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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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TWENTY-SECOND SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

1945



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

CONTENTS

Volume II—28th February to 13th March, 1945

	PAGES		PAGES
WEDNESDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY, 1945—		FRIDAY, 9TH MARCH, 1945—	
Member Sworn	787	Starred Questions and Answers	1238—53
Starred Questions and Answers	787—821	Unstarred Question and Answer	1253
Unstarred Questions and Answers	821—822	The General Budget—List of Demands	1254—90
Short Notice Question and Answer	822	Demand No. 12.—Executive Council	1254—90
Amendment to Standing Orders—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	822	Refusal of Supplies—No Confidence in the Government	1254—90
Demands for Supplementary Grants—Railways	822—59	SATURDAY, 10TH MARCH, 1945—	
The Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill—Discussion on consideration of clauses not concluded	850—60	The General Budget—List of Demands	1201—1311, 1312—35
Presentation of the General Budget for 1945—46	860—79	Demand No. 72.—Post-war Planning and Development	1201—1311
The Indian Finance Bill—Introduced	870	Refusal of Supplies for the Department	1201—1311
The Income-tax and Excess Profits Tax (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	880	Demand No. 16.—Department of Industries and Civil Supplies	1312—27
THURSDAY, 1ST MARCH, 1945—		Failure of Control Permit System and Supply of Consumer Goods	1312—27
Member Sworn	881	Demand No. 26.—Food Department	1327—35
Starred Questions and Answers	881—907	Supervision and Control of Work in Provinces	1328—35
Postponed Starred Questions and Answers	907—08	The Factories (Second Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	1311
Unstarred Questions and Answers	908—13	MONDAY, 12TH MARCH, 1945—	
Short Notice Question and Answer	913—14	Member Sworn	183
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Failure to counteract Anti-Indian Propaganda by Britain and America—Disallowed	914	Starred Questions and Answers	1337—59
The Hindu Marriage Disabilities Removal Bill—Referred to Select Committee	914—30	Unstarred Questions and Answers	1359
The Indian Evidence (Amendment) Bill—Continued	939	Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Composition of the Indian Delegation to San Francisco Conference—Ruled out of order	1359—61
The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill—Discussion on the Motions to refer to Select Committee and to circulate not concluded	939—46	General Budget—List of Demands	1361—98
FRIDAY, 2ND MARCH, 1945—		Demand No. 16.—Department of Industries and Civil Supplies	1361—82
Starred Questions and Answers	947—67	Cloth and Yarn Position	1361—82
Postponed Starred Questions and Answers	967—69	Demand No. 39.—Geological Survey	1362—86
Unstarred Questions and Answers	969—73	Government Policy <i>re</i> Mineral Resources of India	1363—86
Resolution <i>re</i> National War Front—Adopted	973—96	Demand No. 26.—Food Department	1366—87
Resolution <i>re</i> Removal of Sections 111 to 121 of the Government of India Act, 1935—Discussion not concluded	997—1008	Supervision and Control of Work in Provinces	1366—87
MONDAY, 5TH MARCH, 1945—		Demand No. 15.—Home Department	1367—95
Member Sworn	1009	Paucity of Scheduled Castes in Government of India Services	1367—95
Starred Questions and Answers	1009—37	Demand No. 23.—Department of Labour	1395—98
Postponed Starred Questions and Answers	1037—38	Labour Policy of Government of India	1395—98
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1038—41	TUESDAY, 13TH MARCH, 1945—	
Short Notice Question and Answer	1041	Member Sworn	1399
The General Discussion of the General Budget	1041—56	Starred Questions and Answers	1399—1429
TUESDAY, 6TH MARCH, 1945—		Unstarred Questions and Answers	1429
Death of Mr. K. S. Gupta	1057—59	Short Notice Question and Answer	1429
WEDNESDAY, 7TH MARCH, 1945—		Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Information and Broadcasting Department	1430
Starred Questions and Answers	1061—98	Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Civil Defence Branch of Defence Department	1430
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1068—1101	The General Budget—List of Demands	1430—76
Transferred Starred Questions and Answers	1102—22	Demand No. 21.—Finance Department	1430—56
Transferred Unstarred Questions and Answers	1122—27	Need for Economy and for more stringent Control of Expenditure	1430—56
General Discussion of the General Budget	1127—62	Demand No. 23.—Department of Labour	1456—62
THURSDAY, 8TH MARCH, 1945—		Labour Policy of Government of India	1456—62
Members Sworn	1163	Need for immediate <i>re</i> imposition of Ban on Employment of women underground in Mines	1462—66
Starred Questions and Answers	1163—95	Demand No. 1.—Customs	1466
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Information and Broadcasting Department	1195—96	Demand No. 2.—Central Excise Duties	1466
Election of Members to the Standing Committee on Emigration	1196—98	Demand No. 3.—Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax	1466
Election of Members to the Standing Committee for Civil Defence Branch of Defence Department	1198—1201	Demand No. 4.—Salt	1466
Election of Members to the Standing Finance Committee for Railways	1201	Demand No. 5.—Opium	1466
Election of Members to the Central Advisory Council for Railways	1201—1205	Demand No. 6.—Provincial Excise	1466
The Mines Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	1206	Demand No. 7.—Stamps	1466
The Indian Central Oilseeds Committee Bill—Introduced	1206	Demand No. 8.—Forests	1466
The Income-Tax and Excess Profits Tax (Amendment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	1206—31	Demand No. 9.—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works	1467
		Demand No. 10.—Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)	1467
		Demand No. 11.—Interest on Debt and Other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt	1467
		Demand No. 12.—Executive Council	1467
		Demand No. 13.—Council of State	1467

TUESDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1945— <i>contd.</i>		PAGES	TUESDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1945— <i>contd.</i>		PAGES
The General Budget—List of Demands— <i>contd.</i>			The General Budget—List of Demands— <i>contd.</i>		
Demand No. 14—Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department	1467		Demand No. 49—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research	1471	
Demand No. 15—Home Department	1467		Demand No. 49—Agricultural Marketing	1471	
Demand No. 16—Department of Industries and Civil Supplies	1467		Demand No. 50—Civil Veterinary Services	1472	
Demand No. 17—Department of Information and Broadcasting	1467—68		Demand No. 51—Industries	1472	
Demand No. 18—Legislative Department	1468		Demand No. 52—Scientific and Industrial Research	1472	
Demand No. 19—Department of Education, Health and Lands	1468		Demand No. 53—Aviation	1472	
Demand No. 20—Department of Commonwealth Relations	1469		Demand No. 54—Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation met from Revenue	1472	
Demand No. 21—Finance Department	1469		Demand No. 55—Broadcasting	1472	
Demand No. 22—Commerce Department	1469		Demand No. 56—Capital Outlay on Broadcasting met from Revenue	1472	
Demand No. 23—Department of Labour	1469		Demand No. 57—Emigration—Internal	1472	
Demand No. 24—Department of Posts and Air	1469		Demand No. 58—Emigration—External	1472—73	
Demand No. 25—War Transport Department	1469		Demand No. 59—Commercial Intelligence and Statistics	1472	
Demand No. 26—Food Department	1469		Demand No. 60—Census	1472	
Demand No. 27—Central Board of Revenue	1469		Demand No. 61—Joint Stock Companies	1474	
Demand No. 28—India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment charges	1469		Demand No. 62—Imperial Dairy Department	1474	
Demand No. 29—Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of the administration of Agency subjects and management of Treasuries	1469		Demand No. 63—Miscellaneous Departments	1474	
Demand No. 30—Audit	1470		Demand No. 64—Currency	1474	
Demand No. 31—Administration of Justice	1470		Demand No. 65—Mint	1474	
Demand No. 32—Jails and Convict Settlements	1470		Demand No. 66—Civil Works	1474	
Demand No. 33—Police	1470		Demand No. 67—Central Road Fund	1474	
Demand No. 34—Ports and Pilotage	1470		Demand No. 68—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	1474	
Demand No. 35—Lighthouses and Lightships	1470		Demand No. 69—Stationery and Printing	1474	
Demand No. 36—Survey of India	1470		Demand No. 70—Miscellaneous	1474	
Demand No. 37—Botanical Survey	1470		Demand No. 71—Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments	1475	
Demand No. 38—Zoological Survey	1470		Demand No. 72—Post-war Planning and Development	1475	
Demand No. 39—Geological Survey	1470		Demand No. 73—Civil Defence	1475	
Demand No. 40—Mines	1471		Demand No. 74—Delhi	1475	
Demand No. 41—Archaeology	1471		Demand No. 75—Ajmer-Marwara	1475	
Demand No. 42—Meteorology	1471		Demand No. 76—Panth Pipoda	1475	
Demand No. 43—Other Scientific Departments	1471		Demand No. 77—Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)	1475	
Demand No. 44—Education	1471		Demand No. 78—Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (Not met from Revenue)	1475	
Demand No. 45—Medical Services	1471		Demand No. 79—Delhi Capital Outlay	1475	
Demand No. 46—Public Health	1471		Demand No. 80—Commutated Value of Pensions	1476	
Demand No. 47—Agriculture	1471		Demand No. 81—Interest-free Advances	1476	
			Demand No. 82—Loans and Advances bearing interest	1476	

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 7th March, 1945

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.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS.

688.*—736.*

ENCOURAGEMENT TO COUNTRY CRAFTS IN COASTAL AREAS

737. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state:

(a) the specific measures taken by the Government of India to encourage country crafts in coastal areas; and

(b) whether any subsidy or materials necessary for building up country crafts are given at concessional rates to the industry?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Government of India in War Transport Department Resolution No. 81-T(1)/42, dated the 11th August 1942, appointed a Committee consisting of Mr. H. T. Sorley and Rao Bahadur Maneklal Lallubhai to examine and report on the nature and volume of the traffic carried by country craft on the West Coast, the agencies through which the traffic was organised, the capacity of the existing fleet and the possibilities of increasing it and the methods and agencies through which an increase in the total volume of coastal traffic could best be effected. The Committee submitted its report in November, 1942, and in pursuance of its recommendations, the Country Craft Organisation for the West Coast was set up. The work of this organisation during the 1943-44 season and the introduction of the Route Scheme during 1944-45 season are described in two articles entitled "Country craft traffic on the West Coast" published in the issues of the *Indian Information*, dated 15th August 1944, and 1st October 1944, respectively, copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Details of the Route Scheme are given in two Press notes dated the 15th August 1944, and the 3rd September, 1944, which were placed on the table of the House on the 12th February 1945 in answer to question No. 130.

(b) The answer is in the negative. Assistance was rendered to intending builders of country craft by approving release of timber and other controlled materials which are in short supply.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (a), what is the reply as regards the specific measures taken?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They are set out in the papers to which I referred, copies of which are either in the Library of the House or have been placed on the table.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Those relate to the report of the Committee; but what are the steps taken?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Those set out the steps taken. It will take a very long time to read out even a summary of the *communiqués*.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know why the Government of India do not themselves undertake the building of country-craft?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think that I replied to that in answer to question No. 130. Country-craft owners are very numerous, largely small people owning perhaps one, two or three boats, and the organisation of this trade is peculiarly difficult. But we thought the best way of encouraging the increase of boat building was to make it profitable for country-craft to

*For these questions and answers, see pages 1102—22 of these debates.

operate. That is why we introduced this scheme which is having its effect, first of all in that more goods are moved by country-craft, and secondly in that more country-craft have been built in the period between 1942 and 1945. In that period 26,000 tons of country-craft have been built.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether any organisation has been set up for the east coast?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I understand that the Madras Government have set up an organisation. I think the Honourable Member will find a summary of that organisation on page 156 of *Indian Information* dated the 15th August, 1944.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Does the west coast organisation mean minus Malabar?

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

CERTAIN MALPRACTICE REFERRED TO IN PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORT

738. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

- (a) the definite malpractice referred to on page 9, paragraph 20 of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee for the year 1942-43;
- (b) who the delinquent servants referred to were; and
- (c) the punishment meted out to them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) If the Honourable Member will read again paragraph 20 of the report of the Public Accounts Committee he will find that the Committee are not referring to any specific malpractices. They point out the difficulties, which generally arise in bringing home the responsibility for malpractices if and when they occur and argue from this against lenient punishments in cases in which charges have been proved.

(b) and (c). Do not arise. But if the Honourable Member is interested in knowing the punishments inflicted for irregularities brought to notice in connection with the accounts for 1942-43, he will find them dealt with in the Audit report and the Public Accounts Committee's comments thereon.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I submit that the paragraph does refer to specific malpractices. It says even when on examination malpractices have been found out the railway authorities have not taken sufficient action.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member refers to "the definite malpractice referred to on page 9". Perhaps he will be good enough to quote "the definite malpractice".

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I have quoted the paragraph and said that the malpractice has been referred to.

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

PROPOSAL FOR CHANGING NAME OF DEHRI-ON-SONE RAILWAY STATION

739. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) whether proposals have been received for changing the name of Dehri-on-Sone Railway station on the East Indian Railway;
- (b) the new name proposed and who has suggested a change;
- (c) whether he has received public protests against the proposal; and
- (d) the final attitude of Government in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given to Mr. Ram Narayan Singh's Starred Question No. 626 on 2nd March 1945.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: May I know whether Government have come to any final decision?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The position is that the matter is left to the railway administration to settle in consultation with the Government of Bihar, and I understand the East Indian Railway does not propose to change the name.

SHIFT ARRANGEMENT AT TWENTY FOUR-HOURS OPEN BOOKING OFFICES ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

740. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that there are stations on the North Western Railway where booking is open for twenty-four hours? Is it also a fact that Booking Clerks on these stations have to work for eight hours continuously? If so, does he propose to explain what procedure is adopted in giving and taking over charge after each shift?

(b) Is it a fact that while charge by one Booking Clerk is being handed over to another, the booking remains open? If so, does he propose to take suitable steps to relieve the clerks during the time of making over charge and accounting by ordering that booking be suspended for some time?

(c) Is it a fact that after making over the charge, the Booking Clerks have to close and reconcile the accounts which takes over an hour or so after eight hours' work? If so, are they paid any compensation for this over-work?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Reply to the first and second parts is in the affirmative. With regard to the last part, the procedure adopted is that the relieving Booking Clerk checks all tickets, imprest cash, concession orders and the non-issued tickets register, etc., before the relieved Booking Clerk is permitted to leave, after each eight hours shift.

(b) While charge by one Booking Clerk is being made over to his successor, the booking window is not closed, but booking of passengers is suspended for a short while in the course of the change-over. Government do not propose to issue any such general directive.

(c) Yes, but the actual time taken for this purpose varies with the volume of work offering from day to day at each station. In regard to the last portion of the question, overtime is payable under the Hours of Employment Regulations if the maximum weekly hours of work are exceeded.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it a fact that in ordinary stations the time taken in making over charge and leaving the office is sometimes over an hour?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It should certainly not be, in ordinary circumstances.

SCALES OF PAY OF GOODS SUPERVISORS, ETC. ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

741. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the scales and grades of pay of the following cadres on the North Western Railway:—(i) Goods Supervisors; and (ii) Chief Booking Clerks?

(b) Is it a fact that personnel of both these cadres are qualified to work in either? If so, does he propose to explain the grounds for the difference in the higher scales and grades of pay of these cadres? Why is the number of higher grades in the cadre of Goods Supervisors greater than in that of Chief Booking Clerks?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The required information is as follows:

Designation	Old scale of pay	Corresponding revised scale of pay.
	Rs.	Rs.
Goods Supervisor	250—10—300	230
Chief Booking Clerk	200—10—250	200
	150—10—190	160
	105—5—140	100—10/2 Years—120.
	66—4—90	65—5/2 Years—85.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise. As regards the last part, it will be observed from the reply to part (a) that Goods Supervisors on the N. W. Railway have only one grade, which is higher than all the grades for Chief Booking Clerks. This is due to the fact that the duties and responsibilities of Goods Supervisors are higher than those of Chief Booking Clerks.

REVENUE OF TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT COMING FROM DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

742. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state how much of the total gross revenue of the Telegraph Department comes from the Defence Department?

(b) What rates have been charged to the Defence Department? Are they on the same basis as those charged to the civil population?

(c) Has the Department seen complaints in the press or received representations that there are serious delays in the transmission of messages and that these delays are due to the lines being engaged on military traffic?

(d) Is it a fact that military people prefer to communicate on the telephone and by telegram only instead of sending in messages by post?

(e) What steps have Government taken to relieve the congestion both on the telephones and on the telegraphs so far as the civil population is concerned?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) I am unable to give the information required as separate figures are not maintained of revenue derived from the Fighting Services.

(b) Same as public rates.

(c) Yes.

(d) No. The Fighting Services are fully aware of the necessity for economy in the use of telegraphic and telephonic communication. Only when speed in communication is necessary for the successful prosecution of the war, are telephones used and telegrams issued.

(e) More lines have been and are being erected and more channels established. Reserved circuits have also been given to military authorities so as to reduce the load on public channels. There has been a large increase in non-military traffic also and appeals have been made to the public to use the telegraph and telephone only in very urgent cases. There has recently been some improvement generally, and it is hoped that the improvement will not only be maintained but bettered.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know that in view of the fact that ordinary telegrams are delivered after two or three days and business communities are compelled to go to the urgent rates, if this is done deliberately by Government to earn more revenue?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Then why is Government not asking Civil Departments as well as the Military Departments to economise in the use of telegrams similar to the appeal made to the public? It is the civil population which wants more facilities which are at present monopolised by the Defence and the Government Departments.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Such an appeal has been made to all Government Departments.

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

FACTORIES ERECTED AT GOVERNMENT COST, ETC.

743. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state how many factories have been erected in India—(i) wholly at Government cost, and (ii) partly at Government cost, and which are they?

(b) How many extensions of existing factories have Government financed and which are they?

(c) How much money have Government spent on items mentioned in (a) and (b)?

(d) What arrangements, if any, have Government reached with these firms with regard to the disposal of these plants after the war?

(e) On what basis have these firms offered to take over these plants?

(f) Do Government propose to explain to this House the policy with regard to these extensions and the manner in which Government seek to secure permanent addition to India's industry by the maintenance of these plants?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a), (b) and (c). Government are collecting the information, which will be laid on the

table of the House as far as security considerations permit.

(d) No arrangements have yet been made.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The matter is under the consideration of Government, and it is not possible to say anything definite at present.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the Governments of the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom have already issued instructions and have already decided their policy, may I know if Government expect to come to some consideration on this subject and to give information to the public?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The assumptions about the Governments in the supplementary are not correct.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why is the Government trying to keep back from the public information in regard to war plants which have been set up at public cost whose fate we want to know about, both now and after the war?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Government are keeping back that information from the public because of security considerations.

ACQUISITION OF RAW WOOL BY GOVERNMENT

744. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) From which date did the Honourable the Supply Member commandeer the whole supply of raw wool in this country for Government use?

(b) What were the prevailing pre-war prices and at what prices have Government acquired raw wool?

(c) Since when have Government released small quantities for the use of the civil population?

(d) What are these quantities with reference to the whole production of woollen cloth in India, both factory and handloom production?

(e) Is it a fact that for civil population, all kinds of woollen things are extremely difficult to secure and, besides, they are extremely costly?

(f) What steps have Government taken to increase the supply of wool?

(g) Is it not a fact that the supply of wool has gone down on account of the slaughter of sheep in very large numbers?

(h) By what stages and in what manner do Government expect the position to be easier for the civil population?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The supply of raw wool has not been commandeered by Government.

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

(e) There has been shortage of woollen goods for the civil population. The prices were uncontrolled until the Indian Woollen Goods (Control) Order, 1944 came into force.

(f) No specific steps have been taken in respect of the indigenous supply.

(g) Statistics of the number of sheep annually slaughtered in the country are not available.

(h) Government have placed orders on the organized woollen industry to the extent of 7,310,000 lbs. of woollen material which will be released to the civil population during 1945 at controlled prices through recognized dealers. This roughly corresponds to India's pre-war production.

Instructions to the manufacturing mills during 1944, were that first priority should be given to the manufacture of goods against Defence requirements, with the result that civilian production was hampered. Revised instructions have recently been issued clearly stating that both the Civil and Defence Service, goods should be given the same priority and that in case of hold-ups of manufacture due to unforeseen circumstances the production of both types of goods should be affected proportionately. There should, therefore, be comparatively little difficulty for the civil population to get their essential requirements of woollen materials at reasonable rates. As the war situation

improves, Government are hopeful that increasing percentages of the output of the organized industry could be made available for the civil population.

Mr. Manu Subedar: When Government monopolised and commandeered almost the entire output of woollens in this country, did they realise that the civil population would suffer terribly?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudallar: I have just answered the question that the Government did not monopolise and did not commandeer.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Honourable Member said so in his own answer. Will he repeat it?

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

Mr. Manu Subedar: He said that the whole output was. . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can draw his own inferences.

PROVINCIAL FAVOURITISM IN THE PLACING OF WAR ORDERS

745. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Supply Member been drawn to the following in the presidential address of Rai Bahadur Syamnandan Sahaya, C.I.E., at the Bihar Chamber of Commerce on the 25th January 1945:

“War Orders:—In the matter of contracts given by the Central Government in the Department of Supply, it will be surprising to note that although many of the contracts have been or are being executed in Bihar, with raw materials of this Province, the contractors are in most cases outsiders. It is not that contractors in Bihar are shy in their offer or are deficient in any way in rendering prompt execution to the orders. The reason apparently is that the distributing centres have been giving preferential treatment to the contractors of the Province where the centre is located”?

(b) Is there any ground for complaint with regard to provincial favouritism in the placing of war orders?

(c) Have Government made any calculations by Provinces as to the total War orders in one of the war years?

(d) If so, what are those calculations?

(e) Are all orders placed by open tender, or is any other method adopted?

If so, what is that method?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudallar: (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) and (d). A statement is placed on the table showing the value of contracts placed by the Supply Department in Provincial Circles from 18th January 1944 to 30th November 1944.

(e) Orders are placed in a variety of way i.e., by open tender, limited tender, single tender and by negotiation.

Statement showing the value of Contracts placed by the Supply Department in Provincial Circles during the period from 1st January, 1944, to 30th November 1944.

	Rs.
Bengal	60,66,19,556
Madras	8,52,27,220
Bombay	26,08,36,259
U. P.	17,16,54,512
Punjab	12,35,18,552
Sind	1,28,57,687
All India	1,26,97,13,786

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is there any quota given to certain provinces or just an open tender which is placed at the disposal of the provinces to be at their own choice.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: There is no quota but it depends on the capacity of the provinces to supply goods of the required quota and at the proper price.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know if the Honourable Member has looked into the fact which is alleged in this question: that in Bihar the contracts are given to people who have not got any business there and who belong to other provinces?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I am glad that point has been raised. I have looked into it carefully. I am myself very conscious that as far as possible the people of the province should get these contracts. But I do not know whether the Honourable Member who asked this question has his constituency behind him in suggesting that contracts in provinces should as far as possible be limited to people of the province concerned. I should be glad to have the commercial and industrial opinion on the subject.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I cannot give an opinion in an answer. But the purpose of this enquiry was to investigate the statement made by a Chairman of a Provincial Chamber of Commerce that there is favouritism in placing contracts, particularly in favour of those who are located near the centre of Government, namely, Delhi; and the Honourable Member.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go on arguing!

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: There is no favouritism of any kind. But it is a fact that people who do not belong to the province are in some cases getting the contracts.

Mr. Hoosainbhoy A. Lalljee: What is the position of all-India firms?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: They will have an all-India interest in the contract.

Mr. Hoosainbhoy A. Lalljee: Not provincial interests only?

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

GOVERNMENT ORDERS PLACED DIRECT WITH MANUFACTURERS AND WITH MIDDLEMEN, ETC.

746. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state what percentages of the orders in the years 1942-43 and 1943-44 were placed with manufacturers direct, and what percentages were placed with middlemen, merchants and contractors?

(b) What steps have Government taken for the elimination of middlemen, merchants and contractors in the placing of Government orders?

(c) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the fact that parties who receive Government orders, sub-contract them and that in some cases between the original recipient of the order and the party, who executes the order, there are half a dozen intermediaries?

(d) What are the reasons for such sub-contracting?

(e) Is it the high prices given by Government, or is it that certain favoured parties alone can get the contract?

(f) Do Government propose to appoint a committee of officials and non-officials to investigate the matter and to suggest what steps should be taken in future to safeguard public interests?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) I regret that this information is not available as no separate records are maintained for the different categories of contractors mentioned by the Honourable Member.

(b) to (e). Every effort is made to place Orders on contractors who themselves manufacture the goods and do not act as mere middlemen. An exception to this rule is the case of recognised Selling Agents of reputable firms as in such cases the manufacturers do not as a rule sell their products except through these Agents.

The General Conditions of Contract applicable to Supply Department contracts expressly provide against sub-letting, transfer or assignment of the contract without the previous permission of the Purchase officer. Permission to

sub-contract is, however, given in the cases of big contracts involving a series of operations as in the case of Ship-building and Ship-repairs and steel structures.

(g) No. Under the existing arrangements public interests are fully safeguarded.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether any cases of sub-contracting have been found, apart from the three things which the Honourable Member has mentioned?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I should like to have notice of that question. If by that the Honourable Member means cases of sub-contracting with the permission of the Purchase Officer

Mr. Manu Subedar: I say, without permission where the original recipient of the order has been found to transfer it not merely to one but to several parties.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I should like to have notice of that.

STEEL COMMISSIONER

747. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:

(i) the functions and powers of the Steel Commissioner, indicating any change that may have taken place in these functions and powers since his appointment;

(ii) the date of his appointment;

(iii) the arrangements that were in operation for discharging any or all of these functions and powers prior to the appointment of the Steel Commissioner;

(iv) the previous experience of the Steel Commissioner together with his business affiliations, if any, and

(v) the terms of the appointment, including emoluments?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (i) The Steel Commissioner was appointed with the functions of co-ordinating the work of the different authorities whose activities affected the steel situation in India, and of ensuring the maintenance of adequate statistics of the whole steel position. For this purpose he was given the usual administrative powers. There has been no major change but since his appointment, the Steel Commissioner has at various times been given specific powers necessary for the proper discharge of his functions.

(ii) The 8th December, 1943.

(iii) The co-ordinating functions of the Steel Commissioner could only be exercised by Government before his appointment and the statistical functions were carried out independently by the various authorities dealing with different aspects of the steel position.

(iv) A statement is laid on the table.

(v) A statement is laid on the table.

Statements

Part (iv).—The Steel Commissioner was formerly a Director of the Blaenavon Company and of the Barrow Hematite Steel Company. He was a member of the International Rail Makers Committee and Chairman of one of the British re-rollers sections of the Iron and Steel Cartel Committee. During the war he was employed in the British Iron and Steel Control as their liaison officer for the London and South Eastern area and then as Director of plant progress.

Part (v). Pay.—Rs. 6,000 per mensem.

Duration of Service.—One year subject to extension by mutual agreement. The agreement was extended for six months with effect from 8th December 1944.

Allowances.—(a) Outfit allowance—£75.

(b) Disturbance allowance (Cost of leaving England including storage of furniture, etc.)—£225.

(c) Travelling allowances as applicable to him under Fundamental Rules.

Passage.—Free passages, preferably by air, from and to the U. K. Free passages both ways for wife, if desired.

Termination of Service.—(a) By the Governor General-in-Council without previous notice if he is found medically unfit. Six-months' pay or pay for the unexpired portion of the term, whichever is less, has to be paid to him on termination of service without notice.

(b) By the Governor General-in-Council without previous notice in case of breach of agreement, insubordination, intemperance or misconduct.

Pensions, etc.—No pension, gratuity or bonus or Provident Fund, except that in case he sustains a war injury during the journeys to or from India he will be eligible for pension under the existing U. K. rules. The War Injuries Ordinance, 1941, does not apply to him.

Other Concessions, etc.—(a) Medical attendance and treatment prescribed for officers of his status.

(b) He is eligible for an award under the appropriate Civil Service Rules in the event of disability or death occasioned by risk of his office or enemy action.

(c) Life Insurance (including injury) during the journeys to or from India up to a capital sum of £10,000 plus cost of insurance of baggage and War Risk Insurance.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is it a fact that Steel Commissioner is going to be or has already been invested with certain powers hitherto reserved for the Government of India and usually exercised by the latter?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I said that the co-ordinating functions of the Steel Commissioner could only be exercised by the Government of India before his appointment and now the Steel Commissioner exercises those powers.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Ever since his appointment or has there been a change?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No change: ever since his appointment.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the nature of the statistical work done by him?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Statistics about production, about import and various other things connected with steel manufacture.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will this data be available to the public?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No, Sir. If Honourable Members should take the trouble of becoming members of the Supply Advisory Committee probably much of this data will be available to them.

POLICY RE STEEL IMPORTATIONS

748. **Mr. K. O. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state if it is a fact that the Steel Commissioner is shortly going to the United Kingdom on deputation for the purpose of discussing with the authorities there questions connected with the speeding up of steel imports and the transfer of certain indents from Lease-Lend to the United Kingdom supply as also to obtain information for the Government of India about the latest developments affecting the steel policy in the United Kingdom during and after the war?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, does the Honourable Member propose to explain:

(i) the policy of the Government of India in the matter of importations of steel which is intended to be speeded up,

(ii) the scheme of the proposed transfer of certain indents from Lease-Lend to United Kingdom supply as affecting India, and

(iii) the bearing of the steel policy in the United Kingdom on any policy of the Government of India, either during or after the war?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Yes.

(b) (i) The policy is only to import steel to cover essential war and civil requirements which cannot be met from Indian production or stocks. It is desired to speed up deliveries against indents placed overseas in accordance with this policy.

(ii) Under the allied scheme for controlling supplies of steel the U. K. was not allowed until recently to export steel except for certain small specialized types and almost all Indian imports were obtained from the U. S. A. on Lease-Lend. There has since the beginning of this year been some change in this position and the U. K. is again in a position to export certain categories of steel

and the Government of India wish the Steel Commissioner to discuss in the U. K. the possibility of obtaining its steel requirements from the U. K. both against future indents and against indents already placed on the U. S. A. where delivery has been delayed.

(iii) It is considered that this information will be of considerable value in relation to the future of this industry. The war position has been covered in my answer to part b (ii) of the question.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: With reference to the reply to part (ii) (b) of my question, do I understand that certain steel articles for which India had not to pay and which used to come in under the Lease/Lend arrangements will hereafter have to be purchased from the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The position that the Honourable Member has stated in his supplementary question is not quite accurate. India does pay for the Lease-Lend that comes from the United States of America in the form of supply articles on reverse Lease-Lend, which is as good as payment.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know if the Honourable Member is aware that the question of reverse Lease/Lend is not contingent on what is obtained in the form of Lease/Lend from the United States of America and that we would be liable to release this reverse Lease/Lend in any event?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I think the Honourable the Finance Member would be a better authority to deal with the question. That is not the correct position.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is it a fact that Government have got a large quantity of surplus steel which they cannot use and which they have now to stock?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I should like to have notice of that question.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: If that is so, are Government assuring themselves that they are not making arrangements to import steel which can be made in this country quite easily?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have had allegations of that kind made and I am having a conference with the main producers and the Steel Commissioner day after tomorrow to examine this very question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: By what means do Government propose to supply the agriculturists in this country with the iron and steel needed for their agricultural implements, about which there is a great shortage now? Is it by imports or by local manufacture?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It may be by imports or by local manufacture. In any case it will be by imports by releasing the corresponding quantities from local manufacture. By local manufacture I mean manufacture by the main producers. A quota is allocated for agricultural purposes to each Provincial Government. I am aware that that quota is not sufficient and Provincial Governments have made representations. Imported steel is no longer available for such purposes and steel for such purposes should come from the producers in this country.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that about 20,000 tons of Lease/Lend steel is freezing in Bombay and cannot be sold and merchants are complaining that they are unable to dispose this of, because Government does not give the license for the purpose?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I should like to have notice of that question.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Now that the Honourable the Finance Member is present, may I ask him for the information which I sought in the supplementary question? I shall repeat it in substance. Are the Central Government in a position to assure this House that in so far as the Lease/Lend arrangements may be modified for the purpose of enabling Great Britain to export certain steel articles to India, whether, the liability of India in regard to the provision of reciprocal aid is going to be modified to any extent?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That was not the question that was put to me. There was no question of modifying Lease/Lend arrangements at all. The Lease/Lend arrangements continue as they are. What I said was that if we do not get certain articles on Lease/Lend from America but transfer that to the United Kingdom, it does not mean that we would have got those Lease/Lend articles for nothing. There is a reverse Lease/Lend obligation which equates the Lease/Lend advantage.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: I want to know definitely as to whether as a result of this change in the Lend/Lease position India's liability in regard to reciprocal aid is going to be modified to any extent, as the Honourable Member himself seems to suggest, because certain articles which have so far come from the United States of America under the Lease/Lend arrangements are hereafter to be purchased for cash from the United Kingdom. I want to know whether a change in regard to the Lease/Lend position in that respect is going to be accompanied by any change in regard to our liability for providing reciprocal aid to the United States of America?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Perhaps the Honourable Member would kindly put down a question on the subject.

STEEL IMPORTS

749. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state what has been the quantity of steel imports since the appointment of the Steel Commissioner, month by month, and of what different types have these imports mainly been? To what extent, if any, has the manufacture of steel in India been affected by the said imports?

(b) To what extent has the manufacture of steel in India been curtailed since the control measures were introduced, on account of coal shortage or otherwise, what are the prospects of production of steel in India being made to the utmost capacity of the different concerns engaged in it, and how far, if at all, is the import policy of Government likely to prejudice maximum production in India?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) *First part.* A statement is laid on the table.

Second part.—Indigenous manufacture has not been affected by imports as the policy is only to import steel to meet demands which cannot be met in time from Indian production and stocks.

(b) *First part.*—The output of steel ingots fell by 4 per cent. in 1944, as against the output in 1943 owing to coal shortage and transportation difficulties. Otherwise there has been no curtailment in production since the control was introduced.

Second part.—The prospects of attaining maximum production depends on the rate of improvement in the coal and transport situations.

Third part.—Not at all.

Statement.

The quantity of steel imports received month by month since the appointment of the Steel Commissioner are as follows :—

	Tons.
January 1944	34,869
February 1944	34,248
March 1944	32,119
April 1944	28,167
May 1944	23,074
June 1944	16,847
July 1944	25,592
August 1944	30,077
September 1944	25,067
October 1944	37,787
November 1944	23,787
December 1944	22,961
January 1945	26,083

The different types mainly imported were (a) semi-finished (b) Heavy Rails and Fishplates (c) Tinplates and substitutes (d) Drum Sheets (e) Wheels, Tyres and Axles (f) Wire and Wire Products and (g) Pipes and Tubes.

RAIL-ROAD CO-ORDINATION SCHEMES IN THE PUNJAB

750. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) With reference to paragraph 24, on page 17 of the Budget speech of the Chief Commissioner of Railways read in the Council of State on the 15th February, 1945, regarding the Road Rail co-ordination, will the Honourable the Railway Member please lay on the table of the House copies of the short term and the long term schemes that have been devised by Government in collaboration with the Provincial Government in the Punjab for participating in the development of Road Transport Services?

(b) Which of the road lines are at present worked in the Punjab by the Railway Department in passenger or in goods traffic departmentally and which of them are jointly worked with the Road operators and on what terms?

(c) Is there any programme of the Railway Department for operating passenger or goods traffic either departmentally or jointly with the Road operators of any road lines in the Punjab in the year 1945-46? Which of the Road lines will be operated departmentally and which of them jointly with the operators and on what terms?

(d) What is the system of "tied mileage Unit"? Will a detailed statement explaining this system be laid on the table of the House for information?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) So far, no scheme for the operation of road services has been formulated by the North Western Railway in collaboration with the Punjab Government.

(b) The road services at present worked in the Punjab for the carriage of goods traffic by North Western Railway, departmentally are (i) Lahore-Nagrote and (ii) Lahore-Multan.

As regards passenger services I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Question No. 615 asked by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar on March 2nd and to my replies to supplementaries.

(c) So far, no further scheme to operate passenger or goods services departmentally or by means of Joint Companies in the Punjab in the year 1945-46 has been examined.

(d) The 'tied mileage unit' scheme is a system by which a contractor is tied to the Railway by an agreement to carry traffic between certain points at a predetermined rate.

A detailed statement explaining this system is laid on the table of the House.

Statement showing the Tied Mileage Unit system.

The Tied Mileage Unit' scheme is a system whereby the railway runs the commercial side but contracts out for the operation, paying merely for lorry mileage and idle time, to an operator who is, by agreement, bound to keep at the disposal of the railway a certain number of lorries in running order.

2. The railway, therefore, guarantees to the operator a certain mileage rate which covers the running of the vehicles and a certain fixed amount for idle time, payable only if the vehicles are not used on any day. No amount is payable for any single vehicle for more than 26 days in a month, be they "mileage" days or "idle time" days. For every idle day charged, the lorry must have been serviceable. If a vehicle has worked for 23 days and is available for the rest of the month but not used, payment for idle days will be limited to 3 days.

If a vehicle actually runs for 26 days or more, there is no idle time that month. Generally, idle time is reckoned at Rs. 25 per day and running time at 9 annas a mile.

3. The "baving-in" clause provides for termination of contract at three month's notice and payment for the vehicles at cost less a preagreed rate of depreciation. Usually, the cost is to be written off at 100,000 miles, subject to fair wear and tear.

4. The 'tied mileage unit' system offers definite advantages both to a railway and to the contractor; the railway is relieved of operational details and the contractor is freed from commercial risks.

POST-WAR NEW RAILWAY LINES IN THE PUNJAB

751. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: With reference to paragraph (6) on page 5 of his budget speech on the 15th February, 1945, will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to lay a statement on the table of the House showing the proposed new Railway lines to be constructed in the Post-war plans in the Province of the Punjab? Can any more suggestions be

made by the Members, of this House of some very important and useful lines to be considered and included in the post-war plans and to whom?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The tentative programme of construction of new railways in the post-war period, referred to in para. 6 of my speech introducing the Railway Budget for 1945-46, its not yet complete as regards the Punjab, the Provincial Government not having yet finalised their proposals.

With regard to the second portion of the question the Railway Board will be only too glad to receive and consider in consultation with the Provincial Government any suggestions which Members may like to make in this connection.

752* [Cancelled.]

DISLOCATION OF TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS OF SIMLA

753. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Is the Secretary for Posts and Air aware of the fact that Simla's telegraphic communication was cut off for about a week towards the beginning of January, 1945?

(b) What measures were taken for the restoration of telegraphic communication with Simla, and how many days did it take to complete this work?

(c) How much labour was employed for the restoration of this dislocation? Could not the communication be restored earlier by recruiting labour at enhanced rates which would naturally be demanded on such occasions?

(d) Were any efforts made to ensure that adequate supplies of men and material reached the sites of damage before dislocation of road and rail communication?

(e) What were the movements of the Divisional Engineer concerned during this period? Is it not a fact that he was mostly in Simla town instead of directing works at the sites?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) No Simla was not completely cut off for a week. Interruptions occurred from the 5th January to the 14th January due to repeated snowstorms but limited communication was maintained with Simla during the greater part of this period.

(b) I place on the table a report regarding the action taken to restore communications.

(c) On the average about 70 men were employed daily. Enhanced rates were offered and sufficient labour was available but fresh snowfalls hindered the work and caused further interruptions after communication had been restored.

(d) Yes.

(e) The Divisional Engineer left his headquarters at Ambala for Simla at 4-00 hrs. on the 7th and went to Solan on the 9th after organising the repair parties for the sections Simla-Solan. He left Solan for Kalka on the 10th and remained in Kalka up to 16th. He was not mostly in Simla, as stated by the Honourable Member.

Report

The breakdown commenced on the 5th January 1945, at 6-30 hours. The damage to the line was extensive and widespread. The local line staff moved out promptly to restore communication in all sections. The Sub-Divisional Officer, Telegraphs, Ambala, the Engineering Supervisor, Telegraphs, Ambala, and additional line staff proceeded to the site of the major breakdown by the first available train at 4-00 hrs. on the 6th, as the journey by road was not possible. In addition to usual stores they took with them field service cable which was specially loaned by Military authorities at Ambala. Parties of coolies with line staff were dropped at various stations between Kalka and Simla. The Telegraph Testing Master and the Deputy Assistant Engineer, Telephones, Simla, also sent out line staff from Simla and temporary communication was restored between Simla and Lahore at 21-00 hours on the 6th.

After arranging for more stores, tools and staff, the Divisional Engineer left Ambala for Simla at 4-00 hrs. on the 7th. There was some difficulty in getting coolies as most of them were not willing to work during the snow storms but sufficient were obtained by offering enhanced rates. Temporary communication was restored between Simla and Delhi on the 8th. Further storms occurred on the 9th January, which not only hindered restoration work but caused farther interruptions and the train service was also suspended. On the

11th the weather cleared and it was only then possible to make good progress. Additional cable was obtained at a few hours' notice from military stores in Delhi on the 10th and despatched by passenger train to Kalka. Limited communication was available by the 13th and by 15-30 hrs. on the 14th January communication on most of the wires had been restored.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know, Sir, if the interruption was only for two days?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: No, Sir, I said the interruption occurred from 5th to 14th January due to repeated snowfalls.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is it a fact that no public telegrams were delivered in Simla within those days?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: It is quite possible that they were not delivered.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Is it a fact that Naini Tal, Ranikhet, Mussorie, Lansdowne, etc., were totally cut off for five days from 5th to 11th January?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I have not got the information, but it is quite possible that that was the case. It was a very severe winter this year.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Are Government satisfied from the explanation given by the Engineer that communications could not have been restored earlier?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: Yes, Sir. Government are satisfied.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY SECTIONS NOT PROVIDED WITH HIGHER CLASS ACCOMMODATION

754. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the names of sections of Railway line on the North Western Railway where first and second class accommodation is not provided in trains as a regular course?

(b) Are Inter Class passengers, in the absence of second class travelling accommodation, allowed the occupation of Second Class Waiting Rooms on such sections? If not, why not?

(c) To what use are 'Waiting Rooms' put on such Railway stations when no upper class passengers travel? Is it proposed to convert them either as Inter Class Waiting Rooms or combined Inter-Second-First Class Waiting Rooms? If not, why not?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that on sections referred to in (a) above, no second or first class accommodation is provided even when prior notice is given owing to want of appropriate carriages, or it generally being uneconomical to run a full carriage for one or two passengers? If so, what relief is proposed to be given to such persons in the matter of waiting rooms accommodation who travel lower class under forced circumstances?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) (i) No upper class accommodation, 1st or 2nd, is provided as a regular measure on trains running over the following sections:

Hyderabad-Badin, Pad Idan-Tharushah-Tando Adam, Pad Idan-Mahrahpur, Jacobabad-Kashmore, Sakrand-Nawabshah.

(ii) Second class accommodation only is provided as a regular course on the following sections:

Rawalpindi-Mandra-Bhaun, Shorkot Road-Malakwal—On certain trains.

Malakwal-Bhera—On all trains.

(b) No, as it is scarcely possible to discriminate between a passenger who travels inter class owing to the absence of 2nd class and others who normally travel inter class.

(c) They remain vacant. In reply to the second part of the question, I understand the North Western Railway have not got any such proposal under consideration at present.

(d) I understand that every endeavour is made to provide first and second class accommodation but this is not always possible under present circumstances. As regards the second portion of the question, I am arranging to have a copy of the question and of this reply forwarded to the General

Manager, North Western Railway, with the request that the issues raised by the Honourable Member be examined in conjunction with the Karachi Local Advisory Committee.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Does the Honourable Member know that there are no intermediate waiting rooms also on these sections? Will the Honourable Member provide such rooms and in the mean time allow the use by the first class passengers of the upper class waiting rooms?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: This is essentially a matter for the Local Advisory Committee, of which I understand the Honourable Member is a member, and which, I understand, he has been attending in the last few days.

SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

755. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: (a) Will the Foreign Secretary please state whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the report in the *Hindustan Times* of Wednesday, the 14th February, where, in the statement issued by President Roosevelt, Premier Stalin and Mr. Churchill, it is stated that a Conference of United Nations is to be called to meet at San Francisco on April 25, 1945?

(b) Will the Government of India be represented in the Conference?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, and in view of the importance of the Conference, will the Government delegation include non-official representatives?

(d) Do Government propose to select those representatives in consultation with the Leaders and Parties of this Assembly?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes.

(c) No, for the Conference will be at Ministerial level.

(d) Does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the status of the Government of India's representative in America is that of a Minister, and therefore will it not be competent for him to attend the Conference on behalf of the Government of India? Will the Government of India depute him to attend it?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I did not use the word "Ministerial" in a diplomatic sense, but in the sense of a member of a Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask if the Government of India is aware that Labour Representatives should be associated with the deliberations of the various nations in order that they may be able to make their suggestions regarding the future Security Organisation?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The Honourable Member's reminder may be extremely useful, but I suggest the substance of his question is rather one for my Honourable friend the Labour Member.

Sardar Sant Singh: Who will prepare the brief for the delegation?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The Government of India.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Government of India consider the question of sending Labour representatives to the San Francisco Conference along with their delegation?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The Honourable Member will give notice of that question.

Sardar Sant Singh: In view of the peculiar position of the Government of India, that is, in view of its subordinate position to Whitehall, will it be possible for officials to participate in the San Francisco Conference?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The suggestion is not that an official should be sent to the Conference as a delegate.

Sardar Sant Singh: No non-officials?

Sir Olaf Caroe: As the Conference will be at the Ministerial level it would be for members of Government to attend.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What position will such a delegation enjoy? What will be the position of the member of Government?

Sir Olaf Caroe: He will be a member of the Delegation of the Government of this country.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the Legislature is greatly interested in the future Security Organisation will the Government of India be pleased to allow a day for the discussion of it?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I cannot deal with that question on an interpellation.

BLOCK ON PROMOTION OF CERTAIN COMMERCIAL CLERKS, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

756. Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether grade No. I Commercial Clerks holding fifteen years' service are still left blocked on Rs. 60 only, on the North Western Railway even after the upper grade scheme of grade I line clerks *vide* General Manager, Lahore, letter No. 561-E/39V of the 9th November, 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that Divisional Office clerks step into grade II after two or three years' service? If so, why are not Commercial line clerks who work for more hours and whose duties are harder than these office clerks, similarly given grade II in such time?

(c) What considerations have been given to Commercial clerks blocked on Rs. 60, when the starting salary of newly appointed clerks have, at present, been increased from Rs. 30 to Rs. 40?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Government understand that due to special conditions arising in connection with the war, Clerks of Divisional Offices have received in some cases rapid promotion. The basic principle followed in regard to the grading of line staff is to fix pay in relation to the work performed. It must be realised that the number of posts calling for higher pay in the different establishments must vary.

(c) The increased minimum pay for new entrants, was given to attract better qualified staff and applies to all subordinate categories and not merely to Clerks. It has no bearing on the prospects of staff in various categories.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhuri: On this question of commercial clerks who have put in this long service are Government aware that their salary is only Rs. 60 which is wholly insufficient during this war time and may I know from the Honourable Member whether for the last twenty years these clerks have been complaining that they are not getting any promotion at all and their minimum salary has not been increased at all and they have been making representations for the last twenty years and Government has not been paying any attention to it? Are Government prepared

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is making a speech.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: I was not making a speech. I am asking the Honourable Member whether it is a fact that there has been this complaint for the last twenty years or not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I can not quite hear what the Honourable Member's question is. Will he repeat it?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member had better pass on to the next question.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Their complaint is long standing. Is Government prepared to consider their case? I have not got an answer in reply to my question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is making a speech.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: I am not making a speech: I want reply.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I ask a question without arguing the matter?

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

Mr. Abdul Qayyum: May I suggest that the Honourable Member can put this long question to the Honourable Member in the Lobby?

NON-PROVISION OF FREE QUARTERS TO COMMERCIAL CLERKS

757. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Ohsudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if the Commercial clerks have been deprived of free-rent quarters or rent allowance in lieu thereof?

(b) What steps are supposed to be adopted to remove blockade on Rs. 60 of grade I line Commercial clerks even after their completing fifteen years' service or more?

(c) Have grade I and grade II of Accounts Clerks been amalgamated? If so, why have they not been amalgamated for Commercial Clerks?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the revised policy governing house rent introduced in 1928, in accordance with which all railway servants are now required to pay rent for railway quarters, subject to the exception that those who, under the old rules were entitled to the privilege of rent-free quarters or an allowance in lieu, are allowed this privilege when they occupy certain posts.

(b) While reasonable prospects of advancement are generally provided it is not possible to remove entirely the block in promotion in the case of those on the maximum of the grade who have long service. Government understand that the Railway Administration has already upgraded 148 posts of Commercial Clerks Grade I to Grade II permanently and have authorised Divisional Superintendents to sanction temporary upgradings where the nature of the work justified such action.

(c) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to an amalgamation which took place in January, 1935, as a result of the separation of Railway Accounts from Audit and which does not apply to Accounts Clerks on the revised scales of pay. The circumstances which necessitated the amalgamation referred to do not exist in the case of Commercial Clerks.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: In view of the assurances given on the floor of this House that these clerks in grade I will be upgraded so much that there will be so many places that this complaint will be removed, is the Honourable Member prepared to say that that complaint has been removed or he is going to create more places because this complaint has been there for twenty years?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I should require notice of that question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: It is in clause (b).

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have answered clause (b).

DISPENSING WITH PRODUCTION OF TICKET AT RESERVATION OF ACCOMMODATION BY MEMBERS OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

758. ***Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether Government propose to take steps to see that written requests for reservation of accommodation in Railway Trains, from Honourable Members of the Central Legislature are registered in the reservation book without production of tickets; if not, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to his starred question No. 630 on the 2nd instant.

Government are however examining the possibility of setting aside a special carriage on certain trains from Delhi for two days following the official termination of the Session, in which Honourable Members will have first call on accommodation provided tickets are bought and reservations made one week in advance.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Cannot reservation be made on application and payment of the reservation fee? Honourable Members have to purchase tickets and then only reservation is made: cannot that situation be improved?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: My answer was that that could not be done as the reservation for accommodation without purchase of tickets would only be on a provisional basis, which will not be of advantage to Honourable Members.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if this cannot be done—notice may be given for reservation and the ticket may be purchased thereafter? This is not being done.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have just made a statement which I think will meet the views of Honourable Members who wish to secure accommodation on leaving Delhi at the end of the Session, and what I have said is the most we can do on the subject for the present.

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

INSTRUCTIONS RE RESERVATION OF BERTHS FOR MEMBERS OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

759. ***Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the instructions issued by the Railway Board to the Railway administrations regarding reservation of berths for the Honourable Members of the Central Legislature and their staff for their journey from any station to any station, if and when undertaken on a short notice say twenty-four hours in advance of the departure of train for immediate transaction of a business in connection with their Legislative duty; if no instruction has been issued, the reasons therefor;

(b) if it is a fact that a ticket is purchased in advance between a month and 7 days before the departure of the train, for the specific purpose of reservation of berth; if not availed of due to the readjustment of the meetings of the Central Legislature, whether it is liable to be returned and the refund of the fare is made subject to 10 per cent. discount on North Western and other Railways; if so, why; if not, what the fact is; and

(c) the reasons for not exempting the Honourable Members of the Central Legislature and their staff from the existing rules for reservation of berths in the same manner as the said rules are not made applicable to Railway Gazetted Officers travelling on pass and to other Government Officials travelling on duty?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave on the 2nd instant to part (c) of Mr. Badri Dutt Pande's starred question No. 628.

(b) The rules provide that, if for any reason, a passenger who has purchased a ticket in advance is unable to travel on the date fixed by him and endorsed on the ticket, he should apply to the Station Master, who will refund the fare without making any deduction provided the ticket is given up before its expiry and also provided that a fresh ticket of the same class and of the same description (i.e., single or return) and to the same destination is purchased at the time. If for any reason, a fresh ticket is not purchased, a refund will be granted on the unused ticket provided it is surrendered on or before the date of the commencement of the journey. Application for a refund in such cases should be made to the General Manager of the Railway.

(c) The question does not arise, as the rules do not make any exception in favour of Railway Officers or Government Officials travelling on duty, who can secure firm reservations only on production of the pass or ticket, as the case may be.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member expedite these refunds because at present it takes more than a month to get such refunds?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Constant efforts are made to expedite that, but I know it takes time on occasions.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: With reference to part (c) of this question, is my Honourable friend aware that a circular was issued about a week ago, which provided that Honourable Members of this House could reserve their berths one month in advance of their travel without purchasing tickets? We got that circular.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. Perhaps I should read out again what I said in answer to question No. 758:

"Government are, however, examining the possibility of setting aside a special carriage on certain trains from Delhi for two days following the official termination of the Session, (i.e., if the Session is put off by a day or two the reservation will still be made, if possible), in which Honourable Members will have first call on accommodation provided tickets are bought and reservations made one week in advance."

Sardar Sant Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that the difficulty is about these sudden calls that are made on Members to make intermediate journeys? Then reservation is difficult.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is a difficulty which every body suffers from, including officials.

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: The Honourable Member's reply covers only our departure from Delhi to our places. What arrangements can be made to facilitate our coming from our places to Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is explained in the circular. Honourable Members will know—they have plenty of notice—when the Assembly is to meet and they have only on receipt of that notice to make arrangements to buy tickets and make reservations in advance and all will be well.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Is it not possible to reduce the period of one month, as required at the present moment to seven days for the purposes of reservation?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have just explained that at the end of the Session we are trying to set aside special carriages on certain trains in which Honourable Members will have first call on accommodation in preference to the public provided tickets are bought and reservations made one week in advance.

Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: In view of the uncertainty of the date of termination of the Session, will Government make suitable arrangements.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We will do our best to make arrangements.

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

INSISTING ON PRODUCTION OF TICKET AT RESERVATION OF ACCOMMODATION

760. *Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad Srivastava: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Station Superintendent, Lahore, in a postcard dated the 6th December, 1944, informed that accommodation for journey from Amritsar to Delhi could only be reserved on purchase of tickets and therefore no arrangements could be made unless tickets were purchased in advance at Delhi Shahdara Station, if so, were the tickets for journey from Amritsar to Delhi available for sale at Delhi Shahdara Station in December, 1944.

(b) if it is a fact that the Station Superintendent, Delhi, in a letter No. 16/44, dated the 4th December, 1944, informed that tickets should be produced and reservation fee paid for the journey from Meerut city to Jullundar city, if so, what arrangements are made for the purchase and production of tickets by persons not residing in Delhi and undertaking journey from a station on Khurja-Hapur Section on the East Indian Railway changing at Meerut city;

(c) if it is a fact that a person from the above section for securing reservation ought to travel to Delhi first when he must not according to the propaganda carried on by Railway for restricting overcrowding; and

(d) the reasons for forcing a man to undertake the journey for reservation of berth which could be done by post or telegrams and the steps taken by Government in this respect; if no steps have been taken, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I have called for the information and will lay it on the table in due course.

(c) Not necessarily. It is always open to one to get a friend or agent to purchase a ticket on his behalf and secure a firm reservation.

(d) In view of the reply to part (c), the question does not arise.

VACANCIES IN GRADES SPECIFIED FOR DIRECT RECRUITMENT ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

761. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that on the East Indian Railway vacancies in the grades specified for direct recruitment *vide* General Manager's Circular No. AE3015/1, dated the 24th August, 1944, have not been filled with retrospective effect since the 9th August, 1943, by direct recruitment?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state:

(i) the number of vacancies in the said grades during the period from 9th August, 1944, to February, 1945;

(ii) the dates when these vacancies were advertised; and

(iii) the number of persons, community-wise, recruited in these vacancies?

(c) Is it a fact that Muslim interest suffered when these vacancies were filled by direct recruitment?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government have no information and I regret I cannot undertake to collect the details asked for under present conditions. I will however forward the question to the Administration for their consideration.

CASES OF IRREGULAR APPOINTMENTS ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

762. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that, according to the General Manager, East Indian Railway, Circular No. AE840/1942-3, dated the 8th January, 1944, some cases of irregular appointments during the year 1942-43 were detected?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state the cases referred to in the said Circular, and the details of appointments reserved for Muslims given to non-Muslims?

(c) Is it a fact that the deficiency of Muslims in these appointments was not made good at any stage?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Complete details are not available but Government understand that four cases were detected in which appointments were made by certain offices before the receipt of communal allotments from the Headquarters Office and three cases in which appointments were made against allotments which were out of date.

(c) There was no deficiency in the recruitment of Muslims on the East Indian Railway during the year 1942-43. Muslims having obtained more than the quota fixed for them.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to (b), is it not a fact that out of those four posts, no posts were given to Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I shall require notice of that.

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

763. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the staff sections of the Establishment Branches at the Head Office, Divisions and Workshops of the East Indian Railway Muslims are inadequately represented in the following posts:

(i) Office Superintendents, (ii) Chief Clerks, (iii) Head Clerks, (iv) Sub-Heads; and (v) Clerks (lowest and higher grades)?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state, comparatively, the Muslim and non-Muslim strength on the 1st January, 1940, and the 1st January, 1945?

(c) Is it a fact that the D'Souza Committee's recommendation about giving weightage to Muslims in filling vacancies in the Establishment Offices was accepted by the Railway Board and circularised to all Railways for action?

(d) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway has not acted on the Railway Board's circular referred to in (c) above?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The information is not readily available.

(c) Yes, as a temporary measure it was decided to reserve for minority communities 50 per cent. of the vacancies among clerical staff of Establishment Branches filled by direct recruitment till such time as their representation in these branches is brought up to the over-all percentages prescribed for those communities on each Railway. Instructions to this effect were issued to railways.

(d) No, the present strength of Muslims in the Establishment Sections on the E. I. Railway exceeds the percentage prescribed for that Railway.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Am I to understand that the percentage given to Muslims exceeds 50?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. The prescribed percentage is 20.5 and the Muslims have got 24.82 per cent.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the larger number of posts given to them be reduced now?

(No reply.)

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

764. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the vacancies in the staff sections in the Establishment office of the Howrah Division, East Indian Railway, during the period from January, 1943, to February, 1945, were not filled by Muslims in the same way as they were filled by non-Muslims?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the vacancies grade-wise and section-wise during the said period, and the number of Muslims and non-Muslims who were absorbed in them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

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

765. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that Muslims are kept for indefinite period on the plea of training in the Pay Bill Section of the Establishment Office of the Divisional Superintendent, Howrah, East Indian Railway, and their non-Muslim colleagues are kept in staff sections?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Muslims, the length of their service, the period of their service in the Pay-Bill Section, and the number of their non-Muslim compatriots in the Staff Sections as it stood on the 31st December, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government have no information. A copy of the question is, however, being sent to the General Manager for such action as he considers necessary.

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

766. ***Shalkh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that to the detriment of the interest of the Muslim staff in the Chief Commercial Manager's Office of the Bengal and Assam Railway, the posts of Commercial Inspectors were given to non-Muslims drawn from the District and other offices on personal recommendations and without having been approved by the Traffic Selection Committee during the period from January, 1944, to the 29th January, 1945?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he please state the number of Muslim and non-Muslim employees recommended by the District Selection Committees for the post of Commercial Inspectors and the number of non-Muslims who were promoted to the post of Commercial Inspectors before they were voted by the Traffic Selection Committee on the 30th and 31st January, 1945?

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

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply Starred Question Nos. 766 to 768 together.

I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

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

†767. ***Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad Siddique:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the suitable Muslim employees were neither recommended for promotion nor their applications forwarded to the Heads of Departments for higher posts as was done in the case of non-Muslim employees by the District Traffic Superintendents and other District Officers of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January, 1944, to February, 1945?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he please state the number of the employees, community-wise, with their educational and departmental qualifications recommended for promotions to different higher categories during January, 1944, to February, 1945, and the number of Muslim employees of requisite qualifications whose cases did not receive consideration for higher posts during the said period? In how many cases did the Muslim Employees appeal?

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

†768. ***Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad Siddique:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that the standing orders of the Traffic Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway are that no candidate who does not qualify himself in Goods and Coaching Examinations will be allowed to appear before the Selection Boards for selection for the posts of Tracers, Commercial Inspectors and Special Inspectors?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will he please lay a statement on the table of the House showing the number of the candidates, Community-wise, who were made to appear before the Selection Boards for the said posts relaxing the conditions stated in (a) above during the year from 1st January 1944, to the 1st January, 1945?

TRANSFERRING NON-MUSLIMS TO PERSONAL BRANCH OF GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†769. ***Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad Siddique:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that to discourage the representation of Muslims in the Personal Branch of the General Manager's office of the Bengal and Assam Railway, the practice of transferring non-Muslims from other District Offices to fill vacancies was still resorted to during the period from January, 1944 to February, 1945?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he please state the number of temporary and permanent posts which occurred during the said period and the names of the staff who filled them, and also the method adopted by the Bengal and Assam Railway for such vacancies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) I have called for the information and will lay the reply on the table of the House in due course.

DEFICIENCY OF MUSLIMS IN APPOINTMENTS OF APPRENTICE MECHANICS AT JAMALPORE

†770. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the year 1944 communal quota was not strictly observed in the recruitment of Apprentice Mechanics at Jamalpur, East Indian Railway?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state: (i) the number of total vacancies; (ii) the number of vacancies reserved for Muslims; and (iii) the number of Muslims and non-Muslims recruited?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 766.

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

(c) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state if the recruitment rules do not permit that communal quota should be made up by nomination?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative, in that a sufficient number of qualified candidates of minority communities was not obtainable.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, but in this case no qualified candidates were available for nomination.

DEFICIENCY OF MUSLIMS IN APPOINTMENTS OF APPRENTICE MECHANICS AT JAMALPORE

†771. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the deficiency of Muslims in the appointments of Apprentice Mechanics at Jamalpur, East Indian Railway, in the year 1944 was made up by the recruitment of non-Muslims?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the procedure adopted to fill up the vacancies reserved for Muslims?

(c) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state the number of non-Muslims and their positions in order of merit, recruited to make up the deficiency of Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

DEFICIENCY OF MUSLIMS IN APPOINTMENTS OF APPRENTICE MECHANICS AT JAMALPUR

†772. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in order to make up the deficiency of Muslims in the appointments of Apprentice Mechanics at Jamalpur, East Indian Railway, in the year 1944, the recognised Societies, other Railways, Provincial and Central Governments were not approached to get the right type of Muslims?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state the other methods adopted to get Muslims?

(c) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to place before the House the correspondence that ensued with the bodies mentioned in (a) above?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). As a sufficient number of Muslims applied in response to the advertisement, the Railway Administration did not consider it necessary to seek the help of the Bodies, etc., referred to in the question.

(c) Does not arise.

PREPONDERANCE OF NON-MUSLIMS IN SELECTION BOARD FOR RECRUITMENT OF APPRENTICE MECHANICS AT JAMALPUR

†773. ***Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Examiners and Personnel of the Selection Board appointed to examine the papers and select candidates for the posts of Apprentice Mechanics at Jamalpur, East Indian Railway, in the year 1944, were almost all non-Muslims?

(b) Is it a fact that this was against the procedure laid down by the Railway Board for the selection of Examiners and the constitution of the Selection Board?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

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

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN WORKSHOPS STAFF, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

774. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state, community-wise, the number of staff employed in the following cadres in the Workshops on the East Indian Railway:

(i) Officers—Senior Scale; Junior Scale; and Lower Gazetted service;

(ii) Supervisors, Subordinate clerks and staff in grades of—Rs. 700 to 600, Rs. 600 to 500, Rs. 500 to 400, Rs. 400 to 300, Rs. 300 to 200, Rs. 200 to 100, Rs. 100 to 80, Rs. 80 to 60, Rs. 60 to 40, Rs. 40 to 20, and Rs. 20 to 10; and

(iii) Apprentices—Special Class, Mechanic, and Trades?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I regret I cannot undertake to collect the information under present circumstances.

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

775. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that no Muslim candidates were examined by the Lillooah and Lucknow Workshops, East Indian Railway, at the time of recommending staff for the posts of Junior Personnel Inspectors, the selection of which was held at the Head Office, East Indian Railway, in December, 1944?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of the Muslim staff who were examined?

(c) Is it a fact that non-Muslims were recommended without having been examined by the preliminary Selection Boards?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to Questions Nos. 775 and 776 together.

I have called for information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

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

776. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the academic, departmental and special qualifications of the non-Muslim staff, recommended by the Lillooah and Lucknow Workshops, East Indian Railway, for the posts of Junior Personnel Inspectors, the Selection of which was held at the Head Office, East Indian Railway, in December, 1944?

(b) Were Muslims of the same qualifications not available?

(c) Is it a fact that these non-Muslims had neither passed any establishment examination nor had any experience about labour control?

NON-RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIMS IN ESTABLISHMENT OFFICERS OF CERTAIN WORKSHOPS, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

777. *Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that Muslims were not recruited and posted in the Establishment Offices of the Lillooah, Jamalpur and Lucknow Workshops, East Indian Railway, during the period from January, 1943, to February, 1945, according to their quota on the said Railway?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of vacancies, section-wise, in the Establishment Offices, and the number of the staff, community-wise absorbed therein through transfer from other Departments or direct recruitment during the said period?

(c) Is it a fact that assurance of the Railway Board that efforts should be made to increase Muslims in the Establishment Offices was ignored in filling vacancies mentioned in (a) above?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 775.

(b) I regret I cannot undertake to collect the details. From the information readily available with Government, however, I find that the percentage of Muslims in the various Establishment Branches including Lilloah, Jamalpur and Lucknow Workshop Offices has risen from 14 to 24.8 during the period 1st January, 1948 to 30th September, 1944.

(c) The reply is in the negative.

DIFFICULTY IN SECURING RAILWAY ACCOMMODATION AT DELHI BY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

778. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that whenever Honourable Members of this House require accommodation for their travel from Delhi and give a week's notice in advance, they are told that no accommodation is available;

(b) if it is a fact that their request for a provisional reservation too is refused; if so, why; and

(c) if it is a fact that whenever any Railway officer including those serving in Railway Board require any accommodation at short notice, it is available?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Though this at times may be the case, I understand it is not invariably so.

(c) No.

Mr. Manu Subedar: For which class of officers does the booking office reserve the coupes, in favour of the officers and against the public who wish to travel in such coupes?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I should require notice of that.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: May I again call the attention of the Honourable Member to the circular that was issued last week for advance booking for Honourable Members. I do not want that that circular making provision for one month's advance booking should be cancelled. The Honourable Member's replies this morning makes it doubtful whether that circular is in force. Will he make inquiries and see that that circular is not cancelled.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That circular is in force. I will endeavour to send an additional circular making special arrangements for giving preference to Honourable Members.

IMPORTATION OF EXPERT PAINT TECHNOLOGIST

†779. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if the Railway authorities had imported an Expert Paint Technologist from abroad? If so, when, and who was the Expert appointed? What were his qualifications?

(b) Was there no such Expert Paint Technologist available in India?

(c) Is it a fact that the expert had to suggest methods by which improvement in the class of paint and painting materials used by the Indian Railways could be effected?

(d) Was a Sub-Committee appointed to go through the report of the expert?

(e) To what extent has the report of the expert been acted upon?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes. In 1937-38. Mr. F. Fancutt, F.I.C., Chief Paint Technologist of the London Midland and Scottish Railway.

(b) No.

(c) and (d). Yes.

(e) In a very large measure.

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

†780. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is not a fact that various Railways in India have different colour schemes, green, yellow, white, brown, red, etc.? If so has any survey been made to find out the reasons for such differences?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the colour schemes adopted by the various railways are of very long standing and the possible advantages of uniformity in the colouring of rolling stock throughout India have not been considered to outweigh the advantages of permitting various railway administrations, each with its high traditions of service, to retain such outward and visible signs of individuality.

PREFERENCES OF WORK MANAGERS FOR DIFFERENT BRANDS OF PAINTS

†781. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that different Works Managers prefer to patronise different proprietary brands of paints? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to examine the position of such preferences from the experts' point of view and also, from the point of view of economy and quality?

(b) Is it a fact that the Jenson and Nicholson—Shalimar or Goodlen Works—are the preferred paint suppliers to the Railways? How many Indian manufacturers of paints and varnishes have been given orders by Railways, and when?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Orders are placed by the Supply Department against current railway requirements of paints, enamels and varnishes. The supplies are made to specifications drawn up by the Government Test House at Alipore, on the basis of test reports prepared by the Test House on manufacturers' samples and not on the individual preferences of Works Managers.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN PAINT EXPERT

†782. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if he proposes to appoint an Indian Paint Expert for co-ordinating the supply of paint to all the State Railways on economic lines?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No. The present arrangements appear to be working satisfactorily but the question will be considered if the need arises.

LIABILITIES OF BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY

†783. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the position in regard to the liabilities of the late Bengal and North Western Railway Company to the general public in respect of claims for the value of goods lost, overcharges and irregular recoveries by that Railway Company? Will he please state whether any amount, and, if so, what amount out of the sale-price of the Bengal and North Western Railway Company, has been retained by the Government of India to meet such liabilities?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that Govind Bhawan Karyalaya (Gita Press, Gorakhpur) has obtained a decree for Rs. 10,743-4-0, against the said Bengal and North Western Railway Company in suit No. 52 of 1949 in the court of the Civil Judge, Gorakhpur, but the General Manager of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway and the liquidator's local representative of the Bengal and North Western Railway Company have both refused to pay the decretal amount on the ground of want of funds available?

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

(c) What does he propose to do to safeguard the interests of similar decree-holders against the Bengal and North Western Railway Company?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The claims of the public against the late B. & N. W. Railway Co. fall under two categories, viz.,—(1) claims for losses arising in the ordinary course of the working of the railway, and (2) claims for losses during the August 1942 disturbances. As regards the claims falling under (1), Government did not, on purchase of the B. & N. W. Railway take over the outstanding liabilities of the Company so far as the main line is concerned but the liabilities of the Company in respect of the State-owned portion, called the Tirhut Railway, previously worked by the Company, were taken over by the Government subject to the two conditions, namely, (i) that the liability must have been incurred by the Company with the sanction of the Secretary of State, and (ii) that it was subsisting at the date of determination of the contract. As regards the claims of the public for losses under category (2) above, Government have, by settlement with the Company taken over the liabilities both for the Co.'s main line and for the Tirhut Railway.

(b) The case referred to falls under category (2) mentioned in (a). There has been no refusal of payment by the O. & T. Railway but the General Manager sent an interim reply to the Civil Judge, Gorakhpur pending orders of Government. He is being authorised to make the payment after satisfying himself that no appeal need, be preferred against the judgment of the Civil judge.

(c) In view of the answer to (b), this does not arise.

MAINTENANCE OF MUSLIM QUOTA IN THE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL, MUNITIONS PRODUCTION, CALCUTTA

784. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have been pleased to establish a policy of maintaining a quota of 25 per cent. for Muslims in all ranks of services under them; and

(b) if the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, whether this policy has been maintained in the Directorate-General, Munitions Production, Calcutta; and if so, to what extent?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The question should be addressed to the Honourable the Home Member as it relates to the recruitment policy of all the Departments of the Government of India.

(b) Every effort has been made to give due representation to each community in all ranks of the Supply Department. The representation of Muslims in the non-gazetted staff of the D.G.M.P. is 25 per cent. while in the gazetted staff it is only 3.2 per cent. Since the majority of the posts in the latter category are of a specialised and technical character, it has not been possible to adhere strictly to any communal ratios. I would, however, re-iterate the statement I made on the 6th November 1944, in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 107, namely, that the importance of observing the orders on the subject of communal representation is well understood by the heads of offices under my Department.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: What is the method of selection in the Department of Supply?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: There is a Special officer, called the Officer on Special Duty, Recruitment, who receives the applications from the various candidates. There are special committees composed of officers of certain levels in Calcutta and Delhi who scrutinise the applications and make recommendations to Government. On these recommendations, the Government makes the appointment.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Saith: Are these committees and this special officer specially instructed with regard to the necessity of maintaining the communal proportions?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Most certainly.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Why are not the Public Services Commission consulted with regard to these appointments? Is it because these are temporary men?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: They are temporary and the appointments have to be made at such short notice that the procedure of the Federal Public Services Commission would be quite unsuitable for getting the candidates, so far as the Supply Department is concerned.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Even in the Supply Department there may be some categories of posts which can be recruited through the Public Service Commission. Why are not the Public Service Commission consulted in respect of those categories.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I don't know the categories which the Honourable Member has in mind.

**MUSLIMS IN CERTAIN POSTS IN THE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL, MUNITIONS
PRODUCTION, CALCUTTA**

785. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state the total number of the following posts in the Directorate-General, Munitions Production, Calcutta, and the number of posts held by Muslims, if any, showing against each, their proportionate strength:

(i) (a) Deputy Director General, (b) Directors, (c) Deputy Directors, (d) Industrial Planning Officers, (e) Assistant Industrial Planning Officers, (f) Progress Officers, (g) Senior Progress Assistants; and (h) Technical Assistants; and

(ii) (a) Assistant Secretaries posted in Calcutta, (b) Gazetted Superintendents in the Branch Section, (c) Non-Gazetted Superintendents in all the Directorates, (d) Assistants-in-Charge in all the Directorates, (e) Senior Clerks and Assistants, (f) Clerks of other grades, (g) Estimators; and (h) Progress Representatives?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I place on the table a statement giving the requisite information.

Statement

Name of post	Total number of posts	Number of posts held by Muslims	Proportionate strength of Muslims
(i) (a) Dy. Directors General	7	Nil	Nil
(b) Directors	21	Nil	Nil
(c) Dy. Directors	32	Nil	Nil
(d) Industrial Planning Officers	22	Nil	Nil
(e) Asstt. Industrial Planning Officers	47	4	8.5 per cent
(f) Progress Officers	5	Nil	Nil
(g) Senior and Junior Progress Assistants	23	1	4.3 per cent
(h) Technical Assistants	69	3	4.3 per cent
(ii) (a) Asstt. Secretaries posted in Calcutta	3	Nil	Nil
(b) Gazetted Supdts. in the Branch Secretariat	7	3	about 43 per cent
(c) Non-gazetted Supdts. in all the Directorates.	26	6	23 per cent
(d) Assistants-in-charge	110	31	28 per cent
(e) Senior Clerks and Assistants	372	197	53 per cent
(f) Clerks of other grades	1993	460	23 per cent
(g) Estimators	22	Nil	Nil
(h) Progress Representatives	22	6	27 per cent

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask, in this connection, to place the information relating to the Supply Department as a whole, not simply relating to a particular office and the proportion which the various communities enjoy in the Department as a whole?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I have given that information more than once at the instance of my Honourable friend himself who has put numerous questions on this subject.

Sardar Sant Singh: In that case, may I know whether the Honourable Member is in a position to say that Muslim representation in the Supply Department as a whole is more than adequate?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I know that in some sections of the Supply Department, Muslims are very well represented, while in other sections they are under represented for reasons which are obvious and which I have stated in answer to the previous question.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS LACKING TECHNICAL QUALIFICATION IN THE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL, MUNITIONS PRODUCTION, CALCUTTA

786. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the posts of the Technical Assistants in the Directorate-General, Munitions Production, Calcutta, are generally filled up from persons having no "Technical qualifications"?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Posts of Technical Assistants in the Directorate General, Munitions Production, are as a rule filled by recruitment of persons possessing technical qualifications. These qualifications need not necessarily be of an academic nature but should cover such requirements as practical experience and general aptitude for the type of work which, in a Directorate, a candidate is required to undertake.

(B) WRITTEN ANSWERS,

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

787. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable, the Supply Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the following posts in the Metals Directorate of the Directorate-General, Munitions Production, Calcutta, showing against each the number of posts held by Muslims, if any:

(i) Directors, (ii) Deputy Directors, (iii) Industrial Planning Officers, (iv) Assistant Industrial Planning Officers, (v) Superintendents, (vi) Assistants-in-Charge, (vii) Technical Assistants, (viii) Estimators, (ix) Clerks of all grades, and (x) Stenographers, Steno-typists and typists;

(b) whether it is a fact that none of the present Technical Assistants in the Metals Directorate possesses any technical qualifications; if not, what are their technical qualifications, and, if so, why;

(c) whether it is a fact that none of the present Assistants-in-Charge in the Metals Directorate has got any previous experience of Secretariat; if not, what is their experience; and, if so, why; and

(d) the number of girls in the Metals Directorate, out of the total strength?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) I place on the table a statement giving the requisite information.

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

(c) No. One of the Assistants-in-charge is a permanent Assistant of the Department of Bihar Legislature with nine years' experience. All the other

Assistants-in-charge have sufficient knowledge of the work of the Metals Directorate.

(d) Ten out of a total strength of 119.

<i>Designations</i>	<i>Total Number of posts.</i>	<i>Number of posts held by Muslims.</i>
(i) Directors	1	Nil
(ii) Dy. Directors.	3	Nil
(iii) Industrial Planning Officers.	4	Nil
(iv) Asstt. Industrial Planning Officers	6	Nil
(v) Superintendents	1	Nil
(vi) Assistants-in-Charge	5	1
(vii) Technical Assistants	7	1
(viii) Estimators	6	Nil
(ix) Clerks of all grades.	81	23
(x) Stenographers	7	Nil
Steno-typists	2	Nil
Typists	10	Nil

QUALIFICATIONS, ETC. OF CERTAIN PERSONNEL IN THE DIRECTORATE-GENERAL, MUNITIONS PRODUCTION, CALCUTTA

788. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to furnish in a tabular statement: qualifications; date of appointment in Directorate-General, Munitions Production; designation and pay drawn in parent office, if any; length of service in parent office, if any; designation and pay on which appointed in Directorate-General, Munitions Production; and pay and allowances drawn now; of the following employees of the Directorate-General, Munitions Production, Calcutta:

(1) Mr. G. R. Iyenger, Deputy Director, Metals; (2) Mr. S. A. Raghavachary, Superintendent, Munitions Production Secretariat; (3) Mr. K. P. Sarkar, Superintendent, Munitions Production Secretariat; (4) Mr. R. Ramaratnam, Assistant Director, Stores Accounts; (5) Mr. C. A. Rajagopal, Assistant Director, Stores Accounts; (6) Mr. Keshdeva, Assistant Industrial Planning Officer, Provision Directorate; (7) Miss Stela Biswas, Assistant Industrial Planning Officer, Provision Directorate; (8) Mr. P. C. Gupta, Technical Assistant, Metals Directorate; (9) Mr. S. Somesundaram, Assistant Director, Machine Tool Control; (10) Mr. V. Natesan, Superintendent, Machine Tool Control; (11) Mr. Sharfuddin Ahmad, Assistant-in-Charge, Metals Directorate; (12) Mr. Abdul Mannan Khan, Assistant-in-Charge, Machine Tool Control; (13) Mr. M. W. Gauhar, Senior Progress Assistant, Progress Directorate; (14) Mr. H. Iyer, Transport Officer, Transportation and Priorities Directorate, and (15) Mr. S. V. Iyer, Superintendent, Press and Welding Directorate?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I place on the table a statement giving the requisite information.

Serial No.	Name and Designation	Qualifications	Date of appointment in DGMP	Designation and pay drawn in parent office if any, at the time of transfer	Length of service in parent office, if any	Designation and pay on which appointed in D. G. M. P.	Pay and allowances drawn now
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Mr. G. R. Iyenger, Dy. Director (Metals).	B. Sc., (Mysore) B. Sc., Technical (Manchester), AMCT (Manchester), AIIA (London).	24-3-41	Laboratory Asstt., G.I.P. Railway, Rs. 200 p.m.	15 years 10 months.	Technical Officer (Metals), Rs. 350 p.m.	Rs. 850 p. m. (consolidated).
2	Mr. S. A. Raghavachary, Superintendent, M. P. Secretariat.	B.A.	9-2-42	Officiating Upper Dn, clerk, Finance Sectt., Madras, Rs. 69 p. m.	11 years 8 months.	Senior Clerk, Rs. 150 p. m.	Rs. 640 p. m. plus Calcutta compensatory allowance Rs. 75 plus House rent allowance Rs. 40/4/0 and war allowance Rs. 64.
3	Mr. K. P. Sarkar, Supdt. M. P. Sectt.	B.Sc.	6-8-41	Clerk in the Deptt. of Central Excises and Salt, North Western Indian, Delhi, Rs. 96 p. m.	7 years 7 months.	Asstt., M. P. Sectt., Rs. 140 p. m.	Rs. 540 p. m. plus Calcutta compensatory allowance Rs. 75 p. m. plus war allowance Rs. 30.
4	Mr. R. Ramaratnam, Asstt. Director, Stores Accounts.	B.A.	20-11-40	Officiating Accountant Grade II, E. I. Railway, Rs. 165 p. m.	11 years 4 months.	Head of sec. C. P. 4A, Rs. 165 p. m. plus charge allowance Rs. 30 p. m.	Rs. 535 p. m. plus special pay Rs. 100 plus Calcutta compensatory allowance Rs. 75 plus war allowance Rs. 63/8/0.
5	Mr. C. A. Rajagopal, Asstt. Director, Stores Accounts.	B.A.	29-11-41	Divisional Accountant, Jubulpore, G. I. P. Railway, Rs. 240 p. m.	11 years 8 months.	Technical Asstt. (Metals Dept.), Rs. 300 p. m.	Rs. 535 p. m. plus Calcutta compensatory allowance Rs. 75 plus war allowance Rs. 53/8/0.
6	Mr. Keeho Dev, Asstt. Industrial Planning Officer, Provision Directorate.	M.A.	27-1-42	Nil.	Nil.	Junior clerk, Rs. 80 p. m.	Rs. 350 p. m. plus war allowance Rs. 50.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	Miss Stela Biswas, Asstt. Industrial Planning Officer, Provision Directorate.	M.A.	8-3-43	Nil.	Nil.	Senior Clerk. Rs. 150 p. m.	Rs. 350 p. m. plus war allowance Rs. 30.
8	Mr. P. C. Gupta, Technical Asstt. Metals Dte.	B.Sc.	28-1-41	Clerk, Central Store, Calcutta. Rs. 55 p. m.	6 yrs.	Routine clerk Rs. 60 p. m.	Rs. 262-8 p. m. plus war allowance Rs. 25.
9	Mr. S. Somasundaram, Asstt. Director, Machine Tool Control.	M.A.	11-11-42	Senior Inspector of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras. Rs. 80 p. m.	12 yrs. 10 months.	Assistant. Rs. 900 p. m.	Rs. 475 p. m. plus Calcutta compensatory allowance Rs. 50 plus House rent allowance Rs. 32-8 plus war allowance Rs. 50.
10	Mr. V. Natesan, Supdt., Electrical Dte.	B.A.	6-7-43	Senior Inspector, Co-operative Deptt., Madras. Rs. 90 p. m. plus Rs. 80.	13 yrs.	P. A. to J. S. (MP) Rs. 175 p. m. plus spl. pay Rs. 30.	Rs. 350 p. m. plus war allowance Rs. 35 plus Calcutta compensatory and House rent allowance each @ 10% of pay.
11	Mr. Sharfuddin Ahmed, Asstt. in-Charge, Metals Directorate.	M.A.	21-3-41	Asstt. Bihar Legislative Assembly. Rs. 85 p. m.	9 yrs.	Senior clerk Rs. 150 p. m.	Rs. 165 p. m. plus charge allowance Rs. 30 plus Dearness allowance Rs. 18 plus Calcutta compensatory and House rent allowance each @ 10% of pay.
12	Mr. Abdul Mannan Khan, Asstt. in-Charge, Machine Tool Control.	B.A., LL.B.	1-8-40	L. D., I. A. C. C. Rs. 60 p. m.	4 mths.	L. D., I. A. C. C. Rs. 60 p. m.	Rs. 122-8 p. m. plus spl. pay Rs. 50 plus Hq. allowance Rs. 20 plus Calcutta compensatory and House rent allowances each @ 10% of pay. Rs. 360 p. m. plus Calcutta compensatory allowance Rs. 50 plus war allowance Rs. 50.
13	Mr. M. V. Gauhar, Asstt. Industrial Planning Officer, (Indents).	Matriculate	4-4-41	Clerk, Finol. Adv. and Chief Accounts Office, E. I. Rly. Rs. 120 p. m.	16 yrs. 4 mths.	Senior clerk Rs. 150 p. m.	Rs. 360 p. m. plus Calcutta compensatory allowance Rs. 50 plus war allowance Rs. 50.
14	Mr. K. R. H. Iyer, Trans. Officer, Transportation and Priorities Dte.	Matric	20-11-40	Steno. E. I. Rly. Rs. 100 p. m.	5 yrs. 9 mths.	Senior clerk Rs. 150 p. m.	Rs. 350 p. m. plus Calcutta compensatory allowance Rs. 50 House rent allowance Rs. 16-4 war allowance Rs. 50.
15	Mr. S. V. Iyer, Supdt. Press and Welding Dte.	Matriculate Passed PWD Accounts Test.	23-3-41	Nil.	Nil.	Senior clerk Rs. 150 p. m.	Rs. 360 p. m. plus war allowance Rs. 25.

RAILWAY ENGINES IMPORTED

789. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state how many Railway engines have been imported since July, 1944?

(b) Can these engines haul passenger trains with safety?

(c) Has the experiment been tried or certificates of the Chief Mechanical Engineers obtained?

(d) What is the normal life of these engines, and what is the normal life of the engines purchased before the war?

(e) Is it not a fact that the normal life of the old engines is seventy years and the normal life of the engines now imported is only about fifteen years?

(f) Have these engines been imported on lend-lease system? If so, on what conditions?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Total number of imported locomotives put into service from the 1st July 1944 to the 15th February 1945:

Broad Gauge engines 182;

Metre Gauge engines 116.

(b) Yes.

(c) Neither experiments nor a certificate from the C.M.E. are necessary for this purpose. The engines are of standard designs and are tested before being brought into use.

(d) Certain types imported from America are considered to have a life of 20 years. Others from Canada and United Kingdom 35 years, which is considered to be the normal life for engines imported prior to the War.

(e) No.

(f) All engines from the United States of America have been acquired on the Lease-Lend system. The conditions which apply to other items on Lease-Lend apply in this case also.

IGNORING CLAIMS OF MUSLIM SUBORDINATES FOR PROMOTION IN CERTAIN WORKSHOPS OF EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

790. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the cases of deserving Muslim Subordinates were not considered for promotion to Officers' ranks in Jamalpur, Lilloah and Lucknow Workshops of the East Indian Railway during the period from January, 1944, to January, 1945?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the academic, special and departmental qualifications and the substantive posts held by the promoted non-Muslims, and the number of the Muslim Subordinates in the same category?

(c) Is it a fact that Muslims whose qualifications were on par with the qualifications of non-Muslims were left out of consideration for the posts of officers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (c). I have called for the information and will lay it on the table of the House in due course,

(b) I regret I cannot undertake to collect the details required, under present conditions.

QUALIFICATIONS, ETC., OF CERTAIN NON-MUSLIM (WORKS) STAFF AT LILLOAH AND LUCKNOW

791. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the academic and special qualifications and the places of the completion of the apprenticeship of the non-Muslim occupants of the following posts in the Carriage and Wagon Works at Lilloah and Lucknow of

the East Indian Railway who were promoted to the posts of officers noted against them during the years 1944-45:

Substantive Posts	Posts promoted to
(i) Office Superintendent, Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Lillooah Workshop's Office.	Grain Shop Officer.
(ii) Chargeman, Heat Treatment Section.	Grain Shop Officer.
(iii) Foreman, Carriage Building Shop.	Assistant Manager, Finishing.
(iv) Chief Draughtsman	Assistant Works Manager, Manufacturing.
(v) Foreman, Machine Shop	Works Manager Manufacturing.
(vi) Foreman, Saw Mills	Personal Assistant to Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer.
(vii) Foreman, Carriage Repair Shop.	Production Engineer.
(viii) Foreman, Paint Shop	A. R. P. Officer.
(ix) Foreman, Production Section	Production Engineer.

(b) Is it a fact that Muslims of similar qualifications were not given the posts of Officers? If not, how many Muslims were there and why were they left out?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I regret I cannot undertake to collect the information under present conditions.

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

792. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Employment Officers at the Workshops of the East Indian Railway have functioned adversely to the interest of Muslim employees in all matters during the period January, 1944 to January, 1945?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the names of Muslim employees whose representations were investigated into and grievances redressed by them during the period from January, 1944, to January, 1945?

(c) Is it a fact that Muslims have never been considered for the posts of Employment Officers? If so, why was no Muslim considered for this job at all?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government have no reason to believe that this is so.

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

(c) The reply is in the negative; two of the existing four Employment Officers on the E. I. Railway are Muslims.

MUSLIM CHARGEMEN IN LILLOOAH WORKSHOP

793. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of Muslim and non-Muslim temporary and permanent Chargemen, separately, in the Lillooah Workshop of the East Indian Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that the appointment and confirmation of Muslim Chargemen have been withheld, inspite of the Muslim deficiency in the said cadres?

(c) If the reply to (b) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of vacancies in the said cadre during 1st January, 1948, to the 31st December, 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

QUALIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN NON-MUSLIM CHIEF CLERKS OF CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER'S OFFICE, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

794. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the academic and technical qualifications of the non-Muslims drawn from Welding Group to work as Chief Clerks of the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office of the East Indian Railway during the year 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that these non-Muslims of the Welding Group were replaced by workmen?

(c) What has been the method followed in the past and has Muslim representation been substantial in the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office of the East Indian Railway during 1944?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

REVERSION OF SENIOR MUSLIM HEAD TRAIN EXAMINERS AT BADARPUR

795. *Dr. Habibar Rahman: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that during the year 1944-45 the Senior Muslim Head Train Examiners at Badarpur, Bengal and Assam Railway, were reverted to the posts of Senior Train Examiners and were replaced by Junior non-Muslim Train Examiners without holding Selection Boards according to the set procedures and Rules?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply Starred Questions Nos. 795 and 796 together.

I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

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

796. *Dr. Habibar Rahman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Badarpur District, Bengal and Assam Railway, in the year 1944-45 at the time of promoting Train Examiners to the posts of junior Train Examiners, senior Muslims were superseded by junior non-Muslims?

(b) Is it a fact that Departmental Examination tests are only prescribed for Muslims for such promotions?

(c) If the reply to (b) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state if the non-Muslims promoted as stated in (a) were examined at all, and what methods were adopted for testing the merits?

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

797. *Dr. Habibar Rahman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Badarpur District, Bengal and Assam Railway, in the year 1944-45 non-Muslim Fitter Coolies under the District Mechanical Engineer were sent to Katihar, Bengal and Assam Railway, for training as Train Examiners, ignoring the claims of senior Muslims?

(b) Was any test prescribed for such selection for training?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

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

798. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that he has received a representation from the merchants of Muzaffarpur, Oudh and Tirhut Railway, regarding the booking of litchi and mango fruits from that station; and

(b) whether Government propose to ask the Oudh and Tirhut Railway to remove the restriction? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have no information as to the reasons for the restriction alleged to have been imposed. I am however calling for a report from the General Manager of the O. & T. Railway and will lay a further reply on the table in due course.

*For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 796.

INSTRUCTIONS re RESERVATION OF ACCOMMODATION FOR MEMBERS OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

799. *Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to the Circular letter No. 3058-T. T., dated the 15th February, 1945, issued by the Government of India in the Railway Department, regarding reserved accommodation for rail journeys to and from Sessions of the Central Legislature, and state whether he proposes to instruct the Railways to reserve accommodation for the Honourable Members and their staff provisionally even on short notice?

If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, for the reason stated in my reply to part (c) of the Honourable Member's starred Question No. 626 on the 2nd instant. I would however refer the Honourable Member to my reply to his question No. 758 to which I have already replied this morning.

STOPPING OF MAIL AND EXPRESS TRAINS AT WAYSIDE RAILWAY STATIONS

800. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that mails and express trains are stopped at wayside stations where they are not scheduled to stop to enable certain persons to entrain or detrain;

(b) if so, whether the Railways maintain a list of persons for whom such facilities are given; and

(c) if trains are also so stopped to effect arrests of persons travelling in them, and, if so, under what law such trains are stopped?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Not normally.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) This is sometimes necessary. The stopping of trains at any particular stations is not governed by statute.

BAN ON TRAVEL FOR PILGRIMAGE

801. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that Railways used to advertise extensively encouraging various sections of the population to make pilgrimages to various places promising beatitude in heaven as a result of such travel;

(b) if it is a fact that now all such travel for pilgrimage is disallowed;

(c) if District Magistrates are being authorized to grant or not, as they choose, permits to persons wanting to travel from any one particular place to any other during the stated periods of time; and

(d) if Government are satisfied that this system is working well?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Railways used to advertise any special arrangements made by them in connection with *Melas*.

(b) No. But in order to conserve railway resources and to restrict overcrowding Provincial Governments at the request of railways have issued prohibitory orders under the powers conferred on them under Section (i) of Rule 85-B of the Defence of India Rules restricting travel by rail of pilgrims to certain important *Melas* and Fairs.

(c) In the case of certain *Melas*, Provincial Governments do authorize District Magistrates to grant permits to *bona fide* passengers other than pilgrims enabling them to travel as authorised irrespective of the prohibition of rail travel to the *melas* concerned.

(d) Government believe that the system is working fairly satisfactorily and that the objective has been partially achieved.

RULE FOR BREAK OF JOURNEY ON RAILWAYS

802. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that break of journey on Railways is now permitted only at the rate of one day for 250 miles and only after the requisite 250 miles have been travelled;

(b) if the rule means that a person after he has travelled the first 250 miles can break his journey for as many days as the distance for which he holds the ticket permits; or whether he can only break his journey for one day after travelling every 250 miles; and

(c) if he proposes to issue a communique on the subject in view of the fact that the new rules are being interpreted differently by different authorities?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

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

(c) I have no information leading me to suppose that different interpretations are being placed on the rules. If the Honourable Member has any such information, I would be obliged if he would bring to my notice the nature of the discrepancy.

DISPENSING WITH PRODUCTION OF TICKET AT RESERVATION OF ACCOMMODATION BY MEMBERS OF CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

803. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to circular No. 3058-TT, dated the 15th February, 1945, of the Railway Board to members of the Central Legislature;

(b) if in paragraph 5 of the said circular, members have been authorised to reserve accommodation on particular trains a month before-hand;

(c) if the staffs of the said Railways are interpreting the paragraph to mean that members must purchase tickets a month before-hand if they want reserved accommodation, and if persons are being refused reservation facilities even when room is available, unless tickets are purchased and accommodation applied for a month before-hand; and

(d) if he proposes to circularise Railways the exact intention of his Department to prevent misapprehension?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Paragraph 5 of the Circular advises Honourable Members to buy their tickets any time upto a month before the commencement of the journey, and in advance of the 'advance period' allowed to the public, so as to secure firm reservations.

(c) The intention is that tickets must be purchased to obtain firm reservations. I have no reason to believe that reservations are refused if, when tickets are produced, accommodation is available. Accommodation will always be available if Honourable Members will buy their tickets in advance of the general public, as they have been authorised to do.

(d) In the circumstances stated, the issue of further instructions to Railways is not called for.

I would however draw the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to question No. 758 asked by Mr. Badri Dutt Pande this morning.

PUBLISHED LETTER OF A CERTAIN ANGLO-INDIAN GIRL

804. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) if he has seen the letter of an Anglo-Indian girl published in the Calcutta and Allahabad papers showing how an American soldier and she had fallen in love with each other; how she was carrying his baby; how he was prevented by his superior officers from marrying her; how he was sent away to America; and how she had decided to kill herself before the baby was born;

(b) if he has any information as to what the girl did with herself;

(c) if it is a fact that American authorities do not permit marriages of American soldiers in India; and, if so, under what law;

(d) if American soldiers are permitted to marry English girls in England; and

(e) if Government propose to represent to the American Government that, in view of the prevailing circumstances, they should permit marriages of Americans in India?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) Yes.

(b) No. Government do not think it fitting to attempt to identify un-authenticated writers of articles which bear evidence of being the product of irresponsible journalism expressly designed to create ill-will against the soldiers of our Ally.

(c) Yes—save by special permission under American Army Regulations.

(d) No, except by special permission.

(e) No.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

†60—79.

STAFF OF MECHANICAL AND DRAWING OFFICES OF NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY HEADQUARTERS

80. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength of the staff of the (i) Mechanical, and (ii) Drawing offices of the North Western Railway Headquarters with communal composition thereof in each grade;

(b) whether it is a fact that the communal ratio of Muslims in these Branches is in the neighbourhood of 85 and 95, respectively;

(c) if the reply to (b) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to reduce the preponderance of one community in these Branches; if not, why not; and

(d) if the reply to (b) above is in the negative, what the actual ratio is; if over 60 per cent., whether Government propose to afford adequate representation to other communities in these Branches; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table of the House a statement giving the required information.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The actual ratio in the Mechanical and Drawing Offices is 37 and 71 respectively. As regards the latter part of the question, the 60 per cent. referred to by the Honourable Member is the quota reservation for Muslim candidates in recruitment to subordinate service on the N. W. Railway as a whole; it does not apply to specific branches or departments.

Statement showing sanctioned strength and Communal Composition by grades in Mechanical Branch of Headquarters Office

Branch	Grade	Sanctioned Strength	Posts at present held by communities					Remarks
			Muslim	Hindu	Sikh	Christian	Anglo-Indian	
Works Mechanical (including Electrical).	VI	1	...	1	...	...	...
	V	3	1	2	...	...	...
	IV	3	...	2	1	...	...
	III	8	...	7	...	1	...	
	II	9	6	3	...	...	...
	I	11	6	4	1	...	...
Total		35	13	19	2	1	...	
Percentage		...	37.14	54.29	5.71	2.86	...	

†For these questions and answers, see pages 1122-27 of these debates.

Statement showing sanctioned strength and Communal Composition by grades in all Drawing Offices of Headquarters Office

Grade	Total Number of posts	Muslim	Hindu	Sikh	Parsi	Indian Christian	Remarks
VII	1	1	..	..	..	..
350—25—500 (Supdt., DOE).	1	..	1*	..	..	..	*The permanent incumbent is a Hindu who is offg. as AEN. A Parsi is employed vice him in offg. capacity.
300—20—400 (Head Estimator).	1	1	..	..	..	..
230—15—335 (Arch. Draftsman).	1	..	..	..	1	..	
170—10—300—15—375 (Computer and Track Recorder).	2	..	2	..	..	..
VI 235—330	6†	3	1	1	..	..	†One post not filled.
V 215—275	6	5	1	..	..	..
IV 160—200	23	16‡	5	2	..	..	‡Includes one Muslim who is working against an Anglo Indian transferred to Mily. Department.
III 100—140	43§	31	4	5	..	..	§Three posts not filled.
II 68—95	53||	37	10	5	..	..	||One post not filled.
I 39—60	39¶	31	9	3	..	1	¶Five travers are utilized against the 5 posts in grade VI, III, and II which are not filled.
Total Percentage	176	125	33	16	1	1	
	..	71.02	18.75	9.09	.57	.57	

SIGNIFICANCE OF REMOVAL OF EMPLOYEE'S NAME FROM RECOMMENDATION ROLLS (NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY)

81. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether removal of an employee's name from the Recommendation Rolls for higher grade on the North Western Railway is considered 'withholding' of promotion; if not, why not, if so, whether the employee concerned is offered an opportunity before such removal; if not, why not;

(b) whether any difference is recognized between the removal of the employee's name (i) at the time of periodical review of the Recommendation Rolls, and (ii) on the occurrence of a vacancy to which the person concerned is entitled to, what the exact nature of difference is, and whether it is covered by rules; if so, whether the Honourable Member will please refer to them;

(c) whether it is a fact that orders for promotion of grade I Ticket Collectors are issued by the General Manager, on a common seniority for whole Railway; whether it is also a fact that subsequent to April, 1948, the Divisional Superintendent, Karachi, has refused to carry out the orders of the General Manager for promotion of certain Ticket Collectors to grade II; if so, why; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to revise rules in the State Railway Establishment Code to clarify the points referred to above if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The question whether the passing over of an employee for promotion made on the basis of seniority is a penalty for the purpose of the rules is already under examination, but in the meantime the Railway Administration has been instructed to allow an employee so passed over the right of appeal.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the negative; the latter part does not arise.

(c) Government are informed that instructions as to the order in which the promotion of Ticket Collectors in Grade I is to be made on an all-railway basis are issued by the Headquarters Office, where the seniority list of the staff is maintained, but the actual orders of promotion are passed by the authorities competent to make substantive appointments. The reply to the second part is in the negative. The last part does not arise.

(d) The question will be examined further in conjunction with the examination referred to in the reply to part (a).

PROSECUTIONS UNDER ESSENTIAL SERVICE (MAINTENANCE) ORDINANCE ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

82. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees prosecuted on the North Western Railway under the Essential Service (Maintenance) Ordinance of 1941, as amended in 1942; with the result in each case; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the General Manager, North Western Railway, had issued orders that employees should not be prosecuted under this Ordinance until (i) the employees resigned or absented *en masse* or stopped work jointly, and (ii) the Provincial Government had considered such action necessary to keep the services well replenished; if so, whether these conditions were observed in prosecuting employees referred to in (a) above; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Out of eleven employees on the North Western Railway who were prosecuted under the Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance, three were sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment; one was discharged; the cases of two were withdrawn, and those of the remaining five are pending in the Court.

(b) Government understand that confidential instructions, which however did not impose the conditions stated in the question, were issued by the Railway Administration, and that these were duly observed in the cases in which action was taken under the Ordinance.

DIRECTORS, ETC., OF SUPPLY DEPARTMENT ASSOCIATED WITH PRIVATE UNDERTAKINGS

83. Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state:

(a) the number of Directors, Controllers, Advisers and Honorary Advisers employed by the Department who have been or still continue to be associated with commercial and industrial undertakings in this country; and

(b) if he proposes to give a list showing the names of such officers or Advisers, their duties, the firms with which they have been or are associated and the remuneration they draw?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaltar: (a) Directors, One; Controllers, Two; Advisers, One; Honorary Advisers, Eight.

(b) A statement giving the necessary information is laid on the table of the House.

Statements

Serial No. (1)	Name of officers who are associated (2)	Designation of the officer (3)	Office in which working (4)	Duties (5)	Name of firm, firms with which associated (6)	Remuneration paid by Government (7)
1	Mr. W. H. W. Urquhart.	Director	Electrical Commissioner's organisation	Erection of power plant for Army and Ordnance Factories all over India.	M/s. Andrew Yule & Co., Ltd., Calcutta.	Nominally pay of Rs. 129-8-0 per month.
2	Mr. E. G. Spooner	Controller	Iron and Steel Organisation.	To perform functions of the Iron and Steel Controller.	The Steel Corporation of Bengal, Ltd.	Nominal salary of Rs. 1 per annum.
3	Mr. T. L. Dobson	Controller	Coal Commissioner's organisation.	Coal distribution in Assam on behalf of the Coal Commissioner.	Assam Railways & Trading Company, Ltd.	Rs. 400 per month as allowance.
4	Mr. A. Gommell	Adviser	DGMP Organisation	To advise on matters pertaining to importations of Rly. stores classifying and arranging priorities in deliveries of various outstanding orders for Rly. materials in UK; assistance in scrutiny, rationalisation and co-ordination of Railways requirements of imported stores. Their duties are to advise the Deptt. of Supply on all matters connected with the Industry, and to act as Liaison Officers between the Department and the various industries in matters relating to distribution of work to the manufacturing capacity available thus ensuring the most expeditious execution and delivery of all work entrusted to them. They also advise Govt. on points of a technical nature and tender advice as to the allocation of orders on different firms dealing with that particular industry.	Messrs. Healy & Gresham Ltd., Calcutta.	Honorarium Rs. 500 per month.
5	Mr. W. R. Watt	Honorary Adviser on Woollen Industries, Cawnpore.			1 New Egerton Woollen Mills, Dhariwall.	Nil
6	Mr. A. C. Inskip	Honorary Adviser on Tanning and Leather Industries, Cawnpore.			2 Cawnpore Woollen Mills, Cawnpore.	Nil
7	Mr. I. G. Kennedy	Honorary Adviser on Jute Supplies, Calcutta.			Messrs. Cooper Allen & Co., Cawnpore.	Nil
8	Mr. J. S. Quin	Honorary Adviser on Rope Supplies, Calcutta.			Messrs. Jardine Skinner & Co., Calcutta.	Nil
9	Mr. R. N. B. Brunt	Honorary Adviser on Petroleum Products, New Delhi.			1 Messrs. Macneill & Company.	Nil
10	Mr. C. Williamson	Honorary Adviser on Timber Supplies, Calcutta.			2 Messrs. Ganges Rope Company Ltd. Burmah-Shell Oil Storage and Distributing Co. of India Ltd.	Nil
11	Mr. Mohd. Amin	Honorary Adviser on Hides, Cawnpore.			Messrs. Gillanders Arbuthnot & Co., Calcutta.	Nil
12	Mr. R. N. Thomas	Honorary Adviser on Web Equipment, Calcutta.			Messrs. Mohd. Amin Brothers, Calcutta. Messrs. Molsod & Co., Ltd., Calcutta.	Nil

TRANSFERRED STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS†

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

NEW INDIA PLANNING GROUPS

688. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state the work the New India Planning Group included in his portfolio is doing?

(b) What is the annual expenditure incurred on it and how is it spent?

(c) What is the necessity for this group when a whole department for planning is functioning under a Member of the Executive Council?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The New India Planning Groups are non-official study circles where current and post-war social and economic problems are discussed. Factual material is supplied by the Central Organisation, but the Groups are at liberty to discuss any problem or material from any other source. The intention is to stimulate thought and not to control or influence it in favour of any policy, schemes or projects.

(b) A sum of Rs. 1,428 was spent during 1943-44 on the staff at the Centre. During the current year an expenditure of Rs. 73,100 is likely to be incurred. The Government do not bear the cost of individual groups.

(c) As will appear from the answer to part (a), the New India Planning Groups do not overlap the functions of the Planning and Development Department. The groups can discuss plans but they do not prepare any plans.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DEPARTMENTS

689. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the Departments of the Government of India which publish annual reports of their work?

(b) Which of them are published and available to the public?

(c) Which of them are circulated to Members of the Legislature?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

Statement showing Departments of the Government of India which Publish Annual Reports

Name of the Department	Nature of the report published	Whether available to the Public	Whether circulated to the Members of the Central Legislature
War Department	No annual report is published but a summary of important matters connected with the Indian Defence Services entitled "India's part in the year of War" is issued every year.	Yes	Yes. Copies are also placed in the Library of the Central Legislature.
Railway Department	Reports by the Railway Board on Indian Railway Volumes I & II.	Yes	Yes, but on request only. Copies are also placed in the Library of the Central Legislature.
Commonwealth Relations Department.	No annual report is published but an annual review of events relating to or affecting Indians in various parts of the British Empire is issued.	No; but copies are supplied to certain select individuals.	No, but copies are placed in the Library of the Central Legislature.

Note: Certain other Annual Reports previously published by Departments have been discontinued during the war in the interests of paper economy and to eliminate unessential work in war time.

†The question hour of the 6th March, 1945, having been eliminated owing to the adjournment of the House without transacting any business, the answers to starred questions for that date were, in pursuance of convention, laid on the table of the House today.—*Ed. of D.*

**SUPPLY OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ADVERTISEMENTS TO NEWSPAPERS IN
NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE**

690. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) who determines the question of the supply of Central Government advertisements to newspapers in the North-West Frontier Province;

(b) the names of newspapers in the North-West Frontier Province which receive the above advertisements; and

(c) whether these advertisements are supplied to the *Tarjuman-i-Sarhad*; if not, the reasons therefor.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The Departments and offices of the Government of India send advertisements direct to newspapers in all Provinces including the North-West Frontier Province, provided the newspapers selected are included in the list prepared in the Bureau of Public Information. This list is based on the commercial advantage to Government of placing its advertisements in a newspaper which is judged by its circulation.

(b) The following newspapers in the North-West Frontier Province are included in the list:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Frontier Mail.</i> | 6. <i>Hamdard-i-Sarhad.</i> |
| 2. <i>Khyber Mail.</i> | 7. <i>Kaisar Kiari.</i> |
| 3. <i>Afghan.</i> | 8. <i>Mujahid.</i> |
| 4. <i>Daily Sarhad.</i> | 9. <i>Paigham-i-Sarhad.</i> |
| 5. <i>Frontier Advocate.</i> | 10. <i>Prabhat.</i> |
| | 11. <i>Tarjuman-i-Sarhad.</i> |

(c) The *Tarjuman-i-Sarhad* receives display advertisements from the Department of Information and Broadcasting. Information regarding other Departments and offices is not readily available and the time and labour spent in collecting it will not be commensurate with the results.

RESTRICTIONS ON AGHA SAYED ZAMAN SHAH, AN AFGHAN SUBJECT

691. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Agha Sayed Zaman Shah, an Afghan subject, is now under restrictions under the Defence of India Rules in Peshawar;

(b) whether his monthly allowance is Rs. 75 *per mensem*;

(c) whether the number of his dependants is 11; and

(d) whether Government will increase his allowance to enable him and his family to live?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (d). Agha Sayed Zaman Shah, who is a British and not an Afghan Subject, was detained by order of the Government of the North-West Frontier Province to whom a copy of this question and answer is being sent.

SUBJECTING PRESS TELEGRAMS TO SCRUTINY OF PRESS ADVISER IN PESHAWAR

692. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) whether no press telegram can be transmitted from the Peshawar telegraph offices without being read and signed by the Provincial Press Adviser;

(b) whether press telegrams received in Peshawar are not delivered till they are passed by the Press Adviser; and

(c) whether the same practice obtains in other provinces; if not, why this discrimination in the North-West Frontier Province is?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) and (b). There is a censorship station in Peshawar which examines all inward and outward foreign press telegrams. As regards inland press telegrams the practice is that these are referred to the Provincial Press Adviser for advice before their transmission.

(c) Government of India have no information. They have not issued any directives on this subject.

PRESS ADVISORY BOARD IN NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

693. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please state:

(a) whether a Press Advisory Board has been set up in the North-West Frontier Province;

(b) whether similar Boards exist in other Provinces; and

(c) whether the President of the All-India Newspapers Conference demanded the setting up of a Press Advisory Board in the North-West Frontier Province; if so, the nature of the action taken thereon?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) Government are not aware whether any Press Advisory Board has been set up in the North-West Frontier Province.

(b) Provincial Press Advisory Committees exist in some of the other provinces. These have been constituted by the Provincial Governments concerned in consultation with the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference.

(c) Government have no information.

PERMISSION FOR MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD'S CORRESPONDENCE WITH HIS PUBLISHERS

694. *Mr. Abdul Qaiyum: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Maulana Abul Kalam Azad is permitted to enter into correspondence with his publishers about his book "Tarjuman-ul-Quran";

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that some people have pirated on the copyright of the Maulana Sahib, taking advantage of his incarceration; and

(d) the steps taken to prevent this practice?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by Sir Reginald Maxwell to question No. 443, put on the 15th March 1944, by Maulana Zafar Ali Khan.

(c) and (d). Government have no information.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION FOR AJMER-MERWARA

695. *Raj Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state whether Ajmer-Merwara finds any place in the Post-War Development and Reconstruction Plans of the Government of India?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, why are the claims of Ajmer-Merwara being neglected?

(c) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will Government inform the House what schemes for development and reconstruction in Ajmer-Merwara have been included in the plan, and what is their cost?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) Yes.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As in the case of the Provinces, a draft five year plan has been called for from the Chief Commissioner.

SECTIONS 111 TO 121 OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935

696. *Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) whether he has received any representations that sections 111 to 121 of the Government of India Act, 1935, are serious obstacles to the development of indigenous Indian companies which are necessary to make any future planning for the country a success;

(b) if so, whether he has considered these representations; and

(c) whether any representations have been made to His Majesty's Government to amend or delete these sections?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) to (c). I invite the Honourable Member's attention to my speech on Friday the 2nd March during the debate on Mr. Manu Subedar's resolution.

EXPENDITURE ON 'DENIAL POLICY' IN BENGAL

997. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

- (a) whether an investigation has been made on the expenditure connected with the Denial Policy in Bengal;
- (b) what has been the result of the investigation;
- (c) how much was spent on acquisition of boats, cycles, etc., under this policy;
- (d) how much was recovered by re-sale of these things; and
- (e) what action has been taken against delinquent Government servants and others?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Local audits have been conducted by the Accountant General, Bengal in the area concerned since 1943. In addition a special enquiry was conducted by an audit officer in considerable detail in the two districts where the expenditure was heaviest.

(b) The accounts in these two districts have now been prepared in a manner susceptible to audit. A number of irregularities, both in payment and in the maintaining of accounts, were pointed out by the investigating officer. A comprehensive report from the Bengal Government on "Denial" expenditure as a whole is expected shortly.

(c) I place a statement on the table indicating expenditure incurred by the Government of Bengal on the acquisition of boats, cycles, etc. The grand total is Rs. 1,86,62,866.

(d) Final accounts are not yet available, but so far Rs. 27,55,627-15-0 have been realised from the sale of boats, and a sum of Rs. 29,947-8-0 has been credited to Government from the resale to the public of bicycles in the districts of Midnapore, Bakarganj and Faridpur.

(e) The Bengal Government report that suitable action will be taken against any persons whom the enquiries arising out of the audit reports show to be chargeable with bad faith or culpable negligence in the execution of the "Denial Policy".

Statement showing the total expenditure incurred on acquisition of boats, cycles, etc., under the "Denial Policy."

Items of expenditure	1942-43	1943-44	First nine months of 1944-45	Total	Remarks
I.					
(i) Boats	1,05,91,361	11,32,368	5,08,485	1,22,32,214	
(ii) Cycles	5,55,694	5,707	27,667	5,99,068	
(iii) Motor vehicles	87,526	23,847	5,325	1,16,698	
(iv) Other conveyance	46,946	..	..	46,946	
(v) Elephants	1,67,501	75,574	2,501	2,45,576	
	(a)	(b)	(c)		(a) On account of removal of tents.
II. Other Miscellaneous	824	74,333	43,575	1,18,732	
III. Evacuation of Saw Mills.	52,678	8,938	..	61,616	(b) and (c) On account of payment of compensation to Burmah Oil Co. and Indo-Burma Petroleum Co. for removal of Kerosene oil, Petrol etc. from Chittagong.
IV. Staff	86,161	1,37,005	18,850	2,42,016	
Grand total	1,15,98,691	14,57,772	6,06,403	1,36,62,866	

FINANCIAL EFFECT OF INCREASE OF PAY OF BRITISH SOLDIERS IN INDIA

998. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

- (a) the financial effect of the recent increase of pay of British soldiers in India;

(b) whether the whole of the burden will be borne by Britain or will have to be shared by India also; and

(c) if so, what will be the financial effect on the Indian exchequer?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The amount will depend on the strength of British Troops in India from time to time which in its turn depends on the course taken by the war.

(b) and (c). The expenditure will be shared between India and His Majesty's Government in accordance with the principles of the financial settlement. It is estimated that the extra expenditure likely to be borne by Indian revenues on this account during 1944-45 is Rs. 5½ crores. The corresponding amount for 1945-46 depends on the strength of troops employed in India for local defence. Assuming that the maximum strength held to be necessary for that purpose were so employed throughout 1945-46 the amount would be Rs. 15½ crores.

LEASE-LEND AMOUNTS

699. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the total amount of Lease-Lend received from the U. S. A. during the official years 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45 (up to the 31st December, 1944)?

(b) What was the amount of reverse Lease-Lend during the same period?

(c) What was the outlay of Government on the reverse Lease-Lend and how much of it was on each kind of article?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to my Budget Speech which contains all the information on the subject that can be made public at this stage.

(c) The details asked for are not available.

APPLICATIONS FOR DOLLAR CREDITS

700. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state for what amount applications were made for dollars and what the amounts released during 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45 up to the 31st December, 1944, were?

(b) What was the value of the total exports from India for U. S. A. during these periods?

(c) What was the value of the reverse Lease-Lend given to the United States during these periods?

(d) Have Government received complaints that credits required for essential machineries, tools, stores and chemicals are not being given and Indian producers are suffering serious inconvenience?

(e) Is it a fact that even members of the delegation to the International Businessmen's Conference were not given adequate amount of dollars and were unable to reciprocate courtesies extended to them?

(f) Have Government reached any decision as to the release of India's share of the dollar pool to India?

(g) If so, what is the total amount to the credit of India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I regret that the information cannot be collected without an undue expenditure of time and labour.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the accounts relating to the seaborne Trade and Navigation of British India which are published every month.

(c) 1942-43	Rs. 12 crores
1943-44	Rs. 35 crores
1944-45 (estimated)	Rs. 76 crores

(d) Not so far as I am aware.

(e) No.

(f) and (g). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my last Budget Speech.

INSTRUCTIONS TO PROVINCES ^{RE} NATIONAL SAVINGS DRIVE

701. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether any fresh instructions were issued to the Provincial Governments regarding the National Savings Drive after the House adopted the adjournment motion moved by Maulvi Abdul Ghani on the 10th February, 1945; and

(b) if the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the Honourable Member proposes to place a copy of that circular on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) No. The matter is under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

APPLICATIONS FOR DOLLAR CREDITS

702. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) how many applications have been made for dollar credits during the current financial year, and what the total amount applied for is;

(b) how many of them have been accepted, and what the total amount involved is; and

(c) the difficulty in accommodating all the applications in full?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the replies given to part (b) of Mr. K. C. Neogy's starred question No. 589 on 1st March, 1945 and part (a) of Mr. Manu Subedar's starred question No. 700 today.

(c) Shortage of dollars.

ECONOMIC CONDITION OF INDIAN RESIDENTS IN LIBERATED BURMA

703. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the approximate number of Indian residents in those tracts of Burma which have already been liberated from enemy occupation, and what reports have been received from the military sources about their general economic condition, and what help is being rendered to them by the military authorities for their rehabilitation and general welfare?

(b) What is the type of *interim* administration that the military authorities have set up for these areas; and what part, if any, do the Indian personnel of the Indian Army play in such administration?

(c) What facilities are the Army authorities granting to representatives of Indian trading interests, with previous affiliations with Burma, in proceeding to these areas for the purpose of re-establishing their contracts, and have similar facilities been granted by the military authorities to representatives of non-Indian business interests?

(d) Is any publicity work being undertaken by the military authorities for the special benefit of Indians resident in Burma? Are these Indians being given adequate facilities for communicating with their relations and friends in India?

(e) Has any special financial allotment been made to the military authorities in Burma so as to enable them to promote welfare measures for the special benefit of the Indian population in liberated Burma?

Mr. G. M. Trivedi: (a), *first part* of (b), (c) and (e). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer given on the 5th March to starred question No. 667.

I may add that no specific reports have been received regarding Indians, but that such rehabilitation measures as are possible during the period of military administration have been, and will continue to be carried out for Indians to the same extent as for British and other allied subjects in Burma.

Second part of (b). 28 per cent. of the officers of the Civil Affairs Staff (Burma) are Indians.

(d) An Urdu newspaper prepared by the South East Asia Command is made available to the inhabitants of Burma, and leaflets which are dropped for the information of the public generally in Burma have been translated into Urdu. Until postal facilities for the public in general are restored in the re-occupied parts of Burma, normal means of communication between Indians in Burma and their friends and relatives in India are not available.

SAFEGUARDS AGAINST CARTELS

704. *Mr. Mann Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Planning and Development been drawn to the article "Profit before Patriotism" in the *Bombay Chronicle Weekly* of the 11th February, 1945?

(b) What is their considered policy to safeguard India against the evil of cartels mentioned therein?

The Honourable Sir Ardesbir Dalal: (a) I do not find the article referred to by the Honourable Member in the *Bombay Chronicle Weekly* of the 11th February.

(b) The problem of cartels and their control is under Government's consideration.

TACTICS TRAINING CENTRES AND STAFF COLLEGES

705. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if he is aware that the Tactics Training Centre and the Staff College are in different Provinces in India?

(b) if he is aware that it is desirable to have the Tactics Training Centre and the Staff College in the same place from the point of view of training army officers; and

(c) if the answer to (b) be in the affirmative whether he proposes to see that the Staff College at Quetta is transferred to Dehra Dun in view of the facts—

(i) that Dehra Dun is a Tactics Training Centre, and

(ii) that the wars hereafter will not only be open warfare or mountain-warfare but jungle-warfare and that there are all these facilities round-about Dehra Dun and not at Quetta?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The question of the future locations of the Staff College and Tactical Training Centre is already under consideration and I may assure the Honourable Member that all factors including those suggested by him, will be taken into account before a decision is reached.

SCARCITY OF WATER IN NOWGONG

706. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the War Secretary please state if he is aware that Nowgong, where Kitchner College is situated, suffers from scarcity of water supply and that in summer the scarcity of water is felt very much? Does he propose to see that this college is closed for the hot weather period; if not, what arrangements do Government propose to make to get over these difficulties and to continue the pre-cadet training during that period?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: Yes, Sir, but measures to overcome the difficulty are under consideration. As regards the second part, arrangements are being made to move the cadets and staff to a hill station for the hot months this summer.

ARRESTS FOR OFFENCES COMMITTED BY MEMBERS OF AMERICAN FORCES IN INDIA

707. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: (a) With reference to his replies to starred question No. 207 and connected supplementary questions on the 14th February, 1945, regarding Americans prosecuted for offences committed in India, will the Honourable the Home Member please state whether any general or special directions have been given by or under the authority of, the Central Government for the purpose of giving effect to any arrangements made by that Government with the Government of the United States of America in regard to the delivery to any U.S.A. authority of the custody of any member of the military or naval forces of U.S.A., who may be arrested by any one in British India in the exercise of the powers of arrest, etc., exercisable under the law in force in British India? If so what are these directions and arrangements?

(b) In how many cases during the period mentioned by him in his reply to the above question, were arrests made of U.S.A. military or naval personnel in the different Provinces in the exercise of powers of arrest, etc., exercisable under the law in force in British India, and in how many cases during the same period were arrests made in the different Provinces of such personnel otherwise than in the exercise of powers of arrest, etc., exercisable under the law in force in British India?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: With your permission, Sir, I will answer Questions Nos. 707 and 708 together.

I have made no attempt to collect the statistics asked for by the Honourable Member as there was no hope of our being able to do this in time to answer the question and I doubt whether the result would be at all accurate even if a longer time were allowed.

I understand, however, that the Honourable Member's object is to obtain information in order to satisfy himself that offenders are duly brought to Court. The answer to Sardar Mangal Singh's Question No. 207 of 14th February, 1945, to which the Honourable Member refers, showed that as regards the actual Court proceedings the result is satisfactory. From reports that have been received by the Government of India there appears to be no reason to suppose that the conduct of the investigation of complaints against members of the United States of America armed forces is any less satisfactory. But, in order that the Government of India may be kept in touch with the position and be in a position to give Honourable Members such information as they may require on the subject, Provincial Governments have been asked to submit half yearly reports on the points raised in these two questions and in Sardar Mangal Singh's Question.

No special procedure has been laid down to enable Provincial Governments to keep in touch with these matters but, there is, where necessary, close liaison between Provincial Governments and the United States of America Army authorities. This has been found to work satisfactorily in practice.

Nor have any general or special directions been issued by the Central Government regarding the delivery to United States of America authority of persons arrested by the police. No need for such directions has been felt. But Provincial Governments have been asked whether they consider that such directions should be issued.

CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS AGAINST MEMBERS OF AMERICAN FORCES IN INDIA

†708. *Mr. K. G. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state how many complaints came to the notice of the British Indian Police or other authorities in the different Provinces, during the period referred to in part (b) of the preceding question, in which charges of a criminal nature were made against U.S.A. military or naval personnel, and in how many such complaints references were made by the Police or other authorities concerned to the U.S.A. authorities, and with what result?

(b) How many complaints of a criminal character against U.S.A. military or naval personnel were received directly by U.S.A. authorities in the different Provinces at the instance of any Indian during the same period, and with what result?

(c) What procedure, if any, is permissible to be followed by, or on behalf of, the Central Government for the purpose of watching the course of any proceedings that may be taken by any U.S.A. authority in India against any U.S.A. military or naval personnel as a result of complaints referred to in (a) and (b) above?

(d) What reports, if any, have so far been received from the different Provincial Governments regarding the satisfactory character or otherwise of the disposal of the complaints referred to in (a) and (b) above?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 707.

ACCOUNTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR LEASE-LEND STORES.

709. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please refer to paragraph 14 on page 18 of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee for 1942-43, wherein it is stated "we are pleased to see that it has been found possible, at last after much effort, to put into force accounting arrangements for Lease-Lend stores, which have for so long presented varied and almost insuperable difficulties", and state:

(a) whether the position in the matter of accounting arrangements for Lease-Lend stores has improved since his last Budget Speech and that each item of Lend-Lease stores received in India but used by His Majesty's Government or by the Government of China is allocated to the respective Governments;

(b) whether he is now in a position to state that the accounts have now been completed so as to show the actual receipts of Lend-Lease goods by India for the exclusive use in India only; and

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, the actual or approximate amount of Lend-Lease debt which India has now incurred?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The answer is in the affirmative. I may explain that the principle adopted in allocating Lease-Lend Aid is that such allocation goes to the Government to which the financial benefit accrues. India thus incurs the obligations associated with Lease-Lend only in respect of supplies for which, but for Lease-Lend she would have had to pay.

(b) and (c): The allocation is made as a result of a retrospective review of the utilisation of Lease-Lend supplies received over a period. The results of such a review so far as can be made public are contained in my last Budget Speech.

RAW MATERIALS PROVIDED TO AMERICA ON MUTUAL AID

710. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state: (a) whether it will be possible for him to give details of the raw materials which are being provided to U.S.A. on the Mutual Aid basis, what those commodities are and the approximate tonnage of each commodity supplied till the close of the year 1944;

(b) whether he is in a position to state that all or some of these commodities are of vital importance to the United States of America and could not be secured by the U.S.A. Government except by payment of cash if the Government of India had not agreed to fall in line with the terms of Mutual Aid Pact;

(c) whether the United States of America continue to absorb the profits made on the sale of gold in this country notwithstanding the fact that the Mutual Aid arrangements now subsist between India and the U.S.A.; and

(d) whether the Government of India have taken steps to point out to the United States Government that, in view of the fact that a mutual aid arrangement now subsists between the two Governments, it is scarcely equitable for the United States to make a profit by the sale of a commodity that is scarce in India like gold?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) A statement showing the quantities of various raw materials which the Government of India have agreed to supply on R/A by the 31st December, 1944 is placed on the table. The actual tonnages shipped up to the close of the year 1944 are not yet known.

(b) Yes.

(c) Reciprocal Aid is granted in consideration of the receipt of lease-lend goods and services from the Government of the United States of America and is a matter entirely separate and distinct from the question of the sale of gold in India on behalf of the Government of the U. S. A. for the purpose of providing the rupees necessary to meet U. S. A. war expenditure in India. As I have explained on several occasions, the question of profit on the sale of gold does not arise in view of the purpose of these sales and the fact that the rise in prices of other commodities is greater than that of gold.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement showing the commodities and the quantities accepted for Reciprocal Aid during the period 1st April to 31st December, 1944

Serial No.	Commodity	Quantity.
1.	Manganese	1,00,000 tons
2.	Jute	82,500,000 lbs.
3.	Burlap	246,331,810 yds.
4.	Sugar bags	5,812,500 bags.
5.	Hides	All shipments on account of the United States Government during the period approximately 150,000 Pieces.
6.	Cashew Shell Liquid	2,900,000 lbs.
7.	Mica	6,344,500 lbs.
8.	Tea	5,163,000 lbs.
9.	Goat skins	4,250,000 skins.
10.	Bristles	240,000 lbs.
11.	Shallac	4,500,000 lbs.
12.	Steatite Block Talc	510 tons.
13.	Beryl	1,100 tons.
14.	Rubber	2,745 tons.
15.	Tantalite	2,500 lbs.
16.	Columbite	1,500 lbs.

LIABILITY FOR COST OF DOUBLING BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY
METRE-GAUGE LINES.

711. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please refer to his reply to question No. 808 of the 18th November, 1946, in regard to the liability for the cost of doubling the Bengal and Assam Railway metre-gauge lines, wherein he stated that allocation of the cost is under the consideration of the Government and state:

(a) whether this matter has now been finalised; and if so, what the actual cost is; and what proportion of it has been debited to His Majesty's Government;

(b) the basis on which the allocation has been made; and

(c) the total mileage of railway lines that have been doubled for military reasons, the total cost incurred thereby and the portion of the amount of which has been debited to His Majesty's Government?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). The whole of the capital outlay on this project is being borne by His Majesty's Government. Interest and depreciation as well as maintenance charges are borne by the Bengal and Assam Railway which charges the usual rates for all passenger and goods traffic handled.

(c) 59 miles of broad gauge lines and 169 miles of metre-gauge lines have been doubled, to meet military requirements. Final figures of cost are not yet available, but it is estimated that the capital outlay on this new track will be roughly Rs. 4 crores.

TEMPORARY OFFICIALS SERVING IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

712. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) the approximate total number of temporary officials of all kinds excluding inferior servants, at present serving in the Government of India;

(b) approximately how many of them have put in more than three years' service;

(c) in view of the comparatively long period of service put in by most of them if any special concessions in the matter of leave admissible to them have been sanctioned; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal in regard to absorption of these temporary employees in the permanent establishment or for otherwise providing employment for them in the post-war period?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b): The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justified by the result.

(c) Temporary Government servants in superior service with not less than one year's continuous service have been allowed as a special concession for the duration of war, leave on medical certificate at the rate of 15 days for every completed year of service. They are also entitled to casual leave on the same scale as permanent Government servants.

(d) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the Home Department *Pres Communiqués* of the 7th September, 1943, wherein provision has been made for the absorption of those temporary Government servants who are otherwise suitable and eligible for permanent appointment, in 80 per cent. of the vacancies filled on a temporary basis during the war.

SALE OF GOLD IN INDIA BY FOREIGN ADMINISTRATIONS

713. ***Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether there has been any change in the policy of the Government of India in regard to permitting Foreign Administrations to sell gold in this country on their own account;

(b) whether he is aware of an analogous situation existing in any other country in the world where, as in India, gold is a scarce commodity and foreign administrations are permitted to sell gold therein on their own account;

(c) whether he is aware of the conditions under which gold has been or is still being sold in Egypt by foreign Governments; and

(d) whether he is aware that in the case of Egypt a large share of the profits resulting out of the sale of such gold by foreign Governments has been absorbed by the Egyptian Treasury?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The position whereby gold is sold by the Reserve Bank of India on behalf of the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America to provide rupees towards meeting the war expenditure of those two countries in India has been explained by me on numerous occasions on the floor of this House and continues unchanged.

(b) to (d). The Government have no definite information. It is believed, however, that sales of gold on behalf of Allied Governments in other countries in circumstances similar to India are invariably made at local market rates.

CERTAIN LETTERS WRITTEN BY SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE, GORAKHPUR

714. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to a letter written by the Superintendent of Police of Gorakhpur to his family on September 7, 1942, recently published in the Press, in which the following words occur: "Trouton and his troops leave the day after tomorrow and the Suffolks relieve them. We shall be sorry to see Trouton and his men go. They have done us proud and have not hesitated to go beyond the scope of their duties to help us over various tight spots when we wanted them. I only hope the Suffolks will be as obliging"; and

(b) if Government have made enquiries as to how and when the military persons referred to went beyond their duties; and if any action was taken against them for doing so?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). The officer who wrote the letter referred to is now dead and so no inquiry can be made from him as to the exact meaning of what he wrote. But if the Honourable Member's suggestion is that the troops not only went beyond the scope of their duties but exceeded their powers, I can assure him that no such incident was brought to my notice, though I myself visited Gorakhpur during the time they were there.

HEALTH OF PANDIT BAL KRISHNA KAUL, A SECURITY PRISONER

715. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if Pandit Bal Krishna Kaul has been a security prisoner in the Central Jail of Ajmer since August 1942;

(b) if he has been in bad health all through and has lost much in weight;

(c) if the Civil Surgeon of Ajmer, Colonel Khareghat, had reported that Mr. Kaul was suffering from rarefaction of the collar bone and had prescribed Calcium injections and if he used to send Mr. Kaul for Ultra-Violet treatment to the Victoria Hospital;

(d) if Colonel Khareghat's successor has stopped all medical treatment of Mr. Kaul who is not allowed to keep a thermometer to mark his temperature or apply even Iodex to painful swellings on his body; and

(e) if Government propose to get Mr. Kaul examined by a Medical Board and arrange for his proper treatment in Ajmer or elsewhere?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes.

(b) No. On the contrary he has gained 7 lbs. in weight since 1st April, 1944.

(c) Yes; but the present Civil Surgeon does not agree that Mr. Kaul is or was suffering from rarefaction of the collar bone.

(d) The prisoner was given necessary treatment as a result of which he has gained 7 lbs. in weight. As regards the keeping of a thermometer and application of iodex to alleged swellings, this was not considered necessary.

(e) This does not appear to be necessary in view of the Superintendent's reports and the increasing weight of the security prisoner.

HEALTH OF PANDIT JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU AND PANDIT GOVIND BALLABH PANT

716. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant have been transferred from the Ahmednagar Fort to the Bareilly Central Jail;

(b) the condition of their health and what arrangements are being made for further medical treatment of Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant;

(c) if any other Members of the Working Committee have also been shifted from the Ahmednagar Fort; and, if so, who have been thus transferred and where they have been sent; and

(d) if Acharya Narendra Deva is still in the Ahmednagar Fort, and what the condition of his health is?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Arrangements are being made for the transfer of the Members of the Congress Working Committee from Ahmednagar to their respective Provinces, but I have so far received no information that any of the transfers has actually taken place. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Acharya Narendra Deo are in good health. As I have explained before, Pandit Pant may have to be operated on for hernia and if so, the necessary arrangements will be made after his return to his own Province. I should like to take this opportunity to correct a slight mistake which I made in answering question No. 106 on February 10th. I then said that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had had an attack of lumbago from which he had recovered. Pandit Nehru was actually suffering from slight neuritis in the Arm. It was Mr. H. K. Mehtab who had been suffering from lumbago. In both cases the ailments had disappeared before the end of January.

HYDARI MISSION

717. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state the grounds on which His Majesty's Government invited the Hydari Mission to England?

(b) What will be the principal functions of this Mission?

- (c) What are the terms of reference?
- (d) Why have Government excluded non-official Indian businessmen and bankers, or Indian non-official members of the Legislature, from this Mission?
- (e) Have Government asked the Hydari Mission not to make any commitments with regard to the future, which would be opposed by Indian public opinion, or which would embarrass future Governments?
- (f) What precautions have they asked the Hydari Mission to take with regard to the import of consumer goods, the production of which has expanded in India during the war?
- (g) Do Government propose to take an early opportunity of placing before the House the interim results of the efforts of this Mission in order to ascertain the views of the Assembly on the subject?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) to (d) and (g). I would refer the Honourable Member to my replies to his starred question No. 474 and supplementary questions thereon on the 22nd of February, 1945.

(e) The Hydari Mission has not been empowered to make any such commitments.

(f) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies, to part (b) of Mr. Neogy's starred question No. 308 on the 16th February, 1945.

PRIVILEGE OF MAKING SALT ENJOYED BY COASTAL VILLAGERS OF KAKATPUR THANA

718. *Pandit Nilakantha Das: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether it is a fact that coastal villagers of Kakatpur Thana in the Puri District (Orissa) were enjoying the privilege of making and using their own salt under "Gandhi-Irwin Pact"?

(b) Has the privilege been withheld because Government last year allowed duty paying co-operative societies to manufacture salt in some parts of this area and compelled all petty manufacturers of the area to pay duty on the salt manufactured under the "Gandhi-Irwin Pact" for home consumption?

(c) Do Government propose to allow the coastal villagers of the Thana to manufacture and use their own salt without paying duty as they used to do under "Gandhi-Irwin Pact"?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a), (b) and (c). The information asked for is not readily available: it is being collected and replies will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

719* and 720*. [Cancelled.]

DESIRABILITY OF SENDING DEPUTATIONS OF INDIAN SCIENTISTS, etc., TO RUSSIA

721. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state if it is not a fact that Soviet Central Asian Republicans are easily accessible in a considerably shorter time than U. K. and U. S. A.? If so, do Government propose to send deputations of Indian Scientists, Industrialists, Agriculturists, Legislators, etc., to Russia to find out the possibilities of gaining first hand knowledge and experience in the interest of rapid industrialisation of our country in the post-war reconstruction and also send batches of students for training?

The Honourable Sir Ardeahir Dalal: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The rest of the question therefore does not arise.

DESIRABILITY OF SENDING DEPUTATIONS OF INDIAN SCIENTISTS, etc., TO RUSSIA

722. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Planning and Development aware as stated in the *Hindu*, dated the 3rd February, 1945, that British Parliamentary Delegation recently visited Russia? If so, will Government get in touch with the Russian Government to allow deputations of Indian Scientists, Industrialists, Legislators, etc., to visit their country for the purpose of studying how Russia made marvellous achievements during the last two decades?

(b) Has the Honourable Member's attention been drawn to the book entitled *Soviet Asia—The Power Behind U.S.S.R.* By Mr. K. S. Hirlekar, Bombay,

which shows how illiterate and primitive Soviet Asia could reach that stage of being technologically educated and highly industrialised within a short period of only about fifteen years? Does the Honourable Member propose to take full advantage of the ways and means taken by the Soviet Russia to achieve that object for India in post-war reconstruction?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) Yes. But the object of the U. K. delegation is not known to Government. As regards the second part of the question, the suggestion will be borne in mind.

(b) I have seen the book referred to. The case the author makes out may be impressive, but it does not by any means follow that we can or should adopt all the methods used by Soviet Russia. In fact, some of them would be quite out of place in India.

723*. [Cancelled.]

TRANSFER OF PANDIT JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU AND PANDIT GOVIND BALLABH PANT TO BAREILLY JAIL

724. ***Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Home Member been drawn to the report which has been published in the issue of the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 17th February, 1945, that Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant have been transferred from Ahmednagar Fort to Bareilly Jail?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether the report is correct?

(c) Has Acharyya Narendra Dev also been transferred to U. P. Jail?

(d) Have the other Members of the Working Committee in Ahmednagar Fort been repatriated to their own Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member is referred to the answer I have just given to question No. 716.

SENIORITY OF PERSONS APPOINTED TO LISTED POSTS vis-a-vis MEMBERS OF I.C.S. AND I. P.

725. ***Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fasi-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the rule for determining the seniority of persons who are appointed to listed posts vis-a-vis members of the I.C.S. and I.P.?

(b) Is seniority determined according to the length of service?

(c) Is the same principle followed in the case of the Secretariat staff. (Assistant Secretaries and Superintendents)?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) The rules are contained in the Home Department Notification No. F. 38/30-Ests., dated the 12th February, 1930, as amended by the notification No. F. 169/36-Ests., dated the 22nd June, 1937, and in the Indian Police (Regulation of Seniority) Rules. A copy of each of the rules has been placed on the table of the House.

(b) Stated in brief the rule is that seniority is determined according to the length of continuous Service in a superior post.

(c) No Sir. The rules regulating the seniority of members of the Secretariat Staff are being placed on the table of the House in reply to the Honourable Member's question serial No. 726.

THE INDIAN POLICE (REGULATION OF SENIORITY) RULES.

(Made by the Secretary of State for India in Council under section 96B (2) of the Government of India Act, on the 10th December, 1929.)

(Corrected to 1st March, 1937.)

1. These Rules may be called the Indian Police (Regulation of Seniority) Rules.

2. In these Rules—

(i) the term "promoted officer" means an officer not belonging to the Indian Police before his promotion appointed substantively to a superior post in that service;

(ii) the term "recognised service" as applied to a promoted officer means service rendered after attaining the age of 23 in Government service.

3. The seniority of promoted officers is determined by the date of substantive appointment to a superior post.

4. An Indian Police officer substantively appointed to a superior post shall take rank in order of seniority above—

(a) any promoted officer who was promoted to a superior post or who began to officiate continuously in a superior post at a date subsequent to the date on which the Indian Police officer (or an officer junior to him in the Indian Police) began to officiate continuously in a superior post;

(b) any promoted officer whose recognised service is less than the total service of the Indian Police officer;

(c) any promoted officer who, though not falling within the description contained in paras.-(a) and (b) above, is junior to any person falling within either of those descriptions, and

(d) any Indian Police officer already substantively holding a superior post who is junior to him in the Indian Police.

5. For the purpose of these Rules an officer shall be treated as having officiated in a superior post during any period in respect of which the Local Government certify that he would have so officiated but for his absence on leave, his tenure of a special appointment or other exceptional circumstance.

6. Nothing in these Rules shall affect the seniority of any promoted officer who was appointed substantively to a superior post before the 9th day of March, 1927.

HOME DEPARTMENT NOTIFICATION No. F. 38/30-ESTS., DATED THE 12TH FEBRUARY, 1930, AS AMENDED BY HOME DEPARTMENT NOTIFICATION, No. F. 169/36-ESTS., DATED THE 22ND JUNE, 1937.

No. F. 38/30.—The following Resolution passed by the Secretary of State for India in Council is published for general information:—

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 96B of the Government of India Act, the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the majority of votes at a meeting of the Council of India held this 10th day of December, 1929, hereby makes the following Rules:—

1. These Rules may be called the Indian Civil Service (Regulation of Seniority) Rules.

2. In these Rules—

(i) the term "holder of a listed post" means an officer not belonging to the Indian Civil Service appointed substantively to a superior post in the Indian Civil Service cadre, whether by promotion from the Provincial Civil Service or by appointment from the legal profession;

(ii) the term "recognised service" as applied to a holder of a listed post means employment after attaining the age of 25 either in Government service or as an enrolled pleader, vakil, or advocate, as the case may be.

3. The seniority *inter se* of holders of listed posts on the executive or judicial side, as the case may be, is determined by the date of substantive appointment to a listed post.

4. An Indian Civil Service officer substantively appointed to superior post on the executive or judicial side, as the case may be, shall take rank in order of seniority on that side above—

(a) any holder of a listed post who began to serve continuously, whether in an officiating or substantive capacity, in a superior post on a date subsequent to the date on which the Indian Civil Service officer (or any officer junior to him in the Indian Civil Service) began to serve continuously in the manner aforesaid in a superior post;

(b) any holder of a listed post, whose recognised service is less than the total service of the Indian Civil Service officer;

(c) any holder of a listed post who, though not falling within the description contained in paragraphs (a) and (b) above is junior to any person falling within either of those descriptions, and

(d) any Indian Civil Service officer already substantively holding a superior post who is junior to him in the Indian Civil Service.

5. For the purpose of these Rules an officer shall be treated as having officiated in a superior post during any period in respect of which the Local Government certify that he would have so officiated but for his absence on leave, his tenure of a special appointment or other exceptional circumstance.

6. Nothing in these Rules shall affect the seniority of any holder of a listed post who was appointed substantively to a superior post in the Presidency of Bombay before the 6th day of October, 1925 and in other provinces before the 9th day of March, 1927.

H. G. HAIG,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. F. 38/30-Ests.

A copy forwarded to the Government of Madras/etc. for information and guidance.

By order,

U. C. STUART.

Asstt. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

DETERMINATION OF SENIORITY OF STAFF IN HOME AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS
726. *Khan Bahadur Shalikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state how seniority of gazetted and non-gazetted staff is determined in the Home Department in the various grades?

(b) How is such seniority determined in the Secretariat Departments, in general, and the War Organisation in particular?

(c) Is the seniority in the Secretariat Departments in the various grades determined by the date of appointment or promotion to the grade concerned in the Department concerned, or is it determined by the total length of service in whatever grade it may be and in whatever office it may have been rendered?

(d) Have the Home Department issued any general instructions for the fixation of seniority in the Secretariat Departments and the War Organisation? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to place a copy of such instructions on the table of the House? If not, does he propose to consider the issue of such instructions and place them on the table of the House in due course?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a), (c) and (d). A set of orders regulating the seniority of officers serving in the Departments of the Secretariat is placed on the table of the House.

(b) It is not understood what the Honourable Member means by "War Organisation". The above rules are observed generally by all other Departments of the Government of India.

Copy of a Memorandum No. 98/43-Ests., dated the 24th April, 1943, from Home Department, to All Departments of the Government of India.

SUBJECT:—Decision that the seniority of an officer in a particular grade is to be determined by the date of permanent appointment in that grade, and not by his total service in the Department.

The undersigned is directed to state that after consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission it has been decided that the seniority of an officer in a particular grade should be regulated in accordance with the following principles:—

(a) In the absence of special rules to the contrary, an officer's seniority in any grade should be determined by the date of his permanent appointment to that grade. If two officers are appointed permanently to a particular grade on the same day, then seniority in that grade should be determined with reference to the dates on which they began to officiate continuously in that grade.

(b) When seniority is taken into consideration for the purpose of promotion from any grade to a higher grade or post, it should be reckoned not with reference to total service in the Department or Office concerned but to length of service from the date of permanent appointment in the former grade only and in cases of the kind referred to in the second sentence of clause (a) from the date on which the officers concerned began to officiate continuously in that grade.

Copy of an Office Memorandum No. 20/1/40-Ests(S), dated the 14th May, 1940, from the Government of India, Home Department, New Delhi, to All Departments of the Government of India.

SUBJECT:—Determination of the relative seniority of candidates appointed by direct recruitment and by promotion.

Enquiries have not infrequently been received in this Department as to the relative seniority of candidates obtained by transfer from other Departments and offices or of those appointed as direct recruits *Vis-a-vis* persons already employed in the Department or office concerned. As it is desirable that there should be uniformity of practice in this matter, the following principles are laid down for the information and guidance of Departments and offices:—

(a) Except in cases covered by rule 19-A(a) (iii) (A) of the Government of India, Ministerial Establishment (Recruitment, Promotion and Seniority) Rules, the seniority of a candidate obtained by transfer from another Department or office shall be reckoned from the date of his joining the new Department or office.

(b) The seniority of a candidate appointed on probation shall be reckoned from the date of such appointment and not from the date of confirmation.

(c) The seniority of candidates appointed to newly created posts or vacancies which are filled partly by promotion or transfer and partly by direct recruitment (i.e., in the Assistant's grade, class I in the Secretariat and the First and the Second Divisions in attached offices) shall be determined according as, under the rules, the vacancy to be filled by direct recruitment or that to be filled by promotion occurred earlier. For instance, in a Department where two permanent or quasi-permanent vacancies occur, even simultaneously in the Assistant's grade and the first vacancy is in accordance with the cycle meant for a direct recruit, the direct recruit will rank in seniority above the departmental candidate (i.e., the candidates appointed by promotion or transfer) even though he joins his post after the departmental candidate has been promoted and confirmed.

2. These orders will apply to vacancies filled on and after the date of this office memorandum, the seniority of candidates appointed in vacancies filled before that date being determined by whatever orders were in force in the Department or office concerned. It is requested that these orders may kindly be communicated to the offices, if any, attached to the Finance Department/etc.

Copy of Office Memorandum No. 20/25/40-Ests(S), dated the 11th December, 1940, from the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department to all Departments of the Government of India and the Political Department.

SUBJECT:—*Determination of the seniority of candidates posted to permanent and quasi-permanent vacancies.*

The undersigned is directed to refer to the Home Department Office Memoranda No. 3/68/37-Ests(S), dated the 8th June and 17th October, 1936, and to say that in accordance with the system detailed therein, a number of candidates on the top of the Federal Public Service Commission examination list are reserved for nomination to permanent vacancies direct and nomination to quasi-permanent vacancies is started from below that position. As a result of this system, a candidate higher in the list has to wait until his turn for nomination to a permanent vacancy comes while a candidate junior to him in the list may get employment earlier on a quasi-permanent basis. If the higher candidate happens to be nominated to the same office after the lower candidate has been appointed, the former is naturally junior to the latter. It also happens sometimes that a candidate, who, on account of his rank, was reserved for a permanent vacancy is nominated to a quasi-permanent vacancy due to the non-occurrence of the expected number of permanent vacancies with the result that, under the circumstances explained above, he becomes junior to those lower in the list. The system of posting by which a candidate higher in the list is thus rendered junior to the one lower in that list for the purposes of promotion, etc., gives rise to genuine grievances, except of course, in the case of those appointed with a view to securing proper communal representation in the services. It has accordingly been decided that the following procedure should be observed in determining seniority of candidates of the category mentioned above.

(a) When a candidate higher in the list (taking also into account the effects of the communal roster) is appointed to a permanent vacancy in a Department or the office to which a lower candidate has already been appointed to a quasi-permanent vacancy, the former should, in all circumstances, be reckoned as senior to the latter.

(b) For the purposes of confirmation, the orders contained in paragraph 3 of the Home Department, Office Memorandum No. 20/20/39-Ests. (S), dated the 17th August, 1939, should apply, except in the following case.

When a candidate who, on account of his rank, was reserved for a permanent vacancy is nominated to a quasi-permanent vacancy owing to the non-occurrence of the expected number of permanent vacancies, he should be treated, for the purpose of seniority, as if he had been nominated to the first quasi-permanent vacancy that occurred in the Department or the office concerned after the list to which he belongs came into force, irrespective of the date of his nomination. This seniority should hold good both for the purpose of confirmation and promotion. When future nominations are made the necessary intimation on this point will be sent to the Department concerned.

2. The above decision should apply to candidates posted on the results of the examination held in December, 1937, and subsequent examinations.

HOME DEPARTMENT SECTION DEALING WITH COMMUNAL REPRESENTATIONS, etc., IN SECRETARIAT STAFF

727: *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fasi-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state which section of the Home Department deals with cases relating to communal representation and other service questions relating to the Secretariat staff?

(b) Is the officer-in-charge of the Section a Muslim? If not, are Government satisfied that he safeguards the interests of the minority communities which this Section of the Home Department is intended to safeguard?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of appointing a suitable Muslim officer for this post?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) These questions are dealt with in the Establishment (Special) Section of the Home Department.

(b) There are two officers immediately in charge of that section, namely, an Assistant Secretary and a Deputy Secretary. All important cases are submitted to the Secretary. It is not clear to which officer my Honourable friend refers, but none of these officers is a Muslim. I might, however, point out that the Home Department itself, and not any particular officer, is responsible for safeguarding the interests of the minority communities.

(c) The distribution of work amongst officers in a department must depend on departmental and administrative convenience. Government cannot accept the suggestion that particular class of work should be allocated only to an officer of a particular community.

HEALTH OF SETH GOVIND DAS

728. *Pandit Shambhuddayal Misra: (a) Is the Honourable the Home Member aware of the report which appeared in the various newspapers about the ill-health of Seth Govinddass, M.L.A., at present detained in Damoh Jail?

(b) Is it a fact that he is suffering from giddiness since a considerable time and now he remains unconscious for some hours?

(c) Is it a fact that he had applied to the Government of the Central Provinces to get him examined and treated by some specialist doctor?

(d) Is it a fact that his application was rejected?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the condition of his health and the action taken as regards his treatment?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (e). Seth Govindas is detained in Damoh Jail under the orders of the Provincial Government and not those of the Government of India, but the Provincial Government has supplied the following information regarding his health.

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

Although he has complained of occasional giddiness for the last eight months, his general health is quite satisfactory. His request that he should be treated by his family physician and family vaidya was refused; he receives proper medical treatment when required.

HEALTH OF MR. PREMJAS RAI OF DELHI

729. *Mr. Kallash Bihari Lal: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if one Mr. Premjas Rai of Delhi has been under detention under the orders of the Chief Commissioner of Delhi;

(b) if it is a fact that he was transferred from Delhi to Multan and from Multan to Ferozpur Jail where he is not keeping good health;

(c) if it is a fact that he is suffering from pain in his hand and also from stomach troubles due to which he is much reduced in weight and has been admitted in Hospital and X'rayed;

(d) if he has been X'rayed, the result of the X'ray examination; and

(e) whether his case has been examined periodically, and whether Government propose to release him in view of his present condition of health?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) to (d). I have asked for the information but it has so far not been received. I hope to be in a position to give all necessary information on 14th March when another question about Mr. Premjas Rai is to be answered.

(e) His case has been periodically reviewed, as are the cases of other detenus, but it is not proposed at present to release him.

RESTRICTIONS ON INTERVIEWS OF LALA SHANKAR LAL

730. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Lala Shankar Lal, a security prisoner now confined at Coonoor (Madras), is allowed to attend to his business through correspondence as well as through interviews with his relations;

(b) when the last interview was held and whether he was allowed to talk on business matters;

(c) whether he could not hold his interview with his relations as he was not allowed to talk on business matters; and

(d) whether Government propose to ask the Madras Government not to place such restrictions on his interviews?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a), (b) and (c). Mr. Shankar Lal is allowed to write and receive business letters but he is only allowed interviews with members of the family on personal and domestic matters. His last interview with a relation was in April, 1944.

(d) I am prepared to reconsider as a special case whether he may be allowed to discuss business affairs with his relations.

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

731. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if his attention has been drawn to correction slip No. 37 of November, 1936, purported to have been approved by the Secretary of State, empowering the Government of India to withhold in individual cases, the grant of service, disability, family pension and children's allowances or arrears thereof to Indian ranks?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will he please state the particular section of the particular Act of the Indian Legislature or of the British Parliament under which this power has been created and delegated to the Government of India?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) On the assumption that the Honourable member refers to correction slip No. 37 of November 1936 to Pension Regulations for the Army in India (1926 edition) the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The Honourable Member is under a misapprehension. The position is that the subject "military pensions" is not a matter of legislation; it falls entirely within the scope of the 'Royal Prerogative'. Such pensions are in the nature of gifts or bounties from the Crown, and may therefore be granted or withheld at pleasure.

DISMISSALS BY COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS GRANTED KING'S COMMISSIONS

732. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if his attention has been drawn to the fact that Viceroy's Commissioned Officers granted Commissions by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in the name of His Most Exalted and Illustrious Majesty the King Emperor of India have, while on 'active service' in the last war, been dismissed by orders of the Commander-in-Chief and the personal powers vested in the Commander-in-Chief under Section 18 of the Indian Army Act to dismiss the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, have been exercised non-judicially by someone other than the Commander-in-Chief while their total previous service commencing from the date of enlistment to the date of the aforesaid dismissal have been forfeited without express orders either from the Commander-in-Chief or from any judicial body and irrespective of the fact whether on the date of their dismissal they had completed the terms of their first original enlistment and were serving on extended terms of enlistment forced on them by the war and by war requirement in personnel, etc.?

(b) If the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative, will he please state the statutory authority to forfeit the total service of these officers with special reference to the limitations on the powers of the executive Government as to "forfeitures" and "stoppages" contained in Sections 51, 43 (h) of the Indian Army Act and with special reference to limitation on the powers to dismiss contained in Section 96-B of the Government of India Act 1919?

(c) Will he please state the authority of the Non-Judicial body to govern Viceroy's Commissioned Officers on 'Active Service' by departmental rules and regulations as distinct from the consolidated law enacted and contained in the Indian Army Act, 1911?

(d) What action does he propose to undo the injury caused by actions of the non-judicial body referred to in (a) and when, by what body and under what procedure is the said injury meant to be redressed and dealt with legally?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) I regret that after this lapse of time, it is not possible for me to verify the facts stated by the Honourable Member. If he would be so good as to quote a specific instance of the cases he has in mind, I shall be glad to make enquiries.

(b), (c) and (d). Do not arise at this stage in view of the answer to (a).

FINDINGS OF MEDICAL BOARDS ON INDIAN PERSONNEL IN RESPECT OF DISABILITIES CONTRACTED ON ACTIVE SERVICE

733. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if his attention has been drawn to the fact that findings of Medical Boards on Indian personnel in respect of disabilities contracted on 'Active Service' during the last war and in this war also certifying that the disabilities are not contracted on Field or Foreign service not attributable to Military Service and not aggravated by war service, have been looked upon by the Controller of Military Accounts and by higher authorities also as constituting a warrant sufficient to withhold not only the disability element of the Indian personnel's pension but also the special, and mustering-out pension customarily paid on discharge brought by circumstances beyond one's control and on reduction of establishment on public grounds?

(b) What action does he propose to take to redress the grievance referred to in (a)?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The Honourable Member is under a misapprehension. The facts are that when a disability is considered by the medical authorities to be not attributable to, nor aggravated by military service, the case is referred for the decision of the Government of India. If the medical board's finding is upheld, no disability pension or element is payable, but any service pension or gratuity admissible under the rules will be paid.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to (a) above.

ARMY RECRUITMENT

734. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the latest figures for army recruitment for both the combatant and non-combatant ranks, province and community-wise; and

(b) in case the above information cannot be given for security reasons, whether he proposes to give percentages of such recruitment, province-wise and community-wise?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). No statistics of recruitment by Provinces and communities of officers in the Indian Army are maintained at General Headquarters. As regards other ranks, I lay on the table a statement giving percentages of total enrolment, both combatant and non-combatant, by Provinces and communities, I regret that separate figures for combatants and non-combatants are not available.

STATEMENT

(a) Estimated percentage by Provinces of total Enrolment, Combatant and Non-Combatant, of Indian Army.

Madras	22.0
Bombay	6.1
Bengal	6.6
United Provinces	13.8
Punjab	29.9
Bihar	3.2
C. P. and Berar	1.9
Assam	0.8
N. W. F. P.	4.0
Sind	0.4
Orissa	0.6
Total	89.4

(b) Total Enrolment, Combatant and Non-Combatant, by main Communities.

	Percentage.
Hindus	47
Muslims	30
Sikhs	6
Gurkhas	5
Christians	5
Others	7
	100

785* and 786*. [Cancelled.]

TRANSFERRED UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS†
COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT

60. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above in all the Departments and Offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The collection of the information asked for would entail expenditure of time and labour which would hardly be justifiable in war-time.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

61. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above in all the Departments and Offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir Anveshvir Datal: I lay a statement on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

Planning and Development Department

Designation and scale of the post	Total Number of posts sanctioned	Number of Sikhs	Number of Christians	Number of Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians	Number of Parsis	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(i) Secretarial						
<i>Stenographers</i>						
Rs. 175—12½—375—15—450— 25—500 (Old)	} 11*					
Rs. 125—5—300 (New)						
<i>Assistants</i>						
Rs. 200—15—500 (Old)	} 16‡					} All posts are temporary.
Rs. 140—10—310—15—400 (New)				1		
Rs. 100—10—200 (Unified)						
*Includes 3 vacant posts.		‡Includes 3 vacant posts.				

†The question hour of the 6th March, 1945, having been eliminated, owing to the adjournment of the House without transacting any business, the answers to unstarred questions for that day were, in pursuance of convention, laid on the table of the House today.—Ed. of D.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

(i) Secretariat—contd.

Assistant-in-Charge

Pay of Assistant plus Rs. 40 special pay.	3	1	..	..	..	..
<i>Superintendents</i>						
Rs. 600—40—800 (Old)	2	..	..	..	..	..
Rs. 500—20—600 (New)		..	..	..	..	..
<i>Assistant Secretary</i>						
Rs. 1,000—50—1,250	2	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Under Secretary</i>						
Rs. 600—50—1,000 plus Rs. 300 special pay.	1	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Advisor on Mineral Development</i>						
Rs. 2,000	1	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Deputy Secretary</i>						
Senior scale of I.C.S., plus Rs. 400 special pay.	2	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Economist</i>						
Rs. 2,500	1	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Joint Secretary</i>						
Rs. 3,000	1	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Secretary</i>						
Rs. 4,000	1	..	..	..	..	..

All posts are temporary.

(ii) Office of the Industrial Advisor

<i>Stenographers</i>						
Rs. 125—5—300	5	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Assistants</i>						
Rs. 120—3—200—10—350 (Old.)	5	..	..	..	..	..
Rs. 100—10—200 (Unified)		..	..	..	..	..
<i>Superintendent</i>						
Rs. 400—20—500	1	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Investigators</i>						
Rs. 200—20—400	2	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Research Officer</i>						
Rs. 350—50—700	1	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Assistant Industrial Advisor</i>						
Rs. 600—50—900	4*	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Deputy Industrial Advisor</i>						
Rs. 1,200—50—1,500	5†	..	..	..	..	1
<i>Assistant to Industrial Advisor.</i>						
Rs. 1,000—50—1,250	1	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Industrial Advisor</i>						
Rs. 3,750	1	..	..	..	..	..

All posts are temporary.

*Includes 1 vacant post. † Includes 1 vacant post.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER WAR DEPARTMENT.

62. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of

Rs. 100 p. m. and above in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: The information required by the Honourable Member is not readily available, and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour which is unjustifiable in war-time.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER DEFENCE DEPARTMENT

63. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since the creation of the Defence Department in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: The information is not readily available, and I regret I am unable to undertake its collection, as it would involve expenditure of time and labour which is not justifiable in war-time.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER FINANCE DEPARTMENT

64. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) the number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information asked for is not readily available, and its collection would entail an expenditure of time and labour which would not be justifiable in the present war-time conditions.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF UNDER HOME DEPARTMENT

65. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state (a) the total number, and (b) number of Sikhs, (c) Christians, (d) Domiciled Europeans and Anglo-Indians, and (e) Parsis, appointed since 1934 in each grade of pay on (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary basis, carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p. m. and above in all the Departments and offices under him, giving the designations of Sikhs so appointed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The information is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time.

RECRUITS IN EMERGENCY CADRE OF INDIAN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS SERVICE

66. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of recruits in the Emergency Cadre of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service and the number of Sikhs; and

(b) if there is no Sikh the reason therefor?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) The total number of officers at present in the Emergency Cadre is 52. It so happens that no Sikh is included.

(b) Promotion to the Emergency Cadre from the subordinate gazetted and non-gazetted establishments in the Indian Audit Department is made by selection and purely on merit. If candidates qualified by ability and experience are forthcoming from the various communities, the Auditor General endeavours, other things being equal, to secure their reasonable representation.

TOLL COLLECTED BY POLICE FROM TONGAWALLAS AT CONNAUGHT PLACE, NEW DELHI

67. Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if he is aware that a person is appointed by the Police authorities in Delhi Province to collect a toll at the rate of annas two per trip from the

Tongawallas using the Tonga Stand at Connaught Place (near Odeon Cinema), New Delhi; if he is not aware, whether he proposes to make enquiries and acquaint himself with the facts; if not, why not; and

(b) how this collected money is disposed of?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No such appointment has been made or order issued by the police authorities concerned.

(b) Does not arise.

PROCEDURE ^{RE} WINDING UP OF ACCOUNT IN GOVERNMENT OR RAILWAY PROVIDENT FUND

68. Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that a member of the Government or Railway Provident Fund is entitled to wind up his account in that Fund while he is in service; and

(b) the rule or regulation in which the procedure for the winding up is prescribed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) A member of a Government Provident Fund or the Railway Provident Fund is not entitled to wind up his account in the Fund while still in service, save in the following special circumstances:

(i) when he has proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement, or, if he is employed in a vacation department is on leave preparatory to retirement combined with vacation; or

(ii) while on leave, has been permitted to retire or has been declared by a competent medical authority to be unfit for further service; and

(iii) in the case of the Defence Savings Provident Fund, on the expiry of twelve months from the date on which the present war is declared to have terminated.

(b) The rules concerning this special provision and the procedure for the winding-up are:

Rule 11 of the I. C. S. Provident Fund Rules, 1942;

Rule 15 of the I. C. S. (Non-European Members) Provident Fund Rules;

Rule 21 of the Secretary of State's Services (General Provident Fund) Rules;

Rules 29 and 30 of the General Provident Fund (Central Services) Rules;

Rules 23 and 24 of the Contributory Provident Fund Rules (India);

Rule 13 of the Defence Savings Provident Fund Rules; and

Rule 1385 in the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume 1.

CASES OF CHEATING, THEFT, ETC., REGISTERED IN POLICE STATIONS IN DELHI PROVINCE.

69. Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the number of cases of cheating, theft, dacoities and robbery registered in the Police Stations within Delhi Province during the preceding year together with the result of their disposals and the reasons for the increase or decrease over the preceding three years?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The attached statement shows the number of cases registered and decided during the year 1944.

The increase in cheating and theft cases is due to the remarkable increase in population, the importation of coolie labour and the general rise in the prices of foodstuffs and other necessities of life. Dacoities and robberies do not show any appreciable variation.

	Statement			
	Registered	Convicted	Acquitted	Untraced
Cheating	101	23	14	30
Theft	3,305	560	136	2,269
Dacoity	11	2	1	4
Robbery	69	19	14	31

*Parts (a) and (a) (iii) of the answer were subsequently amended in answer to unstarred question No. 89 for the 14th March, 1945.—Ed. of D.

SLACKNESS IN POLICE PATROLS IN DELHI

70. Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the roads, streets and lanes in the city of Delhi are required to be regularly patrolled by the Police Officials day and night;

(b) if it is a fact that now-a-days no police official is seen on duty at any time during the day in those places; and

(c) the reasons for not providing the citizens with the assistance of police officials at all times during day and night at those places?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

GRADE 'A' UNIFIED SCALE EXAMINATION IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

71. Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) what criterion has been adopted by the Auditor General in India for conducting the Grade A examination of the unified scale; and

(b) if it is a fact that the Auditor General in India has issued general instructions to all the Audit and Accounts Offices under him regarding that examination; if so, why those instructions are not followed only by the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, in conducting the said examination?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information asked for by the Honourable Member has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

GRADE 'A' UNIFIED SCALE EXAMINATION IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

72. Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the object of introducing Grade A examination for the unified scales in Audit and Accounts Offices?

THROWING OPEN DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS TO TYPISTS OF DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

73. Seth Sheodass Daga: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that typists in the office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi, are not allowed to sit in any departmental examinations and thus are debarred from bettering their lot; and

(b) whether he proposes to instruct the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, to throw open all the examinations to the typists?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information asked for by the Honourable Member has been called for, and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

THROWING OPEN GRADE 'A' UNIFIED SCALE EXAMINATION TO LOWER DIVISION CLERKS OF DEPUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

74. Seth Sheodass Daga: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that after five years continuous service a lower division clerk in the Deputy Accountant General's Office, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi, is allowed to sit in the S. A. S. Examination? If so, why is he not allowed to sit in the Grade A Examination of the unified scales which is of a lower standard?

ACCREDITED PRESS CORRESPONDENTS

75. Seth Sheodass Daga: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please lay on the table of the House a complete and up-to-date list of the Accredited Press Correspondents with the Government of India showing the class in which they are grouped?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 71.

‡For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 73.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: A list containing the required information is in the Library of the House, where it was placed in connection with Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam's question No. 33, dated the 1st March, 1945.

PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS OF PRESS CORRESPONDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

76. Seth Sheodass Daga: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting please place in the Library of the House a copy of the proceedings of the meetings of the Press Correspondents' Advisory Committee and its Sub-Committees held to date? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The minutes of meetings of the Press Correspondents' Advisory Committee and its Accreditation Sub-Committee are treated as secret. I am not prepared, therefore, to comply with the Honourable Member's request.

MEASURES FOR SUPPRESSION OF IMMORAL TRAFFIC IN DELHI

77. Seth Sheodass Daga: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the measures adopted by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, for the suppression of the trade of immoral traffic by pimps and touts, Turkish Baths, Hotels, etc., in Delhi, especially on the Roshanara Garden Road, Nicholson Road, Queens Road, Fatehpuri and Katra Baryan? If no measures have been taken, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply dated 22nd February, 1945, to Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan's starred question No. 476

PROVISION FOR S.A.S. PASSED CLERKS OF DUTY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, DELHI

78. Seth Sheodass Daga: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what action has been taken by the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Simla, to provide the recently S. A. S. passed clerks in the S. A. S. cadre of the office of the Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi?

ELIGIBILITY FOR GRADE 'C' UNIFIED SCALE OF TYPISTS IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES

79. Seth Sheodass Daga: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state if it is a fact that typists in all the Audit and Accounts Offices are eligible for "C" grade of the unified scales which has been recently introduced by Government?

(b) Is it a fact that a special pay of Rs. 10 *per mensem* is being given to the typists in all other Audit and Accounts Offices except the Posts and Telegraphs Audit and Accounts Offices? If so, why?

THE GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume General Discussion of the Budget.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the other day, when I got up in my seat to say
12 Noon. a few words about the sixth Budget of the Honourable the Finance Member, we were suddenly overtaken by the sudden and tragic shadow of death of our late colleague Mr. K. S. Gupta. I will therefore begin my speech and say what I started saying the other day. This sixth Budget of the Honourable the Finance Member can be styled only as a thesis on extortion, not only taxation. It is nothing but a thesis on extortion even for future. I say it is a thesis on extortion in many different ways, by taxation to the full, by levying an excise duty and by levying a tax on the poor man's tobacco and also on different forms of communication in India. That is why I style it a thesis on extortion. If this thesis were read in the University of Delhi, I

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 73.

[Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali]

am sure the Honourable the Finance Member would obtain a Degree and would be elevated to a Doctorate. The people of India, however, know that there is absolutely no relief for them and even I should say that the pensioners who are getting only Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 are getting absolutely no relief. They are getting no relief in the form of dearness allowance even and their families are allowed to starve without food. The Budget has been presented under such distressing conditions.

The Honourable the Finance Member had an opportunity to travel long distances on various missions connected with the finances of India. But what has been the result of all his trips? First of all he went to U. S. A. For what? For monetary and financial conference. What happened? His proposal was for an orderly liquidation of war finances. Again, he was forced for reasons which he knows well to go to England. He talked about India's sterling balances with the officials in England. There he was asked to furnish the required data for settlement of accounts. My submission is, he failed in both the two journeys and he brought nothing to the poor people of India, except taxes, famine, devastation and pestilence, and nothing more. Nothing has been settled. Issues were raised in both the two countries which he could not meet. Under these conditions I am constrained to say he has absolutely failed in his missions. If the Government of India missions are to fail in this way and expenses are incurred, what will happen to this country? If the Finance Member of the Government of India is not listened to by the U. S. A. and U. K. financial magnates, then I am afraid we will simply be in a quandary. We do not know what to do. Another beggarly mission has been sent under the guidance of Sir Akbar Hydari and I am afraid that will also fail. The mission was sent to find some sort of goods for India from England and in this way an attempt is being made to wipe out the sterling balances remaining to the credit of India. From our past experience, I can easily say what will happen. We will be simply told no accounts, no data. These are the conditions under which the poor people in India are labouring. What becomes of the boasted British trusteeship which the Government have always been telling us? What is the duty of a trustee? To protect the interest of those who are put under his care. Is this the way to protect? If that is the position, then I would appeal to the Government of India that the sooner this trusteeship is put an end to the better for us. The Finance Member went to England, there he discussed and he returned without getting any fruitful result. At the same time the Honourable the Finance Member has not explained 124 crores increase in the total of India's reciprocal aid in 1945-46 to U. K. May I ask if India is a big lease-lend supplier of materials at some contractual rate? I submit this has not been properly explained. These are the conditions under which we labour.

Sir, I have been told by my Party Secretary to curtail my speech to ten minutes duration, although 15 minutes have been allowed. I am quite prepared to abide by the wish of our Secretary. I will say a few words about the grow more food campaign. We know the condition in which the poor agriculturists are placed in India. This grow more food campaign is a great hoax. We all know how *taccavi* loans were distributed in India and how they were realised. Our Food Member is always solicitous of inviting some suggestions from this side, some constructive schemes for increasing the food output of the country. I am prepared to say a few words on that. To feed India six crores tons of cereals and one crore and two hundred lakhs tons of pulses are necessary, and the maximum potentiality of the cultivated land has been reached. Therefore, my question is, what have Government done about that? If intensification of irrigation were taken up then increased yield per acre of different crops would be possible. If plant food besides ordinary manure on a scientific basis were taken up then increase in cereals, vegetables and sugar-cane would result. I am stating this from the experience that I have myself as a cultivator. The existing yield of wheat is 675 pounds per acre and if good and increased seed were provided more yield of wheat would result. Owing

to war conditions the supply of bullocks has become an impossibility and very costly. The slaughter of animals has devastated and ruined not only land but also the health of the people simply because ghee and the products of milk are not to be found very easily, even as much as may be needed to feed the children of India.

Now, Sir, a radical change in the system of land tenure and holdings was necessary and was not done. The cultivator can produce two blades instead of one by the means which I have just described. If these means are not adopted the result will be that India will not be able to produce what is needed.

Sir Henry Richardson (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, last Wednesday we heard the Finance Member give the House the sixth and last account of his stewardship. Happily he is to be with us here in this House a few weeks longer before he leaves India, so it is not yet the time for anything in the way of a valedictory pronouncement from me on behalf of my Party. But before passing on to my observations on the Budget I would like to say that once again we are indebted to Sir Jeremy Raisman for a clear and lucid exposition of a complicated set of accounts and for his straightforward explanation of the financial and economic issues before the country. The Honourable the Finance Member does not need me to defend him against his critics. But I would like to say before I go any further, how strongly I and, I believe the vast majority of the Members of this House, deplore the personal attack which was made upon him the day before yesterday and the language that was employed for the purpose. Now, Sir, time and repetition has made the main outlines of the war budgets familiar to most of us. Heavy taxation, a swelling volume of currency controls, a high price level and a complete change in the balance of India's overseas indebtedness are the chief landmarks of the new financial regime under which we live. This year I am glad to note that no new disturbance of the financial structure is reported by the Honourable the Finance Member and that on the contrary there are some signs that stability is being attained. New taxation is of a moderate order, the inflationary gap is no wider but on the contrary appears to be firmly held, controls and price levels are working more effectively and a more liberal imports policy may be expected to mitigate somewhat the rather artificial character of our overseas trading account. Whatever the necessity, the almost completely closed economy in which we have been living for the last few years cannot be maintained to the end of time, nor is it in India's best interests that it should. All these developments lead me, Sir, to think that we are now reaching a stage where some of the worst distortions of war finance can be straightened out, and the Honourable the Finance Member and his staff are entitled to our thanks for the vigilance which they have brought to our affairs during the past twelve months.

I was naturally glad, as I have already said, that new taxation is of a moderate order, but I was particularly glad to hear the Honourable the Finance Member's allusion to Government's determination to devote more attention to the subject of tax evasion and the enforcement of existing obligations, because this is a subject to which my Party has always attached the greatest importance and we have regularly advocated the more stringent application of the powers which Government possess to deal with this major social evil. As I listened to the Honourable the Finance Member, I felt, although he did not say so, that there was a direct connection between his remarks upon this subject and his announcement in the early part of his speech that taxes on income had suffered a deterioration of about Rs. 9 crores—a figure which a mere miscalculation in budgeting would hardly explain. So, Sir, we welcome Government's determination to wage new war against evasion belated and overdue as this decision is, for I recall that my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir in one of his speeches a year ago declared that the "pay-as-you-go scheme" which we were then considering should be deferred until arrears of tax were collected. I did not follow him all the way in that contention, but I thought then, as I think now, that there is very little of justice in a policy which exacts the last anna from the honest taxpayer, and even makes him pay in advance (for that

[Sir Henry Richardson.]

is what pay-as-you-go in its first year meant) whilst leaving the dishonest citizen to dodge his way through the loopholes created by administrative shortcomings. I must say however that we sincerely hope that such steps as are to be taken, will not place further inconvenience upon the honest taxpayer. Then, Sir, there is another kind of arrears of taxation in which no real guilt attaches to the assessee. I refer to the arrears created by the delays and circumlocutions of the assessing authority. The Honourable the Finance Member takes credit, and probably justifiably so, for the fact that in the last year E. P. T. assessments have been speeded up and some of the back-log worked off. I congratulate him; but I am also bound to tell him that much remains to be done. For it is within my personal knowledge, and it is the very general experience of my constituents that there are still considerable and, we believe unnecessary, delays in final assessments. There are many companies of all kinds who would be only too glad to get outstanding tax obligations off the liabilities side of their Balance Sheets and to get rid of money which is sterile and in reserve against tax claims yet to be determined. In this matter the Honourable Member's department must help itself with more realism and vigour, for we in this House cannot assist him, except by good advice and exhortation. If a real drive is now embarked upon and arrears of assessment are cleared up, it is obvious that the revenues will benefit accordingly, and certainly industrial finance will be the healthier.

I have not hitherto suspected our esteemed Finance Member of being a Socialist, though I suppose in these days of astonishing changes we are all of us coming under the influence of new creeds and that as to personal beliefs very few of us stand precisely where we stood five or six years ago. Nonetheless I confess I was very surprised to listen to the Honourable Member's suggestion, towards the end of his speech last Wednesday, that the State might find it necessary to nationalise certain industries in order to have at its disposal additional sources of income. Coming from the quarter it did, I am obliged to say this sounded like very dangerous heresy, for the meaning of the Honourable Member's remarks, if I understood them aright, is something very different to the usual advocacy of State ownership of public utility enterprises. From many points of view the numerous excursions of the State into trade and industry during the war have not enhanced the reputation of the State in these difficult arts of commerce. There are no grounds for thinking that Government in India is any better qualified than any other government for undertaking State ownership and trading, and I feel I must utter a warning against entertaining the idea that somehow other Governments of the future will be able to swell their revenues by profits earned as the result of direct participation in the country's trade. Here I should like, if I may, to quote from a penetrating examination of the merits of State ownership which I recently came across. The author, a Mr. Wyndham, denies that the question can be answered by reference to the experience of totalitarian war, for he points that the conditions that it imposes on its victims are not compatible with the freedoms of peace. The concentration of production upon one over-mastering purpose and for one supreme consumer could be repeated in peace what his consumption should be. But freedom of choice in consumption is one of the prized elements of Western civilization, and in the absence of a purpose only were the State to assume the right of deciding for the individual as well defined and as universally accepted as the defence of the country, in war, it would hardly be abandoned. The profit motive has hitherto been the test that industry was satisfying human needs, and the test also of its efficiency in doing so. Losses incurred in joint stock companies are absorbed by the shareholders in a loss of dividends. Public corporations have no such cushion and their Directors are consequently tempted to play for safety. These criticisms apply with even greater force to government control over another class of industries. What planning or development board would have pioneered cheap motor cars, refrigerators or radios, asks Mr. Wyndham? And are great

concerns built up by their founder's genius to be turned into public corporations, or to have State-nominated chairman imposed on them, because their Directors have succeeded in developing them into large-scale basic industries? What encouragement would this be to enterprise and imagination? The advocates of private enterprise therefore claim that industry should be left to regularize its own expansionist policy, the Government confining its actions to indirectly fostering regularity by its monetary, budgetary and taxation policies.

I commend those remarks not only to the Honourable the Finance Member, but also to his colleague the Honourable Member for Planning and Development. And that, Sir, brings me on to the subject of post-war planning, about which I am constrained to ask Government a straight question. Let me say, Sir, that within its proper limits we all welcome planning. Modern life has become so complex that we cannot do without some kind of overall direction. The undiluted *laissez-faire* of the nineteenth century will no longer do. But I should like to know whether it is Government's intention to surrender its collective judgment to the new Department of Planning and Development and whether in fact that Department is to be the supreme policy-making limb of the Government of India, or whether, as I think they should be, its activities are to be confined to investigation and target making? I hope that either now, or later on, an answer will be given to this important question.

At a later stage members of my Party will have something to say to the House on the subject of retrenchment of expenditure. Meanwhile, I will only say that it is a subject which is very much in our mind and one in which we think that even now, under war conditions, there is considerable scope for Government to reduce unnecessary expenditure and waste, which we do not believe are inseparable from the conduct of war on its present scale. The ever enlarging activities of Government in all its branches are a development which we consider require the closest scrutiny, and I was disappointed that the Finance Member's speech made no reference to the idea of economy and retrenchment. "Peace, retrenchment and reform" was the slogan of a once great British political party. In our view there is certainly a case for seeing how much retrenchment can be effected in these days of big figures, big deficits, and ambitious spending. I commend the general principle to the Honourable the Finance Member's earnest consideration.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): The outstanding feature of the present Budget is the provision of defence expenditure on a colossal scale. In 1943-44 the defence expenditure amounted to no less a figure than Rs. 368 crores on revenue account and Rs. 39½ crores on capital account. In the current year defence expenditure amounts to Rs. 397 crores on revenue account and 59½ crores on capital account; while for the ensuing year defence expenditure is estimated at Rs. 394 crores on revenue account and nearly Rs. 18 crores on capital account. Now, Sir, the total war expenditure amounts to Rs. 407 crores in the past year, Rs. 456 crores in the current year and Rs. 412 crores for the ensuing year.

Sir, in a rich country like the United States of America or the United Kingdom these amounts may appear to be very small, but for a poor country like India these figures are staggering. I must also point out that, in addition to these staggering figures of defence expenditure, there are certain other items which may be regarded as concealed items of war expenditure. They are with regard to transport arrangements, the construction of railway lines for defence purposes, and so forth.

Not only are these amounts very large in themselves, but there is a tendency in defence expenditure to exceed the Budget estimates by large figures. We find that in 1943-44 defence expenditure exceeded the estimates by as much as 96 crores and in the current year it is expected that the defence expenditure will exceed the revised estimates by 120 crores.

These figures tell their own tale, and if we compare the present defence expenditure with the pre-war normal expenditure on defence, what do we find? In 1938-39 defence expenditure amounted to only 36 crores. In the pre-war

[Dr. P. N. Banerjee.]

years we from this side of the House always complained that the defence expenditure of the country was placed at a high level and we urged the reduction of such expenditure. Now, Sir, we find that the Defence expenditure is ten or eleven times as much as it was in 1938-39.

Again, how do you account for the excess expenditure during the last year and the current year over the estimates? The Honourable the Finance Member says that the Japanese invasion was the principal cause for this excess expenditure. If that were the real cause, then at least in the ensuing year there should be a substantial reduction. But we find that the provision of defence expenditure on revenue account for the coming year is almost as much as that of the current year.

Let us take the Honourable the Finance Member at his word. Let us agree for the sake of argument that this expenditure was due mainly to the Japanese invasion. My Honourable friend the Finance Member says that the price which we paid to protect ourselves from the Japanese invader was a very small one. In this connection the question may be asked, Why did Japan invade India? Was there any grudge harboured by Japan against India? Was there any separate quarrel between India and Japan apart from the fact that India is associated with the United Nations in the prosecution of the war against Japan? No, nothing of the kind. Japan invaded India, because India has from the very beginning of the war been regarded as the most important base, the vital base, of the war effort of the United Nations in South Eastern Asia.

Mr. Jammadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Why did Japan invade China?

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: In recent times India has become what has been described in a recent pamphlet issued by the Government and known as "India's Part in the Fifth year of the War" as the spring-board of the Eastern campaign. It is evident that it was with the object of destroying the vital base, it was with the object of weakening or damaging the spring-board that India was attacked by Japan. If that be so, why should India bear the whole cost of the burden of repelling Japan? My Honourable friend the Finance Member says that, in accordance with the financial settlement of 1940, as the operations took place within the borders of India, India has to pay. Is there much sense in that? Has a particular settlement to depend for its functioning on the latitude and longitude of the places where the operations take place? Or are not the different nations expected to pay according to certain fair standards? India has surely derived some benefit, perhaps a great benefit, from the repelling of the Japanese invasion; but did not the other nations derive any benefit? Did not the United Kingdom or the United States of America derive any benefit? What would have happened to the war effort of the United Nations if India had been conquered by the Japanese? Would not the United Nations have suffered? It is a strange argument to put forward that because the operations took place within such and such latitudes and such and such longitudes, therefore India must bear the whole burden of those operations.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): She did not bear the whole burden of them.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Then, what portion of the burden?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The portion which relates to the troops that she provided and the materials that she provided.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Is that a proper criterion? What should be the proper criterion for allocating the cost of the war between the different participants in the war? Certainly, this was not the proper criterion.

My Honourable friend the Finance Member told us that this Financial Settlement was the target of attacks from different quarters and from opposite points of view. True. I know that a deliberate attempt was made in Britain to have the Financial Settlement modified in favour of Britain, and I have no

hesitation in saying that the Finance Member put up a very stiff fight in order to defeat the designs of those reactionaries. I have a high regard for the honesty and integrity of the Honourable the Finance Member; I have watched his activities as a Finance Member both in this House and on the Committees. But I must say that, while he did a great deal to prevent the Financial Settlement from being modified against us, in a manner which would have proved prejudicial to India,—his attempts did not bear full fruit. He was unable to go very far and have the financial Settlement modified and placed on a proper and reasonable basis:

Sir is it a fair basis,—a basis which is reasonable, just and equitable,—on which the Financial Settlement stands now? It is fair, is it just, that war expenditure should be allocated according to latitude and longitude? No. I am not one of those who say that this war is not our war, and that we should not contribute to the war effort. On the other hand, I think that India has made a good contribution,—more than its equitable share of contribution,—to the war effort, both directly and indirectly. India has contributed in men, material and money,—but the monetary sacrifice should not be pushed too far. That is what I urge. Sir, the consequences of this war on the people of India have been most disastrous. There has been a devastating famine in Bengal, there have been scarcities in many parts of India, and the aftermath of war will perhaps entail further difficulties all over the country. Still, I am prepared to make a proper contribution to the war effort in future.

Now, what should be the criterion for judging India's share? The Honourable Finance Member himself is not satisfied with the existing financial settlement, because towards the end of his speech he says it has not been possible to find out a criterion which may be regarded as just and proper. But I assert that it is possible to find out a criterion which is both just and proper, and that criterion is ability to pay. Ability to pay has been universally regarded throughout the civilised world as a fundamental principle in taxation. If you extend this principle to the allocation of the cost of war, we shall get a satisfactory basis for the solution of our difficulty. President Roosevelt said more than once that, when different nations are associated in a common effort, the share of the burden should be distributed according to each nation's capacity to bear the burden. That I urge as a proper criterion. If you accept this criterion there will be no grumbling on our part to submit to further war expenditure.

Now, Sir, if we look at the budgets of the Government of India during the last six years, what do we find? We find that taxation has been imposed on no less than ten occasions, and that the burden of this taxation has fallen on all classes of the people including the poorest. We also find that a heavy debt has been incurred, and that the burden of this also has fallen not only on the richest, but also on the poorest, classes of the population.

So far as the taxation proposals in the present Budget are concerned, I have no quarrel with the Honourable the Finance Member. I object, not to the method of taxation, but to the purpose of this taxation. As a matter of fact, I appreciate his decision to grant allowances for depreciation and for research in respect of income-tax. I welcome his decision to accept the principle of discrimination between earned incomes and unearned incomes, and I support him in his effort to prevent evasion of taxation. He has been very moderate in imposing further taxes in this Budget. But why? Because he feels that the limit of the taxable capacity of the people has been reached, and he looks to the other alternative, namely, borrowing.

Now, with regard to borrowing I should like to place certain fundamental facts before this House. In the first place, borrowing places a greater burden on the community than taxation. In the second place, borrowing places a greater burden on the poorer classes as compared to the richer classes. In the third place, borrowing transfers the burden from the present generation to the future generations, which is both immoral and economically undesirable. Lastly, Sir, we should remember that this Legislature has no say in the matter

[Dr. P. N. Banerjee.]

of borrowing. Considering these facts with regard to borrowing, I ask this House,—Is it desirable that a further large sum should be borrowed in order to meet the deficit in the coming year? With regard to the debt position, my Honourable friend himself points out that the loans amount to Rs. 833 crores and calls this an impressive figure. I say it is a staggering figure.

I ask this House to speak with one voice and unanimously urge that no further burdens shall be placed on the future generations of the country among whom will be included the starving millions of India.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions; Non-Muhammadian Rural): It is with a heavy heart and painful recollection of the tragic incident of that day that I rise in my seat to continue the loyal work for which my friend on my left died at his post of honour. The Leader of the European Group has bestowed much praise on the Finance Member because they all belong to the same body of exploiters, one through profits from commerce and the other through taxation. They may have mutual praise and mutual dinners, but we on this side cannot praise the Honourable the Finance Member. We hoped that after he goes home on retirement the white man's burden will descend on an Indian, but even that hope has been shattered. Nobody in this House or in the country outside believes in the promises of this Government, because this Government has not only deceived man, but has deceived even God by forcing the hands of the clock by an hour so much so that when God strikes 6 this Government strikes 7. And what was the reason put forward? It was for saving coal, but no one knows how coal is saved. Even the Honourable Member could not explain. Nobody believes in the budgeting system of this Government. This is a War Lords budget. The expenditure is enormous, we can not even imagine it. From Rs. 46 crores in normal times he has gone up to Rs. 400 crores and they are increasing taxes and borrowing every day.

This war is not of our seeking. We were never consulted and the leaders were never consulted; the country was never consulted. The war is not for the liberation of India. If it were for the liberation of India, I would give everything—every pie, our heads and our souls and our hearts. But it is not of our seeking and no announcement is made as to what would be the destiny of India after the war or during the war. But we are asked to pay and pay and pay more. So, if it had been for our liberation we would be ready to pay for it; but as it is for the perpetuation of our slavery and of imperial interests, so this bill must be paid by the Allies who brought in the war—by Messrs. Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill. These are the three big allies who are fighting this war for power and for influence over certain countries and certain parts of the world—America will have influence here and Britain will have influence there and Russia will have influence over certain other countries; these are the three big powers who are fighting; they have brought on the war and they must pay the bill, not India. We are practically exhausted. Our attitude really towards this war is in the language of the poet:

...*Tare bismilla katil tamasha hambhi dekhenge,*

Balase jaa jagei tamasha hambhi dekhenge.

An Honourable Member: Translate.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: We have even exhausted our poetry; it cannot be translated; it is murdered if it is translated. We have exhausted on this side of the House all our arguments; while on the other side the Finance Member has exhausted all sources of taxation—snatching at tobacco and betel-nuts and E. P. T., income-tax, sugar, matches, excise—snatching this and that and everything and now he comes to the last thing—death duties which they call in India, *Kafan khasote* Bill (Coffin Snatching Bill) that is that thing which remains last, and whether that duty will have to be paid by India or not, will be known hereafter. To our National Government we will pay everything; we will give our blood, our honour, our soul—everything we will give to

our National Government. But to this Government, composed as it is, we want it to die unlamented and unsung—we will never give anything to this Government. Snatch they may, take they may as tribute: they may snatch everything, by D. I. R. or under any orders, under the Indian Penal Code—they can snatch everything from us as they are doing; but we are not paying anything willingly.

Now, Sir, we cannot touch this War Department—we cannot touch anything: we can only touch the pay of a few clerks. This Viceroy is like Brahma the *chatur-mukha* Brahma of the Hindu Puranas: one title is Viceroy, the other is the Crown Representative; the third is Governor General at his discretion and the fourth is Governor General in Council. Like Brahma, he is spending Indian money on all sides under one name or another. We cannot touch this Crown representative's budget who spends 2 crores without asking us. The Political Department and the External Affairs Department are kept in *Purda*—we do not know what happens there. There is a political deadlock among the ruling princes—we cannot discuss it here—we do not know anything of what happens. Probably Mr. Amery may give a short summary in England; but we here are denied that courtesy even, and yet we have to pay the Bill. Expenditure on civil administration has also increased, and not only on the military side, but on the civil side from 11 to about 28 crores. Every department that we read in this labyrinth of figures—in small type and big type—the big black type predominates here indicating increase. The nation building departments show a small increase—24 lakhs to 53 lakhs in education; health has increased from 22 to 37 lakhs; but the police budget has increased from 29 lakhs to 291 lakhs in these centrally administered areas which consist of small and petty chief commissionerships and Baluchistan. Who can say that there is no police *raj* and who can deny the statement in the United States of Mrs. Vijay Lakshmi Pandit that India is a vast concentration camp? In my own province the police expenditure while I was an M. L. C. used to be about 1½ crores, while it is about 4 crores now. Rs. 17,000 was distributed to the jail officials recently for suppressing that imaginary rebellion of August 1942; and five lakhs of rupees were distributed to the police by the present Home Member when he was the Chief Secretary in the United Provinces—Rs. 5 lakhs were distributed as *Inam* to the police. Look at this lavish expenditure.

As regards Broadcasting—the Honourable Member is not in his seat—the expenditure has increased phenomenally from 27 lakhs in 1938-39 to 94 lakhs in this year. In spite of our protests against the policy of broadcasting, the thing is increasing and increasing. What is the use of increasing your expenditure on dancing girls and paying them enormous honoraria when you have a war budget to pay? What is the use of bringing those musicians, like the Moghuls of old, and having dancing there? That expenditure ought to be curtailed. You can broadcast news, but not these dances and debauchery—in all fairness you must not broadcast all these things. It is not desirable in any circumstances. The radio policy has neither pleased the Hindi or the Urdu public, the policy requires revision.

The Honourable the Finance Member has bestowed praise on the food and textile departments. The man in the street does not approve of your controls which have practically failed. Even we, M.L.A.'s, have to bring our fuel from Ajmer Gate and our rations from a small shop at Asoka Road, where the rations are dirty. When we people supposed to be in the upper strata of life have to experience this difficulty, what about the poor man in the street? Everything has gone into the black market. We cannot get cloth unless we pay a heavy price in the black market. That is what is happening. The moment these controls are abolished, India will become better. Sugar we are given at 5 *chittaks* a week and that is very meagre quota for all.

As regards Posts and Telegraphs: that is the only useful department and they are very honest and hardworking people there: they have produced 10 crores of rupees, and only 2 crores is given to them. They deserve more

[Mr. Badri Dutt Pande.]

pay in the subordinate grades: only the inspectors and superintendents are corrupt; the others are honest and they must be given more.

I shall now speak about the sterling balances. When I was in my place recently, a kisan came to me and asked "When will we see the real King George"—meaning a silver rupee—"and a golden sovereign, and when will this paper George disappear?" I was very much amused by the kisan's intelligence. He said when will we get real silver and gold money? We cannot have this dirty paper money—we have no place to keep it; it is easily burnt and soiled and so we cannot keep it and we must have the old money. Now, the Finance Member knows when that money will come; but he will not tell us about these sterling balances—whether they will be paid at all or whether they will be repudiated. He only knows it—lord and master of all, whether he will make an announcement from London when he goes there as special adviser or what he will do, we do not know.

Now, take the Planning Department. Here you find that Sir Ardeshir Dalal has separated from his colleagues, the Birlas and the Tatas.

1 P.M.

In post-war period he says outside this House that India will be flowing with milk and honey; new heaven and earth; peace and plenty, and that our status will be raised. He says that everything will be nice and there will be a National Government. He says all this outside that there will be a National Government but not inside the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: More money is spent on committees and commissions and inquiries and nothing is spent on the man in the street.

I now come to the Executive Councillors. Their expenditure has increased to 11 lakhs 17 thousand. With the exception of the Railway Member and the Law Member, I would say that their conduct is not up to the proper standard. People who go higher and higher up must keep their tongues under control and even when provoked they should not be ruffled and they should keep calm and quiet.

As my time is limited, I will only say that I cannot support this Budget. Even my sons, grandsons, great grandsons will not be able to pay this huge debt accumulating. I do not know if it will be repudiated but unless it is repudiated it is going to fall on our sons, grandsons and great grandsons and they will not be able to pay it. With these words, I conclude my speech.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): While speaking on the Budget one is oppressed by a strong feeling of unreality, irresponsibility and helplessness. Here is all the paraphernalia of a supreme and sovereign legislature (*An Honourable Member*: "Not sovereign.")—I say 'paraphernalia' of sovereign Parliament—Here are the Treasury Benches sitting on the right of the Speaker and the Opposition sitting on the left of the Speaker. There are budget speeches, debates, there are ayes and noes lobbies. We walk in and we walk out. What is the result? (*An Honourable Member*: "Exercise!") What part of the budget is voted and what part is non-voted it is difficult to calculate from this book. Hardly less than 1/12th part of the Budget is voted and even on that small sum who cares for the vote of this House. The vote of this House is vetoed in quick succession, without giving any reason. Every year, the Honourable the Finance Member comes forward and makes a long speech for 100 minutes, but he does not tell the House how and why and under what circumstances H. E. the Viceroy was constrained to upset the decision of this House. Ordinary courtesy demands that Government should give the reasons why they were forced to veto a particular decision of this House. There is not a word or a whisper about this extraordinary procedure. We were told that the veto is for extraordinary occasions only but here it has become a downright routine. It is used without slightest compunction and without hesitation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This has nothing to do with the Budget. The Honourable Member must confine himself to the Budget. There will be other opportunities for dealing with political questions.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The Honourable the Finance Member lays claim to be the Finance Minister of a National Government. (An Honourable Member: "He does not claim.") He is behaving as an Indian—that is his claim. Last year when I said that as we were arguing from different premises it was difficult for us to agree. We are speaking here as the representatives of the taxpayers. He is speaking as the representative of British Imperialism and therefore it is difficult for us to agree. He indignantly protested that that is not the case. He says that he represents the Indian taxpayer as well. I am aware of his efforts at the World Monetary Conference in favour of India. I am also aware of the efforts which he made in his talks with the Treasury officials of His Majesty's Government. I am also aware of his failures—how much he was able to get for our country.

Coming to the Budget, I am sorry that it does not give any relief to low paid officials. We were expecting that he will give some relief to those people who are getting Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000, that he will raise the exemption limit from Rs. 2,000 and take it up to 5,000 or at least 3,500. Although he has for the first time made a reference to earned and unearned incomes, that is a welcome reference in the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member of the Government of India but the relief he has given is very small and will not meet the requirements of the situation.

In the short time at my disposal I do not propose to make a speech but I will ask four simple questions. I am a simple villager and I do not want to lose myself in the intricacies of complicated figures. (An Honourable Member: "You do not look like a villager.") The first question is: What is the total war expenditure? How much has he actually spent from the Indian Treasury? I have not been able to get that from his speech or the books he has supplied. How much money has actually gone out of the Indian Treasury? He has not given that figure. I want a simple answer to a simple question. My friend Mr. Joshi tells me that he has mentioned it. I maintain he has not mentioned it. He has given the figure, only 456 crores. That is not the actual war expenditure. I want to ask from him how much he has spent on behalf of U. K. I want to know how much he has spent on behalf of the United Nations. I do not care how he accounts for these sums. I want to know the total sum that has been spent from the treasury of my country.

The next point which I want to understand is this. Last year the Honourable the Finance Member gave us revised figures of defence expenditure as 282 crores. - That was in March. By 31st March that figure jumped up to 358 crores. Surely in those 15 days, no unexpected invasion or emergency happened.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No, no.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I know the reason which he gives. He says in his speech, "this was due partly to the fact that the Japanese fight took place within India instead of wholly outside India". But may I tell him that that fighting took place in summer season, several months before the Budget was prepared. My own suspicion is that large sums were included in the war budget under the so-called financial settlement because my Honourable friend was prevailed upon to put that burden on this country instead of U. K. defraying the whole expenditure.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Will the Honourable Member instead of harbouring suspicions, revive his memory of the date when the Japanese actually invaded India? Exactly at the end of last financial year.

Sardar Mangal Singh: They invaded India in 1942. There was heavy fighting in Arakan sometime in 1943 when our people had to come back.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My Honourable friend seems to have forgotten that the Japanese really invaded India in force exactly a year ago.

Sardar Mangal Singh: That was after March.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): When did the British come?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is ancient history.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): According to Seely, they never conquered India.

Sardar Mangal Singh: This year also the revised estimate has gone up to 456 crores and it is just possible that by 31st March this figure might also go up by another 100 crores. There is all the difficulty in accounting. I know the position of my Honourable friend the Finance Member, howsoever he may wish, he is ultimately prevailed upon by a superior Government to put these sums on to the Indian treasury. Then, Sir, as the Honourable the Leader of the Nationalist Party put it, if this expenditure was excessive, the expenditure was due to the fact that fighting was done inside this country. Then, how and why it is that for the next year also you have budgeted about 400 crores, though fighting is being done entirely outside the country. Even according to the terms of the financial settlement you will have to satisfy this House why this enormous expenditure is still necessary when the fighting is taking place not in India.

Mr. K. O. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): He anticipates another invasion of India.

Sardar Mangal Singh: My next question is what is the amount of sterling debt and how much interest do we earn therefrom. I want to know whether sterling balance is a debt which U. K. owes to us? Or what it is? How much interest do I get on it? If it is a debt, as it should be, then I am entitled to ordinary bank rate of interest. If we calculate at the rate of 2½ per cent. it comes to about 30 crores. I am assuming that the sterling balance stands at the figure of 1,200 crores. At present we are getting only five crores, that is not even half a per cent. If it is a debt, then I am entitled to a reasonable amount of interest on it. Even if I invest it in Government paper, even then I am entitled to 2½ per cent. or 3 per cent. interest. Who is pocketing this 25 crores? I am deprived of this sum.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I want some light thrown on all the points I have put to the Honourable the Finance Member. I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will give me correct figures in his reply. In his Budget speech, he has not given figures, as to how much he spent on behalf of U. K., how much he spent on behalf of Canada, how much on behalf of Australia, how much he spent on behalf of the United Nations. I want to know all these figures. I also want to know whether U. K. is going to pay this sterling debt to India even after the war. The language which the Honourable the Finance Member used in his speech leads us to suspect the intention of U. K. regarding this sterling debt, whether it is going to make payment in due course. Sir, with these words, I oppose the Budget.

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. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Sir, in the concluding portion of his Budget speech the Honourable the Finance Member was pleased to make the following statement. Referring to the part he had played in the realm of India's finance during his term of office he said: "I would rather leave that task to the historian and the economist who will in due course pass judgment on the handling of these matters".

He was leaving to the historian and the economist what to say about his regime as Finance Member of the Government of India. He claimed that he had done his work with the most intense and prolonged anxiety and that at

all times he was actuated by a zeal to serve the best interests of India. These are the parting words of the Finance Member and I wish to submit a few observations on what he has told us in his farewell speech. The historian and the economist will no doubt have their say; but contemporary opinion is equally entitled to make up its own mind about the results of his financial stewardship for the last six years.

One outstanding achievement of his Membership of the Finance portfolio has been that the age-long debt of this country in foreign lands has been repatriated. So except for about 70 crores we have now virtually a clean slate so far as foreign indebtedness is concerned. That will stand out to his credit for all time, although I have always held that the repatriation might have been a little cheaper for us. He has besides done all that he could to keep the financial machinery of Government in ample repair capable of responding to all the stimuli that might be applied to it. I therefore feel that his regime has been a real attempt to serve this country; his profound knowledge and his manner of presentation which sometimes reminds me of the classics, have always earned my great admiration. The historian, I am sure, will say the same thing. But the historian will also say that on account of the unfortunate incursion of war his regime was marred by 34 lakhs of deaths in Bengal and starvation, privation and misery for the bulk of the provinces. That is not his fault exclusively, it is the fault of the times in which we live. But unfortunately this very tragic episode will be associated with his regime.

The Finance Member also claimed that he is leaving India in a position of immense strength. Sir, I am reminded of Goldsmith who said pitifully about a country where wealth accumulates and men decay; if I am to judge the financial strength of Government the claim is perfectly valid; but Government have placed their hands in our pockets at all times and obtained whatever money they needed. But it will also be admitted that men have decayed during the last 5½ years of war as nowhere they have decayed. Only this morning we read the opinion of Dr. Chattopadhyaya of Bengal that 40 per cent. of the adults in Bengal are suffering from major diseases. But that is not all. Five years before the war, five years during the war and five years after the war, every child that is born during all these fifteen years will carry with him throughout its life the marks of malnutrition and under-nutrition, and the life of these children will not be a full life during the whole of their human existence. Although a just claim will be made of the earnestness, sincerity and strenuousness with which during the last 2½ years control measures have been pressed it was like closing the stable door after the horse was stolen by inflation. My submission is reinforced by Sir Norman Angell who in his book, "The Story of Money" says that the havoc created by inflation in the terms of human life is something unparalleled; the improvement of the poorest, the enrichment of the richest, dislocation among classes and confiscation of the poor man's little scanty store of wealth if any are the continuing features as the war has progressed. Regarding the peasantry the speech of the Secretary of State, Mr. Amery, in November, 1943, admitted that in India there are five crores of small holdings being continuously further fragmented. And in these five years, even if you take an average family of four people to one holding, 20 crores of people in this country are living on a subsistence level. The words used by the Secretary of State are: "The vast majority of the peasants in India are subsistence cultivators". During ordinary times the subsistence which they get is below what they need because part of what they need has to be diverted in order to enable them to pay rent, taxes, interest, and such of the little absolute needs of life like cloth, kerosene and salt which they must buy and for that purpose they sell out of their scanty store. Small holdings are the real reason for the low standard of life of the people. I wish to submit for the consideration of the Honourable the Finance Member that nothing has happened during the last 5½ years of war to improve the situation of these uneconomic holdings which are being further divided into fragments by inheritance and these 20/22 crores of human beings in

[Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta]

India are now living in a state of hand to mouth existence. According to the highest authority of the Secretary of State in India, they have no margin to draw upon and it is somewhat cruel to ask them to support the small savings campaign which in spite of the great claim made for it has, in my humble opinion, failed. If you will look at page 32 of the accompaniment to the Budget you will find that in the pre-war year the total amount of small savings was Rs. 141 crores and in the revised estimates for 1944-45 it was Rs. 118 crores—all told, from postal cash certificates, post office savings bank, etc. The net result is that at the end of the sixth year the small man has found it necessary to reduce his savings by Rs. 23 crores. Is it worth while to incur the displeasure and odium and unpopularity of this campaign when after 5½ years the net result is a deficit of Rs. 23 crores?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member is quoting the opening figure of the current year. The closing year figure is given as Rs. 157.25 crores.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I am quoting the opening because that opening figure is the account of the previous year. What you are quoting is an estimate. What I am pointing out is an account. In 5½ years you have lost Rs. 23 crores after all your small savings campaign. I do beg of the Honourable the Finance Member that this campaign among the poor masses is not necessary. I have the authority of the Secretary of State for India. I have quoted other sources and I am quoting his own figures.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have one minute.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I submit that the condition of the poor agriculturist is what I have told you. The condition of the industrial worker is also far from satisfactory as will be seen from page 33 of the accompaniment to the Budget. There you will find that in January 1943 the cost of living index was 236. In January 1945 it is 251. Yet the claim is made that the prices are stabilized. 'Stabilized' is a doubtful word. It means the price has not risen but the Budget papers show that it has risen much and that even now it goes on rising. In January 1945 the general price index for the poor man had risen by 16 points and the same is the case for the other indices which I could quote if there were time. But I wanted to emphasize worsening of the condition of the worker and the agriculturist; I say their condition has deteriorated: it was bound to deteriorate: it could not be otherwise under inflation and the least that could be done for their relief, if taxation could not be lowered, was to pursue the controls with greater vigour. But the controls cannot succeed so long as you keep the inflation going.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: The real remedy would be that inflation should be stopped, but he cannot do it alone. Public opinion must be behind him and unless public opinion is behind him, the hoarders, the speculators and the exploiters will go on fleecing the poor.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You must conclude now.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: This is the last sentence.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan). Sir, Before I proceed with my speech I wish to bring to your notice that as this is the discussion on the general budget and various departments of the Government must come under examination, it is proper that all Honourable Members and Secretaries of the Government responsible for various subjects must be in their seats.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Quite correct. Otherwise it is useless to talk.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: There are some in the House who may congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member for his budget, but I question his right and title to submit this budget. His claim may be that he is a representative of a Government which has been established in this country by law.

Sir, where is that law? What is the definition of law by which a government can be established? According to all political tenets, law is defined as nothing else but the will of the people expressed in terms of law. Is there any such law in this country? The answer must be a definite "no". Everybody knows that this Government has been established by the law of the British Parliament and the British Parliament can express only the will of the British people and not of the people of India. Therefore there is no valid law in this land by which a government can be established.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The law of the jungle!

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: There can therefore be no legal Government in this country and in the absence of such a government, the question of a budget does not arise. The Government exists in this country by means of the sword. Let them realize as much money as they want by means of the sword and they are actually doing so. They must do it to deceive the people of the world and the people of this country. It is our misfortune that we also have to take part in this farce. If we look at the various activities of the Government, you will see that throughout the country only anarchy and lawlessness prevail. People are put into prison without any fault. Thousands of our countrymen have been rotting in jails, among whom there are some of the best brains of the country. Not only that, political prisoners are kept in chains day and night. I know one Babu Saligram in Hazaribagh Central Jail who is kept for no fault of his in chains day and night. Besides in the jails the political prisoners are not getting proper food, nor sufficient clothes. Can there be anything more barbarous than this? I tell the Government that this sort of inhuman behaviour will not help them long.

I am glad that the National War Front is buried.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Not in Bihar.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: But National Savings drive still goes on. In the country about 90 per cent of the people do not know what two meals mean and the Honourable the Finance Member, who knows nothing of the country, has launched this National Savings drive. In my own area in Hazaribagh district there are thousands of people who live for several months in the year on roots and fruits from the jungle and in that very area the people are abused, assaulted, arrested, put in custody and harassed in hundreds of ways in order that they might contribute towards this devilish National Savings drive. People are selling their cattle, they are selling their land, they are selling all their belongings in order to contribute towards this National Savings drive. Humanity demands that this sort of things must be stopped at once.

There was a time when I was under the impression that the Government might be treating our Indian military personnel in a better way. But when I began to hear and learn things concerning the military department, I found the same acts of injustice and lawlessness even there. Racial discrimination of the worst type is prevalent in the military department. Even in matters of pay, pension, food, clothing, etc. Indian soldiers get very much less than British soldiers. The cost of British soldiers per head is about four times the cost of one Indian soldier. Even in matters of medicine the distinction prevails. I do not know what is the actual position now but so far as pre-war conditions go I know that for two lakhs of Indian soldiers medical expenditure was only about 50 lakhs, whereas for only 60,000 British soldiers the medical expense was over 70 lakhs.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: They suffer from more and dangerous types of diseases. What can you do?

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: In matters of pension so far as these British soldiers are concerned, their pensions cannot be forfeited save and except by

[Mr. Ram Narayan Singh.]

the decision of a court martial. But the pensions of Indian military personnel can be stopped by the order of any military officer. When any mention is made to them of the law, they say "*Mān Kanun ki bāt mat karo*", "*Hamara hookum hai*" "Do not talk of law" "This is my order". If you look at the Indian Army Act, according to section 20 of the Act, even the Commander-in-Chief has no right to touch the pension of a military officer. By way of preamble to the Army Pension Regulations there is a Royal Warrant in which it is expressly mentioned that in such matters if Indian military personnel is dissatisfied with the decision of his superior officer, his case must be referred to the Secretary of State. But I do not think any such case has ever been referred by this Government to the Secretary of State. In order to govern the military people, it is said, there is an Indian Army Act, there is an Army Regulation, Army Instruction and so on and so forth but in practice every thing is done in a high-handed manner. And especially in the case of pensions it is very difficult to understand how things are regulated. I may quote some instances.

The Victoria Cross is one of the greatest honours for Indian and British soldiers. The Victoria Cross allowance and a military pension were granted to one Mst. Baktawari in 1918. Both these were stopped on flimsy grounds in 1924. After a lot of petitioning and prayers the pension was renewed in 1934. The Victoria Cross allowance also has been restored in 1943. The order was received only 2 or 3 weeks ago. It is difficult to understand how these things are forfeited and renewed again and if such things are still going on in the Military Department, I do not know what is the use of there being an Indian as a War Secretary.

In the same way one Subedar Sadi Ram and Subedar-Major Antu Singh have been deprived of their pensions for nothing. I can quote hundreds of instances but of course there is no time for it. Only two or three days ago we got a booklet from the War Department in which Indians have been praised to the skies for their bravery, loyalty, efficiency and for other military virtues required of a soldier. But what is the use of all these empty praises when they are treated so badly?

Before I finish, Sir, I must say that the war must be brought to an end.

3 P.M. For this war only the British people are responsible: not only for this war, but also for all the wars fought within the last two hundred years, British people alone are responsible. Their vast possessions all over the world must create in the minds of other people the lust to extend their own territories. If they want peace, let Britain give up her possessions? Let India be free, and there will be peace in the world.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Sir, I propose to confine my remarks in the few minutes at my disposal to only one point that seems to deserve greater consideration than it has so far received—I refer to the Lease-Lend arrangements and the Reciprocal Aid Agreement, which are in operation not merely between India and the United States of America, but also between India and the Dominion of Canada. My principal complaint is that we in this House have not been taken sufficiently into confidence in regard to these complicated arrangements which involve economic and political problems of some magnitude.

The Honourable the Finance Member towards the end of his speech was pleased to observe that he had constantly in mind the full status that India was shortly expected to achieve, and that he had endeavoured to order matters entrusted to him in consonance with that expectation. May I enquire from him whether he is entitled to draw the conclusion that he has tried to do his duty in the manner indicated in his speech, so far as giving necessary details to the House in the consideration of this important question? In the observations which I am about to make there will perhaps be many inaccuracies, but for all that the responsibility will be that of the Honourable the Finance Member and not of myself.

Sir, the first mention that we had in this House of the Lease-Lend arrangements was perhaps in the Budget speech of the Honourable Member two years ago. On that occasion he enunciated the broad policy underlying that agreement and said, quoting virtually President Roosevelt, that each of the United Nations was under these arrangements expected to contribute from its own resources and in proportion to its capacity to the common war effort. We wanted a specific statement from him as to how he had come to the conclusion that the aid we were expected to give under this arrangement was in conformity with the financial capacity of India. I do not seem to have received any reply on that point, although a pointed question to that effect was interposed by me, while he was giving his reply to the Budget debate.

Sir, India has been linked with Great Britain for certain purposes in connection with the working of these arrangements. The Honourable Member stated two years ago the difficulties in carrying out all the obligations that India had undertaken under these conditions, and he expressed himself in favour of an independent agreement being negotiated between the United States of America and India on the analogy of such agreements which the United States had concluded with some of the Dominions. Later he seemed to have met these difficulties, but he met them in a different manner. The idea of negotiations with the United States of America was given up, and the Honourable Member gave us certain general forms in which the aid of both the sides was to be given. Sir, the difficulties he mentioned on that occasion as standing in the way were worded in a cryptic language and did not enable us to appreciate the situation. But from the practical point of view it seems to me that although there is no agreement, India is being treated for certain purposes independently by the United States authorities. That is the conclusion to which one arrives while reading some of the reports that have been made to the Congress in the United States dealing with the services rendered by India in regard to Reverse Lease-Lend arrangements as also Lease-Lend benefits which India has derived from time to time. It is very difficult for us to understand the exact method of working in this matter, to what extent we are under the control of His Majesty's Government in the matter of administration of these arrangements, and to what extent we are in a position to deal independently with the United States of America. These are points which should have been made clear by the Honourable Member at some stage of the Budget discussion, and I hope that I shall succeed on this occasion in eliciting a helpful reply from the Honourable Member.

Now, Sir, so far as the question of financial settlement of the accounts is concerned, it appears that the President has been endowed with very wide powers, very wide discretion, as regards the methods by which the financial settlement may take place. We do not know whether there will be any definite settlement under which India will be expected to make a contribution corresponding to the contribution in terms of the money value of the Lease-Lend benefits which we have been getting from the United States of America. On this point it is very interesting to observe that the British Government have definitely declined to have any exact calculations made of the benefits derived from Lease-Lend as well as of the services rendered in response to Lease-Lend by the Government of the United Kingdom. I have in my hand the Proceedings of the House of Commons, dated the 11th November 1943, in which the Chancellor of Exchequer has said:

"I should have preferred not to have introduced the money symbol even partially into this record".—

and then he said,—

"The Honourable Members should see from the White Paper that accurate and comprehensive calculation, even had we wished it, is not possible for us without a gross misuse of human power."

[Mr. K. C. Neogy]

But we have in this Budget statement of the Honourable Member certain figures worked out—I do not know whether he has been guilty of gross misuse of human power—for the purpose of giving us an idea of the financial value of the Lease-Lend services that we have obtained and of the services that we have rendered to the United States Government in return. Sir, the Honourable Member has given us an assurance that in the end perhaps we will not be called upon to make sacrifices greater than the benefits we have derived from the Lease-Lend arrangements. I do not know how the ultimate settlement of the accounts will take place, but I find referring to the Canadian Agreement—and here again I must pause for the purpose of making a complaint that the House has not been given any details of this agreement, and we have to depend upon newspaper reports for the details—I find that the Canadian agreement is substantially different from the agreement with the United States, in that it contemplates certain definite methods of repayment of the benefits that the Government of India may get under that agreement. I have no time to deal with these points, but the differences are so striking that I think we are entitled to a fuller statement from the Honourable Member on this particular point.

On reference to article 3 of the Reciprocal Aid Agreement with the United Kingdom, which I take it also operates so far as India is concerned, I find that certain forms of mutual aid are indicated there; and as far as I can see, on a strict interpretation of those conditions, raw materials and food stuffs which are being sent to the United States of America cannot be held strictly to fall within the purview of the agreement. I very much think that the scope of that particular clause has been expanded in practice, because I find that in the course of a parliamentary debate it was stated that it was necessary—this is the debate to which I have referred already, dated the 11th November 1943—to include the essential raw materials and food stuffs into the list of articles which we are expected to offer to the United States; but that was an agreement with Great Britain. I am very much afraid that, so far as that explanation of the scope of the mutual aid agreement is concerned, it was automatically applied to India also, because I take it that Great Britain had not much of raw materials or food stuffs to offer to the United States of America. Now, recently, very recently as a matter of fact, there has been a change—a very material change—in the Lease-Lend arrangement between the United Kingdom and the United States, by which the scope of articles which Great Britain expected to get from America has been restricted; and I find that this restriction is intended to enable Great Britain to build up certain industries and to restart her export trade in regard to those industries, so that the restriction of the scope of the Lease-Lend arrangement in this behalf is likely to benefit Great Britain. Now, let us examine the position from our point of view. We will in future receive less of Lease-Lend goods as a result of this restriction; but is our liability to furnish mutual aid in any way restricted correspondingly? That is the point that I sought to raise this morning in the course of a question which I addressed to my Honourable friend the Supply Member, and I hope to get a reply from the Honourable the Finance Member on this particular point. In reply to a question which was put by my Honourable friend to my right, a statement was laid on the table giving an idea about the raw materials which India has been sending to the United States in response to the arrangement for according mutual aid, and that list includes several minerals like manganese, mica, beryl, tantalite, columbite, etc., some of which are comparatively rare, and India is not certainly overstocked with some of them. Then there are jute, sugar bags, tea and shellac and so on . . .

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have got one minute more.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I should very much like to know whether under the agreement it is for the United States of America to demand these articles without our having any voice in the determination either of the quantity or of the policy underlying the export of such valuable raw materials from India.

Just a word about the price factor. As I have already stated, England is not particular about maintaining accurate statistical returns regarding the value of the commodities which are being received under the lease-lend arrangement. There has been a lurking suspicion in the minds of our countrymen that perhaps the lease-lend aid is being over valued deliberately somewhere, and that impression was strengthened by the revelation that was made on the occasion of the Railway Budget that we are paying three to four times the normal price for the railway engines that are being received under the Lease-lend arrangement. These suspicions are not confined to this country.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Just one word, Sir. In the parliamentary debates of the House of Commons on the 6th December 1944, a well known Member of Parliament, Sir William Wakefield who is a prominent businessman, gave expression to these suspicions, and I beg leave to quote one or two sentences from his speech. He says:

"I actually came across an instance only the other day of certain materials which were obtained from the United States but were sold to another foreign country at about half the price."

Again he says:

"American machines were costing, either under Lease-Lend or for cash payment, twice or three times as much under war conditions as the British machines, but the prices being quoted for post-war trade were lower than British prices."

Then he said, "Where are we?". That is the question with which I would like to end my speech—"Where are we"?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Sir Yamin Khan: after him Sir Cowasjee Jehangir.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Sir, personally I will be sorry that my friend Sir Jeremy Raisman will be going soon, but I have to confine myself very briefly about the Budget that has been presented this year.

The total defence expenditure in six years' time has come, I find, to 17,00 crores of rupees: and during the last two years and this present Budget year, the total amount is to be 12,64 crores 49 lakhs and 50,443 rupees; and out of this I find that within these three years the capital expenditure is intended to be Rs. 114,62,69,431. These figures will show what has been going on about the war budget, and what control has been put on this. 12,64½ crores is a big amount to be budgeted in three years. I find that the Honourable Member refused the advice of this House which had been given by a great majority, to appoint a committee of the House to scrutinise the expenditure year after year, and day by day, and the Honourable Member had admitted that such a kind of committee will be very useful; but in spite of that he refused to act upon the advice of this House. What was the result? Within a month we find that the budget of 1943-44 rose, including the capital amount, by more than Rs. 1,33,86,21,443; though it is made out that extra expenditure was only of Rs. 96 crores, but if we include the capital amount also, even the extra amount comes to Rs. 1,33,86 lakhs. Again, what do we find? That the Honourable Member budgets in 1944-45 for the defence budget Rs. 301 crores, including capital expenditure; and the result comes to Rs. 4,56,63,88,000 altogether. All this might have been checked if proper control had been put and vigilance had been exercised by a committee which we had on this side proposed, and the Honourable Member ignored that advice, and he is making us face this huge budget.

Another thing that we find is that Rs. 833 crores is the amount of loans up to January 1945. Now, Sir, I do not know how the two loans which are

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

maturing in 1948-52 and 1953-55 will be paid? Where will the money for this come from? How will the loans which come to be repaid within 10 years be repaid?

I cannot conceive that after the war this inflation will continue and the taxation will remain as it is. Besides this, we find that the figure of the loan is 838 crores of rupees and I do not know where this capital expenditure of 114.62 crores will be coming from. This will probably be found by borrowing the money. It will not be easy for this poor country to pay this huge sum unless it is taxed beyond its limits.

Again, there are many Railway lines which have been built exclusively for war purposes and the Standing Finance Committee pressed that this amount should be debited to defence expenditure and not to railways, because railways are a commercial concern. If this whole amount is also debited to defence expenditure, I think a large amount will be found for this purpose.

Then there are several items of expenditure and we do not know how the money will be paid back. Sardar Mangal Singh raised a pertinent question—how the expenditure we are meeting on behalf of the Government of Burma and the United Nations in this country will be repaid? Where will this come from? No explanation has been given by the Honourable the Finance Member as to in what way this money will be paid back.

Then a lot of concessions have been given in the name of war to people who are not residents of India but people really hit are not provided for. For instance, the families of people who are prisoners of war in the hands of Japan are allowed only what they were allowed before they embarked for the war. Increment in salary has been given to many people but because these people are prisoners their families have been ignored and they are out of the mind of the Government. On the other hand, preference is given to evacuees from Burma who are not Indian nationals but are Anglo-Burmans or Europeans. Even Austrians and Austrian Jews who have been shut up in camps, they have been given the King's Commission and they have been employed as medical officers. One of these men whom I had seen in one of the concentration camps which I went to visit as a member of the Aliens Advisory Committee hailed me in the train. I found from him that many of these people who were not British subjects had become Commissioned Officers as doctors. I found that Austrians and German nationals had been provided for, while Indians have been ignored in this country.

Another preferential treatment is that people who were business men, non-Indians, non-Asiatics in Burma and other places have been found jobs in the Supply Department, the War Department and the Defence Department, in the Secretariat and elsewhere. An Indian who is an M.A., LL.B., gets only Rs. 60, while a man who is an evacuee gets Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 2,000 in Government service. This kind of injustice has been done. My friends on this side have been greatly responsible for having allowed this kind of condition to come in. But for their absence Government would not have dared to do what they have done and I hope that pressure will now come in, to get a redress in this direction.

As regards the Supply Department, I find that most of the purchasing sides are corrupt from top to bottom and there have been complaints and it is an open secret that a contractor has to pay to so many people before he can get a contract or before he can get his goods passed. If this is going on, where is it coming from? What vigilance has been exercised and what is the check exercised by the Government? I think Government has not been able to put a proper exercise of control over these people who are squandering public money and we are asked to pay through taxation in order to make payment to this class of people. There is not one case but there are thousands of cases which I can quote when the proper opportunity comes.

I find that women typists are given more salary in the Defence Department than men typists or men clerks. This is another preferential treatment.

Then I find that non-Asiatics who are above 55 years are employed in this country and are given overseas allowance. Why is this? When a man is

past 55 and he is re-employed, then he can be re-employed under new conditions. He will not be considered to have been appointed by the Secretary of State and his appointment cannot be taken as having been made in England. He should be treated as having been appointed in India on a new basis under new conditions and under a new contract. There can be a lot of saving under this head and this ought to be done. Indians have got a great grievance in this respect.

I find that the Honourable Member has not given any kind of explanation whatsoever under the head which we have got in this Appendix to Demands for Grants for payments to the Crown Representative. The expenditure was 1,39,13,536 last year and this year it has risen to 1,75,86,000. This means a net increase of over 36 lakhs. What is this due to? Does the Honourable Member think that this House does not want an explanation as to how the Crown Representative is squandering this money in the manner as he likes? This ought to be stopped. If the Civil List is increased even by one rupee, the Parliament has to be given an explanation but here we find an increase of 36½ lakhs and yet not a word of explanation is forthcoming before this House. I find in the whole Budget that Defence gets 412 crores, the Crown Representative gets one crore 75 lakhs—this is all non-voted. The entire civil expenditure comes to only one crore 23 lakhs, out of which nearly half is non-voted. Then what are we here for? What vote are we expected to record? We are called here to discuss this Budget and to give our vote. When we are not given the freedom to vote, he can as well budget whatever he likes and spend whatever he likes. Why should he ask us to tax our people and give him money? Is it possible for us to do what he wants? Under these circumstances, if we do not have this explanation as to how this increase has come, there is no use of our discussing this Budget. Last year, I proposed and the House also supported it, that there should be a Committee appointed. But this Committee was not appointed. Now, on the other hand I find there are many useless Departments which ought to be abolished at once because they are doing no useful work of any kind. I think the Department of Post-war Planning is absolutely unnecessary. We do not want this. It should be abolished at once. The other Department which should go is the Food Department. It is quite unnecessary, because it has not improved the food position in the country. The next Department which should be abolished is the Civil Defence Department. I do not know what this Department is doing now?

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Running canteens.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Yes, they are running canteens. I do not find any kind of civil defence from them, nor is there any Member present from that Department to defend it in this House. Therefore I think the Civil Defence Department should be abolished at once. It is absolutely unnecessary.

Then, I come to the Department of my Honourable friend Mr. Khare. The House is aware that the post of High Commissioner for South Africa was recommended by this House to be abolished. In spite of the unanimous wish of elected Members of this House in that respect, the Honourable Member thought it worth his while to appoint a new High Commissioner and send him to South Africa. He has flouted the unanimous wish of the non-officials of this House. He would be well advised to recall the High Commissioner, otherwise the House will have to reject the provision under the head 'High Commissioner for South Africa'.

The next thing to which I wish to refer is this. I hope I will be excused if I say that I do not find there is any necessity for a representative of this Government attached to the Government of Burma. The Honourable Member says, "attached to the Government of Burma". I do not know what kind of attachment subsists between that representative and the Government of Burma, because I find he is only attached to this House, much more than to the Government of Burma.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Commonwealth Relations): There is a detachment in his attachment to this House.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: That is a detachment which the Honourable Member finds only in his brain.

The next point which I wish to refer is the abolition of National War Front. In spite of the distinct assurance given to this House that the National War Front will be abolished, I find provision made for the same in the Budget under the Department of Information and Broadcasting. I do not know why this is done.

An Honourable Member: That is more for the Provinces.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: It may be. In spite of the assurance given a few days back that this will not find a place in the Budget and that the wishes of the House will be given effect to, I find an item appearing in Budget. Even the name is not changed. Therefore, I submit that this provision should be deleted and the National War Front abolished.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has got one minute more.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I shall conclude soon, Sir. I find that provision is made for salaries and pensions for the evacuees from Burma, who are not Indians. I submit that no non-Indian evacuee should be employed if an Indian is available to fill the place. Even if an evacuee is appointed, he should not be given more than two-thirds of the salary which you will give to an Indian. I submit this huge expenditure shown under this head can be greatly curtailed and saved. I think if the Honourable Member works on these lines and puts a check on the spending Departments, he will make a lot of saving.

One more word about the provision of ten crores for Bombay explosion from Indian budget. I think the entire responsibility for this unfortunate incident rests on the British Government, because it is the British Government representatives that were in control over that area. It is therefore the British Government and not the Government of India that was responsible for this explosion. Therefore the relief that is proposed to be given to people who suffered damage in this explosion should come from the British exchequer or from the United Nations and not from the Indian budget. As for income-tax proposals I find that the relief proposed under this scheme is not equitable. A man who is getting Rs. 2,500 will pay instead of Rs. 51 only Rs. 34, i.e., Rs. 17 less, while a man who is getting salary up to Rs. 50,000 a year will also get relief under this scheme. This has been put in only as a camouflage. A poor man's widow who has only a property of Rs. 2,500 a year will suffer the most, while a man who has salary of Rs. 50,000 will get more relief. This is a scheme which has been put in only to throw dust into the eyes of this House. We cannot support this scheme. It may be that this is a scheme which may appeal to my Honourable friends of the European Group. They have probably not examined this scheme thoroughly or they have their own interest to serve. I find a great differentiation made. Therefore we have to oppose this Budget and we cannot support this Grant. There is nothing for us to vote in this Budget and so we have to oppose the whole Budget.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member is to be congratulated that in a year of war he has produced what might be characterised as a humdrum Budget. If one has to confine one's remarks strictly to this Budget, the speech also must be of a humdrum character. There is one new feature which did not appear in any past Budgets and that is the relief given to earned incomes.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Not only that, but throwing burdens on others.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The relief given to earned incomes, I am sure whether it is the low paid Government servant or a servant in private employ, will be accepted with some gratitude. But then to compensate the treasury, he has done nothing very unusual, he has put up the income-tax. I am afraid we have got accustomed to these increases during the last six years, but the reason for the increase is different from past years. I may be excused for

bringing to the attention of this Honourable House one or two matters which have engaged the attention of this House in the past and which deserve their attention again.

One of these points is the allotment of war expenditure between India and the Allies, and I repeat that I am not satisfied that the constitution of this House being what it is, it has a sufficient check on this allotment, according to the settlement made by the Finance Member. We have had occasion to express satisfaction at the manner in which the Finance Member represented the interests of this country in negotiating this settlement with men—may I say—of great influence. But the settlement once having been fixed, there is no machine whereby we can test how the allotment of expenditure between India and the Allies takes place and whether it is strictly according to that settlement or not. I fully recollect the explanations given by the Finance Member; logically they may be correct but in theory they are not satisfactory. We have a committee which is supposed to examine it; it was called a *post-mortem* examination by my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari. Now considering that this Government is an autocratic Government, I think we are justified in asking that we must be satisfied that this allotment is at least according to this settlement; but we have no means of satisfying ourselves and it is up to Government to invent some machine—have a committee if you like—whereby not only this House but public opinion may be satisfied with regard to this very important point in war time.

Now, Sir, it is nothing unusual during these last six years to see the war expenditure jump up. We are getting rather accustomed to it and so are other parts of the world who are at war. But one point has been raised inside this House and outside it which requires some explanation. There has been a big jump in the previous year and in the current year over and above the estimates; and, as every one knows, the reason given is that the war was within the boundaries of India, and according to the settlement India would have to pay a greater proportion of the expenditure. It was for the defence of India; there is no doubt that an enemy country attacked India, and naturally we have to defend ourselves, and in doing so the expenditure should be higher. But as there is no longer a threat of invasion some explanation is due as to why the estimates for the next year are practically as high as for the last year and the year before. I am unable to understand it nor have I been able to find anything that explains it. Probably the Honourable Member will make that point clear because it has been raised in so many quarters.

Now, Sir, one word with regard to India's sterling balances. We are in the same position as we were last year. We were told then that some move would be made with H.M.G. to go a little further than we were by means of negotiations. I fully realise that a great deal will depend upon the quantity and value of suitable materials that England can supply to India and India's capacity to absorb them. But we are not going to depend entirely upon England for our future requirements; we shall have to go to the U.S.A. and perhaps to other continental countries. Therefore it is disappointing that no negotiations have started and that there are even no prospects of negotiations until the war is over. I think that is not a very satisfactory position, considering that the very life-blood of India is concerned. These balances are of a huge character. They are growing; they are our assets. We believe them to be our assets, we believe in the honesty of Great Britain to pay back this money.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Ready money!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The less the Honourable Member says the better; we have heard him speak.

Sir, we expect that negotiations will open as soon as possible and that we should at least get some idea of where we stand.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Don't you want delay which the Finance Member says will not be prejudicial to this country?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I have expressed my view that negotiations should start immediately.

Now, Sir, just, one word with regard to the encouragement that Government are giving to the expansion of the old industries and the establishment of new industries—this 10 p. c. depreciation allowance on buildings and 20 p. c. on machinery. Naturally we are grateful for small mercies. But we cannot erect buildings because they are under control. Machinery we cannot get; and this depreciation is coming into existence from 31st March. Where are the buildings and the machinery to be depreciated?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The idea is that this would be available at any time at which the machinery is obtained or the buildings are built.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Any time up to how many years?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Until the concession is exhausted.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The point is that we are not able to build just now on account of control and we cannot get any machinery. If this concession is withdrawn by his successor next year where are we? There is no concession. We cannot benefit unless the Honourable Member will give an assurance that this concession will continue for at least the next 15 years. Then it may be of some value; without that it can be of no value to us. I will repeat that I may be able to build buildings and get machinery five or six years hence, but this concession may not be in existence then. Then I am nowhere and this concession will mean nothing to me. If the Honourable Member would guarantee the import of machinery and the supply of materials to build, the matter would be different. Therefore I think that some assurance that this concession is going to last for a period of years, at least till such time and a few years afterwards as we can build and get machinery should be given; otherwise, there is not much in the concession, unless I am very much mistaken.

Now, Sir, I will refer finally to the point raised by my Honourable friend Sir Henry Richardson. Instead of the collection of income-tax having improved it has decreased and that is inexplicable. People's incomes have not gone down. People are earning as much as they did before. How does he explain the decreased collection? Now, Sir, he has said that he has been merciful to us and he has not increased the income-tax more than three pias, but that "there would be greater efforts to combat evasion and enforcement of existing tax obligation". What does he propose to do to bring that into effect? What are the executive orders that he means to pass before he leaves? What is he going to do to effect this excellent sentiment of his?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have one minute more.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Last year we pointed out to him that it would pay him to have a larger and a more efficient staff. Evasion is going on. How is it possible for men to become multi-millionaires in war time with his income-tax, his super-tax and his excess profits tax if there were no evasion? And does he mean to tell me that he has not heard of men having become millionaires in this war within the last two or three years and who did not earn much before? How did they do it? Can he explain? I cannot. Well, it was evasion. On the other hand the honest man is subject to a certain amount of harassment due to inefficiency, due to his best paid officers not knowing the law.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: These things are taking place in India today. We are losing money and if this evasion can be stopped, I make hold to assert that the income-tax and excess profits tax could be considerably reduced if the Honourable the Finance Member could so assert himself as to make it not possible for evasion to the extent that it is going on today, and if he could send some of these notorious evaders for a few months' rigorous imprisonment, he would be doing a greater service to India than anybody else.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): I have three facts as the background for my speech. This is the last budget of the Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman. The whole tenure of his office has been covered by the war period and lastly I have heard from one or two distinguished non-official Indians who accompanied him to the Bretton Woods Conference and London and that the case for India could not have been better put than by the Honourable the Finance Member, and if India failed in this matter it was not the fault of the Honourable the Finance Member.

At the same time I cannot be blind to facts that so far as the Indian side is concerned, the whole of his period is marked by hesitation and by failure to take strong measures either in respect of inflation or in respect of the increase of expenditure both on the civil side and on the defence side which again reacted on inflation. If one looks into the figures of the civil administration expenditure and the number of departments created, particularly what are called the Miscellaneous departments, and if one reads through the budget speeches and the accountings between the civil and the defence side, the number of items which are kept away from the public eye and even from the eye of the Assembly, one is staggered at the enormous expenditure that is being now incurred. The expenditure on the defence side at any rate is now nearly Rs. 400 crores apart from those other concealed items, the magnitude of which it is impossible for us laymen to assess. Whatever it is, I am astonished again to find more than Rs. 300 crores and more being provided for next year though the Honourable the Finance Member perhaps said in his speech that the war activities would hereafter be beyond the borders of India, in which case the expenditure must be debited to the United Kingdom and elsewhere. I do not know what explanation he has got for the provision of this further Rs. 300 crores and more. At any rate the Honourable the Finance Member must have realized that even a fraction of that amount is beyond the capacity of this country to pay. If you take into account the substantive value of the large amount of money which is being converted into paper money by way of inflation, I am sure the Honourable the Finance Member in his generous moments would agree that India is being furnished for at least another six generations of her essential goods and productivity and that she cannot recover to her normal conditions at least for another fifty years. All the advertised talk of improving the foodgrain position and other things is fictitious. There are not in fact any improvements in the food supply nor in your plans for the betterment of the economic condition of this country.

Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Finance Member that he has thrown bombshells even with regard to our prospects of improving the industrial side of this country by the fact that either he or he in conjunction with the Honourable Member of Civil Supplies, is importing large quantities of consumer goods into the country for civilian use and in the Honourable the Finance Member saying that the post-war development is entirely that and could not be advanced. These two are enough to kill any prospect of industries being raised in this country. I do not know what this country has done to deserve such cruel treatment from successive Finance Members and how the present Finance Member, having regard to his experience of the economic life of this country, could have agreed to such large expenditure being incurred and so many things being kept hidden from the public eye. I wonder if it would not be possible for him to institute a committee to scrutinise the expenditure while being incurred and whether it is not possible for this country to come to a more reasonable settlement in regard to the share in the expenditure for the defence of this country. I have heard some of my honourable friends in this House twitting us for not enthusiastically supporting the war effort. But we believe that we must come to a definite understanding as to what expenditure this country must bear. Its economic interests come first. It would be folly to parade insincere loyalty to these war efforts at the expense of the people and beyond their capacity.

[Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetty]

The question of sterling balances seems to be clouded in great mystery. I take it that the United Kingdom as a Government does not owe us any money and that the sterling balances are in the shape of credit to the Indian Government and that once we are able to get goods from England, it would be possible to cash in those sterling balances. But if England is not willing to supply goods, except at her own rates and conveniences, what is the good of these locked up sterling balances or credit entries? Why should they not be loaned to the United Kingdom Government at a certain rate of interest because there is no chance of your cashing in this amount immediately? Would it not reduce inflation? Is it the intention of the Finance Member that we should be sufferers in interest as well in this matter? Will it not be possible to lend on a term of 15/20 years the whole amount and be able to get some money by way of interest? I know some industrialists in this country are fondly attached to the sterling balances. But whether they are doing it knowing that it is impossible to get these balances, or whether it is a shrewd business venture, it is difficult to say. Whatever it is I have got the belief that it is not possible either for

4 P.M. England to cash in the sterling balances nor for India to be able to receive it. The former course would cause inflation in England which they have taken particular care to avoid. Therefore we have got to make the best out of the worst bargain we have got into. I would therefore suggest that if it is possible for the Honourable the Finance Member he should insist upon this amount carrying interest up to the time of payment. So far as the Lease-Lend arrangements with the United States of America and the United Kingdom are concerned, there is no doubt of the fact that we are getting these things at a very high cost, whereas we have to supply our own goods at controlled rates and at a sacrifice for the Indian consumer.

There is some sort of complacency in the second paragraph of the Honourable Member's Budget speech. He has said that the food situation is improving. It is far from improving. There does not seem to be any change either in the surplus or deficit areas just as there has been no change in the anatomy of the Food Member.

I understand that even cloth is very scarce in Bengal. There is something wrong in that part of the country. I would suggest that the whole superior secretariat of Bengal be transferred to some other Province and another secretariat put in there, in order that there may be no corruption and people may receive their quota of food and cloth. Otherwise the Honourable the Finance Member and his colleagues would be responsible as they have been for the deaths of 5 million people in Bengal and some more millions in Malabar, Cochin, Travancore and Ganjam and Vizagapatam on whose behalf my Honourable friend Mr. Gupta has sacrificed his life.

There is another question which I would mention before I conclude. What are the plans by which he would absorb these increased establishments in the Civil Departments and also with regard to the demobilised soldiers. I understand that there are far too many temporary staff that are being maintained. As a matter of fact as my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar said there is not a single man who having failed in the matriculation examination has not found appointment in the Secretariat of the Central Government. And I know as a matter of fact that ordinary graduates who have just come out of the University and who have been drawing Rs. 30 or 40 have been drafted to the Central Secretariat at Rs. 200 and 250 a month. It may be that the cost of living in Delhi is very high but on that account there is no use of increasing the staff who are inefficient. Has the Honourable the Finance Member ever gone into the Secretariat Departments and found out what is the work that is being turned out? Has he considered whether in view of the fact that at least one sector of the defence has been reduced, it would be possible to decrease the establishment to that extent and provide for the displaced staff in suitable places?

With these few words I resume my seat.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, this has been a somewhat chequered debate and it was marred by a tragedy of a very unusual kind, an unprecedented happening in my experience in this House. That upset the course of the debate and has cast something of a cloud over the whole proceedings. I also feel that the tone of the debate was somewhat chequered. It started off on what I, at any rate, must regard as a somewhat unfortunate note and from my point of view, at any rate, it improved as it went on.

It will not be possible for me in the course of my reply to this debate to answer all the points that have been raised by various Members and I shall not attempt to do so in this speech, though, I hope, I may have opportunities to provide replies to the more important points at some time during the course of the next two or three weeks.

I realise, Sir, that when I made my Budget speech, I was, so to speak, asking for trouble when I declined to give a review of my own administration and left it to the judgment of the historian and the economist. However, more than one speaker has nobly stepped into the breach. Mr. Manu Subedar started off and took up the challenge, as he called it, and I must admit.....

Mr. Manu Subedar: It was an invitation.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Very well. If vituperation is historical record, he is a very fine historian and if venomous vindictiveness is economic judgment, then I award him the title of an economist. I shall also add to his knowledge of English idioms on which he prides himself. He mentioned two phrases, one of which did not strike me as being particularly English: I thought it was Trans-Atlantic. But to his two phrases I would add a third "hitting below the belt".

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

I would not have dealt with the speech of Mr. Manu Subedar at any length; I must admit that being on the whole a man of peace, my instinct was to ignore it. But the subject matter of his speech, apart entirely from its personal offensiveness, revealed the defect—what one speaker referred to as the unreality,—of his arguments. You can only argue with a man, if you have some common ground. It would be impossible, for instance, in my opinion, for Mr. Churchill to argue with Hitler, although if that were taking place in any particular room, I should like to be a fly upon the wall. It is impossible for me to argue with Mr. Manu Subedar upon the footing which he chose, because, in my opinion, it is as directly contrary to my view of the course of events as is Adolf Hitler's. In fact, I should say that his point of view is much more nearly that of Goebbels and Hitler's and that a great deal of his speech was redolent, and some of his phrases were redolent, of their pet obsessions.

The fundamental point surely is whether one is assisting the participation of India in the war or not. Now I quite realise that there is closely linked up a political issue of the first magnitude. Nevertheless, in dealing with the actual conduct of the war and the conduct of Indian administration in relation to it, what we have to make up our minds about is the criterion which we should apply: was the Government of this country to facilitate the proper participation of India in the war, or was it to act as a neutral or a non-belligerent? It seems to me that there is only one possible answer to that question. Mr. Manu Subedar will no doubt answer it in a different way, and that being so, there is, as I have said, no common ground on which he and I can discuss these matters. From his point of view the Government of India is comparable with the Vichy Government. That is exactly what Dr. Goebbels would say, and in fact it merely illustrates what I said a little while ago, that his standpoint is that of the enemy.

There is only one other matter. I have always understood that Mr. Manu Subedar was a representative of the Indian Merchants Chamber in this House,

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

I trust he will correct me if I am wrong. Well, I do not wish to cast any reflection on any trading community, but it is somewhat surprising that a representative of the trading and commercial community should not only deprecate, but sneer at the qualities which after all make for their own success. I should not have thought that he at any rate would choose that particular ground.

Now, Sir, it has been, shall I say, my ill luck to have been the Finance Member of the country during a period which was almost entirely a period of war. I hope the Budget speech which I delivered the other day is the last war budget speech which will be delivered in this House: I may not be right, but I hope that will be so. It is obvious that the financial administration of a country during a period of war is an entirely different thing from its administration during peace. In peace time the business of the Finance Minister is so to distribute the resources of the Government as to promote the best advantage of the country as a whole, and to see, as far as he can, that the objects which the country most needs and desires—education, health, economic uplift and so on—are catered for from the resources of the country which he is able to handle and is going to distribute. In time of war there intervenes one over-all crushing factor which he cannot possibly disregard. He is bound, whether he likes it or not, to endeavour to adjust the resources and the economy of the country to the prosecution of this single purpose. I would claim that the sphere of activity of even the Finance Minister of a neutral country is almost equally restricted. It is not possible to pursue the even tenor of peace time finance in time of war, no matter whether you are directly engaged or whether you are merely one of the countries on whom these terrific blows fall from outside, when there is a tremendous upheaval in the economic structure of the whole world. Of the countries which have remained neutral until the other day, in Turkey, for instance, I do not know if the Members of this House are familiar with the economic developments there in recent years. I should be surprised to find that they were very different from those of India. I should be surprised to find that many of the problems which we have to face here today are not pressing, for instance, in a country like Turkey. Egypt was a neutral, and of course we know that they have exactly the same problems as we have. Countries like Iraq, Iran, etc., which occupy slightly differing positions in relation to the conduct of the war, have all undergone similar experiences. A country like China which is of course a complete belligerent as well as an independent country, has perhaps undergone the worst economic experience of all. Greece has also been through terrible difficulties and in fact has gone through a period of completely uncontrolled inflation.

An Honourable Member: What about Switzerland?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Switzerland is perhaps the single country which has been able to maintain a comparative equilibrium during these difficult times, but I should think even Switzerland has to face problems of terrific economic adjustment at the present time, and so certainly Sweden, Spain and Portugal.

Now, in the various general criticisms which have been made of my administration, I find it difficult to piece together a consistent or a consecutive picture of what the critics have in mind. On the one hand, it is urged, it is protested, that the burden of Defence expenditure on India has been grossly excessive. On the other hand, simultaneously and some times from the same lips, it is argued that the accumulation of the sterling balances is a dreadful thing. It is curious that critics do not seem to realise that if war is taking place and if expenditure is taking place in India, it must ultimately fall into one or the other category. It must either fall directly upon India, or, if it does not fall upon India, it takes the form of a credit which is the sterling balance. Again, we have this dilemma. On the one hand it is urged that the demands on India's physical resources have been enormous and grossly excessive. On the other

land, it is simultaneously argued that the Indian economy has not been afforded the opportunities which it should have been afforded in war time. The Hydari Mission, for instance, which has now gone to England in order to investigate the possibilities of a diversion of the strain which has been placed on India and to some extent of compensation, is criticised as being aimed at Indian industry. The critics do not seem to realise the inconsistency of these two lines of criticism. I know that these things are not easy to understand; but I should have thought it was obvious that you could not at the same time protest against the use of Indian resources for war purposes and also object to attempts to divert the strain upon India. Again, I have critics like my friend, Professor Banerjea, for whom I have the highest respect, who pointed out that in his view taxation had reached the highest limit to which it could go. Then he turned to the sphere of borrowing and I understood that he objected to the large scale of borrowing to which we were resorting. At the same time he assured us that he was not opposed to India's participation in the war or to India's war effort.....

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: To the extent of her ability to pay.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Well, Sir, I find it difficult to construct—and here I am dealing with a highly intelligent and if I may say so competent critics—to construct a picture, so to speak. I find it difficult to see exactly how Dr. Banerjea would have handled these problems: he would not increase taxation, he would not increase borrowing; and above all of course, as I know, he would not resort to inflation; so that I am not clear how these figures tot up, as it were, to the final sum.....

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Result: do not fight the war!

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Nothing of the sort.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That in my opinion is the conclusion to which I and you could come: therefore my Honourable friends are more logical.....

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: On a point of personal explanation, this is not correct. I would not unbalance the budget, but I would pay something like 250 crores for the next year's war expenditure—not beyond that: that is my position.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I understand that; but then again we still remain in this position; it is not merely a question of whether Dr. Banerjea would pay Rs. 250 crores. Supposing 750 crores of war expenditure occurred in the country, what would he do about the other 500 crores, since he also objects to borrowing? How would he counteract the effect of the other war expenditure which took place? What would he do? Would he reduce the scale of the war in India to that extent?

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: No: I would modify the inequities of the financial settlement of 1940. I have made that clear.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: He would modify that settlement. That would mean that out of the 750 crores or 900 crores or whatever it may be, he would pay only 200 or 250 crores. . . .

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: For the coming year, yes.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: But that would still leave him in the dilemma that another 700 crores or so of expenditure was coming on, because the war was continuing. That would be beyond his power, and therefore I must, in spite of Dr. Banerjea's superior economic knowledge, point out to him that his inflationary gap would be of the order of 700 crores of rupees.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Not at all.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The price level would go up to three or four or even ten times what it is now. Oh yes; he cannot escape from the iron bounds of that argument; he cannot get away from that; the fact is there. If the war goes on, the expenditure goes on; the money is poured out; then you must either by taxation or by borrowing neutralise it, or the result is inflation.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: He wants you to fight up to your ability.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes; if I could control the scale of the war as it took place in and around India, then that would be an entirely different matter. But unfortunately that is not within the scope of the Finance Minister. The business of the Finance Member is to be the object of odium. While military leaders may be national heroes in war time, finance ministers never are.

Now, I come to some of the specific questions which have been put to me and I will try to deal with the main ones. The first is how it happens that there was such an enormous increase in the defence expenditure towards the end of the year 1943-44; and here I find, as so often, that people take a curiously detached view of the war—so curiously detached a view that they even forget chronology and the ordinary course of events. The budget which is presented at the end of February is based on figures which are compiled up to about the end of December. It does not purport to give the exact position as at 5 p.m. on the last day of February. That is hardly possible; it has to be compiled some time before. It also cannot purport at any time to be an accurate prediction of what will take place in the next thirteen months, and not even in the month which still remains before the end of the year. Moreover, at the end of the year and before the accounts are finally made up, there are always certain adjustments relating to the whole year which have to be brought to account.

As I mentioned in my Budget speech, the main reasons for the large increase at the end of last year were, first, that the Japanese chose to invade India just about the time or shortly after I delivered my Budget speech. Now, it is argued by some critics that that should not really have made any difference. They say, what does it matter whether these hostilities took place on this side of the border or the other? I am familiar with those words from critics in England. They have said, if these operations are connected with the defence of India, "What does it matter whether they take place ten miles further forward or ten miles further back? Surely in either case your concern and your interest is the same". The answer is that when you allot a sector of war expenditure to a country, there must be some point—a line somewhere; it must have a boundary; and you are bound to get anomalies when that boundary is either just crossed or when you just stop this side of it. In the present case the Japanese.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): What is the maximum limit of that boundary?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That boundary is the geographical limits of India. So, as I say, the argument seems to be couched in the same terms both from this side and from the other, but of course the intention is diametrically opposite.

The other reason for that large increase was that an item relating to motor vehicles from Canada which had been in suspense and had been under discussion for some time was finally adjusted in the accounts of that year; and it was a very large item.

The next question that is asked is, if the expenditure of the current year was so large because of the operations which took place inside India's borders, why is there little or no change in the expenditure of the next year in the forecast? I said a little while ago that the estimate is based on conditions usually in December or in January and there is no doubt that the war has undergone some rather startling developments since then. We actually did provide for a difference of 45 crores in the total defence expenditure for 1945-46 as compared with 1944-45. This difference is the result of an aggregate decrease of about 66 crores but 22 crores of this is neutralised by increases largely arising from the operation for a full year of certain increases in pay. The total decrease would have been 66 crores but actually about a third of that is neutralised and so the net decrease, taking into account both revenue and capital, is of the order of 44-45 crores. It is not the case, as my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy suggested, that I was catering for another Japanese invasion of India, for nothing is further from my thoughts, but I also cannot predict

what the course of events will be. It is conceivable that they may be even more favourable than what we took as the basis of our estimates. In fact, since the estimate was framed, events have gone very well. When Germany cracks and caves in, it is conceivable that the other Axis partner may think that it is the best moment to get out. That, as I say, is anybody's guess.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I put one question which will clear the matter? Why is the decrease so little on the revenue side? On the capital side, you reduced it for next year. Why is the decrease so little on the revenue side, considering that there is no war on the frontiers? That is the point. You have mentioned a total decrease of about 40 crores—capital and revenue. The capital expenditure has been reduced but not the revenue side. What is the explanation for that?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: What you have to cater for is the maintenance of the forces which will be retained in India for the defence of India. As I once explained in this House, the total number of forces is determined by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. Now, if those forces are maintained in India, during the year, then the whole of the cost of those forces is debitable to India.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Maintained for what purpose?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: For the local defence of India.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: There is no defence expenditure required to that extent.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That conception is absurd. You cannot suddenly say—The war has gone. So, all the soldiers who were required yesterday for my defence now cease to be my soldiers. They cannot be demobilised with that degree of rapidity. Suppose there is an army of a million or two million soldiers here standing on your territory for the defence of your territory. Even if the war ends tomorrow, you do not cease expenditure. The expenditure does not cease to be incurred. It goes on.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: The war is taking place outside the borders. Are not the soldiers now for that purpose?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is a matter of military judgment at each stage, as to what forces the country should entertain. It must be a difficult matter. It is not possible for me to isolate the defence problem of the country from the total defence operations of a number of Allies. That must be a difficult matter.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Come back to the Financial Settlement.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is a matter over which I have no control. Similarly, I have no control over the actual allocation of the cost of defence measures between India and Britain and neither have His Majesty's Government. So long as the Financial Settlement stands, then the application of that Settlement is something which is done by people over whom neither the Government of India nor His Majesty's Government have any control. It is done by auditors. It is done by the Auditor General and his Staff, as I have pointed out time and again.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: It should be modified. It ought not to stand.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: You can say—So long as the Financial Settlement is what it is, the Auditor General can continue to carry out his functions. He can check whether the allocation which is made in the first instance by the accounting staffs has been correct. I should have said the original allocation is made by the accounting establishments. The audit of that is done by the Auditor General. Now, it is open to him to say that so long as the Financial Settlement stands this item has not been correctly accounted for, it should have been accounted for on the other side and his objection has either to be complied with or alternatively some modification would have to be made in the Settlement.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Certainly. That is what we desire.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Professor Banerjea desires a modification of the Settlement but I am very doubtful whether he would be well

[Sir Jeremy Raisman]

advised. That is all I can say. The Auditor General then makes a report to the Public Accounts Committee. Having gone through the whole of the expenditure, the Auditor General reports whether the allocation was made in accordance with the Financial Settlement. That is his function and similarly the Controller and Auditor General in England reports to Parliament on the basis of that same report. He reports to the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament.

In dealing with this question of defence expenditure, I constantly find the most persistent misapprehensions about the items which are debited to India. For instance, although I have already replied to a question on the subject in this House, I find it assumed that the capital outlay on the doubling of certain railway lines in Assam has been charged to the Indian Railway budget. That is not the case. The entire capital outlay in this respect is being borne by His Majesty's Government.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: That has not been settled yet.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is it still under consideration in the Finance Department and the Railway Department?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The information that I am given is that the cost of the doubling of certain railway lines in Assam is debited to His Majesty's Government and I gave a reply in this House once to that effect. The Honourable Member may be thinking of certain other types of expenditure.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: There are lines which are newly built for the purpose of defence there.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am talking of the cost of doubling. That is actually an item which was mentioned in the Press Communiqué of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce. That is why I have taken it.

Sir Cooasjee Jehangir: That is correct. That is mentioned there.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: It might have happened since we last met in the Finance Committee.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: My Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari pointed out *a propos* the Hydari Mission that U. K. and U. S. A. were already switching over to peace production and so he wanted to know what was the decision of the Government of India in that respect. That is exactly one of the main objects of the Hydari Mission, that is to find out how much of the war production that is going on in India can be released so that it can be switched over to peace production. These things have to be dovetailed together and I hope most earnestly that we shall secure at least a proportionate relief, the same degree of relief as is anticipated in U. K. and I would personally claim that we should be entitled to even greater relief.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Am I to understand that there will be a switching over to peace production in this country on the same percentage as U. S. A. and U. K.? Will there be an agreement to that effect similar to the agreement entered into between U. K. and U. S. A.?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I say that the target should be at least the same degree of release of war production for civil purposes and as far as I am concerned, I should like to see it a good deal higher. But you do find that when you endeavour to pursue these matters there are always vested interests which do not entirely agree with the object of your policy.

My Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari touched on the question of dollars and I have no doubt that we shall hear more of this during the Session. He quoted the case of Egypt where an arrangement has been made for 40 million dollars a year of expenditure in terms of foreign currency and he contrasted these with the 20 million dollars for each of the years 1944, 1945 which the Government of India have agreed to accept for post-war purposes. Well, Sir, the position is entirely different as I tried to explain to him at that moment.

In the case of Egypt, 40 million dollars represents the total amount of expenditure both in America and in other countries requiring foreign exchange for the year.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Only two currencies, the Swiss francs and the Swedish kroners.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: And the Portuguese escudo, if I am not mistaken. My impression was that there were at least four foreign currencies which were included in that.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: The report I saw was different.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The point is that in the case of India we are entitled to obtain our essential current requirements during the war and that 20 million dollars for each of these years is an earmarked amount, which will be available after the war. So that the position is entirely different. I cannot give a detailed explanation of the current use of dollars by India. I can only say that it is a figure far larger than that which Egypt employs.

More than one Honourable Member touched upon the question of prices in connection with Lend-Lease supplies from America and has contrasted them with controlled prices from India. As I understand it, these supplies are mostly made at prices which are controlled by the respective governments. In the case of locomotives from America, I am afraid that the position is not generally understood. As far as I remember, quite a large number of these locomotives are provided on Lend-Lease, but the fact that they are provided on Lend-Lease does not mean that the cost of these capital goods is not to be debited to the railway budget. Lend-Lease cannot be brought into railway accounts; it has to be brought into the accounts of Government as a whole and the Railways being a commercial department are charged the cost of Lend-Leased articles. But even where locomotives are not Lend-Leased or Lease-Lent, the war time use of them is. That is to say, that the depreciation which occurs during the period of war, whilst they are being used for military purposes, is an item which is deductible from the cost of capital equipment.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: But where is the credit for that amount?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The credit is shown in the defence estimates.

Then, my Honourable friend Mr. Nedgy asked several questions about Lend-Lease. I cannot pretend that at this moment I should be able to give a complete answer to his questions, though, I hope that I shall be able to do so in the course of this Session. He gave a brief history of the arrangements with America. I think it is now no secret that the reason why the Government of India were not prepared to enter into an actual agreement with U. S. A. was on account of Article 7 which used some vague phraseology about the removal of tariff barriers. The Government of India felt that that might unduly restrict their future freedom of action in regard to their fiscal policy and they were not prepared to undertake a categorical commitment in that respect. For that reason, it was decided not to enter into a formal agreement, but to proceed on the same basis without actually signing a mutual aid agreement. His first question, as far as I remember was, to what extent India is now treated separately, to what extent, arrangements were, so to speak, *via* England. The object has been as far as possible to separate our position, but the difficulty is that war stores particularly are at the disposal of Britain and it allocates them to different theatres and also to India for her own local defence purposes. And it is not possible to entirely separate these two types of relation. My Honourable friend complained of our not taking this House into confidence in regard to Lend-Lease matters. In the first instance, I must say that it has been very difficult indeed for us to clear up many of the matters about which he has had difficulties; and secondly, even when we have put out material it does not always seem to have attracted the notice of Members of this House. For instance, I actually laid on the table a copy of the mutual aid agreement with Canada, regarding which also he complained that we had not taken him into confidence. The agreement was laid almost as soon as it was signed by the Government of India.

M. T. T. Krishnamachari: Why was it not circulated to Members?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I suppose it forms part of the proceedings and is therefore available.

Mr T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): It should be circulated instead of being laid on the table.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The next question, as far as I was able to get it, was in relation to the restriction of the scope of Lease-Lend aid to Britain, and he asked whether reciprocal aid from India would be similarly restricted. The position is that in regard to Lend-Lease arrangements after the termination of the war with Germany—and some of these modifications I believe take place even before that—there have been certain modifications and I do expect that there will also be some restriction of the scope of mutual aid, although the field of reciprocal aid from India will remain very much the same as it was before. But owing to certain changes it is possible that there may be some reduction in the scale of reciprocal aid. He asked whether the United States could demand, for instance, certain raw materials and get them without India exercising an option in the matter. The answer to that is definitely in the negative. It is not the position in any mutual aid arrangement that the United States can demand and expect these demands to be automatically complied with. These demands are always subject to the availability of goods and to the country granting reciprocal aid being in a position to spare them. His other point was about the price factor on which I have already touched.

I do not know if there are any other questions which he asked which I have not answered. I realise that I have not been able to give a complete or precise answer to his question about restriction of the scope of Lease-Lend. But I should like some opportunity to study the matter a little further.

My Honourable friend Sir Yamin Khan complained about the refusal of Government to set up a committee to scrutinise expenditure. I would remind him that when this subject was discussed last year I did undertake to consider what I could do. I do not say that what I did was necessarily satisfactory to my Honourable friend; but I wish to point out that I was not guilty of the discourtesy of ignoring the demand which he voiced. When I moved for the election of the Standing Finance Committee I explained to the House that I had then come to the conclusion that the best way in which Government could meet the demand of the House was to utilise the Standing Finance Committee in a wider capacity than it had yet been utilised. I explained the difficulties which Government felt in setting up an entirely new committee, an additional committee to those which already exist, namely, the Public Accounts Committee and the Standing Finance Committee; and I said that I saw no reason why the Standing Finance Committee should not undertake these wider functions. During the course of the year we have had some meetings. Unfortunately I was away for a good deal of the year and it was not possible to begin these activities of the Standing Finance Committee until after my return. Nevertheless we have had at least two meetings and I think we are shortly due to have a third in which I have invited the Standing Finance Committee to indicate the lines which it would like to pursue. The object has been to see in what way the committee can help with suggestions for dealing with waste, extravagance and corruption. We have had very free and full discussions in the Committee and I feel that the Committee is capable of rendering great assistance in this matter. I also feel that it is possible to put before the Committee material which it would be difficult to put before the House.

Sir Henry Richardson also complained that I did not deal with the matter of retrenchment and economy. It is because I feel that the activities of the Committee have not yet advanced to the point at which I could have made any detailed reference to their work, although, now that I think of it, I regret that I omitted to include some reference to it in my Budget speech. But it is a fact—and I think the members of that Committee will agree—that we have taken up matters and endeavoured to thrash them out to the utmost extent that

was possible. For instance, on the question of corruption, I invited the Committee to speak on the matter in the freest possible manner and to make any suggestions which they liked. I told them that I had an absolutely open mind, that I could not pretend that I was unaware of what was going on in the country. I laid before them a description of the steps that Government were taking; I produced before them as witnesses the officers of the departments which are dealing with the matter, and I invited the Committee to make suggestions—whatever suggestions it could—for the line that Government should pursue in dealing with this matter at any level. I cannot say that the Committee were able to think of much more than Government had thought of, or at any rate they were not able to agree to any practical course of action which Government should follow other than that which they had followed. They did make certain suggestions, but the problem is of course one of appalling difficulty; and when members get round the table and really discuss this, speaking as man to man and not in a public forum, then they do realise how extremely difficult it is to get on the track of this particular evil.

There are other matters which have been taken up in the Committee, and a certain amount of material has been put before the Committee which we have not yet discussed; but I did indicate to the Committee that I was prepared, as far as possible, to assist them to investigate any line which they thought they would like to pursue, anything in which they felt that they desired further information than they would get in the ordinary course. I offered to ignore, as far as possible, the distinction between voted and non-voted expenditure and, if it were possible without infringing security rules, to produce before them witnesses who can explain what had happened, even in certain spheres of defence expenditure.

Sir Yamin Khan also asked how Government will meet the maturities of these large war flotations. He seemed to think that that would involve enormous future taxation. Well, that is not the case. The scale of public borrowings does not tend to contract in the case of any country. As it grows
 5 P. M. you get a larger and larger security market. You get a larger scale of operations and in the year in which these maturities fall due, the mere fact that that money has to be put out in the market again means that so much money is available and the usual thing that happens is that there is a conversion loan. In other words long term loans tend to be carried on.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: That will merely postpone the evil day.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: To talk of postponing the evil day is to talk as though to incur national debt is necessarily an evil. It is not entirely an evil. It performs a very useful purpose. The whole question is whether the interest charge on the budget is excessively burdensome. You have to be prepared to incur a national debt for a purpose which is either vital to your survival or which will so improve your national income that you will in future be in a position to serve that additional debt. That is the modern way of producing what is called an expansionist economy, of trying to ensure full employment. You have to be prepared to face up to an increase of national debt if you want to neutralize the factors militating against full employment.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Where will the interest come from?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It comes from taxation. But as I said if the expenditure which resulted in the debt results in an increase in the national income then the capacity of the country is thereby increased. It is true that there is an increase of taxation but it does not mean that when the maturities fall due in those particular years, the amounts have to be met by taxation.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: That will remain unproductive debt.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It is undoubtedly unproductive. At the same time it has been found that war expenditure has certain compensating effects. It does seem at any rate to have taught countries how to deal with the evil of unemployment and it is usual, following in the wake of enormous war expenditure, that at that time people get down to asking how they can

[Sir Jeremy Raisman]

maintain the benefits, the good effects of war expenditure, without the horrible necessity of waging war. That is what is at the root of the Beveridge Plan and various other plans. They realise that the effect on the domestic economy in terms of employment and maintenance of national income is good. What they want to find out is how to secure those results without having to slay millions of men. I believe that they are finding the answer and that will apply to India as it does elsewhere.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): That is, exploit the colonies!

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I was surprised that Sir Cowasjee Jehangir should regard as a humdrum budget a budget in which I consider certainly on the taxation side certain revolutionary changes have been made. But they may not have struck him particularly: yet those same changes when announced in the United Kingdom at any rate produced a very widespread effect. He asked me certain questions about the depreciation allowance. I think perhaps I had better deal with that matter when I come to the Income-tax Bill.

I have endeavoured, I am afraid not very comprehensively, to deal with some of the main points that were raised in the course of this debate. I said at an earlier stage that the duties of a Finance Member in the time of war are not very happy ones and I cannot pretend that it has been a pleasure to have to undertake these enormous adjustments which are necessary in order to adjust the economy of the country to the shocks of war. It would have been far more exhilarating and stimulating if my six years had been a period of peace, when I could have had a hand in developing and uplifting this country. It would have been far more satisfactory to me to have done something for the cultivator and the countryside in which I spent the first two or three years of my service, to which I still look back as the happiest period of my time in India. But unfortunately that was not to be. My lot was cast, as I said once before, in less happy days, and the only thing I claim—it is a modest claim—is that in making these enormous adjustments I have endeavoured to preserve the economy of this country to the maximum extent. I have endeavoured to leave it as well off as it possibly could be having regard to the tremendous shocks which world events were inflicting upon it.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 8th March, 1945.