holding over so far

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) Before we leave the matter that was under discussion, on the ruling that you gave just now with regard to notice being given for another day, I must state what the practice has been so far Any notice coming before 11 can be taken up that day itself, but supposing it is given later that day and we want to discuss it tomorrow, there is a whole day's notice and it must be accepted I think my Honourable friend was right when he asked that it should be taken up tomorrow If he had insisted that it should be taken up today, I could understand the objection, otherwise the matter becomes very difficult for us

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Both myself and my friend want our notice to be taken up tomorrow

Mr. President: I do not know that; as I say, under the Standing Orders, notice has to be given before the commencement of the day's business

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: That is for today.

Mr. President: And as for the distinction that the Honourable Member seeks to make—any notice will always be before the commencement of another day

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Our difficulty is this: today you have ruled them out. Will it be all right for us to give notice of the same adjournment motion tomorrow? That is the point.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is raising a problematical question I do not wish to answer it.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau. Indian Commerce). If a notice is given any time after 11, it should be treated as a notice for tomorrow that is the only point

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You will remember, Sir, that after you disposed of about 80 adjournment motions out of the 100 motions of which notice was given, which were given long before the 21st January when the session opened,—they were not given on that day and they ought not to come later—therefore I have given this notice in advance for tomorrow.

Mr. President: Any way, so far as they go, they will fall through today. I will see what can be done in the future

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Mr. President: Then comes Sardar Mangal Singh's motion No 70 He is not here, so that motion also drops out It has ceased to be urgent in view of the previous motion

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): But the Honourable Member has not given any assurance?

Seth Govind Das: Sir, the strike is still going on and as long as the strike does not end, I think it will continue to be very much a matter of recent occurrence Mr Satya Narayan Sinha has given notice that the strike has not yet ended

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: May I suggest this? In the first place I cannot go behind your ruling—you have already ruled out one motion and I do not wish to question what you have said about this But in view of the fact that the strike is still on, may I request the Honourable Mr John Sargent to make a statement on the subject and just tell us to what extent Government is prepared to go to meet the points which he knows were likely to be made during the debate I want to specify the points in as narrow a scope as possible Is the Government prepared to make sure that the diplomas of the Polytechnic will be recognised by the Federal Public Service Commission? If that point is made clear, I am perfectly certain that it will go a long way to satisfy those who feel that they have a grievance

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Apart from that, Sir, I do not know whether this motion has been ruled out or whether we are discussing it, because there was my friend Mr Satya Narain Sinha's motion which was ruled out because this has been held up for discussion Now when we have reached it, as the Mover is not here, this motion is also going to be ruled out That means that the House is deprived of the chance to discuss it The whole thing was postponed because we thought that some compromise talk was going on and that nothing would be lost if it was put off But I feel certain that there must be some discussion about the matter or we should wait until Sardar Mangal Singh comes back. I do not know if there is any other way out otherwise Mr Satya Narain Sinha's motion should be allowed

Mr. President: I am afraid with all the sympathy I have for the students and for the situation created, I have to go by the rules of the House The position here was this: a motion was given notice of by Sardar Mangal Singh: an identical motion was given a few days after by Diwan Chaman Lall. Notice of the same motion was given after a few days by the Honourable Member, Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha As I said yesterday, while giving my ruling, an adjournment motion is essentially an attempt to take up for discussion something different from the original order of the day on the ground of the importance of the matter. And it is not only the importance of the matter but its urgency also It could always be argued that as the strike proceeds from day to day and takes a longer time, the matter becomes more and more acute and more and more urgent. But so far as the Rules of the House are concerned, to my mind, the urgency, at the very first start does not continue if motions could be tabled on the same subject day after day. The essence of the whole thing is that there must be an earliest possible

[Mr President]

opportunity on which the discussion should take place The subsequent motions, therefore, under the Rules and the previous rulings from the Chair, were obviously out of order and could not be admitted There was no urgency in them, there being a previous motion That is why, when yesterday this point was touched, instead of giving priority to that motion, we said that we had better defer the discussion of the earlier motion, so that there may be no deviations so far as the precedents of the House go If the motion today falls through, it is not the fault of the Chair

Mr. Manu Subedar: Before you give your ruling, Sir, may I say that Dr. John Sargent was about to make a statement

Mr. President: So, if an Honourable Member considers a matter to be of such an urgent nature that he gives notice of an adjournment motion, then he has to remain present in the House It falls through essentially because something which the Honourable Member should have done has not been done and he has failed to do it

So far as the convenience of the Members is concerned, however I may desire to meet it, I do not know how many motions will have to be adjourned and how many times It will be a greater inconvenience to the House to follow the practice of adjourning things to suit the convenience of Members The better practice would be that Members should make it a point to remain present after having given notice of an adjournment motion Therefore, if all that is agreed to, the only difficulty which I am now feeling is that there being no motion before the House, on what subject could a statement be permitted ?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: May I say one word, Sir? It is under the special circumstances which unfortunately exist in this particular case that I am making that request Because of this complex procedure that has been gone through and various considerations were before you in adjourning one motion to await the result of the negotiations, etc.,—I do not wish to go into the whole subject—, it is for that reason that I am asking your permission to make a statement which ought to satisfy the House too Ordinarily, I do not think I would be justified in asking for a statement from any Member on the Treasury Benches when there is no motion before the House In this case a motion was before the House In fact, three motions were before the House The actual circumstances of the case are that the strike still continues, it is really a recurring cause I did not raise that point when you were ruling out Mr Satya Narain's motion, otherwise I might have easily got up and said it is a matter of urgency and of urgent public importance for the simple reason that the strike is a recurring cause and it continues from moment to moment I may give a notice of adjournment motion today and I may give a notice of another adjournment motion tomorrow if the strike continues So long as the strike continues, the urgency is still there But I did not raise that point In view of all these facts if I am asking for a statement, I do not think I am asking for too much

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House) May I, Sir, make a suggestion which, I think, would meet the wishes of the House. Government are quite anxious to make a statement The only question is, how can we do so under the Rules? I suggest that the best way to do it will be for the Honourable Member to put down a short notice question and if you, Sir, allow some latitude in replying to that question, then the whole matter will be satisfactorily dealt with within the Rules

Mr. President: In fact, I myself was going to make that suggestion If I permit a statement to be made now, I will be creating a precedent that a statement can be made even though a particular matter is not before the House I do not want to create a precedent of that type The best thing will be to put a short notice question, which will be answered at the next meeting of the House

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I agree to the suggestion which the Leader of the House has made and we will put down a short notice question tomorrow? That is the point.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam (Secretary, Health Department): Sir, I move·

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects dealt with in the Department of Health during the unexpired portion of the financial year 1945-46 and for the financial year 1946-47."

Mr. President: Motion moved·

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects dealt with in the Department of Health during the unexpired portion of the financial year 1945 46 and for the financial year 1946-47"

Will the Honourable Member state what the subjects are on which he expects the Committee to advise?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: I think the subjects are given in the Memorandum which has been circulated to Members giving the subjects dealt with by each Department

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General) Since the motion is before the House, I should like to invite the attention of the Members of the Treasury Benches and other Honourable Members sitting on Government Benches that every time they make a motion of that nature they ought always to place before the House some sort of a summary of the kind of proceedings which have taken place in connection with these Committees We know nothing about it It is easy for them to say that you want a Standing Committee to be elected, but what is the Standing Committee going to do? What are going to be its functions and what is going to be its scope? The kind of report that I am asking for should be normally submitted with every proposal of this nature, so that we may be able either to read it or, while the motion is before the House, we may say, "Add such and such functions to the functions of the Committee which you have placed before the House". But this kind of blank and bald proposal is hardly acceptable to us

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris Muhammadan) Sir, on this point I can give some information, as I had something to do with these Committees in the last Assembly The rules provided that the meetings are to be held very often, and, every time a meeting is held, the proceedings will be circulated to Members I think last year the proceedings were circulated. What I suggest is that these proceedings should be re-circulated once again at the time of making this motion.

That will help Honourable Members to a great extent because probably Honourable Members would have forgotten what took place In order to avoid all waste of time, I suggest that when an Honourable Member of the Government makes his motion, he should say what the committee is about and give details of its work.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member) I may draw the attention of the House to Appendix V which gives the scope and functions of these Standing Committees I may add, as my friend referred to other Departments, that in view of the special circumstances last year, in some of the Departments, at least I know of some, it was not possible to call these meetings for reasons which the House is quite aware of. The scope and functions and working of these Standing Committees is practically the same as what is given in Appendix V, subject to some of the changes which were made at the instance of my Honourable friend Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth last year A new rule has been added by which the proceedings of the Standing Committees are circulated.

Mr. President: It appears the difficulty has been about the subjects dealt with in the Departments.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I take it the subjects dealt with in each Department are before the Assembly. Before the Assembly begins, the Legislative Assembly Department always takes care to circularise to Honourable Members the subjects dealt with in the various departments. Otherwise questions cannot be addressed to different Departments.

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: I may explain that the Department of Health came into existence on 1st September last year and there has been no previous committee relating to this Department.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural) I did not follow what the Honourable Member said

Mr. President: He says the Department came into existence very recently and it has yet to evolve

The question is

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct ten non official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects dealt with in the Department of Health during the unexpired portion of the financial year 1945-46 and for the financial year 1946-47"

The motion was adopted

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE INDIAN CENTRAL TOBACCO COMMITTEE

Sir Pheroze Kharegat (Secretary, Agriculture Department) Sir I move

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, two persons to represent consumers on the Indian Central Tobacco Committee"

Sir, I may explain that the Central Tobacco Committee was established by a Resolution of the Government, dated 10th April 1945 It has held only one meeting so far in which it has laid down its own rules and regulations But the committee has not yet been fully constituted because of the absence of members of the legislature and that is why this motion is being made at present

Mr President: Motion moved

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, two persons to represent consumers on the Indian Central Tobacco Committee"

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore. Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I learn from the Honourable Member himself that this Committee had met only once and the wonder of it is that the very first time it had met, it had taken a wrong decision in regard to the location of its headquarters Sir, in the whole country, there is one district which produces the largest quantity of tobacco It has also the largest area under tobacco and that is my own district, Guntur There was a suggestion made by one of the Members that its headquarters should be located in that district and I learn that one Member had even offered to place a house at the disposal of the Committee. But instead of accepting that offer, the Committee as well as the Government had decided to locate its headquarters in Bombay, where I learn they are finding it very hard to find any accommodation for the office of the Committee at all It seems they even offered to pay Rs 1,000 a month and even more by way of rent for office accommodation. They are unable to get any accommodation What is more, it will be much more difficult to find housing accommodation for the staff to live in I find that this Committee has already started badly I do not know what work it is going to do If this Committee is at all to discharge its functions satisfactorily, then its headquarters should be located not in a place where no tobacco is grown, but in a place where the maximum quantity of tobacco is grown for any district or for that matter for the whole of India I think one of the functions of this committee is to encourage research in the production of tobacco and also in the production of various other things which are manufactured out of tobacco One of the biggest cigarette manufacturing concerns is located in Guntur district. Therefore, I submit the headquarters of this committee ought to be located in Guntur district, since this committee has not yet incurred any expenditure in buildings or in permanent structures in Bombay I hope the Government will keep these considerations in mind and see that its decision is changed so far as its headquarters will be located in Guntur and not in Bombay

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I wish to say a few words.

Mr. President: Does this Motion require any discussion?

Shri Sri Prakasa: Yes, Sir, we are all against smoking.

Mr President: If Honourable Members are really serious to continue the debate, I have no objection. I do not mind taking the Motion over after Lunch. Otherwise, I may put the motion just now and adjourn for Lunch, as today is Friday

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa Muhammadan): I want to speak on this Motion

Mr. President: In that case, I will adjourn the House for Lunch

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Quarter Past Two of the Clock

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The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr President (The Honourable Mr. G V Mavalankar) in the Chair

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, we were discussing the motion about the Tobacco Committee My Honourable friend Prof Ranga was worried about headquarters I thought the headquarters of tobacco was the smoker's mouth, but if he wanted some other headquarters I do not know where he wants to establish them Moreover I was rather worried when I learnt that the purpose of this committee was to encourage tobacco smoking If that is the purpose of the committee my feeling must be against the establishment of this committee, because I do think that smoking is a bad habit, and it is doing a great deal of harm all round It is spreading and we find even little boys smoking all over the place I am sure my Honourable friend, Sir Pheroze Kharegat, who is himself a non-smoker like myself, would not like to be associated with any committee which encourages a bad habit I do not know if my Honourable friend has any bad habits, I have known him for over 30 years now I know he had no bad habits at Cambridge, whether he has acquired any since then I do not know But in any case even if he has some bad habits, he would not like other folks to have them I hope he will be able to give us some assurance that this committee will not encourage any smoking and particularly will help in stamping out juvenile smoking, because juvenile smoking is an increasing danger and it has to be put down I expect his help and the help of his committee in this particular matter

Mr. President: I do not think any further debate is necessary on the issues which the Honourable Members have raised

The question is

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, two persons to represent consumers on the Indian Central Tobacco Committee"

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR HOME DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects in the Home Department for the unexpired portion of the financial year 1945-46 and for the financial year 1946-47"

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects in the Home Department for the unexpired portion of the financial year 1945-46 and for the financial year 1946-47"

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran. Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That in the original motion for the word 'eight' the word 'ten' be substituted"

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That in the original motion for the word 'eight' the word 'ten' be substituted"

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Sir, I accept the amendment.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore. Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I learn that this committee has not met at all since it was constituted last year. This department is a very important one, specially for the reason that due to its good offices several thousands, if not lakhs, of us have been sent to jail, both through the courts after having been convicted and without the courts also as detenus This department has never been held by an Indian so far, and I think the Secretaryship also has been confined to Englishmen So it is no exaggeration to say that it has been protected by a sort of purdah so far as the Indian public is concerned. This House is naturally always anxious to know as much about the activities of this department as possible, and the only time that a committee came to be constituted—and that was last year—the committee was not given an opportunity of meeting and trying to know anything at all about this department And even when we put questions here in the House the Honourable Member and his predecessors have made a habit of giving only laconic and cryptic answers, and if at all they try to be a bit expressive, only their shoulders are given the privilege of jumping up and nothing more, and short notice questions have very little chance with this department Therefore it is most necessary that this House should have an assurance that the Honourable Member concerned with this department will call this committee as frequently as possible, take it into his confidence in regard not only to detailed questions that may be coming up for discussion or for decision within his department but also in regard to the general policies and programmes that this department contemplates from time to time We learnt only the other day that even in regard to recruitment, promotion, etc , in these various services, specially in the Indian Civil Service and the other Imperial Services, it is this department that takes the most important decisions and also makes the most important recommendations to the Secretary of State for India Therefore, Sir, I hope that the Honourable Member will at least on this occasion go out of his way to give an assurance to this House which will be popular

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, it is nothing out of the way to ask the Honourable Member to lay before the House a statement of what he proposes to do by way of taking advice from this committee You will find, Sir, in Appendix V of the Manual the functions of the various Standing Committees, but unfortunately the Home Department Standing Committee does not find a place there We naturally expect that with regard to all standing committees that have been hitherto appointed or are in course of appointment or for which motions have been or are being introduced in the Assembly, the Members in charge of these motions will make known to the House what its functions are On pages 103 and 104 of the Manual, for instance, you find the constitution and functions and also rules of business for the Standing Committee on Roads and Finance Sub-Committee Likewise, what he intends to do with respect to the committee, what matters he intends to place before them for advice, what constitutes a quorum, etc,—these are all matters on which elucidation is necessary, and this House is entitled as a matter of right to have a statement from the Honourable Member

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: With regard to my Honourable friend, Prof Ranga's complaint that a Standing Committee had been in existence and it did not meet, he has the advantage of me in having been a member of the last Assembly whereas I was not, but I understand that the Standing Committee for the Home Department was elected very near the end of March last. I know from the papers I have seen that my predecessor was anxious to have a meeting of the Standing Committee as soon as possible after that, but I find nothing on record as to why a meeting was not called I think perhaps it may have been on account of a familiar phenomenon in the early days of the hot

weather in Delhi that migration takes place away from Delhi but I am not sure of that

As regards the subjects which will be laid before the Standing Committee, as you know, Sir, it is governed by Rule 7 of the Legislative Department notification, dated the 5th of March 1945. I am afraid I cannot at this moment be more precise as to the subjects that will be laid That is a matter I am examining and as soon as I have formed a tentative conclusion it might be of advantage I think to discuss it with the gentlemen who may be elected to the Standing Committee But I do see some difficulty in publishing or laying on the table any too detailed or specific statement because, as I understand it, subjects may, from time to time, arise if not foreseen, and it would perhaps be a mistake to have a list which would not permit of subjects being raised at short notice But I can promise the House that although as regards the letter of procedure I can make no definite statement at this stage, that the purpose of the setting up of this Standing Committee will certainly be observed by me in spirit I must, however, utter one caveat about that I know that my Honourable friends opposite think that I spend all my time deciding who should go to jail and devising a ban which will put a number of people into jails, but actually the day to day work of the Home Department is something much less exciting and which I am afraid the Standing Committee may even find at times boring There are a great number of subjects on some of which I think the opinion of Members of this House will be very useful, but I cannot promise that they will all be as exciting as my friends opposite seem to expect

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in the original motion for the word 'eight' the word 'ten' be substituted"

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is.

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct ten non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects in the Home Department for the unexpired portion of the financial year 1945-46 and for the financial year 1946-47"

The motion was adopted

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PILGRIMAGE TO HEJAZ

Mr. B. N. Banerjee (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five Muslim members to serve on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz, for the unexpired portion of the life of the Committee constituted on the 1st April, 1944, and due to expire on the 31st March 1947"

Sir, this is a very old Standing Committee of this House and the main function of the Committee is to advise Government on all matters connected with the Haj pilgrimage One special feature of this Committee is that its term is for a period of three years That was decided sometime ago with a view to maintaining continuity and enabling Government to have full advantage of the experience of the Members of the Committee of the actual running of the Haj pilgrimage

Mr. President: The question is.

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct five Muslim members to serve on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hejaz, for the unexpired portion of the life of the Committee constituted on the 1st April, 1944, and due to expire on the 31st March 1947"

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees, namely:

	Date for nomination	Date for election
1. Standing Committee for the Department of Health.	13-2-1946	18-2-1946
2. Indian Central Tobacco Committee	13-2-1946	18-2-1946
3. Standing Committee for the Horse Department	13-2-1946	19-2-1946
4. Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to Hejaz	13-2-1946	19-2-1946

The nominations for all the four Committees will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 NOON on the dates mentioned for the purpose The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House between the hours of 10-30 A.M and 1 P.M

INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. President: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the motion moved by the Honourable Sir Azizul Huque, namely, that the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, be taken into consideration

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member) Sir, I do not want to make a reply at this stage, but in order to save the time of the House, I might say that after consulting the different sections of the House, I will be prepared to have a Select Committee provided it is possible to have the report of the Select Committee by the 14th February 1946 If that is agreed to, I would also suggest that the following Members of the old Select Committee—*viz* , Mr. Satya Narain Sinha, Mr Ishaq Seth, and Mr Gwilt of the three different parties—may be included in the Select Committee

Mr. President: There is an amendment by the Honourable Mr Jaffer.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am prepared to accept it

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division Muhammadan Rural) 14th February is too early If the Honourable Member would agree, ten days' time will be all right

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I may point out that I do not mind even three weeks or one month, but as I have already explained I would like to finish with this as soon as possible so that there is enough time left to consider the other Bill which is far more important I am sure this will not take much time So I think my friend would do well to accept it.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Yes, it is agreed

Mr. President: Agreed to the 14th also? Then another amendment in place of the one moved by Mr Jaffer will have to be moved because there seems to be some changes in the names suggested

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran Non-Muhammadan): There is an amendment in my name

Mr. President: When did the Honourable Member give it?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Yes, it is in substitution

Mr. President: Now that other names are coming in, and the dates are also going to be changed, will it not be better to withdraw this amendment and move another giving the agreed names and dates?

The Honourable Dr Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will ask Mr. Vaidyanathan to move it if the House agrees to that

Mr. President: What will be the names? They will have to be checked.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have given him the names and the date

Mr. President: And they agreed?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have put it to them and there seems to be an agreement

Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan (Government of India Nominated Official). Sir, I move

That the following names be added to the names that are already before you"

Mr. President: I am afraid the form will not be quite in order I will read the original amendment and then as the occasion arises other names will be suggested I take it that Mr. Jaffer will withdraw his amendment after this.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: All right

Mr. President: The amendment is

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the Honourable the Commerce Member, the Honourable the Law Member, Messrs L S Vaidyanathan, Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, T Chapman-Mortimer, Ali Asghar Khan, Pandit Govind Malaviya, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr Ahmed E H Jaffer, and the original names"

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not find Mr Jaffer's name.

Mr. President: I had read Mr Jaffer's name In place of Sjt N V. Gadgil, Pandit Malaviya comes in because that seems to be agreed What are the other names?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M Azizul Huque: Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, Mr Leslie Gwilt and Shri Satya Narayan Sinha

Mr. President: "With instructions to report by 14th and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting shall be five."

That may be moved by the Honourable Member

Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan: Sir, I move

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable the Commerce Member, the Honourable the Law Member, Mr L S Vaidyanathan, Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr T Chapman-Mortimer, Mr Ali Asghar Khan, Pandit Govind Malaviya, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar Mr Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, Mr Leslie Gwilt, and Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, with instructions to report by the 14th February 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five"

Mr. President: Amendment moved

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable the Commerce Member, the Honourable the Law Member, Mr L S Vaidyanathan, Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr T Chapman-Mortimer, Mr Ali Asghar Khan, Pandit Govind Malaviya, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, Mr Leslie Gwilt, and Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, with instructions to report by the 14th February 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five"

Will Mr Jaffer now ask for leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: I ask for leave to withdraw.

The amendment was by leave of the House withdrawn.

Prof. N G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) I am rather surprised with the procedure that the Honourable Member is pursuing in regard to these Bills The last time when he brought forward a piece-meal legislation like this in regard to insurance, I warned him that some of us are keen that he should try and investigate the advisability or otherwise and also the possibility for nationalizing this industry in this country and also to have it studied by certain experts so that it would be possible for you to come before this House with the necessary proposals On that occasion my Honourable friend

[Prof N. G Ranga]

had pleaded that things were still in a flux, there was still a war on and it would not be possible for him to venture upon such a big project

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid my friend has forgotten everything of my reply

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My honourable friend may remind me a little later on One thing I know that he has not come forward with any concrete or constructive proposals in that direction I said on that occasion and I repeat it that State insurance has not been proved to be a failure to the extent to which it has been tried in this country There is the experiment made by the Mysore State itself, whose insurance venture has to its credit the lowest working expenses and also the lowest premiums being collected There is the Government's own postal insurance In fact, I suggested that its scope should be extended so that not only Government employees but also the outside public could be allowed to insure themselves under that scheme Government has not done anything in that direction Their experience of this postal insurance cannot be said to be a failure nor unsatisfactory With these two instances, there is a *prima facie* case for studying this popular question and for studying the possibilities of developing this industry as a State industry In addition to that I want the Government also to study the possibilities of developing co-operative insurance in this country So far very few experiments have been made and Government has not given sufficient encouragement to these few experiments and it is high time that the Government should take it up Unfortunately, Sir, Government, instead of encouraging these measures, is going in a direction which is likely to militate against the progress of co-operative insurance Clauses 23 and 24 in the explanatory notes state that it is considered undesirable that a life insurance agent or an employer of insurance agents should be a director of any company transacting life insurance business, and provision is made for prohibiting this What does it mean? I want to know Does it or does it not prevent any insurance agent, or group of insurance agents, who form themselves into a co-operative insurance company from asking his insurance agents at the same time to try to control its activities as directors and afterwards take their share of the total profits that come for division as dividend? If it does prevent it then I contend that this clause is likely to prevent the progress of co-operative insurance in this country.

Secondly, why should it be that all this money should be placed at the disposal of these various private companies and afterwards this House being asked again and again to make amendments in this Act in order to prevent these people from playing their mischief? What is happening is this We are asked to help this Government in order to repair the diseased body of Indian capitalism. My friend himself has admitted the other day that there are companies who sail under one cloak but do business in another direction There are companies who do not treat the funds that are placed at their disposal in the proper way but invest them in all sorts of monkey ventures There are also companies who have the lowest possible premiums in order to cut the other companies' business and at the same time not being able to make a good business of it themselves and thus endanger the premiums that are being paid to it by its life policyholders. If that is the record of Indian insurance companies, a large number of them not the whole lot of them, why should it be necessary for this House to try to prop up these companies? Try to control them It is true there are some big companies, with one of which my Honourable friend Mr Vaidyanathan was till recently associated and I dare say he is again going back—which have made a profit out of this business That proves that this can be a profitable business if it is run properly Then, what is it that prevents this Government from taking up this line of business, thus themselves make the profits and place the funds at the disposal of the public for various social purposes There is an additional reason also All these funds are being placed at the disposal of these life insurance companies, crores and crores, more than forty crores, I suppose, per annum I am speaking subject to correction. How did they invest

this money, in what companies, in what industries? Does the country have any sort of control over it at all? This Government functions only as a policeman and nothing more This Superintendent sits only as a sort of sword of Damocles over them, frightening some, encouraging some others and then, I do not know, helping some others in some other ways Beyond that he has absolutely no power whatsoever to divert this money in those directions in which the development of India's industrial potential is absolutely needed And Government can have that control if it were to start its own venture, have all these funds at their own disposal and then distribute these funds as between these various industries which call for new capital for their development If it is feared that state insurance by itself is likely to bring in managerial dictatorship into this country, there is nothing to prevent the Government from encouraging the co-operative development of this industry

Also in regard to some of these big overgrown insurance companies the Government can introduce their own partnership into them They can stipulate that 40 or 50 per cent of the share and paid up capital shall be taken by the state itself More than 50 per cent of the directorships should be held by the nominees of the Government and they should also determine the maximum rate of profit that these insurance companies may take for themselves

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: On a point of order Sir, you will kindly decide whether on a Bill of such a restricted nature my Honourable friend can bring in the whole encyclopaedia of insurance, as to what are needed in the insurance world

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is a very beautiful point of order, Sir Before you give your ruling, Sir, I wish to have my say

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will have his fullest say I was beginning to share the feeling of the Honourable Member who has raised this point of order I know that it would be pleaded on behalf of Mr Ranga that he is opposing the original motion and urging that this Bill should be rejected altogether and that instead of having a tinkering legislation in that manner, it is better to have a comprehensive legislation That seems to be his point But even assuming that he may not be irrelevant, there are limitations as to the time

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is why I am not making my points in full I am simply mentioning my points I do not want to be reduced to the plight of sending a petition containing all my suggestions to the Honourable Member so that he can dismiss them in an autocratic manner I am placing all my points before the Members of this House so that it will not be possible for my Honourable friend to dismiss them That is why I am merely placing before the House my points without arguing about them. Recently the Government of India published their Post-war Economic Development Plans In that publication itself the Government of India has mentioned many of these points in regard to many of these industries They themselves have stated that they would like to start many of these industries and in regard to private enterprise in what manner they would like to control these companies and so on In any of these my Honourable friend does not seem to have any hand This Government seems to be working in a sort of watertight compartments He is unaware of what one department is doing and does not seem to have any influence on another department. To what extent has my Honourable friend learnt a lesson from that policy which the Planning Department has published the other day After all it was not published merely in the name of the Planning Department It was published in the name of the Government of India of which the Honourable Member is a member and yet he is none the wiser Therefore I charge this Government of ignoring all those most essential directions in which the Government's interests, the public interests can be safeguarded

Then there is the other thing also We are now asked to give more power to the Superintendent.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I would lose all my wisdom if I remained with my Honourable friend anymore

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We are asked to give more and more powers to the Superintendent. These administrative officers are being given more and more powers That seems to be the fashion of the day Is there any other authority who has got any sort of control over the rulings or the doings that this Superintendent is expected to make from time to time? Supposing an insurance company feels itself aggrieved against the rulings given by the Superintendent What is the other authority to which that company can appeal? Does he give his rulings just as a judge does in a court of law? Does he make public his rulings and the reasons therefor? If that is so, is there any authority to which any aggrieved party can possibly appeal? If there is to be no other authority at all, then I take very strong objection to the setting up of this sort of a monstrous Frankenstein in the name of a Superintendent This is a new despotism, as it was called by one of the Justices in England

Then, I take the other point, that is, the question of assignment My Honourable friend, Mr Ayyangar, has argued it very well I only wish to say that I support him very strongly My point is this The companies do not like to have all this money locked up as a sort of trust money which it will be impossible for them thereafter to invest as they like and where they like and therefore they would like to encourage the habit of some of the husbands to change their minds in regard to the assignments in favour of their wives, thus to keep these funds at the disposal of these life insurance companies, so that these companies may lend to whomsoever they like Recently, a habit has been developed of dropping the column in which an insurer is expected to state as to whom is assigned a particular policy If this is correct, then I would like them to revise their policy and reintroduce that column and see that that column is filled in by every policyholder, so that the policyholder will be given an opportunity of assigning the policy to his own wife

Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan: Such a column is there in the proposal form

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not proposed that it should be dropped?

An Honourable Member: No

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it being observed by all the companies?

Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan: Yes

Prof N. G. Ranga: I accept your facts

The Honourable Dr Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is the fact

Mr. President: The Honourable Member need not go into the details The motion is for a select committee

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am proposing something in the meanwhile my Honourable friend comes and obstructs me and he obstructs you He is expected to give the facts and for giving the facts he wants a sort of praise Therefore I sincerely trust that instead of treating all these things in a spirit of levity, I hope the Honourable Member will, when he thinks of introducing the next Bill, try to introduce the necessary provisions in order to give effect to the suggestions that I have made, in pursuance of their own Government of India policy adumbrated for their post-war economic development

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs- Muhammadan Urban): Mr President, associated with assurance as I am, I hope the House will listen to me, not in a spirit of levity but with some attention I also claim that I am speaking on behalf of the Indian Insurance Associations and bodies which have studied this question in all its aspects I am not prepared to give a monopoly of nationalism and the safeguarding of Indian interests to political organisations alone The body of Indian insurance companies is as patriotic and as keen on establishing Indian insurance in its proper place in the world of insurance all over the globe I do not deny that we have black sheep among the Indian insurance companies, but to tarnish the whole of the Indian insurance

organisation as full of criminals is neither fair nor just. I have sat here listening to the criticisms from the Honourable the Commerce Member as well as the Honourable Members to my right The only remark that I should like to make about these criticisms is that the gentlemen who proffered them before the House are not well informed on the subject I shall mention only one point, Mr President, and that is, that for some reason or the other, the Indian thinks of insurance only in terms of life There are other departments of insurance and for that purpose the wording in technical language is Insurance for fire, marine and general accident, while for life the term used is Assurance Looking at insurance in that limited way, some of the criticisms might be right, but to stand up in this House today and give us a thesis on private enterprise *versus* State enterprise is something that is not allowed by the terms of the motion before the House or the amendments

Criticism has been made as to why the word 'actuary' should be removed from against the name of the Superintendent of Insurance This criticism has been made by people who do not know what the Indian insurance world is We are still in a state of infancy The words "old" and "young" should be used instead of "small and large companies" There are young Indian companies which in time, I hope, will become some of the biggest insurance companies in the world Till now we have been throttled and kept back It will come as a surprise to some of my colleagues in the House that Indians began to think of insurance, except perhaps the Oriental, only after the last war We have done well in the life department We have reached almost 90 per cent of the total Indian business **and only 10 per cent. now goes outside** But if Honourable Members will try to study the figures for the other departments of insurance, they will note that we are underwriting only 30 per cent while non-Indian companies take away almost 70 per cent of all insurance business The Government of India, if it thinks in terms of national enterprise, will, I hope, so organise the insurance arrangements it is going to make and the law that is going to be passed, that it will help Indian insurance companies to control Indian business, and then we Indians shall try and deal with friendly non-Indian companies by way of re-insurance not only in one country or two but all the world over It may come as a surprise to many colleagues of mine in the House that even a small company like mine sometimes has a share in a saw mill in Alaska and in some other form of property in Rumania or a ship somewhere in the Pacific Ocean (*An Honourable Member* "Which is your company please?") We want to get more and more into that kind of business we in India are four hundred million, but we have to bide our time, and we of the insurance world are very keen that nothing shall be done which will impede the progress of Indian insurance in India

3 P.M.

As I was saying, the removal of the qualification of being an actuary for the Superintendent is a step in the right direction An actuary at the best is a mathematician An actuary is 99 9 per cent associated with life assurance. Fire, marine, accident and many other branches of insurance do not need an actuary The better party that could manage this type of business would be a man who has worked in a composite insurance company The word 'composite' brings me to the remarks made by the Honourable the Commerce Member about life companies throwing away their money over other departments of insurance. It will perhaps be noted by him carefully that there are companies in India, one of which is the one with which I am associated

An Honourable Member: What is the name of the company?

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: The Eastern Federal Union It is one of the companies which went the other way to start as a composite company and then to open the life department on funds lent to it from the reserves of the other departments. Life funds when adequate can and should be invested in opening new departments. Such an investment would be safe and sound from every point of view An Indian insurance company would not be worth its name if it did not give precedence to the rights of policyholders as against shareholders.

[Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi]

There seems to be a general impression that we in the insurance world are all rascals, who want to run away with the money of the policyholders and swallow it up either for our own benefit or for the benefit of our relations and friends I do not deny that instances like this have occurred in India but they have occurred elsewhere in the world also Many of our politicians, as you must have found in your own experience, are sometimes members of the C I D Usually they talk nationalism but they also carry information to the Honourable the Home Member Similarly there are black sheep in my circle also but where I join issue with our critics is that if an insurance company has been run very well, if the auditors, actuaries and insurance experts on examination of the accounts come to the conclusion that there is enough money to meet all the demands of the policyholders, I do not see any reason why the directors of that company, even after giving bonuses—and we do give bonuses—rather good ones—should not invest the surplus as they consider to be proper They may open other branches of insurance They may invest it under the law as mentioned and stated in the Act and also in industrial shares Sir, Honourable Members present here are perhaps aware of what is known as the invisible income or invisible assets of nations Until America had made the decision on lend-lease 40 million pounds were given by American insurance companies in return for British insurance interests in America We are also anxious to utilise our funds—and they will be very large ones in God's good time—and the invisible income they will bring, for the betterment of India, industrially and in other ways Therefore for politicians to claim credit for everything as if insurance companies did not possess the least little bit of interest in the progress of the country is to look from a wrong angle of vision at the whole proposition of insurance in this country We have got complete answers for every criticism made and when we find black sheep in our group we are the first to take action against them It is the easiest thing to squeeze a *badmash* out of the insurance world by withholding from them re-insurances Honourable Members need not worry as to how we wish to conduct insurance business in this country The Honourable the Commerce Member used rather a defective word and Honourable gentlemen to my right were right in interpreting it as I C S He said—services That terrible word always means the I C S The I C S may be expanded into other Imperial services I have tried the I C S There are brains in India which are capable of running many of the institutions now under the I C S to better advantage and therefore Mr President, I hope the Honourable the Commerce Member will, before we have finished with this item, tell us that like many other Government and semi-Government positions in the country, this superintendentship of insurance will not become a close preserve of the Indian Celestial Service as I would like to put it

I wish my colleagues in the House had not insisted on a Select Committee In fact I was rather surprised that the Honourable the Commerce Member had agreed to have a Select Committee He brought forward a Bill last year when I was not here and the Select Committee considered it The names mentioned by him were such as commanded the fullest confidence War, Mr President, creates a general spirit of immorality We have heard of contractors and we have heard of the liaison between officials of the Government and these contractors People of the "*Nouveau* riches" class have come into the general field of business Some of them tried to buy up insurance companies for a few lakhs to control sometimes the funds which had gone into crores For that Government took immediate action and the committee under our colleague Sir Cowasjee Jehangir gave its recommendations I wish this piece of legislation had not come before us piecemeal I wish the Honourable the Commerce Member had brought forward a Bill covering the most important sections, 40A and 40B dealing with the problem of overall costs which is essential for the very life of insurance in India We saw yesterday a Criminal Procedure Amendment Bill, then a Criminal Procedure Amendment (Amendment) Bill and then you can add many more amendments and have an Act with a long

nomenclature. If the Commerce Member had dealt with the really important items he would have brought us some relief. Now, the Select Committee is coming I should like the Honourable the Commerce Member to give me and through me my insurance fraternity a guarantee that the other and more important Bill will be moved in this House before we disperse in April and have it passed, because the question of overall costs is interfering with the progress of Indian insurance There are many other things one could say, but I realise that today we are only thinking in terms of a Select Committee and its membership Let us hope that we shall be able to finish our work before we disperse, but the Honourable the Commerce Member must realise that a calamity is going to fall on the Government of India when their great adviser on insurance goes away If he goes away, I am afraid the new Bill may not be so helpful to the Indian cause as we want it to be Before he goes back to his company, the Honourable the Commerce Member should move heaven and earth and find time to see that the second Bill is introduced, discussed and passed before we disperse

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I think this matter has been debated sufficiently The question is confined to a restricted issue today as to whether there should be a Select Committee and whether we in the House are generally agreed to some of the principles which are in the Bill

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) I rise on a point of order Sir I understand that the usual procedure in such matters is that when motions for Select Committees are made, the entire principle involved in that Bill, the policy and all that, are discussed on the floor of the House That is the occasion for the House and every Member of it to say what he feels about the entire subject, for the guidance of the Members of the Select Committee I want to know, both as regards the view which the Honourable the Commerce Member has enunciated, and also with regard to the remarks you were good enough to make when my Honourable friend Prof Ranga, was in possession of the House, I should like to know, if Members of this House have any thing to say about the principle of the Bill, about the principle of the Insurance Act which is sought to be amended by this Bill and about other matters relating to insurance in this country when can they do so, if not now? Later on, when the Bill comes back from the Select Committee, I suppose the House will go into the consideration of its various clauses If we want to make general observations about the matter, when can we do so?

Some Honourable Members from Congress Benches: Now

Mr. President: As I look upon the matter, it seems to me that the principle of the Act of 1938 is not a matter under discussion under the present Bill This is an amending Bill. That fact must be remembered. Therefore, the scope of discussion will be limited only to the amendments proposed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: General discussion, if I understand the practice

Mr. President: Order, Order If Members have to say anything more, I will, of course, hear them But I will just give the Members an idea as to what is passing in my mind In the case of an amending Bill, the scope of discussion will have to be limited to that Bill and that Bill alone and not the original Act or legislation which this Bill seeks to amend. If the other point were conceded, then at the time of even a minor amendment of any Act the whole legislation will be open to the House. I do not know if there is any other practice prevailing in this House, but I should be satisfied on the point that there was any such kind of practice prevailing in this House.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants Chamber Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, there are special circumstances attaching to this Bill in so far as there was a comprehensive Insurance Bill introduced in the last Session and it went through certain stages but could not be completed and the Assembly was then

[Mr Manu Subedar]

dissolved The Government have now chosen to pick out some of the points of that composite Bill of the last Session and they have omitted some others Some of us who referred to the omissions were, I feel, under those circumstances quite entitled to criticise the Government for the omissions and to ask for an assurance that the omitted portion will be introduced during the course of the Session in a second Bill There is a slightly different circumstance on account of the history of this insurance legislation from the last Session

Mr. President: This raises a different point altogether At present the point under consideration raised by the Honourable Member, Pandit Govind Malaviya, in his point of order is as to the scope of the discussion on this motion and I was stating my views with reference to that point If the House is dissatisfied about the course the legislation has been taking, it is perfectly open to the House to reject the particular motion that is brought before it as a matter of protest or to get an assurance from the Government, as the Honourable Member, Mr Manu Subedar, has pointed out But that would be a matter altogether different, from entering into the merits of the old legislation What I am at present concerned with is just to define the scope of the discussion and, to my mind, it is very clear that in an amending Bill the scope of discussion will not be the principles involved in the original piece of legislation The discussion will be only as regards the points which are included in the amending Bill, pointing out the lacunae, making suggestions for additions and all that sort of thing will be within the scope of the discussion But if it is sought by the Honourable Member's point of order to raise a general discussion again on the principles of insurance or the principles on which the Act of 1938 was enacted, to my mind, such a discussion will be outside the scope of the present motion

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I advert to another practice in this House? If Government seek to amend a particular section of a previous law, the whole of that section which they seek to amend becomes the subject-matter of discussion, but not any other section which they have not brought in for amendment That is how we have been going on here in the past

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam European) Mr President, the opinion expressed by you is in complete agreement with past practice in this House and also with many past rulings in this House that on an amending Bill discuss on is confined not to the scope of the original Act but to the clauses of the amending Bill And at this stage of the discussion the only principles which can be discussed are the principles of the amending Bill. I entirely agree with the opinion expressed by you

Pandit Govind Malaviya: May I seek light from you, Sir? The Bill which is before the House today does seek to modify only different sections of the old Act That is true But everyone of those sections of the old Act as well as the changes which are sought to be made today relate to the subject of insurance in the country It is an actual practical difficulty with me, I am not trying to raise merely a technical point Every amendment which has been proposed seeks to change the law of insurance in the country and, as such, will affect the actual day to day progress and functioning of the insurance business in this land When the Act was passed, its principles were certainly then discussed But what I want to know is that if Members wish to make observations with regard to the total effect of the insurance policy as adumbrated in the Act and in this Bill seeking to amend that Act, as it is affecting the country today, without wishing to get the Act repealed and without wishing to totally oppose the motions which are before the House, when will they get an opportunity to do so If it is thought that this is not the occasion for them to do that, when will they be able to do it?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official): Mr President, may I say that after the very clear ruling you have given which is in consonance with the practice of all Legislatures, I do not think any further discussion is necessary.

If we allow the discussion to take place on the general principles of insurance, we shall not discuss this Bill at all. If we make suggestions about the law of insurance which my Honourable friends think ought to be on the Statute-book, we shall never come to a conclusion on this debate or discuss this Bill at all I beg most respectfully, Mr President, to say that not only is your Ruling in consonance with the rulings in all legislatures, but I submit it should always be maintained in every piece of legislation that is brought before this House in future

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I wish to say. ...

Mr. President: Order, Order I do not think the matter needs any further argument The question raised by the Honourable Member Pandit Govind Malaviya is very problematical I cannot advise him from this place as to how and when he can raise various questions which he wishes to raise But any way, I have no doubt that the principles I have enunciated are the correct principles and the scope will be only so far as the amending sections are concerned Of course, it is very difficult to define the demarcating line Many times the amending sections perhaps touch other sections and some other observations may be relevant But then, there too there is a limit up to which Members can go and touch. It is not possible to define cases on border line

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division) Non-Muhammadan Rural) You have to put liberal interpretation.

Mr. President: That is why I permitted two Honourable Members to go beyond the strict scope of the amending Bill That is a question of Chair's opinion which should not be challenged in this House

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I was trying to reply to some of the points raised before the question of Select Committee was brought before the House I have given an assurance that with a view really to give our wholehearted attention to the different aspects of the other Bill, which as my Honourable friends know has raised quite a lot of controversy among the insurance interest in various matters, I wanted to finish this Bill with its amendments which are more or less of a formal nature, which are non-contentious, which have been carefully considered by the Select Committee and on which opinions have been received and on which we have been spending time for months past with a view to see that legislation is put in proper order The other day when I read out a speech as being delivered in Paris Conference, there was a question from the other side whether that speech was actually delivered at all I cannot argue with that type of view In any case, I can assure my Honourable friends that the other Bill is very actively before us and I do hope that within a very short time I shall be able to bring it before the House I consider it a very urgent matter, I consider it in the interest of the country, and there is no desire on my part to shirk a very important duty The only thing is that my friend asks me to try heaven and earth, and I can tell him I can try heaven as it is, but sometimes I find it really difficult that the earth is very difficult to tread upon.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban) What about the other place?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I said, Sir, you have rightly pointed out that the question of certain extraneous matters outside the Bill may be referred to, and naturally, Sir, they may be of some importance and relevant But there is a limit to everything For myself, I need only say that my Honourable friend, Prof Ranga, might at least have tried to read the reply I gave to him in the last Session, that is on the point of nationalisation I read it over this very morning, because I knew that Prof Ranga will probably again start his old theme In my college days, I read a very pregnant sentence of Edumed Burke which I sometimes find applicable in our every day life It is "Invention is exhausted, reason is fatigued, experience has judgment, but obstinacy is not conquered". Sir, I therefore took very great care this morning to read my speech again which I gave and I find that I had explained my reasons as fully as possibly I can I made it quite clear that I am in full agreement with

him that a few monopolists should not control the economic life of this country either today or in the future. I am in entire agreement with him that this principle should be observed not merely in the field of economics but also in the field of politics But, Sir, it is a question of method and *modus operandi*. I placed all my cards on the table. I had not kept anything back I explained everything before him As regards some of the direct issues which have been raised, one of the things is, why not bring a comprehensive Bill Sir, my Honourable friend knows the history of this legislation, the history of the time which we are passing through when this legislation was introduced This Insurance Act was passed in 1938 Then the war came on We acquired new experience At one time, as Honourable Members of the House know, it was the general view held that legislation of a complex or comprehensive character should not be brought in in war time. Sir, I did follow that for some time But I soon began to realise that by waiting, the insurance business was allowed to be managed in a manner which was not to the best interest of the country or the policy holders or the insurance companies themselves Therefore, Sir, it was in 1944 November that I brought forward this legislation My Honourable friends will remember that at least one year before that, in other words, from December 1943, we had been trying hard to collect materials to bring in this legislation I can assure my Honourable friends that if today I had been able to bring a more comprehensive Bill, I would have done so But he would not be satisfied He would be satisfied only if I could bring in a one clause Bill, following Prof Ranga's dictum, that the whole insurance should be nationalised. It is quite all right But I had to deal with the Act as it stands I found certain defects I wanted to clear away these defects as soon as I could I have explained, Sir, the reason why we have not brought this comprehensive Bill, that is because this Bill was initiated in December 1943 I am still today in the year of grace, 1946, in matters which have been considered by a very strong Select Committee of this House and almost unanimously recommended Yet I had to agree even today to have another Select Committee in order to give an opportunity to the Members of this House

Sir, question has been raised about the merits of some of the provisions in this Bill The question has been raised about the effect of Married Women's Property Act I had hoped that my Honourable friend, Mr Ananthasayanam Ayyangar—I understand "Ananthasayanam" means eternal sleep—I had hoped that he at least would have come to this living world and tried to read the effects of the Married Women's Property Act, *vis-a-vis* the Insurance Law

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural): I have read a thousand times

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Well, Sir, this Married Women's Property Act was passed in 1874 So far as the substance of the law is concerned, though it was slightly changed in 1923, it still remains exactly the same as it was in 1874 I was trying to find out the discussions that took place in the legislature in 1874 when that legislation was brought I find that in about 20 lines the whole Bill was passed into law in 1874 We have since changed The time today is not 1874, but it is 1946 What is the effect. If my Honourable friend will read the sections of the Married Women's Property Act he will find that if any one insures his life and therein nominates his wife or children to be the representative, they will not have the money easily. The effect of the Married Women's Property Act is simply this, that even if he dies a premature death, even if the widow be helpless, even if the children have nothing else in the world, the money does not go to them first It must immediately go either to the trustee, if he has been nominated by the insured or if not, it goes to the official trustee.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: And then be paid to them

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I hope my Honourable friend knows the processes through which a party has to go before money can be

received from an official trustee. I want my Honourable friend to read the section If an insurance is effected in Bombay then the money will go to the Official Trustee in Bombay In other words, if my Honourable friend Sri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar comes to Delhi in connection with his work and he insures himself at Delhi, then the Official Trustee of Delhi will get the money, no matter where his children or family may be living, they may be living in far off place—I do not know from which district he comes—

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On a point of personal explanation, Sir There is no time limit to speeches on Bills I should like to correct a mistake which my Honourable friend has committed The position is this It goes to the Official Trustee He is a paid official It is his duty to pay to the wife and children of the insured

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Life is not so simple as all that Life is much more complex I may read the section again

"When the sum secured by the policy becomes payable, it shall, unless special trustees are duly appointed to receive and hold the same, be paid to the Official Trustee, of the Province in which the office at which the insurance was effected is situate, and shall be received and held by him upon the trusts expressed in the policy, or such of them as then existing"

If you want to develop insurance, if you do not want to clog it with difficulties, if you want insurance companies to make prompt payments all you have to do is to give all facilities to the insurance companies for prompt payments In this case what happens? A man insures his life, after his death the insurance company cannot give the money to his widow or his children even though they may be nominated because it has to be paid by the Official Trustee Sir, I have some experience of how money is to be received from the Official Trustee He is not usually satisfied by a mere petition to him He is an officer of the High Court and he has to arm himself with legal authority I do not know if my Honourable friend is a lawyer but I am a lawyer and I know what difficulties there can be for a layman in getting that money through the Official Trustee The whole principle of the amendment which was sought in the 1938 Act was to make it possible for every man to insure his life, and if he does and is no longer living at the time the money becomes due, to make it easy for the nominated representative to get money from the company without difficulty, without going to court and without going to the Official Trustee After all if I give my money to my Honourable friend Mr Griffiths, he will get it because the Married Women's Property Act will not come in; but if I give it to my own child he will have to go to the Official Trustee I do not know why this difficulty should be there In fact those who are in the business of insurance will agree that this puts more difficulty into the working of life insurance companies in India Men will not nominate because they know that perchance there will be difficulty for the children to get that money That was the report of Mr Sen's Committee and that was the report of the Select Committee; that was the principle aimed at But the language is such that it is not free from ambiguity and we want to make it clear that this should be there. It is not with a view to do anything else, and it will be for the House to fully consider what effect it will have, after hearing both sides of the question

I said, this once before and all these points I have returned to again and therefore my Honourable friend's argument about changing his lady-love is wholly immaterial He might change his lady-love and I will not object to it But this question has to be examined as to what effect it is going to have on his own wife and children, so far as the law is concerned

As regards the question of the Superintendent being a non-actuary, I said definitely in my speech that he will be either from the services or from the public life of this country. Like the proverbial bird my friends have selected the first part and have omitted the second part And even there some of them are so patriotic that they have included the word "Indian" where I only said "services". I never meant the Indian Civil Service There are very many services in this country; in fact it is a certain amount of specialised knowledge that will be necessary; but I do not want to bar the I.C.S. [illegible] I.C.S.

man certainly he also will be considered, but my friend cannot get any more assurance than that and it is not my intention to confine it to the I.C.S.

Sir, I do not think I need argue on all the other points which my Honourable friends have raised As I said, this is a simple Bill which has been considered in several stages I have full sympathy with my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga. Like him I also do not like monkey business and I do not like monkeys also I feel that in a matter like this we ought to take all questions into serious consideration. I appeal to the House once again, my sole intention is to get the affairs of the insurance business corrected If my Honourable friends raise any other questions I will have them examined; and I will publicly give this assurance here that if in the admin stration of the Insurance Act—short of bringing in a Bill which I cannot immediately do, about nationalisation —defects arise in the admin stration of the Act which any Honourable Member feels should be rectified, I will have the question examined in the department, and I will not hesitate, if I am in my place, to bring in a Bill with a view to remedying them

Mr. President: The question is

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable the Commerce Member, the Honourable the Law Member, Mr L S Vaidyanathan, Mr Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr T Chapman-Mortimer, Mr Ali Asghar Khan, Pandit Govind Malaviya, Shri Sri Prakasa, Sri M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth, Mr Leslie Gwilt and Shri Satya Narayan Sinha, with instructions to report by the 14th February 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five"

The motion was adopted

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) Sir, I move

"That the Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, be taken into consideration"

This is a very simple Bill and the purpose of the Bill is to rectify an injustice caused in the present circumstances to a workman who is drawing Rs 300 as his wages As Honourable Members are perhaps aware, under the definition of a "workman" in the Workmen's Compensation Act the right to compensation is limited to those workmen who draw up to Rs 300 as their wages Before the war it was possible for every workman who drew Rs 300 as his wages to get the benefit of this Act Since the introduction of War allowances and other measures such as the grant of dearness allowance, bonuses, good conduct pay and other payments which have been granted to the workmen what has happened is that a workman who formerly got compensation is now deprived of that compensation because his wages come to more than Rs. 300 This is due to the reason that under the definition of the term "wages" as given in the Workmen's Compensation Act all that extra remuneration which the workman gets other than wages is regarded as part of his wages for the purpose of computing his compensation The result is that a workman who formerly was to get compensation now does not get it The Bill seeks to protect such a workman by increasing the maximum monthly wages from Rs 300 to Rs 400 The Bill therefore has two provisions in it one is to amend the definition of the workmen so that instead of limiting the wages to 300, it raises to 400; and, secondly, to amend schedule IV to the Act which prescribes the compensation which a workman is entitled to get for death, permanent total disability and temporary disability.

As I said, Sir, the Bill is a very simple measure It merely copies what has actually been done in Great Britain There too in order to protect the rights of a workman who originally got compensation, the limit of wages has been raised from £350 to 425 The Bill is not only a simple measure, but, it is also a non-contentious measure The Provinces have been consulted with regard to the provisions of this Bill and they have unanimously agreed to the amendments which are made by this Bill The proposal also was put

forth before the Standing Labour Committee and there too it has secured the unanimous approval of all members of the Committee Sir, I do not think I need expatiate at a very great length on the provisions of this Bill With these observations, Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That the Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, be taken into consideration"

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division. Non-Muhammadan Rural): I welcome this Bill, but I want to bring one fact to the notice of the Honourable Member in charge Schedule IV was first enacted along with the Act of 1923 and in 1933 it was revised and brought up-to-date in order to make the compensation adequate with the level of prices I think the time has again come to revise the entire schedule and make it consistent with the level of prices, that is the point which I want to bring to the notice of the Honourable Member Beyond that I have nothing to say I think it is a matter on which everybody will agree

Mr. S. Guruswami (Nominated Non-Official) I also welcome this Bill not because it goes as far as it should, but as I am a believer in the saying that, 'A bird in hand is better than two in the bush.'

In 1931, the Whitley Commission made recommendations regarding the scales of compensation that should be given to various classes of workmen. If that recommendation had been implemented, there would have been no necessity for introducing a new Schedule which gives a compensation of Rs 4,500 in fatal cases and a compensation of Rs 6,300 for permanent disablement But, as the Honourable Member explained, in that it seeks to extend the wage class of the workmen by extending the scope of the measure to those getting Rs. 400 on the lines of the legislation recently passed in Great Britain, it is an important step which I welcome, but I would have wished the Honourable Member to have rectified a defect in this Bill, namely, not giving what the Whitley Commission had recommended for those drawing between Rs 200 and Rs 300 The Whitley Commission recommended that in case of death the dependents of those workmen who get between Rs 200 and Rs 300 should get an amount equivalent to Rs 4,500 which is now sought to be given to those getting only above Rs 300

There is also the necessity, as Mr. Gadgil has pointed out, of revising the scales of compensation. The International Labour Conference recommendation on the subject is to give compensation for two-thirds of the loss of earning capacity Here it is usually 50 per cent and for higher wage classes, as in the case of men drawing about Rs 300, it is about 20 to 30 per cent Secondly, Sir, in regard to civil servants, who are governed by Civil Service Regulations, compensation given under those regulations in respect of those who do not come under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and draw higher pay is about 50 per cent of the loss of earning capacity Therefore, I do hope the Honourable Member will take steps to draw up a revised schedule of compensation But while he may take sometime for doing so, I give him my fullest support in the beneficial measure which he has sought to introduce today.

Mr. President: I find that the Honourable Mr Jaffer has two amendments standing in his name

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I do not propose to move these amendments.

Mr. President: The question is.

"That the Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed"

Mr. President: Motion moved.

That the Bill be passed"

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am in agreement with the Bill as such, but I wish to make one suggestion to my Honourable friend, that as in England so also in this country, he should try to take the earliest possible opportunity of bringing another amending Bill with greater scope to amend Schedule IV in order to raise the scales of compensation to cover the maintenance of the families of disabled people. My Honourable friend has referred to the English precedent I wish to draw his attention to one document entitled "Social Insurance Part II—Workmen's Compensation", published by the British Government I will only read a sentence or two from part (ii) of paragraph 8

"(ii) During the present war the weekly compensation has been increased by the addition of flat rate allowances under the Acts mentioned in paragraph 7 above. The effect of these allowances is to bring the maximum for total incapacity in the case of the single man up to 35s a week during the first thirteen weeks, and 40s thereafter, and in the case of the married man up to 40s during the first thirteen weeks, and 50s thereafter A man with children also gets an allowance of 5s a week in respect of each child under 15 years of age, or up to the 31st July next following the 16th birthday if still at school"

So I would like him to follow this example and try to bring forward another Bill with a more satisfactory Schedule IV One more suggestion I have already made it before the Honourable Member came to this House and that is that he should bring forward a Workmen's Compensation Bill if necessary not as an amendment to this, even as an independent Bill, to bring within the scope of this workmen's compensation administration the permanent agricultural labour, namely, those who are employed for one month or more and especially those who are employed on annual contracts I trust that the Honourable Member will consider these suggestions favourably

Mr. President: Has the Honourable Member anything to say?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: As I said this Bill is brought forward for the purpose of rectifying the injustice done to a particular class of workmen It is not a Bill which is intended to do anything more than that All that I can say at this stage is that I shall bear the points that have been made by my Honourable friends who have spoken on this Bill and see whether something can be done in order to give effect to the suggestions that they have made I might tell the House that we have in contemplation a Bill which deals with State insurance, which will include sickness insurance, workmen's compensation, maternity benefit, more or less on the lines of the social security measure adumbrated in England, and I think my friends will find that some of the suggestions, namely that the alteration of the system of lump-sum payments into periodical payments are being carried out in that measure

Mr. President: The question is

"That the Bill be passed"

The motion was adopted

INDIAN MINES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member) Sir, I move·

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923, be taken into consideration"

This Bill is a very simple measure

[At this stage, Mr President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan)].

The purport of the Bill is to impose an obligation upon the mine owners to provide pit-head baths "equipped with shower baths and locker-rooms for

the use of men employed in mines and of similar and separate places and rooms for the use of women in mines where women are employed and for prescribing either generally or with particular reference to the numbers of men and women ordinarily employed in a mine, the number and standards of such places and rooms" I do not think there can be any dispute as regards the necessity of providing pit-head baths. It is bound to improve the self-respect of the miner and I am sure about it that it is very desirable that he should return home a clean person, if possible with clean clothes. This measure has been considered by the Coal Mines Advisory Committee which has been appointed by Government in order to administer the Coal Mines Welfare Fund The Committee has unanimously accepted the proposal that pit-head baths should be an obligation of the colliery owners. In order to give effect to it, the Bill provides that under the rule-making power which is given to the Government of India under section 30 of the Mines Act, the Government shall have the power to make a rule prescribing pit-head bath That is the main purpose of the Bill

The second clause of the Bill does nothing more than exempt Government from following the usual procedure in the matter of making rules under the Coal Mines Act which are prescribed by Section 31 Section 31 says that any rules made under the Act shall be first published and then passed We wish to exempt the rules that we propose to make under the provisions of this Bill from the provision of previous publication prescribed under Section 31 The reason for providing such exemption is that we are very anxious that this liability not only should be imposed but should be carried out immediately, we wish to avoid delay In fact, I might tell the House that the Government are so anxious to have this system of pit-head baths introduced in all coal mines immediately that Government themselves have made a provision by which they are prepared to offer ten per cent of the capital cost of the baths to colliery owners if they undertake to provide such baths within twelve months In order that this may be done, we do not propose to have these rules subjected to the provision of Section 31 The Bill is so essential and so simple and so non-controversial, that the House will accept it without much ado Sir, I move

4 P M

Mr. Deputy President Motion moved

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923, be taken into consideration"

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) I am wholeheartedly in favour of this Bill I am glad that my Honourable friend has brought it forward It is a small reform but an essential one It should have been made by the Government a long time ago It gives me pleasure to record the fact, that ever since my Honourable friend has become the Labour Member he has been trying his best to quicken the pace of labour legislation, especially in regard to our industrial labour But I cannot congratulate him upon having fathered some-one else's baby in introducing women into our mines I do not know whether he has stopped their working in the mines They said they were going to stop it from the 1st of February but I wanted a definite assurance on the floor of this House because the old adage goes—"There is many a slip . . . . . "

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My Honourable friend is not aware that there is a Gazette notification.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): It can be altered by another notification!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Now that the black record is removed, I am glad to associate myself with my Honourable friend in support of this Bill

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) The thing that is worrying me is the temperature of the water Will it be hot or cold? If after a whole day's work, the Honourable Member supplies very cold water to the miners and insists on their bathing in it, the result may be serious accidents; and then the Honourable Member may come

[Shri Sri Prakasa.]

out with the provisions of the Bill that we have just passed and ask for compensation not for any fault on the part of the mine-owners but because the law itself is defective. I believe therefore it would be safe for all concerned if the Honourable Member would add a schedule to this Act prescribing the temperature of the water in which the miners will bathe at various times of the year and in various parts of the country

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It will be left to the miner Some may want hot water and some cold water

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division Non-Muhammadan): I represent the colliery area I therefore congratulate the Honourable Member for Labour on the introduction of this Bill. This is the first time in my legislative life in this country that the Government has begun to care for the self-respect of the labourer Of course, in this measure we have got nothing to discuss We only congratulate the Honourable Member and ask him to come forward with some other measures for the benefit of the labourers in respect of all these things With these words I support the Bill

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural): I want to know one thing, Sir The Honourable Member remarked just now that Government would be prepared to pay ten per cent of the cost of these shower baths I do not want to say anything either in favour or against it I just want to know what that exactly means and what has prompted the move on the part of the Government? Can't the mine owners be made to foot the bill for these baths themselves?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: We want to hasten this thing and that is why we offer this kind of encouragement, that if a mine owner does construct these baths within twelve months from a given date he will get this concession Otherwise, he will not get it and he will have to do it at his own cost

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Will not that purpose be served if it were laid down that the mine owners shall get those baths ready within twelve months

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: We must give some time

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Say twelve months

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs Muhammadan Urban): Sir I am rather surprised that the Honourable Member for Labour has thought of shower baths only Our country has different methods of bathing Generally we sit by the side of a river or a nullah or a pond or pool and take our baths there Why is this special English system being brought into the country? There must be some scientific reason for it

The second point that I should like to mention is that if the mine owners do not do what he wants them to do, what then is the remedy? Is there any punishment for them? Can they be fined, or can we force these people to have these shower baths fixed up?

Our mining brothers and sisters are definitely poor people To teach them how to take a bath is an easy affair but where will they get the soap from? Will the Honourable the Labour Member consider, when making the byelaws and rules, which he does not wish to be made public now, the problem of supplying these people with soaps? Sir, to me the whole basis of the suggestion made appears that because somebody stands on his head in London, therefore we in India shall not be considered civilised unless we do the same. If you give them this shower bath, give them the soap also

An Honourable Member: What about a towel?

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: There are many other things which the mine owners should be forced to do I hope when the rules are being framed all these points will be taken into consideration else the poor mine worker with his dirty dhoty, have his bath, put on the same dirty dhoty and go back

home to his wife and children as dirty as he was in the morning. Therefore, Sir, I am anxious that instead of the ten per cent. being given to the mine owners to help them or to encourage them or to induce them to construct these shower baths, let the Government give to the mine owners that ten per cent. for supplying soaps, cleaner dhoties, towels and other amenities. That will be a better service for that will teach our mining countrymen the need for cleanliness

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan (Madras City Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I quite agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Siddiqui, when he said that we in India are not used to shower baths and it would be better to start by giving something that our people are used to I do not say that they should have a river nearby or a tank but I do feel that if ordinary taps are introduced instead of showers, perhaps taps are easier to get and it would not be quite so distant a date when these things will be introduced Showers may be rather difficult to get—I do not know where they are made, but they may be more difficult to get than ordinary taps and I feel that if you introduce certain new and modern methods, they may not use them at all There is that difficulty With regard to the women's bath rooms that the Honourable Member spoke about I feel that it would be better for the women to have bath rooms more or less on the old Indian style but with running water in the taps and all other things that they are used to such as a stone for washing clothes, etc I also feel that there should be some time limit given to the mine owners with regard to these bath rooms, as to when they should be ready, as otherwise I am sure they (mine owners) will take a very long time and would naturally wait to see whether they should spend all this money or not With these words I support the Honourable Member's motion

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam European): Sir, as regards bathing facilities it would be better to leave it to the Government at the time of framing the rules to mention the alternative forms of bathing facilities and to go into further details

Shri Sri Prakasa: That may mean sunbath!

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I did not think that my Honourable friend, Mr Siddiqui, would be so much perturbed,—he is not here in the House just now—by the shower baths But I would like to tell the House that the question whether there should be shower baths or not is not an idiosyncracy on the part of the Government or their own innovation There is, as I told the House, an Advisory Committee, representative of coal miners, coal owners, representative of the Bengal Government and Bihar Government, which advise Government in the matter of the administration of what is called the Coal Miners' Welfare Fund This question of the sort of baths that should be provided was put before the Committee and I would like to tell the House that in this Committee there are not only representatives of trade unions, but there are representatives actually of workmen and workwomen There is one representative of actual coal miners and there is one representative of women miners and it is with their unanimous assent that Government decided to have shower baths

So far as I am able to see, I should have thought that a shower bath would be far more effective in the matter of cleaning the person of a worker in coal mines than immersion in water or holding oneself under a running tap I may also further add that this decision of having shower baths was taken by Government as a result of the experience of Messrs Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., at their colliery in Dighoi These shower baths have been in existence for a considerable time there and to our great satisfaction we found that the workers were making very good use of the shower baths and that they had no sort of objection at all With regard to the question of soap, I can give the assurance to the House that we do intend to provide soap to every miner under certain regulations, and I think the House need have no anxiety on that account. I

[Dr B R Ambedkar]

hope this will satisfy Honourable Members An Honourable Member said that this is merely a declaration and that there is no penalty. If the Honourable Member concerned were to refer to section 80, he will find that that is a general penalty clause which imposes penalties

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There is only one little difficulty in regard to women. They do not want their hair also to be washed with mere water they may require oil or something

The Honourable Dr. B. R Ambedkar: They may be provided with caps

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I move

"That the Bill be passed"

Mr. Deputy President: The question is

"That the Bill be passed"

The motion was adopted

PHARMACY BILL

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam (Secretary, Health Department) Sir, I move

"That the Bill to regulate the profession of pharmacy be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Rai Bahadur D M Bhattacharyya Dr P G Solanki, Mr E L C Gwilt, Sir Hassan Suhrawardy Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Dr G V Deshmukh, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma and the Mover with instructions to report on or before the 25th February, 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five"

This Bill has been brought forward in response to a demand made on several occasions in this House, and by professional organisations outside the House, for legislation to regulate the profession and practice of pharmacy As the House is aware, at present the practice of pharmacy is largely in the hands of a class known as compounders, some trained and some untrained The profession is not organised, there is no provision for registration, and untrained persons can undertake the responsible work of compounding and dispensing medicines without restriction Such training as is given by Provincial Governments, mainly to persons who are to be employed in hospitals, is generally recognised to be inadequate When the Drugs Bill was before this House, an undertaking was given on behalf of the Government that they would address Provincial Governments on the question of legislation to control the pharmacy profession Provincial Governments were addressed at that time, but before the drafting of the legislation could be completed, serious war developments occurred and it was decided to postpone further action until the situation improved All Provincial Governments have now agreed to Central legislation on this subject, and this Bill has been prepared in consultation with them

In most countries it is now recognised that the compounding and dispensing of medicines and the handling of patent drugs is a responsibility which should not be entrusted to untrained persons In almost every country there is an organised pharmaceutical profession consisting of members who have been trained and registered according to the requirements of the law. In India the need for such regulation is increasingly urgent owing to the forthcoming institution of a system of control of drug standards However detailed the legal provisions may be and however stringent the inspection and supervision, the control cannot be fully effective unless there is available a body of pharmacists who can be relied on by reason of their education and training to exercise care

and responsibility in the dispensing and handling of drugs. Rules and regulations are no substitute for a responsible organised profession, with professional standards of conduct and professional control A committee appointed by the Bengal Government went so far as to describe the present position as 'a public danger and a crying evil which is sapping the very foundations of public health and medical practice' I think, therefore, that, whatever differences of opinion there may be on matters of detail, the House will agree that in principle this Bill is a necessary and a non-controversial measure.

Turning now to the general provisions of the Bill, it will be observed that it follows generally the lines of similar legislation relating to the medical profession. It is proposed that there should be an All India Council, which will be responsible for laying down the standards of education for pharmacists, and provincial councils which will be responsible for the maintenance of registers and will adjudicate on matters of professional discipline It will inevitably take some time to provide the necessary educational facilities for these improvements in education, and the date of enforcement of the new standards of training to be laid down by the new All India Council has been left to Provincial Governments In the meantime a register will be prepared and persons who have received training as compounders or have acquired a certain standard of competence will be brought on the register. It is proposed to empower Provincial Governments to prohibit the dispensing of drugs by unregistered persons, but the Bill does not place any restrictions on the compounding and dispensing of medicine by a medical practitioner for his own patients

Finally, the Bill does not apply to the dispensing of medicines under the Indian systems of medicine but only to the dispensing of prescriptions of practitioners having qualifications recognised under the Medical Acts

There are a number of amendments on the paper suggesting that the Bill should be circulated for eliciting public opinion The Bill was published on the 8th December and it has elicited a considerable degree of support from professional associations The Indian Pharmaceutical Association, the Bengal Pharmaceutical Association, the Indian Chemical Manufacturers Association, the Private Dispensers Association, Amritsar, and the All-India Compounders and Dispensers Association are among the bodies who have welcomed the Bill If, however, the House feels that it is desirable to give more time to those interested in the measure to formulate their views, Government will have no objection to such a course Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to regulate the profession of pharmacy be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Rai Bahadur D M Bhattacharyya, Dr P G Solanki, Mr E L C Gwilt, Sir Hassan Suhrawardy, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Dr G V Deshmukh, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma and the Mover with instructions to report on or before the 25th February, 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five"

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division Muhammadan Rural) Sir, I move·

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon"

and with your permission I will add the words,

"by the end of June 1946"

I do not wish to go into the merits of this Bill It is an important measure that is coming up and I would suggest that nothing will be lost if we circulate the Bill for public opinion After all this Bill has not been before the country. We shall lose nothing if we wait for four months It is an important Bill because it regulates the profession of pharmacy and the pharmaceutical councils. The Honourable Member has received certain views from certain quarters but I feel that it is not enough We should certainly do it on an all-India basis. Let us invite opinions from all quarters, sit together and then come to a final decision. I hope the House will support my amendment.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the end of June 1946"

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I move

'That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by Tuesday, the 30th April, 1946"

Let not my amendment be construed in the light that I want to delay this kind of legislation I do not want to delay this kind of legislation but I want to improve and better it If I explain to you how I look at this Bill, you will see the difference between my aims and objects and the motive with which this Bill has been brought forward His idea of the profession of pharmacy seems to me to be only this—if you can supply a better type of compounders and a better type of those persons who can mix medicines, that is all that is wanted for the purpose of pharmacy My idea of pharmacy is very different I think pharmacy, in other words dispensing of drugs, in other words purity of drugs, in other wodrs the production of drugs, in other words, health, I may go further and say, the health of the nation—all these are inter-connected subjects and therefore merely to come forward before the people's representatives and tell them that you are doing something terribly important in the interests of the public and put forward a Bill like this is worse than useless If this Bill is taken in its isolated form I personally would not have paid attention to it but looking at this Bill as the first very delayed and very weak measure to open on our health front the war against disease and death, I am willing to take interest in this Unfortunately this is a subject with which this House is not very conversant and therefore in order to give my colleagues and friends a better idea of the Bill, I propose to deal with this unfamiliar subject to this House in the light of what is the background, what is the importance of the subject, how other countries have solved it and what are the things that we should do about it

To begin with, see how this so-called profession of pharmacy can be looked at from the higher point of view and from the real point of view Let me draw the attention of the Honourable Members to the legislation on pharmacy in Great Britain itself This subject is not new I would say that similar and better legislation should have been undertaken by this Government long time ago As early as 1852 a similar Bill, an Act of Pharmacy, was passed in Great Britain Therefore there is absolutely no justification for the Government here to come and say that this is a new measure and that they knew nothing about it What were the aims and objects of that Bill in Great Britain as early as 1852? The object of that Pharmacy Bill was safety of the public, not merely providing competent compounders to the medical practitioners and not only a knowledge of mixing of medicines but also a competent knowledge of pharmaceutical chemistry was necessary That is the idea behind Pharmacy Bills If you want to have competent pharmacies, then they must not only mix medicine but they should have pharmaceutical knowledge In other words, they ought to know production and purity of manufacture of drugs Side by side with that they should keep the ideal of the health of the people before them Compare with that the aims and objects of the Bill which has been brought forward now It is stated here 'it is desirable that, as in most other countries, only persons who have attained a minimum standard of professional education should be permitted, etc'

See the difference in the aims and objects of the legislation in Great Britain and legislation proposed here, even in non-controversial matters like the health of this country The aim here is the minimum standard of professional education After all this Bill is being brought forward for the sake of the health of the country and you are going to be satisfied with a minimum standard of professional education

Sir, this reminds me of a very similar measure that I took considerable part in, namely, the All-India Medical Council Bill. There, again, what did you have? A minimum standard of professional qualifications And here you will be satisfied with the minimum standard That means you will put up with inefficiency That means you do not want anything first-rate here All that you want is some excuse that we are in India and that we are doing all that we can for the public My object in supporting a measure like this is not this I will not be satisfied with the minimum standards I want the very best that I can have in the whole world provided I can afford it And I know that I can afford it In fact, I can afford much more than Great Britain can at the present time I belong to a creditor country and not a debtor country and, as such, why should I not expect best of things in health and otherwise for my people What is the other aim and object? Whereas the aim and object in Great Britain is competent public health and competent pharmaceutical knowledge, what is the aim here? It is interesting They say

"It is further proposed to empower Provincial Governments to prohibit the dispensing of medicine on the prescription of a medical practitioner otherwise than by or under the direct and personal supervision of a registered pharmacist"

Whereas there the pharmacy laws wanted a competent knowledge of pharmaceutical chemistry, which means, as I said, the manufacture of drugs, here my Government for better or for worse is satisfied in respect of a good pharmaceutical knowledge with only giving just sufficient knowledge, so that they can mix up medicines Therefore, from this point of view I do not think that the Bill should be sent straightaway to the Select Committee and that there is nothing more that we can learn from the public opinion

At the present time the opinion in the country and certainly in my profession is that we are all out to do the best we can for the preservation of health and for the welfare of our country What is the condition of health in India? Let me give you some figures from the Health Section of the League of Nations and they will stagger you It is astonishing how much apathy there is in my own countrymen with regard to the public health in this country

Sir, a few millions are killed and maimed in a war, whether it is the first World War or the second Global World War and not only Europe but Asia and also our country are in a great excitement over the terrible calamities that have happened and of the great mortality that has occurred And although from day to day men are dying from very common diseases in this country, yet we do not seem to pay any attention to it Take, for instance, malaria only The figures that I am going to give are not my figures; I have got them from the Health Section of the League of Nations Does anybody know what is the mortality from malaria in India? It is a million and a half Fifteen lakhs of people die from malaria every year Then, take the figures of those corresponding to the injured on the battle-field I mean those who are afflicted with malaria but do not die and whom you could compare with the injured on the battle-field Their number is not less than 100 millions per year That is the figure which you can attribute to one disease, malaria, only

Two years ago when I came here on the food question, I said that food famine was a man-made famine Many people in the country criticised me for having said that and they said that I had coined a new word I still believe that the famine then was a man-made famine I did not take part in the food debates, but I still believe that instead of procurement, distribution, control, rationing and all that in the last five years, if the Government or the Food Department had gone about its business properly, that is, for the proper production of food, proper fertilizers, proper utilisation of water supply in this country, then we would not have had the occasion to go about whining to other people and asking them to give us more food By this time, as is the case with the nations of Europe, we could have easily increased our food supply by ten-fold and today we would not have been in the helpless position in which we find ourselves. This is only by way of example Also, in the case of medicines and drugs we have a similar man-made epidemic and man-made death-rate and I make bold

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to say that it is so Why do I say so? The yearly death rate of a million and a half per year and 100 million maimed per year can be prevented by human effort According to the same Health Section of the League of Nations, what were the requirements of India with regard to quinine? Four million lbs And what was the actual consumption in India of quinine for protection against malaria? Sir, I do not think you will believe it and I can be corrected if I am wrong, it is 20,000 lbs

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: It is 200,000 lbs

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I am glad I have been corrected and I will take his figure Even if he increased it ten-fold, he cannot give us 4 million lbs, which is the amount required I blame Government for that and I do not exclude the public from the blame All that the Government and the public institutions of the country were doing was to supply them with 200,000 lbs of quinine. Is that a very satisfactory state of things for the Government? Instead of 200,000 lbs suppose 4 million lbs of quinine had been supplied, is it not possible that you could have prevented this death-rate A few millions are maimed in a war which happens once in two generations, but this is happening day after day and people are taken away from this country You had a famine once in Bengal, a terrible famine, a famine for which everybody did feel at that time, but I am surprised at the apathy and indifference with which this process had been going on with us We look at it with sheer indifference There, again, I am ashamed, not for myself, but for this Government that when quinine was not available was it not possible to prevent the death rate by malaria? There is such a thing as atabrin which has been found useful and a good substitute for quinine The price of quinine in ordinary pre-war days was Rs 18 per lb At the present time the price of quinine is Rs 500 per lb But what is the price of atabrin? It is only 4 shillings per lb or Rs 3 per lb Now Sir, do you know what happened with regard to this The Director of the Haffkine Institute in Bombay sent a statement to the Government and also made a public statement that we could produce all the atabrin required in this country Whereas quinine takes weeks to prepare and its trees take months to grow, this process could easily have been utilised and finished within a few weeks And yet what do you think this Government did which comes forward with all these futile Bills in the interests of the health of the country? They said that no permission could be granted One would like to know why a permission like this could not be granted Therefore, what I do say is this If you must have pharmacy Bills, then do something that is efficient Do something that will help the health of the country, and not only myself but the whole of my profession—I am confident to tell you—will be behind you. With regard to this question, I may say that the whole thing started from the Drugs Enquiry Committee of 1930-31 That Committee went round the country If only the instructions of that Drugs Enquiry Committee had been carried out today, we would never have found ourselves in the position that we are finding today. The position today in the case of food is expected to get worse, there will be complete famine In the case of drugs also, I may tell you we are very badly off We were badly off and even now we are no better off, yet this Drugs Enquiry Committee made recommendations one of which was to start educational centres for pharmacy That was in 1930 I see the Honourable the Mover of this Motion is trying to look up the Drugs Enquiry Committee report to find out if that is so or not I will give him some more information That information is they suggested that there should be a training centre for pharmacy and for the preparation of drugs not one only, but one in each Province. That was the recommendation of the Drugs Enquiry Committee Yet, what do we find? The report of the Drugs Enquiry Committee has been completely forgotten We heard something about it in 1940 in the shape of the Drugs Act. Now, we find this Pharmacy Act in the year of grace 1945

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural) We are in 1946

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I thought I might give the Government a little more credit and make it one year earlier In 1946, in every other country you have had a Drugs Act and a Pharmacy Act You always have the Pharmacy Act and the Drugs Act together Look at England It has been the same—Pharmacy and Drugs Act, Pharmacy and Chemist Act Wherever you find the two are allied, but here in India you find pharmacy is isolated. Why is the subject of pharmacy isolated from its natural connections with pharmaceutical chemistry, isolated from its natural connections with Botany, isolated from all its surroundings, so that we in India can merely console ourselves that the Government have given chosen compounders to our medical profession. That is why it is to be isolated here I say it ought not to be so Let this Bill go to the public, then the public and my profession will tell you how this Bill can be improved and can be made more useful for the health of the public As I say this is a regrettable story of legislation in this country In 1930-31, we had this Drugs Enquiry Committee about which everything has been forgotten Then, in 1940 we had this Drugs Act Now, in 1946 we are going to have this Pharmacy Act But there is something more to which I should like to draw the attention of the House and it is this In 1936, the Bombay Government tried to pass a Pharmacy Act They appointed a Committee for the Pharmacy Act in 1936 What is of greater importance is they had an education sub-committee of this Bombay Government What happened to the report of the Pharmacy Committee of the Bombay Government It has not seen the light of the day I want to know from the Honourable Member himself who has brought forward this Pharmacy Act whether he had a look at this report of the Pharmacy Committee of the Bombay Government Not only did they have a Pharmacy Committee, but also they had an education subject committee of the Pharmacy Act I want to know again from the Honourable the Mover of the Motion whether he has had a look at the report of the education sub-committee of Pharmacy Act It is no good merely coming forward, I think the day is long past when you can fob off any measure like this and say that Government are doing their best The Government have got to do their best, and that is now otherwise they will have something not very pleasant If the people of the country are to believe that the Government are doing something in return for the money they take then the Government should do something decent What is the expenditure that the Government have been spending on this? I say there is always the excuse You may say "Oh! it is all very well for you to suggest there should be educational institutions for pharmacy in each Province, there should be the Drugs Act and so on, but where is the money to come from"? I say money does come Government takes money all right from the people From my City of Bombay the Government are taking something like 100 crores in the shape of income tax, and about 75 to 90 lakhs in the shape of excess profits tax When you wanted to prevent a smaller mortality on the battlefield, what was your war expenditure per day. I am not talking about Britain's war expenditure I think the expenditure of India—I hope my Honourable friend will correct me if I am wrong—was somewhere to the tune of about two crores per day Anyway the point is this A day's expenditure which you devote to war can be easily diverted to establishment of pharmaceutical colleges or training centres, one in each Province and that would help you to erect your health front against the diseases You can fight all diseases by setting apart one day's war expenditure Even there, you have not treated fairly the public in this country. Perhaps the Government may ask, why if it I am alluding to all these things My idea of this Pharmacy Bill is not merely to apply the ointment to my soul that I have done something I want a very efficacious measure, and I believe the public will certainly support if the measure is good Why, Sir, in Bombay the other day a certain gentleman—I believe it is Sir Homi Mehta—gave a donation of seven lakhs to the Bombay University

[Dr. G. V. Deshmukh]

for the technological section I say if the Government would only bring forward decent measures, people will not be wanting who will give donation for starting such training centres If these centres are started all over the country, then you can have an army of pharmaceutical chemists who will be of use to you not only as I say in supplying more compounders, but who will be of great use in production of drugs and preventing drug famine in this country

At this juncture, why have I spoken at such length on this measure? My own point of view is that it should be sent round for eliciting public opinion It is very necessary that you should get public opinion on this measure Going through the various provisions of this Bill, I see the whole thing is a huge joke You have educational regulations and examinations and everything in perfect paper order I want to ask my Honourable friend where are you going to get your students from for this examination Where are you going to teach them? Have you got any institutions now where you can teach them this pharmacy so that you can establish a standard of examination where your professors can go and examine the students

There are neither professors nor students for teaching institutions and you have yet a paper-perfect Bill trying to establish a standard of minimum qualifications You talk about half a dozen objects, putting down how the board of examiners is to be constituted, what are going to be your educational rules, and all that I say that at the present stage the whole thing looks to me not only as a joke but even better than a joke It may be Hamlet but there is no state of Denmark about it And in the circumstances to hurry on with legislation like this and say that this is absolutely non-controversial is to show that you have got no proper idea as to what a Pharmacy Act means and that you have not paid any proper attention to whether you have got the equipment, means or the material for the examination, and so on. I will give my Honourable friend some little information I do not know if there are very many pharmacists in India either to be professors or to be examiners I do not think there are more than about two dozen pharmacists in the province of Bombay and very likely the majority of them are in Bombay city attached to different commercial institutions It is not likely that they will give up their lucrative jobs to become professors in your newly formed institutions at the present time As I said, about students, so far as I know, there are no students in the Bombay University I know that in 1936 the Deans of the two Medical Colleges in Bombay were asked whether they would take students for pharmaceutical chemistry, and they both honestly and rightly said that they would not because they had not got the teaching facilities Since then the Department of Technology in Bombay did open a section But what does that section mean? Will that section supply you with students of the type that you want? That is a post-graduate course with no better accommodation than for about ten students; and they are working on a course of advanced studies which practically is of no use for the purpose of this Bill or for the purpose of the health of this country. In the circumstances is it not better that you should start from the beginning and with first things first? Is it not better that you should give some little attention to whether you should not start your educational centres first, preferably one in each province if you can, otherwise one at the centre if you are short of men, material and finances, and then first educate your young students through competent teachers, educate them in the subject in which you want to examine them and then come forward with Bills like this asking for a proper standard? Sir, it is from that point of view that I speak and not, as I said at the beginning, with the intention of delaying legislation No one is more anxious than myself and my friends and colleagues in the profession that we should have a decent legislation concerning health. We should also like that whatever concerns health should see the light of day as soon as possible The entire medical profession is interested in the Bhore Committee's Health Report. We have been on tenter-hooks; we want to know what suggestions were made

by the foreign experts that you brought out here. Why is it that that report has not yet seen the light of day? We feel that we are more earnestly interested in our health problems than these foreign experts that are brought out here, paid for the job, they go round the country, not knowing the local circumstances, suggest academical improvements and then go away blaming our country, blaming our people, abusing our teaching and abusing our institutions. We have these experts, we have committees and reports which do not see the light of day for years and years, as happened in the case of the Drug Inquiry Committee's report and other reports, and then we are treated to such fatuous Bills. Sir, instead of having this kind of joke let us be earnest about it because the question involved is a very serious one The idea seems to be that foreigners are more interested in our health problems than we ourselves are Many things which are inaccessible to us are accessible to them This kind of thing should not continue and I hope will not continue I hope my amendment will be taken in the right spirit by the Honourable Member who moved the Bill and that he will not be in a hurry to get the report by the 25th February. Even my 30th April seems to me to be too early and even the 30th June seems to be too early When you ask for public opinion do not confine it to opinion as to how you are going to have dispensing chemists who mix from one bottle to the other The present lot can do that quite well My experience of 30 years about these poor ignorant compounders who are now blamed is that they are a very conscientious lot and they are doing their duty quite well If you want to replace them, by all means replace them by better material, an agency which will have a better aim in view, and then you will find that we are not against this legislation but we will do our best to support it.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 11th February, 1946

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 11th February, 1946

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

MEMBER SWORN

Mr Binay Ranjan Sen, C I E., I C S, M.L.A (Government of India: Nominated Official)

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

FOODGRAINS SCARCITY ON EAST COAST

135. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Secretary, Food Department, be pleased to state

(a) what special arrangements were made to relieve the food grains scarcity created by the East Coast cyclone,

(b) whether it was not a fact that owing to lack of Railway wagon supply and destruction or spoliation of local rice-stocks, there was experienced great rice-scarcity and that the Director General of Food went to Madras to study the situation six weeks after the cyclone, and

(c) how Government propose to prevent the repetition of a similar delay in relieving such sudden scarcity of food grains supply?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The Grain Purchase Officers in West Godavari were instructed to keep a reserve stock of rice at each rice mill to meet emergencies and arrangements were made to distribute rice in rural areas through selected dealers Rice export from East Godavari district was temporarily stopped from October and the export quota from West Godavari district was considerably reduced Collectors were instructed to import rice into places where there was scarcity and to put down black marketing In the first week of November the Madras Government asked the Central Government, Department of Food, for additional help of 30,000 tons of rice, which was immediately arranged for.

(b) and (c) The Director General of Food went to Madras some time after the cyclone to acquaint himself with the facts at first hand but no shortage of railway wagons was reported

Prof. N G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that blackmarketing is still widespread even in the so-called surplus districts?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not aware of that

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will he make enquiries?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Blackmarket rates are quoted in newspapers.

FOODGRAINS SCARCITY IN MADRAS DISTRICTS

136. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Secretary, Food Department, be pleased to state:

(a) if he is aware (i) of the failure of crops in parts of Anantapur and Cuddapah and Kurnool Districts of the Madras Presidency; (ii) of the growing food grains scarcity in that area; and (iii) of the steep rise in prices of food grains,

(b) whether any demand is made by the Madras Government for any special allocation of food grains supply for the people of that area; and

(c) the latest appreciation made by Government of the food grains and threatened famine situation of that area?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) (i) and (ii) Yes (iii) We have no such information. An enquiry has been made from the Provincial Government

(b) Yes The Madras Government asked for 30,000 tons of rice to give immediate relief to these districts This was arranged

(c) Owing to continued drought the position in these areas at present is unsatisfactory but not bordering on famine Further assistance on a much larger scale will be required and how this is to be provided is now under immediate consideration

REPORT ON CONDITION OF INDIANS IN MALAYA

137. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, be pleased to state

(a) if Mr S K Chettur, I C S, has submitted his report on the condition of Indians in Malaya, if so, whether Government have finished their consideration of it,

(b) whether Government propose to publish the report in full or in part,

(c) whether Government have made any representation to the Government concerned, *i e*, the Colonial Department of the British Government and the Malayan Government that the Army Act enforced in Malaya shall be so amended as to be in harmony with the Indian Army Act, so far as the minimum punishment for those tried and condemned for collaboration, waging war against the Crown, murder, etc, is concerned, if so, the reply they have received from the authorities concerned, and

(d) what other steps are being taken by Government to protect Indians who are being detained or charged with serious offences connected with the last war?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) Yes

(b) The substance of the report was published in a press communique dated the 18th December 1945

(c) The question is under consideration

(d) The Government of India are providing legal assistance for such Indians as may be tried

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that many Indians in Malaya want to be repatriated to India?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Yes, Sir

Seth Govind Das: What arrangements the Government are making for their repatriation?

Mr. R. N Banerjee: Every effort is being made to obtain shipping facilities in consultation with the British Military Administration in Malaya, and I am glad to be able to inform the House that their attitude is very sympathetic in this respect

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to part (c) of the question, what representations have Government made to the Governments concerned?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I would like to state that I am dealing with this matter only in so far as it affects the trial of civilian Indians The examination that we have been able to make so far of this matter shows that there is only one Ordinance, namely the War Ordinance of 1941, which has a provision for trial for treachery for which the minimum penalty is death We have been unable to trace so far any other provision in the Ordinances under which these trials are being held which lays down death as the minimum penalty Even as regards this provision in the Ordinance of 1941, I have had a telegram today to inform me that the General Officer Commanding, Malaya, can either uphold such sentence of death or modify them or even exercise clemency That is the result we have been able to arrive at so far, but, as I have said, the matter is being actively considered.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I would just like to know from the Honourable Member the nature of the representations he has made to the Colonial Office and to the Malayan Government or to the South-East Asia Command in respect of this particular Ordinance It is a very serious matter the death penalty provided in this Ordinance for the offence of treachery, it does not mean actual murdering anyone, it may be just collaboration of a slight nature or of a serious nature. This penalty is a very serious matter Has the Commonwealth Relations Department made necessary representations to the Colonial Government, or to the Malayan Government, or to the South-East Asia Command, or not? If not, why should it not make urgent representations now?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: We have made very urgent representations to the South-East Asia Command in this matter They feel that there may not be any necessity for making amendment to the Act inasmuch as there is a provision for the General Officer Commanding exercising clemency But I assure the Honourable Member that the matter is under correspondence and, if necessary, there will be no lack of vigilence or effort on the part of Government to have the necessary amendment made

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I would just like to invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that some of the civilian Indians who are now under trial or who are likely to be tried in Malaya happen to be eminent leaders and well known persons belonging to the Bar or belonging to various other professions One of them happens to be Mr Goha and there are others—I suppose the Honourable Member is aware of this fact—and they are now undergoing trial and the necessity of making these representations and the necessity of securing an urgent reply from the other side ought to be realized by the Government of India Are they pursuing this question with the persistence which is required in this case?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: That necessity is fully realized

Seth Govind Das: On which date this urgent representation had been made?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: This is being made from day to day

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the latest position about the number of civilians who stand charged with treachery and the rest?

Mr. R. N Banerjee: Sir, these are specific questions on the subject but if you rule that I should go on giving answers to these various questions I may be going too far afield

Mr. President: What I feel is that it does involve matters of a serious nature so far as lives of Indians in distant lands are concerned We may have some latitude in giving information in this respect

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is your answer?

Mr. President: Order, order

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many of these civilian Indians stand charged today with these serious charges of treachery?

Mr. R N. Banerjee: Our latest information is that about 24 Indians are under detention now Out of the 24, two have been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment on a charge of causing hurt with intent to extort confession. Five are under trial for mere collaboration and the rest for collaboration-cum-brutality, torture or cruelty The figure may be 24 or 22. I forget exactly which.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Will the Honourable Member kindly undertake to issue a comprehensive communique dealing with the whole situation so that it may ease the anxiety which is felt in the country about the fate of our nationals in Malaya?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: We issued a communique in December Since then . . . . . .

(Interruptions.)

I may tell the House that our efforts have been very successful But as soon as we are able to make a final statement that so many are going to be tried finally, we shall think of issuing a communique.

(Some Honourable Members rose in their seats)

Mr. President: Order, order Next question.

INDIAN REFUGEE LABOUR FOR BURMA

138. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, be pleased to state

(a) if he is aware of the fact (i) that already remitment of Indian Refugee Labour is being made by Shipping and other Companies through contractors; and (ii) that the local Labour Officers who are in charge of distribution of allowances to these refugees, are trying to hint to the refugees that if they do not accept these offers of employment in Burma being made by contractors, their allowances may not be continued,

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to open registers at the offices of the Labour Officers for refugees to register their willingness to go and work in various departments of employment in Burma without the intervention of contractors, or whether Government will recognise the registers that our Burma Refugees' Associations prepare and maintain; and

(c) whether Government propose to give a categorical assurance that it is not their intention to encourage the system of contract-labour or to stop allowances to refugees if they refuse employment offered by contractors?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) It is presumed that the question refers to recruitment of refugee labour for employment in Burma If this assumption is correct, Government have no information

(b) The suggestion will be considered when recruitment of new labour for Burma is undertaken

(c) It is presumed that by "contract labour" the recruitment of labour by the 'maistry' system is meant It is not Government's intention to encourage this system Government have no intention of stopping allowances to refugees on the ground that they refuse such employment

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to part (ii) of (a) of this question, the Honourable Member said he is only concerned in the recruitment of new labour wishing to go to Burma My question deals with the return of refugees themselves in regard to whom the officers are trying to hint to the refugees that if they do not accept these offers of employment in Burma being made by contractors, their allowances may not be continued I wish to know the position of the Government whether they allow their officers to bring such pressure to bear upon these poor refugees

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: No, Sir As I have stated in my reply, we have no information that any officer of the Department has been bringing any such pressure to bear on the refugees If the Honourable Member brings to our notice any specific case I will have that properly investigated

Prof N. G. Ranga: It is more than six weeks that I have given notice of this question and yet the Honourable Member said in regard to part (i) of (a) of this question that he has no information Are we to understand that he has made the necessary enquiries and there is no truth in this fear felt by the people?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Our officers deny having used such pressure.

Mr. President: Next question

PRICES OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES FOR INDIAN LABOURERS IN BURMA

139. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, be pleased to state

(a) the latest prices of the most essential commodities of every day use for Indian labourers in Burma, for instance, rice, dal, chillies, oil, ghee, commonest vegetables, room-rent, dhoties, shirts, sarees; and how they compare with our Indian prices; and

(b) what will be the wage in Burma, say in Rangoon, Mandalay, and Moulmien which can fetch for Indian workers in Burma the commodities and clothing and housing that the workers in the Bombay city can get with a wage and allowances of Rs 60 per mensem?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) A comparative statement showing prices of certain essential commodities in Bombay city during July 1945, Rangoon on the 19th January 1946 and Mandalay on the 1st December, 1945, is placed on the table of the House.

(b) I am unable to answer this difficult question The necessary data for a proper answer are not available

Statement showing prices of certain essential commodities in Bombay City, Rangoon and Mandalay

S. No	Commodity	Prices in Bombay city during July 1945	Rangoon on 19-1-46	Mandalay on 1-12-45
1	Rice	1 3 0 per paylee	0 6 0 per viss	1 7 6 per viss
2	Dal Arhar	1 4 5 „	2 4 0 „	*
3	Dal, Moong	*	3 0 0 „	*
4	Chillies	0 7 9 per lb.	5 0 0 „	*4 0 0 per viss
5	Sesamum oil	0 6 11 „ (sweet oil)	*8 8 0 „	* 9 0 0 „
6	Ghee	2 6 8 „	15 0 0 „	*
7	Green vegetables	0 2 7 „ (Brinjals)	0 8 0 „	*
8	Sarees	7 14 3 Each	30 0 0 Each	*
9	Dhoties	7 5 0 per pair	16 0 0 „	*
10	Shirting	0 12 8 per yard	5 0 0 per yard	*
11	Room-rent	6 5 11 per month	**	**

*Not available.

** Rents for rooms have not yet been stabilised. Many do not pay any rent and merely occupy vacant flats, while others pay between Rs. 35 and 40 per month for rooms 12½ feet by 50—60 feet.

NOTE—1 viss=1⅓ seer=3⅓ lbs. (Approx).

1 paylee 1⅞ viss=6½ lbs. (Approx).

Mr. President: Next question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No, No. I have something to ask. Will the Honourable Member try to ascertain the necessary information from their Agent in Burma and place it on the table of this House?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: It will be very difficult but I shall make an effort

Mr. President: Next question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Just one little thing. I made a suggestion in the previous question whether the Honourable Member would be prepared to recognise the registers that our Burma Refugees' Associations prepare and maintain

Mr. President: What question?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The previous one The subject matter is the same.

Mr. President: I am afraid it is not possible Next question.

RURAL SICKNESS.

140. *Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the 700,000 villages of India no less than 75 per cent. of the inhabitants of these villages are bedridden all the year round, affected with preventible diseases chiefly typhoid? If so, do Government propose to put forward proposals for dealing with this state of affairs?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: It is not a fact that 75 per cent of the inhabitants of the villages of India are bedridden all the year round

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Then what is the true fact?

Seth Govind Das: If the percentage given by the Honourable Member is wrong, what is the percentage of the people that Government think are suffering from preventible diseases?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: I shall require notice of that

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is part of the question It is said that no less than 75 per cent of the inhabitants of these villages are bedridden all the year round He has indicated one dangerous disease, typhoid How is it that the Honourable Member is not in a position to give us the number of deaths due to typhoid and what percentage of the population is affected by it?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is not the question

Mr. President: Mr Jaffer

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: If it is not due to typhoid then what is it due to?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: I think I have plainly stated that 75 per cent of the population are not bedridden all the year round

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: When the Honourable Member verified the figure and gives the reply that it is not 75 per cent then by his examination what percentage did he get?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: There are no statistics in existence

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I submit that this is a very frivolous attitude that the Government Member is displaying We have given a positive question and a positive fact It is for the Government to say that it is not a fact and at the same time that something else is a fact After all they have all the records It is their business to inform the House and put the House in order

Mr. President: He has stated there are no statistics

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Government take care hereafter to collect the necessary facts in regard to this matter?

Mr. S. H Y. Oulsnam: I have already stated that there are no statistics collected which show how many people are bedridden all the year round

Seth Govind Das: Do the Government keep no statistics as far as the diseases in this country are concerned?

Prof. N. G Ranga: I have made a suggestion The Honourable Member does not give a reply.

Mr. President: What is it?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will they take the trouble from now to collect the data asked for?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: If the Honourable Member will put down a question asking for the available statistics

(Interruptions)

Mr. President: Order, order

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: . I will give him the available information

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member see to the maintenance of such statistics so far as the health of the people are concerned?

(Interruptions)

Mr. President: Order, order Next question

SETTLEMENT OF INDIAN SOLDIERS IN PACIFIC ISLANDS

141. ***Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department be pleased to state whether he is prepared

(i) to approach the Government of Australia and the Government of Great Britain and suggest that land in some of the Pacific Islands rescued from Japan (with the assistance of the Indian Troops) might be made available for Indian Peasant Soldiers, and

(ii) to approach the Government concerned and suggest that the 100,000 square miles of British North Borneo and new Guinea might be made available for Indian settlement and thus cement friendship with India?

Mr R. N. Banerjee: (i) and (ii) The suggestion will be considered in connection with the general question of settlement of Indians in overseas countries

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: May I know when it will be considered?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The whole question of the settlement of Indian soldiers is still under the consideration of Government The consideration is going on I am unable to say when exactly a decision will be taken.

Mr. Mann Subedar: May I know from the Honourable Member whether the decision will be taken in time to help the demobilised soldiers of this country?

Mr. R N. Banerjee The matter is dealt with by another Department I am unable to say.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know if the Government have taken the same view as the questioner on this matter?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Government have come to no decision.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Have Government taken the same view as the questioner?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Government have taken no decision on that point

Shri Sri Prakasa: Have the Government of Australia answered . . .

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question

HIGH EXCHANGE RATE OF SAUDI DUES.

142. ***Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** (a) Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department please state if it is a fact that in the Haj season of 1945-46, the rate of exchange was again fixed at a very high level? If so, what was the current rate of exchange between a rupee and a Riyal in the Hejaz and what was the official rate of exchange fixed for the payment of the Saudi Arabian dues?

(b) What is the amount of estimated loss incurred by the pilgrims as a result of this fixation of higher rate of exchange?

(c) What steps did the Government of India take when the Saudi Government insisted again on fixing the high rate of exchange?

(d) Do Government propose to take any steps against the Saudi Government if they remain adamant in their attitude in the future?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) The Saudi Arabian Government did not fix the dues in terms of riyal but insisted on our recovering a fixed amount in Indian currency as their dues The question of rate of exchange did not thus arise.

(b) As the Saudi Arabian Government fixed the dues in rupees, pilgrims could not complain of any loss. In any case the loss, if any, cannot be estimated as payment was made in the Hejaz, the Government of India having refused to pre-collect the major dues in India

(c) The Government of India made urgent and repeated representations to persuade the Saudi Arabian Government to accept payment in riyals or in rupees or at a suitable rate of exchange in rupees, but the Saudi Arabian Government did not agree on the ground that preferential treatment could not be accorded to Indians.

(d) The Government of India can decide this only in the light of the circumstances prevailing on the occasion of future pilgrimages

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member prepared to deny that the Government of India fixed the exchange rate at 1/12 per riyal whereas the current rate in Hedjaz was 1/4? Is the Honourable Member prepared to deny that?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I do deny that but I have explained the sense in which I deny that As I have said in reply to part (a), the Saudi Arabian Government did not authorise us to make the collection in terms of riyal It is true that at the time we made the collection the rate of exchange of the riyal was 1/4 but the Saudi Arabian Government required us to recover the dues in so many rupees We therefore had no alternative and the rupees that we collected at the rates prescribed by the Saudi Arabian Government were of course a little more than what the amount would have been, if we had been allowed to collect it in riyals at the rate of 1/4 but, as I said, we had no option in the matter.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Did the Government of India receive a telegram of protest from the Chairman of the Bombay Port Haj Committee protesting against this and if so, what action did the Government take on the matter?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: We received protests from them and also from other Muslim organisations and the action that we took will be found in my reply to part (c) of the question.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: May I ask what was the number of gold sovereigns which each first class and deck passenger was allowed to take?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I want notice of that question

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Arising out of the Honourable Member's reply to part (c) of the question am I to understand that the same rate was charged from pilgrims from other countries also?

Mr. R. N Banerjee: Yes, Sir. That is a fact which is absolutely ignored in this country.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: May I know what action have the Government of India taken against the Saudi Arabian Government for their attitude in this matter?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: As I have explained, we have made it clear in the plainest and most unequivocal terms that we record our maximum protest against it. After all the Government of Saudi Arabia is the Government of the country in which the holy places lie and I should be very grateful if the Honourable Member would suggest any other more effective sanction against the Saudi Arabian Government.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: You have got the Standing Haj Committee

INDIA'S CONSULAR AND COMMERCIAL AGENCIES

143. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department state:

(a) if there are any offices like the office of the High Commissioner or Consul or Agent in any foreign country or British Dominion or Colony, and, if so, the details of the same and their location,

(b) the number of staff employed in each with their designations,

(c) if any or all of them are Indian nationals;

(d) if any of such staff are not Indian nationals, what nationality they belong to;

(e) if he proposes to take steps to replace any non-Indian in such offices by Indian nationals as soon as possible;

(f) if it is proposed to open such offices in any other countries and, if so, when and where;

(g) if in new offices that are opened, non-Indian nationals are kept out completely from the start, and

(h) if the answer to (g) above is in the negative, the reasons for not doing so?

Mr. B. N. Banerjee: (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House Information in regard to the office of the High Commissioner for India in London is not available but the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply to Question No 27, asked by him on the 5th February 1946, in this House.

(f) The question of a general extension of Indian representation abroad is under review but at present Government have under consideration only a proposal for the appointment of a High Commissioner in Canada

(e), (g) and (h) The Government of India have constantly in mind the desirability of staffing these offices with Indians as far as possible; but it is often more convenient as well as more economical to fill ministerial and inferior posts by local recruitment rather than with personnel sent from India For diplomatic reasons it may also be desirable to appoint non-Indians in certain posts.

Statement showing Offices of the High Commissioners, Agents, etc., in various countries

Serial No.	Name of office	Location of Office	Staff employed	Whether Indian nationals or non-Indian	Remarks
	British Commonwealth Countries.				
1	The High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa.	Durban/Johannesburg and Cape Town.	1 High Commissioner. 2. Secretary 3-4. Assistant Secretaries 2 5. Stenographer 6. General Clerk. 7. Chauffeur 8-9 Messengers . . 2	Secretary, two Assistant Secretaries, Stenographer are Europeans The rest are South African Indians.	Secretary is of Indian Civil Service.
2	The High Commissioner for India in the Commonwealth of Australia.	Canberra . . .	1. High Commissioner. 2 Secretary. 3. Private Secretary. 4. Seamen Welfare Officer. 5. Publicity Officer. 6. Chief Clerk. 7. Stenographer. 8—10. Typists . . 3 11. Messengerclerk.	Nos 8—11 are locally recruted Australians. All others are Indians	Secretary is of I.C.S.
3	The Representative of the Government of India in Burma.	Rangoon . . .	1. Representative. 2. Secretary 3. Publicity Officer. 4. Superintendent 5-6. Senior Clerks . . 2 7-8. Junior Clerks . . 2 9. Daftri. 10—16. Peons . . . 7	All Indians . . .	Secretary is of I.C.S
4	The Representative of the Government of India in Ceylon.	Colombo . .	1. Representative. 2. Secretary. 3 Private Secretary. 4. Chief Clerk. 5-6. Stenographers . 2 7—11. Clerks . . . 5 12—20. Peons . 9	All are Indians except a few peons who may be Ceylonese.	Secretary is of I.C.S.
5	The Agent of the Government in Ceylon.	Kandy . . .	1. Agent. 2 Assistant to the Agent 3. Head Clerk. 4. Stenographer. 5—10. Clerks . . 6 11—15. Peons . . . 5	All Indians except a few peons who may be Ceylonese	Agent is of I C S.

6	The Representative and Liaison Officer of the Government of India with S.A.C, S.E.A.C	Singapore . . .	1. Representative and Liaison Officer 2. Publicity Officer 3. Private Secretary to Representative. 4 Superintendent. 5. Stenographer. 6-7. Senior Clerks . 2 8-9. Junior Clerks . 2 10. Daftry 11—14. Peons . . . 4	All Indians	Representative is of I C S
7	The Agent of the Government of India in Malaya.	Kuala Lampur .	1 Assistant Agent. 2—5 Clerks . . 3 6 Stenographer 7—10. Peons. 4	All Indians.	
	Foreign Countries				
1	Indian Agency General	Washington . .	1 Agent General for India in the U.S.A. 2. First Secretary 3. Second Secretary. 4. Public Relations Officer 5 Information Officer 6 Deputy information Officer. 7 Ministerial and other† staff – 30.	1. Indian . *2. British. 3. Indian 4 Indian. 5 Indian 6 Indian 7 Mostly European or Canadian and American	*To be shortly succeeded by an Indian Officer now on his way to America *Locally recruited
2	Indian Agency General, Chungking.	Chungking . .	1. Agent General . 2 First Secretary 3. Second Secretary. 4 Attache at Shanghai. 5 Publicity Officer 6 Ministerial and other servants - 4	1 Indian 2 Indian. 3 Vacant. 4 Indian 5 Indian. 6 Three Indians & one Chinese.	
3	Indian Vice Consul, Jedda	Jedda . . .	1 Vice Consul . . 2 Medical Officer. 3. Ministerial and other staff—6 4. One Sub-Assistant Surgeon and one Compounder during Haj Season in Mecca	All Indians.	
4	Indian Vice Consul, Bagdad	Bagdad . . .	1 Vice Consul . . 2. Clerks—2	All Indians	

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: May I know why not one single Mussalman has been appointed as agent for the Government of India overseas and that every appointment has gone to Dr Khare's personal friends in the Hindu Mahasabha?

Mr. President: Order, order Next question

INDIAN MENIAL SERVANTS FOR BURMA

144. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department please state

(a) if any request was received from the authorities in Burma for the services of Indian sweepers in Rangoon and other places in Burma,

(b) whether the Government of India acceded to the request in part or in full and if so on what terms,

(c) whether the Honourable Member is aware of the feeling of resentment in the country against sending out Indian nationals to do menial work in other countries,

(d) if the answer to (c) above is in the affirmative, what steps Government are taking to prevent any Indian national from going abroad under any system of emigration in any form for such purposes?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) Yes

(b) Indian sweepers who had been resident in Burma but evacuated to India during the war are being permitted to be taken back to Burma

(c) Government have noted the growth of such resentment in recent years

(d) This will be considered when emigration of fresh labour is permitted to countries abroad

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations is reported to have refused to allow any Indians to go to Burma, whatever may be their status whether before or during the war, or to be taken to Burma as sweepers, why is it that the Government of India have allowed the Burma Indian labour evacuees who had been formerly sweepers in Burma to go back again there as sweepers?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Sir, the Honourable Member is under a misapprehension I hope he knows that there is almost a universal demand in this country for the speedy repatriation of all the Indians who have been evacuated from Burma I hope the House will see that we cannot insist on the speedy repatriation of all the Indian evacuees and in the same breath we cannot refuse our sweeper evacuees permission to go back to Burma.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Did the Government make it clear to those ex-sweepers that they would be free to go or not to go as sweepers?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Only evacuees who are willing to return to Burma are being allowed to return

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the number of such persons who were sent from India?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I have no statistics with me but the number cannot be very large, as I am still receiving appeals from Burma for sweepers.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable Member aware that there have been a number of riots between the Indian sweepers and the local Burmans and that the Burmans hate the sweepers and other menials going to Burma from this country? Is the Honourable Member aware that those riots were due mainly to the sweepers going there?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I want notice of that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that the Burmans do not offer their services as sweepers and that therefore Indians are being sent there as sweepers?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Yes, Sir My information is that there are no *mehtars* in Burma.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Government of India seems to have a lower idea of the self-respect of Indians than the Burmans have about themselves.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Certainly Not, Sir

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

IMMIGRATION OF INDIANS INTO BURMA

145. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department please lay on the table a copy of the agreement reached, if any, regarding immigration of Indians into Burma;

(b) what, if any, are the restrictions imposed on the re-entry into Burma of Indians who were carrying on business in Burma before the Japanese invasion, and

(c) what is the present number of Indians in Burma approximately and the extent of damage done to their property during the War?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) No agreement has been reached so far

(b) There are no statutory restrictions on the entry of Indians other than unskilled labourers into Burma But in view of the shortage of shipping and of the abnormal post-war economic conditions in the country facilities for re-entry are being provided only to such Indians as the Government of Burma desire, or agree, to have in Burma mainly for purposes connected with the reconstruction of the country

(c) No reliable figures of information are available

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Government of India take this House into their confidence and give it an opportunity to discuss the rough terms of their Agreement—if need be, in a secret sitting—before they come to any final decision with the Burma Government in regard to the status of Indians in Burma, the return of refugee labour and the recruitment of new Indian labour?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: We shall most seriously consider the suggestion

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if facilities are being given to businessmen who have large stakes there, like those from the southern portion of the Madras Presidency, *e g*, the Nattukotai Chettiars and others?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Yes, Sir, facilities are being given Honourable Members are aware that recently a large number of representatives of Indian rice traders have been there. Some of them have just come back, and we have got proposals also for the return of another batch of representatives of business people

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are any restrictions being imposed on the re-entry of those persons who go there as traders and businessmen?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The answer to that is contained in my reply to part (b) of the question, *viz*, that persons required for purposes connected with the reconstruction of the country are being given priority for these facilities

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the sweepers who have been given priority are considered as skilled workmen for purposes of reconstruction?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: There are no Burmese sweepers and the Government of the country wanted certain sweepers and we could not object to the return of the evacuee sweepers.

Sri M. Ananthasayam Ayyangar: May I know how many applications are pending with the Government of India from merchants from the southern portion of Madras Presidency for entry into Burma?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I shall require notice of that question.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: With regard to part (c), what steps have Government taken to ascertain the number of Indians in Burma?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Our representative has the question in mind; but the Honourable Member must be aware that communications are still very bad in Burma and it is very difficult to obtain any sort of accurate estimate of the population or the extent of damage. But our representative has the point in mind and he has been pursuing it.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government ascertained that British businessmen have not got better facilities to return to Burma than Indian businessmen?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: We have put that quite definitely and plainly to the Government of Burma and have been assured that no such discrimination is being practised in this matter

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Government of India's Agent satisfied with the reply given by the Burma Government?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Yes, I think on the whole he is satisfied

Milk Supply.

146. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Agriculture Secretary any information as to the price of milk in various parts of the country before the war and at present?

(b) Are Government aware of the scarcity of milk supply as well as its doubtful quality?

(c) Are Government aware of the remark of the Milk Commissioner for the United Kingdom with regard to the milk supply of Bombay, and have they sent an official to Bombay to make enquiries?

(d) Have Government got any scheme for the manufacture of milk powder in India?

(e) How much milk powder was imported in India?

(f) How much of it was full cream milk, and how much was skimmed milk?

(g) Have Government taken or do they propose to take any steps to increase the milk supply of the country?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) A statement showing the pre-war and present price ranges of milk in different provinces is laid on the table

(b) Yes

(c) Government have seen a press report of a statement attributed to Mr R A Pepperall of the Milk Marketing Board, United Kingdom, to the effect that "London's sewage was three times as safe as Bombay's milk" The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative Government do not accept the above comparison as correct for reasons given in the statement placed on the table.

(d) An experimental scheme for standardising the process of manufacturing milk powder under Indian conditions has been sanctioned

(e) and (f) A statement is laid on the table

(g) Yes A statement is laid on the table

Statements of pre-war and present price ranges of milk in Different Provinces, Part (a)

Name of Province	Pre-war price range of milk per pound	Present price range of milk per pound
Assam	Flush season-6 pies to 2 annas per lb.	Re 0-3-2 to 0-5-4 per lb.
	Other times 1 anna to Re. 0-3-9 per lb.	Re 0-3-2 to 0-8-0 per lb.
Bengal . .	Calcutta Re 0-1-6 to 0-4-0 per lb	Calcutta Re. 0-4-0 to 0-8-0 per lb.
	Districts Re. 0-0-6 to 0-2-0 per lb.	Districts Re 0-2-0 to 0-4-0 per lb.
Bihar . .	Re. 0-1-4 per lb .	Re. 0-2-8 per lb.
Bombay .	Re 0-1-0 to 0-3-0 per lb .	Re. 0-3-0 to 0-7-0 pe.. .

Name of Province	Pre-war price range of milk per pound	Present price range of milk per pound
C. P. and Berar	Re. 0-1 0 to 0-1-6 per lb.	Re 0-2-0 to 0-4-0 per lb
Delhi	Re. 0-1-3 per lb.	Re 0-3-6 per lb.
Madras	Re 0-1-2 to 0-1-11 per lb.	Re 0-2-4 to 0-5-3 per lb.
N.W.F P	Re 0-1-0 per lb. (Average)	Re. 0-3-4 per lb. (Average).
Orissa	Re. 0-1-0 to 0-2-0 per lb.	Re 0-2-0 to 0-4-0 per lb.
Punjab	Cow milk Re. 0-0-9 to 0-1-3 per lb.	Cow milk Re 0-3-2 to 0-3-6 per lb.
Buf. milk	Re. 0-1-0 to 0-1-3 per lb	Buf. milk Re. 0-3-9 to 0-4-3 per lb.
Sind	Re 0-1-0 to 0-2-0 per lb,	Re 0-2-6 to 0-3-6 per lb
U.P.	In Urban areas Re. 0-0-10 to 0-1-3 per lb.	In Urban areas Re 0-2-1 to 0-4-0 per lb.
	In Rural areas Re 0-0-6 to 0-1-0 per lb.	In Rural areas Re 0-1-8 to 0-2-7 per lb

Part (b)

It is mentioned in the report on the Marketing of Milk in India and Burma, published in 1941, that a sample survey of bacterial counts made by the Municipal Analyst, Bombay, 30 years ago showed the presence of manurial contamination but at the same time they were negative in respect of such pathogenic organisms as P Typhosus, B Tuberculosis and Cholera vibrio The presence of high bacterial counts, unassociated with any pathogenic organisms does not necessarily constitute a danger to public health Government fully realise the great need for improvement in the standard of purity of milk supply and are taking steps to assist provinces in their endeavour to secure such improvement

Imports of dried or powder milk into India

Parts (e) *and* (f)

Year	(Cwts.) Full cream	Skimmed	Total
1938-39	4,963	8,652	13,615
1939-40	6,362	20,276	26,638
1940-41	6,183	26,590	32,773
1941-42	9,420	32,710	42,130
1942-43	7,777	4,964	12,741
1943-44	4,440	3,718	8,158
1944-45	17,376	44,287	61,663
	56,521	141,197	197,718

Part (g)

(1) The milk supply position was examined by the Milk Sub-Committee of the Policy Committee and their recommendations detailing the measures required for increasing milk supply were circulated to the provinces for action Technical staff has also been appointed to advise provinces in farming schemes Some schemes have already been started and others are under consideration by Provincial Governments

(2) Financial assistance has been given to provinces by the Centre, as part of their Grow More Food Campaign, for

(i) supply of concentrates at concessional rates to milk producers for increasing milk production,

(ii) establishment of milk supply organisations;

(iii) appointment of technical staff for carrying out surveys and dairy development;

(iv) establishment of co operative milk supply unions (Delhi and Madras); and

(v) establishment of creameries at rural centres They have been requested to include the establishment of dairy farms in their post-war schemes

(3) The slaughter of pregnant cows and cows in milk has been prohibited in nine provinces, and prices of cattle feeds and milk have been controlled in some of the provinces

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if there is sufficient cooperation between the Department of Agriculture and the Departments of Commerce, Supply and Finance, to enable milk powder to be imported into India, particularly full milk powder, from those countries which have got a surplus and who are anxious to send it out here?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Yes, Sir, a special inter departmental committee has been set up which is looking into the whole question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Food Department helping in this matter, considering the impending shortage of food all round, to give free licenses to those who are able to import milk powder from other parts of the world?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That matter is under consideration.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that in places where the prices of milk are controlled, the prices of fooder and other food material for cattle are not controlled?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: In some provinces the prices of fodder are controlled but in most provinces they are not

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Member aware that in the Central Provinces the prices of fodder and other food material for cattle are not controlled and therefore there is great difficulty for people who keep cattle?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I am aware of the fact that prices in the Central Provinces are not controlled and there has been a big rise in prices of fodder there.

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member instruct the C P Government to control the prices of fodder and other food material for cattle?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The matter will be brought to the notice of that Government

Mr. Manu Subedar: In regard to part (g) what are the special measures taken by Government to increase the milk supply of the country?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: That is included in the statement appended

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, the practice is to give statements when there are figures and complicated notes, but I do not see why the Honourable Member cannot inform this House briefly and verbally what measures, if any, have been taken? I do not see any measures.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The recommendations of the Milk Sub-Committee were circulated to the provinces for necessary action Technical staff has been appointed to advise provinces in framing schemes Financial assistance has been given for the supply of concentrates at concession rates to milk producers for increasing milk production Milk supply organisations have been set up Technical staff has been appointed for carrying out surveys and dairy development Cooperative milk supply units have been established in Delhi and Madras Cremeries are being established at rural centres Establishment of dairy farms in post-war schemes is being encouraged The slaughter of pregnant cows and cows in milk has been prohibited in nine provinces, and prices of cattle feeds and milk have been controlled in some of the provinces

Mr. Manu Subedar: What has happened to the military dairies? Have they been taken over by Government and kept going?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The military dairies are kept going by the military authorities They have not yet given up a single one of their dairies.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what steps have been taken to improve the quality of milk supplied in towns at least?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: That forms part of the post-war development plans of the provinces

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: In regard to part (g), of the question and in view of the statements made by Government on the subject in this House, will the Honourable Member be good enough to state what progress has been made by Government in the setting up, in agricultural areas, of centres for the artificial insemination of cattle?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: That is referred to in the next question.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member know that in certain parts of the country the cattle are not of good breed? Does he contemplate the export of good bulls from one province to another?

Sir Pherozе Kharegat: The question of the export of cattle from one province to another is very difficult at present because of bans imposed by provinces in order to conserve their own cattle wealth.

Seth Govind Das: In Punjab and Sind there are sufficient number of cattle and the people there are ready to export those cattle to other provinces and they are not getting good facilities for that export?

Sir Pherozе Kharegat: The fact is that the Punjab Government have themselves imposed a ban on the export of cattle from the Punjab

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In order to prevent profiteering in the importing of milk food from other countries, will Government consider the advisability of themselves importing it from other countries and then placing it at the disposal of the public here?

Sir Pherozе Kharegat: The whole question of the advisability of these imports and how to distribute them is under the consideration of Government at the present time

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Since when?

Sir Pherozе Kharegat: For the last two or three months

LIVE STOCK

147. *__Mr. Manu Subedar:__ (a) Having regard to the assurance given in the last winter that Government were taking steps to see that the total number of cattle was not reduced and that the export of cattle was not permitted, will the Agriculture Secretary please state what measures were taken?

(b) How many cattle have been permitted to be killed—(i) for military purposes, and (ii) for civil population during the war period and later till now?

(c) Have Government got any estimate of the number of cattle in India before the war and the number now?

(d) Are Government aware that a very large number of cattle had been killed during the war period by military contractors and others?

(e) What steps are Government taking to increase the number of cattle available?

Sir Pherozе Kharegat: (a) A statement of the measures taken is laid on the table

(b) A statement of the number and percentages of cattle slaughtered for military purposes is laid on the table. It is regretted that the corresponding figures of slaughter for the civilian population are not known.

(c) The total cattle population of India in 1940 was 207 million. The total figures of the cattle census carried out in 1945 are not yet available, but a statement comparing the figures for 1940 and 1945, where the latter are available, is laid on the table

(d) Government have no information about the total number of cattle slaughtered during the war period, other than those already mentioned as having been slaughtered for military purposes.

(e) A statement is laid on the table

Statements

PART (a)

(1) No exports are allowed without special permission except to Ceylon, to which the exports were 2,509, 3,446 and 1,542 respectively in 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45 The following types of cattle may not be exported even to Ceylon:

(i) cattle in milk, pregnant cattle and female young stock which have not yet calved
(ii) all male cattle fit for being used for ploughing or transport purposes, and
(iii) breeding bulls

(2) The Government of India have prohibited the slaughter or sale for slaughter of the following classes of cattle for army requirements

(i) cattle below 3 years of age,

(ii) male cattle between 3 and 10 years of age which are used or likely to be used as working cattle,

(iii) all cows between 3 and 10 years of age which are capable of producing milk, other than cows which are unsuitable for bearing offspring, and

(iv) all cows which are pregnant or in milk At the request of the Government of India, similar restrictions have been imposed in nine out of eleven provinces by the Governments concerned, in respect of slaughter for civil purposes

(3) The military authorities have reduced the number of cattle slaughtered by inauguration of

(i) the development of pig and poultry farms, and

(ii) importation and issue of tinned and frozen meat

The number of cattle slaughtered will be reduced to the essential minimum

(4) It has been arranged with the military authorities that the military farms will, instead of killing female buffalo calves, distribute them free of charge at the age of 14 days to cattle breeders who give an undertaking to rear them up to the age of puberty This arrangement has been brought to the notice of provincial Governments and cattle breeders

Number and percentages of cattle slaughtered for military purposes

PART (b)

Year	Number Slaughtered	Percentage
1940	47,883	·023
1941	73,524	·035
1942	2,22,417	·107
1943	2,65,396	·128
1944	1,83,974	·088
1945 (9 months)	1,42,110	·068 + ·017

Number of cattle in British India in 1940 and 1945

PART (c)

Provinces	1940	1945
Ajmer-Merwara	198,189	345,308
Assam	6,495,221	Not available
Baluchistan	183,275	168,851
Bengal	23,699,633	Not available
Bihar	15,455,967	Not available
Bombay	9,733,659	Not available
Central Provinces & Berar	13,278,860	13,567,206
Coorg	143,251	147,176
Delhi	142,823	180,937
Madras	22,119,402	22,673,941
North-West Frontier Province	1,032,760	1,097,834
Orissa (1935 Census figure)	4,863,297	Not available
Punjab	15,414,457	Not available
Sind	2,376,036	Not available
United Provinces (1935 Census figure)	32,469,552	29,621,483

PART (c)

(1) The Central Government propose to expand the work of the Dairy Institute and are considering the setting up of an experimental live stock farm

(2) Provincial five year plans (towards which assistance will be given from the Centre) provide for the setting up of bull breeding farms, the distribution of these bulls to key villages, and the further distribution of bulls from these key villages to other villages

(3) They also provide for the setting up of dry stock salvage farms and calf rearing farms.

(4) Cattle breeding along sound lines is being encouraged at Gaushalas which are being improved and reorganised for the purpose. A special officer, Sir Datar Singh, is working in an honorary capacity in this cause

(5) Artificial insemination has been introduced as an experimental measure at four centres (Bahadurnagar, Patna, Calcutta and Bangalore) and will be extended if successful, so as to remedy the deficiency in the number of good stud bulls.

(6) The steps that are being taken for disease control through the increase of veterinary dispensaries, inoculation against rinderpest and other contagious diseases, etc, will help in increasing the cattle population.

(7) The proposals for the increased cultivation of green fodder, the provision of silcage, the introduction of rotational grazing and the subsidised distribution of concentrates will result in better fed cattle and more cattle.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If Government are not aware of the cattle slaughtered for civilian population, how does my Honourable friend in reply to (a) try to make out that the total number of cattle in this country has not been reduced? On what basis was that reply framed?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I am afraid I have not made any such statement.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: May I ask in how many factories dehydration of meat is allowed?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The total number of such factories is not known to me as it is dealt with in another Department of Government.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Is it not time that this should be stopped in the interest of India, because dehydrated meat is only exported outside India?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I am afraid I do not know the details but as far as I am aware dehydrated meat is used mainly for feeding the army in India

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government have considered the absolute prohibition of the export of cattle from this country in view of the serious food situation, even for ships and convoys which are moving out and which are taking either meat or cattle?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: As I have pointed out, the number of cattle that have been exported is 2,509 in 1942-43, 3,446 in 1943-44 and 1,542 in 1944-45 and these cattle are mainly sent to Ceylon for purposes of food

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member contradict me when I say that cattle taken by ships and convoys in the Indian harbours are not put down as exported cattle but they are merely regarded as local dealings and they do not appear in the export figures?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I am quite prepared to accept what the Honourable Member has said

Seth Govind Das: Has any age limit been fixed for the slaughter of cattle?

Sir Phroze Kharegat: Yes, Sir. The restrictions are as follows

Cattle below 3 years of age, male cattle between 3 and 10 years of age which are used or likely to be used as working cattle, all cows between 3 and 10 years of age which are capable of producing milk, other than cows which are unsuitable for bearing offspring; and all cows which are pregnant or in milk.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member know that in military stations like Jubbulpore, in spite of this age limit, no discrimination is made and cattle of all ages are being slaughtered?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I have no information on that point

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries about it?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I am quite prepared to make inquiries but as I have just remarked, the instructions on the point are quite clear.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: May I know whether Government will put any limit on the number of cattle to be slaughtered by the military in view of the fact that cultivation depends on cattle power?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The number of cattle slaughtered for military purposes which was 265 thousand odd in 1943 has decreased to 142 thousand in 1945 and it is hoped to decrease the number still further very considerably in the next few months

Srejut Rohini Kumar Choudhury: Is the Government aware that due to promiscuous slaughter of cattle to feed the Army people there is dearth of plough cattle in Assam now?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I have no information on the point I know that there is a complaint of shortage of cattle in Assam but if the Honourable Member wishes, I shall make further inquiries in the matter.

EXPORT OF GROUNDNUTS

148. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state how much groundnut is produced in India, and whether the quantity last reported shows any increase over the pre-war years?

(b) How much groundnut has been permitted to be exported from India—(i) on private account, (ii) on account of the U K C C, and (iii) on Government account?

(c) Why is the export of groundnut permitted at all, in spite of several representations received by Government that this is a good article of food?

(d) Do Government now propose to take steps to prohibit the export of groundnuts, which can help some of the deficit areas for food in India to tide over by supplementing the inadequate supply of the normal foodgrains?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The average production of groundnuts for the quinquennium 1934-35 to 1938-39 was 2,657,600 tons. During the quinquennium ending 1944-45 the average production showed an increase of 2·4 per cent, the increase in 1944-45 production being 34 per cent.

(b) (i) 625 tons during 1945

(ii) Nil.

(iii) During the year ending 31st October 1945, 371,134 tons groundnuts were exported on account of British Ministry of Food against a quota of 5 lakh tons.

(c) and (d) Exports of groundnuts until the present difficult food situation, were allowed only after meeting India's requirements for seed and edible purposes But in view of the present food position the question is under immediate consideration

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the alarming figures of rising exports of groundnuts on behalf of the British Food Ministry, amounting to 3 crores 87 lakhs of rupees in the last 9 months of 1945 and 87 lakhs in last November alone, will the Honourable Member instead of saying that the question is under consideration give an assurance to this House that the export will be forthwith stopped?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: First of all, I cannot enter into a discussion as to the value of the figures All I need point out is that actually, as against 3½ million tons of production, the figure of 371,000 tons bringing in 87 lakhs of rupees, if my Honourable friend's figures are correct, is really to the advantage of India As I said before, I am not prepared not only to give an assurance but to go further and say that we have already taken definite steps in the matter If my Honourable friend wants further details, he will have to wait for a few days

Mr. Manu Subedar: While the question of India receiving more food from the Food Board is in the balance, will Government at least suspend further export from this country?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I can assure my Honourable friend that the Government of India had been fully cognizant of that matter some time before and steps have been taken

Prof N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that according to the Government's own marketing report on groundnuts two or three semi-monopoly concerns have got very great control over the marketing of groundnuts, will Government take care to assure decent prices to the producers of groundnut?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am afraid I have been asked to enter into a question which is wholly different from the question at issue.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member if the fall in the export of groundnut is due to any policy adopted by the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I feel that I have repeatedly made my point clear that it is to the interests of the people in this country, the growers and agriculturists, that, if there is a surplus production in this country, it should go abroad and we should fetch as much price as we can. But having regard to the fact that only 371,000 tons of groundnut has been allowed out of 3½ million tons, Government is more on the conservative side in conserving the food resources of the country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not equally in the interests of the producers of raw materials in this country that they should be assured of a definite price for this?

Mr. President: Order, Order Next question.

Reform Commissioner's Office

149. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state what work the office of the Reforms Commissioner has been doing?

(b) When was the office of the Reforms Commissioner created?

(c) Who were the occupants?

(d) What was the work done by these officers?

(e) What were the reports or proposals prepared by them?

(f) What instructions were given to them?

(g) Will a copy of these reports be placed in the library of the Assembly for the information of the Members of the Assembly?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Office of the Reforms Commissioner is an organisation in the Governor-General's Secretariat Its functions at present may be briefly stated as to advise the Governor-General on Constitutional matters, to interpret the Government of India Act on its constitutional, as distinct from its legal aspects, and to serve as a nucleus office in connection with the preparation of the future Constitution.

(b) 1930

(c) Sir James Dunnett, Sir Hawthorne Lewis, Mr. H V. Hodson and Mr. V P Menon.

(d), (e) and (f) The Reforms Commissioner and his office have in the past been mainly concerned with the work connected with the framing of the present Constitution Act and its implementation The Reforms Commissioner does not submit any periodical report, nor is he charged with the preparation of any particular proposals.

(g) Does not arise

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that this office was created in 1930, if I have heard my Honourable friend aright, do I take it that this is a permanent institution always framing reforms as part of the Government in this country?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I explained that it was connected with the framing and the implementation of the Act

Students sent Abroad for Higher Studies

150. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Education Secretary please state how many students have been sent abroad with Government assistance and how many have been permitted to go on their own for educational purposes during the calendar year 1945?

(b) What is the number of persons who have proceeded for educational purposes to Great Britain, U. S. A., and other countries?

(c) What is the number from each of the major Provinces and from the Indian States?

(d) In the case of those who have gone to U S A, what is the total amount of dollar exchange permitted for those who have gone for educational purposes?

(e) Who decides on the relative priority of students applying for going abroad, and on what principles?

(f) What reasons, if any, have been given to those whose applications have been refused?

Dr. John Sargent: (a) 429 students, sponsored by the Government of India or Provincial Governments or Indian States, were sent abroad for advanced studies in 1945 No exact figures are available in respect of private students who have gone abroad at their own expense, but it is estimated that priority passages to the United Kingdom were recommended for about 500 private students during 1945.

(b) Of the 429 persons referred to in (a) above, 253 have gone to the United Kingdom and 176 to the United States of America.

(c) A statement is placed on the table of the House.

(d) In the case of Central Government scholars going to the United States of America, they are allowed in addition to the steamer fare from India, Rs 500 for equipment They are also allowed £5 or its equivalent in dollars and £5 for incidental expenses during passage and $300 on arrival in the United States of America as advance on account of the stipend for the first quarter. The exact value of stipend has not yet been fixed in the case of each student, but it will in all cases be sufficient to cover the tuition charges and maintenance, including travel during the vacations for educational purposes

(e) It is not clear whether this relates to applications for priority passages or applications for dollar exchange facilities Priority passages are granted by the Civil Passage Controller and dollar exchange facilities by the Reserve Bank The Civil Passage Controller and the Reserve Bank consult the Department of Education where necessary In regard to passages to the United States of America, passages on the American flag vessels are ultimately controlled by the United States military authorities, while no priorities or permits are required for passages on commercial vessels Civilian Passages to the United Kingdom only are now controlled by Government

(f) It is understood that the Civil Passage Controller gives reasons when he rejects any applications for priority passages. The main reason for refusing an application is that the student concerned has not secured admission to an Educational Institution abroad

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Statement showing the candidates sponsored by the Provincial Governments and Indian States who were sent abroad for advanced studies in 1945

Province or State	Number of students sent to U.K.	Number of students sent to U S A.
Madras	26	17
Bombay	9	10
Bengal	11	7
United Provinces	5	1
Central Provinces	9	5
Punjab	2	10
Bihar	8	1
Orissa	10	4
Assam	3	3
Sind	10	4
North West Frontier Province	1	8
Baroda	1	..

Province or State	Number of students sent to U.K.	U.S.A.
Bikaner	..	1
Cochin	1	1
Bhavnagar	..	1
Hyderabad	9	5
Jaipur	..	1
Kalahandi	..	1
Kapurthala	1	..
Kashmir	..	1
Kotah	..	1
Mayurbhanj	.	1
Mysore	2	1
Patiala	..	1
Travancore	6	2

The figures in respect of Indian States may not in all cases represent the correct position as some States have made their own travel arrangements The Government of India have so far recommended the grant of priority passages to 34 students for the United Kingdom and for 17 student to the United States of America.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Do I gather from my Honourable friend that it is the Education Department under him which decides ultimately the fate of an applicant and that is mainly due to his inability to get admission at the other place? What are the other reasons why so many applications have been rejected?

Dr. John Sargent: There have been one or two cases where I have advised students, when they had indifferent qualifications or they were very young that it would be in their advantage to complete a course in an Indian University before proceeding abroad That is the advice which has been given to us by the head of Institutions both in the United Kingdom and the United States of America I should think, however, that in 90 per cent. of the cases, where we have refused applications, the reason was that the students had not been successful in obtaining admission to an institution, and it is extremely desirable at this particularly difficult time that before the students go abroad, they should have obtained admission to an institution.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not a fact that applications have been kept pending in the Honourable Member's Department for months at a time?

Dr. John Sargent: I hope not

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable Member aware that a number of Honours graduates, who had completed their course, have been asked once again to start their Honours course in America?

Dr. John Sargent: I am not aware of that I shall be glad to have notice of that question.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know on what principle the priority is given to the students who were not awarded scholarships by the Government and who were nominated by various institutions?

Dr. John Sargent: We have treated them exactly on the same lines as the students selected by Government.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know if it is not a fact that a student who was nominated by the Aligarh University and who had got admission already in one of the Universities, was not given this priority?

Dr. John Sargent: I should be glad to look into this case, but our practice has been to treat these students exactly on the same lines whether they were going on Government grants or on private grants.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: On what principle this priority was not given to this particular student who had already secured admission and who had certificates of the Professors with him? He was to carry on research work and yet he has been waiting all the time and no priority certificate has been given to him?

Dr. John Sargent: If the Honourable Member will give me information about that case, I will look into the matter.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: I have already written to the Department three times.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With regard to part (c) of the question, may I ask on what basis the allocation of the number of students has been made with respect to each province, particularly Madras? Is it according to the population or is it according to the number of applicants?

Dr. John Sargent: According to the number which the Provinces themselves asked for

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are there not students who have been sent directly by the Provincial Governments irrespective of the number sent by the Government of India?

Dr. John Sargent: The total number of scholarships was divided on the basis of roughly 50 50 between the Provinces and the Government of India. So far as the number of provincial scholarships is concerned, it depended on the requirements specified by the Provincial Committees There was some scaling down because the total number of requirements were larger than the total number of scholarships offered

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know whether the Government of India do not make arrangements for the admission of these students? Do they not make arrangements with the colleges authorities by their own effort?

Dr. John Sargent: As I explained already, we now have Educational Liaison Officers, who were members of the staff of my Department They are fully aware of the requirements of the Government. They are working in London and the United States of America. Whenever a student who was going either at Government expense or at his own expense applied for assistance, we endeavoured to render him every assistance In spite of difficulties, we have been able to secure passages for a considerable number of students. But some students, at present, either because they are not aware of the arrangements or because they prefer to be independent make their own application for admission, and of course, in this case, naturally we would be glad if they secure admission, but if they cannot get admission, we cannot help it

(*b*) WRITTEN ANSWERS

DATE FOR OFFICIAL TERMINATION OF WAR

151. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House kindly state if they have decided about the date from which the war will be deemed to have ended?

(b) If not, will Government kindly give the reasons as to why they are delaying such a decision?

(c) What is the approximate date when they propose to arrive at a decision about this date?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to questions No 9 and 16, on the subject, by Dr Zia Uddin Ahmad and Mr Leslie Gwilt respectively, on the 5th of this month

RE-HO-USING OF RESIDENTS OF WARD 14, DELHI

152. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: (a) With reference to the statement laid on the table of the House on the 4th April, 1945, in reply to part (d) of Starred Question No 449 asked by Mr Kailash Bihari Lall, M.L A , on the 21st February, 1945, will the Health Secretary be pleased to state the standard by which the residents of Ward No 14 Delhi, will be judged as eligible for re-housing under the Poormen Housing Scheme?

(b) Will Government please assure this House that those people of Ward No 14 whose land will be acquired, will be definitely provided with accommodation under the Delhi Re-housing Scheme?

(c) In what locality do Government propose to house the persons of Ward No. 14 after the Serai Purani Idgah Slum Clearance and Development Scheme has been sanctioned?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) The conditions under which persons shall be eligible for the benefits of the rehousing scheme are at present under consideration.

(b) Only persons whose income is within the limits to be laid down will be provided with accommodation under the scheme

(c) The matter is still under the consideration of the Trust

SERAI PURANI IDGAH SLUM CLEARANCE AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

153. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: Will the Health Secretary please state if, in view of new Section 24(a) of the United Provinces Town Improvement Act (VIII of 1919) as extended to Delhi, the market value of property intended to be acquired under the Serai Purani Idgah Slum Clearance and Development Scheme has been fixed? If not, why not, and by what date will it be fixed?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: The scheme referred to has not yet been approved by the Delhi Improvement Trust and the question of acquisition of land has not yet arisen

SERAI PURANI IDGAH SLUM CLEARANCE AND DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

154. *Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee: (a) Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state whether the Serai Purani Idgah Slum Clearance and Development Scheme has been submitted to Government for sanction under section 40 of the United Provinces Town Improvement Act (VIII of 1919)as extended to Delhi?

(b) If the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, when will the Committee for hearing objections of persons concerned be appointed by the Delhi Improvement Trust?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise

DEARTH OF ACCOMMODATION IN DELHI AND NEW DELHI

155. *Sir Hassan Suhrawardy: (a) Is the Honourable the Labour Member aware that, in spite of the cessation of hostilities, there is still a great dearth of accommodation in Delhi and New Delhi?

(b) Is he aware that, in spite of the promulgation of the New Delhi Rent Control Order and the Delhi Rent Control Ordinance, landlords are still harassing tenants and taking advantage of every possible loophole in the law?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of keeping the aforesaid enactments in force until normal conditions prevail at least and until this Assembly enacts some law to regulate the relations between landlords and tenants in the Delhi Province?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes.

(b) I have not received any complaints recently.

(c) It is the intention of the Government of India that rents should continue to be controlled in New Delhi and Delhi until normal conditions return.

INDIA'S RELIEF CONTRIBUTION TO U N. R. R. A.

156. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) the amount of money contributed by India towards relief by the UNRRA during the year 1945-1946;

(b) what porportion that amount bears to the total contribution to the organisation;

(c) what proportion of the total has so far been spent in relief in Europe and in Asia;

(d) the total strength of the staff of the UNRRA;

(e) how many Indian nationals Hindus, Muslims or Christians and others are on the staff of the organisation and what pay or allowances they draw;

(f) if he proposes to place on the table the latest report of the UNRRA;

(g) whether any portion of the funds of the UNRRA is spent for the benefit of the German or Italian or other European people, and

(h) whether any portion of the funds is or is proposed to be spent for the relief of the Japanese and other far eastern nations, like the Indo-Chinese and the Indonesians, who have suffered heavily in the recent fighting in Java and Indo-China, and in India which is affected by famine, if so, what the amount is?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b) India's total contribution to UNRRA amounts to Rs 8 crores This was approximately 1 8 per cent of the total contributions made, authorised or promised to UNRRA up to the 30th September 1945

(c) Up to the 30th September 1945, approximately 63 per cent of the total amount contributed to UNRRA by all member Governments was spent in Europe and 0 02 per cent was spent in Asia As far as our information goes, only token aid could be given to China during this period as war in the Far East ended later than in Europe But in 1946, relief supplies worth 879 million dollars are proposed to be sent to China

(d) The total strength of the UNRRA staff excluding voluntary and local service personnel is 9,081

(e) A statement is laid on the table

(f) Five copies of the latest published Report of the Director General to the UNRRA Council have been placed in the Library

(g) UNRRA assistance is being given to the following European countries, *viz* Poland, Czechoslovakia, Ukraine, Albania, Yugoslavia, Greece and to a limited extent Italy

(h) The Government of India have no information whether UNRRA proposes to extend its activities to Japan, Indo-China or Indonesia No assistance was asked for from UNRRA in respect of India

List of Indian Personnel employed by U N R R A

Name	Designation	Salary	Religion
Cassim A Soorma*	Recruiting Officer and Officer on Special Duty, *New Delhi*	$ 6,550 per annum	Muslim
S N Gupta	Recently recruited by UNRRA Headquarters in Washington, DC.		Christian
G. V Ganeshan	Accountant, Washington, DC.	$ 4,250 per annum.	Hindu
Mrs G Johnstone	Secretary to Liaison Officer, New Delhi	Rs 400 per mensem.	Christian
V. Ramamurthy	Secretary to Recruiting Officer, New Delhi.	Rs. 400 per mensem.	Hindu
K. N. Viswanath	Procurement Recorder, New Delhi.	Rs. 400 per mensem.	Hindu
S. N. Jaitley	General Clerk, New Delhi	Rs. 250 per mensem.	Hindu
Motilal Mehra	Office Assistant, New Delhi	Rs. 50 per mensem.	Hindu
Bishan Das	Office Bearer, New Delhi	Rs. 40 per mensem.	Hindu
Rafeeq Ahmed	Office Bearer, New Delhi	Rs. 40 per mensem.	Muslim

* Indian domiciled in Burma.

APPOINTMENT OF LT.-COL. FRASER AS DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

157. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to an article from a special correspondent in the *Hindustan Times* of the 27th October, 1945, regarding the appointment of one Lt.-Col. D. M Fraser as the Director of Public Health Services,

(b) if the appointment has already been filled and if so, whether applications were called for through the Federal Public Service Commission or otherwise, and scrutinised by the proper authorities;

(c) the outstanding qualifications of Col Fraser which led to his selection and whether he had any training or experience in Public Health Services,

(d) whether the claims of suitable Indians were considered before this appointment was made;

(e) the number of suitable Indian applicants with their academic qualifications and professional experience, and

(f) whether the claims of Indian officers senior to him in rank or service were considered and superseded, if so, on what grounds?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) Yes

(b) The appointment has been filled As the post has been filled by the appointment of an officer of the Indian Medical Service, no applications were called for

(c) The officer selected has a distinguished record of service in military and civil employment He has no experience in public health service except when in charge of the combined medical relief and hygiene military organisation which operated in Bengal during 1943 and 1944

(d) and (f) The suitability of all available officers of the Indian Medical Service within the range of selection was considered As the appointment was filled purely by selection no question of supersession of any officer arises.

(e) As already stated in the reply to part (b) no applications were called for

MANUFACTURE OF TRACTORS AND FERTILIZERS.

158. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state

(a) the number of tractors that have been purchased by the Government of India, the countries from which they were purchased, the cost at which they were purchased for the past two years, and how they have been distributed by the provinces,

(b) if any tractor is manufactured in India and if not whether any attempt was made to place orders with Tatas or any other firm of manufacturers,

(c) if any factory or factories have been opened in India for the manufacture of fertilisers within the past two years, if so, the places and their number in each province,

(d) whether any fertilisers are manufactured in India and if so, their names; and

(e) the additional area cultivated under rice in India as a whole and Madras in particular, and the facilities provided by Government in their 'Grow More Foodgrains' campaign in the past two years?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) 102 Crawler tractors of the total value of 352,500 dollars have been procured from the U S A during the past two years These tractors were obtained under Lease-Lend and cash payment to an extent of 43,800 dollars only has to be made for the tractors which were outstanding against Lease-Lend contracts before declaration of V-J Day Eight of these tractors have not yet been shipped from the U S A. 19 arrived recently and have not yet been distributed A statement showing the distribution of the remaining 75 tractors is laid on the table.

(b) No. It was not practicable to start tractor manufacture in India during the war.

(c) So far as is known, a pilot plant for the production of superphosphates has been erected in Delhi province and another plant for the production of sulphate of ammonia is under erection in Travancore. Further information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course

(d) The following fertilisers are being manufactured in India (1) Sulphate of Ammonia, (2) Superphosphate, (3) Bone Meal, (4) Potassium nitrate, and (5) Muriate of potash

(e) The average acreage under rice during the two years 1943-44 and 1944-45 was 80 94 million acres as compared with 74 11 million acres the corresponding average of the preceding quinquennium, thus representing an additional area of 6 83 million acres The corresponding figures for Madras are 10 81 million acres during the year 1943-44 and 1944-45 as compared with 10·21 million acres during the preceding quinquennium, this represents an additional area of six hundred thousand acres

As regards the latter part of the question, the Central Government have given loans and grants to Provincial Governments for financing schemes relating to (i) irrigation, (ii) land reclamation and improvement, (iii) distribution of manures and fertilisers and improved seeds at concession rates, (iv) seed multiplication, (v) compost making and (vi) bonus to cultivators for diverting area from non-food crops to food crops Arrangements were also made for the import of chemical fertilisers and agricultural machinery from abroad and assistance was given to Provincial Governments in securing (i) iron and steel for the manufacture of agricultural implements, (ii) coal for the manufacture of bricks for wells and (iii) cement for the construction of wells

A statement showing the distribution of 75 tractors

Allottee	Number of tractors
Baluchistan Administration	6
Bihar Government	5
Bombay Government	38
Madras Government	4
Sind Government	1
United Provinces Government	6
Army Authorities (Q M. G)	4
Imperial Agricultural Research Institute	2
Baroda State	2
Bundi State	1
Mysore State	2
Reserved for Central Tractor Station	4
Total	75

FAMINE CONDITION IN MADRAS DISTRICTS

159. *Sri R. Benkatasubba Reddiar: (a) Is the Food Secretary aware that the whole of South India and West India had no seasonal rains and that famine conditions are prevailing in Chittoor, other Royalaseema districts and almost in all the southern districts of Madras Presidency? Will he please state the percentage of yield of foodgrains expected this year in those areas?

(b) Are Government aware that the districts of Royalaseema are constantly affected by famine? If so, have Government taken any steps or afforded any facilities for irrigation and cultivation by this or provincial Governments?

(c) What is the amount standing to the credit of the Central Famine Relief Fund?

(d) Do Government propose to send adequate contribution to the famine stricken area in the Madras Presidency?

(e) What parts of this country are expected to be affected by famine or unfavourable conditions this year and what steps are proposed to be taken for relief in those areas?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Government are aware of the failure of monsoon in South and West India and of the difficult food position prevailing in the districts of Madras mentioned by the Honourable Member. The yield of foodgrains in these areas is likely to be 10 to 50 per cent. below normal

(b) Yes, Sir

The Central Government have sanctioned grants to the extent of Rs 1,27,700 for 11 schemes in Anantapur circle for providing irrigation facilities

In addition, the Madras Government have taken up two irrigation schemes in Kurnool district

(c) There is no Central Famine Relief Fund

(d) Does not arise

(e) Foodgrains shortage is likely to arise in the Southern Districts of Bombay, Madras, Mysore, the Deccan States and the Western India States. The measures proposed by the Government of India to cope with these shortages were described by the Honourable the Food Member in the recent Food debate in the House

House Permit taken by Mr. Pather under Pegging Act

160. ***Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr Pather in Natal has taken a permit, under the Pegging Act, to acquire and occupy a house which is already occupied by a white person and that he has thereafter taken legal action to get the house vacated from its white occupant to occupy it himself?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, is it a fact that Mr. Pather has not yet been able to get possession of that house in spite of the legal remedy sought by him?

(c) Are Government aware that a section of the white community is determined to set fire to that building if the present occupant is ejected by the court and Mr. Pather takes up residence in it?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) and (b). Mr Pather has obtained a permit under the Pegging Act to occupy a house in Durban which is presumably occupied by a European at present He has not however taken any legal action to get it vacated He has not yet been able to get possession of the house.

(c) Government have no information except that at an open air protest meeting of the Europeans to demonstrate against the Minister's refusal to rescind the permit, members of the audience remarked that they would take steps to prevent Mr. Pather from occupying the house

Economic Sanctions against South Africa

161. ***Seth Govind Das:** Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department please state whether Government propose to enforce economic sanctions against South Africa and also call back the High Commissioner for India from South Africa as a protest against the statement of the South African Premier made in the South African Parliament, while introducing the commonly called 'Freezing Bill' and also against the policy of racial Fascism initiated by him?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I would refer the Honourable Member to the debate that took place in the House on the 4th February, on the adjournment motion on the subject

Freezing Act *vis a vis* Pegging Act

162. ***Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department please state if it is a fact that under the Pegging Act immovable property in South Africa could be acquired and occupied by Indians on taking necessary permits? If so, will he lay on the table a statement showing the names of the persons who have acquired and occupied immovable properties in Natal since the enactment of the Pegging Act?

(b) What difference will there be between the Pegging Act and the so-called Freezing Act which is sought to be introduced by Field Marshal Smuts in South Africa, and will this Freezing Act be a permanent Act or a temporary measure like the Pegging Act?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative The information wanted in the second part is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House when received

(b) Government have no official information yet about the precise provisions of the proposed bill I would however invite the Honourable Member's attention to the debate which took place in the House on the 4th February 1946, on the subject.

ENFRANCHISEMENT OF INDIANS IN NATAL AND TRANSVAAL

163. ***Seth Govind Das:** Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department please state whether there is any possibility of Indians in Natal and Transvaal being enfranchised for Local Self-Government and parliamentary institutions? If so, will this franchise be direct or indirect?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Government of India have had un-official information that the Union Government have been considering certain proposals for granting Indians a limited franchise on a communal roll Such franchise is intended to give Indians the right to elect Europeans to represent them in local bodies and provincial and Union legislatures. I am unable to say whether these proposals will materialise.

RECIPROCITY MEASURES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

164 ***Seth Govind Das:** Will the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department please state what reciprocity measures have been taken so far against the South African whites visiting and staying in India, and the reasons for failure of the Government of India to segregate them for residence and travelling?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Copies of all the three sets of rules made under the Reciprocity Act are laid on the table of the House Briefly, all persons of non-Indian origin domiciled in South Africa have been declared "Prohibited immigrants" and as such are not allowed to enter, and reside in, British India without obtaining exemptions or entry permits On the same principles on which such permits are granted to Indians in South Africa, only temporary entry permits are granted for short periods not exceeding one year at a time on payment of a fee of Rs 15 and of a security deposit not exceeding Rs 2,500. Ordinarily, a security deposit of Rs 600 is actually levied

Persons of non-Indian origin domiciled in the Natal and Transvaal provinces cannot, without a permit, acquire any property or occupy any land or premises in India which were not occupied by any South African of that class before the 1st December 1944

A person of non-Indian origin domiciled anywhere in the Union except the Cape Province is debarred from the franchise of a local body in India, unless he had been on the electoral roll of that body before the commencement of the rules.

The number of South Africans residing and travelling in India is so small that it has not been practicable so far to devise measures for segragating them for purposes of residence and travelling

DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 1st December 1944

No F 170-2/43-*O S* (4).—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Reciprocity Act, 1943 (No IX of 1943) and in pursuance of the direction made in respect of persons domiciled in the Union of South Africa under section 3 of the said Act in the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Commonwealth Relations No F. 170-2/43-O S (1), dated the 3rd November 1944, the Central Government is pleased to make the following Rules, namely :—

1 *Short title and commencement*.—(1) These Rules may be called the Reciprocity (South Africa) Rules, 1944

(2) They shall come into force at once

2 *Definitions*—In these Rules, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) "the Act" means the Reciprocity Act, 1943

(b) "prohibited immigrant" means any person not being of Indian origin who is domiciled in the Union of South Africa, other than—

(i) any person duly appointed by His Majesty or by the Government of the Union of South Africa to exercise diplomatic functions anywhere or to work as Trade Commissioner in India, and the family, staff and servants of such person,

(ii) any officer or member of the crew of any vessel for the time being used commercially for the carriage of passengers or cargo, while employed in his duties as such,

(iii) any member of the Armed Forces of His Majesty and the wife and legitimate children of such member, until the expiry of six months after the termination of the present hostilities;

(iv) any person born in British India before the commencement of the Act;

(v) any person born anywhere after the commencement of the Act whose parents were at the time of his birth domiciled in British India, provided that such person if born outside British India is brought into British India within three years from the date of his birth,

(vi) the wife and legitimate children, who have been proved to be so to the satisfaction of the Immigration Commissioner or Officer concerned, of any person described in sub-clause (iv) or sub clause (v), provided that any such child seeking to enter British India after the commencement of these Rules shall be accompanied by his mother, unless she is deceased or already resident in British India at the time,

(c) "vessel" includes aircraft

3 *Bar on entry into British India*—Save as provided in these Rules no prohibited immigrant shall enter British India

4 *Deportation*—The Central Government may by order in writing direct any prohibited immigrant for the time being resident in British India to leave British India within such time as may be specified in the order.

5 *Licence to trade restricted*—(1) Except with the permission in writing previously obtained of the Central Government, no prohibited immigrant may obtain any licence or permit to trade required by or under any law for the time being in force

(2) Any such licence or permit obtained before the commencement of these Rules shall on the expiry of three months from the commencement of these Rules becomes void unless within that period permission in respect thereof has been obtained under sub-rule (1)

6 *Immigration Commissioners and Immigration Officers*—(1) The Central Government may appoint such persons as it thinks fit to be Immigration Commissioners or Immigration Officers for the purposes of these Rules within such local limits as it may respectively assign to them

(2) An Immigration Commissioner shall have general control over all Immigration Officers within the local limits of his jurisdiction, and may exercise all the powers of an Immigration Officer under these Rules He shall be officially subordinate to such authority as the Central Government may specify in this behalf.

(3) Every Immigration Commissioner and Immigration Officer shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of the Indian Penal Code

7 *Procedure at ports in relation to prohibited immigrants*—(1) If after inspection of the returns required under the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939, or otherwise, and after giving the person concerned a reasonable opportunity of representing that he is not a prohibited immigrant, the Immigration Officer is of opinion that any person is a prohibited immigrant, he may, in lieu of proceeding against such person for a contravention of rule 3, by order in writing—

(a) require such person to leave British India by the same vessel on which he arrived, and not to leave the vessel (or in the case of arrival by aircraft, the precincts of the airport) pending the departure of the vessel, or

(b) if it appears to the Immigration Officer on the representation of the master of the vessel that the person should be required to depart from British India otherwise than on the vessel on which he arrived, and if the master of the vessel deposits such sum not exceeding fifteen hundred rupees as the Immigration Officer considers necessary for covering the expenses incurred in maintaining the person and removing him from British India, cause the person to be removed in custody from the vessel and detained in such place as may be convenient pending the departure of a suitable vessel on which he may be placed

Provided that if the person undertakes in writing to comply with such conditions as the Immigration Officer may think fit to impose (which shall include reporting to the Immigration Officer in person at least once in every twenty-four hours), and if the Immigration Officer is satisfied that the person has sufficient means at his immediate disposal to meet the expense of his maintenance and accommodation, the Immigration Officer may furnish the person with a permit authorising him to make his own arrangements for his stay in the port pending the departure of the vessel on which he is to leave British [illegible]

(2) On taking any action under sub-rule (1), the Immigration Officer shall inform the person in writing of his rights of appeal under sub-rule (1) of rule 11 and shall also furnish the master of the vessel with a copy of his order

8 *Procedure in doubtful cases*—(1) If any person on arrival in British India fails to satisfy the Immigration Officer that he is not a prohibited Immigrant, and if such person deposits such sum not exceeding fifteen hundred rupees as the Immigration Officer may require as security for the observance of the hereinafter mentioned conditions (which sum such person shall agree shall be liable to be forfeited to His Majesty if the said person fails to observe any of the said conditions), the Immigration Officer may, in lieu of proceeding under rule 7, grant such person a permit in Form A permitting him to enter British India and to remain therein for such period not exceeding one year as may be specified in the permit, subject to observance of the conditions set out in the permit

(2) Upon issuing a permit under sub-rule (1), the Immigration Officer shall make such further enquiries as he may consider necessary and shall, as soon as possible and in any event before the expiry of the period specified in the permit, decide whether or not the said person is a prohibited immigrant He shall forthwith inform the person of such decision

(3) If such decision is to the effect that the person is prohibited immigrant, Immigration Officer shall also inform him in writing of his rights of appeal under sub rule (1) of rule 11 or if such decision is to the effect that the person is not a prohibited immigrant the Immigration Officer shall forthwith issue to the said person a declaration to such effect in Form B and shall return the deposit made in accordance with sub-rule (1)

(4) For the purposes of determining domicile in British India, the period spent in British India, under a permit issued under sub-rule (1) in respect of which a declaration in Form B is subsequently issued shall not be deemed to have been a conditional or temporary residence

9 *Saving as to mistake, etc*—(1) No prohibited immigrant shall be exempt from the provisions of these Rules or be allowed to remain in British India by reason only that he had not been informed that he might not enter or remain in British India, or that he had been allowed to enter or remain through oversight or mistake or owing to the fact having been undiscovered that he was a prohibited immigrant

(2) If it appears to the Immigration Commissioner that a declaration in Form B has by any such reason as aforesaid been erroneously issued to any person, he may, after giving such person a reasonable opportunity of being heard, cancel the declaration and order the person to surrender it

10 *Appellate Authorities*—The Central Government may by notification in the official Gazette constitute in such manner as it may think fit Appellate Authorities for the purposes of these Rules within such local limits as may be specified in the notification

11 *Appeals*—(1) Every person against whom any order is passed by the Immigration Commissioner or the Immigration Officer may appeal in writing through the Immigration Commissioner or Immigration Officer, as the case may be, to the Appellate Authority having jurisdiction within three clear days of the order appealed against or in respect of an order passed under clause (a) of sub rule (1) of rule 7, before the departure of the vessel on which the appellant arrived, whichever is earlier

Provided that the presentation of an appeal shall not authorise a person to remain in British India in contravention of the order appealed against unless the appellant deposits with the Immigration Officer such sum not exceeding one thousand rupees as the Immigration Officer may consider necessary to meet the expenses of the appellant's maintenance in British India during the pendency of the appeal and of his possible removal from British India thereafter

(2) Save that the Central Government may review any order of the Appellate Authority which has the effect of causing the removal of any person from British India the decision of the Appellate Authority shall be final

(3) Save as provided in this rule no appeal application for revision or review shall lie in respect of any order passed under these rules.

12 *Penalties*—Whoever—

(a) contravenes the provisions of any of these Rules or of any order made or condition imposed thereunder, or

(b) escapes from any custody or detention in which he is placed under these Rules, or

(c) attempts to commit, or by any act or omission abets or otherwise facilitates the commission of, any offence specified in clause (a) or clause (b) shall be punishable with fine not exceeding one thousand rupees

13 *Jurisdiction*—No Court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class shall try any offence punishable under these Rules, and no Court shall take cognisance of any such offence except upon the complaint of an Immigration Officer

14 *Exemptions*—The Central Government may, if it thinks fit,—

(a) by order exempt any person from all or any of the provisions of these Rules;

(b) authorise the issue of a temporary permit in Form C on payment of a fee of Rs 15 to any prohibited immigrant to enter and reside in or to remain in British India or in any specified part thereof or place therein on any or all conditions laid down in the permit, after

requiring such person to deposit a sum not exceeding two thousand and five hundred rupees as security for the observance of the conditions,"

Provided that the period of validity of such permit shall not exceed one year, though the permit may from time to time be renewed by order of the Central Government for periods not exceeding one year at any one time

Provided further that the residence of a prohibited immigrant in British India authorised or permitted under this rule shall not be taken into account in determining whether or not he has acquired a domicile in British India

15. *Temporary permits for transit.*—If the Immigration Commissioner/Officer is satisfied that a prohibited immigrant has entered British India only for the bonafide purpose of proceeding without interruption to some destination outside British India, he may grant to such prohibited immigrant a temporary permit in Form C on payment of a fee of Rs 15 to enter British India and remain therein for such period as may be necessary for that purpose, on any or all the conditions laid down in the permit, after requiring such person to deposit a sum not exceeding two thousand and five hundred rupees as security for the observance of the aforesaid conditions

16 *Certificates of identity*—(1) The Central Government may, if it thinks fit, authorise the Immigration Commissioner to issue a certificate of identity to any person lawfully resident in British India who, desiring to proceed to the Union of South Africa with the intention of returning therefrom, is for any reason apprehensive that he will be unable on returning to British India to prove that he is not a prohibited immigrant

(2) The High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa may, if he thinks fit, issue a certificate of identity to any person of Indian origin who, desiring to proceed to British India, is for any reason apprehensive that he will be unable on arrival in British India to prove that he is not a prohibited immigrant

(3) An application for a certificate of identity under this rule shall be made not less than thirty days before the applicant's departure, and where the application is under sub-rule (1) through the Immigration Commissioner

17 *Protection to persons acting under these Rules*—No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under these Rules

18 *Application of other laws not barred*—The provisions of these Rules shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, any other law for the time being in force

19 *Regulations*—The Central Government may make regulations not inconsistent with the Act or these Rules providing for the procedure to be observed by Appellate Tribunals and for such other incidental or supplementary matters connected with the purposes of these Rules as the Central Government may think expedient

FORM A

(To be prepared in duplicate and signed by the person to whom the permit is granted).

Whereas , having arrived at on $\frac{\text{sea}}{\text{aircraft}}$,

, has failed to satisfy me, $\frac{\text{Immigration Commissioner,}}{\text{Officer}}$ ..

, that he is not prohibited immigrant within the meaning of the Reciprocity (South Africa) Rules, 1944,

And whereas the said has deposited with me the sum of rupees as required by sub-rule (1) of rule 8 of the said Rules as security for his/her observance of the hereinafter stated conditions;

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by the said sub-rule, I hereby permit the said to enter British India and remain there subject to the hereinafter stated conditions until . .

Conditions

1. The said . shall, unless this permit is subsequently modified, removed himself/herself from British India not later than the date above mentioned

2. Upon failure to observe the above condition the above mentioned sum shall be forfeited to His Majesty, without prejudice to any punishment to which the said .... may be liable under rule 12 of the said Rules.

Date . . . . . .

$\frac{\text{Immigration Commissione.}}{\text{Officer}}$

I have read and understood and agree to abide by all the above stated conditions

(Signature) . ...

]a

Copy of rule 12

12 *Penalties* —Whoever—

(a) contravenes the provisions of any of these Rules or of any order made or condition imposed thereunder, or

(b) escapes from any custody or detention in which he is placed under these Rules, or

(c) attempts to commit, or by any act or omission abets or otherwise facilitates the commission, of any offence specified in clause (a) or clause (b) shall be punishable with fine not exceeding one thousand rupees

FORM B

Whereas was on . .. . and under Permit No permitted conditionally to enter and remain in British India;

And whereas as the result of further enquiries I . ...

Immigration Commissioner/Officer am satisfied that the said . . . .

is not a prohibited immigrant within the meaning of the Reciprocity (South Africa) Rules, 1944;

Now, therefore, in pursuance of sub-rule (3) of rule 8 of the said Rules, I hereby declare the said not to be a prohibited immigrant as aforesaid and absolve him/her from all obligation under the said permit

FORM C

Temporary Permit,

Fee Rs 15 (Rupees Fifteen only)

File No No

Sum deposited Rupees (Rs)

By

(The deposit hereon will be refunded on production of this permit when the holder leaves British India upon satisfactory evidence that the conditions and requirements imposed have been fulfilled)

Subject to the conditions and requirements stated hereunder, the holder a person of South African domicile of non-Indian origin is permitted to enter British India at for the purpose of

Immigration Commissioner/Officer.

Date of issue

Place of issue

This permit is issued subject to the following conditions and requirements and to the provisions of the Reciprocity (South Africa) Rules, 1944 —

(1) The holder of this permit shall intimate to the Immigration Commissioner/Officer his residential address in India and shall keep him informed of any subsequent change of address

(2) The holder of this permit shall leave British India on or before (Date) without expense to the Government

(3) The holder of this permit shall report to the at at intervals of and shall keep that officer fully advised of his whereabouts

(4) The holder of this permit shall give to the at least twenty-four hours' notice (excluding Sundays and public holidays) of his intended departure from British India

(5) The holder of this permit shall secure proper endorsement on the reverse hereof of t from an Immigration Commissioner/

(6) This permit will be held to be invalidated, and the deposit thereon shall be forfeited to the Government, if the permit-holder or the depositor named herein or other person concerned is shown to the Immigration Commissioner/Officer to have made a false declaration or false representations in applying for, or securing this permit

(7) Any breach of the above conditions will involve the forfeiture of the deposit lodged hereunder and will render the holder to be further dealt with according to rule 12 of the said Rules

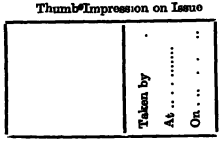
(8) The deposit lodged as security for this permit shall be regarded as continued and extended by an extension of the permit made, or authorized to be made by an Immigration Commissioner/Officer

I/We have read and understood and agree to abide by all the above stated conditions

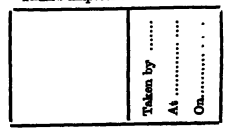
(Holder's signature)

(Depositor's signature)

Thumb Impression on Issue



Thumb Impression on Surrender



(Reverse of the permit)

Extensions

Final Disposition of Case

Immigration Commissioner/Officer

Date

RECEIPT

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the sum of (Rs
being the refund of the deposit made by me in respect of this permit

Signed

Receipt Stamp

Witness

Date

Place

DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 1st December 1944

No F 170-2/43 *O S* (5) —In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 6 of the Reciprocity Act 1943 (No IX of 1943) and in pursuance of the direction made in respect of persons domiciled in either of the Provinces of Natal and Transvaal of the Union of South Africa under section 3 of the said Act in the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Commonwealth Relations No F 170-2/43-O S (2), dated the 3rd November 1944, the Central Government is pleased to make the following Rules, namely :—

1 *Short title and commencement* —(1) These rules may be called the Reciprocity (Natal and the Transvaal) Rules, 1944

(2) They shall come into force at once

2 *Definitions* —In these Rules, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,

(a) "the Act" means the Reciprocity Act, 1943;

(b) "South African" means any person not being of Indian origin who is domiciled in either of the Provinces of Natal and the Transvaal of the Union of South Africa, other than—

(i) any person duly appointed by His Majesty or by the Government of the Union of South Africa to exercise diplomatic functions anywhere or otherwise to represent that Government in India, and the family, staff and servants of such person,

(ii) any officer or member of the crew of any vessel for the time being used commercially for the carriage of passengers or cargo, while employed in his duties as such;

(iii) any member of the Armed Forces of His Majesty and the wife and legitimate children of such member, until the expiry of six months after the termination of the present hostilities,

(iv) any person born in British India before the commencement of the Act,

(v) any person born anywhere after the commencement of the Act whose parents were at the time of his birth domiciled in British India, provided that such person if born outside British India is brought into British India within three years from the date of his birth;

(vi) the wife and legitimate children who have been proved to be so to the satisfaction of the Immigration Commissioner or Officer concerned of any person described in sub-clause (iv) or sub clause (v)

3 *Restrictions on agreements relating to immovable property*—(1) Except under the authority of a permit issued under rule 5, no person shall enter into any agreement whereby a South African acquires or purports to acquire any title in any immovable property in British India, or any share in, or any debenture of, any company which is the owner of any such property

(2) Without prejudice the provisions of rule 6, any agreement entered into in contravention of sub rule (1) shall be null and void

(3) Every agreement of the nature referred to in sub-rule (1) which is entered into on or after the 1st day of September 1943 and before the commencement of these Rules shall, on the expiry of three months after the commencement of these Rules become null and void unless in the meantime a permit has been issued under rule 5 in respect of such agreement

4 *Restrictions on occupation of land and premises*—(1) Except under the authority of a permit issued under rule 5, no South African shall hire or occupy any land or premises in British India unless such land was or premises were, immediately prior to the commencement of these Rules occupied only by persons, not being of Indian origin, who are domiciled anywhere in the Union of South Africa

(2) A lease of any land or premises entered into before the commencement of these Rules shall not authorise any South African to occupy such land or premises, as the case may be, unless the lessee under the lease was a South African and he was actually in occupation of the land or premises to which the lease relates immediately prior to the commencement of these Rules

(3) The Court convicting a South African for a contravention of sub-rule (1) may, without prejudice to the provisions of rule 6, make an order for the ejectment of the person convicted from the land or premises in respect of which the contravention took place, and any such order shall on application made in this behalf by an officer authorised for the purpose by the Central Government, be executable by a Civil Court having jurisdiction in the area within which the land is or premises are situated, as if it were a decree for the delivery of actual possession of the land or premises passed by the said Civil Court

5 *Permits*—Subject to such general or special conditions as the Central Government may think fit to impose, the Central Government or any officer appointed by it in this behalf may issue a permit authorising

(a) the entering into of an agreement of the nature referred to in sub-rule (1) of rule 3;
(b) the hiring or occupation of land or premises by a South African

6 *Penalties*—If any South African contravenes any of the provisions of these Rules, he shall be punishable with fine not exceeding one thousand rupees, and in the case of a continuing contravention, with a further fine at a rate not exceeding one hundred rupees for every day during which such contravention is continued

7 *Jurisdiction*—No court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class shall try any offence punishable under these Rules, and no court shall take cognisance of any such offence except upon the complaint of a police officer not below the rank of a Sub Inspector

A V PAI, Joint Secy.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 1st December 1944

No F 170-2/43-*O. S* (6)—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Reciprocity Act, 1943 (No IX of 1943), and in pursuance of the direction made in respect of persons domiciled in any of the Provinces of the Union of South Africa excepting the Cape Province under section 3 of the said Act in the notification of the Government of India, in the Department of Commonwealth Relations No F 170-2/43-O. S (5), dated the 3rd November 1944, the Central Government is pleased to make the following Rules

1 (1) These Rules may be called the Reciprocity (South Africa) (Local Franchise) Rules, 1944

(2) They shall come into force at once

2 In these Rules, "South African" means a person not being of Indian origin, who is domiciled anywhere in the Union of South Africa elsewhere than in the Cape Province, but until the expiry of six months after the termination of the present hostilities, excludes any such person who is a member of His Majesty's Forces

3 Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, no South African shall be eligible for election to any local authority or to vote in any such election, unless his name was entered on the electoral roll of such local authority immediately prior to the commencement of these Rules

A V PAI, Joint Secy.

GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE IN ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT'S ELECTION

165. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Leader of the House been drawn to the newspaper reports regarding the part played by him in the recent election of the President?

(b) Is it a fact that he had committed the Government without any previous consultations in the Executive Council?

(c) Do Government propose to take any steps to prevent the recurrence of such a situation again?

(d) Do Government also propose to consider the advisability of official members of the Assembly not participating in such elections?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I have seen a number of press reports all of which are purely conjectural and most of which are inaccurate

(b) In accordance with established practice I must decline to give any information with reference to the process by which a decision of Government was reached

(c) Does not arise

(d) No.

STUDENTS STRIKE IN DELHI POLYTECHNIC

166. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to make a statement regarding the students strike in the Delhi Polytechnic?

Dr. John Sargent: While I regret as much as anyone the events which have led to the present strike at the Delhi Polytechnic, I welcome this opportunity of making a statement which will, I hope, help to clear the air in regard to this unfortunate incident and lead to a prompt settlement of the dispute. Since the issues involved are somewhat complicated and since I fear that an incomplete or indefinite statement by me at this stage would do more harm than good, I must ask, Sir, for your indulgence and that of this House if I reply to this question at greater length than is usually permitted I will, however, omit what seem to me to be minor issues and confine myself to what appear to be the main causes of complaint These fall under two heads (i) that since their inception the senior Departments of the Polytechnic have never been properly staffed, housed, or equipped and (ii) that the National Diplomas and Certificates for several of which the Polytechnic offers courses have not yet been recognised generally for the purpose of employment either in Industry or in Government Service

With regard to the former I do not think that anyone will charge me with trying to make out that our educational arrangements in this country are better than they actually are and I shall certainly not attempt to do so in the case of the Delhi Polytechnic In order, however, to make clear what were the ideas which led to the establishment of this institution and how far they have been realised and how far they have not, I am afraid I must inflict on this House a little past history When I came out to India in 1938, I was surprised to find that in Delhi, the Capital City and a large industrial Centre, there was no senior technical institution of any kind It seemed to me therefore an obvious place in which to try out under Indian conditions recent experiments which had proved their value in my own country. One of these was a Technical High School, the aim of which is to provide, under normal high school conditions, a type of all round but practical education which will encourage young people of ability to seek employment in Industry I do not think anyone has challenged the success of this experiment and as the Technical High School is not involved in the strike, I will not say any more about it Nor need I refer to the important part which the Polytechnic has played in training war technicians since this was not one of the objects for which it was founded Whether it was wise to proceed with the establishment of the senior departments in view of war-time difficulties in regard to staff, buildings and equipment, the nature, if not the extent, of which could be foreseen, is more open to doubt Here I must take full responsibility for having advised Government to proceed In this I was mainly influenced by the possibility of securing a competent Head for this new Institution and I

realised that in view of its experimental nature, it was unlikely that we should be able to find in India anyone with the requisite experience An attempt to do so through the Federal Public Service Commission resulted in failure I accordingly consulted Dr Abbott, formerly Chief Technical Inspector of the Board of Education in Great Britain, who visited India in 1936-37 at the invitation of the Central Government to advise in regard to developments in technical education and whose report is pretty well known in educational circles, and after making enquiries he informed me that owing to a combination of circumstances, into which I need not enter, a gentleman, who enjoyed a high reputation as the Principal of a Technical College in Great Britain, would be prepared to accept our post on terms which would not normally have attracted a man of his standing, I felt that the opportunity was too good to be missed

But although we were fortunate in securing a Principal, we were anything but fortunate in regard to the assistant staff Owing to the great demand during the war for people with good technical qualifications we failed to get suitable men to fill the key posts of the Polytechnic although we made repeated attempts through the Federal Public Service Commission and after each failure increased the salaries offered We only succeeded after a considerable interval in filling the Headships of the engineering, applied chemistry and architecture departments a few months ago, and it is fair to assume that the gentlemen in question had not had time to get hold of their Departments before this trouble started In addition to this, owing to the higher salaries offered in Industry and Departments directly connected with war production, it has been difficult to retain the services of competent teachers on the staff with the result that there have been frequent changes which have been detrimental to the efficiency of the Institution These staffing difficulties, regrettable as they have been, are not, I submit, evidence of negligence on the part of the authorities responsible for the Polytechnic The dearth of higher grade technologists at the present time is generally admitted Similarly with regard to buildings and equipment we have had the money but we have not been able to secure the necessary priorities in respect of many of the orders we have placed Here again I submit there has been no negligence on the part of Government and I can assure this House that when I do get money for educational development I do not surrender it without a real struggle I hope, however, that now the war is over, it will be possible to remedy all these defects before very long, and I am glad to say that the Government of India have approved in principle a comprehensive plan costing about Rs 80 lacs for providing the Polytechnic with its essential requirements in regard to buildings, equipment and staff. Provision has been made in next year's budget for beginning this development and by the time it is completed I anticipate that the Polytechnic will be recognised as the Technological Department of Delhi University

Now I must turn to what I believe to be the more immediate cause of dissatisfaction among the students and that is the non-recognition up to date for employment in Industry or in Government service of the All-India Diplomas and Certificates for which the Polytechnic provides courses Courses on these lines were first started in Great Britain after the last war the object being to ensure that technical instruction was really serving the needs of industry by directly associating representatives of industry and of professional associations with the drawing up of courses, the recognition of institutions, the supervision of examinations and the award of Diplomas and Certificates It took some years before the new qualifications were generally recognised but they are now highly regarded and are preferred in many quarters to University degrees awarded after similar periods of study No one will, I think, deny the potential value of courses of this type to India if they can be successfully established Before, however, such courses could even be started in this country a good deal of spade work was necessary as no machinery for this purpose was in existence. The first step was to set up an Association of Principals of Technical Institutions and the second was to create All-India Boards of Studies in the main branches of Technology. It is largely due to Mr Wood's initiative and energy that

there are now in being not only an Association of Principals of Technical Institutions, to which I believe all the Heads of the principal technical institutions in this country belong, but also fully representative All-India Boards of Studies in such main branches of technology as engineering, textiles, applied chemistry, architecture and commerce These Boards have drawn up all-India syllabuses in their respective subjects and have recognized a number of institutions as places for conducting the courses in connection therewith I understand that in most cases the Boards have already applied to the principal industrial and professional bodies as well as to Departments of the Central and Provincial Governments for recognition of their Diplomas but except in a few instances replies have not yet been received I am in communication with the Chairman of the Boards to see if I can help in any way to expedite recognition, and the other day I had what I regard as a satisfactory talk with the Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission in this connection. He told me that if any body of standing represented to his Commission that the qualifications awarded by it were equivalent to those already accepted for eligibility for a post under Government, his Commission would be unlikely to refuse such an application It is also reasonable to assume that recognition when and where granted will be retrospective Here, however, I must try to make two points clear The bodies responsible for securing recognition are the All-India Boards For Government to intervene officially, particularly in the interest of one of their own institutions, would not only be contrary to the whole idea of the Diploma courses but would also be fatal to their success. The second point is that the primary object of these courses is to provide well trained recruits for Industry rather than Government service and that employers in this country as elsewhere will not be satisfied with paper qualifications however impressive but will want to be sure that the holders of these qualifications can do a job of work as well as or better than the employees that they have previously recruited

Lastly, a word about the present position of the Polytechnic in relation to these All-India courses It has been recognised for Engineering, Applied Chemistry and Commerce The first batch of students have just taken their passing out examination in Engineering and Applied Chemistry and the results were only declared in December, they will not be eligible for their actual Diplomas until they have been a year at work The Diploma students in Commerce have not yet completed their course The Polytechnic was to have been inspected last week on behalf of the Architectural Board but owing to the strike the inspection had to be postponed It has not yet applied for recognition for Textiles as it has not so far been possible to obtain the necessary machinery

I have every sympathy with the legitimate anxieties of students on the threshold of their careers and shall, as I have said, do what I can to remove them but if the facts I have stated are correct, as I believe them to be, I cannot help feeling that this strike is premature and that it will do nothing to enhance the reputation of the Polytechnic in directions likely to be useful to the students themselves I regret very much that they should have taken this drastic step without first seeking the advice and help either of the Honourable Member in charge of Education or myself Neither of us can, I think, be fairly charged with any lack of sympathy with the younger generation

INVIDIOUS TREATMENT TO INDIAN STUDENTS PROCEEDING ABROAD

167. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Has the attention of the Education Secretary been drawn to the newspaper reports of invidious treatment meted out on board ship to the Indian students proceeding abroad? If so, what steps, if any have been taken to prevent a repetition of the same?

Dr. John Sargent: Yes, Sir, there has been only one incident so far as I am aware and I dealt with that in my reply to part (c) of Starred question No. 14, on 5th February, 1946 This occurred when some students refused to embark on a troopship, the 'Georgie', in October 1945, because they did not consider satisfactory the travel conditions on board There was no invidious

treatment of Indian Students as the conditions were exactly the same for all male passengers under 35

This incident was very fully investigated at the time and as the result of the steps then taken to explain to all future passengers the exact nature of troop-deck accommodation there have been no further incidents

NON-OFFICIAL CHAIRMAN FOR MUNICIPALITIES AND DISTRICT BOARDS IN CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS

168. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Health Secretary please state

(a) whether he is aware of the extreme public dissatisfaction against the continuance of the official chairman in the Delhi and Ajmer Municipalities, and

(b) whether he proposes to consider the advisability of taking necessary steps in this session to provide for the election of a non-official Chairman in all the Municipalities and District Boards in the Centrally Administered Areas?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) The Chairman of the Ajmer Municipal Committee is not an official As regards Delhi the Government are aware that a section of the public is not in favour of continuance of the present arrangement

(b) The Government will consider the matter

CURTAILMENT OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IN AJMER-MERWARA

169. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Is the Health Secretary aware that street lighting hours in Ajmer were reduced as a War measure, that there is no light in the streets almost throughout the night, causing considerable inconvenience to the public in the town, and that there is great resentment against this restriction?

(b) Are Government aware that in the town of Beawar also the supply of electricity to private consumers has been curtailed from 6 A M to 12 Noon?

(c) Do Government propose to instruct the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara to remove these restrictions now that the war is over?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) and (b) Yes, the street lighting hours were curtailed in order to reduce as far as possible the consumption of fuel oil and wear and tear of machinery

(c) The Chief Commissioner already has under examination the possibility of removing the restrictions

REPORT OF INDIAN PHARMACOPOEIAL LIST COMMITTEE

170. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state whether Government have received the report of the Indian Pharmacopoeial List Committee? If so, when do they intend to adopt the Indian Pharmacopoeial List as official?

(b) Is it the intention of Government to wait for the publication of the new edition of the British Pharmacopoeia before taking any action on the Indian Pharmacopoeial List?

(c) Do Government know that many items included in the Indian Pharmacopoeial List might be recognised by the British Pharmacopoeia in their new edition and in that case, the Indian Pharmacopoeial List will have to be again revised, thus causing a delay of several months or years for adopting it as official?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) The report of the Indian Pharmacopoeial List Committee has not yet been received by the Government The Committee's report has been submitted by the Committee to the Drugs Technical Advisory Board and is at present being printed

(b) and (c) The action to be taken on the report will be considered when it is received

CENTRAL DRUGS CONTROL LABORATORY

171. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Health Secretary please state when Government intend to enforce the Drugs Rules, 1945, and the Drugs Act, 1940?

(b) What action do Government intend to take regarding the formation of the Central Drugs Control Laboratory which would be necessary for the enforcement of the Act?

(c) Are Government aware that the work of the Central Drugs Control Laboratory is of a highly technical nature and only people experienced and qualified in testing and analysis of drugs are the only people fit to be employed in the said laboratory? Do Government propose to see that people superannuated or people out of touch with scientific work are not put in charge of any sections in the laboratory?

(d) Is it a fact that some members of the staff of the Central Drugs Control Laboratory who had joined the Army are now joining the Laboratory again, though they have gone entirely out of touch with the testing and analysis of drugs?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) The Provincial Governments have been asked for their views on the date from which the Drugs Act and Rules should be enforced and a decision will be taken when their replies are received

(b) The Central Drugs Laboratory will be constituted before the Drugs Act and Rules are brought into force The functions of the Central Drugs Laboratory will be performed by the existing institution known as the Biochemical Standardisation Laboratory

(c) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative As regards the second part only persons competent to discharge the duties required of them will be employed in the Laboratory

(d) The Central Drugs Laboratory has not yet been constituted The existing organisation is the Biochemical Standardisation Laboratory One member of the staff of that Laboratory was called up for military service and on demobilisation he will revert to the Laboratory

BRITISH AND NON-INDIAN PUBLIC UTILITY CONCERNS

172. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the number of public utility concerns owned by British and other non-Indian interests in India, indicating the amount of the capital involved in such concerns, and the policy of Government in the matter of acquiring these concerns on behalf of the State or Municipal or other statutory bodies in India?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The question will be answered by the Honourable Member in charge of the Planning and Development on the 18th February, 1946

OPERATION OF SCHEME FOR TRAINING OF TECHNICIANS ABROAD

173. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a comprehensive statement regarding the operation of the scheme for sending technicians already employed in Industries abroad for further training or for enlarging their industrial or professional experience, announced last year, giving particulars specially as regards the number of technicians who have already proceeded to the different countries, the different courses they are going to take up, the processes of selection of the said technicians, and the consideration governing such selection?

(b) How many applicants, if any, are yet to be sent from among those who have already been selected, how many if any, more technicians are likely to be sent out likewise in the current year, and in what subjects are these technicians likely to be trained and in which countries?

(c) What will be the estimated cost to the Central Government involved in the training of these technicians, and what will be the cost, if any, to the Provincial Governments concerned?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House

(b) 152 candidates have yet to be sent amongst those already selected Particulars of the training facilities required for each candidate have been sent to the authorities concerned Arrangements are made for sending the candidates as soon as intimation is received that the training facilities required by him will be available It is not possible at this stage to say how many more candidates over and above those already selected will be sent in the current year or the subjects in which they may be trained This will depend on the availability of training facilities abroad.

(c) Under the scheme the training and other expenses of the candidates are borne by the respective employers i.e., private industry, Central and Provincial Governments and the Indian States, as the case may be The scheme also provides for financial assistance from the Central Government to candidates from private industry where the training is in a new industry or an industry whose development is considered desirable in the national interest and the employer is unable to bear the full cost

The cost to the Central Government during 1946-47 in respect of candidates selected from amongst Central Government employees and a few cases from private industry where such assistance may be given is estimated to be Rs 1,01,680

The estimated cost to the Provincial Governments in respect of candidates selected from amongst Provincial Government employees during 1946-47 will be about Rs 360,000

STATEMENT

So far 163 candidates have been selected for training under the Higher Technical Training Scheme in the following trades :—

Trade	No selected for training	Remarks	
Chemical Engineering	51	Manufacture of Starch Products	3
		Manufacture of heavy chemicals	14
		Dehydration and fermentation	6
		Manufacture of soaps, oils and paints	8
		Chemical Technology	6
		Manufacture of fine chemicals and pharmaceuticals	5
		Manufacture of utility products	5
		Sugar technology	2
Cement Industry	2		
Mechanical Engineering	23	Manufacture of Agricultural implements	1
		Manufacture of machine tools	9
		Manufacture of utility goods and instruments	2
		Manufacture of abrasive products	2
		Mechanical Engineering (general)	9
Metallurgy	10		
Radio Engineering	1		
Textiles Industry	19	Textile technology	16
		Manufacture of textile machinery	2
		Manufacture of woollen yarns	1
Plastics	8		
Glass Industry	4		
Plywood and furniture Industry	2		
Ship-building	4		
Marine Engineering	2		
Film Industry	1		
Methods of preservation of records	1		
Electrical Engineering	15	Manufacture of electrical equipment and appliances	11
		Generation, transmission and distribution of electrical energy	3
		Electrical Engineering (General)	1
Fuel Technology	1		
Ceramics	4		
Leather Industry	3		
Industrial application of X'rays	1		

Trade	No. selected for training	Remarks	
Civil Engineering	3	Sewrage and sewrage treatment .	2
		Construction of dams connected with Hydro-Electric schemes	1
Geology	3		
Jute Manufacture. . .	1		
Manufacture of Locomotives. .	1		
Total .	163		

45 out of these are for training in the U. S. A., 2 in Australia and 116 in the U. K. Training facilities have so far been arranged only for 18 in the U. S. A. and 22 in the U. K. as indicated below:—

United Kingdom	Trade	No.
	Mechanical Engineering	12
	Textile industry	2
	Metallurgy	2
	Ship-Building	2
	Fuel technology	1
	Geology	1
	Industry application of X'rays	1
	Steel manufacture	1
U. S. A. . .	Chemical Engineering	7
	Rubber industry	1
	Electrical Engineering	3
	Textile industry	1
	Metallurgy	4
	Mechanical Engineering.	1
	Plywood industry	1
	Methods of preservation of records	1

Three of the candidates for U S A for whom training facilities had been arranged dropped out and out of the remaining 15, 2 have sailed and 13 are awaiting passages In regard to the 22 candidates for whom training facilities have been arranged in the U K, 9 have left and 13 are awaiting passages No arrangements have yet been made for the candidates selected for training in Australia

The candidates are selected by a Selection Committee set up for the purpose. The minimum qualifications are, a degree in Science or Engineering or an equivalent diploma and three years industrial experience The main considerations governing the selections are the future needs of Government and private industry for post-war development and the theoretical qualifications and practical experience of the candidates

Operation of Scheme for Technical Education of Students Abroad

174. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Education Secretary be pleased to lay on the table of the House a comprehensive statement regarding the operation of the scheme for technical education of students abroad, dealt with in a press communique issued in January, 1945, giving particulars specially as regards the number of students who have already proceeded to the different countries, the different technical courses they are going to take up, the processes of selection of the said students, and the considerations governing such selections?

(b) How many applicants, if any, are yet to be sent from among those who have already been selected, how many if any, more students are likely to be sent out likewise in the current year, and in what subjects are these students likely to be trained and in which countries?

(c) What will be the estimated cost to the Central Government involved in the training of these students and what will be the cost, if any, to the Provincial Governments concerned?

Dr. John Sargent: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House

(b) Out of the students selected in 1945 by the Central and Provincial Governments for studies abroad, 299 students have yet to go In addition to these 299, it is proposed to send another batch of about 600 students this year The subjects for the study of which scholars are to be selected this year by the Central Government are given in the pamphlet "Information for students desiring to proceed overseas for Advanced Studies, 1946-47" copies of which are available in the Library of the House The bulk of the students will be sent to educational institutions in the United Kingdom and the United States of America and a few probably to Canada, Australia and New Zealand also

(c) The cost involved in 1946-47 on the scheme is expected not to exceed Rs 55 Lakhs so far as the Central Government are concerned The expenditure to be met by the Provincial Governments in respect of their students is not known yet

Statement

Particulars regarding the scheme for sending Indian Students abroad for advanced studies, the different technical courses they are to study, the process of selection of the scholars and the considerations governing such selections are contained in the Report of the Selection Board, Overseas Scholarships, 1945, copies of which are available in the Library of the House Up to the end of last month, 247 students had left for the United Kingdom and 159 for the United States of America These figures are inclusive of the students sent on behalf of Provincial Governments

RETURN OF BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS REMOVED FROM IMPERIAL LIBRARY, CALCUTTA

175. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to refer to the answer to starred question No 553 of the 28th February, 1945, and state whether the rare and valuable books and manuscripts belonging to the Imperial Library, which were removed from Calcutta as a precautionary measure during the war and deposited with the Aligarh Muslim University, have since been returned to the Library? If so, what is the total number of books and manuscripts that were thus removed, and in what condition are they at present? Has any of them been found to suffer from any damage or deterioration on any account since they were removed from the Library?

Dr. John Sargent: The books and manuscripts of the Imperial Library, Calcutta, which had been removed to the Aligarh Muslim University for safe custody in February, 1942, have since been brought back to Calcutta The boxes containing the books have not been unpacked as necessary shelf space is not available in the building in which the Library is now housed Orders for steel racks have been placed but the steel is not yet obtainable It is not possible to say whether any of these books have actually suffered damage in storage until a report which has been called for from the Librarian is received but since they were packed in air-tight, metal lined cases it is hoped that they will be found in good condition

GRANT OF IMPORT AND EXPORT LICENCES IN AJMER-MERWARA

176. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Is the Food Secretary aware that there has been a regular practice in the Control and Supplies Department, Ajmer-Merwara to grant import and export licences to such persons only, who will agree to pay huge amounts in the so-called Charity Funds irrespective of their antecedents in business? If so, do Government regard this practice just and fair?

(b) Will Government disclose as to how much amount has been collected from the public in this manner and how does it contemplate to utilise this amount?

(c) Will Government take the representatives of the public into confidence before finally deciding as to how and in what manner this amount is to be spent?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) No such practice exists.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST STUDENTS *RE* QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT

30. Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state the number of students against whom disciplinary action was taken in the Centrally Administered Areas in connection with the Quit India movement?

Dr. John Sargent: The information is being collected and will be sent to the Honourable Member

ACCOUNTS *RE* GORAKHPUR LABOUR IN COAL MINES

31. Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether all the expenditure incurred on account of the recruitment and employment of the Gorakhpur labour in coal mines has been regularly audited and has been found by audit to be entirely in order? Up to which date have such accounts been audited?

(b) What is the name and designation of the Officer in charge of the Labour Force and what is the name of his Secretary? What are the emoluments to which they are respectively entitled, and what is the extent of the financial authority of the Officer-in-charge?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) *First part* Yes, and the accounts have been reported to be in order

Second part Up to the end of the financial year 1944-45

(b) *First part* Mr H J Walsh, Deputy Director, Labour Supply (Coal) There is no Secretary attached to him

Second part His scale of pay is 1,925—50—2,075 He has been authorised to incur expenditure at an overall rate not exceeding Rs 60 per labourer per month, to cover the pay of labourers, pay of clerical, inferior and medical staff, cost of rations, and expenditure on T A and contingencies In all cases expenditure incurred must be in accordance with scales approved by Government.

EXPENDITURE ON GORAKHPUR LABOUR IN COAL MINES

32. Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state

(a) the amount so far spent on the Gorakhpur labour employed in coal mines;

(b) the amount realised so far from the owners of mines who employed the Gorakhpur labour,

(c) the number of members of the Gorakhpur labour force employed in (i) Railway-owned collieries, and (ii) collieries owned by public companies and individuals, and

(d) the names of those mines where the Gorakhpur labour has been employed?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Rs 1,91,05,886 up to the end of January 1946.

(b) Rs 22,52,811 actually recovered upto the end of December 1945. Rs 29,48,302 are still outstanding for the period up to end of December and estimated amount to be billed for January 1946 is Rs 16 lakhs

(c) Number employed in·

(i) Railway Collieries 7 per cent ;

(ii) Collieries owned by Public companies 83 per cent , and

(iii) Collieries owned by individuals 10 per cent Total labour force as on 19th January 1946—17,391

Greatest number employed in any one month—30,600

(d) A statement is placed on the table.

List of Mines

Surface

(1) Madhuband.
(2) Diamond Tisra.
(3) Model Jharia
(4) A G Tisra
(5) Lower Upper Jharia.
(6) Indian Jharia
(7) Bagdigi Kujama
(8) K P 's Dobari
(9) Bhalgora
(10) Ghanuyadih
(11) Bagchi's Dobari
(12) Pandalberra
(13) Khas Jharia Dobari.
(14) South Tisra
(15) East Bararee
16) Pure Joyrampur
(17) North Bararee
(18) G P C's Junagora
(19) Basudev 'A' Plot Colliery
(20) Pathardih Sudamdih.
(21) Pure Tasra.
(22) New Tasra
(23) Central Bhowra
(24) Bhowra
(25) Mohulboni
(26) East Ekra
(27) Busserya
(28) North Ekra
(29) Kankanee
(30) Sendra Bansjora
(31) Ekra Khas.
(32) Ekra Khas No 12 quarry
(33) Mudidih
(34) Tetulmari
(35) Tata's Sijua.
(36) Angarpathra
(37) Jharia Khas Angarpathra.
(38) Koludih
(39) Agardih
(40) North Damuda.
(41) Isabella
(42) Shampur
(43) Pure Laikdih.
(44) Sanctoria
(45) Chapui Khas
(46) Khas Jamchari
(47) Jote Dhemo
(48) Sirka
(49) Rehgarah.
(50) Junkunda.
(51) Jambad
(52) Dhansar
(53) Bright Kusunda
(54) North Bhuggatdih
(55) Godhur
(56) Pure Kustore
(57) Alkusa Nayadee
(58) Jairandih
(59) Swang
(60) Parbelia

Underground

(1) Parbelia
(2) Sodepur
(3) Seetalpur
(4) Banksmullah 11 & 12 pits
(5) Banksmulla 7 & 8 pits
(6) Damra
(7) Adjai II Colliery
(8) Sheebpur
(9) Chapui Khas
(10) S E Baraboni
(11) Digwadih
(12) Jitpur
(13) Pure Joyrampur
(14) Bhatdee
(15) Gaslitand.
(16) Standard
(17) Ekra Khas.
(18) Swang
(19) Jairandih
(20) Dhemo Main
(21) Model Jharia

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

EJECTION OF LABOURERS LIVING IN FUEL DEPOTS IN GOLE MARKET

12 Noon

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Secretary, Health Department please state if it is a fact that the New Delhi Municipality has recently passed orders ejecting the labourers employed in the fuel depots in the Gole Market for carrying fuel loads to customers' houses?

(b) What are the grounds for such ejection?

(c) Is it a fact that these labourers were being housed for the past fifteen years on the premises of these fuel depots in sheds covered with zinc sheets?

(d) Is it a fact that the New Delhi Municipality did not raise any objection till now for the labourers living on the premises of these fuel depots?

(e) Is it a fact that the fuel depot owners have made representations to the Municipality to allow them to construct permanent structures for the labourers to dwell on the premises either at their own expense or at the expense of the Municipality?

(f) Is it a fact that the purchasers of fuel at these Gole Market depots who comprise mostly of Secretariat employees are put to great hardship and inconvenience in carrying fuel to their quarters for lack of labourers?

(g) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of instructing the New Delhi Municipality to withdraw the order ejecting the labourers? If not, why not?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) and (b) It is a fact that the New Delhi Municipal Committee has removed certain unauthorised sheds, some covered with zinc sheeting and some with planking and cloth, which had been erected by the fuel depot owners and were occupied by labour employed at the depot and on carrying fuel loads

(c) and (d) The sheds have been in existence for a number of years but were not removed before because a proposal to remove the depots to another site was under consideration.

(e) The fuel depot owners did make such representations recently.

(f) Inconvenience to purchasers was caused for some days owing to labourers absenting themselves from the depots but I understand that little difficulty is being experienced now

(g) No The Municipal Committee has decided to construct proper quarters for labour employed at the depots Most of the labour employed on carrying fuel loads lives in Paharganj

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know how many labourers have been thrown out of their houses?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: I have not got the exact figures with me at present.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does it run to some thousands?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: No, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what arrangements have been made and how long it will take for the New Delhi Municipality to provide these labourers with quarters? May I know what temporary arrangements have been made for housing them?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: No temporary arrangements have been made. Labourers have been required to find accommodation elsewhere as in the case of labourers employed at the other fuel depots

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the Honourable Member or any officer in his Department has made any enquiries as to where they are being housed at present, or whether they are on the streets, living on house pials?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: They have to find accommodation elsewhere

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Surely it is the concern of the Government to know and to ascertain where these people are living . . . .

Mr. President: Order, order, what is the question?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not the responsibility of the Government to see that these labourers who have been evicted are also provided with temporary habitation, especially in this winter season?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: Sir, as far as my information goes, they have had no difficulty in finding accommodation.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know, if the New Delhi Municipality has been seriously thinking of providing quarters or building quarters for these labourers, what was the hurry in driving these people away from their sheds so early before actually quarters have been provided?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: I understand that quarters are to be built on the sites on which temporary structures were located before

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How long does he expect to finish these new quarters?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: It will take some months

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In the meanwhile, what are these labourers expected to do? Merely shift for themselves?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: Yes, they are now living in Paharganj.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are the Government satisfied with that position

Mr. President: Order, order Next question

STUDENTS' STRIKE IN DELHI POLYTECHNIC

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state as to the attitude of the Government in regard to the strike that is going on for a pretty long time in the Polytechnic Institute, Delhi?

Dr. John Sargent: While I regret as much as anyone the events which have led to the present strike at the Delhi Polytechnic, I welcome this opportunity of making a statement which will, I hope, help to clear the air in regard to this unfortunate incident and lead to a prompt settlement of the dispute. Since the issues involved are somewhat complicated and since I fear that an incomplete or indefinite statement by me at this stage would do more harm than good I must ask, Sir, for your indulgence and that of this House if I reply to this question at greater length than is usually permitted I will, however, omit what seem to me to be minor issues and confine myself to what appear to be the main causes of complaint These fall under two heads (i) that since their inception the senior Departments of the Polytechnic have never been properly staffed, housed, or equipped and (ii) that the National Diplomas and Certificates for several of which the Polytechnic offers courses have not yet been recognised generally for the purpose of employment either in Industry or in Government Service

With regard to the former I do not think that anyone will charge me with trying to make out that our educational arrangements in this country are better than they actually are and I shall certainly not attempt to do so in the case of the Delhi Polytechnic In order, however, to make clear what were the ideas which led to the establishment of this institution and how far they have been realised and how far they have not, I am afraid I must inflict on this House a little past history When I came out to India in 1938, I was surprised to find that in Delhi, the Capital City and a large industrial Centre, there was no senior technical institution of any kind It seemed to me therefore an obvious place in which to try out under Indian conditions recent experiments which had proved their value in my own country One of these was a Technical High School, the aim of which is to provide, under normal high school conditions, a type of all round but practical education which will encourage young people of ability to seek employment in Industry I do not think anyone has challenged the success of this experiment and as the Technical High School is not involved in the strike, I will not say any more about it Nor need I refer to the important part which the Polytechnic has played in training war technicians since this was not one of the objects for which it was founded Whether it was wise to proceed with the establishment of the senior departments in view of war-time difficulties in regard to staff, buildings and equipment, the nature, if not the extent, of which could be foreseen, is more open to doubt Here I must take full responsibility for having advised Government to proceed In this I was mainly influenced by the possibility of securing a competent Head for this new Institution and I realised that in view of its experimental nature, it was unlikely that we should be able to find in India anyone with the requisite experience An attempt to do so through the Federal Public Service Commission resulted in failure. I accordingly consulted Dr. Abbott, formerly Chief Technical Inspector of the Board of Education in Great Britain, who visited India in 1936-37 at the invitation of the Central Government to advise in regard to developments in technical education and whose report is pretty well known in educational circles When after making enquiries he informed me that owing to a combination of circumstances, into which I need not enter, a gentleman, who enjoyed a high reputation as the Principal of a Technical College in Great Britain, would be prepared to accept our post on terms which would not normally have attracted a man of his standing, I felt that the opportunity was too good to be missed

But although we were fortunate in securing a Principal, we were anything but fortunate in regard to the assistant staff Owing to the great demand during

the war for people with good technical qualifications we failed to get suitable men to fill the key posts of the Polytechnic although we made repeated attempts through the Federal Public Service Commission and after each failure increased the salaries offered We only succeeded after a considerable interval in filling the Headships of the engineering, applied chemistry and architecture departments a few months ago, and it is fair to assume that the gentlemen in question had not had time to get hold of their Departments before this trouble started. In addition to this, owing to the higher salaries offered in Industry and Departments directly connected with war production, it has been difficult to retain the services of competent teachers on the staff with the result that there have been frequent changes which have been detrimental to the efficiency of the Institution These staffing difficulties, regrettable as they have been, are not, I submit evidence of negligence on the part of the authorities responsible for the Polytechnic The dearth of higher grade technologists at the present time is generally admitted Similarly with regard to buildings and equipment we have had the money but we have not been able to secure the necessary priorities in respect of many of the orders we have placed Here again I submit there has been no negligence on the part of Government and I can assure this House that when I do get money for educational development I do not surrender it without a real struggle I hope, however, that now the war is over, it will be possible to remedy all these defects before very long, and I am glad to say that the Government of India have approved in principle a comprehensive plan costing about Rs 80 lacs for providing the Polytechnic with its essential requirements in regard to buildings, equipment and staff Provision has been made in next year's budget for beginning this development and by the time it is completed I anticipate that the Polytechnic will be recognised as the Technological Department of Delhi University

Now I must turn to what I believe to be the more immediate cause of dissatisfaction among the students and that is the non-recognition up to date for employment in Industry or in Government service of the All-India Diplomas and Certificates for which the Polytechnic provides courses Courses on these lines were first started in Great Britain after the last war, the object being to ensure that technical instruction was really serving the needs of industry by directly associating representatives of Industry and of professional associations with the drawing up of courses, the recognition of institutions, the supervision of examinations and the award of Diplomas and Certificates It took some years before the new qualifications were generally recognised but they are now highly regarded and are preferred in many quarters to University degrees awarded after similar periods of study No one will, I think, deny the potential value of courses of this type to India if they can be successfully established Before, however, such courses could even be started in this country a good deal of spade work was necessary as no machinery for this purpose was in existence The first step was to set up an Association of Principals of Technical Institutions and the second was to create All-India Boards of Studies in the main branches of Technology. It is largely due to Mr Wood's initiative and energy that there are now in being not only an Association of Principals of Technical Institutions, to which I believe all the Heads of the principal technical institutions in this country belong, but also fully representative All-India Boards of Studies in such main branches of technology as engineering, textiles, applied chemistry, architecture and commerce These Boards have drawn up all-India syllabuses in their respective subjects and have recognised a number of institutions as places for conducting the courses in connection therewith I understand that in most cases the Boards have already applied to the principal industrial and professional bodies as well as to Departments of the Central and Provincial Governments for recognition of their Diplomas but except in a few instances replies have not yet been received I am in communication with the Chairman of the Boards to see if I can help in any way to expedite recognition, and the other day I had what I regard as a satisfactory talk with the Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission in this connection He told me that provided the authorised bodies concerned recognise the diploma as equivalent to a recognised Engineering degree, the Commission

[Dr John Sargent]

will also accept it. It is also reasonable to assume that recognition when and where granted will be retrospective. Here, however, I must try to make two points clear The bodies responsible for securing recognition are the All-India Boards For Government to intervene officially, particularly in the interest of one of their own institutions, would not only be contrary to the whole idea of the Diploma courses but would also be fatal to their success The second point is that the primary object of these courses is to provide well trained recruits for Industry rather than Government service and that employers in this country as elsewhere will not be satisfied with paper qualifications however impressive but will want to be sure that the holders of these qualifications can do a job of work as well as or better than the employees that they have previously recruited. I hope, however, that the All-India Council for Technical Education which Government have set up to advise them and Provincial Governments in regard to developments in higher technical education may be able to help. The question of the relation of the Course to the All-India Boards of Studies has been placed on the agenda for the first meeting to be held next month.

Lastly, a word about the present position of the Polytechnic in relation to these All-India courses It has been recognised for Engineering, Applied Chemistry and Commerce The first batch of students have just taken their passing out examination in Engineering and Applied Chemistry and the results were only declared in December, they will not be eligible for their actual Diplomas until they have been a year at work The Diploma students in Commerce have not yet completed their course The Polytechnic was to have been inspected last week on behalf of the Architectural Board but owing to the strike the inspection had to be postponed It has not yet applied for recognition for Textiles as it has not so far been possible to obtain the necessary machinery

I have every sympathy with the legitimate anxieties of students of the threshhold of their careers and shall, as I have said, do what I can to remove them but if the facts I have stated are correct, as I believe them to be, I cannot help feeling that this strike is premature and that it will do nothing to enhance the reputation of the Polytechnic in directions likely to be useful to the students themselves I regret very much that they should have taken this drastic step without first seeking the advice and help either of the Honourable Member in charge of Education or myself Neither of us can, I think, be fairly charged with any lack of sympathy with the younger generation

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member is going to put through this vast programme for the expansion of the Polytechnic at the cost of some lakhs of rupees, is he prepared to consider the stoppage of all private and outside work on the part of the Principal and other members of the staff and thereby ensure that they will give their whole attention to the Polytechnic?

Dr. John Sargent: The answer to that is 'no' It has long been the practice in Western countries that in order to ensure that they are up to date in the practice of their art or craft, technical teachers should be encouraged, within reasonable limits, to practise their art or craft under commercial conditions It is of course subject to the limitation that the teacher concerned must do it in a way that does not prevent him from discharging efficiently his duties in the institution where he is employed I realize from my own experience in England that there are difficulties but I still think that the principle is an extremely sound one and I shall certainly continue to advocate it in suitable cases At the same time I shall certainly do what I can to see to the best of my ability that the understanding on which the permission is given is faithfully observed

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: In view of that answer, will the Honourable Member give an assurance that he will prescribe exact limits within which such private work can be conducted? Is the Honourable Member also prepared to give some assurance that the same principle that applies to other Government servants—wholetime Government servants—that they surrender a portion of their outside earnings to Government, be applied in the case of officials in this Polytechnic?

Dr. John Sargent: That I am prepared to consider. The permission which was given to the first Principal, which I have no doubt the Honourable Member has in mind, was very specially considered by Government and was given after very careful consideration as a special case. Any future cases, of course, will have to be decided on their merits, but since the implication of this question may be that the late Principal has abused the privilege, I should like to state very emphatically that as a person fundamentally interested in the future of this institution, I have been in very close touch with what has been going on, and I am satisfied that the permission given has not been abused and that it has been to the advantage of the Institution

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I make a short statement since the reply is in the form of a statement? I entirely sympathize with my Honourable friend when he says that on account of war conditions he could not get the staff, he could not get the equipment, he could not get the building material, and so on. I was in the same boat, we started Medical and Engineering Colleges at the same time as the Polytechnic, and we had the same difficulty—that is correct. But what probably was not correct, as has been pointed out by Col. Chatterjee, is . . . . . .

Mr. President: I would like to invite the attention of the Honourable Members to the fact that we are not going to have a debate on this question. The principal question is already before the House, and we, by common agreement, accepted this position of having a Short Notice question, with a view to enable the Honourable Member in charge of the Polytechnic to make a statement on the subject Of course questions will be permitted, but the chief objective is the position with reference to the strike which is going on at present. Discussion of the whole subject and understanding the present situation are not the subject matter of the debate just at present A few questions may be asked, but the Honourable Members should not consider this as an opportunity of discussing the Polytechnic I would like to draw the attention of all the Honourable Members to this, otherwise we shall be discussing this question for a couple of hours, or even more

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I point out, at this stage, the points with regard to which the information is required? I agree that some of the things were right, but may I . .

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may put any question he likes with reference to the strike

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: When they started the Polytechnic, they ought to have consulted the employers at the very outset with regard to what kind of curriculum should be prescribed, what kind of instruction will be needed, and so on and the employers would have come forward immediately, and would have really given the necessary help and support But, as it is, these students were put into great difficulty, because they find that their future position is entirely in the dark . .

Mr. President: Order, order I am sorry I have to interrupt the Honourable Member What is his question?

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: He prefaces his remarks by saying 'is it a fact', 'is it so', or 'is it not so'.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The Honourable Member did not reply a question, he made a statement Anyway, I would like to put my question in this form What steps did the Honourable Member or the Government of India take in devising their courses in a manner that the students may find employment immediately. My second question is . . . . .

Mr. President: Let the questions be one by one.

Dr. John Sargent: With regard to the local question, we did consult a large number of gentlemen interested in industry and commerce in the locality; both I did so and the Principal did so. With regard to the wider issue of the recognition of diploma, as I have already pointed out in my statement, these are drawn

[Dr John Sargent]

up by the All-India Boards and it is for them to obtain recognition on all-India basis. That will naturally take time. We shall do our very best to expedite that, but it must be done by these Boards on all-India basis.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May we know how far the present curriculum or the standard of education is below the mark?

Dr. John Sargent: I do not think it is below the mark; I am satisfied that it is up to the mark. The problem is to get employers—because the Polytechnic aims primarily at serving employers in industrial concerns rather than Government service—the problem is to get those people to recognize the diploma courses or in particular those of the Polytechnic, which in my opinion are quite as good as a Degree Course because the period of study, the content of the courses and the standards of admission are similar The fact that they have not yet done so can be appreciated when I say that it took a great deal of time in my own country—it took years—before National Diplomas were recognized I think the non-recognition is not due to any failure to observe a reasonably high standard in regard to these courses

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May we know what then is all this cry due to? Students are crying outside that they have not been given diplomas and therefore they are ineligible to get any employment outside

Dr. John Sargent: I do not think that is so The students who have passed the examination when they have completed one year's practical work will get their diploma Their complaint is that these diplomas have not so far been recognized generally as equivalent to Degrees for the purpose of employment

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How long will it take the Honourable Member to induce the All-India Board to come and make a visit and recognize this diploma?

Dr. John Sargent: I should not like to forecast how long I can only say that I will do my best But as I have pointed out it did take sometime in my own country before these qualifications were generally accepted. Some people have already accepted them, others are being approached

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have not these students been induced to come out here and join this institution on the understanding that they would be given diplomas?

Dr. John Sargent: I have no idea that any student has been induced. These courses are being already offered in a number of institutions. Bombay students may have heard that the Polytechnic is better than any other institution, but we have not done any propaganda

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: In view of the fact that the present Principal, Mr Wood, is most unpopular with the students, and has neglected his duties, will the Honourable Member give an assurance here and now that he will not be recalled from leave, and he will be replaced by a better man, preferably an Indian?

Dr. John Sargent: I will not give that assurance because I do not agree with the Honourable Member's statement.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that the present Principal, Mr. Wood, gave it in writing to the students that their diplomas would be recognized as soon as they pass their examinations?

Dr. John Sargent: I am not aware of that An assurance was given to the students that in view of the syllabus, the condition of admission, and the length of the course, it was hoped that these diplomas would be regarded—and we still hope so—as equivalent to an ordinary University Course, and that the Advanced Diploma, which nobody has yet taken, will be considered equivalent to an Honours Degree.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I entirely agree with the long term policy which the Honourable Member has outlined But what is he going to do today; it is all right about tomorrow, but what about [illegible]

Dr. John Sargent: That I thought I explained. It will not in my opinion contribute to the success of the scheme if Government should intervene in place of the all-India bodies which were set up to be autonomous and independent of Government I have already indicated that I am in communication with the Chairmen of these Boards with regard to expediting recognition. I have already consulted the Chairman of the Federal Public Services Commission about recognition for Government services and the question is also being taken up by the All India Boards

Mr M. Asaf Ali: Is it or is it not a fact that the entire statement of the Honourable Member proves to this House that in the opinion of his Government these diplomas are equivalent to the degrees to which he has been making reference? Why is this fact not recognised by the Federal Public Services Commission? At any rate the Federal Public Services Commission is not autonomous but a part of this Government

Dr. John Sargent: The answer to that is that the opinion that I expressed is the opinion of the Education Department Application for recognition has now been submitted by the All-India Boards to the Public Services Commission and will be considered, I might say, in the light of my personal discussion with the Chairman of the Body.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: My question is simple and straightforward The opinion of the Government has been expressed by the Honourable Member, namely, that these diplomas of Engineering degrees are equivalent Why isn't this fact recognised by the Government institutions themselves, leave aside the question of all-India autonomous bodies like the Boards of Examiners, etc I am not concerned with them What about the Federal Public Services Commission? Why do they not recognise this fact?

(No answer)

Mr. President: Is the question clear to the Honourable Member?

Dr. John Sargent: Yes, but I do not think I can add anything to what I have said

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Isn't it a fact that these examinations were not held for certain classes which had completed their studies in 1945? There were no arrangements for holding examinations in architecture

Dr. John Sargent: No arrangements have been made for holding examinations in architecture for the All-India Diploma in Architecture. For some reason of which I am not aware the Polytechnic has not yet been inspected by the All-India Board The inspection should have been made last October. It was postponed because certain of the inspectors could not come and it was arranged to be held last week or this week For obvious reasons it again had to be postponed, but the Polytechnic is holding its own examinations in regard to these matters

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am sorry to have to remind you that the answer to my last question has not yet been given I want to know definitely and positively why the Federal Public Services Commission does not recognise the opinion which the Honourable Member has expressed in this House That is the point.

Dr. John Sargent: May I say in regard to that—I am afraid my powers of explanation have not been very good—that the Federal Public Services Commission, like other Departments of Government, will consider recommendations for the recognition of these diplomas when they are submitted by the All-India Boards I have done my best by personal intervention with the Chairman to expedite consideration of this, and I think that in view of the assurance he gave and which I gave to this House recognition will be soon granted.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Once again, I like to point out to the Honourable Member that this House is not concerned with the All-India Bodies They may be autonomous bodies They may be anything that he may care to describe them We are concerned with the public institutions, with the Government-aided institutions and we want to know why this Federal Public Services Commission, which is a Government institution does not recognise the opinion which is expressed here on behalf of the Government in this House That is the main point Why should there be any "ifs" and "buts"

Mr. President: I think the reply indicates that unless there is a recommendation from all these bodies, they are not going to proceed with the further consideration

Seth Govind Das: Isn't it a fact that in the department of art and architecture, though the students have finished their course in November 1945, the examinations are not being held?

Dr. John Sargent: I have already replied on the question of architecture. They are awaiting recognition In regard to the question of art, the question of constituting an All-India Board for Arts Studies was taken up by the Association of Principals of Technical Institutions and representatives of Arts Colleges Unfortunately the negotiations fell through and a course in Art studies is not offered by the Polytechnic

(At this stage Lt-Col Dr J C Chatterjee rose in his seat)

Mr. President: I am afraid I cannot allow any more questions It has been sufficiently discussed We need not take more time

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

CORRIDOR TO THE NIZAM OF HYDERABAD

Mr. President: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Prof N G Ranga who wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely,

"The failure of the Government of India to inform the Secretary of State for India not to entertain any proposals for the grant of a corridor to His Exalted Highness, the Nizam of Hyderabad, through the British territory in the Madras Presidency towards the East Coast, namely, from Machilipatam to Coconada, in spite of the strong public opinion prevailing in British India against the cession of any portion of British territory to any Indian State"

I believe the Honourable Member has tabled a question on this point?

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North-West Frontier Province General) On a point of order I tabled an adjournment motion before Mr Ranga on Friday and it was not allowed then because it was pointed out that I had not given enough notice

Mr. President: Which notice?

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Famine in clothing.

Mr. President: That has been ruled out that day This has been received by me before 11 o'clock So the point does not survive

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division Non-Muhammadan Rural) If I give a notice of adjournment just now it will not be taken up before 11 o'clock to-morrow

Mr. President: All that I can say is that the matter has to be urgent That is one of the chief reasons for which the ordinary course of the business of the House can be adjourned It would be for the Honourable Member to give notice as soon as he comes to know about the matter I can well imagine circumstances in which the Honourable Member may not come to know about a certain thing before 11 o'clock In that case he may give notice even after 11 o'clock and that will be taken up the next day I am not ruling that any notice so given will be accepted as the proper notice for the next day The point is that the Honourable Member should be alert and

he should give notice as soon as he comes to know a certain urgent matter in respect of which he wants the adjournment of the House If the Honourable Member says he did not know it before 11 o clock, I am prepared to accept his word and treat it in time for the next day That is how I think the situation stands

I now want to know from the Honourable Member whether he has tabled a question about this matter

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) I gave notice a long time ago but I have not yet had any advance information It is a very urgent matter That is why I thought I would give notice now

Mr. President: I must be satisfied about the urgency of the matter

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadan Rural) At the time when my Honourable friend put the question it was quite nebulous We have now more indications that it is *gathering momentum* It is a very serious matter

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House) In the first place I should say that Legislative Rule 12 read with 23(d) shows that this is a matter which requires the consent of the Governor-General

Mr. President: Is the Honourable Member referring to the paragraph in the manual or the rule?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Indian Legislative Rules But apart from that the Honourable Member gave notice of a question which I think has been admitted for the 20th of this month and it is on precisely the same subject He gave notice of that on the 14th of last month In view of the ruling which you have just given, the Honourable Member should have given notice of the adjournment motion at that time It was at that time that it came to his notice and he should have given notice of the adjournment motion immediately Nothing has happened since then to make it more urgent and therefore according to the ruling which you have given only two minutes ago, I submit the motion should be ruled out

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, since I gave notice of that question I came to know from some people in Hyderabad as also in Masulipatam and other places that the British Government has come to know of this particular request of the Nizam of Hyderabad and that the Secretary of State is seized of this particular matter It is therefore feared that decision may be reached by the India Office before this country has a chance of going into these matters in the Constituent Assembly

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, just one word With reference to rule 23, which the Honourable the Leader of the House cited, I felt that he himself

Mr. President: Without prejudice to the interpretation of the rules,—that may be left out for the time being,—I have to be satisfied now on the question of urgency

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, we heard some vague reports about this matter sometime ago which necessitated my friend Mr Ranga putting down a question some 10 or 15 days ago But later on, on the 7th of this month an All-India Andhra Anti-Cession Day was celebrated. Reports of that came to us the next day. The following two days were holidays and on the 11th, that is today, my friend has given notice of this motion All over the Andhra Desa and elsewhere also a day was celebrated protesting against the cession by the Government of India of large chunks of British territory, to be handed over to H E H the Nizam This is a very serious matter My fear is that I may soon become the subject of His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I would still submit that the information which appeared in the press was known to him on the 14th of

[Sir Edward Benthall]

last month, when he submitted his question on precisely the same subject I submit therefore that the Honourable Member should certainly have tabled his adjournment motion then

(Interruption)

Mr. President: No further argument is necessary I am not satisfied about the urgency of the motion and therefore I am not inclined to give my consent to it

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RESOLUTION *RE* RELEASE OF INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY MEN AND POLITICAL PRISONERS—*contd*

Mr. President: Further discussion of the following Resolution moved by Pandit Govind Malaviya on Monday, the 4th February, 1946

"In view of the universal expression of public opinion throughout the country in the matter, this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to give up the trials of the Officers of the Indian National Army and to release immediately all men and officers of the Indian National Army as well as all other political prisoners under detention or imprisonment"

There have been some amendments to this, some of which have been moved and I find that there are some further amendments which have been tabled by Honourable Members subsequently There is one by the Honourable Member, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava and another by the Honourable Member, Mr N V Gadgil Will the Honourable Members concerned move their amendments also at this stage, so that I may, thereafter, call upon Mr Mason to continue his speech

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Ambala Division Non-Muhammadan) Sir, In view of the fact that Mr Gadgil has given notice of another amendment, incorporating mine I do not propose to move my amendment

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir I move

"That after the words 'Indian National Army' and before the words 'as well as' the following be inserted —
'whether under trial or undergoing sentences'"

Mr. President: Amendment moved

"That after the words 'Indian National Army' and before the words 'as well as' the following be inserted —
'whether under-trial or undergoing sentences'"

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India Nominated Official) Sir, this question of the Indian National Army is one which has roused throughout the country very deep emotion and has given Government cause for very anxious consideration and, Sir, I hope that throughout what I have to say I shall fully recognise that there are two very different points of view on this question and that although I shall do my best to speak as clearly and as plainly as I can on the view we take on this side of the House, I hope I shall say nothing to hurt anyone's feelings and if I by any chance do so, I apologise in advance because it is not my intention

Sir, I should like, before dealing with the motions that are actually before us, to run through the policy which Government have framed and to explain to the House the object which Government had before them throughout in framing this policy and the background against which they conceived it I do not think Sir, that anyone will differ from us as to the object You may say—and indeed many people have said—that we have not taken the best means to achieve our object but with the object itself I think every one will agree The object, Sir, is to maintain the integrity and the reliability of the Indian Army By that I mean, Sir, that in the future, as it has been in the past, the Indian Army shall be a sharp sword obedient to the hand of the wielder, whoever he may be I said "whoever he may be" and that brings me on to the background of which I spoke

The background against which we see this object has, from the beginning, been the hope that in the not distant future there will be a transfer of power in the Centre and that power will be handed over to an autonomous government It was against that background that we conceived the object and, secondly, we have taken into consideration that wave of emotion and feeling throughout the country, of which I just spoke Up to that point I think probably my friends on the other side of the House will, on the whole, agree with me But it is here that perhaps I shall differ from them I would try to state clearly the problem as it stood to us and as it still stands

In 1942 there occurred a disaster, a defeat, which I think, is without precedent in the history of the British Commonwealth Great armies surrendered to the Japanese in Malaya, armies which were British, Australian and Indian, and among those armies, for no fault of their own, were included 65,000 officers and soldiers of the Indian army Now, Sir, the problem with which we were faced was that of those 65,000, some 45,000 remained true to their allegiance and the oath which they had sworn and refused to fight against their former friends and comrades in arms Some 20,000, whatever their motives—and I will come to that presently—, whatever their motives might be, decided that they, on the other hand, would change sides and take up arms against the Allies in whose cause they had undertaken to fight I spoke of the oath of allegiance I want to emphasise this point very much indeed, because it is a point which has been neglected entirely, I think, in the press and on the platform and I think it is a point of great importance to the future of India The oath which every soldier swears—he takes it in his mother tongue and it differs slightly according to his religion but it is substantially the same—is this

"I swear by Almighty God (or I solemnly affirm in the presence of Almighty God) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty the King, Emperor of India and that I will go wherever I may be ordered on land, sea or air and that I will obey the commands of my officers even to the peril of my life"

These are the words—very simple, but I think very moving words, and not lightly to be set aside They are of the greatest importance to a soldier, and I think that we who are civilians may perhaps sometimes forget that great importance Putting the thing on the lowest moral plane—there are higher planes, but I intentionally put it on the lowest—it means to a soldier that he can rely, if that oath is kept, on the fidelity and loyalty of his companions, and that means that when he goes into battle he has a good chance of winning his battle and some chance of getting out alive But if he cannot rely on the loyalty or fidelity of his companions, he stands a pretty poor chance of winning his battle and perhaps not much of getting away with his life That is, as I say, putting it on the low plane, but I would ask my honourable friends on the other side of the House to consider this question of the oath very carefully I would ask them seriously and carefully to look back into Indian history for the last two hundred years and to think for themselves how many battles which were lost might have been won by the losing side, had that side been really able to rely without question on the fidelity and loyalty of their comrades in arms

The officer does not take this oath, it is an oath taken by the soldier The officer is chosen to lead the men who have taken that oath and he is trusted He holds a commission which contains the words "To my trusty and well-beloved so & so" So that I think the principle applies to all, officers and soldiers alike

Here I should like to explain why I have made a difference—I made a difference the other day between these men of the Indian army who went over to the enemy and the so-called Burman National Army The Burmese were civilians they had taken no oath of fidelity or loyalty and also they went over and fought against the Japanese on the side of the Allies towards the end of the campaign. In all I have to say,—I am not talking about the civilians who joined the I N. A —I am talking about the men of the Indian Army because that is the problem which is important to you for the future.

[Mr. P. Mason]

The same thing applies to the women. I have seen a number of questions addressed to me about the treatment to be given to the women. they were civilians and as far as I am concerned, they are not my affair

Now, I stress this point about the oath, because I think it is immensely important and it means that from a purely legal point of view, which I would not wish to take, all those 20,000 men before the law were equally guilty But nobody for a moment took up that point of view because of the circumstances of the case The first important circumstance was that out of these 20,000 a pretty considerable number were able to prove quite conclusively that they went over to the I N A, either with the object of sabotaging the movement or with the object of getting out and coming over as soon as they could to the allied lines and rejoining their former friends Towards such men there could obviously be only one policy and they have been given the opportunity of rejoining, or rather remaining in, the Indian Army if they wish Secondly, there were many others who went over, not because they wished actively or consciously to help the enemy but largely, I think, because they did not realise the full implications and because of the circumstances in which they found themselves They had seen a disaster which as I have said was entirely without precedent they had seen all the world they knew crumble about their ears, and all the news they could get was Japanese news At that time the news was bad enough in all conscience I think probably there have been no worse weeks in our history than those in April 1942, and these men had only the news that the Japanese gave them According to the Japanese, the whole of Australia and most of India were in Japanese hands, and some of them must have thought that the power to whom they had given their allegiance had ended and that therefore they were at liberty to make a new bond, I cannot excuse such conduct, but one can at least understand it I know of one case into which I looked personally, where some 200 men of a regiment which had suffered very heavily in the retreat, who had lost most of their British officers, were digging latrines for the Japanese, when they were approached by an Indian officer, not of their own regiment, but who had been posted to them three days before the surrender he came to them and told them—reading between the lines of his own statement I have little doubt that the question he put to them was—"Would you rather be ancillary troops of the Japanese, digging trenches and latrines for the Japanese, or would you rather be part of an Indian army and infantry?" Well, the whole lot of them went over, two hundred of them, headed by their Subedar Major I know that Subedar Major and I am quite convinced that he had no picture whatever of the future or of politics—he is an illiterate man—and I do not think any one could seriously wish to punish men such as that At any rate we came to the conclusion right at the beginning that all these men who appeared to have been misled should be treated with clemency and indeed with generosity They were given their pay from the date they were captured they were given leave with pay and they were discharged, that is to say, they were not dismissed which conveys a stigma

Here I had better deal with one point which is frequently raised and which is mentioned as one of the circumstances to which I have referred It has often been said that these men had been deserted by the British That is the phrase that is rather loosely used; but when it has a precise meaning attached to it, it means one of three things, as far as I can see: it either means that British battalions retreated while Indian battalions were left fighting I am unable to find any truth whatever in such an allegation as that, and, I have been unable to find any one who could make the allegation in a form which will bear looking into The second meaning is that British troops were evacuated in ships from Singapore while Indians were not Now Sir, I have not any precise figures of those who exactly got away but the numbers were pretty small What I have got is a definite statement by the General

commanding one of the Indian divisions on this subject He recollects exactly the orders that he received and the orders he gave He was told that there were so many berths in a ship going away and so many men to go For his division the figures were extremely small—60 or 70 men Splitting up 60 or 70 men between his units worked out to 6 or 7 men in each of his nine infantry battalions The officer commanding the battalion was told to see that those 6 or 7 men were spread out evenly between the different ranks That is to say, there should be one or two officers, one or two N C Os and three or four privates He saw those 60 or 70 men told off to go and he saw that detachment march away, but he could not say that they were actually evacuated

1 P.M.

Now, the third meaning is the famous story about Lt.-Col Hunt at Farrer Park It is alleged that he called the Indian prisoners of war to attention and told them 'From now you belong to the Japanese' What he actually said was 'You are now prisoners of war and you must obey Japanese orders' I do not think there was really much room for mistake and it is pretty clear that 45 thousand men did not misunderstand him but knew perfectly well what he meant I am inclined to think that the 20,000 who now say that they misunderstood him did not think of that till later I do not mean to say that they are deliberately making up a story about this I think that later on when they decided with others to go over this incident occurred to their minds and they reinterpreted it My reason for thinking that lies in the words of Captain Shah Nawaz In his defence he gave the interpretation which I just gave about Col Hunt's words In the same speech a few minutes later he says I did not believe in and I actively opposed the formation of the I N A until May 1942 If he thought they had been handed over to the Japanese and placed in the same relation to the Japanese as they had to their former commanders in the Indian Army, why did he oppose the formation of the I N A until May 1942? And why does he maintain now that this was not a Japanese army but an Indian army independent of the Japanese"

Now, I come to the question of those who not merely embraced the cause of the enemy but embraced it with enthusiasm and did everything they could to help them. This is the most difficult question to solve and has caused us the most anxious consideration On the question of motives, my own opinion after reading a number of statements is that these men fall into two categories. I will concede to my friends that there were undoubtedly some who definitely believed that they were striking a blow for the freedom of India How they thought they were doing this I am not quite able to understand because they must have seen the puppet Governments in Malaya and in Burma and they must have seen that there was not much freedom there and I do not quite see how any one can really believe that a people like the Japanese who do not believe in freedom for themselves will be likely to give it to any one else Still I believe that some of them did so in a rather vague way and I can see that they were acting according to their lights, but there were many more in my opinion who were opportunists, who went over because they thought they would get better food and better treatment, and having gone over they thought they must do all they could for the cause they had now embraced However, the presence among their ranks of those idealists is an argument against severity and reinforces the claims of mercy, because it is repugnant to any one to punish a man for something which he believes he has done according to his lights and in what he believes to be a just cause But the overwhelming consideration which weighed with us in considering these cases was the background of which I have spoken We were hoping, we are hoping, for a political settlement in the near future and in view of this great wave of feeling that went through the country we felt and I still feel, that nothing would have been more likely to prejudice the chances of settlement than harsh action against these men, and for that reason it was decided to extend clemency to all those who had joined the I N A. unless they had also committed acts of brutality Sir, it is one thing to extend clemency when

[Mr. P. Mason]

an offence is recognized and proved but it is another thing to pretend that the offence has not taken place and that it is nothing and it is unimportant We said and still say that the offence that these men committed was the most serious that a soldier can commit We have brought a very small number of them to trial for that offence We have proved the offence against them and they have been convicted and sentenced and we have extended mercy and left them off because of the background of which I have spoken

There is an argument put forward that we ought to have waited until an autonomous Government came into power That would have meant waiting how long—we do not know,—and till then, for nine or ten months, all these men would have to be kept shut up What we have done is to let off quickly as many as we can 9 500 are out already I said the other day there were 6,000 under interrogation More recent figures are 4,225 So we are making progress I hope we shall get the whole lot out, except those who are still to be tried, by the 1st April That date may go back according to my latest information, because those who have been coming in recently have been guilty of considerable indiscipline and are refusing to answer questions, so that that causes a longer delay in interrogation

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General) What is the latest figure?

Mr. P. Mason: 4,225

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Under interrogation now?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes I come now to a very important point Before I take it up, may I point out, Mr President, that the Mover of the motion had 40 minutes May I have with your permission another 10 minutes?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member can have another ten minutes I have allowed more time to the Mover and the Honourable Member replying on behalf of Government but I do not want other speakers to exceed the time limit

Mr. P. Mason: Now, Sir, I come to a very important question, why the sentence of Shah Nawaz was commuted when he was convicted of abetment of murder If one studies the question with a logical mind, the answer to that is pretty simple Once you decide that you are not going to punish for the offence of joining the I N. A , you must concede the principle that anything that anyone did in the I N. A which he might legitimately and reasonably suppose it was his duty to do, for that also he must be forgiven Once he joined the I N A , he intended to fight and if he shot somebody in fighting, he must be excused for this Shah Nawaz passed on an order which he received from higher authority regarding execution of men who wished to desert. I think myself that the orders were harsh—they were much harsher than we should have given—but they purported to be legal orders and for that reason his offence in that respect was only technically murder and was part of his whole course of action in joining the I N A

Now, Sir, I come to the cases of brutality. Some one said that it was funny that we should talk of brutality You may think it still more funny that I should talk about brutality when it was I who defended what happened at Bahadurgarh the other day But my attitude is quite consistent What I said in relation to Bahadurgarh was that brutality did not take place The moment Government know that brutality has taken place, they will proceed against that person But we will not punish without proof And I would invite anyone to contrast what happened at Bahadurgarh with what happened at Bidadari I would welcome a comparison At Bahadurgarh, as a punishment for having assaulted a guard, men were ordered to do P T at the double for two hours on three consecutive days . As soon as discipline was restored, after an hour and a half that parade was called off and the remaining two parades were not held At Bidadari not for a specific offence but just for not joining the I. N. A. men were day after day subjected to parades which began at 7 in the morning and ended at 6 in the evening.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I should not like to interrupt the Honourable Member, but I am afraid this is an exaggerated statement of facts as proved in the court.

Mr. P. Mason: The facts are correct. Those parades did not consist of P.T. at the double but of carrying sacks of earth and, in some cases to increase the humiliation, sacks of dung at the double.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That was the daily fatigue.

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, it was the daily fatigue. All medical attention was refused and if a man went for medical attention, he was told. "Nothing for you unless you join the I. N. A." I invite attention and I invite contrast with Bahadurgarh.

Now, Sir, I was asked the other day why Abdur Rashid got his sentence . . .

Mr. President: Order, Order. The Honourable Member can resume that point after lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair

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Mr. P. Mason: Sir, I have tried to explain the policy which the Government have followed with regard to those who joined the enemy and who appear to have been misled, and with regard to those who joined the enemy and who did what they could to help the enemy after joining it. I have explained why the policy of clemency and mercy was decided upon for them and I have explained that against those who are charged with crimes of brutality, the prosecutions will proceed. I have just reached a point at which I was endeavouring to explain the difference between the case of Captain Shah Nawaz, whose punishment was commuted and the case of Captain Abdur Rashid who has been sentenced and who is just beginning to undergo that sentence. I explained something about the conditions in the Bidadari camps. The accused Abdur Rashid was in charge of three camps, the Bidadari detention camp, the Officers segregation camp, which was only slightly less shocking, and another camp in which the conditions were more reasonable. I have to be a little careful in speaking on this subject because there are a number of other cases pending and in progress in which people are charged with atrocities in connection with these camps. But I can say that there is definite evidence of systematic and continuous brutalities carried out in those camps and the case which has just completed has proved that such atrocities were carried out for a long period and has also proved in the case of the accused, four specific offences. In one case Abdur Rashid himself took part in beating a man who was caught by the I. N. A. in Singapore. The man was Havildar clerk, Taj Muhammad Khan, a fellow Muslim. He was a man in the Indian Army. After the fall of Singapore, he was living as a civilian in Singapore. He was rounded up by the I. N. A. who brought him in. They thought him to be a deserter from the I. N. A. They charged him with this, but he refused to admit it, and the accused—Abdur Rashid—ordered him to be beaten and he with two other men beat him personally. They then suspended him from a tree, until he lost consciousness. He was then brought down. He, of course, had no medical help. The following day, the treatment was repeated, for a second time he was tied up to a tree, and then he gave in. He said, I have never been a member of the I. N. A., but I will now do whatever you tell me to do. So, he had to join the I. N. A. That was Taj Muhammad Khan. The second case was that of Havildar Ram Rikh, who for the same reason was ordered by the accused—Abdur Rashid—to be taken to the detention camp. I should like to emphasise here the expression used by the accused, who said Ram Rikh was to be given the prescribed treatment. The prescribed treatment consisted in being beaten with sticks in which again the accused took part. He fell to the ground, he was then kicked by the accused and two others until he lost consciousness. There was also the cases of Lieut. Abdul Qadir Shah and Jamedar Muhammad Nawaz, both of whom for refusing to join the I. N. A. were subjected to various humiliations and were

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beaten by the orders of the accused—Abdur Rashid. In one case, grievous hurt was caused And when one of these men called out for mercy in the name of God, Abdur Rashid replied, 'In this camp, I am the only God'. Well, Sir, these are proved cases, and a Court Martial is an extremely fair and impartial court. The procedure of a Court martial is so devised that it gives every chance to the accused In fact, I do not mind saying that as an executive officer, I have sometimes felt that it gave too much latitude to the accused. Those charges which I just mentioned are those in which Abdur Rashid was found guilty No one can say that those follow from his duty as a member of I. N. A In fact, I read out to the House the other day the views expressed on this subject by the Chairman of the India Independence League. He expressed his horror at learning that a large number of men of the Indian army had been shot, tortured and humiliated and forced . . . .

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural) Shot by whom?

Mr. P. Mason: By the I. N A , and forced to join the I. N. A. Now, Sir, the attitude of the Government in this matter is very clear. I ask for the same standards to be applied in any case of brutality I do not want any distinction made between Bahadurgarh, and Bidadari, between Nilganj and Kranji. I would ask those on the other side of the House who suggest that we should give up these particular trials, I would ask them to consider what it means, what are the grounds on which they should be given up The accused may think themselves that the brutality was committed in a good cause, in good faith. Can any cause justify such an act or cause you to think they were done in execution of their duty? If that is so, it seems to me to follow logically that you will have to excuse every jailor who exceeds his duty and who commits brutality That is our case for prosecuting cases of brutality It makes no difference whether the accused is a Muslim or a Hindu, it makes no difference whether he belongs to the Indian army or to the Indian National Army in Malaya, the same standard is being applied

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural) Have you applied that standard to the policemen and military here in India?

Mr. President: Order, order

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, I will now turn to cases to which my Honourable friend Prof Ranga referred the other day, speaking of those who were hanged, and those who were sentenced by courts martial before the fall of Singapore Now, Sir, the circumstances in which those men were captured, the circumstances in which they were tried, were very different from those about which I have been speaking so far At that time the war was raging, the soldiers of the Indian army were fighting for their lives and for our lives—yours and mine and there were many cases of I N A bullets striking down men in the Indian army. And at that time we applied the normal military law and proceeded against those men, as I am sure any other civilised country in the world at war would have done They were given trial by courts martial, they were given defence counsel, and when they were convicted their sentences were carried out There are, as I explained the other day, fourteen men serving terms of imprisonment as a result of those courts martial and, as I also explained, the question of reconsidering and reviewing those sentences is now being considered and thought about

Sir, I have tried to explain the policy of Government, it is exactly expressed in the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Nawab Siddique Ali Khan as amended by myself I prefer Nawab Siddique Ali Khan's motion to that moved by the Honourable the Mover because it is a clear-cut issue which concerns the I N A only, it does not bring in the other political detenus, with whom personally as a department we are not concerned, and it is the I. N. A. on which I think a clean verdict is called for.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, may I interrupt the Honourable Member just to make one point clear? Supposing the amendment which the Honourable Member wants to amend is not moved, may I take it that Government will agree to the Resolution?

Mr. P. Mason: I could not agree to that

Mr. President: That amendment has already been moved.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: There is notice of an amendment to an amendment that has been moved by one Party Supposing that amendment is not moved, then naturally the amendment by which you seek to amend that amendment will fall to the ground and therefore the original Resolution will stand.

Mr. President: The position is that the first amendment to which the Honourable Member is referring has already been moved.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: But supposing it is not pressed to a division?

Mr. President: That raises a problematical question.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I raised it just to know where we stand

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, I have explained why we feel very strongly that my amendment should be added to that moved by Nawab Siddique Ali Khan I have tried to explain to the House the reason for the policy we have followed and its object I would ask my Honourable friends over there to consider whether the policy which we have followed has not been one of extreme clemency, whether in fact there is any other Government in the world that would have gone so far as we have And I will go further I would ask them whether in their heart of hearts they really believe that they would themselves have gone so far as we have

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: There would have been no occasion for it

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions Non-Muhammadan Rural) We do not want to rule any other country

Mr. President: Order, order

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, there is a very old saying which I would like to bring to the notice of my Honourable friends on the other side It was made two hundred years ago by Dr. Johnson who said that every man in his heart of hearts at some time or another despises himself because he is not a soldier. I for one have often felt like that during the last six years, and I think most of us who are civilians have felt the same But I have felt very proud indeed to be connected, in however small and humble a way, with the Indian army, and I think that whatever their political views may be every Indian must really inside himself feel very proud of the Indian army He must be proud of what they have done in many battles all over the world,—at Gallabat, at Keren, at Agheila, at Alamain and the crossing of the Senio river and the Sangro river in Italy, on all these occasions they have shown their gallantry and their fortitude and their endurance which were all equal to those of any soldiers in the world But I think you ought to be still more proud—and I know I am—of the endurance of those 45,000 men who in spite of the circumstances which I spoke about this morning, in spite of the world which seemed to be crumbling about their ears, had remained faithful to one single principle that they would not change sides and fight against their former friends I would ask my Honourable friends to look into the future—I asked them this morning to look into the past—and think what may happen in ten years' time, when perhaps party feelings are running high Would you then wish the officers and soldiers of your army to put before their allegiance to the State their allegiance to a party or perhaps to a religious community? Is that what you want? Or do you want the spirit of men like Captain Badhwar who, as you have heard, was confined in a cage for over 80 days unable to lie down or to sit because he refused to fight against his friends? Or men like Captain Ansari who was beheaded because he refused to fight against his friends? And finally Subedar-Major Hari Singh who was subjected to such constant and repeated brutalities that he lost first his hearing, then his sight,

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then his reason and finally his life? That man gave everything he had to give for one simple reason, that he would not fight against his friends. That, Sir, I suggest, is the spirit which you want in the Indian army of the future; and I hope, Sir, that nothing will be said in this House or done in this House that might serve to destroy that spirit

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam European) Sir, never since I first became a Member of this House have I risen to speak on any issue so reluctantly as I rise today, for I feel that this occasion is one of those on which though silence might be incompatible with the responsibility of this Group, speech may nevertheless be unhelpful Few events in recent history have stirred up as deep and wide-spread emotion as has been aroused by the subject of what is called the Indian National Army Much of that emotion has been spontaneous and much, too, has been stirred up by a carefully thought out and elaborately planned and executed campaign of publicity in the press and on the platform,—a campaign the organizers of which have perhaps been more concerned with winning a temporary political triumph than with considering the long term welfare of this country Whether that emotion has been spontaneous or induced, it has had one effect It has clouded reason, it has warped judgment, it has made the judicial approach to this problem almost impossible Sir, the problem we are considering is the problem whether certain men should be tried or should not be tried for certain alleged offences That is a problem which needs to be approached not in an atmosphere of heat and emotion, but in a calm judicial spirit I very much deplore the fact, that what has taken place in various parts of the country with regard to this matter, has made that judicial approach practically impossible We in this Group have had to try to make, and we have tried to make, an effort of imaginative sympathy to understand the strange complex of emotion which is seething round this question of the Indian National Army For us who live in a completely self-governing country, no corresponding problem could possibly arise To us, when a man goes over to the enemy, the issue is a simple one Did he go under duress or did he go voluntarily? If he went voluntarily, there is no more to be said, he has to pay the penalty for doing so, and so we have no heartburnings about Joyce or Amery We have not to bother as to whether those people should have been tried or what their sentences should have been But we have to recognize that the position is much more difficult in a country such as India, a country going through a transition phase, a country which has not yet attained, though it is about to attain, full self-government, and we recognize that under those circumstances and in the high emotions which are generated, terms lose their ordinary connotation, that men's minds become confused that words like loyalty and patriotism, which to us are simple terms, must necessarily become blurred in their meaning in the minds of people of this country We have to recognize for example, that loyalty and patriotism may mean several different things to different sets of my Honourable friends here. To some they may mean the primary duty of a soldier to be faithful to his sworn allegiance, to another man they may mean that he will devote himself to what he believes to be the cause of India's freedom before everything, to my Honourable friends here they perhaps mean devotion to Pakistan, and to my Honourable friends there an equal devotion to Akhand Hindusthan We, therefore, have to judge the I N A against background of what is happening today, against this process of mental confusion which has been going on for a long time The confusion has not been confined to matters inside the borders of this country. It has extended to relations outside and to the meaning and significance of the war which we have recently fought And so though to us in this Group it has always been clear that India's main need was to see Japan beaten, there have been some of my Honourable friends, who, have been less clear on that subject They have swung backwards and forwards One day they felt that Japan must at all cost be beaten, and the next day they felt that it was still more urgent and still more imperative to snatch their freedom as they put it ,from British hands. We in this Group know that they were mistaken; we know that no question of snatching freedom arises But we have to recognize the fact that this confusion

did exist in men's minds. Divided feelings and confused thoughts—I do not know whether the divided feelings produced the confused thought, or whether the confused thoughts produced the divided feelings. But the fact remains that, thanks to the circumstances of this country, many people were uncertain of their duty. To put it in another way, many people failed to receive that clear lead from their leaders which was never more badly wanted and it is against this background of confusion and lack of leadership that the men of the Indian National Army have to be judged We know that when in circumstances like these words lose their meaning, people begin to take oaths with mental reservations, simple loyalties are forgotten, it becomes difficult for the simple man to remember what allegiance means and, above all, to remember that the allegiance of a volunteer is something to be placed highly above the allegiance of a conscript in other countries It would be disastrous, disastrous to the future of this country, if this kind of mental confusion continued But it is for my Indian friends and not for us here in this Government to discover how to reconcile those conflicting loyalties It is for them to discover how best to maintain that military tradition, the tradition of unwavering obedience, on which their best hopes will rest It is for them to determine what attitude now towards this question of the Indian National Army, will lay the surest and strongest foundations of their self-governing India in the near future. But although that duty rests with them and not with us, there are still one or two aspects of the problem on which I can usefully comment.

My first comment would be an appeal It would be an appeal not to lose our sense of proportion, not to concentrate our attention so exclusively upon these comparatively few men who have been tried or are being tried, as to forget that very much greater number of men who remained firm to their duty. Do not in thinking about these few, forget the forty-five thousand who resisted all torture, all blandishment, all inducement and refused to break the oath which they had sworn For you, Sir, and for us who have lived in comfort and safety during the war, it is not easy to realize what was involved in standing firm as a prisoner of war in the hands of the Japanese.

An Honourable Member: What about prisoners of war under you?

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I will discuss that point on some other more suitable occasion Sir, it is not easy to realize, least of all is it easy for my interrupting friend to realize, what was involved in standing firm against the pressure of the Japanese Army There is only one way of realizing it. That is to read the accounts of some of the deeds of bravery and heroism which were exhibited by those forty-five thousand men The Honourable the War Secretary referred to the case of Subedar-Major Bohra I wonder how many of my friends on this side of the House have taken the trouble to read the citation in which the declaration was awarded to that man for his magnificent resistance

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We have inside knowledge of how things have been happening, we know the inside story

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers. If my Honourable friends will spare a little time to study some of these citations they will begin to realize what was involved in the gallantry of these forty-five thousand men What is being done for them? Why are there no cheers for them when they return to their villages? Why are not reception parties arranged for them? Why are there no garlands for their shoulders? What are my Honourable friends doing to show that they appreciate this unparalleled example of resistance and staunchness? And what is Government doing?

An Honourable Member: And what are you doing? (Other interruptions).

Mr. President: Let there be no interruptions.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: What is Government doing to show its appreciation of the action of these men? Just as I charge my Honourable friends on that side of the House with failing to appreciate what these men have done for us, so too I charge my Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches with an equal failure. What are they doing in the way of special awards and special privileges for these men who stood firm?

Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma (Meerut Division Non-Muhammadan Rural): What has the European Group done?

Mr. President: Order, order Let there be no interruptions

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I appeal to my Honourable friends on that side of the House to keep a sense of proportion about these men under trial Don't let us forget the great fact the glorious fact that forty-five thousand people stood firm under an ordeal which few of us could have hoped to resist (Interruptions) But after all the real issue is, should these men be tried, or should they not be tried I suppose we have to begin dividing them into two categories First, those who acted under duress For them we can feel nothing but sympathy No man who has not been through an ordeal of that kind has the right to judge men who fell by the way because they could not resist. Sympathy is the only possible attitude And then you have the others—the ones who were misled by mistaken patriotic motives Let us appreciate their motives Let us acknowledge that in many cases it was genuine patriotism But do not let us disguise from ourselves the fact that it was mistaken patriotism Don't let it make us forget that they were wrong If they had had their way, my Honourable friends interrupting would not have been sitting in this House in comfort (Interruptions)

Shri Sri Prakasa: You would not have been either!

Mr. President: Order, order

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I hardly expect my Honourable friends to pay much attention to a sentiment of that kind coming from me, but they may perhaps be more impressed to know that the same sentiment was expressed by Pandit Nehru in his talk to the press conference in June last year when Pandit Nehru said emphatically, speaking particularly of Subhas Bose "If he thinks India can get her freedom with the help of the Japanese he is wrong Don't take my word for it but take Pandit Nehru's word, and accept the fact (Interruptions)

Mr. President: Order, order Interruptions are not a contribution to the debate

An Honourable Member: He has no right to misrepresent

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has also a right to reply

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Interruptions have one value they are stimulating Don't let the fact that you understand and sympathise with the motives of these men warp your judgment and cloud your reason and make you fail to see that they were wrong Do you not think it would have been a bad thing if the whole of the Indian Army followed the example of these men and joined the Japanese? (Interruptions)

Mr President: Order, order

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: If my friends think it would have been a good thing, I think I can confront them with the words of their own great leader (Interruptions)

Mr. President: Order, order

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Surely in this matter the rational view is to try and distinguish between the different types of charges First you have those men charged with making war against the King, Emperor, with desertion and other crimes However serious they may be, they were crimes of a purely military nature So far as we are concerned, we in this Group, bearing in mind all the circumstances, support the suggestion that they should be let off Next we turn to another and different category of crimes—and here I think the Honourable the War Secretary has made the issue more than clear—, crimes which involve brutality and cruelty So far as we are concerned, brutality will be brutality and cruelty will be cruelty whatever may serve to cloak it from view for the time being We will accept no argument that misguided motives or political ideas or any intentions, however lofty, can turn brutality into anything else or can stop cruelty from being something which deserves the reprobation of all right-minded men So our point of view is quite clear—that we

will not agree, in so far as we have any power to influence these decisions, that crimes of brutality and cruelty should be exempt from trial because some of the prisoners concerned are said to have been inspired by patriotic motives

Shri Sri Prakasa: That itself is brutal!

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Will not the main foundation of a self-governing India be the maintenance of a real sense of moral values? Must not the ordinary man know how to distinguish right from wrong? Must he not know what loyalty means? (Interruptions)

An Honourable Member: What about the British?

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Don't fuss about the British We are going.

Mr President: I may remind the Honourable Member of the time limit. (Interruptions)

Mr. P. J. Griffiths. Let me say this that what is happening is that there is growing up in the minds of the people in this country a confusion of moral values which will stand India in bad stead in the years to come

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau Indian Commerce) Why are you worried about it?

Mr P. J. Griffiths: Don't arrogate to yourself the monopoly of care for this country! Indian soldiers are beginning to say 'if these are the heroes what did I fight for' The widows in the villages of India will say "If these are men who deserve well of the country, why did our husbands die?" Don't let, ... (Interruptions) I am sorry my remarks are getting so much under my friends skin I cannot help it These men fought and died because they know that only by their death and their gallantry could this country be saved At the moment all our thoughts are fogged and emotionalised by the constitutional issue When that issue is settled, when India, a self-governing India, has attained her full status in the county of nations, what do you want men to remember about India's war effort?

An Honourable Member: Subhas Bose!

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: What you want them to remember is the glorious part played by the Indian Army in all theatres of war Is it worth while so focussing attention on the problems of the I N A that when in years to come men read the debates of the Assembly they will say that all that this Assembly thought of in connection with the war was the I N A

Prof. N. G. Ranga: A thousand times

Mr. P J. Griffiths: Don't throw away, for a political triumph, that glory which every level-headed man wants to see accruing to the name of the Indian Army throughout the centuries.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Why did you go to war?

Mr. President: Order, order The Honourable Member may not take up his time in replying to these interruptions Let him proceed with his argument.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: In this group our decision is clear We are agreed that the charges against these men, except where they relate to brutality and cruelty, should be dropped Everybody in this House wants them dropped.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: Abetment of murder

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I think this House, and above all this Government is sick of the whole thing Everyone wants it to be dropped This Government knows it has bungled over the I N A You know it and I know it But let us be quite clear as to the reason why we are prepared to have these charges dropped We are prepared to have them dropped not because we approve of the course taken by the people concerned, not because we can mentally and morally condone their actions, but because we try to understand the motives by which they were misled and misguided It is in that spirit and because we think that this is a case where justice should be tempered with mercy, while at the same time we must retain our sense of proportion of moral values that we agree to drop these charges It is because that is our view

[Mr. P. J. Griffiths]

that we are prepared to support the amendment moved by Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, provided, and provided only it has tagged on to it the amendment moved by Mr Mason.

My last word is this We have had enough debate of a political nature on this matter to satisfy even the most venturesome and vigorous among my friends Can we not now face up to the straight issue? Do we think these men should be tried or not? The answer is no And why no? Not for reasons of high politics, but because we think we understand the motives that led them to act in the way they did and we think those motives deserve charitable consideration If ever I find myself faced with the situation in which those 65,000 found themselves, I hope and I pray that I shall be strong enough to emulate the 45,000, and if I fall by the way, I trust I shall receive the same kind of mercy and consideration which we are willing to hold out to these men today But I shall not expect that it shall be counted to me by righteousness. I can expect charity and consideration but I cannot expect to be made a national hero if I fail to be true to my oath of allegiance

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Ever since I have come to this House, my Honourable friend, Mr Griffiths, has been a source of great stimulation to me I do not remember a single occasion when he has spoken and I have not been provoked into some kind of speech which I never intended to make at that time But today I do not wish to be provoked at all In the beginning I was thinking whether I should speak on this subject at all for the simple reason that the entire question has been narrowed down to a single issue after the speech of the Honourable Mr Mason Were I to join issue with Mr Griffiths, I am afraid, I would have to speak for a long time and answer him point for point. But for the sense of humour which I have cultivated since I was last in this House in 1940, I may have spoken in great anger and indignation and I may have joined issue on every single point raised by him There is one point on which I may join issue with him even now He has spoken with great vigour only to confuse, cloud and obscure the issues before this House and he is very clever at that game I know that only too well.

It is amazing that for the first time he has spoken in this House with that vigour and vehemence which smack of earnestness and sincerity, I hope he was sincere this time, otherwise the whole of his speech would be perfectly futile But he seems to have forgotten the fact that if he placed himself in the shoes of Indians and felt as strongly as Indians feel his entire speech would have to be of a different texture I ask him now to imagine the whole of England under the reign of the Germans Supposing the Germans had been ruling for about 200 years, and had engaged Britishers in their army and had trained them as effectively as the Britishers have trained our army in India today, and supposing that the units of this army had been sent abroad at a time when Germany was engaged in fighting a war against others, with whom England at that time might not have been at war what would have been the feelings and actions under those circumstances of the British army Suppose further that this army, this British army sponsored by Germany operating abroad had turned round and said "No Germans from now we must see first that England is free", how would the British have felt about them? This is the context in which Mr Griffiths must see the entire drama of the Indian National Army, which roused and stirred the imagination and the deepest feelings of the entire country without any difference or distinction of party or creed This was the only issue before the country on which every single Indian stood by the side of every other Indian forgetting all parties, forgetting all creeds and forgetting all other feelings My friend, Mr Griffiths, has said that much of this feeling, much of this sentiment, much of this emotion was genuine and spontaneous. I would request him to revise his opinion It is not a question of much of it being genuine or spontaneous. The whole of it was absolutely genuine. It was one big emotional upheaval which we could not even dream of. And let me remind him—it is very easy for him or any other gentleman to say that some of this agitation (I will call it "agitation") was stirred by a carefully planned scheme

of publicity—let me remind him of the fact that the moment we came into this picture we applied to the Government, and memorialised the Governor General and pointed out to him that in this particular case great issues were involved, a great deal of emotion was likely to be stirred up and therefore we wanted the Governor General to postpone these cases until the elections were over But what was the answer? The answer was, "No, justice must take its course". Justice has taken its course. They started the cases and the result is that the very emotional upheaval to which Mr. Griffiths says fillip was given by carefully planned publicity was really a genuine upheaval, which had nothing whatsoever to do with any kind of carefully planned publicity. It was all perfectly genuine, because from day to day the evidence in these cases was being led not by us, who were defending these cases, but by the prosecution They were filing in documents after documents which filled the pages of all the newspapers All the documents which were produced about the I.N A. were being devoured by the people, so that the publicity was not manufactured by us, it was manufactured by Government They ought to thank themselves for all the sins which they want to father upon others I will not go further than this as far as my friend, Mr Griffiths is concerned, for the simple reason that if I waste my time over him I shall miss other issues which are far more important

Mr Mason's speech, as far as I can judge, was very conciliatory I appreciate the spirit in which he spoke but both he and Mr Griffiths, committed one big error of judgment, because both of them were misinformed, because they did not know the inside history of the I N A Fortunately or unfortunately for them, I happen to know the inside history of the I N.A , because I have studied it inside out I have examined men after men and I have interrogated them not with a view merely to defending them but with a view to finding out what mistakes were committed by them and how we could rectify the blunders which the Britishers, in organising the Indian army, have committed in India And the one lesson which I drew from all that study is that the Indian army, however well organised it might be, lacks the only stimulus, the only belief, the only faith which can move men to lay down their lives, without counting the consequences to themselves. This army has never been organised as a patriotic army to defend India under all circumstances, and which must always keep the interests of the country before it Love of one's country is a great thing The Indian army has never been given a cause to fight for What is the cause for which the Indian army can fight? What is the ideal for which the Indian soldiers can fight to the bitter end? It is the freedom of India Have they ever been told that they should fight for the freedom of India? They have not been told so

I was told while I was studying the case, that the Academy, where these Indian officers are trained and brought up, displays in letters of gold these words of Sir Philip Chetwode and they must be borne in mind not only by Mr. Griffiths but also by every one else, who has tried to judge the Indian National Army They relate to the duty of Indian soldiers, or for that matter of any soldier in the world The words are as follows:

"The safety, honour and welfare of your country comes first, always and every time, the honour, welfare and comfort of men you command come next, your own needs, comfort and safety come last, always and every time"

It was this maxim which was borne in mind by those who are today charged with having committed a breach of allegiance I will talk about allegiance in a moment One owes allegiance to one's country first and to every thing else afterwards Sir, in International law it is said that allegiance is an inseparable accident It is an inseparable accident to those who are born under their own Government, under their own crown, but when it comes to a question of allegiance in a country which is governed by another country, true allegiance is what one owes to one's own country I need not go further than that Mr Mason talked a great deal about allegiance and I endorse much of what he said only with this modification He might turn round and say "I quoted to you the oath which these people had taken There was the oath but they broke their oath even from their own point of view" I should just like to examine the validity of the

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charge that they had broken the oath which they had taken This is the concluding portion of the oath which these soldiers are expected to take

"I will obey the commands of my officers even to the peril of my life."

These are my own words but I believe that is the essence of the oath And what were the commands of their officers after Singapore had fallen on the 15th February, 1942? On the 17th February, 1942, in that famous Farrar Park meeting, where 60,000 soldiers and officers were assembled, Col. Hunt goes to the microphone, addresses the entire gathering there and says "We have surrendered now I surrender you to the Japanese "

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir not surrender

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I would not be inclined to challenge whatever Mr Mason may say now In any case Lt -Col Hunt definitely and positively told these people to obey the commands of the Japanese officers in the same way as they had been obeying the commands of the British officers

Mr. P Mason: No

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: These people were handed over to the Japanese bound hand and foot like a flock of sheep, and after that to say that they were not deserted is to my mind the most disgraceful statement to make here I am not charging Mr Mason with making a misstatement Mr Mason is fortunately only holding a brief, but I know what happened behind the scenes I asked for General Percival to be produced in court but he was not forthcoming I would have liked to see his face in a court of law and I would have shown how far he was responsible He was the one man responsible for the entire disaster, this unprecedented disaster of the Malayan campaign There were others also besides him 'And what were the predisposing causes in the case of these I.N A. people? The predisposing causes were more or less those, a brief list of which I shall attempt now I do not intend to go into all these causes—because the issue is very brief and narrow, but unfortunately these issues have been raised and therefore I am attempting to meet them The predisposing causes were these In the first place most of the armies that went out from India in 1940 were fully aware of the circumstances and conditions of the north-eastern defences The question of the north-eastern defences had often been raised by me in this House I drew the Government's attention in this House from time to time to show that they had been criminally negligent as far as the north-eastern defences were concerned, and from one of opposite seats the Home Member or the Defence Secretary used to smile and answer my questions and tell me "You people know nothing about it, we know our business " Then after years of hammering, the Chatfield Committee was brought out and what was their finding in regard to our defences? They found in 1939, 1940 that the defences of this country were deficient by 45 crores worth of capital works and other urgent requirements, and that was the time they were building up Singapore These debates were taking place, and this unpreparedness was fully known to the army

The next cause was inadequate training and equipment even after the outbreak of the war The period of training was reduced from two years to six months People trained for six months were sent out they knew nothing about warfare, they knew nothing about the kind of terrain they were to operate in, they did not even have enough maps there were not enough maps to go round to the officers These were the conditions under which they were operating

Next came the training with dummy weapons In Malaya itself and on the mainland and elsewhere they were training with dummy weapons and suddenly either up-to-date or inferior weapons were put into their hands There was no tank support, there was no air support, and the entire training in Malaya was for retreat They were retreating from Thailand backwards and day after day these poor fellows were faced with the difficulty of being called upon to retreat, and when the Japanese came along and overran the mainland

and later on broke through every single defence that had been built up, the whole of the army had to fall back upon Singapore; and in Singapore, every one of them was telling the other "What is the good of being here?" News was being broadcast that the Germans had reached Alamein, that the Japanese had broken through, and the entire force, of 60,000 and more consisting of Indian, Australian and British troops had all been surrendered to the Japanese In fact three divisions of the British Army surrendered to two Japanese divisions Under these circumstances, can you ever imagine these people dreaming of keeping any kind of oath they had ever taken? Even if they had been first-rate soldiers they could not have dreamt of it The Crown had ceased to exist for them

Mr Mason next talked about the 45,000 soldiers who were true to their salt, and Mr Griffiths also has very eloquently paid a very high tribute to the faithfulness and loyalty of these people I know what kind of faithfulness they showed they had escaped death once and they did not want to risk their lives again, that was the simple truth But in them a large number of them were among the surplus volunteers of the I N A We were talking of a certain gentleman I do not wish to name him I wish Mr Mason had not mentioned names I wish Mr Griffiths had not mentioned names I know the history of these people and all that I need say about it is this that I know it for a fact that their offers were not accepted, they were not allowed to join the I N.A. and they come back and tell you that they were faithful and loyal people and all the rest of it We know their history That is not the truth I do not wish to malign any one it is furthest from my thoughts I would be the last man to malign a single Indian soldier I would be the last to speak ill of a single Indian officer Under the circumstances I would not put any blame upon any one I actually sympathise with them In the deepest recesses of my heart I have nothing else but sympathy for them I except none, because I know that those who joined the I.N.A and the others who did not, were in an extremely difficult and a very complex position Do not let us go into all those complex matters This is not the occasion for talking about it If any occasion arises, I think I can deal with the whole situation very much more effectively than I can in twenty minutes time now

Now, let me come to the actual issue which faces us The Resolution as it stands before the House is a simple one The Resolution contemplates only the release of two classes of persons (1) the I N A personnel, and (2) the political prisoners and detenus The principle underlying the Resolution is exactly the same it applies to both equally The very consideration of patriotism for which we are calling upon the Government to release the I N A. personnel and which has been recognised by both Mr Mason and Mr Griffiths applies to the others who were in India The same sentiment, the same emotion, the same objective, the same purpose and the same outlook characterise both of them One was acting inside India along certain lines, and the other was acting outside the country Therefore the principle is exactly the same. It must apply to both I do not see why one should be differentiated from the other I am very glad indeed that Mr Mason in propounding Government's policy today has made it clear that the Government has come to the conclusion that all these I N A personnel will be released sooner or later. I want them to be released sooner than later On that point let us all be agreed They say they will be released up to the first April, barring some persons who may have to be interrogated and who may be coming in etc etc But I am talking of those who have already been interrogated at great length and who, as every one knows, have been in detention for a very long time I take the cases of those who were taken along with Shah Nawaz and Sahgal, and others,—Colonel Loganadhan, for instance, Bhonsle, Gill and many others I can feel off a number of names—Jehangir, Aziz Ahmad, Talib and so on. I have not got the whole list before me If I had it would take me time to read it over. So many were taken along with them They have been interrogated once and for all and

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I do not see why they should not be let out There are many others Now, this Government has decided that these men will be released sooner or later, the sooner it is done the better.

Now, I come to the case of those in respect of whom Mr Mason would like us to agree to an exception Those are the cases of persons who, according to the Government, are guilty of brutality I do not want to comment on this word 'brutality' It is a much abused word and it is being flung about freely We fling it across the floor to the Treasury Benches and the Treasury Benches fling it across at us But one thing is perfectly certain. These charges will continue to be bandied until this country is free of foreign domination When this country is free of foreign domination, these charges will change their colour. These charges will then be flung at the Government that may be sitting over there and other charges may be flung back at those sitting here That will be a different story but the fact of the matter is that the very principle which Mr Mason says Government is applying to the consideration of the I N A personnel demands that the question of brutality shou'd be ruled out. Why? The entire age of the I N A covers three periods The first period is that of the first I N A which was built up by Mohan Singh I shall not go into the history of that now It is a very fascinating history The day it comes out even Mr Mason will find it very absorbing reading Others will find it exceedingly absorbing reading The first I N A lasted practically from the day the Bidadari Resolutions were passed in March 1942, down to the 28th December, 1942 It is the first period This was the period of preparation and this I N A was inspired by two considerations The first was that this army was formed for the purpose of liberating India They laid down a condition They said that they wou'd fight for the liberation of India only if the Indian people asked them to do so

Mr. President: I would remind the Honourable Member of the time limit

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I shall finish in five minutes They knew that there was a possibility of the Japanese utilising them and therefore it is wrong to say that these people had formed this army for the purpose of collaborating with the Japanese or for being stooges of the Japanese. They were not stooges of the Japanese They were thinking men who had only said to themselves—now if the Japanese are likely to go into India, they will be a danger to India Let us have arms, so that at least at some stage we may be able to turn our arms against them They knew that and it was with that intention that they started this army and later on they knew that the Japanese would not arm them properly and the truth is there Out of the 20,000 that my friend, Mr Mason is talking about, the Japanese were not prepared to arm more than 10,000, because the Japanese were fully aware of the fact that if they armed the whole lot they did not know which way they would turn. It is not true to say that the I N A was formed for acting as stooges of the Japanese These people organised themselves as a proper army They were acting under their own regular code and any punishment that was meted out to those who had committed any infraction of their laws and rules must be judged by those people and not by us here, not by this Government here In fact, our original proposal was that the whole issue of the I N.A should be left over to the new Government that was to come into power. We hear a great deal of our talking up office and of transfer of power Why don't they wait until the transfer of power has taken place and let us deal with the situation, because then whatever punishment may be deemed necessary will be inflicted upon those who are real culprits by the consent of the people themselves, because the people will have judged them, and not a foreign government. Whatever you may say, this Government is a foreign government Nobody can deny that The Indians sitting on the Treasury Benches may have the best of motives but unfortunately they are still collaborators of the foreign government and they are looked upon as collaborators of the foreign government.

Therefore we say—wait until the new Government has taken its seat and

then let the new Government deal with the whole case. The position is this. Whatever the charges—brutality or anything else—they must be investigated by those who are in a position to do so, namely, the organisers of the I.N.A. or the people who sympathise with the I N.A., not by any one else. That is the only way to deal with it.

I shall just say one word about Abdur Rashid's case. That is one of the cases which has caused a great deal of excitment and has aroused feeling all over the country. I studied this case in the usual course and marked it out as a case for acquittal, not for conviction. Why ' As Mr Mason himself has admitted, Abdur Rashid was in charge of three camps These three camps were organised by the I.N A. How do you know that the people who were undergoing fatigues or people who were being dealt with as offenders against certain rules were not the people who actually belong to the I.N A and who had been sentenced to various terms of punishment and who were kept in these camps It is easy for these people now to come and say we were being tortured, we were being persuaded or coerced into joining the I N A It is difficult to sift the chaff from the wheat at this stage but it is a fact that many of these people who were subjected to certain punishments were persons who had committed various offences Some had committed theft. Others had committed worse offences then theft and they were sent to these camps and they were being punished It is not up to this Government to deal with those cases Those cases could only be dealt with by the organisers of the I N.A. and their officers The whole episode is dead and gone Why talk about it. Drop it Present the country with a clean slate When they say that independence is coming to India in a very short time and the people will be governing themselves and if they are so solicitous of that Government and the people that they want to lecture us today about our duties regarding the army and how it should be looked after and so on and so forth, I would request them to forget the entire episode Present the country with a clean slate as regards the I N A personnel and as regards the politicals and let the country feel that it is not a question of merely gulling us into the belief that independence is coming No, this Government should say that it is determined to see that this country should be free as speedily as possible, and when the country is free, the country will deal with the whole situation If they do that, then it is obvious that better atmosphere will prevail in the country and the consummation which is being talked about now will be considered as a possibility. It cannot be a possibility so long as the present Government continues to act in the old spirit and does not let the country think that there spirit has undergone a change.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official) Sir, I am not a politician and, therefore, I cannot talk in the language of politicians. It may be true that I find myself in this House in four different Assemblies, but, at the same time, I would say that it is only an accident and not my fault Therefore, it is difficult for me to speak after the eloquent and spirited speeches of my Honourable friends Mr Griffiths and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. If I speak as one who from the age of 19 has tried to serve in a humble capacity the cause of education in this country, I do not want to make any apologies for my speech but because what I wish to say is what I have learnt from the experience of a life-time and what, to my mind, is the true essence of education. I think that education, if it is worth while, is meant to teach people, to teach the rising generation and I think even the present generation the one great truth of life, namely, that mankind are brothers because God, or whatever name we may call him by, is the Father of all. Therefore, on that note I interpose in this debate to ask and to put forward a plea for goodwill on all sides At the present juncture when this world is recovering from one of the most terrible maladies that has overtaken us, because war and all that accompanies it is the worst of all evils that mankind suffers from, I feel that a broader view is necessary, that a wider goodwill is necessary and that all those who are charged with the affairs of mankind and the affairs of nations should at the

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present time make that goodwill their foreword and their guiding principle in life

Now, in this connection I feel that it is futile at this moment to discuss the merits of the behaviour of the men who joined the I N A It is even more futile to pursue what should be done to them There was an adjournment motion on this subject before this House and the debate today has shown the most varied opinion as to the merits and demerits of these men The Mover of this Resolution honestly believes, that these men were star heroes The other day my Honourable friend, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, said that they were patriots, and he qualified that statement by saying that, according to these standards, all kinds of men are patriots That is another view I can also understand the viewpoint of Mr Mason and the viewpoint of those whom he represents They feel that these men failed in their duty because they failed to discharge the obligations which were laid on them because of the oath which they had taken These are all different points of view What I submit is this that the whole question of this I N A is today removed from the realm of reason and from the world of practical issues It has become an emotional incident and an emotional problem of the greatest volume Therefore, it is futile to try to discuss the merits of this man or that man Today the precincts of this building have been ringing with the shouts of a huge procession, composed of hundreds of youth, who are shouting "Abdur Rashid zindabad"

Now, what I want to ask my friend Mr Mason is this Is it of any value, is it of any use to continue these trials? Whom does he propose, whom do he hope to convince? Nobody can be convinced Everybody's mind is made up, everybody has formed his opinion because he held his opinions from the very beginning. I have talked to a great many people,—my own countrymen and to a number of my European friends,—I do not claim that I move with the great or with those who are in great power—but I mean those who compose the average Englishmen I have not come across one single man up-till now, including army officers, who has for a moment claimed that there was any wisdom or foresight in staging these trials They have all along said that it has been a blunder Mr Griffiths said so today in the House Why not, therefore, realise that this has been a colossal blunder or, shall I use more classical language a Himalayan blunder It has been the blunder of the utmost magnitude, because, so far as I can read history, never has any incident stirred the emotion of this country so greatly since the partition of Bengal as this occurrence The partition of Bengal was fought to the last ditch, it was carried out What has been the good of it? Is there a British statesman in this country today who can claim that any good came out of partitioning Bengal, particularly to the order of things as they then stood? In the same way, I ask what good could come out to British Government or the Government which follows it by pursuing these trials These are a closed chapter and I appeal in the name of goodwill that this chapter should be closed

A little time ago—it was just before the war—a certain book was published It was an extremely interesting book and it was called "A long week-end". It was written by two historians to illustrate the fact that the 20 years or less than 20 years between World War I and the World War II were a long week-end, when politicians and statesmen—I do not know whether you can call them statesmen—were all the time preparing for World War II and because there was so much temporary prosperity, the tired soldiers and the tired civilians enjoyed themselves as tired people do, when they can get a long week-end Now, Sir, I ask you, whether we are not in the same situation This great war has been fought and I have already said that I think war is the worst evil, the worst malady that overtakes humankind This last war has been the very worst malady suffered by the human race Now, Sir, are we going again to have a long week end? Are we going to plan to plunging the world, plunging this country of ours also into that stream of bitterness which grows and grows till it overflows and engulfs us into World War No III I think that is the main

issue The other day—when I say this to those of my Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches, I also address those of my Honourable friends opposite—I recall when the I N A adjournment motion was being discussed, there was a good deal of heat raised and certain of my Honourable friends raised the cry of *Jai Hind* I, Sir, as a son of India, heartily voice that cry and voice it with as great wholeheartedness as they did On the other side a little while after, the cry of *Pakistan zindabad* was also raised I ask, Sir, why should we not also join in that cry What does *Pakistan* mean? It means holy land After all, to any man, his motherland is a holy land *Hindustan* is a holy land and so also is *Pakistan* a holy land But, Sir, the question is this Why should we fight even on that issue? I ask my Honourable friends opposite, particularly, any one coming from my own Province, the Punjab, is not *Pakistan* already a reality? Is not *Pakistan* already established in the Punjab? Is it not also an accomplished fact in Bengal, where my ancestors came from What, is the use of fighting and engendering so much heat over this issue? What is the use of bringing in so much passion over something which has already happened? Why not concede *Pakistan* if it is going to lead to good-will in this country?

Sir, I do not wish to detain the House longer I once again, repeat that it will make very little difference if a few men are convicted, whether they are convicted of desertion, whether they are convicted of waging war against the King, or finally, Sir, even if they are convicted of brutality I have great sympathy with my Honourable friend Mr Mason's point of view Personally, in my own family I have suffered grievous loss on the Burma front It is not that I do not sympathise with him or see his point of view But I ask him to face the larger issue Is it going to do any good if six men are convicted and sentenced and then afterwards acquitted This is all that has come out of these trials, that is all that has been the result of spending millions, probably, it is not millions, but lakhs of money from the public revenue of this country? Nothing more will come out of it and from engendering so much bitterness in this country I say, Sir, bury the hatchet Why go on with this thing which you yourself say has been a blunder?

Finally, I would say this Every day we hear that the Government is a Caretaker Government Members either threaten to walk over to the other side because it is only a few paces or they say that they are going away My Honourable friend Mr Griffiths also says "we are going away" Other people also say, "we are going away" I quite recognise that my Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches, before they go away are anxious to give my friends opposite who will soon come to these Benches the result of their experiences, the lessons which they have learnt, and give them excellent tips My Honourable friend Mr Asaf Ali says, "I do not want these tips, I do not want to learn from your experience" That is what I gathered from my Honourable friend's speech, he wants to learn his own lessons

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That is your interpretation I learn from every one

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: However, the position is this Why waste your time on teaching them something which they refuse to learn Therefore, let them carry on, and Sir, if I may use an unparliamentary expression, if they want to stew in their own juice, why don't you allow them to stew in their own juice Why carry on this sorry episode?

Sir before I conclude, I wish to close on a note, the note of good will between man and man, whatever their colour or race or creed or habitation may be

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Or mode of speech either

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C Chatterjee: Whatever it may be, good-will not only between nations, but good-will in our own country among its different people, who we hope will soon take over the Government of our country

Finally, Sir, I would remind them of certain words announcing the birth of the founder of my religion The words were "Peace on earth among men of good-will" These words seek to dispel the weariness of war, strife and bitterness, the war of killing each other, robbing each other But peace can only

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come if there are men of good-will, and for that "good-will", I plead, Sir, that good-will between gentlemen who sit here, and the gentlemen who sit across, good-will between the people of different communities that inhabit this land and good-will between the different peoples of this earth

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I rise to support the substitute motion proposed by my Honourable friend from Nagpur, for the simple reason that its approach is realistic and clear It has no propaganda aspect to it, and it means what it says I cannot accept the amendment moved by the Honourable the War Secretary for the simple reason, astounding as it may be, that he has shifted his ground and is trying to preach morals here to-day He forgot the real issue To change the gravamen of the charge from disloyalty to the King or waging war against the King to pure brutality is to give up the whole case War means brutality and thus no soldier on earth is capable of acting true to his duty without brutality Therefore, Sir, the War Secretary's amendment leads me to think that he too would like to release all the men and officers of the I N A, because if the greater charge of waging war against the King has been given up and mere brutality is stuck to, then the whole case of the Government falls to the ground

[At this stage, Mr President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr Deputy President (Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan)]

Sir it is rather funny that the debate went into channels which appear to me rather unreal for the reason that none of the speakers, whom I followed carefully, thought of the action taken by the Commander-in-Chief If his judgment in the first case was correct, then his judgment in the other Courts Martial must be declared to be incorrect His advisers have misled him The policy of showing mercy or the policy of treating these I N A men as different from traitors should have been followed If they do not, if they consider that one man should be punished and the other should not be punished, then either they are lacking in commonsense or there is complete bankruptcy of statesmanship Need we probe into the mentality of the Commander-in-chief or his Advisers? He may have taken action on the ground that by forgiving the three officers whom he had forgiven after the first Court Martial, he was making a gesture of generosity to India But it may also be interpreted that the Commander-in-Chief was in a state of funk because of the general howl in the country and therefore he released them, and a third reason that I can think of seems to be that there was danger of the regular army sympathising with their brothers in the I N A Whatever the reason, it would now appear to be ridiculous to punish some and let others go

4 P.M.

Another point, that I have not been able to understand, is why Delhi was chosen for this huge *tamasha* How much did the trial cost? If the Commander-in-Chief wanted to act under military law, he could have tried these people in Rangoon or in Singapore or elsewhere To have brought them here, to have spent public money also and afterwards to have set them free,—does become difficult for a layman like me to understand, and then to punish others without rhyme or reason They too were either worthy of clemency or they were not The case of Government becomes weaker when the War Secretary preaches another homily to us on the problem of the Oath of Allegiance. The Oath of Allegiance, if broken, must be punished and yet while the Oath of Allegiance was broken they are punishing some and not punishing the others I expect that some better explanation will come from the War Secretary as to why all this *tamasha* was held in Delhi and public money wasted, than the explanation that he has given to us today Sir, it is futile to go into the psychology of the men who surrendered What I have not been able to understand is that if Lieut Colonel Hunt whose Urdu was defective could not explain himself well why was a senior Indian officer not asked to explain the directions given? The Honourable the War Secretary will perhaps tell us why the Commander-in-Chief of India, through leaflets thrown from airplanes to the soldiers in Malaya and elsewhere asked them to go and join the Japanese for

the sake of sabotage Sir, I could give a few reasons why the men who later on came to be called the I. N. A. went over to the enemy. You can easily understand that men asked daily to retire from place to place under the strategy of retreats, had got demoralised. This demoralisation must have become aggravated when there was clear discrimination between the white and the black soldiers. We have not got details of how this was done but it is easy to understand the military mind which made the black and white roads in Burma and did not bring back or evacuate non-whites from Malaya and other places in numbers in which they evacuated the white forces I can understand that our Indian soldiers were left to the wolves. The Indian also loves his life and the Indian in order to save himself did perhaps surrender to the cajoleries of the Japanese One reason given by the War Secretary today was that they expected better food On that one ground alone I condemn the Government completely and I demand that they should forget the I .N. A. and adopt measures to release them as soon as possible The behaviour of the Big Three after the war is also in my favour The distinctions of colour still exist. The war may have been fought for democracy in official documents but to me it was the biggest colonial war in history Colonialism disappeared when the enemy came If Hitler wanted the *lebensraum*, I think we should all agree now that every colonial power also wants *lebensraum* The morals of the case are not in favour of the Government of India which I have always considered as an agency of the Government in London International leaders who have gathered together in London are still talking of trusteeships, mandates accessibility to raw materials, strategic bases for world security and so on Does it at all mean that they are prepared to treat the black and the white on a basis of equality? My answer to that is, 'no' The rule in Burma, Malaya and elsewhere seems to have been every one to himself and the devil take the hindmost'. They left our men there and they did not bother what was going to happen to them. After such action I think the only fair and reasonable course for the Commander-in-Chief and his advisers is to forget the I. N A. folk and let them go back home

Sir, the motion mentions "universal expression of public opinion throughout the country" I am one of those unfortunate human beings in India who find it rather difficult to decide whom to call our national heroes There is a definite clash of loyalties here If one side fought for British imperialism the other, without a doubt in my mind, fought for Japanese imperialism To imagine for a moment that British imperialism would be better than Japanese imperialism would be to think foolishly, and to imagine that the Japanese would have treated us any better than our present rulers and would have given us our freedom on a platter would be rank madness But, as I have said, these boys of the I N A had no other alternative but to act as they did The Burmese politician said the right word when he said that he wanted to be with the devil he knew than the devil he did not know When Dr Shahriar of Java was asked whether he would prefer Japanese rule to Dutch rule, his answer was that it was like asking him whether he would like to be bitten by a cobra or a viper So far as we are concerned, we have no choice. As between the two acts of our soldiers I should like my Indian friends in this House to decide for themselves whether the boys who fought at El-Alamein, Tunisia and Cassino deserve any recognition at our hands I am inclined to the view that Honourable gentlemen to my right when they asked for the quota of German reparations to be raised higher and took the Honourable the Commerce Member to task for having agreed to a lower one do realize that the services of these people are useful to the country and that they too are prepared to recognize the services rendered by those in British Imperial Forces to the same degree as the others with this difference that they will not bring us any reparations from the Japanese. While talking to the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the American Senate, I complained to him about the decision of his party to support the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine He looked at me and burst out into laughter and said, "Is not the Presidential election over?"

[Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi]

Similarly, I am not surprised when I find friends talking of *ahimsa paramo dharma*—non-violence—and words of that character and accepting the cult of violence and war Can I ask them, Sir, one question Are not the elections over? They are making use of the agony of these brothers who have suffered, and none knows when their sufferings will end Can you imagine, Sir, members of the Indian National Congress group comparing 1942 with 1857? I cannot I have been in the Congress in my days, but the present mentality, Sir, upsets me, for this reason that our opponents are beginning to suspect our *bona fides*. We either demand the release of these men on some sound fundamental ground or we are talking balderdash and making use of these boys for our electioneering purposes That, Sir, is not nation-building, that is not asking the present Government to quit India Such an attitude of mind exposes the weakness of our position and to that extent it fixes the British in this country for a time longer than they should be here

So far I have taken the courage to talk a few words to my friends But if the Members of the Government imagine that they can run away with this terrible mentality of theirs, if they think that they are doing something nice and sensible I prefer the charge against them that they acted as traitors to His Majesty the King Emperor by releasing the three for they had broken their Oath of Allegiance Or if His Majesty approved of the action of releasing those three, then they must release every officer and every soldier who had anything to do, directly or indirectly, with the Indian National Army My Honourable colleagues have been talking here in a spirit of unreality They talk as if we are a free nation and our case should be judged according to the law applicable to nations which are free No Sir We cannot demand that Till today we are in the position of beggars and until those who come after us are able to get the rights which they should have, I am prepared, Sir to appeal to Members on Government Benches to release these officers and men, because that is the only way in which they can establish their honesty of purpose

India is taking a turn, Sir, I hope for the better, and if they mean what they say then Sir, I would again appeal to them to put my country in a state of peace, so that I may start on my new venture of nation-building in peace and comfort If they go on creating these troubles, if they go on punishing some and letting off others then, they do not mean what they say Sir, one of the most cruel aspects of their mentality is that the men of the first Indian National Army who joined the Japanese but whom the Japanese put back into concentration camps, are still there It is the most astounding aspect of this mentality They were either true to the Oath of Allegiance and opposed the Japanese or they were not If they were not, the Japanese would not have put them in concentration camps Viewed from every angle, Sir, I am of the opinion that the Government of India, and especially men in its Army Department, have committed, as many Members have said, a colossal blunder, and now courage and honestly demand that they should retrace their steps and release every man for that way lies wisdom

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member) I do not propose to traverse the ground which has been covered by my friend the Joint Secretary of the War Department, nor does he need my help I think the House is fortunate in having the affairs of this important Department entrusted to a Member so well equipped in every way to handle them But I am concerned with the Indian National Army trials and releases in one aspect their repercussions on public order I believe many people share my view that the agitation on this subject which was launched so suddenly and conducted with so much passion was ill-considered and largely artificial Amid noise and tumult the views of moderate and sensible people are apt to be unheard But I believe the agitation has given offence and has caused bewilderment to many good soldiers and many good citizens Of one thing I am sure, that the disturbances arising have given opportunities for lawless crime to elements which are always

ready to take advantage of disorder A grave responsibility rests on the persons who have excited passion on this subject and in particular those who have bemused or perverted the minds of two classes of people—soldiers of the Indian Army, and students There has already been a heavy price to pay for this excitement, in dislocation of the daily life of cities and in loss of human lives. I hope I may be wrong but my fear is that there may be a heavier price to pay yet and the future Governments in India may inherit a legacy which will be painful and dangerous A wise prophet has said 'Those who have sown the wind shall reap the whirlwind'

Shri Sri Prakasa: You have sown the wind!

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I turn to the last, the less sensational part of this Resolution I do so with regret because I feel that the House has come here to talk about the I N A and to listen to speeches about the I N A, and I feel that for me to discuss the latter part of this Resolution will lower the high level of interest which the debate has so far maintained But the Resolution, for which I am not responsible, calls for the immediate release not only of the officers and men of the I N A but all other political prisoners under detention or imprisonment And that is the part with which I have now to deal The term political prisoners is one which is not known to law I do not quarrel with it I do not object to it It is a convenient and reasonable term as long as it is reasonably interpreted The Resolution covers two classes—the prisoners under detention or imprisonment—by which I understand prisoners who have been convicted of political crime Well, Sir, I dealt recently with the subject of prisoners under detention and I have only one or two things to add to what I said then The first thing I want to say and I do not expect complete agreement from my friends on the other side of the House, is that in any real sense of the term political prisoner there is none now under detention Those who are now detained in prison are kept there purely in the interests of public order, because their record warrants a belief that their release would be prejudicial to public order

An Honourable Member: Why should it?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I did not expect you would agree with that I gave the House figures the other day My Honourable friend, the mover so far as I understood him, questioned my figures He said they were grossly under-stated and my recollection is that as an illustration of my understatement, he said that there are 700 detenus in his province alone, the U P. Well Sir, I do not know the source of his information, but I do not accept it and I do not believe it My information is that on the first of January last, there were 44 persons under detention in the U P, as against his 700 The total number of persons detained without trial under Ordinance III now in India is about 3,000, rather less than 3,000, and of those about 500 are persons who were actively connected with movements aiming at terrorism and sabotage The remainder, as I said, or practically all the rest, that is about 2,500, are Hurs Well, Sir, champions of the Hurs have arisen recently in various places, in this House and elsewhere, but one thing I have observed about them is that they all live at a very safe distance from Sind, *e g*, in Bombay, Calcutta, or Allahabad

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City Muhammadan Urban)**.** Or Delhi!

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: This problem is peculiarly a Sind problem. I repeat what I said the other day, that I will not be a party to censure of the Sind Government for the treatment they have given to the Hurs nor will I be a party to a resolution demanding the immediate release of the Hurs The Sind Government recently put out a statement which shows that they have been and are considering the Hurs problem very seriously and I suggest that this House should refrain from passing a Resolution which in this part of it can only embarrass that Government.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Why should it embarrass the Government?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The second portion of this Resolution refers to persons convicted of political crime Here, again, I must disclaim responsibility, as I did the other day in respect of detention, for crimes in areas which are outside the direct control of the Government of India, although in regard to those I propose presently to give the House some figures.

In the Chief Commissioners' Provinces, there are only four persons who have been convicted of political crime All those are fairly recent convictions. None of them goes back to 1942 or 1943 The sentences imposed have been trivial. the longest of them is I think nine months and they are all due to expire in a month or two I do not consider that there is any reason for releasing those persons earlier than may be possible under the ordinary remission rules which give remissions on account of good conduct

Now, Sir, in the eleven Governors Provinces, by far the greatest number of the persons who have been convicted of crimes which can be regarded as political, are those connected with the disturbances of 1942 and for those the figure on the 1st January last was 2,852 On the 1st June 1943, the figure was 22,548 The fall has been from 22,548 in June 1943 to 2,852 last month Well, Sir, there again in my view, any acceleration of release must be left to the Provincial Governments

I should like, Sir, before I conclude to say a word on a remark which fell from my Honourable friend, the mover I made a note of it at the time and I hope I have correctly recorded it He said that it does not matter whether violence in these crimes was used or not It follows logically from that that the political motive excuses any crime, even I suppose including murder Well, Sir, that is an impossible claim for any Government to admit Governments in India have not admitted it in the past Even Congress Governments did not act on that principle, and I am confident that the Governments in India will not act on that principle in the future The claim to my mind indicates a tendency to condone violence which in my observation has grown in recent months and in my belief it may prove a serious danger not only to public order in general, but to the peaceful and successful working in India of democratic institutions Sir, that is all I have to say on this subject and the House can now return to the more exhilarating topic of the I N A trials I must oppose the Resolution of Pandit Govind Malaviya as it stands

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about all those people?

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Sir, it seems to me that the debate on this Resolution will probably go over today and I may not be present when the debate may be resumed on the next occasion Therefore, I think, Sir, I should say a few words and put my views before the House

Sir, the substitute Resolution of Nawab Siddique Ali Khan is this

"In view of the special circumstances under which most of the personnel of the Indian National Army joined it and in view of the policy laid down by the Government and the action taken by the Commander-in-Chief in dealing with the sentences passed by the Court Martial, this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to release all officers and men of the I N A whether under detention or under trial"

Now, to that Resolution I understood that Mr Mason has no objection but he wants his amendment to be incorporated Have I understood him correctly?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: His amendment is:

"That to the Resolution which the amendment proposed by Nawab Siddique Ali Khan to substitute for the original resolution the words 'except those charged with brutality' be added at the end."

I do not wish to go into the various matters that have been discussed by the House. Mr. Mason has given us a long lecture as regards and the reliability of the army and its necessity. On the other

hand, we have heard us to what is meant by patriotic duty and what a patriot should do Sir, that is all academic The reality is this I think every intelligent man knows what a patriot should do I think every intelligent man knows that the army of a country must be maintained on the basis of complete integrity, reliability and faithfulness All this is very elementary That is not the question now before the House The question before the House is this "What is the policy of the Government with regard to this subject of the Indian National Army"? I do not want, Sir, to say anything which will add more to the bitterness I do not want to say anything which will hurt anybody, at any rate, I do not mean it I do not want to go into extraneous matters Let us confine ourselves and concentrate on this issue which is before the House "What is the policy of the Government with regard to this matter"? You thought it right to hold these trials Well, in my judgment, it was a blunder, to begin with After going through the trials, you reduced the judgment and the sentences passed by the Court to travesty by releasing the men the very next moment Why did you do it? Sir, it is quite obvious to me, at any rate You did so, because you felt—and as it was partly given out by Mr Mason—you felt not that it will help the settlement of the political problem, but you felt that there was such an upsurge of agitation and revolt throughout the country against your policy of having put them on trial, thereafter, because of that agitation —as I think one of the Honourable Members said- you funked it and you were stampeded into taking this action of remitting the entire sentence Having done that you find now that the agitation has cooled down There were, I believe, in England—and I read it in the newspapers -very severe comments upon this farce I do not say that you were wrong I say you should never have put them on trial But having put them on trial, and having got the judgment after days and days of trial, you funked it You reduced it to a farce and there was severe criticism and then another blunder The first blunder was to start with the trials the second blunder was to make a farce of a judicial judgment and sentences passed the very next moment

An Honourable Member: Now this is the third

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Quite, this is the third Now you find that the agitation has subsided You find now that you have put yourself in a ridiculous position and under cover of this plea "charged with brutality" as the exception

Mr. P. Mason: 30th November was the date on which we announced this policy

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: I know you leave a loophole always I have not known, Sir, for the last thirty years but have you ever known the British Government to issue a statement (whose children you are) without leaving a loophole? I have not You can always find an excuse How many statements, how many pledges and promises you have broken shamelessly I know why you are doing it You are now doing it because you want to find a scape goat and a victim Rashid Ali is No 1 victim but it is not going to stop there You will get a few more victims You propose perhaps to go through the same farce, going through a trial, then transportation for life or may be sentence of death (I do not know) and then you will come round and say, "Yes, yes After all waging war against the King was bad" Did not Shah Nawas commit murder? Was he not held guilty of murder?

Mr. P. Mason: No Sir He was not guilty of murder

Mr M. A. Jinnah: Of course he was Abetment is the same as murder, Mr Mason, you do not understand the legal language I am sorry, your mind is more in the direction of military affairs Abetment is the same offence I can understand this legal language But if you say that it was not his hand that actually killed the man and therefore in his case, he being an abettor there were extenuating circumstances, in order not to give him as severe a punishment as the man who actually killed the man—I can understand that But why he released completely? That is what I want to know

Mr. P. Mason: I explained it just now

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: I know you explained it But does not the Honourable Member see how absurd it is to say—I am assuming now that Rashid is guilty of grievous hurt—that a man who commits grievous hurt or some injury—that that is not a lesser offence than abetment of murder? Cannot you see that? Commonsense will show you that if a man is guilty of grievous hurt, that is a lesser offence in every sense of the word than murder or abetment of murder Shah Nawaz and others were released Why is poor Rashid made the victim of your change of policy?

Mr. P. Mason: There has been no change

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: You have changed your policy And not only this, Rashid—I am not talking now of Rashid—I am not concerned whether he is a Muslim or a Hindu or a Parsi—I am now considering your policy Let me tell you that you are mistaken and let me advise you with all the earnestness I can command, stick to your first policy and your first thought Release them all No question I am not satisfied—I have gone through the record and I am not satisfied that Rashid is guilty of brutality

Mr. P. Mason: That is the point

Mr M. A. Jinnah: Yes I have spent many years of my life and I assume him that if you go through this carefully as I have, he is no more guilty of brutality than Shah Nawaz and many others who were there at the time Therefore, please consider it from this point of view In order to prevent that few namely, that it looks farcical, you may victimise a few Do not do it Come out boldly and honestly If you mean to secure goodwill, if you mean to create that feeling amongst every section of the people of this country close this chapter completely No more arguments, no more talk I earnestly advise you in your interests, in our interests, and if you will yield once in your life to this advice of mine, believe me you do not know what you will be able to achieve If you are really honest, if you are really sincere, if you mean what you say, believe me, do it at once without delay

Mr. P. Mason: Will the Honourable Member assume me that he will not say next time that we were funking it?

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: No I say that this is my case You say it is not I say this is my inference that you funked Very well If you will give me this assurance—and you must remember what I have said long long ago—do not forget it please if you will give me this assurance that you are going to close this chapter not only I shall not be justified in saying that you have funked but I will say that you have behaved as a civilised Government should behave and as a conquering Government should behave I have said that long ago When this question came before the public I said, if you remember—and if you do not I will send you the press cuttings but you must have it with you—I said that we have the deepest sympathy for these men and I hope that the British Government will show the utmost clemency to them, the utmost clemency becoming a conqueror You have won the war I said that not only the men and the officers of the I N A but those who have died on the battlefield, fighting for you heroically—look after their families and their children those who have returned having won the battles treat them properly I do not want to go into this matter whether they fought for you or fought for me—they are human beings Treat them as human beings, and Mr Griffiths, when the time comes, my army in Pakistan shall without doubt maintain all loyalty, whatever be the liability, and if any one did not do so, be he a soldier or be he officer or a civilian, he will go the same way as William Joyce or John Amery

Kumar Shri Himmatsinhji (Nominated Non-Official) Mr Deputy President, I have heard with attention and great interest the remarks on the Indian National Army by some Honourable Members I do not want controversies I stand here today as a representative of the Forces I will therefore give you their side of the story

Sir, when I became a member of this Assembly I asked a political friend of mine for his advice, who informed me that the first thing to do as a Member of the Assembly is to lose ones conscience Honourable Members who have a longer experience of this House than I have, can judge better than I can, whether that is true or not as far as I am concerned Sir let me make it plain that I speak here today, not as a politician but as a humble soldier and on behalf of and for Indian soldiers I shall disregard my friend's advice and say what I honestly believe, regardless of whether it pleases those on this side of the House or on that

The motto of the soldier is to defend his country The Indian soldier has always done this in the past It is not the fault of the Indian soldier that the present Government is not hundred per cent Indian It is up to you gentlemen to get together, form a national Government and run this country as you think fit I can assure you that the Indian armed forces will serve you as loyally as they are serving the present Government Indeed, we will be justly proud to do so! I can tell you today with all the emphasis at my command that all officers and men of the Indian armed forces yearn for freedom for India as much as anyone in this House or in India The soldiers sailors and airmen do not understand why the representatives of the people cannot arrive at some solution when they do arrive at such a solution and we get the freedom for which we long so much, Sir, I can assure you that the Indian armed forces will defend that freedom with all their might

Unfortunately a soldier has no say in the politics of his country If he had he would force upon the representatives of this House a non-stop session until all parties agreed upon a common formula for freedom for all!

I may humbly point out to the Honourable Members that by branding the Indian Army as mercenaries, no useful purpose will be served Just think of these people whom you call mercenaries If they fight heroically and win world wide fame for their courage, devotion to duty and endurance, as they have done during this war, the last war and all wars in the past, they are called by some as mercenaries If on the other hand they were to indulge in activities which popular fancy urged them to do they would be labelled by the Government of the day as "traitors" These men are in a difficult position Be just to them Don't judge them harshly Give them a chance Wait until you form a national Government Then try the same mercenaries If they fail you gentlemen I would be prepared to face a trial for having misled you Therefore I appeal to you to give the Indian soldier his share of praise He has done well in this war He has brought military fame to India Whatever the political implications of his role in this war he has proved to the world that when India is free her freedom will be in the safest hands for no nation could ask for a better army to defend its liberty

It is said that the object of the I N A was the liberation of India With that object every Indian agrees there can be no question of that, and as an Indian, I can understand why many of my countrymen applaud them and treat them as heroes After all, Sir all subject nations are bound to be stirred at the deeds of a force trying to liberate its country from a foreign rule It is therefore not difficult to understand why Indians feel visibly moved when they hear of a Provisional Indian Government under an Indian President the aim of which was liberation of India But perhaps it would not be out of place for me to mention here what my own reactions were during the war regarding the credentials of the Japanese, who after all were in a position to destroy the I N A at will It is therefore my duty to go deeper into this question I have said before that I shall speak my mind without fear on the floor of this House I therefore say that the reliance the I N A placed in the Japanese promises was not justified To prove my point I may be forgiven if I claim to know about the Japanese more than any one in this House, as over 20 years ago I had experience of serving in the Japanese Army as an Exchange Officer the outbreak of the war I was interned by the Japanese for nea-

[Col Kumar Shri Himmatsinhji]

During this internment, at a cost of one eye, I got to know the Japanese a their brutal methods and their ambitions Let me relate Japanese concepti of prisoners of war It may not be generally known that the Japanese refus to sign the Geneva conventions regarding the treatment of prisoners, because their view it was a disgrace for a soldier to become a prisoner and that he do not deserve living If the Japs had won this war and occupied India, I kne that they would never have left this country until another war had throv them out They would have liquidated all those who mattered in the I N Freedom would never have descended upon India as long as the Rising Sun sway had reigned supreme in this land of ours!

Talking of the I N A problem I might assure the House that in our prese Commander-in-Chief we have today the most sympathetic Commander in th world He has done more for the Indian army than anyone today or in th past Every Indian officer and other rank is proud to serve under this gre man There are no words of flattery I have never traded on this before an having left the Army I certainly don't need to indulge in it now I know th I am voicing the sentiments of every single Indian in the army navy and A Force of India today We have all become so used to the present Commande in-Chief's immortal presence above us that we dread at the thought that h will one day have to leave us If my voice can go further than this House then let me say this I hope this Commander-in-Chief stays with us as long a possible I wish I could explain what I mean But I would merely say tha only he would be able to fulfil our aspirations and ambitions of a complete Indian n tion!

I therefore appeal to the House to select a representative delegation of th Honourable Members of this House who should approach the highest military authority on the subject of I N A This may lead to a solution of this ver delicate problem This is vital now of all the times when we are on the threshold of constitutional changes leading to our freedom

I now wish to draw attention of the War Department to a few points

(a) During my visits to the Indian troops on the various fronts I was aske over and over again by the Indian soldiers that they were fighting the same enemy by the side of the Allies that he the Indian soldier was fighting as well if not better than most of them then why is it that his pay, allowances and the general treatment when overseas are much lower than the troops of the British Commonwealth or of the other Allies They also pointed out that the troops of Greece, Poland and Chezchs most of whom even did not take part in fighting were paid at the same rate as a British soldier and by the British Government I more than once put the same question to the British Generals in Command and must confess to them everyone agreed that when an Indian soldier is employed overseas that he should be paid on the British rates of pay

(b) As regards Resettlement and Welfare, both Indian officers and men with whom I have come in touch with are anxious and worried about their future and I would suggest that all possible ways and means must be found to look after Resettlement of these brave Indian soldiers

Mr Deputy President: Does the Honourable Member wish to continue his speech for some time?

Col. Kumar Shri Himmatsinhji: I will take another ten minutes

Mr Deputy President: Then the Honourable Member can continue his speech on the next day for Resolutions

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the February, 1946.

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