

4th April 1944

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report

Volume III, 1944
(28th March to 5th April, 1944)

TWENTIETH SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1944



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Deputy President :

Mr. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen :

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Mr. K. C. NEOGY, M.L.A.

Mr. HOSEINBHÖY A. LALLJEE, M.L.A.

Sir HENRY RICHARDSON, M.L.A.

Secretary :

Mian MUHAMMAD RAFI, Barrister-at-Law.

Assistants of the Secretary :

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

Khan Bahadur S. G. HASNAIN.

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Syed GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

Mr. GOVIND V. DESHMUKH, M.L.A.

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

Mr. N. M. JOSHI, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 4th April, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN:

The Honourable Sir John Anderson Thorne, K.C.I.E., C.S.I. (Home Member);

Dr. Mian Muhammad Junaid, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

FAMINE IN ORISSA, TRAVANCORE, ETC.

784. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Food please state if it is not a fact that Orissa, Travancore, Cochin and Malabar are still in the grip of famine?

(b) Is it a fact that wheat is sent to them in spite of their staple food being rice?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: (a) It is not a fact.

(b) Yes.

DESIRABILITY OF EVOLVING A CENTRAL GRAIN RESERVE.

765. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member please state if it is a fact that the Foodgrains Policy Committee emphasises the absolute need for a central grain reserve?

(b) Are the Government of India prepared to establish one without the least delay?

(c) Are the Government of India prepared to ask Provincial Governments to contribute a small percentage of their purchases for the central reserve, to be added to a substantial percentage of all imports?

(d) Are the Government of India prepared to implement the recommendation of the Foodgrains Policy Committee with regard to installation of sufficient machinery for the production of artificial fertilizers? If so, when? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Yes.

(b) A reserve depot has already been established by the Government of India at Karachi.

(c) The whole of the surpluses declared by administrations in India are at the disposal of the Government of India for allotment. Grain from these surpluses will be allotted to the reserve as considerations of movement and supply dictate.

(d) The Government of India have made enquiries both in U. K. and U. S. A. regarding importation of machinery and equipment required for the production of nitrogenous fertilizers and are considering whether they should undertake to develop the ammonium sulphate industry as one of their own concerns or give necessary assistance to industrialists, who have expressed their unwillingness to take the risk of establishing this industry in war time without a large measure of Government assistance.

FAMINE CONDITIONS IN THE COASTAL BELT OF GANJAM AND VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICTS.

766. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable the Food Member aware of the fact that there is a deep distress prevailing in the Chicacola Division of the Vizagapatam District, Madras Province, due to the failure of paddy crop in 1943 and gingely and cholam crop in the early part of 1944?

(b) Is it not a fact that deaths due to starvation have begun in that area which was devastated by cyclone of the 31st October, 1943?

(c) Is there rationing introduced in that area? If not, why not?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware of the famine conditions prevailing in the coastal belt of Ganjam and Vizagapatam Districts? If so, what are the

measures taken by the Government of India to alleviate the distress and destitution prevailing in those parts?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a), (b), (c) and (d). My attention has been drawn to reports of distress in the area in question and I had, before the Honourable Member gave notice of his question, called for a special report from my Regional Food Commissioner. I am awaiting his report. In so far as the question relates to the Province of Orissa I would ask the Honourable Member to refer to the statement laid on the table of the House in answer to his question No. 275, dated March 1, 1944.

INFERIOR QUALITY OF RICE IN GANJAM AND VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICTS.

767. *Mr. J. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Honourable the Food Member aware that the quality of rice available in the markets of Ganjam and Vizagapatam Districts is of a very inferior quality, mostly unfit for human consumption?

(b) Where is such a supply coming from?

(c) Are the Government of India aware of the fact that Ganjam and Vizagapatam districts are the rice-producing centres of the best variety? What has become of that quality of fine rice? Is it being stored and reserved for military use?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that people are subjected to the diseases—dysentery and beriberi—by the use of the most inferior quality of rice supplied to the above two districts?

(e) Is the Honourable Member prepared to put an end to the supply of such a quality of rice to save the people from untold sufferings?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No such complaints have been received.

(b) Ganjam supplies are obtained from the district itself, while Vizagapatam obtains its supplies from the Tadepalligudem area, from the Central Provinces and from the Eastern States.

(c) Fine rice produced in Ganjam and Vizagapatam is marketed within the districts themselves. The answer to the latter part of the question is in the negative.

(d) Neither the Government of India nor the Provincial Governments have received any such reports or complaints.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know something about the bad quality of the rice? Is it last year's rice?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I cannot answer that question because it does not arise out of the question, I submit.

VARIOUS DISASTERS CONFRONTING VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT.

768. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: (a) Is the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands aware that a tidal wave swept over an extensive area in and around Callingapatam, a part in the Vizagapatam district, on the 31st October, 1943, and that not a drop of fresh water is available in that area?

(b) Is it not a fact that there is a settlement of brine in the land constituting the area?

(c) Is he aware that these lands are best paddy growing ones? Is it not a fact that the deposit of brine is deleterious to the growth of paddy?

(d) What are the measures adopted by the Government of India to get the lands freed from brine?

(e) Is he aware that a perennial river flows in adjacent lands, and that no action is taken by any Government to see that fresh water from the river is allowed to flow into these lands, and in spite of repeated prayers to the Provincial and Central Governments?

(f) Is the Honourable Member aware that several thousands of houses in the Chicacola Division are still roofless after the cyclone of unprecedented ferocity on the 31st October, 1943?

(g) Is he aware that the price of bamboo and grass has risen very high—five or six times the pre-war price—which is beyond the capacity of the people living in those roofless huts?

(h) Is he aware of the prevalence of diseases such as small-pox, dysentery, beriberi and malaria?

(i) Is he aware that quinine and necessary varieties of serum are not available in the area affected by the cyclone?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) Government are aware that as the result of a tidal wave on the 31st October 1943 low-lying areas in coastal villages of Vizagapatam District were inundated for two days and small fresh water wells were filled with brine. The wells have been rendered fit for use by baling the salt water out.

(b) Salinity is observable only in the top layers of the lands affected.

(c) The land is considered suitable for growing paddy and it is a fact that excess of salt in the soil is deleterious to the growth of many varieties of paddy.

(d) To reduce the effects of salinity the Provincial Government have distributed *Dhancha* seeds for growing green manure. The Provincial Government have also supplied salt resistant paddy seeds to the cultivators of the tract.

(e) All P. W. D. channels from the rivers have been cleared of silt and it is proposed to release all the water available for flushing the lands and growing a second crop but the supplies of river water in the summer months from April to June are limited by climatic conditions.

(f) A considerable number of houses still require roof repairs but reports received indicate that several thousands is an over estimate.

(g) There is no information as to pre-war prices of grass and bamboo. Paddy straw is commonly used for roofing purposes in the areas in question and the price of this commodity, in view of its steep rise, was controlled and over 24 lakhs bundles were requisitioned in Chicacole for supply free or at controlled price. Stocks of *Rellu* grass are also being made available while stocks of bamboo are being obtained by the Provincial Government for supply to house owners needing them.

(h) Small pox statistics for Vizagapatam District from the beginning of November till the week ending 4th March 1944 do not indicate any abnormal incidents of small-pox. Information is not available about the prevalence of dysentery, beri-beri and malaria.

(i) Supplies of quinine and small-pox and cholera vaccines are available with the Madras Government. The Government of India have no information about the quantities distributed in Vizagapatam district.

OFFICERS APPOINTED IN DELHI RATIONING SCHEME.

769. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the total number of officers appointed by Government in connection with the Delhi Rationing Scheme and the number of Muslim officers appointed in each grade; and

(b) the total number of ministerial and other persons appointed in connection with the Delhi Rationing Scheme and the number of Muslims so appointed?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table.

<i>Gazetted Staff.</i>	<i>Statement.</i>	Total appointed Muslims. upto date.	
Controller of Rationing	1	1	..
Dy. Controller of Rationing	1	1	..
Asstt. Controller of Rationing	3	3	..
Publication Relations Officer	1	1	..
Rationing Officers	2	2	..
Chief Inspector	1	1	..
Circle Rationing Officers	13	13	7
Total	22	22	7
<i>Ministerial Staff.</i>			
Deputed by the Government of India Departments	403	403	111
Recruited direct for Card writing for one month.. . . .	188	188	52
Inspectors	35	35	10
Sub-Inspectors	30	30	13
Total	656	656	186

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know what is the total number of non-Muslims?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque:

Gazetted Staff 22: Muslims 7;

Ministerial staff 656: Muslims 186.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What is the population of Muslims in Delhi?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I would require notice of that question.

LEAPING PROMOTIONS TO A SOUTH INDIAN ASSISTANT IN IMPERIAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

770. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state, with reference to starred question No. 130, asked by Sardar Sant Singh on the 2nd August, 1943, on the rapid promotions to a South Indian Assistant at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute:

(a) if the gentleman has since received the degree of Ph.D. from London as it is now four years that he is back in India;

(b) if not, whether any attempt has been made by the Department to verify if really the London University has not sent out the results to India so far, and whether the gentleman is really qualified; and

(c) if the gentleman has got his promotions in quick succession on the score of this degree alone?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) and (b). The Officer in question has not yet received "parchment" of the degree of Ph.D. from the London University. He is in touch with the authorities concerned and has reminded them by cable.

(c) The reply is in the negative.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Does not the Honourable Member think that four years is quite a long time for the receipt of a diploma if really he has received the degree?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I understand the University was very largely burnt down and we have not been able to obtain the examination list of the University since the year 1939-40, but we have ourselves sent a telegram to enquire about this particular case.

CLOSING OF ARCHES BETWEEN QUARTERS ON IRWIN ROAD, NEW DELHI.

771. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: (a) Is the Honourable the Labour Member aware that sometime back some of the passages (arches) in between the Government quarters situated on the Irwin Road, New Delhi, were closed for vehicular traffic, etc.?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that some of these have been closed by erecting small pillars of cements and others by putting up a revolving iron bar gate fixed in a 'V' type of structures?

(c) What is the object and utility of putting up these iron bar gates when 'V' type of structures can easily block the way for vehicular traffic?

(d) Is the Honourable Member further aware that children while playing get hurt—sometimes very seriously—by these iron bar gates?

(e) Does the Honourable Member propose to consider the desirability of getting these iron gates removed immediately and have them utilized in some other way? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) To stop cycle traffic.

(d) No.

(e) Government will be prepared to consider the suggestion of the Honourable Member.

EXPORT OF TEA TO IRAN BY LAND.

772. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if it is a fact that 12,000 cases containing over nine lakh pounds of tea were exported to Iran on private account across the land frontier by mistake?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, who was responsible for this mistake, and what action do Government propose to take about the matter?

The Honourable Sir M. Asirul Huque: (a) and (b). We have no information but the matter is being enquired into.

ABSENCE OF MUSLIM OFFICERS IN CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE.

773. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Is the Honourable the Labour Member aware that none of the officers in the Central Stationery Office is a Muslim?

(b) Is it also a fact that a new post of Assistant Controller, Stationery, has been recently sanctioned and has not yet been filled up? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to reserve it for a Muslim? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The answer to the second part is that the post would be filled according to the communal representation rules.

DESIRABILITY OF POSTING A TECHNICAL OFFICER TO THE OFFICE OF CONTROLLER OF PRINTING AND STATIONERY.

774. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please say:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work in the Government of India Presses is of a technical nature;

(b) whether it is also a fact that none of the officers at the headquarters' office of the Controller of Printing and Stationery is an officer drawn from the technical side; and

(c) if the replies to parts (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, whether he proposes to consider the desirability of posting a technical officer to the Controller's Office?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes, mostly.

(b) Yes.

(c) No, because detailed technical supervision and scrutiny of printing work is not necessary in his office.

DESIRABILITY OF OPENING ARTS AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES IN NEW DELHI.

†775. *Mr. K. S. Gupta: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether Government would consider the advisability of opening:

(i) an Arts College in New Delhi for the convenience of the New Delhi residents;

(ii) a Medical College attached to the Irwin Hospital at New Delhi; and

(iii) an Engineering College or converting the Delhi Polytechnic into a Degree College? If not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The answers to the three parts of the Honourable Member's question are respectively:

(i) No.

(ii) The establishment in Delhi of a Medical College for men will be considered in connection with post war development.

(iii) No; but the Delhi Polytechnic will, in due course, provide advanced courses of technological instruction which will lead either to a Diploma corresponding to an Associateship of the Institute of Engineers or to an Honours Degree in Engineering or Technology. It is not possible, owing to war conditions, to say when these facilities will be available.

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION.

776. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that his Department makes a monthly contribution of Rs. 13,000 to the Indian Labour Federation through Mr. M. N. Roy? If so, for what purpose? If the amount of contribution is more or less than this figure, will the Honourable Member please state the correct figure?

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

(b) Have any accounts been rendered for the money so contributed to the Indian Labour Federation? If not, why not?

(c) If the reply to first portion of part (b) above be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please lay on the table of the House copies of such statements received for the last six months? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) A monthly grant of Rs. 13,000 is made to the Indian Federation of Labour for doing propaganda to keep up the morale of industrial labour.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No. The accounts are subject to the same scrutiny as all public accounts and no useful purpose would be served by placing them on the table.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is he authorised to distribute that money to other persons for the purpose of propaganda?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is not given to him; the grant is made to the Indian Federation of Labour.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: That means, the person who is in charge of the Federation. Can he distribute that money to other people asking them to go and do propaganda?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have no information as to how the money will be distributed.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member enquire into it because accounts have to be made?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The accounts are audited as all other public accounts are.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Does the Honourable Member know how this amount is shown to have been distributed, is it shown by the audit?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have no information, but the accounts are scrutinised in the same way as all other public accounts.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Have the Federation made any rule and submitted the same to the Government, regulating the manner in which this grant should be spent?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have no information on that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member make an enquiry into it?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If the Honourable Member will care to put a question, I will make enquiries.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I do not know how accounts will be audited if there are no rules for distribution.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am sure that the public accounts officer must satisfy himself, that there are some rules according to which the money is spent.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Are there any other associations which are getting money like this?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I must have notice of that question.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: There ought to be some rules by means of which it can be ensured that Mr. Roy does not spend the whole money on his friends.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I had no idea that the Honourable Member had any justification to presume that there were no rules.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: That is the impression which one gets, because Government showed ignorance.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Government have not shown ignorance. My answer was that the accounts are subject to the same scrutiny as other public accounts are.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Has the Honourable Member satisfied himself that this is the only organisation that will help the Government to keep up the morale of labour?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have no information. I must have notice of that question.

DESIRABILITY OF UNIFORMITY IN QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

777. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India had a proposal to have uniform qualifications for appointment to Government service? If so, how was the same disposed of?

(b) Is it a fact that educational qualification for some appointments in various departments under the control of Government have been lowered to a Third Division Matriculation?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that most of the Universities have no divisional system of examinations? If so, what relief is given to candidates from other than Punjab University for employment to posts for which the standard has been lowered to a third division?

(d) What is the difference between the Third Division Matriculation of the Punjab University and the Matriculation Examination of Universities of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras, in the matter of (i) minimum number of subjects in which a candidate has to appear; (ii) the number of subjects in which he must necessarily pass; and (iii) the percentage of pass marks required?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take to equalize the qualifications of different universities for the purpose of Government service? If none, why?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) No. The second part of the question does not arise.

(b) The minimum educational qualification for the recruitment of routine grade clerks in the Government of India Secretariat and its Attached Offices is the Matriculation Examination or its equivalent. Third Division Matriculates are eligible for appointment to these posts.

(c) All Indian Universities conducting the Matriculation Examination declare Matriculation results by divisions, except the University of Bombay. The second part of the question does not arise as far as entry to Government service is concerned.

(d) A statement giving the information required by the Honourable Member is laid on the table of the House.

(e) None. Government only prescribe the minimum qualifications for entry to Government service.

Statement.

Matriculation Examination of the University of	Minimum number of subjects in which a candidate has to appear.	Number of subjects in which he must necessarily pass.	Percentage of pass marks required.
Punjab	5	4	33 per cent.
Bombay	5	5	40 per cent. in Genl. English and 35 per cent. in other subjects.
Calcutte	7	6	36 per cent. of the total marks in Vernacular and in English; 30 per cent. in each of the other subjects; and 36 per cent. in the aggregate.
Madras	5	4	35 per cent. in all subjects separately or 35 per cent. in English and 50 per cent. in aggregate even though the candidate fails in one subject.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the third division is the highest division of matriculation in the Punjab?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: No. I believe it is the lowest division.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: In the Bombay Presidency there is no division and may I know what is the equivalent division in the Punjab, C, D or A?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Honourable Member's question seems to proceed on the assumption that the matriculate of Bombay where there is no division must necessarily have attained a higher proficiency than the third division matriculates of the Punjab.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Assuming that, may I ask whether it is considered a higher grade in Bombay or not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am not prepared to make the assumption that the Honourable Member wishes me to make.

SHORTAGE OF CLOTH IN BENGAL.

†778. ***Mr. K. S. Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies state if it is a fact that the province of Bengal is suffering from a serious shortage of cloth? If so, do the Government of India propose to see that the ban on the All-India Spinners' Association that used to take a large hand in organizing the production of home-made cloth or *Khadi*, is removed at once, to make up the shortage of cloth to some extent?

(b) Is it a fact that in recent years the hand-loom industry had become moribund and that it might not be possible to revive it after the War? If so, what are the measures proposed to encourage and develop the industry?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Haque: (a) Bengal is not now suffering from a serious shortage of cloth. Some months ago Government received complaints that there was a shortage of cloth there, and have greatly improved the situation by obtaining a high priority for movement of cloth by rail to Bengal, by arranging special shipments of cloth to supplement rail movements, and by bearing the insurance of such shipments. Government of India have placed no ban on the All India Spinners' Association; any action taken in Provinces against this organisation or its branches is a matter for the Provincial Governments concerned.

(b) The Handloom Industry is far from moribund. Government have indeed taken several measures to foster its growth. An annual grant of Rs. 5 lakhs is made to Provinces for the development of the Handloom Industry. Government make special arrangements for the supply of yarn to Provinces and States for the use of their handloom weavers. Priority has been given to handloom weavers' requirements of dyes and chemicals over the mill industry's requirements. Government are at present pursuing the questions of setting up an all-India Handloom Board and of so fixing the ceiling prices of yarn as to enable the handloom weaver to earn a good wage and handloom products to compete in the market on better terms with mill cloth.

GAZETTED OFFICERS UNDER THE SURVEYOR GENERAL.

†779. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the number of Gazetted officers employed under the Surveyor General, and how many of such officers are Sikhs, Hindus, Muhammadans and others?

(b) What is the total number of Extra Assistant Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, and Superintendents under the Survey Department, and how many of them are Hindus, Muhammadans and Sikhs?

(c) What is the total number of Assistants and Head Clerks in the office of the Surveyor General, and how many of them are Sikhs, Muhammadans and Hindus?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that either there are no Sikhs in the above grades or appointments or their representation is altogether negligible?

(e) Is the Honourable Member also aware that the interests of Sikhs have all these years greatly suffered in the Surveyor General's Department?

(f) Will the Honourable Member please see that the Sikh staff also get due encouragement, and that some Sikhs are appointed as gazetted officers? If not, what are the reasons?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information has been called for and a reply will be furnished to the House when it is received.

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

‡Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

STENOGRAPHERS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

†780. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the number, separately, of permanent and temporary stenographers at present employed in the office of the Director General, Indian Medical Service, and how many of them are Sikhs, Hindus and Muhammadans?

(b) What efforts were made by that office to appoint Sikh stenographers?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that there is not a single Sikh Superintendent or gazetted officer in that office?

(d) Will the Honourable Member please see that Sikhs are given due share in the establishment of the Director General, Indian Medical Service?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) The Sikh community has already received due representation and no special efforts are necessary.

(c) Yes.

(d) All vacancies in the establishment of the Director General, Indian Medical Service, are filled in accordance with the orders regarding communal representation and the Sikhs receive their due share.

Statement showing the number of stenographers employed in the office of the Director General, Indian Medical Service, and the communities to which they belong.

	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Indian Christians	Total
(i) Permanent .	2	1	1	1	3
(ii) Temporary .	11	2	1	1	15
Total .	13	3	1	1	18

SIKH STENOGRAPHERS, ETC., IN THE OFFICE OF IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

†781. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the number of Sikh stenographers, Assistants and Superintendents in the office of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research under each category? If none, will he please see that Sikhs also get their due share?

Mr. J. D. Tyson:

Stenographers—1.

Assistants—1.

Superintendents—None.

The latter part of the question does not arise.

EJECTION CASES IN DELHI COURTS.

†782. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the number of ejection cases filed in Delhi Court since the extension of Punjab Rent Restriction Act to Delhi province? How many have been disposed of and how many are still pending in Courts?

(b) Is he aware that immediately after enforcement of the Punjab Rent Restriction Act in Delhi Municipal Area, landlords asked a number of tenants to vacate residential houses and flats for landlords' own occupation? Are Government aware that a large majority of such claims was false and the houses were let to the same or other parties on payment of *Nazrana*?

(c) Will he be pleased to give instructions for enacting Control Orders throughout Delhi Province providing that no residential house or flat should be vacated so long as the tenant pays or is willing to pay controlled rent?

(d) Is he aware that landlords in Delhi generally refuse to carry out repairs to their property since the enforcement of Control Orders? If so, will he be pleased to state what steps he proposes to take to penalise the landlords for refusing to attend to their property?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The number of suits instituted upto the 28th of March 1944 was 1,444. Of these 888 had been disposed of and 556 were pending.

(b) Yes. I understand that the local authorities have received complaints to this effect.

(c) Government have certain measures under consideration.

(d) The local authorities have received some complaints and the matter is under consideration.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CONTROL PRICES OF COAL, ETC., IN DELHI AND SHAHDARA-DELHI.

254. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the prevailing Control prices of the following Commodities in the Delhi City and Shahdara Town, separately:

(i) Coal, (ii) Soft Coke, (iii) Charcoal, (iv) Firewood split, (v) Kerosene Oil, (vi) Mustard Oil and (vii) Vegetable Oil; and the reasons for the difference, if any, in prices?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: A statement showing the prevailing Control prices of the commodities in question in Delhi City and Shahdara town with reasons for the difference in prices is placed on the table of the House. Mustard oil and vegetable oil are not controlled commodities.

CONTROL PRICES OF FOODGRAINS, ETC., IN DELHI AND SHAHDARA-DELHI.

255. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Food please state the prevailing Control prices of Foodgrains, Milk, Sugar Ghee in the Delhi City and Shahdara Town, separately and the reasons for the difference, if any, in prices?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: A statement is laid on the table of the House.

The prices of foodgrains other than *jowar* and *bajra* and the prices of milk and *ghee* are not controlled in the Delhi Province.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Reasons for the difference in prices

The difference in wholesale rates is due to octroi duty at Re. 0.1-0 per tin being charged by the Delhi Municipal Committee whereas no octroi duty is charged by Delhi-Shahdara Municipal Committee. The difference in retail is due to cartage.

Name of commodity	Statement		Shahdara Town		Reasons for the difference in prices
	Delhi City Wholesale	Retail	Wholesale	Retail	
Kerosine Oil	Rs. 5-15-6 per tin .	Rs. 0-4-3 per bottle.	Rs. 5-14-6 per tin.	Rs. 0-4-6 per bottle	
		tile.			
Charcoal—Dry	Rs. 3-8 per maund .	Rs. 4 per maund .	Rs. 3-8 per maund .	Rs. 4 per maund	
Wet.	Rs. 3 per maund .	Rs. 3-8 per maund .	Rs. 3 per maund .	Rs. 3-8 per maund	
Soft Coke	Rs. 1-13 per maund	Rs. 1-13 per maund	Rs. 1-13 per maund	Rs. 1-13 per maund	
Steam Coal and other coal	Rs. 1-14 per maund	Rs. 1-14 per maund	Rs. 1-14 per maund	Rs. 1-14 per maund	
Firewood :—					
(a) Kikar Purana	(per 112½ maunds)	(per rupee.)	(per 112½ maunds)	(per rupee)	
	Rs. A. P.	Mds. Srs. Chts.	Rs. A. P.	Mds. Srs. Chts.	
Panwara Danda	187 8 0	0 16 14	187 8 0	0 16 14	
Mota	175 0 0	0 16 14	175 0 0	Split.)	
(b) Kikar Naya—					
Panwara Danda	162 8 0	0 20 10	162 8 0	0 20 10	
Mota	150 0 0	0 20 10	150 0 0	0 20 10	
(c) Dhak Purana—					
Danda	162 8 0	0 20 10	162 8 0	0 20 10	
Mota	150 0 0	0 20 10	150 0 0	0 20 10	
(d) Dhak Naya	100 0 0	0 30 0	100 0 0	0 30 0	
(e) Kabar	137 8 0	(Split)	137 8 0	(Split)	
(f) Sal Wood	156 4 0	0 22 8	156 4 0	0 22 8	
	(per 100 maunds.)	(Split)	(per 100 maunds.)	(Split)	

Plus—Cartage and Terminal Tax.

Statements

Name of Commodity	Delhi City		Shahdara Town		Reasons for the difference in prices
	Wholesale	Retail	Wholesale	Retail	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. <i>Jewer</i>	Rs. 7 per md.	..	Rs. 7 per md.
2. <i>Bajra</i>	Rs. 7.8 per md.	..	Rs. 7.8 per md.
3. <i>Sugar</i>	Rs. 17.10 per md.	Rs. 0.7-3 per sr.	Rs. 16.2 per md.	Rs. 0.6-9 per sr.	The Octroi duty on Sugar at Rs. 1-8 per maund is not levied by Municipal Committee, Shahdara.
4. <i>Kerosine Oil</i>	Rs. 5.15-6 per tin.	Rs. 0.4-3 per bottle	Rs. 5.14-6 per tin.	Rs. 0.4-6 per bottle.	The difference in wholesale rate is due to octroi duty at Rs. 0.1-0 per tin being charged by the Delhi Municipal Committee whereas no octroi duty is charged by Delhi Shahdara Municipal Committee. The difference in retail is due to cartage.
5. <i>Charcoal Dry</i>	Rs. 3-8 per md.	Rs. 4 per md.	Rs. 3-8 per md.	Rs. 4 per md.	..
6. <i>Charcoal Wet</i>	Rs. 3 per md.	Rs. 3-8 per md.	Rs. 3 per md.	Rs. 3-8 per md.	..
7. <i>Hard Coke</i>	..	Rs. 2-8 per md.	..	Rs. 2-8 per md.	..
8. <i>Soft Coke</i>	..	Rs. 1-13 per md.	..	Rs. 1-13 per md.	..
9. <i>Steam and other coal</i>	..	Rs. 1-14 per md.	..	Rs. 1-14 per md.	..
9. <i>Firewood—</i>	(per 112½ mds.)	(Retail per rupee)	(per 112½ mds.)	(Retail per rupee)	
(a) <i>Kikar Purana</i>	Rs. A. P.	Mds. Srs. Chts.	Rs. A. P.	Mds. Srs. Chts.	
<i>Panwara Danda</i>	187 8 0	0 16 14	187 8 0	0 16 14	..
<i>Mota</i>	175 0 0	0 16 14	175 0 0	0 16 14	..
		(Split)		(Split)	
(b) <i>Kikar Naya—</i>					
<i>Panwara Danda</i>	162 8 0	0 20 10	162 8 0	0 20 10	..
<i>Mota</i>	150 0 0	0 20 10	150 0 0	0 20 10	..
		(Split)		(Split)	
(c) <i>Dhak Purana—</i>					
<i>Danda</i>	162 8 0	0 20 10	162 8 0	0 20 10	..
<i>Mota</i>	150 0 0	0 20 10	150 0 0	0 20 10	..
		(Split)		(Split)	
(d) <i>Dhak Naya</i>	100 0 0	0 30 0	100 0 0	0 30 0	..
		(Split)		(Split)	
(e) <i>Kabar</i>	187 8 0	0 22 8	137 8 0	0 22 8	..
		(Split)		(Split)	
(f) <i>Sol Wood</i>	156 4 0	0 20 0	156 4 0	0 20 0	..
	per 100 mds.	(Split)	per 100 mds.	(Split)	

1	2	3	4	5	6
	(per 112½ mds. Rs. A. F.	(Retail per rupee) Mds. Srs. Chks.	(per 112½ mds. Rs. A. F.	(R-tail per rupee) Mds. Srs. Chks.	
10. <i>Salt—</i> <i>Sambhar</i>	3 0 0 per md.	0 10 8 per rupee.	3 0 0 per md.	0 10 8 per rupee.	..
Rock	3 4 0 per md.	0 10 0 per rupee	3 4 0 per md.	0 10 0 per rupee.	..
11. <i>She'lae—</i> (a) T. N.	77 8 0 per md. of 82.2857 lbs.	77 8 0 per md. of 82.2857 lbs.	77 8 0 per md. of 82.2857 lbs.
(b) Other than Shellac T. N.	79 10 0 per md. of 82.2857 lbs.	79 10 0 per md. of 82.2857 lbs.	79 10 0 per md. of 82.2857 lbs.
12. <i>Gur</i>	8 13 9 per md.	0 3 9 per seer	8 5 9 per md.	0 3 6 per seer.	The octroi duty on <i>Gur</i> at as. 8 per maund is not levied by Shahdara Municipality.
	Delhi City		Shahdara Town		
Name of Commodity	For sale by distributors	For sale by wholesalers, retailers or (Non-distri- stationers butors)	For sale by distributors	For sale by wholesalers retailers or Non-distri- stationers butors)	Reasons for the differences in prices.
	(Per pound) (Per pound)	(Per pound) (Per pound)	(Per pound) (Per pound)	(Per pound) (Per pound)	
13. <i>Paper—</i> 1. Bleached, Semi-bleached woodfree MF writing and MF printing paper substance 14 lbs. demi and up inclu- ding Buff Printing, Pulp Board but excluding Blotting paper.	0 8 2 0 7 5 0 7 7	0 8 6 0 7 9 0 7 11	0 9 6 0 8 9 0 8 11	0 8 6 0 7 9 0 7 11	0 9 6 0 8 9 0 8 11
2. Unbleached wood MF writing and printing paper substance 14 lbs. demi and up.	0 8 0	0 8 3	0 9 3	0 8 3	0 9 3
3. Brown rapping and cartridge paper 22 x 29—30 lbs. and up.	0 7 5	0 7 9	0 8 9	0 7 5	0 7 9
4. Ordinary badami paper 14 lbs. demi and up.	0 7 7	0 7 11	0 8 11	0 7 7	0 7 11
5. For coloured MF printing and pulp boards.	0 9 2	0 9 6	0 10 6	0 9 2	0 10 6
6. For light weights foregoing qualities under 14 lbs. demi.	One anna per lb. more.		One anna per lb. more.		

VISIT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, DELHI, TO SHAHDARA-DELHI.

256. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the date on which the Director of Public Health, Delhi Province, last visited the Shahdara Town, and with what results?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Chief Health Officer, Delhi Province, last visited Shahdara Town on the 13th March 1944.

It is not always possible to ascribe definite results to any particular visit of inspection: a variety of useful work is accomplished on such occasions.

PARKING OF MOTOR CARS, ETC., ON THE ROAD BETWEEN RAILWAY BRIDGE, SHAHDARA-DELHI AND GRAND TRUNK ROAD.

257. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the arrangements made by the Shahdara Municipal Committee, regarding parking of motor cars, motor buses, tongas and other conveyances on the Feeder Road (Station Road—road towards the town between the Railway Bridge and the Grand Trunk Road)? If no arrangements have been made, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: There is a municipal stand in Shahdara for parking motor buses, tongas and other conveyances but vehicle owners have been reluctant to make use of it. The Police have now been given instructions to keep the road clear and the Shahdara Municipal Committee has been invited to make bye laws to prohibit the parking of vehicles at places other than the municipal stand.

CONTROL OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC ON THE ROAD BETWEEN RAILWAY BRIDGE, SHAHDARA-DELHI AND GRAND TRUNK ROAD.

258. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the authority (Municipality or Police) responsible for the control of vehicular traffic on the road between the Railway Bridge, Shahdara and the Grand Trunk Road?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The Delhi Police.

FIXING OF RATES OF FARES FOR VEHICLES BETWEEN DELHI AND SHAHDARA DELHI.

259. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the authority (Municipality or Police) responsible for between the Delhi City and the Shahdara Town, and whether the Shahdara Municipality was consulted before the fixation of rates, if not, why not?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information has been called for and a reply will be furnished to the House when it is received.

LICENCES TO SHOP-KEEPERS OF SHAHDARA-DELHI FOR SALE OF CONTROLLED ARTICLES.

260. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies please state the criterion or consideration on which licences to shop-keepers of Shahdara Town have been given to sale controlled articles?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The principle followed has been to grant licences for a particular commodity to persons formerly dealing with that commodity.

FOODGRAINS BROUGHT FOR SALE TO SHAHDARA-DELHI MARKET FROM NEIGHBOURING LOCALITIES.

261. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Food please state the names of foodgrains which are produced in the neighbourhood of Shahdara, Delhi Province, and are brought for sale to the market of Shahdara?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The foodgrains and pulses produced in the neighbourhood of Shahdara, Delhi Province and brought for sale to the Shahdara market are—*Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Wheat, Barley, Gram, Moth Mung, Urad, Masoor, Arhar and Matar.*

PUBLICATION OF RAILWAY LABOUR SUPERVISOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

262. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With reference to the Honourable the Labour Member's reply to unstarred question No. 43, asked on the 10th February, 1943, in regard to the publication of Railway Labour Supervisor's annual report,

will the Honourable Member ensure the publication of brief reports by way of press communiqués for the information of interests concerned? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Honourable Member presumably refers to the unstarred question No. 43, asked on the 10th February 1944.

The question of issuing Press Communiqués on the annual reports of the Supervisor of Railway Labour is under consideration of the Government.

MAINTENANCE OF ROADS WITHIN SHAHDARA-DELHI.

263. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state the authority (Municipal Committee or Central Public Works Department) responsible for the maintenance in good order of roads within the Shahdara Town, Delhi Province?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Notified Area Committee, Shahdara, is responsible for the maintenance of roads within the Shahdara Town.

SANITATION OF LAND BETWEEN RAILWAY BRIDGE, SHAHDARA-DELHI AND GRAND TRUNK ROAD.

264. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state whether, in a recent inspection by the Director, Public Health, the Sanitary Inspector, Shahdara Municipal Committee, told the Director that the sanitation of the land lying between the Bridge, Railway Station and the Grant Trunk Road was to be maintained by residents or landlords or owners? If so, who is the owner of that land, and what steps have been taken to force the owner to keep the land in healthy sanitation? If no steps have been taken, what are the reasons therefor?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information has been called for and a reply will be furnished to the House when it is received.

EXPENDITURE ON SANITATION IN SHAHDARA-DELHI.

265. Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu: Will the Secretary for Education, Health and Lands please state the amount spent by the Municipal Committee, Shahdara, Delhi Province, during the preceding year on the sanitation of the town, and the improvement made therein? If no improvement is made what are the reasons therefor?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: The information has been called for and a reply will be furnished to the House when it is received.

APPLICATIONS UNDER PAYMENT OF WAGES ACT AGAINST ILLEGAL DEDUCTIONS, ETC., ON EAST INDIAN AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAYS.

266. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state the number of applications from Railway employees for direction under the Payment of Wages Act, for the refund of deductions and for the payment of delayed wages made since March, 1938, against the East Indian and North Western Railway Administrations, respectively, together with the result of the disposal of those applications? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali's unstarred question No. 222 on 30th March 1944.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SHORTAGE OF SALT IN ASSAM

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable the Food Member please state:

(a) the total requirement of salt in the Province of Assam and in the districts of Sylhet and Cachar, separately;

(b) if it is a fact that for the last seven days salt is not available at Sylhet which is one of the important places in Assam from the point of view of military operations;

(c) the reason for this sudden shortage; and

(d) what Government propose to remedy the situation which is causing great hardship to the people?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The requirement of salt in the province of Assam is one lakh maunds monthly and in the districts of Sylhet and Cachar it is 30,000 and 6,000 mds., respectively per month.

(b) That is not my information.

(c) and (d). There have, I am aware, been certain local shortages in the Eastern Region by which I mean particularly the provinces of Bengal and Assam. The attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the matter by their Regional Food Commissioner and by the Government of Bengal, and we are endeavouring to increase supplies. We had arranged early in 1943 that 30,000 tons of salt monthly were to be imported by sea into Calcutta, of which 4,000 tons were to go to Assam. Owing to shipping difficulties, the full 30,000 tons has not reached Calcutta in any month since September 1943. One of the reasons for this was shortage of coal for export from Calcutta in consequence of which the number of colliers returning from the Middle East with salt was reduced. In the middle of January, as the arrivals from the Mid-East were still not up to expectations, we decided to obtain as much from the West Coast of India as possible and the War Transport Department at my instance issued special instructions to the Bombay Coastal Shipping Committee to berth the necessary additional steamers to implement the programme already agreed to giving salt priority to foodgrains where necessary. In addition the Secretary of State is being urged to improve loadings from the Mid-East or, in the alternative to permit additional loadings from Western Indian Ports in ships under the control of Ministry of War Transport. As an interim measure the Governments of Bengal and Assam have agreed that the Government of Bengal will make available immediately 20,000 mds. of salt for Assam and will give them 10 per cent. of their imports until we can fully stock them again on the basis of 30,000 tons a month. The question of re-opening transport by rail is under consideration but owing to the pressure on the railways for the transportation of foodgrains and other essential commodities, the Government of India are reluctant to follow such a course unless the efforts which I have described to increase importation by sea prove abortive.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

ATROCITIES PERPETRATED ON INDIAN MEN AND WOMEN BY TROOP STATIONED AT CHAKULIA NEAR JAMSHEDPOOR

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received two notices, one from Mr. Muhammad Nauman and another from Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani, both relating to the same subject, of their intention to move an adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, forcible entry of troop stationed at Chakulia near Jamshedpoor in the District of Singhbhoom, Bihar, and committing theft and other atrocities on Indian men and women inhabiting the houses there and forcibly removing them at the point of revolvers and carrying them in Army Lorry and keeping them in unlawful detention for hours in a Dak Bungalow. Some of these people are still under detention of the Chakulia Army Camp.

Has the Honourable Member anything to say?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi (Secretary, War Department): Sir, I have no information of the alleged incident. The Adjutant General in India who receives reports of such incidents in accordance with standing orders has not received any. As soon as I received notice of this adjournment motion last evening, I arranged for an immediate telegram to be sent to the Eastern Command, but up till now I have not got a reply. Assuming that the incidents mentioned in the notice did take place, I am certain that they must have already formed the subject of both civil and military investigation in accordance with standing orders.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is presuming. Does he know that this matter has been taken up in Court? Has he got information?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: No, Sir. I have no information. But in the light of what I have said, I would ask my Honourable friends to withdraw this motion on the understanding that I will inform them of the facts as soon as I have heard, and also take the necessary action in the light of those facts.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member ought to be able to get the information I suppose by to-morrow. The motion is admitted and will stand over till to-morrow.

GOVERNMENT DECISION NOT TO ENHANCE PASSENGER FARES

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): In accordance with the undertaking which I gave when replying to a question on March 13th, I have to communicate to the House that Government have decided not to proceed with the enhancement of passenger fares which was scheduled to come into effect on April 1st.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Friday, the 31st March, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Commerce, eight nominations were received. Subsequently three 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, namely: (1) Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt, (2) Pandit Nilakantha Das, (3) Mr. R. R. Gupta, (4) Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon and (5) Mr. Muhammad Nauman.

THE CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

[AMENDMENT OF SECTIONS 162, 488 AND 496]

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, for certain purposes.

THE PROTECTIVE DUTIES CONTINUATION BILL—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the motion moved yesterday by the Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa: Muhammadan): I do not want to take up the time of the House at any length. I only want to submit that a committee of inquiry should be appointed to see whether the tariff rates have to be maintained on the lines the Government have suggested or the circumstances today are such that a change is necessary. Under the present position there is no possibility of any import from outside for sugar and as such it seems a useless and redundant measure that we should maintain the tariff rate for imports from foreign countries. There are many other circumstances which it will not be possible for me to relate to the House today. My submission is that the Government should take the earliest opportunity to make a thorough inquiry into the matter. Instead of asking for a continuation, the committee should go into the matter and suggest changes. That is my only submission. I say that the continuation without looking into the matter carefully is not very justifiable.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I have to make a few remarks with regard to the working of these excise rules. (An Honourable Member: "There are no excise rules here".) I mean tariff rules. I find that under Tariff rules powers are being delegated. I take objection to that. The powers are being very widely exercised and given to the Collector.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): There are no rules before the House.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I know that it is only a question of date which has got to be continued, but some rules are in operation. I want to say a few words.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: What rules?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am referring to rules of delegation to the Collector. The Collectors again give power to the lower subordinates. Therefore there is great difficulty to the people.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is referring to some excise rules. Tariff is very different from excise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Even in the case of tariff rules, there is the Collector who delegates the power to the subordinates.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Where is it? Will you point out the rule to me?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am referring to practice in Sind. There are some rules with regard to working of the Tariff Act. They are not being properly exercised. I have nothing more to say than that care should be taken to see that this delegation is not made indiscriminately.

Mr. R. R. Gupta (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I confess I could not follow the logic of my friend Mr. Nauman. He says that a committee should be appointed to go through the whole complicated affair of tariff protection granted to several industries in India.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I say that protection is not warranted.

Mr. R. R. Gupta: It may not be warranted at the moment because there is no possibility of import. My friend does not know when the war will stop and when the war stops, if there is no protection for the industries in this country, what will be the position.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: There should be protection but it should not be protection in the manner in which it is.

Mr. R. R. Gupta: This is not the time for going through that subject, because you don't know what will be the international economic position after the war is over. You do not know the method by which the trade will be carried on between the various countries. Therefore it will be simply waste of labour to attempt any such thing as has been suggested by my friend Mr. Nauman. At the same time I could not follow why the Honourable the Commerce Member should bring in this Bill every two years to extend the period. As a matter of fact, the industries involved in this protection are very vital ones for this country. An immense amount of money has been sunk in these industries and those are more or less the only national industries existing in India. The Tariffs were granted after a full study of the subject. Why should not this protection be made permanent? The present process is a cumbersome process to bring in a Bill every two years. For the present, these protective tariffs should be made permanent, subject to the matter being reopened when the time comes for a change or when the Honourable the Commerce Member finds it necessary to do so.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I do not think much is required from me in reply to the points which have been raised. All I can say is that the House decided in a previous legislation to extend the term for two years, which is now at the point of finishing. As such, we must decide as to what we should do. I think Mr. Gupta's own logic will convince him that in the midst of the present situation it is very difficult to find out as to what exact position we should stand in in the post-war world so far as these tariffs are concerned. It is only with a view to appreciate the entire picture that may arise out of the post-war conditions having regard to the nature of development and its future prospect with reference to these industries, which I agree may be called the national industries, that Government decided that it is no use wasting the time at this stage. Government therefore recommends that it should be extended for a period of two years by which date we all hope that we shall again be living in an atmosphere where we can look to our own affairs in a better atmosphere. It is for that reason that the Government has moved that it may be extended for a period of two years.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill to extend the date up to which certain duties characterised as protective in the First Schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, shall have effect, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 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 Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

This Bill is a very simple piece of legislation and it is also a non-controversial piece of legislation. The Bill proposes to make four amendments and the sections which are sought to be amended by this Bill are sections 9, 19, 23, 45 and 54.

Section 9 is a section which legislates that the occupier of a factory, before starting the factory, should send to the Inspector of Factories a notice giving certain particulars. Now, it has been found out that under this section the Inspector of Factories is not entitled to ask for the particulars from the occupier of the factory which he thinks he ought to have, nor the occupier is bound to give any such particulars. Recently it has been found out that the occupier of a factory, who wants to start a factory, has refused to give certain important information which the Inspector of Factories requires. In order to remove this difficulty, section 9 is amended and the amendment gives powers to Government to ask for certain particulars which the Inspector requires for his purposes.

Section 19 deals with the supply of water and washing places in the factory. As the section stands now, the provision for washing places is confined to factories involving contact by workers with injurious and obnoxious substances. The section does not require owners of factories of either kind to provide washing places. It has been suggested that this limitation ought to be removed because washing places are necessary for all sorts of workers and not merely for those whose work brings them in contact with injurious and obnoxious substances. The amendment, therefore, makes provision for making washing places obligatory on all factories.

Section 23 deals with fire-escapes to be installed in a factory. Here, again, it has been found that the section is defective. The section leaves to the occupier of the factory to determine the number of fire-escapes that may be reasonably required. It does not give to Government the power to prescribe the number of fire-escapes that a particular factory may find it necessary to have. Consequently, section 23 has been amended by the present Bill in order to give power to Government to prescribe the requisite number of fire-escapes which the Factory Inspector may find it necessary in the circumstances of a particular factory.

Then, Sir, coming to sections 45 and 54, the position is this. These sections deal with two matters. They deal with hours of work which a child and a woman is required to work in a factory. They also deal with what are called the limits of the spreadover. The present amendment does not in any way alter the provisions with regard to the number of hours which a child or a woman is required to work in a factory, nor does it in any way affect the 13 hours spread which has been prescribed by these provisions. All that the present amendment does is to alter the limit of the spreadover by changing 7-30 P.M. to 8-30 P.M. This change has become necessary on account of two reasons. Firstly, it is due to the change in the standard time and, secondly, it is due to the necessity for saving light.

Sir, I do not think anything more is required from me to explain the provisions of this Bill. I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

I find notice of amendments has been given by Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghari, but he is not in the House. The House, will, therefore, proceed with the consideration of the Bill.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I agree with the Bill and its principle as explained by the Honourable Member. My only objection is that the Honourable Member has not taken pains to consult the opinion of the Chambers and the merchants who would have been really the proper people to say whether such amendments were necessary. What I am afraid of is that by placing restrictions in the manner proposed in section 19 it may be more difficult for the people who have factories or who are establishing factories to have that Schedule which they want to prepare. That is my only trouble. If I am convinced that the Government has taken pains to consult the commercial opinion and the opinion of the industrialists on this matter, I will be glad to support the motion.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, with regard to the point raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Muhammad Nauman, I would like to say this, that this Bill is the result of the recommendations made by the conference of Inspectors of Factories all over India. It is they who have thought that the Bill has been defective in the way in which it has been found to be. All that the Government has done is to give effect to the unanimous recommendation made by the Inspectors of Factories all over India. I have no idea, and I have no papers with me to enable me to say whether the Chambers of Commerce have been consulted. But I should have thought that the Chambers of Commerce were hardly the bodies to be consulted with regard to factory legislation. But I believe employers' organisations have been consulted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. C. C. Miller (Bengal: European): Sir, I move:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill to the proposed part (f) of sub-section (1) the following words be added:

'for the purposes of this Act'."

Sir, I can explain this amendment very shortly. The original section 9, as the Honourable Member has already stated, gives under certain specified heads the information which the factory owner must supply to the Factory Inspector. Incidentally one really doubts whether the amending clause is necessary at all in view of section 77 of the Bill which seems to supply the gap if further information is needed. But, assuming that the Government amendment is in order, we thought that it is asking rather a lot to put in an omnibus amendment of this nature to certain specifically defined subjects. All we ask for is that the Factory Inspector should be entitled to seek information only which is relevant to the Factory Act. I hope that the Honourable Member will accept this very modest amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill to the proposed part (f) of sub-section (1) the following words be added:

'for the purposes of this Act'."

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I accept the amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill to the proposed part (f) of sub-section (1) the following words be added:

"for the purposes of this Act."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 3, 4 and 5 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, as amended, be passed."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MOTION RE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT

The Honourable Sir M. Asif Ali Khan (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly approves the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration Agreement signed at Washington on the 9th November 1945."

Sir, it was in September 1941, while the main theatre of war was still confined to the European soil, barring such parts of Chinese territories as were devastated by the Japanese, that a conference was convened at the instance of His Majesty's Government called the Inter-Allied Post-war Requirements Committee. It consisted in the main of the European exiled Governments and the British Government and was convened with a view to survey the European situation as they foresaw it at the end of the war and to determine Europe's needs and requirements in order to re-establish production and civilian life in the enemy occupied territories. Invitations were later issued to the United States and to the Soviet Union, who were not originally parties to the conference, to join in the work. The Soviet Government appointed an observer with the Committee but did not otherwise participate in its work; the United States of America for some time had only an observer but later participated with a regular member in the Committee.

For two years the work went on and a considerable amount of work was done in the way of collection of materials and data for post-war European requirements. By December 1942, the war spread out to the East and it became a global war. Japan occupied a considerable part of the territories in South East Asia. In the meantime both the Soviet Government and the American Government made suggestions for the creation of a truly international organisation with an international civil service working, for taking up post-war relief work in all theatres of war. The representative of India at the Inter-Allied Committee also emphasised the need of taking steps for post-war relief organisation in the East in view of the enemy occupation of a large part of territories in the Far East and affecting hundreds and thousands of Indians. Discussions were first held amongst the Governments of Great Britain, United States, Soviet Union and China until the middle of last summer. In June 1943 the United States Government with the consent and agreement of the three other Powers, put out for discussion a draft document, proposing a United Nations Rehabilitation organisation. Discussions went on with the Governments of various signatory countries, and the draft document was redrafted eliminating many of the criticisms which had been made both internally and externally and was then circulated among the 44 countries. Representatives of all the 44 Governments were invited to a ceremony held at the White House on the 9th November last, and the representatives of the 44 United and Associated Governments signed the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. The next day the representatives of these Nations met at Atlantic City, New Jersey, in the first session of the Council established by the Agreement, to provide for the organisation of the Administration and to lay down the broad policies to guide its activities. The Council met continuously for three weeks to frame its plan and programme.

The supreme authority of laying down policy and general principles of the administration is vested in a Council which is made up of one representative each of the 44 signatory nations. United States, United Kingdom, Russia and China have one representative each, along with smaller countries, also one each, like Iceland or Honduras or Cuba. Under this supreme policy-making body, there are four main Committees. The first is the Central Committee consisting of the representatives of United States, United Kingdom, China and the Soviet Union to exercise the power of the Council during adjournments of the Council, subject on important matters to ratification by the Council, with the further proviso that any country whose interests are concerned with any matter before the Central Committee, shall be called in to participate in those discussions. The second is a Committee on Supplies made up of the principal

supplying nations. The third is the committee on European relief; the fourth is the committee for the Far East and consist of the representatives of Australia, China, India, New Zealand, the Phillipines, the U.K., the U.S.A., Netherlands and the French National Committee.

Mr. E. E. Gupta (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadian Urban): May I know whether or not India is represented in the supply committee also?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, because the main supply will come from other parts. But I may say that there is no limit to membership of the committee and if any country desires to be associated within the committee it is open to the administration to take in such members, as in the Resolution itself. Therefore if India wants to participate in giving large supplies and making its wishes known, I am sure the Administration will consider that matter and take India as a member.

Though the participant countries have signed the Agreement it has been made entirely and absolutely clear that the effective participation resides with the constitutional bodies of the various member Governments. In the Resolution which has been accepted by the U.N.R.R.A. the words used are in the nature of a recommendation to the participant countries in so far as financial proposals are concerned. No commitments by any Government have been made in that respect and the Agreement provides that in each country the law-making body authorised by its constitutional procedure to appropriate money is the only one which can determine the extent of that country's participation, as well as the formula under which it will be financed. Thus the Agreement is merely the establishment of the framework of an organisation and it will entirely depend on the decision of the legislative bodies of India as to whether they wish to participate in the Agreement.

Mr. E. E. Gupta: Does it mean that India has not yet signed that Agreement?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am telling you. Signing of the Agreement is merely to bring into being an organisation, and if the Honourable Member will wait for about two minutes more he will understand.

It does not commit India in any way to participate in the financial effect of it. If it does, the House at a later stage will have to determine what India's contribution should be. If the Resolution is not accepted India will necessarily have to withdraw from the organisation.

Though the Administration has been particularly careful in framing the Agreement not to commit any country in any contributions, it is quite clear that unless the associated United Nations signing the Agreement contribute with money or resources the Agreement and the Administration fall to the ground. The machinery devised becomes meaningless without financial assistance, and unless the legislative bodies of the member Governments see fit to make a contribution that country or those countries would be out of the greatest international relief organisation. All the Administration has so far done is to set up the machinery and give an opportunity to different countries to say whether they want to start the wheels moving or whether they wish to assist. The Resolution which I have therefore brought before this House is for the acceptance or otherwise of a most solemn obligation that rests upon the civilised world today to meet the requirements of enormous distress and anguish which will undoubtedly be there and from which may grow a political and economic chaos which would break down every semblance of human civilisation.

The general principle which has been accepted by the U.N.R.R.A. is that every country should attempt to pay one per cent. of its national income for the year ending June 30, 1943 as determined by the Government itself. But it was realised from the very beginning that this formula cannot be applicable to a country like India with its low individual income. With our own internal problems of relief and rehabilitation our contribution must therefore depend

upon all those considerations and our own budgetary position and the state of our resources. The U.N.R.R.A. Resolution accepts this point of view and specifically recognises that the over-all formula of one per cent. may come into conflict with particular demands arising from the continuance of the war or may be excessively burdensome because of peculiar situations; and we are therefore free to determine the amount and character of our contributions irrespective of the one per cent. formula. The plan contemplates a once-for-all contribution including administrative expenses, and if the plan works out in accordance with its terms that contribution should ordinarily serve to the end of the relief programme.

The major part of the work of relief is expected to be completed within two years. Every Government is also free to choose the manner in which supplies should be provided or procured, or the finances should be granted. In terms of the Resolution of the U.N.R.R.A. it is open to any country not to pay more than 10 per cent. in foreign credit; and if they do not want to pay more than 10 per cent. the balance of 90 per cent. will be spent in purchasing supplies within that country. In some circumstances it may be of advantage to a country to supply the whole money in foreign credit so as not to put an added strain on an already over-taxed supply situation; and in other circumstances it may be desirable from the point of view of a country to pay only 10 per cent. in foreign credit and 90 per cent. in the shape of supplies. But in any case each Government has the right to determine the manner in which its Government will furnish its supplies.

This Resolution before the House is therefore not an appropriation today, and in making the appropriation it will be open to the Government of a country to settle the terms under which the appropriation should be made either in this field of foreign credit or, in the alternative, in the shape of supplies, excepting that we have to pay in foreign credit to the extent of 10 per cent. of our total contributions. America herself is contemplating to pay a very large part of her contributions in the form of supplies which will incidentally keep up the American industrial production at a high level at the end of the war. We have not yet come to any final decision as to the actual contribution of India on the acceptance of this Resolution, nor has it been finally decided as to the extent in which we shall or should arrange for payment through supplies available within India. Only we should note that the estimated contribution by U.S.A. is about 450 crores of rupees; by the United Kingdom, about 103 crores of rupees; by Canada, 33 crores of rupees; by Australia, 16 crores of rupees. If we propose to give supplies, it will be realised that out of our total production of 4,000 to 4,500 million yards of cotton textiles the price of only 100 million yards of cloth—and we export much more than this—will be valued more than 5 crores of rupees. This is to give you a picture. In any case this Resolution before the House only recommends India's participation in the relief organisation and is merely the approval of our participation in the international relief plan which will be followed by appropriate financial proposals at a later stage.

Apart from the finances contributed by the signatory countries, the Director-General has been authorised to receive contributions from Governments who are not today members of the Council, for example, the neutral countries. He may, and undoubtedly will, also receive contributions from private organisations, private individuals, and will accept them subject to such condition as he may deem possible for him to perform. It will also be open to neutral countries to join at any stage, now or later, and the generosity of the people of the world will also be available in the shape of money and supplies by way of voluntary contributions. While the scope of relief embraces every country, whether occupied or unoccupied, administrative expenses are shared mainly by such countries as will be or are able to pay, but such administrative expenses at the option of the countries participating will be included in the ultimate contribution towards relief organisation; and as such whatever may be India's

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ultimate contribution, her share of administrative expenses will be included within the total share of India.

The estimate of India's share of administrative expenses is roughly 13 lakhs of rupees for the year 1943-44, but this contribution towards administrative expenses, as I have said before, may be included at 12 Noon. India's option in the general contribution of the member countries to the U.N.R.R.A.

I need only add that this relief organisation, though an international body, has not the authority of, or is not a substitute for, any governmental organisation. It has no supply of its own and for which it must depend on the Governments of the supplying countries. It has no shipping of its own, for which it will have to depend on the countries with available shipping space. But it will, in a concerted and organized manner take necessary steps for getting supply and shipping to send relief to the places needing urgent relief. The task will be gigantic even though the period for which this relief organization will function will be of a very restricted nature, namely, to get over the emergency period—the period of breakdown between enemy control and re-establishment of several governments in those areas.

I may note here that as a result of the realization of the conditions of India with her distressing situations, the United States Congress and the House of Representatives have recommended to U.N.R.R.A. to revise the terms of its agreement with a view to bring the distress in India's mainland within the scope of its relief. The wishes of the American legislature will now go to the U.N.R.R.A. for its final decision.

The war is bound to leave in the occupied lands a generation of half men, undernourished, crushed in body and spirit, without strength or incentive. The interests of humanity demand that steps should be taken for a rapid and orderly transition from war to peace so that human and economic resources of each country may be best utilized.

It has been estimated from some sources that from 10 to 20 million people had to leave Soviet territory occupied by the Germans at their farthest point of advance. The problem today and immediately after the war is very much more than it was during the last war, and never probably in the annals of human history has there been any such movement of population as this war has brought about. In China, since 1937, it has been said that nearly 40 million people had been forced to shift from their homes in East China into Central and Western China.

It has been estimated that the number of people who have been driven or taken away from their homes in Europe is at least over 20 million. The number of displaced persons in the Far East greatly exceeds the figure for Europe. This is in addition to the refugees in a country who have gone from one part of it to another, and mankind is now faced or will soon be faced with one of the most difficult problems in human history. Unless relief in food, clothing and medicines comes quickly, the worst scourge of the entire globe. If people break from a camp in which there has been typhus or any other contagious disease and spread themselves all over the face of Europe and Asia, the whole world will have to deal with a public health situation of devastating proportions. People with no hopes, no houses, living in strange surroundings, depending upon doles and charities, having nothing else to do but roaming round in a desperate state from place to place, seeking for some employment or other if they can get it—that is the picture of the situation. But if along with it disorganization comes in its way as soon as the war is over, I am not certain if the world will at all be able to meet the problem. It is therefore in this field of taking care of millions of human souls at a highly critical, highly important, emergency period of post-war conditions that U.N.R.R.A. will be required to deal with.

The organization establishes a practicable way for the Nations together to solve a supply problem which concerns necessarily all of them. If the administration fails, lives will be lost. People in urgent need of medicine, food and other necessities of life will die if they do not get medicines, food and other necessities in time. Chaos and disease will spread over the whole world.

The success of the U. N. R. R. A. will not only immediately affect the lives of millions of human beings but will also have repercussions on the conduct of the war and upon the peace and economy of the world after the war. The magnitude of the task is unprecedented. Destruction, suffering and privation will undoubtedly increase in intensity as the enemy forces withdraw, step by step, before the liberating armies. The world tomorrow will be faced with the problems of not merely repairing the productive apparatus which has been ravaged by the enemy but probably the whole structure of their economies, their productive patterns, distributive mechanism, credit institutions, monetary systems which have all been disrupted, will have to be reconstructed and rebuilt.

But it is not the entire field of feeding or clothing everybody or bringing medical relief to everybody or reconstructing the entire economic life that the organization has been set up. The U. N. R. R. A. is not going to and cannot furnish all the relief for the needy countries. In fact, it is anticipated that the part to be financed by U. N. R. R. A. will not exceed 5 per cent. of the total needs of the world relief. The rest will have to be met by the countries themselves. The fundamental principle is that the countries must help themselves. Much of the life and strength of the occupied countries can only be restored if they rehabilitate themselves through their own efforts and as such the help of the U. N. R. R. A. will go to supplement local help and to meet most pressing needs.

The other principle is that whatever relief may be needed from outside must be quickly brought. The dangers of too little and too late are nowhere greater than in the field of relief supplies and we have ourselves witnessed before our eyes last year. A typhus epidemic will not wait while supplies are accumulated. A starving child will not be helped by a promise of food in a few months. Food cannot be grown and transported, clothing cannot be manufactured, medical supplies cannot be made available in a few days and in a few weeks. Many months are needed to bring the pipe line of supply to the front. The general time lag between a decision to provide supplies and their delivery is long. It is only by advance planning and procurement, by having supplies ready when and where they may be needed, that the job can be effectively done.

On the other hand, the need for relief supplies may not evolve gradually but may come suddenly in a great volume. The rapid collapse of the war must be taken into account as a possibility with all its attendant needs for large quantities of supplies. The impact of such needs may be spread over as long a period as possible, but this can only be done effectively by advance organization, procurement and gradual accumulation of supplies. The end of the war will find many millions of people—men, women and children—forced labourers, homeless and persecuted. There must be a plan formulated and procedure co-ordinated for their repatriation or return to their homes. No group is an easier prey to epidemics as this horde of refugees who necessarily lack even the rudiments of shelter or sanitation facilities and often will be without adequate clothing. No one element will cause more confusion than these people if in an unplanned and uncoordinated way they all start to return to their homes. We have ourselves seen the miserable plight of the Burma refugees only two years back.

Let us remember that those of us who have suffered no physical harm, have not lost their lands, possessions, homes or shelter by the conditions of the war; have, subject to our internal needs in the face of the economic crisis we are passing through, also an obligation to care for and rehabilitate the men in need. Nations which have not or areas which have not undergone the direct sufferings of the war have an obligation to assist in healing up the wounds and

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re-establish the lives of those countries which have suffered enemy occupation and have undergone the highest ordeal which we were spared. We owe it to ourselves to attempt to preserve the great human resources of all the United Nations for participation in the future world order and opportunities have to be provided for those, who have suffered, to return at least to minimum standards of life, efficiency and confidence if chaos and anarchy are to be avoided.

But even though we within India have not had to go through the ordeal of direct suffering like those in occupied countries, our Indian brethren in the Far Eastern countries were the victims of such sufferings. It is estimated that the number of Indian refugees who came to India from territories now under enemy occupation is not less than about 5 lakhs. But leaving aside those who have been refugees to the country, the Indian population in the Far East now under Japanese occupation is estimated to be at least about 13 to 14 lakhs even now. The number of people who normally lived in Burma, Malaya and Singapore before enemy occupation was over 18 lakhs of which only about five lakhs could come to India.

As Generalissimo Chiang-Kai-Shek said in his references to the importance of the U. N. R. R. A.:

"United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration will be the first piece of international constructive machinery to be set up by the United Nations. If we cannot co-operate on relief and rehabilitation, there will be little else on which we could co-operate. We must not fail. Whatever may be the scope of the United Nations' relief, the administration must be world-embracing for distinctions of region, religion or nationality belong to the pre-war era and cannot serve as a basis for the new era which we hope will come after this war. To give you a total picture of the Chinese situation to-day, I give you a few statistics. Of the estimated population of 480 million, approximately 200 million have or had their homes in occupied China and in the war zones. 220 million live in free China. 40 million are, what I might call, displaced persons. Of the 200 million in occupied China, about 30 per cent. will need relief, i.e., 60 million. Of the 40 million war refugees, about 60 per cent. will need relief, that is 24 million. The total population needing relief comes to a figure of 84 million. That is an enormous number. But the Chinese Government has no intention of loading the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration with this big burden. Whatever food, clothing and shelter can be procured in China with Chinese currency, the Chinese Government intends to procure them itself. Only that part of the supplies and services which China cannot produce or must be procured from foreign sources will be requested of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration."

Sir, with these words, I move:

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That this Assembly approves the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration Agreement signed at Washington on the 9th November 1943."

Notice has been given of two amendments: one by Mr. Deshmukh and Mr. Krishnamachari and the other by Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan and Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang.

Do they want to move them?

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That to the motion the following be added at the end:

'Provided that the name/names of the representative/representatives who will serve on any body connected with the said United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration are submitted to the Legislature and their approval in the usual manner is obtained'."

Sir, I have asked for permission to delete the last sentence in the original amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Yes, that is right.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Sir, in the first place I would like to refer to a matter which is domestic in its outlook. This House has been presented today with a *post facto* decision supported by a large dose of humanitarianism which is sought to be injected into a tired and empty House, and practically on the last day of the Session.

For one thing, Sir, I feel that there was time, even before this Agreement was signed, for the House to have been taken into the confidence of the Government. Secondly, if the House has to consider the decision that has already

been made and put its imprimatur on that decision, it seems hardly the time for considering it. The resolution might very well be postponed to another Session, as it does look now that this problem of relief and rehabilitation is not going to be one that has to be met with immediately. That is the first submission that I would like to make. The resolution could very well have been taken over to another Session and brought up for the decision of the House at the beginning of that Session.

The second point is the matter of the status of this country in participating in any international organisation. Sir, I would like to be understood clearly that I do not mean to say that any Indian would be unsympathetic to the sufferings of people outside his own country, notwithstanding the fact that such suffering seems to be the lot of every Indian all the time. Sir, the leaders of public opinion in this country have always emphasized on certain values which may not have been successful in persuading the Government of this country to place them—such Indian leaders—in a better position than they are occupying today, but what at any rate makes us feel that we cannot refuse our approval to any scheme of participation which even this Government might initiate in the matter of relief and rehabilitation of distressed areas in any part of the world. But, Sir, the crucial test happens to be that if this country is asked to help in a matter in which it ought to, provided it has a status of its own, who is the person that is going to decide about it. We have been presented with a decision made by this Government. Its Agent General in New York has signed the Agreement on behalf of the Indian Government and the mere fact that my Honourable friend the Commerce Member has emphasized that that Agreement is valueless unless it is ratified by the constitutional body which ultimately has to vote the demand of money needed, or the amount of money to be contributed for this purpose for the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, does not I think make the position any clearer. For one thing, are we assured today in this House that we are that body that can vote the money? I am not quite sure because we can vote some part of the money needed by Government certainly and somebody else can vote much larger sum of monies at his sweet will and pleasure. Quite a large amount of money is being spent today without so much as saying "by your leave" to this House. It does not seem quite clear that we are the proper persons to whom this question ought to be addressed. Are we going to vote money for the U. N. R. R. A. to the extent that this country can afford it? I would like the Honourable the Commerce Member to tell us that if he had put the question to his colleagues on the Executive Council and whether he got the answer that we were the proper persons to vote the money. If that is so, we are very grateful for the courtesy that has been extended to the House. We are very grateful for the courtesy that the Honourable Members of the Executive Council and the advisers to His Excellency have extended to this House by asking for our permission. We recognise it is a courtesy, and since a courtesy has been extended to us, we ask you to extend the courtesy a little further and say, let the representatives be nominated with our consent, in whatever manner the consent is obtained—whether it is obtained by a free and open vote of the House or whether the vote is gerrymandered in the manner in which it is usually being done.

What exactly is the status of this country is another question that I would ask. I see that the Leader of the House is not here. On a previous occasion when a question was asked what the status of India was at the Empire Prime Ministers' Conference, I think it was categorically said that the Indian representatives who were chosen to attend could only do so by sufferance, they had got to remain outside, where the conference assembled until they were asked to get in. So far as the international status of this country constitutionally is concerned, I understand that it seems to be nil. We can ask for admission and we might be given admission if other people, other nations which have a status of their own are willing. I take it therefore that the inclusion of India amongst those 44 countries where India occupies an analogous position to that

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of Iceland and Newfoundland, is a matter of charity, and therefore, if I have any representative position while speaking on this motion, I must say that I am deeply beholden not merely to the Government of India for having got us that position, but for that body which has given India a position amongst the 44 nations of the world, be it on the same status as Iceland, Newfoundland and New Zealand. In fact, this is certainly a very laudable thing, certainly a right and proper thing, that India should co-operate in this object, which has been so eloquently described as being worthy of co-operation by the Honourable the Commerce Member. If we are co-operating as free partners in an enterprise with people who have a status, it may even be that we can say, we are not willing to co-operate. The Honourable Member has been good enough to indicate to us that if the vote of the House is adverse there will be no question of co-operation. The vote of the House cannot be adverse because Government have decided upon co-operation; the vote of the House will be such that it will be favourable to the Government. So the whole matter is unreal so far as that aspect of it is concerned. It is in this unreal position that we have to say what we have to say about this. I am not going into details of the manner in which this co-operation is to be offered, but I want to be assured, that, granting that you co-operate in the manner in which you have said you will, granting that you have the power to sign on behalf of this country and you have also the power to vote the amount of money necessary even without reference to this Legislature, if you bring this matter to us and ask for our support, allow us, at any rate, the privilege of being in a position to say that we have approved of the representative or representatives that will serve on any body connected with this Administration. Let us at least have this assurance that in all international bodies in which the Government of India is represented, whether in its own right, or as a subordinate member of the British Commonwealth of Nations, the person or persons who represent India shall not do propaganda against his or their own country. That is all that I want to be assured of. What happens today is this. A man or men go from this country, obviously as representatives of India, to do a particular type of work on behalf of this country or to enlighten world opinion in regard to something that India does as part of the United Nations, and there everything that is said by him or them is to the detriment of the best interests of the people of this country, to the detriment of the aspirations of this country, to the detriment of the status of this country. The House knows fully well to what I am referring. In one particular instance in which the House definitely recorded its vote in a very clear and unmistakable manner the Government did not pay any heed to our recommendation at all. But why this motion, may I ask? Why should it be at all that we should consider a matter which you choose to submit to us if you so like, whereas a host of other things equally important should be just passed over without even asking the leave of the House. I think this is a very proper time for us to protest against the continuous acts of Government from the time when the war began, when they have deliberately ignored this House and the House on the other side, not even chosen to take the opinion of the House into their confidence, or for that matter, where the opinion of this House has been categorically expressed, they have defied that opinion. With what face then do they come and ask the House today to put their imprimatur on a matter in which they have already come to a decision, in which they have already committed this country, but from which position they say you can resile if you so choose. You have put us on the horns of a dilemma. If this House denies the right of Government to commit us and therefore will not put their imprimatur on this agreement which they have signed, you will say, that the Indian Legislature, the representatives of India are not internationally minded, they do not want to help the world, they have no humanitarian feelings in them and that is why they have not come out with their approval to a decision that we have taken on their behalf subject to their future approval. Whichever way we go, it seems as though—even if it were on a domestic issue, even if it were on a matter on which we feel that you have no right to commit us or to

take a decision on our behalf or you have no right to present us with *ex-post-facto* decisions, we are going to approve of it,—we stand condemned before the world. We were faced with a number of dilemmas during this session. We have been frequently told, do this or do that, and either way you commit suicide. And I think the House again stands in that unique position today. Supposing those empty benches were filled and then if we feel that this Government has not the right to take a decision on our behalf and we cannot put our seal of imprimatur on their decision, but we shall take decision on this matter *de novo* when we consider it the proper time, what will happen to the status of this Legislature in the eyes of the world? I think this resolution is a piece of propaganda. I do not want really to see more where there is nothing, but I do feel, at any rate, since the matter has been definitely raised in this House during the last Session and a resolution was tabled before the House at that time—but no serious attempt was made to obtain the views of the House—the Government having taken the step to commit this country to this question of participation in the U. N. R. R. A., we seem to have no choice left except merely say, all right, good luck to you, go ahead, do what you like. That seems to be the unenviable position in which we are placed. Otherwise we shall stand condemned in the eyes of the world. And we shall always want some help from the world, if not in a concrete manner, if not in the manner of relief to areas which are really distressed, in some other matters at least. That is the unique position in which we are placed and we have necessarily to agree to this resolution because the resolution pertains to a matter which we cannot in all conscience say is not a proper thing. But the Government have forced our hands; even if we felt like waiting before taking a decision we cannot wait because the world opinion will be mobilised against us. Their own propagandists were daily going out of this country on this high priorities given to them for flying out of this country, who are being sent in dozens now I think, and more of them are going to be sent, to say that the Legislature is a moribund legislature, it is not international in its outlook, it won't even help suffering people in the world. Government is quite capable of making its minions say that and more and I am sure that is what they will do if the House should refuse its support to this motion. So it seems to be a question of Hobson's choice. But incidentally the House gives its approval, condemning the Government, as I should feel it ought to do, in no unmistakable terms as to manner in which its hands have been forced. The Government have no right to take this decision and force this decision on this House. I do not know what is the status of the high and mighty gentleman who represents the Government of India or who represents the Imperial Government in New York, whose subordinate he is, no matter whether he is an attache of the diplomatic section of the British Government in New York or whether he has any status so far as India is concerned. We do not know anything about his status. Let it not be that this gentleman who says one thing today and denies it the next day or whose statement is denied by this Government, as not being correct, as being untrue, let not people of that sort say that they represent this country. Let not this Government select people who will do harm to the people of this country and do propaganda against them. At any rate, before a representative is selected, let this House have an opportunity of saying whether he is a suitable man or not. I know you can carry any motion you like by means of your own votes, the loaded dice that you have, as against the empty benches opposite of which you seem to take advantage every time. (Interruption.) They will not be filled so long as the Honourable Member is here. Let me add my weak voice in support of this Resolution but say at the same time—give us a chance to approve of the name of the representative you select.

I shall now pass on to make a brief reference to the other aspects of the problem. Those of us who have been students of history in a small way know what happened after the last war—the glorious work that was done in the distressed areas of Europe, almost single-handed, by the United States of America and the hopeless odds against which they struggled. The picture has been painted to us in very eloquent terms by the Honourable the Commerce Member. What he thinks this country can contribute, he affirmed, was a very

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flexible matter, one per cent. of its national income. I do not know if the Honourable the Commerce Member or his colleagues can tell us what is the national income of this country.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said that the one per cent. formula is not, according to our opinion, applicable to Indian conditions by the terms of the U. N. R. R. A. Resolution but if my Honourable friend wants an economic discussion of what that one per cent. is, I am prepared to accept the challenge and fix a suitable place to discuss the matter with him. That is not the matter here.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: If it is question of challenge and a display of forensic ability, I must give way to the Honourable Member; nor am I an economist. I have not produced any books. As a matter of information, I would have liked the Honourable the Commerce Member to tell us what in his opinion the national income of this country is. Anyway, that is neither here nor there.

The Honourable the Commerce Member has told us or rather given us the heartening news that we need not pay more than 10 per cent. of our contribution by way of foreign credits. I do not think that really is a very vital matter. We have so much of foreign credits, the ultimate value of which we do not know and we might as well subscribe from out of it and be done with it. If really the Honourable the Commerce Member is going seriously to implement his threat and invite me to a discussion across the table in regard to the economic consequences of this agreement, I would give him my advice—let us give them foreign credit straight away and be done with 10 crores or 11 crores, whatever might be the figure of the one per cent. that you might fix in relation to our national income. Whether it would approximate to 100 times 10 crores or not, I am not prepared to discuss here.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): I can assure the Honourable Member that whilst he talks jocularly of sterling balances they would be very gratefully received by an international body.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: If the Chair will permit me, I should like to digress for a minute. For a person who rests on very flimsy foundations, I am afraid the Honourable the Finance Member is far too touchy about this subject

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am not being touchy. I am merely stating a fact.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: He is on very very slippery ground and I would advise him not to be so touchy. After all these apparently jocular statements are made not jocularly but in all seriousness. That is the only way in which one can make them. It may be that the Honourable Member is right and I am not right. I am not going to dispute that point. If those countries will like foreign credit and if I am asked about it I will say—let us give it. The Honourable Member mentioned about the 4,000 million yards of Indian textile goods that this country produces and added that if we are able to spare one million yards, its value will amount to 5 crores which would be half the amount of what this country will have to contribute, provided we agree to this one per cent. quantum. The Honourable Member might give the U. N. R. R. A. standard cloth if they want it as nobody seems to want it in this country.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not sure that it will not be required in China and the Far East, where there are at least 15 lakhs Indians still.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: I am making that suggestion in all seriousness. I think even standard cloth will clothe people who are going without clothes, who have no clothes at all. Even gunny clothes will clothe people who have no clothes at all.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not making the suggestion jocularly. I am making it extremely seriously. That is why I gave a valuation of 100 million yards at 5 crores.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: In my own province, we have a saying—I do not know if the Chair is familiar with it when its occupant was residing in Madras—we have a saying—If anything is rotten, give it away to the Brahmin. If there is anything for which you have no use, you had better give it away freely. If I have any voice in the matter and if as a Member of this House I am asked in what manner I am going to decide about the contribution to be paid, I would say “We need all the goods that we produce in this country” as, if the amendment of my Honourable friend the Leader of the Muslim League Group is moved, it will only emphasize the needs of this country in the matter of consumer goods, we cannot, therefore, afford to part with anything which might seriously affect the economic position of this country as I think the country is hardly in a position to spare any of the cloth or food or material of that sort, so let us pay in terms of foreign credits.

I have now come to the end. The Honourable Member has visualised that this is not much after all that the U. N. R. R. A. itself will be asked to pay. What the U.N.R.R.A. is going to do by way of spending is to meet only 5 per cent. of the needs of the countries which are distressed. I do not think that assurance is at all necessary and if we are going to be of help only to the extent of five per cent. and nothing more. . . .

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think my friend has understood just the opposite. I said that if it is 5 per cent. of the total relief it involves 700 crores of money. I just want to give the opposite picture.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Tuesday seems to be my unlucky day and I seem to have misunderstood everybody.

Sir, lastly, I would like to emphasise the point on which I started. I would like an assurance if that assurance can be given by the Honourable Member or by any of the senior Members of the Executive Council present here that in the matter of representation of India on international bodies and in the matter of any further commitments, the Government will give us an assurance either on this or any other matter similar to this that the House will be consulted and the opinion of the House will be ascertained in the only manner by which it can be obtained. In any case, its consent will be obtained in the matter of personnel or representation that is to be provided on this body or to any other scheme of a similar nature. If that assurance is forthcoming, I cannot see how—as I said before since it is a matter of Hobson’s choice—this House can reject the Resolution that is before us.

Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

“That to the motion the following be added at the end:

“Provided that the name/names of the representative/representatives who will serve on any body connected with the said United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration are submitted to the Legislature and their approval in the usual manner is obtained.”

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

“That at the end of the motion the following be added:

“In expressing its approval this Assembly recommends that any area important to military operations of United Nations which is stricken by famine or disease should be included in benefits to be made available by United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.”

The amendment that I have moved does not need any commentary. It is self-explanatory. But in moving my amendment I will just offer a few observations on the subject-matter of the Honourable the Commerce Member’s speech. If my memory serves me right, there was either this very Resolution or a Resolution practically to the same effect which was tabled during the last Session of this House.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: It was tabled in the July Session.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: But for reasons not known to us, the Resolution was not moved and it was thought by all concerned that the idea had somehow

[Syed Ghulam Brik Nairang.]

or other been shelved. Now, on the present occasion the Resolution has again been tabled and moved. The very eloquent speech made by the Honourable the Commerce Member has given us a history of the Administration which has got rather a long name and which the Honourable Member for the sake of brevity has been calling U. N. R. R. A., a problem by itself in orthography and pronunciation, so much so, in fact, that one of my friends only a few minutes ago asked me where this U. N. R. R. A. is. He thought it was some town or place. Anyhow, for the sake of convenience I would also imitate my Honourable friend the Commerce Member and call it U. N. R. R. A. although I shall have to roll the R, there being two R's.

He has given us a certain number of facts showing how the idea originated, how the establishment of an Administration of that name was necessitated and how it has developed from stage to stage. Now, these are things which we, men-in-the-street, knew nothing about and they have all come to us today as so much revelation. In spite of that, the facts revealed do not give us a clear and perspicuous idea of what the thing really is. I may be pardoned for saying that on many points the very comprehensive statement made by the Honourable the Commerce Member leaves us wondering as to what he means. The statements are mainly very vague, perhaps because he had to put too many things within the limited compass of a speech on the floor of the House. Whatever the reasons for his vagueness may be, the fact remains that we have not been very much enlightened as to the precise nature and scope of the organisation of which he has been speaking. He has conjured up a picture of post-war misery, chaos and suffering, which very deeply affects our nerves. Perhaps the idea is to make us commit ourselves at once and say 'Yes' to everything that the Honourable the Commerce Member has been good enough to say. But I think he will consider our position pardonable if we say that in order to say an intelligent 'Yes' or 'No' to any matter, one needs a more detailed study of the situation, a more detailed knowledge of the matter and a period of time to consider those things at leisure before one can say 'Yes, I agree' or 'No, I do not agree'. Our position, therefore, under the present circumstances must be that we are not in a position to say either a definite 'No' to it or a definite and decided 'Yes'. We are really faced, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, said, with a dilemma. It is difficult for us to say 'Yes' and it is equally difficult for us to say 'No'. *'Goyam mushkil waqar nagoyam mushkil'*

But, Sir, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, has also remarked, there appear to be some important considerations which must be made clear by Government on this occasion and about which definite assurances must be given. For instance, it is evident that participation in the benefits of this UNRRA will certainly involve financial commitments on the part of India. And we know how financial commitments, when they are once assented to, are carried out in practice and how the Indian Legislature and the representatives of the people are merely shown the courtesy of a formal consultation by way of Budget proposals to which they can say 'Yes' or 'No' but which are to be carried out in practice in spite of their 'Yes' or 'No'. We want a definite assurance that in the matter of this organisation, if any expense is to be incurred by India, it will be definitely subject to the vote of the Indian Legislature and governed by that vote with no option to anybody to over-ride it. If such an assurance is given, I think one cause of apprehension will be removed and there should be no difficulty in such an assurance coming forth from the Honourable the Commerce Member or any other senior Member of the Executive Council.

Coming now to my amendment, I think the present idea appears to be that the benefits of this administration will be available to those countries only which are under enemy occupation. That would ordinarily rule out India as one of the participants of those benefits, while considerations which entitle countries occupied by the enemy to any benefits may in reality apply to many parts of India with the same force and to the same extent as they apply to countries under enemy occupation. We know that on account of war and by

reason of war certain parts of India have suffered most terribly and who knows what other parts of India may suffer in future and to what extent. It is therefore necessary that, according to what we have said in the amendment, "any area important to military operations of United Nations which is stricken by famine or disease should be included in benefits to be made available by United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration".

Now, Sir, I need not go into details of that matter, but it is evident that the Province of Bengal, for instance, suffered from a terrible famine which took such a heavy toll of life and whatever may be said as to the causes of that famine, everybody knows in his heart of hearts that war was the cause of that famine. If such a calamity can befall a part of a country on account of war, where is the difference between that country and a country which is occupied by the enemy? There can be no difference in reality, and if Malaya, Burma, China and other parts of the East will be entitled to sympathetic and humanitarian consideration at the end of the war in the matter of post war relief and rehabilitation, then certainly such parts of India as Bengal and other parts of India, which, God forbid, may in future fall a prey to disease or famine by reason of this war, certainly would be entitled and should be entitled to the same kind of relief and the same sort of consideration as to rehabilitation and all that. The Honourable the Commerce Member has told us that a principle very much the same as embodied in the amendment moved by me has been already accepted by the United States Government and that it is now before the Council of U.N.R.R.A. for acceptance. If that is so, knowing as we do the power which the U.S.A. wield in the Councils of this U.N.R.R.A., we must expect that the principle will be accepted and therefore, Sir, it should not be difficult for Government to accept this amendment of mine. I need not detain the House any longer. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

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

"In expressing its approval this Assembly recommends that any area important to military operations of United Nations which is stricken by famine or disease should be included in benefits to be made available by United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration".

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, the Member for the Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies Departments. This Agreement for the establishment of U.N.R.R. Administration is the first definite step which the United Nations have taken so far towards post-war organisation in international affairs. For not only is this organisation to work and to function during the war itself, but its spirit and in fact its form will, I believe, profoundly affect what is to follow after the war. Now, Sir, one of the things which makes this proposal different from international organisations which have been set up in the past is that in U.N.R.R.A. the administration is to have real and effective power. Both in the League of Nations and in the International Labour Organisation, there was no administrative organisation which had real and effective power. Those organisations did useful work in co-ordination and in persuasion and in education. But I notice here from the terms of the Agreement that the administration of U.N.R.R. has very precise and clear and effective powers. I would refer the House to Article V of the Agreement which says:

"Each member government pledges its full support to the administration within the limits of its available resources and subject to the requirements of its constitutional procedure through contributions of funds, materials, equipment, supplies and services for use in its own, in adjacent or in other areas in need."

It goes on to reinforce those positive obligations by the important restrictive requirements that all purchases by any of the member governments made outside their own territories during the war for relief or rehabilitation purposes shall be made only after consultation with the Director General of the organisation and shall as far as practicable be carried out through the proper United

[Sir F. E. James.]

Nations agency. This actual scheme of organisation, therefore, is clear in thought and expression and seems on the whole very well calculated to carry out its intended purpose. It is interesting to observe that the conception of this scheme came originally from the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, and its outline, with its borrowing from past experience and its novel conceptions of administrative power for effective action, owes a good deal to the realism of the Russian Government. Then another important feature of this organisation is that it carries out the regional principle in international effort. The House will probably recollect that on more than one occasion the representatives of India at the League of Nations and the International Labour Office meetings have urged the importance of regionalising their activities. Now this principle, which has for so long been advocated by representatives of India at international conferences, is accepted in the organisation which is under consideration.

The House will note that in the plan one of the notable elements is the creation of a committee of the Council for Europe and a committee of the Council for the Far East. Although the House should be interested in the relief of the liberated territories of Europe I take it that they have a rather special interest in the relief of the liberated territories of the Far East. The committee of the Council of the Far East is to consist of all the members of the Council or their alternates representing the member Governments of territories within the Far Eastern area, and such other members of the Council representing other Governments directly connected with the problems of relief and rehabilitation in the Far Eastern area as shall be appointed by the Central Committee with the approval of the Council if it be in session and otherwise subject to the Council's ratification. Sir, I cannot imagine the Council not agreeing to the membership of India in equal status with any other member on the committee of the Council for the Far East, as long as India, of course, is a contributing nation to the general plan. I take it that my Honourable friend who sponsors this Resolution is assuming that India would be a member of that committee. Here in passing I may refer to the speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari,—a somewhat grudging speech of approval,—and say that I assume that the constitutional status of India in this organisation would be the status of any other member which participates in this plan and which secures a place in the administration of the plan. In other words, the constitutional status of India would be the same as that of any other member nation which participates in the plan. I take it that that is the position. My Honourable friend, the Commerce Member will apprise the House on that point.

Now, Sir, the importance of the regionalisation of this Administration is to my mind of particular interest to India, for after all India has been an important base of supply for the countries of the Middle East in connection with the prosecution of the war. Therefore, it seems to me but natural to expect that India will be an extremely important base of supply for the relief and rehabilitation of the liberated countries of the Far East. And that would give India a very strong reason, on practical grounds, for adhering to the plan.

Sir, I do not think I need remind the House that India has a direct interest in the liberation of the countries of the Far East, particularly those which border on the oceans east of the shores of India. Quite apart from anything else, quite apart from humanitarian reasons, there is the reason that in those countries there are very large settlements of Indians, and they alone, along with the permanent populations of those countries, will require as much assistance as India can give. I go further and say that from the political point of view it is of the utmost importance that India should participate fully in the administration of the relief and the rehabilitation which is given by U.N.R.R.A. in the countries in which Indians are settled. For it is conceivable that unless India is there where policy is formulated and where decisions are made to carry out that policy, there may be a tendency on the part of the administrations of those countries to treat the Indian settlers there on a somewhat different basis from the permanent and indigenous populations of those territories. I regard

it, therefore, as a matter of the highest importance that India should participate to the full and obtain representation on the committee of the Council for the Far East.

Sir, I will say very little about the amendment which has been moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, because there are obvious difficulties in the way of consulting the Legislature and securing its approval, in what is called "the usual manner", for all or any of the representatives who may be appointed to serve on any body connected with the U.N.R.R.A. But I would suggest to my Honourable friend who has moved this Resolution that it is important to insist on every appropriate occasion that if India is to participate, as I hope she will, to the full in this plan, she is entitled to expect that she will obtain an appropriate proportion of the posts in the Administration in that organisation.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I might immediately answer that point by saying that matters are being considered, and we cannot yet say that we are effectively participating to enable me to bring this matter up.

Sir F. E. James: I am very glad that my Honourable friend has mentioned that point because it does reinforce the argument for agreeing whole-heartedly to the Resolution now before the House. But I was about to observe that no time should be lost in this matter because already within the South East Asia Command, as the House is doubtless aware, there is the shadow organization of U.N.R.R.A. being built up and preparations being made for the training of the administrators who will go into the countries of the Far East in the pursuit of the relief and rehabilitation of the liberated peoples. Therefore, if as I hope the House will pass this Resolution and at the end of the Session the Government will be fortified by the support of the Legislature, I trust they will lose no time in making this particular point of view known to those who are now responsible for building up the shadow organization which, when the armies move forward, will become the active administration of U.N.R.R.A. in the Far Eastern countries. Therefore, Sir, I support this Resolution because I believe it is good business, because I believe that it is good international policy, and, above all, because I believe, particularly in the Far East, that it will be a token of India's desire to be good neighbours to those countries with which she has had and will continue to have such intimate relations.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): I rise to support this Resolution. Sir, the House fully realizes the importance of India taking part in the work of relief and rehabilitation which has become necessary on account of the ravages of the war. We all realize that as a result of this war there will be very great misery and starvation from which people will suffer, specially in those countries which have been occupied by the Fascist powers. I, therefore, feel that the Legislature should approve of taking part in the work of this organization. It is our duty to do so as a part of the world. It is not only because there are some Indians in Far-Eastern countries that we shall take part in the work of this Administration—we would certainly like that our people who will suffer on account of this war in countries which are occupied by the enemy should get the benefit—but we are also ready to take part in the work of this Administration because we feel that as a part of the world it is our duty to help those who have suffered on account of this war.

Sir, it is quite natural, under our present political circumstances, that this Legislature, which has not got full confidence in the Government, should like that the representatives of India who take part in the work of this Administration should be selected in consultation with the Legislature. I quite see that the selection of a representative on the councils of this Administration or in a conference which may discuss this problem cannot be done by mere election, but, Sir, the Government of India can consult the Leaders of the various Parties and select some one whose name will be approved by this Legislature.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member may continue his speech 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. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Mr. Deputy President, when the House adjourned for lunch I was saying that as the Legislature has not got confidence in the present Government of India, it is natural that they should feel that persons who are going to attend these conferences on the Council of the U.N.R.R.A. should be persons in whom the Legislature will have confidence. I had also suggested that in order to make it easy to secure the confidence of the Legislature for persons to be appointed for this purpose, the Government of India before submitting names to the Legislature, should consult the leaders of the various parties in this House, and perhaps in the Council of State, so that the Legislature will have confidence in the persons whom we select for this purpose.

I feel, Sir, that if we are able to send out people for the work of this organisation who have the confidence of the Legislature both the person who represents India in that organisation and the Government of India will be in a much stronger position to play their part in that organisation. At present the Government may send out people in whom the Government alone have confidence, with the result that neither the person who represents India at these conferences nor even the Government of India feel sure of the support of the Legislature, and to that extent the Government of India themselves and our representatives in these organisations are in a weaker position. Sir, we are anxious that our representatives should take an important part in the work of this organisation, and I, therefore, feel, that the Government of India should appoint persons for the work of this organisation in whom the Legislature will have confidence. I realise that the person who will go there to represent us will have to represent the Government of India also, but it should not be difficult for the Government of India to select a person in whom they will have confidence and in whom the public will have confidence.

Sir, I would also like to suggest to the Government of that as regards finance, there is no doubt that we can only pay for the work of this organisation within our financial capacity. We cannot pay more than what is possible for us judging our financial capacity and judging the general economic condition of this country. But within our financial capacity we should be ready to pay our full share. I would also like, Sir, that we should not only pay our full share of monetary contribution, but we should take an active part in the work of this organisation, and for that purpose the Government of India should not be supine. They should be active. They should not only consider that their duty is done by sending out a representative on the Council. But they should try their very best that Indians are able to take active part in the work of this organisation. The Director-General will be appointed. I do not know whether the Government of India will have influence enough to see that the Director-General's post is given to an Indian. I am not sure about the Government of India's influence to secure that, but surely the Director-General will have a large staff under him, a staff which will have to do not only the work of the secretariat of that organisation but will have to do the actual work in organising relief, and if the Government of India does not sleep and see that Indians get the proper opportunity of doing the work, not only in the secretariat, but the actual field work of this organisation, I have no doubt that we shall be able to find able men to do this work. I am saying this because I know that when the League of Nations was started and various other organisations connected with the League of Nations were started, the Government of India did not pay sufficient attention to see that Indians got an opportunity of doing the work in these organisations. When all the appointments were filled in, the Government of India awoke and they were told that all the important positions have been

filled in and therefore if Indians like they can take up some small posts. Sir, I am not saying this because I want jobs for Indians; but I want Indians to play their part in the active work. I want Indians to have the satisfaction of having done the work. I would also like, Sir, the Indians to get experience of doing this work. On account of the default of the Government of India, we have failed to do that. We have paid our contributions to the International Labour Office. I do not grudge that but I certainly find fault with the Government of India for not having given opportunities to Indians to do this important work. I would, therefore, Sir, suggest to the Government of India that within your financial capacity pay for this organization generously and see that our country plays an active part in the work of this organisation. Let the Government of India not sleep. Let them see and put forward a claim for Indians being appointed, to do active work, and I would like the Government of India even to suggest that if there is a Far Eastern Regional Council of this body, let it be situated in India. India is an important part of the Far Eastern Countries and the Government of India should see that the headquarters of this Far Eastern Council, if not of the U.N.R.R.A., is situated in India. I would also like to say that in securing opportunities for Indians in these organisations, the Government of India should as far as possible avoid sending non-Indians. Let me assure you, Sir, in my life I have tried my very best not to allow any racial considerations to have influence on me. But, Sir, we who have taken part in some of the international organisations, we know what a humiliation it is to us to find that our country is represented by Britishers. It is not because we hate the Britishers, but when we go to an international organisation and find that a Britisher represents our country, it is a humiliation. Sir, I do not wish to conceal the fact that we are a subject nation and the Britishers are our rulers, but is it necessary that we should be ostentatious to demonstrate the fact that we are a subject nation by sending Britishers to represent India? Sir, I would like the Government of India to remember this, because I have felt that humiliation on several occasions. People who have gone with me were my friends, but that does not save me from the humiliation, when I find that the fact that we are a subject country is ostentatiously shown to the world. I hope, Sir, that the Government of India will remember this.

After having made these suggestions I would like to suggest to the Legislature, let us approve of this Resolution, let us take part in the work of this international organisation because it is good work, it is a work of helping to remove misery and starvation of people who are suffering. Let me assure you that I am not making this suggestion because I feel that if you do not, the whole world will misunderstand. I recommend that we should take part in this organisation because it is our duty to do so, because I think it is good work. I support this Resolution.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The call of humanity never failed to produce a favourable response in any Indian heart, and I would be untrue to the age-long traditions of my country if I were to oppose any measure which is calculated to minister to the needs of a war-torn world. If some of us have, however, sounded notes of dissent in regard to some of the detailed features of this measure, it is because of the peculiar circumstances under which we have to work the present constitution, and it is because of the inferior status which India occupies in all international matters.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, made the point that Government should have consulted the Legislature before the signature of the Agent General was given to this Agreement. I know what the reply of the Government to that point is going to be. They will say it is in accordance with the practice of all Governments in the world, that decisions like this are taken in anticipation of approval of legislative bodies. But let it not be forgotten that the position which the Government occupy in this country *vis-a-vis* the Legislature, is quite different from the position which a Government occupies in a country which enjoys self-government. It is due to this circumstance, it is

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due to the peculiar circumstances of India, that even the best of schemes are liable to be criticised from a somewhat narrow point of view. I should like the Government to remember that it smoothenes their task if, for instance, they take the Legislature into their confidence at an early stage of the discussions that take place far away from this country.

My Honourable friend, the Member in charge, gave a history of the activities that preceded the conclusion of this Agreement, and in the course of that account he referred to a draft that had been prepared by the United States of America in June, 1943 and the discussions that followed with the signatory countries thereafter. I do not know what difficulty there was in the way of the Government placing a kind of tentative proposal before the Legislature. . .

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I did it. May I explain that at that time my intention was to have this discussed in the House. I tabled a resolution also, and after that, just at the stage when the resolution was being brought, we were informed that the entire terms of the agreement were likely to be changed again as a result of subsequent discussions, and that is why I did not bring the matter before the House.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Whatever that may be, I think the Honourable Member could easily have placed the tentative conclusions that the international bodies had already arrived at, and made it clear that the conclusions were tentative and liable to be reviewed at a later stage. My Honourable friend referred to the ceremony—I am quoting his word—that took place at Whitehall on the 9th November. Actually it was no more than a formal ceremony of signing the agreement, and what happened before the ceremony took place really determined the constitution of the different bodies that are proposed now to be set up and the duties that are now proposed to be assigned to them. It was only after that formal ceremony had been gone through, it was only after the Agent General of India had appended his signature to the agreement at that formal ceremony, that this country came to know anything about the details of the scheme.

The amendments that have been moved in this House indicate that there is a strong desire that the agreement should be altered in certain important particulars. The amendment moved by Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, for instance, strikes at the very foundation of the scheme. When I read the preamble of the agreement I find that the scope of the amendment which has just been moved, goes beyond the scope of the preamble which is the foundation on which the agreement stands. Let there be no mistake about the position in regard to these amendments. The agreement can be amended only by two-thirds vote of the Council. I do not know whether this amendment, even if it is passed by us, will be any more than a mere pious expression of wish, because, after all, the acceptance of the amendment lies in the hands of the Council, and unless two-thirds of the 44 countries which have appended their signature to this agreement are in favour of the acceptance of the amendment, it will be mere waste paper. Why should the Government have placed themselves and us in such an awkward position? If we could have given expression to these views at a sufficiently early stage, the Honourable Member could easily have instructed the Agent General in America to see to it that these points were covered in the agreement itself. I maintain that, even though the matter had not been placed before the Legislature beforehand, the Honourable Member in charge should have foreseen these various points that are now being pressed on the attention of this House by way of amendments. After all, we have a majority of Indian Members in the Executive Council and the Member in charge is himself an Indian, and these are amendments which should easily have been foreseen by him and pressed upon the attention of the Agent General.

So far as the amendment of my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, is concerned, Sir Frederick James seemed to ridicule it. He thought that this was not quite a feasible proposition. I do not know why he takes that view. All that the amendment seeks is that though the Government will definitely have their right of nomination, they should submit a list of names to the vote

of the Legislature before making actual appointments. What difficulty can there be in drawing up a panel of names? Supposing the Honourable Member has to make four nominations, say, on four different bodies, what is the difficulty in having a panel put up before the Legislature, a panel of approved names on which the House can vote? I do not see any practical difficulty in the adoption of this particular device. It does not deny the authority of the Government in regard to the final choice. It only seeks to carry the Legislature with the Government, and I do hope that the Honourable Member in charge will give his earnest consideration to this particular amendment. It may be that a slight change in the procedure may have to be adopted. I am supporting the substance of the amendment. The intention behind the amendment is one which should be acceptable to every one of us here. Now, as regards the amendment moved by my Honourable friend, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, this amendment was in substance adopted by the Senate and the House of Representatives in America, as has been stated by the Honourable Member in charge, and I was rather amused to find a reference to this incident in a well known London Journal to this effect. This is from the *Economist*, dated the 29th January. This is how it runs:

"This (particular amendment) is interpreted in America as a reference to India (*India was not specifically referred to, I take it*) and as such it would be contrary to agreements reached at Atlantic City. Probably, it is to some degree an expression of anti-British and pro-Indian feeling."

It is definitely an expression of a pro-Indian feeling. Why should it necessarily be taken to be anti-British in character? This is how a leading British journal interprets the vote of the legislature in the United States of America. Now, Sir, I do hope that in spite of this interpretation, it will be possible for the Government of India to get the support of His Majesty's Government in favour of the substance of the amendment being accepted by His Majesty's Government for the purposes of being placed before the Council by way of a proposal for amendment of its constitution.

Now, Sir, just a few words about the merits of the scheme before us. I do not know whether we have a complete picture of the steps that are going to be taken in furtherance of the intentions of this particular scheme. As a matter of fact, even more informed people in other parts of the world are not in a position to visualise the ultimate shape which this particular movement may take. For instance, I find the following observation in the *Economist*:

"There will soon arise the need for international marketing and investment boards but even before the need arises it must be decided in conjunction with the other United Nations whether this should be developed within the frame work of the U. N. R. A. or whether they should be allowed to work out their own machinery according to their special needs."

So, this particular scheme may not end in a mere philanthropic effort. As a matter of fact, the suggestion made in this particular comment of this newspaper goes to indicate that developments may take place which might expand the scope of these activities in such a manner as to affect international trade and commercial policies, and that is where we have to be very cautious. I should like to be assured that so far as the Government are concerned they will not allow the scope of this activity to be so expanded as to affect in any manner our future international relations with the other parts of the world in regard to commerce and finance. Let it be judged on the plane of a philanthropic effort alone.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is absolutely correct.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Even apart from these developments taking place at a later stage, if we go through the Resolutions, which are really more important than the agreement itself, the Resolutions that have already been adopted and which would really form the basis of the activities of this organisation, we find that the Resolutions are so complicated in regard to certain points and so cryptic that it is difficult for us to judge the full implications of some of the recommendations embodied therein. For instance, in Resolution No. 12 we read of pools and so

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on, and then there is the pool of transportation equipment. Then later in Resolution No. 14, we read about foreign exchange assets, and how they will determine the contribution of a State or qualify a State for certain purposes of relief and other things. Then again in Resolution No. 1 we read about existing Governmental agencies being utilised for purposes of allocation of supplies and shipping. Now, Sir, it seems to me that the system of complicated control that operates at the present moment in regard to foreign trade, and even internal supply of the country, may have to be indefinitely prolonged for the purpose of implementing these Resolutions, if they are to be given effect to in their true spirit. I should very much like to know from the Honourable Member in charge that the hands of the Government of India will be entirely free in regard to the devising of the machinery, in regard to the devising of the procedure, by which effect has to be given to these Resolutions, so that we may not have these control measures perpetuated for the purpose of carrying out our obligations under the U.N.R.R.A. scheme. My Honourable friend will permit me to make the observation that the control mechanism at the present moment is in alien hands, and there is a general impression in the country that the operation of that control mechanism is not made in every case in the interest of India; and we should indeed be very sorry if as a result of our agreeing to this charitable scheme we find ourselves in a position where the activities of this control mechanism may have to be prolonged beyond the cessation of the war. My Honourable friend casually referred to the cotton textiles, and just for the purpose of giving us an idea of the nature of the contribution that might be made by India, he said that so many million yards of Indian piecegoods might represent our contribution. I am reminded that in regard to cotton piecegoods at the present moment our total domestic production is not sufficient for the purpose of meeting the internal demand, and I am also aware of the fact that in spite of this position, India is being made to export textiles to countries, particularly in the Middle East, which were in the past getting their supplies from the enemy countries. I should like to be assured that our contribution in kind would be confined to those articles in regard to which we have a spare capacity.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is right.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Our first action must be to meet the internal demand, and it is only after the internal demand has been fully met that we can possibly afford to be charitable.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is true.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: In this connection, I cannot help referring to another case, that of jute. I am sorry that Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar has just left the Chamber. In regard to jute, for instance, the prices of hessian were fixed sometime ago admittedly at rates below the prevailing rates in India, in the name of war, because America wanted hessian and she was not prepared to pay the price that was prevailing at the time when the agreement had to be entered into. I was assured by Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar in reply to a question that the entire supply of hessian which America would be getting under this agreement was intended to meet the war demands. But it was just a few days ago that I read a Reuter's cable from America to the effect that the hessian, the jute fabric, which America would be getting from India is, at least some of it, going to be re-sold to Cuba and Puerto Rico for the benefit of the sugar industry. I hope any repetition of such instances will not take place under cover of giving effect to the U.N.R.R.A. scheme.

Similarly, in regard to coal which is in very short supply everywhere. Now, in regard to coal, what is the position at the present moment? The average output of coal in the last few years in British India has been of the order of 25 million tons; that is the annual average. And we are all aware of the shortage of coal that prevails at the present moment. What is the target that the Government have fixed in regard to coal production this year? The target is 22½ million tons, that is to say, 2½ million shorter than the average output of the last few years. And even in spite of this, we are exporting, and supplying to His Majesty's Government for bunkering purposes, more than 12 per

cent. of this coal under an agreement, and that of the first class variety. Now, Sir, I am very much apprehensive that similar policies might come to be adopted by way of implementing the U.N.R.R.A. scheme. I should, therefore, like to be assured by the Honourable Member that in working out the details the Government will take this Legislature fully into confidence, so that there may not be any room for any apprehension on these heads.

When my Honourable friend in his own eloquent words was describing the conditions of dire distress that prevail in the enemy occupied territories, I was reminded of the situation in the unhappy province from which he and I come. And may I conclude by expressing my regret that the Government have not found it possible to arrange for a debate on the food situation in the country during this Session? We are asked now in this Resolution to be a party to an expensive scheme for the benefit of the other parts of the world where distress prevails as a result of the war. At the same time, the Government are not in a position to allow a frank and full discussion of the present situation in the country itself. That certainly does not seem to me to be a proof of the *bona fides* of this Government when they bring up proposals of this kind. But I should not like to develop that point any further. While I give my support to this Resolution, I would again repeat my regret that the Government have not done their duty in regard to a discussion of the food situation in the country being allowed to this House.

Mr. Hoosainbhoj A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support the motion that has been moved. But in doing so I wish to place before the Treasury Benches some facts to which, I am sure, they will give their very careful consideration. It is a fact, as has been pointed out by the previous speaker, that this agreement was made some time back and this is the first occasion on which we have been able to find out the terms of the agreement and other particulars. Sir, having been in the war for nearly four years and having sacrificed blood, money and foodstuff for the cause that people all over the world will have their liberty, I do feel that in this scheme we ought to take part, not for any material gain but to show that we have been with all those people without the least inclination to make gains out of this war. But as we have sacrificed so much, we are even prepared to sacrifice something more for the sake of humanity and liberty. When I say this, some people would really be wondering not in this country and not in Great Britain but outside how can such a statement be made? We know very well that as a result of this war, almost all the people who have been in this war, as in the last war, do expect that for their sacrifices, they should be able to extend their business and should have new spheres of influence and what not. They have not hesitated to say that. On the other hand, we are in a position that we can ask for but we have not asked for any such thing. I admit some people may even say that we cannot ask for anything because we cannot have it. In the last war we did not get anything and in this war also we are not going to get anything. Therefore, our position is quite simple and clear, namely, that we have gone into this war and have made huge sacrifices for getting the equality and liberty of the people and the welfare of the humanity. Now, as this scheme has also been put forward with that object, we cannot help joining it. Having placed that fact before you, I do want also my friend, the Commerce Member, to feel with us that whenever we have had the occasion to attend International Conferences at Geneva, we have always felt that while other nations, including the British nations, do welcome our representatives and do give a good thought to what we say, yet it is a well established fact that they do know our constitutional position and whenever they have to take very serious decisions, they do look to the representatives of this Government and not to the representatives of the employers or of the employees. If my friend, Mr. Joshi, were here, he would have also corroborated my statement. Now, the Government representatives are constitutionally under the Secretary of State for India. And it is also a fact that the Secretary of State for India is constitutionally under the British Cabinet. Therefore, if any

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of my friends think or try to make us believe that by becoming a member of this body we will be able to exercise our decision independently of Great Britain, then I submit they are living in a fool's paradise. Let us hope our Commerce Member, within the powers he has, will do best for us. But I have no reason to believe that in this laudable object the people and the Government of Great Britain will not take into consideration our views and with that clear understanding on our part I do hope my Honourable friends who are supporting this Resolution, as I am supporting it, look into the matter. There is no use now to hide the true facts. We find everywhere in the agreement the word 'constituted authority'. It may connote for different countries different things, but so far as India is concerned, 'constituted authority' means the Secretary of State for India, and not the Government or people of this country. So far as finances are concerned, we must make our position clear, and with open eyes, we are doing it, but whatever we may pass may or may not be accepted. If the higher powers—if the constituted authority wish to do a thing in a particular way, this august body will not be able to raise its little finger against it. We will be told that the Secretary of State has agreed to it and nothing further can be done. This is the final position.

Having made the constitutional position clear, I would point out that we are very glad that the American people have come forward with a gracious desire to give a very very large sum of money. We are also glad that recently in that country, there is some recognition of the endeavours we have made during this great war. It is a fact that, during the most critical time, it was only Great Britain with India and the Empire stood the whole fight. We find very recently from the newspapers that Mrs. Luce whilst moving her Bill for Immigration laws to be extended to the natives of India has kindly referred to the great services that this country has rendered. She says:

"Now that the Indian territory has been invaded by organised force for the first time since the sub-continent became a British colony, it seems fitting for America to evaluate India's war effort—see what these people have done for us and what we can do for them to demonstrate our recognition of their war effort. India has contributed the largest single volunteer force in the world. There are now over two million native Indian troops—all volunteers—fighting on the side of the Allies. Enlistments continue at the rate of about 70,000 a month. The size of India's navy and air force is a military secret. In addition there are 59,000 Indians in merchant marine or enough to man one-quarter of the British merchant fleet."

I wish, Sir, some such recognition had come from the representative of the British merchant fleet. All throughout the last four years we have not had the good luck ever to hear a word said for them except very recently when my Honourable friend, Sir F. E. Jones, was speaking about the work of the Defence Consultative Committee he had made mention and we are obliged to him for that.

Mrs. Luce further on says:

"that the Indian soldiers have been the backbone of General Montgomery's invincible Eighth army. The Fourth Indian Division of that Army during the bitter battle for North Africa captured ten times their own numbers of enemy prisoners. In this World War, as in the last, India has contributed more soldiers than all other parts of the Empire exclusive of the British Isles. India produces 80 per cent of its own war equipment, 30,000 or 40,000 separate Ordnance articles used by Britain, eighty lakhs garments to clothe the British, American and Indian soldiers. In addition, Indian workmen have built 1,000 miles of concrete runway for Allied Planes."

Sir, these are our services and I do hope that the Honourable the Commerce Member will take the hints placed by Mr. Neogy with regard to supplies that would be made out of India. I hope he will kindly take into consideration the views of the people of the country or at least will take into confidence this House. Before he agrees to any exports, I hope he will see whether they are really needed in this country or not. Unfortunately it is a fact that during 1939-42, we exported everything and anything that was required for war purposes, for the civil population of Russia, Iraq, Iran, and other places. We are now told that so far as the policy in Great Britain and America is concerned it has been and it is their first care to see that the requirements of the civil population were always looked into before an order is placed for war requirements.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I can assure the Honourable Member that the Commerce Member would really be most happy if he could stop all exports.

Mr. Hoosseinbhoj A. Lalljee: I am very sorry my Honourable friend has not understood me. I never said, stop all exports. I have never said that and will never say that as a businessman. What I am driving at is that such articles as are needed in this country for civilian needs should be kept in this country. He should not run away with the impression that I am against all exports. I know what is the meaning of the word 'export'. So far as Indians are concerned, they are helpless. So far as the world is concerned, including Great Britain, export means exploitation, exploitation means expedition, war and what not. If the country want some exports, they must have it. With due deference to my Honourable friend, I must say that we want to export only such things as we can afford. I repeat that during the first three years of the war, this country was stripped of all the materials, without looking into the needs of local consumption. Therefore we are now in this desperate position that we are deficient in many of the articles that are essential to the country. It may be that after the war, there may be a surplus. I believe there will be a surplus. Take the textile industry. The industry has received great impetus during the war, but certainly we cannot stop imports from outside as there are certain classes of textiles which are manufactured only in a few countries outside and not in India. Taking all that into consideration, India will still have a surplus to export.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: To what extent?

Mr. Hoosseinbhoj A. Lalljee: That would be the proportion which my Honourable friend has rightly put down for export in the recent arrangements with the Millowners and others. I admit that, I agree with that. I do not deny. Really speaking the wealth of the country is there, what we get from outside in exchange for what we send from here. We have very few markets open to us. We have not had the advantage of a civilised nation. I do not know what other expression I can use, my vocabulary is limited. We have no Trade Commissioners, very few, only recently within the last ten years, a few gentlemen have been sent as Trade Commissioners. There are no Councillors and no force whatsoever to look after our interests in foreign countries, and our exports. And I feel that in the interest of our industries and of our agriculturists who produce our raw materials those markets should be kept up. We had the instance of medium and low staple cotton in the C. P. We had to reduce that and give preference to foodstuffs later on. But I know how the agriculturists were hit when we came to the disposal of that medium staple cotton. There are other examples like that. With regard to the food situation, Punjab and Sind may be said to be surplus provinces, U. P. and C. P. are just self-sufficient. Bengal at one time had a little surplus but not now. But Government have not yet realised the seriousness of the position. They are doing everything possible for Bengal and something more has to be done. But they have not realised that Bombay, Madras, Travancore and Cochin have been deficit in foodstuffs and have relied on Burma rice. And conditions there have been very bad. In Bombay during the last two years we have been very hard hit, and if anyone tries to export foodstuffs now we cannot certainly agree to it. I know how things are manipulated, even in regard to voting in this House. In selecting, for election, members to committees, Government do not consider the importance of certain members on important questions but select as they like giving first preference to European Members. Anyway my point is that Government must carefully consider this very important question of food and clothing, and such articles before agreeing and appoint right sort of responsible people to look after our interest.

Then, another point is that we in this country have fortunately till now been actually free from war. But we learn that things are serious on our eastern frontier. This constitution says clearly that relief will be given to the victims of war. But often it is found that conditions just outside the theatre of war

[Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee.]

may be more serious than in the theatre of war itself. Therefore, I think the amendment of the Muslim League Party is very important. But how are you going to have a two-thirds majority, as was pointed out by my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy, under Art. 8A? I know we have no influence, but I request the Treasury Bench to assure us that they will ask Great Britain, which is all power, to gather a majority and that the intention which the Muslim League Resolution has will be incorporated in the Articles. That is very essential for India. As I said before, we have sent out all we have, and in the matter of relief in foodstuffs I do hope something will be provided, or in the alternative this House should be told at the first opportunity what our position is in that respect and similar matters.

With regard to the amendment of my friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, I will say this. If the Government can really get the British Government to agree that in the working of this Agreement they will honestly and sincerely leave it to the Government of this country, as an independent and not a subordinate Government to work it, we can overcome the difficulty which he has envisaged. And that must be the position in all international affairs where this country is concerned. Only last year or a little earlier we had before us the Burma Agreement which Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai had signed on behalf of this country, and it was subject to ratification by this House. This House by a Resolution moved by my Party, refused to ratify that agreement. What was the result? We learnt only recently from the Honourable the Overseas Member that the Secretary of State has not yet agreed to that. Then where are we? It is for this reason that we must know our position clearly. Similarly, in Ceylon, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai entered into an agreement subject to ratification by this House. The House refused to ratify it and yet no action has been taken by the Secretary of State. I could give other examples of our conditions in South and East Africa but these are enough for my present purpose. I will tell Government that while we are with them and wish to help them, in our own interest as well as to serve the object for which we entered this war, they should get sufficient authority for themselves so that they may be in a position to say that they have carried out the wishes of this House, and also India may be able to stand on her own rights when her representatives join these international conferences. Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the amendment which has been moved by my Party. I need hardly impress upon the House that we are feeling a great anxiety as to whether India by participating in this organization will be able to take any advantage from it, or not. It is definitely right to say that famine conditions and distress which has been brought about in certain parts of India—it is more acute in some parts than in others, but the entire country is affected—is, to some extent, the result of the war through which we are passing. Sir, when we were discussing this matter in the Committee the Honourable the Commerce Member explained the objects of this organization at great length and, to the best of my recollection, he said that this organization has in contemplation giving relief to India in view of famine conditions and distress provided that was sanctioned by the Washington Congress

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am sorry the Honourable Member has misunderstood. All I said at that stage was that so far as the present principle of the UNRRA is concerned it does not come in, except those who are Indian refugees or Indians in the occupied territories, but this question is being discussed in the Congress and in the House of Representatives and what the decision of the UNRRA will be is a matter which will come at a later stage. This is what I said today.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I am thankful to the Honourable Member for explaining it again. That is what I was going to say, namely, that the matter is still with the Congress and we are not in a position to know what their decision will be, and as such my Party wants to make a condition precedent to our participation

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: May I interrupt the Honourable Member at this stage? I understood all along that this is an amendment which is not a condition precedent, because if it is a condition precedent the picture will be entirely different.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: In principle we are for participation in the organization, but the wording of the amendment is:

"In expressing its approval this Assembly recommends that any area important to military operations of United Nations which is stricken by famine or disease should be included in benefits to be made available to UNRRA."

As I understand it, it is more or less a condition precedent, and as the matter is still pending before the House of Representatives, what we want to impress upon the Government is that they should make this point perfectly clear

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: That unless that is passed we will withdraw? Is that what you mean? Am I to write to our representative there that unless the areas which are stricken by famine or disease as the result of war are brought in we will withdraw? (Interruption.)

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Order, order. So far as this amendment goes, it is not a condition precedent.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I say that these facts should be taken into consideration. It may not legally be made a condition precedent and we need not go with a revolver in our hand and tell them 'look here, either you agree to do this, or we withdraw'. But at the same time we can make a submission to them in the strongest possible terms that India, situated as it is, may not be subjected to an invasion at any time during the war—we have escaped so far, and let us hope that we will in future—and therefore the only possibility of India getting any benefit from this organization is that this situation should be taken into consideration. As they are discussing this question at the present moment, I think our placing these facts before them will certainly improve matters and they will feel that while on the one hand we are participating in this organization from the humanitarian point of view, we have, on the other hand, some anxiety in our mind to help people in those areas in India who are suffering from famine and disease. And in this connection what I would like to know from the Honourable the Commerce Member is what are the terms and conditions on which the United States itself has agreed to participate? In this respect the United States of America is more or less in the same position as we are, except perhaps that the conditions there are not so miserable as they are in our country. But the fact remains that the United States must also be feeling the effects of war and people there cannot be having a very comfortable time. Therefore, I would like to know whether the United States Government have taken this fact into consideration and whether they have made out any condition for themselves, that is to say under such and such conditions they would be eligible to receive the benefits of relief to be provided by this organization.

My next point is that our representative should have the same status as the representatives of other countries, and he should serve on all the four committees that are to work in the absence of the Council. Unless we are assured of that, it will be very difficult for this House to say whether we can participate. Our representative should have the same voice and status as the representatives of other nations, who, at least in so far as this organization is concerned, will be our partners.

Then Sir, the House will appreciate that the amendment which was moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, wanted to impress upon the Government that our representatives on this organization should have the confidence of this House and at the same time they should be such persons that would have equal status with the other members of that organization. If the Government is satisfied in this respect, we will not have any objection on that part.

With these words, I commend the amendment for the acceptance of the House.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, the following message has been received from the Council of State.

[Secretary of the Assembly.]

"I am directed to inform you that the Message from the Legislative Assembly to the Council of State desiring their concurrence in the Resolution recommending that the Bill to codify the Hindu Law relating to marriage be referred to a Joint Committee of the Council of State and of the Legislative Assembly and that the Joint Committee do consist of 18 members, was considered by the Council of State at their meeting held on the 4th April, 1944, and that the Resolution was concurred in by the Council.

2. I am also to inform you that the following Members of the Council of State have been nominated to serve on that Committee, namely: (1) The Honourable Pandit H. N. Kunzru, (2) The Honourable Mr. V. V. Kalikar, (3) The Honourable Mr. P. N. Saprú, (4) The Honourable Mr. Susil Kumar Roy Chowdhury, (5) The Honourable Mr. G. S. Motilal, (6) The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Sobha Singh; (7) The Honourable Sir Gopalaswami Aiyangar; (8) The Honourable Sir Josna Ghosal, and (9) The Honourable Mr. Shavax A. Lal."

MOTION RE UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION
ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT—*contd.*

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, before I come to some of the points connected with this Resolution, I may just say a few words about the points raised by Mr. Hoosainbhoy Lalljee with regard to the safe economic position of the U. P. But I may inform him that the present rains have changed the position. I made inquiries two days ago and I find that in the U. P. we have already lost three annas in the rupee, and if the weather did not improve the position might be worse and I think that the position is almost the same as in Bihar. As regards mangoes and other crops, enormous damage has been done, so much so that we will have the same position as

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I hope that does not mean that the Doctor Saheb will not send his usual consignment of mangoes this year!

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): Might become more serious than that!

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The question of consignment will not arise if they do not exist! Unless timely action is taken I apprehend that the position will become serious as in the case of Bengal. I have drawn the attention of the Food Controller there to the very serious situation in the United Provinces.

Coming to this question, I would like to know whether this proposition is put out from the point of view of charity or for any philanthropic motive. If it is for charity and for some philanthropic motive, then the famous dictum is that charity begins at home. We must try to be charitable to ourselves and then we can make an attempt to be charitable to others. We have many requirements of our own and unless they are met, it will be very difficult for us to find money to help other people, unless, of course, we have mutual co-operation to help one another in the needs which will arise immediately after the war. This was the point which was really at the back of the minds of a number of persons, especially those who tabled the amendments—that while considering the requirements of other countries, our own requirements should not be overlooked. Those requirements may not be of the type of the devastation by means of bombs but it may have arisen on account of war conditions and other economic factors related to the war. This should not be forgotten when considering the whole problem.

One thing was not very clear from the speech of the Honourable the Mover of the motion, *viz.*, what will be the financial responsibility if we accept his motion? I do not know what is his value of national income. That is a very shaky economic proposition.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): There is no reliable basis on which calculations may be made.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Yes. Unless we have some kind of idea of what our financial commitments will be, I think it is not fair to ask us to vote for them. If it is intended to show our charity and grace and sympathy with all these

people, we are all with him, but if he wants us to make some financial commitment, then it is fair that I should have a clear picture of the extent of the demands before I can exercise my right of voting in favour of this motion, and I think it is unfair for the Honourable the mover to ask us to vote without giving us any idea of the nature of our commitments.

I come to the details to which he referred in his speech. Other persons also referred to the question of export and what we can afford from the country. That is a proposition which it is difficult to comment on at the present moment. I am sure that soon after the war, the Government of India will have to appoint some kind of Tariff Committee, similar to the one appointed in 1921-22, presided over by the late Sir Rahimtoola. A committee of this kind will have to go into the question. They will review what are the articles which India can easily export and what are the goods which India could not afford to export; and then, those articles, which she can export, will be those which we can supply to other devastated countries, in order that we may be able to help them. The other thing this committee will have to see will be the imports, *i.e.*, what are the things which we would like to have. As all these questions will arise after the war, it is premature to express any opinion on this issue as to what articles we can export and what we ought to import after the war and we cannot at present consider this question. What I would like to emphasise is this. We must have some idea of our commitments before we vote on this motion.

The other point raised was that we could help the other countries by our foreign credit in England. This question ought not to be discussed with this motion at all. These are two difficult problems and I think any discussion of this question would really make the people suspicious of the motives behind this particular motion. It has been said by several speakers on the occasion of the discussion of the Finance Bill that these 950 crores of rupees now in sterling security may perhaps disappear by various devices. My friend, Mr. Chetty suggested five such devices and he was waiting to hear from the Finance Member which of those five devices he would adopt in order that this Rs. 950 crores may disappear altogether. So I think my friend the Honourable the Commerce Member should not give us to understand that this is the sixth device by means of which your credit in England might disappear. I know this is not the case, but people will begin to think like this,—unless we have some clear idea of the financial responsibilities which is underlying this particular Resolution.

The other thing is that we have a number of other difficulties which may not arise on account of the bombs but on account of the economic conditions in which we are placed. I think we ought to be put on par with the other problems which have arisen on account of bomb-throwing, and if they are considered along with the requirements of these other countries, then I think it may be of some advantage to us. But if you only consider the devastation due to the dropping of bombs and not the devastation due to economic conditions arising out of the war, then I think it will be unfair to us. We do not know as yet what will be the result of the war. We do know, when war ends, who will be our friends and who our enemies. We have seen that while this war has been on, some countries who started as our friends turned out to be our enemies and *vice versa*. So this is also premature. By the time we finish the war and the troops return, not only shall we not know our friends and our enemies, but we shall not know for whom to cater and for whom not to cater. I think it is not fair to ask us to commit ourselves to anything. I do beseech the Honourable Member that when he wishes to express an opinion on behalf of the Indian Legislature he should make these points clear.

In the first place, we are very favourable to the proposals. We like to help the United Nations as much as we can. There should be mutual co-operation and mutual help, and it should not be merely one-sided. Considering the economic condition of the country and also the financial position, it is not fair to ask us to impose a very large amount of liability in connection with this

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

particular matter. I lay emphasis on this that there should be no financial commitment either by His Majesty's Government or by the Government of India without the vote of this House. We should have a free discussion on the floor of this House as to what this financial commitment should be, and until such a decision is taken, no expenditure should be incurred, and no commitment should be made on behalf of this country. Otherwise, it would be exceedingly unfair. This is a point on which all the peoples of India would be very strong. If Government took any action on this point without taking the people into their confidence, it would be unfair, and the consequences would not be very creditable to the Government, because, if the thing could be done with goodwill, there is no point in doing it with ill-grace, and make your own friends your enemies. We should not commit ourselves at the present time as to what articles we can export and to what countries. That will have to wait, and we shall have to see what the economic position is as soon as the war is over. Then by appointing a committee similar to the Tariff Committee which was appointed in 1921, we should have the whole position clearly examined and then we should come to any conclusion. As pointed by Mr. Nauman, it is very desirable that our representative should have equal status. He should not be in favour of one country or the other, but he should keep in mind the requirements of India, of the country which he represents, and that is exceedingly important, and we lay very great stress on this particular issue. With these observations I resume my seat.

Mr. R. R. Gupta: So far as the vote of this House is concerned; I think the Honourable Member has secured it by his masterly advocacy of the proposal and the graphic description of the conditions which prevail in those countries which this agreement is intended to help. But, Sir, I must confess the choice before us is very difficult. We cannot forget that we belong to a country where even now people have to kill their children to save themselves from the torture of seeing them die of starvation, people have to commit crimes to go to jail so that they may be spared the torture of hunger. Sir, India is that type of country, and any financial obligation for howsoever noble a cause, is a matter in which we find ourselves in a difficulty, because we know that every rupee that we can spare for our own poor people is likely to save the life of one man for one month. But at the same time we also know that we will not be able to get much advantage from out of this U. N. R. R. A. in our country. Firstly, India is not directly in the war.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: You cannot say that. India has been invaded.

Mr. R. R. Gupta: I do not want to hope that we should face the same type of destruction. In the second place, so far as the indirect effect of the war is concerned, as the Honourable Member has already explained, it is a matter still for the decision of the U. N. R. R. A. Thirdly, those countries which are found to be in a position to pay for the relief will be expected to pay for the relief which they get. Naturally our existing sterling resources will come in our way when the question of allocating relief for India comes up. In spite of all this, we know that our international relations with the people in other countries are very cordial. We have been getting their sympathy and we wish to get still more and we believe we will get more. Again, as Mr. Neogy has pointed out, our Indian tradition is such that we shall rather starve ourselves if we find our neighbours starving. We would offer our first meal to our neighbour even at the cost of our own life. It is on account of this tradition behind us that we have no other alternative but to support the motion before the House. But before we commit ourselves it is essential that we should know what will be the actual obligations on our part. I admit that the agreement makes the position somewhat clear, but so far as the wording of the resolutions goes, they are much more far reaching in their scope, at least they are not as clear as the agreement itself. I may read one or two portions of the resolutions. Resolution No. 1—the last sentence of that resolution is as follows:

"The member Governments to which such national agencies are responsible would agree on their part to put the services of such agencies at the disposal of the administration."

I am not reading the full resolution, but it deals with the scope of the services to be rendered and means of procurement of the services. In another place:

"In any area where relief and rehabilitation operations would be conducted wholly or partly through the employment of resources of the Administration, relief and rehabilitation in all its aspects shall be distributed or dispensed fairly on the basis of the relative needs of the population in the area."

Naturally the needs of the population in that area which has been under the direct war for a long time will be much greater than the needs of India.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Resolution No. 1 you read?

Mr. R. B. Gupta: Yes, last paragraph.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: The last paragraph does not say that.

Mr. R. B. Gupta: Then, Sir resolution No. 7 says:

"It is resolved that use should be made to the maximum practicable extent of normal agencies of distribution (governmental, commercial, co-operative) to the particular ends of combating inflation and restoring normal economic activity. This principle, however, cannot be pursued at the expense of measures found necessary under emergency conditions to insure an adequate control of the distribution of supplies and their direction to the appropriate consumers."

I submit that the implications of the wording of this resolution is not very clear. That covers much wider ground than what the agreement provides and I have no means of understanding how the resolutions will be brought into actual working while giving effect to them.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am sorry to interrupt my Honourable friend. May I know which resolution he is referring to and which paragraph?

Mr. R. B. Gupta: I am referring to resolution No. 7, the last paragraph.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I don't see it there. Are you reading from this book? I want to know the page, because I have to reply to it.

Mr. R. B. Gupta: I will give you my paper.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I shall be glad if you can show it to me in my paper, in either of these books.

Mr. R. B. Gupta: My point is this. Firstly, it covers the scope of rehabilitation, food material, raw materials, health, public utilities and also industrial rehabilitation. Naturally the question arises

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I hope you are not reading from the replies of the Chamber of Commerce. I think my friend is mistaken. We circulated long before these resolutions were passed certain purports of the agreements which are likely to come in and if you refer to them, they may have been changed completely.

Mr. R. B. Gupta: I am thankful to the Honourable Member for pointing out this fact. In that case, I have no other thing before me to know what are the resolutions which now exist and if the resolutions are changed, what is the position now. Anyhow, my point still remains that our Honourable friend will make sure, before committing us to any proposition, that our hands are not tied down to such an extent that when the war is over and we take up the scheme of our own rehabilitation, we find ourselves bound by such obligations that we remain where we are today. As a matter of fact, I was pointing out that this also includes the programme of rehabilitation of industries.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, except to this extent, namely, supposing in order to carry a commodity from Asansol to Murshidabad, in order to avoid the long railway route, they feel they can construct a shorter railway route of 25 miles to carry commodities quickly. Beyond that, there is no question.

Mr. R. B. Gupta: Then the second thing is about the administration. So far as the administration of this relief is concerned, it is going to be administered by an international body and the composition of that body naturally will be in the hands of the people having a stronger voice in the whole affair. I do not think India has got that type of stronger voice. All the matters of procurement, the policy of procurement, the material to be procured from various centres and the methods of distribution, the policy of shipment, all these things will come under the purview of that administrative machinery.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes, in which India is represented.

Mr. R. E. Gupta: This is the administrative machinery. This is a paid staff which is going to be created under the Director General.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes.

Mr. R. E. Gupta: This has got nothing to do with the representation of any country. This is a permanent staff which will administer the whole affair. So far as the committees are concerned, they will be concerned in directing the policy but so far as the actual working of the administration is concerned, it will be in the hands of the permanent administrative machinery. Therefore I say that so far as the appointment of this machinery is concerned, it is really an important matter. It has got to be seen and watched. In that administrative machinery we must have voice at least to the extent of our contribution.

Then, Sir, the third thing is the agency of procurement. As the scheme contemplates, the agency for procurement will be mostly the Government machinery and those commercial international machineries which are in existence today.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: No. The mistake the Honourable Member is making is that he is reading from the remarks. We conveyed those remarks to our representatives in Washington with a view to represent and after that the perspective is largely changed. As I say, the question of supply from a country will entirely depend upon what may be permitted by the Government of that country.

Mr. R. E. Gupta: Very well, Sir. Suppose an institution of international fame is in existence and our Government had recognised that institution to procure the supply in this country. Who is going to prevent them from that. I want to know whether for example the U. K. C. C. will be allowed to operate or not.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: This Government has not yet permitted.

Mr. R. E. Gupta: That is my point. Those Governments have got an agency at their disposal which they can utilise.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: May I again say that the U. K. C. C. is an organisation at the instance of H. M. G. to make the supplies to countries near about the war areas and this U. N. R. R. A. organisation is an international organisation which is not controlled either by H. M. G. or the U. S. A. This is controlled by 44 nations together and the principle of supply is that if any country asks for supplies from any Government, it is for that Government to determine as to how that supply should be given and through whom.

Mr. R. E. Gupta: The Honourable Member knows the implications better than myself. I leave it to him. I accept his assurance on these points but still I would like to make this point clear, because we don't know the implications fully here. Therefore we will make a negative suggestion that no arrangement should be entered into which may restrict our position to import machinery and other necessities which the country will require after the war is over. Secondly, it should not involve this country in continuing under the present control restrictions in the matter of its own economic life.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We will look most ridiculous in the eyes of world opinion if we go there and say that a part of our scheme for our economic control should not exist within India.

Mr. R. E. Gupta: Does that mean that that control will continue upon us?

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Whether that control will continue or will not continue is a matter for the Government of India or the Legislature or public opinion of whatever internal organisation we have in this country but to bring this into the question of U. N. R. R. A. relief or to bring it in the form of representation there is the height not only of stupidity but of irregularity.

Mr. R. E. Gupta: No, no. That is not my point. That is the matter for the representation before the International body. And the point that I am raising is for the consummation of our own Government. My point is that our Government should safeguard that in making any commitments on behalf of our

country, they should see that those commitments may not require the country to undergo any of these restrictions. This is only for their own guidance.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I hope you will give them the benefit of some wisdom.

Mr. R. R. Gupta: I am prepared to give them the benefit of all the wisdom and that is why I am supporting the motion. At the same time, I do think that they should welcome the suggestions or the points which may be brought forward by the Honourable Members of this House for their own guidance. Sir, we should not involve ourselves in any such restrictions by which our activities of rehabilitation and industrial development after the war may be restricted in any way. That is the negative suggestion I am making instead of positive suggestions which would have been possible if the picture had been made clear to us.

Now, Sir, the third thing is the question of the representation of our country on various Committees. I find that the Supply Committee is one of the most important Committees, but the name of our country has not been included in the constitution of that Committee. It is that Committee which will decide as to what material is to be purchased, from what country it is to be purchased and in which countries it has to be distributed. That is a very important item, especially when they fix up our share of the expenses of administration to be somewhere about 4 per cent. I find that the share of expenses of Australia, New Zealand and other countries is much less than ours and yet their names are included in that Committee.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My friend again misconceives. The whole position of this Committee is to give representation to those countries which will be the biggest centres of supply to those countries. Does my friend know that in Canada and Australia there are at least 34 million tons of wheat for post-war requirements for world rehabilitation? And we are also drawing from that source to a certain extent. So, it does not lie in our mouth to say that we should be on that Committee until we decide ourselves that we are prepared to be the main supplying ground. After all, do remember that 44 men might make a pandemonium and not a Committee. Therefore, somebody will have to be excluded. The question is that if we are not going to be a supplying country in the main, is it really our interest that we should be there?

Mr. R. R. Gupta: When we have decided to participate in this matter, I do not see any reason why we should not be one of the main supplying centres in this part of the world also. So far as our economic position is concerned, we have been playing the part of the main supplying base to this part of the world during this difficult period of war.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: I will be glad if you can carry the elected Members of this House with you that India should be a centre of supply for supplying relief to all these countries.

Mr. R. R. Gupta: When it is a question of relief without charging, it is a different matter. But so far as the question of procurement of supply is concerned, there are several branches of it involved. We may not be able to spare food products, but it does not mean that we will not be able to spare textile goods or enamel goods and hundred and one other things. As a matter of fact, since this Supply Committee is going to decide what supplies should be procured from different areas, I think India must be represented on it especially in view of the fact that other countries which are paying much less contribution towards the administrative expenses than our country are having their representatives on it. I see no reason why India should not be represented there.

Then, Sir, the arrangement is that up to 90 per cent. of the countries' contribution can be met in kinds and only 10 per cent. supplies should be met in terms of currency. This is a point which requires very watchful attention of the Government. It is one loophole where the danger can lie.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: You are yourself entering into a very dangerous position. What is in the agreement is just the opposite of what you have said, namely, that a country need supply only up to 10 per cent. in the foreign credit.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I think the Honourable Member may reply later on.

The Honourable Sir M. Azisul Huque: But this is a complete misunderstanding of the resolution itself.

Mr. R. E. Gupta: I am very thankful to the Honourable Member for the timely corrections. But my point is this that a country has been allowed the opportunity of supplying its quotas in kind to the extent of 90 per cent. If that is a fact, then it is a matter which requires serious consideration because those countries which are industrially much more advanced than India may be able to take more benefit of this provision than what we will be able to get. This is a point to be considered. I am not saying this by way of aspersion or doubt against the genuine desire of any country of the world. At the same time, I do want to point out to our Honourable the Commerce Member that this is a place where there can be a loophole and therefore it will require constant watch on his part.

Then, Sir, I come to the question of our own contribution in this matter. So far as our own contribution is concerned, I do not think we can accept the principle of 1 per cent. contribution of our total national income. And there are obvious reasons for saying so. Firstly, our national income is comparatively much lower than the national income of other countries *per capita*. Secondly, our population is too big. Therefore, if we accept the principle of 1 per cent. contribution of our national income, our proportion in comparison to the proportion of other countries will be much more. I, therefore, suggest that whatever proportion the Government may like to fix, it must be based on the budgetary income of the Government of India. I think that if we offer to make a contribution of 2 per cent. of budgetary income of the Government of India, it will be a fair figure which this country can afford and which this country can safely justify also in the present circumstances.

Now, Sir, I come to the question of the amendment moved by my friend, Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang, on behalf of the Muslim League Party. It has been suggested that if that amendment is going to be a condition precedent for the acceptance of this Resolution, then the position will be extremely difficult. I do not understand what the idea of the Honourable the Commerce Member was in making that observation because I find a resolution to the same effect was moved in the Senate of America and passed. The effect of that resolution is the same. If the position of the resolution of the American Senate is such that it does not need any objection on the part of the Government, I do not see any reason why there should be any ground for objection on the part of our Government. I do not know the wording of the American resolution. It would have been better if the Honourable the Commerce Member had placed that resolution before the House. If therefore this resolution has not deterred the Government there from accepting, I see no reason why the amendment of my Honourable friend should be taken exception to by the Government. So far as I understand the whole idea of that Resolution is the same which the U. S. A. Senate has already accepted. As a matter of fact it is a point of complaint on behalf of India that when this matter was taken up by U. S. A. Senate, His Majesty's Government should have been, if not first, at least the second to support that resolution. But I do not find up till now that His Majesty's Government has taken any action on that resolution of the American Senate and perhaps this House is the second House to adopt a resolution to this effect after America. On that ground there should be no objection from the side of the Government.

Coming to the question of representative of this country in the various Committees, it has been pointed out that the general practice in other countries is that Government nominates representatives, but in this country the position is different. Here our Government is not a responsible Government, and therefore naturally the House wants that it should be given some chance of expressing its opinion before the representatives are finally selected. For such a demand to be put forward by the Legislature, it is the Government that is responsible. Till now, the persons who have been selected by the Government to represent this country at the international committees and conferences have, instead of

increasing the prestige of the country, brought on insult to this country as has been pointed out by Mr. Joshi.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

From past experience, this House naturally demands that it should be consulted before sending any representatives abroad to represent this country. I do not see what is the difficulty which Government can have in selecting only such persons who would command the confidence of the country. There should be some definite procedure laid down for that. The Government can ask the House to nominate a panel of candidates from whom the Government can select the representative to be sent to the international committee. Or the Government can consult Party Leaders to nominate candidates. There can be hundred and one methods of selecting the representatives with the approval of this House. We want that in the matter of international representation this principle should be accepted, because today it is only the question of U.N.R.R.A., tomorrow it may be the Peace Conference, day after tomorrow some other important conference might crop up. As the war comes to an end, every day more and more international committees will be set up and our country will be required to send her representative. Therefore, I submit this is a matter on which at least our Indian Members of the Executive Council must see that our country is properly represented by proper men and they should watch our country's interests. This is a point on which the House expects to receive satisfaction from the patriotic Indian Members of Council. It is also a point on which the claims of Indian business community should be considered. As a matter of fact, the U. N. R. R. A. is purely an economic question. The effect of this organisation will not be temporary, it may be far-reaching. Therefore it will be in the fitness of things that the representative who is selected to represent this country should be such as has experience of commerce and industry. In that case, he will be able to watch the interests of the country much better than raw men. The position of this country is not yet so strong as to get representation in the Administrative machinery and therefore much will depend upon the quality of the representatives who will be sent from here to represent us. With these words, I support the Resolution.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, with your permission, I wish to move an amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have seen the new amendment which the Honourable Member proposes to move. The amendment which has already been moved and the present one are identical.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The amendment which I propose to move is in the recommendatory form.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): They are both the same substantially. So, this amendment cannot be moved.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I have listened very carefully to the speech of the Honourable the Commerce Member and what I have deduced from the whole speech can be briefly expressed in two sentences. Today we have witnessed the blind leader leading the blind. As a Member of the Government of India, he has taken upon himself the responsibility of having a leap in the dark and at the same time, he invites this House also to take a leap in the dark without knowing what will be the effect or what will be the result of such commitments which he wants us to undertake.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Leap into a deep well.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Whether 'well' or 'dark', whatever it may be, both are the same.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): Put on your glasses.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: I have been asked by the Honourable the Leader of the House to put on my glasses and then perhaps I may be able to see deeper and deeper into this Resolution. I shall certainly do so. At the beginning if I speak in the language of an Advocate, I hope I will be excused. This Resolution

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is not a sort of *decree nisi* but decree final. It says, here is the Resolution you accept it or you do not accept it. I am sure it will be carried out by the British Government. This is the final decree and we have to submit to this decree. I hope it will not act as estoppel for us in the future.

Sir, I strongly deprecate such resolutions being brought forward at the fag end of the Sessions. It is very difficult for this House to form its opinion or to express its opinion. Fortunately or unfortunately this Resolution has been moved and we have to express our opinion thereon. My Party has given an amendment which urges that the famine stricken parts of India should be carefully looked after when this Resolution is in operation. Facts and figures cannot be given when this Resolution is moved, nor do we know the schemes of United Kingdom. If we know the full import of the scheme of United Kingdom, and if along with that scheme any scheme on the part of India is put in, then we can compare and find out where we stand. Today we know nothing about the American scheme. My Honourable friend said that America was going to invest so many crores. But the Americans know under what conditions the money will be invested here. They must have arrived at some decision before actually investing. We do not know what our position will be when this Resolution is adopted. Our position in India today is so serious that there is not a single article of necessity that is not taxed. Our objections regarding the inclusion of items were not listened to. We have not been successful as we wanted to be during the Budget Session.

The Resolution has two parts, one being the humanitarian part and the other the business part. With regard to the humanitarian part, as Sir Zia Uddin said, charity begins at home. Our own house is not in order today and how can we enter into international agreement when we cannot help ourselves? Everyone knows what difficulties we had in Bengal; we collected subscriptions from different quarters and even from outside India. But that is not enough. We still need oil, coal, medicines, food and so on. With needs so extensive we do not know what our position will be when this Resolution is taken up and we enter into this agreement. And when the time comes if we are not able to help the world, the world will say that we gave a promise which we are not able to fulfil. It has been said that we have helped the war and helped more than the other countries. In that case considering our needs we should be helped more than other and richer countries. At present we are strangers to gold and silver; we are left only with a little paper. We will have absolutely no credit with this paper. So how can we undertake to help the whole world with things which we need ourselves? We know that Resolutions have been passed in this House but they were never acted upon. Instances were given by my Honourable friends, Mr. Lalljee and Mr. Neogy; I will not repeat them. That is our fear and apprehension with regard to this Resolution. We ask that whenever there is occasion to help the united nations this House will be consulted. But we will meet again after another six or eight months, and therefore Government cannot consult us when the necessary occasion arises. According to this Resolution, which is worded in general terms, Government, will do what is necessary and perhaps the vote of this House will not be necessary. We have our fears, and the proper course for Government would have been to circulate this Resolution widely throughout India.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have done it.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Then he must have received opinions from different quarters.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Then we should like to have those views.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: My Honourable friend, Mr. Ram Ratan Gupta was reading them out.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: If the Honourable Member had given those views he would have been fortified in his Resolution by the consensus of the opinions of these industrialists, agriculturists and landlords, and so on. But now we do not know anything about the views of the country. My Honourable friend, Mr. Ram Ratan Gupta, was not allowed to read very extensively and so

we are in the dark. It is all right for Government to say that they will look to India's interests as they have done in the past. But we know the trusteeship of the British Government. At this fag-end of the Session we are asked to agree to such a serious Resolution. It should have been brought in at the beginning of the Session when we could give more attention to it than we can do now. We have hopes for the future, but what do we find now? In Delhi and neighbouring provinces there have been hailstorms and rains, which are very unusual at this time of the year, with the result that the mango crop and other crops are destroyed. Therefore, we have apprehensions as to the conditions that will come in 1944. In these conditions I submit that it is not possible for India to enter into any international agreement at present. Sir, I request Government to consider and accept the amendment which has been moved by my Party.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the maxim "Charity begins at home" has been frequently quoted in the House today. That maxim has come from the west. We are brought up in different tradition. Our tradition is, "*Vasudhaiva kutumbakam*", which means that the whole universe is our family. Let us therefore take a broader view of the situation and of the question before us and not be self-centered.

Let me remind the House that the nations which are making great sacrifices are also getting something in return. I may cite one instance: China. For the sacrifices which China is making in fighting the cause of the Allies she has already gained some political advantages—the abolition of extra territorial rights and the repeal of the American Chinese Exclusion Act. Advantages like these are no small advantages. On account of efforts of China to fight her cause we also are likely to benefit. Of course, one finds fault with our Government. They suffer from inferiority complex. China took the lead in putting forward their claim whereas our Government cannot take up that stand. Why? I cannot understand. This House has always been very keen in giving a lead and putting forward India's claim for the removal of discrimination in the matter of treatment of Indians in different countries and pressing for it. Nothing has been done. Yet the fact remains that the sacrifices which we are making at present entitle us to these benefits. Thank God that there is a very strong and powerful Asiatic Nation, namely China, in this war and we can rely on it that our cause will be put forward and promoted to a very considerable extent, and our sacrifices will not go in vain. But so far as this motion is concerned, quite apart from all these political considerations, we should give our approval to this laudable object, and support the motion.

In regard to the amendment which has been moved by my Party, I will refer to Article 3 of the Agreement. It relates to the formation of a Council; it says:

"Each Member Government shall name one representative and such alternates as may be necessary upon the Council of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration which shall be the policy-making body of the Administration."

The Agreement gives the power to this Government to nominate one representative or such alternates as may be necessary. What the amendment seeks to do is this: When you have this power to nominate, let us nominate persons who will not only represent India's cause but who will represent it better. And our suggestion is that such persons can only be those who are approved by this House. As my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, has pointed out, the Government of India have so far been nominating those persons who cannot plead their cause because they have not got the courage to do so. When Indians go there as representatives of a subordinate Government, they cannot have the courage to put forward their case. Sometimes persons who are sent as India's representatives are non-Indians. In that way India suffers several disadvantages. In the first place, representatives of other countries would naturally think that we have got no capable Indian who could have been sent. It reflects on the capacity, power and ability of Indians. As a matter of fact we have got men in this country who can hold their own against the representatives of any nation. In the second place, our recommendations will not carry the same weight as

[Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh.]

the recommendations of other nations because they must be thinking that India always speaks through the British Government; our voice is never our own. That is the trouble. Therefore, we have been saying always that the status of this Government should be raised to the status of an independent Government. In the absence of that the signature of the Agent General of India in America means really nothing. He may be a representative but that by itself does not mean that we have reached the status of an independent nation. Therefore, it is necessary that the amendment which has been put forward should be carried by this House. It may be that the amendment, as it stands, is not in the form of a recommendation, it is in the form of an obligation,—but it is open to the Government to accept it in a modified form. If it is not accepted, I submit that we will not be in a position to represent our cause well. It will mean nothing except that we shall merely bill out something by way of charity and although we would be helping to remove the miseries of other people we would not be promoting our own cause. It is good to rehabilitate countries which have suffered from the 'scorched earth' policy, denial policy, or those countries which have been devastated by the enemy; it is also good to relieve people who are suffering from several diseases,—it is very virtuous—but when other nations are participating in this organization not only for the sake of charity but they are claiming certain privileges and rights, there is no reason why we should not press our own claims.

I have referred to Article 3, paragraph 1. In the same article there is paragraph 5. The wording is:

—I refer to the Committee of the Council of the Far East—

"The Committee of the Council for the Far East shall consist of the members of the Council or their alternates, representing member Governments of territories within the Far Eastern area and such other members of the Council representing other Governments directly concerned with the problem of relief and rehabilitation in the Far Eastern area as shall be appointed by the Council."

We are, according to this decision, included in this Far East Council. Here we have been given again the power of representing ourselves. Similar is the case with other bodies. Again, resolution 19 of the first session of the Council provides fixing the composition of the Council. It also refers to representation by these Governments. The preamble to this agreement runs thus:

"The Agreement further provides that the said Committee shall consist of all the members of the Council or their alternates representing member Governments of territories within the Far Eastern area and such other member of the Council representing other Governments directly concerned with the problem of relief and rehabilitation in the Far Eastern area shall be appointed by the Council."

I therefore submit, we are, according to the agreement and the resolution, given power to represent ourselves. We should be represented by our own Indian representatives, and such representatives should be elected by this House or some such means as have been suggested by Mr. Joshi and by other Members, *e.g.*, panels.

So far as other points are concerned, namely, our association with several committees, the matter has been made clear. For instance, the question is raised by certain persons that we should be associated with several committees that would be working out the programme that would be sketched out from time to time, we can have no grievance there; it is solved. For instance, if you refer to resolution 37 of the first Session of this Council,—the resolution on policy of the first Session of the Council,—it will be seen that we have no grievance so far as the association of our own personnel on the several committees is concerned. The material portion to which I wish to refer runs thus:

"That the Council recommends that all member Governments endeavour to make available to the administration such persons in their own civil service as the Director General may invite to join the staff of the administration and to take proper steps to ensure that the established rights and status of all such persons shall be in no way adversely affected by the temporary employment by the administration and that the international agencies be urged to adopt the same policy with respect to such of their employees as may be invited to join the staff of the administration."

So, it is very clear from this part of the resolution that the several Governments can send their own staff to serve on these different committees and that the persons who would be going there, their rights and privileges have been safeguarded. We would not only by sending our own men render useful service to this U. N. R. R. A. organisation, but our men will also get some experience and they will get wiser. Another advantage that we will derive is, because of our association with representatives of different persons, there will be a better understanding between peoples. Therefore, though from my point of view I would certainly be too willing to support this motion even if other advantages were not to accrue, still I would certainly press this point of representation of the Government by a person who holds independent views and who has got courage to put forward his own views and pleads strongly in the interest of his country.

Coming to the other amendment moved by my friend, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, I do not think there would be any objection—at least I do not think there should be any—in accepting that amendment which is really in the form of a recommendation. I think it was misunderstood and a wrong interpretation was put upon it when it was suggested that it was a condition precedent to the approval of the motion. The original resolution runs:—

“That this Assembly approves the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration Agreement signed at Washington on the 9th November 1943”,—
and the amendment adds—

“In expressing its approval this Assembly recommends that any area important to military operations of United Nations which is stricken by famine or disease should be included in benefits to be made available to United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.”

I cannot understand what objection there can be to accepting an amendment like this. It may be that the particular area is not involved and that there has been no invasion by a country belonging to the Axis powers. But it is quite possible, as we have been experiencing, for instance, in Bengal on account of this country having been required to take part in the war, for a country to suffer from conditions which actually happen in countries which were invaded. For instance, people in an invaded country are denied food and it may be that as a consequence of all this, epidemics break out. If such consequences happen because of this country being led into the war, certainly we are entitled to relief; and what is more a country like India, which is a base of operations for South East Asia Command and has to supply everything,—our country is a springboard for this campaign,—if this country suffers, we are certainly entitled to relief and I do not think that really would be denied to us. As a matter of fact,

5 P. M. I might point out that there would not be much difficulty. An instance has been mentioned—in America itself a resolution was passed to include cases of distress in provinces like Bengal, and I do not think that the other countries which are allied with us would deny us this benefit. So, I think that Government would be acting very foolishly if they were to oppose even this amendment of the Muslim League. Government would be very well advised to accept both the amendments. If I am, out of charity,—out of humanity, doing a thing, namely, I help the countries which are stricken on account of war, I can expect other countries to do the same thing, I can expect the same feelings, the same sentiments of humanity in others towards me when my country is suffering from effects of war. But the thing which I want the other nations to help me in, is to help us to raise our status politically. The thing which I want this Government to do is this,—to raise their own status from the status of a subject Government to the status of an independent nation. It is this thing on which we lay more emphasis than on other things, because if the status is raised it would be a tremendous gain and if our partaking in this motion will help us to achieve this it would be a great thing.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 5th April, 1944.