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LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Fifth Session)



(Vol. XIX contains Nos. 11-20)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, 28th August, 1958.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Steel Requirements by Railways

*630. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of steel received by the Railways for 1957-58 against their requirements of 10,00,000 tons;

(b) whether the short-fall has impeded the laying of any new Railway lines; and

(c) if so, which are those rail links?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) The receipts during this year were 9,28,000 tons.

(b) Yes Khandwa-Hingoli section of the Central Railway and Rourkela-Manoharpur section of the South Eastern Railway were affected.

(c) At present only Khandwa-Hingoli is affected

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: During the Second Plan period, we have to lay new railways to the extent of 842 miles but so far except for 30 or 40 miles we have not made any new railway track. In order to fulfil the target, what additional steps are being taken by the Railway Board;

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The question is about the receipt of steel; not about the laying of additional track.

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Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: In the question, I have asked whether the short-fall has impeded the laying of any new Railway line. So, it is there and my question exactly arises out of it.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I submit this shortage is affecting only Khandwa-Hingoli line. Even with regard to that, out of a total requirement of 1,700 tons, 1,050 tons have been received and attempts are being made to get more so that girders may be fabricated and the line laid according to the schedule.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether it is a fact that a well-known metallurgist has suggested to the Railway Board that instead of selling away this rail as scrap it could be converted into steel rails?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The main question is about the import and the requirements of steel. With regard to the conversion of scraps into steel, I submit a separate question may be put.

Shri Tangamani: The point is whether there was any offer by the well-known metallurgist that this scrap iron which is available from the waste rails would be converted into steel? If there was such an offer, is that offer being considered by the Railway Board?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): It is now the common practice on the railways that under instructions of the Steel Controller we give out all our scrap steel to various foundries. It is the practice; the practice suggested by you is actually being carried out

Shri Jaipal Singh: Sir, here is a question. Because of the foreign exchange difficulties and the like, we

are unable to get what we require. Here is a new process offered by a metallurgist who was a member of the Railway Ministry once upon a time, a very famous and well-known metallurgist, and he says that by his latest process he can convert rail scrap into steel that is badly required by the railways.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: As I just replied, under the direction of the Steel Controller, we give all our surplus steel scrap to various foundries, whichever ask us. That process is being carried out.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I submit that this question may be put separately instead of this indirect course being adopted.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Am I to understand that the process is already being worked out in the country? Is that the answer we have been given?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: We are utilising all our scrap within the country for the use of the railways.

Mr. Speaker: What is the difficulty? We understand the question: is that process being adopted? Yes or no, is the answer. That process suggested by the metallurgist, he may say he is not aware.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: I am not aware. . . . (*Interruptions.*)

Mr. Speaker: Why should there be an impression created that something is withheld by the hon. Minister here? I follow the question; the hon. Minister must be able to follow better.

Shri Dasappa: Sir, we are now giving the scrap under the direction of the Steel Controller so that it may be forged into steel. Is there any quota fixed to be returned in the shape of rails?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: No, Sir, not in the shape of rails but there are

other parts required by the railways. Recently, we have agreed to supply a large quantity of steel scrap to Bhilai steel plant. We are not wasting our steel scrap at all.

Gramdan Movement

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*632. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of Community Development be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 356 on the 20th February, 1958, and state:

(a) the efforts that have since been made regarding integration of *Gramdan* and Community Projects; and

(b) the result of those efforts?

The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) and (b). A further meeting held on 17th and 18th of March, 1958, between the representatives of Sarva Seva Sangh and the concerned Central Ministries and the Planning Commission decided to form two working groups to consider the subjects of Panchayats, Co-operatives and Village Development, and programme of training and collaboration between the two movements. Accordingly, the two working groups met from 6th to 8th May, 1958, and prepared a memorandum which was considered by the Annual Conference on Community Development at Abu. Copies of the memorandum and the recommendations of the Annual Conference are laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library See No. LT-871/58.*]

Recommendations of the Annual Conference have been communicated to all State Governments. The subject has also been under examination by the Sarva Seva Sangh. In the meantime, coordinated action has been proceeding in the field in some limited areas.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know in what parts of the country co-ordinated action has been going on and

what have been the results of that co-ordinated action so far?

Shri S. K. Dey: The work is proceeding in some limited measure in Koraput district of Orissa, in Tirumangalam *frka* in Madras, in some villages in Kerala State. Some work on a co-ordinated pattern is now being planned in Dongarpur in Orissa, Chattisgarh in Madhya Pradesh and Lakshmipur in Assam

Shri D. C. Sharma: How long will it take the Ministry to cover all the *gramdan* villages that are found now?

Shri S. K. Dey: The *gramdan* villages are expanding and so it is very difficult to answer this question. They will certainly be covered by 1963 when the whole country is covered by the community development programme.

Shri Tyagi: How is *gramdan* land distributed or disposed of? Is there any safeguard against the creation of uneconomic holdings?

Shri S. K. Dey: *Gramdan* land is distributed according to the population of the families; the land in the village is supposed to constitute a pool for the village as a whole.

Shri Tyagi: May I take it that it is a co-operative? Or, are there separate holdings created? Does it remain still in a co-operative pool?

Shri S. K. Dey: According to the present understanding it is only a right to cultivation and not the right to sell or transfer, that is conferred on the people.

Shri Tyagi: This is no answer

Mr. Speaker: The answer is individual cultivation.

Shri Tyagi: Is it had from one and given to another? Is that the process of *gramdan* or is it pooled into a co-operative effort?

Mr. Speaker: That is what he said. . . (Interruptions.) According to the needs of each family it is given for the purposes of cultivation only.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : अब तक जितने ग्राम दान हुए हैं, उन में से बया कुछ ग्रामों की उस प्रवार की व्यवस्था हो चुकी है, जिस के बारे में श्री मंत्री जी ने कहा है, और अगर हो चुकी है, तो कितने ग्रामों की हो चुकी है और उन की अब बया स्थिति है ?

Shri S. K. Dey: So far as I understand, 4,000 villages have come under the orbit of the *gramdan* movement. Out of these, in a very selected number of villages the co-ordinated programme is in progress. I have myself seen quite a number of villages where there seems to be a tremendous amount of enthusiasm amongst the villagers who are trying to own the land as a common pool and all the facilities that they are creating in the villages.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : ग्रामदान वहाँ होता है जहाँ पर कि लोग अपनी जमीन की मिल-कियत मिटा देते हैं और इस कम्युनिटी प्राजेक्ट प्रोग्राम में मिलकियत मिटाने की कोई बात नहीं है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन दोनों में मेल कैसे बैठता है ?

Shri S. K. Dey: Sir, an effort is being made to arrive at a point midway between the two.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : यह जो सरकार है यह प्राइवेट प्रापर्टी को मानती है। इस के विपरीत ग्रामदान का जहाँ तक सम्बन्ध है, उस में प्राइवेट प्रापर्टी का कोई सवाल नहीं है। इस तरह से जो मिलकियत है. . . .

Mr. Speaker मैं जानना हूँ। The hon. Member is only repeating the question; possibly, the Minister also will repeat the answer. He says that

there is going to be a midway after some discussion.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know the reason why Government has not proceeded on the basis of co-operative farming, and whether there is any idea to start utilising the land on a co-operative farming basis at least as an experimental measure?

Shri S. K. Dey: That also is intended to go ahead alongside the *gramdan* work.

Shri Ranga: Is it not a fact that in most of the villages which are supposed to have been given over to *gramdan*—in Koraput District, for instance, from which my hon. friend, Shri Jaganatha Rao hails—the question of distribution or the question of co-operative or collective cultivation has not been taken up and the lands are still in the possession of people who are supposed to be *pattedars*?

Shri S. K. Dey: There is no insistence on the part of the Sarva Sewak Sangh that there should be co-operative cultivation. Where people decide to cultivate in co-operation, they are free to do so, and where they wish to cultivate on individual holdings, purely for the matter of cultivation, they are allowed to do so.

Shri Tyagi: May I know whether it is seen that the distribution is done on such a basis that each holding is at least economic?

Shri S. K. Dey: The distribution is done by the village people themselves, and no pressure is exercised on them.

Shri B. K. Galkwad: May I know to whom these *gramdan* lands are distributed?

Shri S. K. Dey: To the actual cultivators in the villages who are prepared to cultivate the land and not earn a rental.

Shri Tangamani: In reply to an earlier supplementary the hon. Minister stated that *gramdan* is being done in Thirumangalam Firka in Madras State. May I know whether directions will be issued to the Block Development Officer not to take up only this *gramdan* work which will affect the usual developmental work which has to be attended to by him?

Shri S. K. Dey: It is perfectly implicit that the Block Development Officer should work not merely in the *gramdan* areas but also in other areas in the Block.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question. *Gramdan* won't be exhausted in less than ten minutes.

किसानों और श्रमिकों द्वारा भारत का भ्रमण

*६३४. श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या रेलवे मंत्री निम्नलिखित जानकारी देने वाला एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) किसानों और श्रमिकों के कितने दल १९५६-५७ और १९५८ में अब तक भारत का भ्रमण कर चुके हैं ;

(ख) उन्होंने ने कौन-कौन सी जगह देसी हैं; और

(ग) सरकार ने उन यात्राओं के लिये कितनी आर्थिक सहायता दी है ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री साहसबाबू झा) :

(क) १९५६-५७ और १९५८ में (जुलाई तक) ४२ स्पेशल गाड़ियां चलाई गयीं जिन में किसानों की ४२ टोलियों ने भारत की दौर की। मजदूरों के लिये कोई स्पेशल गाड़ी नहीं चलाई गई।

(ख) किसानों ने कई ऐतिहासिक और धार्मिक (Historical and religious) जगहों के भ्रमणा विकास-योजनाओं के लिये महात्तर जगहें भी देखीं। इन में से कुछ खास जगहों की सूची सभा-पटल पर रख दी गयी है। [देखिये परिशिष्ट ३, अनुबन्ध संख्या ६३]

(ग) रेलवे मंत्रालय ने इन यात्राओं के लिये कोई धार्मिक सहायता तो नहीं दी, लेकिन रेल का किराया रियायती दर पर लिया गया।

वैसे १९५६ में ६९३ किसानों के लिये दिल्ली से नांगल डैम और वापसी के लिये और १९५७ में ७०० किसानों के लिये दिल्ली से नांगल डैम, पटियाला और वापसी के लिये जो दो स्पेशल गाड़ियां चलायी गयी थी उन पर २१८१७ रुपये ४६ नये पैसे खर्च हुए और यह कुल खर्च सूचना और प्रसार मंत्रालय (Ministry of Information & Broadcasting) ने दिया। इसी तरह, १९५८ में ८०० किसानों के लिये दिल्ली से नांगल डैम और वापसी के लिये स्पेशल गाड़ी चलायी गयी। उस पर जो खर्च हुआ उस में से ९४५६ रुपये ३० नये पैसे भी सूचना और प्रसार मंत्रालय ने दिये।

Shri B. K. Galkwad: Sir, we could not follow the answer.

Mr. Speaker: The answer may be given in English.

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: (a) During 1956, 1957 and 1958 (upto July) 42 batches of farmers (kisans) toured India by rail in 42 special trains. No special trains were run for labourers.

(b) Many places of historical, religious and developmental interest. A list of the more important among these has been laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 63.]

(c) No direct financial assistance was given by the Ministry of Railways for these tours, but concessional fares were charged.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, however, incurred the entire expenditure of Rs. 21817.48 for two special trains—one for 693 farmers run in 1956 from Delhi to Nangal Dam and back and another special train for 700 farmers run in 1957 from Delhi to Nangal Dam, Patiala and back to Delhi—and part of the expenditure to the extent of Rs. 9456.30 on one special train of 800 farmers run in 1958 from Delhi to Nangal Dam and back.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि ये जो किसान विकास योजनाओं को देखने गये, इन के लिये रेलवे मंत्रालय ने क्या क्या सहूलियतें पैदा कीं और क्या इन के लिये कोई गाइड भी दिया गया था ?

श्री शाहनवाज़ खाँ : हम ने कोई खास गाइड नहीं किया। हमारी जिम्मेवारी तो उन को भाराम के साथ उस जगह तक पहुंचाने की थी और हम ने उनको उन उन जगहों तक पहुंचा दिया।

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि रेलवे मंत्रालय ने क्या कोई ऐसे नियम बनाये हैं कि यदि कहीं के किसान किसी विकास योजना को देखने जायें या देखने जाना चाहें तो उन को किराये में छूट की जाये। यदि हां, तो कितनी छूट दी जाती है ?

श्री शाहनवाज़ खाँ : वे रूल तो बने हुए हैं। जब स्पेशल ट्रेन चलती है तो उस में से तीसरे दर्जे का भाषा किराया उन को देना पड़ता है अगर वे बैठने की जगह मांगें। अगर सोने की जगह मांगते हैं तो बड़े क्लास का पूरा किराया देना पड़ता है। यह सहूलियत तो हम देते हैं।

Shri Venkatasubbaiah: In view of the fact that in the special trains that are run for farmers many people who are not farmers are taking advantage of the concession, may I know whether Government contemplate setting up a sort of a selection committee in order to see that only genuine farmers are allowed to travel in these trains taking advantage of the concession allowed to them?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Government does not propose to set up any selection committee for selecting farmers to go on tour, but we have one rule that any special train that is provided for farmers must be sponsored by the State Government with a view to ensure that the people for whom it is intended are *bona fide* farmers.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : अभी माननीय उप-मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि दिल्ली से जो स्पेशल ट्रेन चली थी, उस का सारे का सारा खर्चा सूचना तथा प्रसार मंत्रालय ने दिया। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि अगर किसी प्रोग्राम की इस तरह की सूचना आई है कि और दूसरी जगहों के किसान भी अगर किन्हीं विकास योजनाओं को देखने जाना चाहें तो उन का सारे का सारा खर्चा सूचना तथा प्रसार मंत्रालय देगा।

श्री शाहनवाज़ खां : यह सवाल तो सूचना तथा प्रसार मंत्रालय से किया जाये तो ज्यादा बेहतर होगा। लेकिन जहाँ तक मेरा इल्म है.....

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : आप के पास कोई सूचना इस तरह की आई है ?

श्री शाहनवाज़ खां : हमारे पास कोई सूचना नहीं है।

Pandit J. P. Jyotishi: Does the Government intend to extend this facility to other classes of people also who are as poor as farmers?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: This facility is already there for students, teachers, etc.

Pandit J. P. Jyotishi: I mean, besides students and teachers.

(No answer was given)

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether similar concession will be given to industrial workers for undertaking this educative tour?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It may be extended to industrial as well as agricultural workers.

Shri Rajendra Singh: If certain farmers want to visit the Congress Con-

ference, may I know whether they will be extended the same facilities?

An Hon. Member: It is being done.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: No, Sir; they will not be given.

Shri Thimmalah: May I know whether the word 'farmer' includes agricultural labour also?

Mr. Speaker: He said so. He said that it includes industrial and agricultural labour also.

Shri B. K. Gaikwad: May I know from what States farmers participated in this tour, and how many farmers there were from Bombay State?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I have got a detailed list here.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will learn it from him. There are 14 States in India.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: The hon. Deputy Minister has said that the special trains were run for farmers and not for labourers. May I know whether no labourers have sought the assistance of the Government for their taking a tour, or, was their request denied?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The parties organise themselves and they apply to the railway for this concession. No such party of labourers came forward.

Late-running of Local Trains in Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway

+

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:

Shrimati Mafida Ahmed:

Shri H. N. Mukerjee:

Shri Ghosal:

Shri Halder:

*635. Shri Bimal Ghose:

Shri Mohan Swarup:

Shri Narayanankutty Menon:

• Shri Warrior:

Shri B. Das Gupta:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times in May and June, 1958 when local trains in the

Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway ran late;

(b) what were the reasons for such irregularity;

(c) whether it was mainly due to the high saline content in the water from Hoogly used for feeding locomotive boilers;

(d) if so, the number of goods and passenger engines which developed defects on the above account;

(e) the total estimated amount of loss involved; and

(f) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) to (f). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 64.]

Shri Halder: Sir, on a point of order. I want to know whether the Railway Minister can be allowed to place a false or incorrect statement in the House. I am referring to Question No. 635, and the answer to part (b) of the question (ii) and (iii) of the answer parts "Public interference to train operation" and "excessive alarm chain pulling and custom checks".

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will put a question if he is not satisfied with the answer and ask the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact, etc.

Shri Halder: My question is, whether the hon. Minister can place an incorrect statement in the House.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister feels that it is correct. I will allow the hon. Member an opportunity to put a question. Indirectly, the hon. Member ought not to get up and say that the answer is incorrect and that the hon. Minister should correct it. He may put a supplementary question if he catches my eye, and not before that, indirectly.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: The Minister has replied in his statement, in answer to parts (b) and (c) of the question, that the delays were mainly due to an increase in the percentage of salinity in water. May I know to what extent the engine trouble, arising out of high percentage of salinity in water is also due to a large percentage of over-aged engines being commissioned in the Sealdah Division?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The recent trouble in Sealdah Division was due almost entirely to the high percentage of salinity in the water. There were a few engine failures due to mechanical trouble, but most of the engines failed because of the trouble which was due to salinity.

Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: To what extent....

Mr. Speaker: There is no extent. The hon. Minister says that it is purely due to salinity in water and not due to old machines being brought in. He says so. I understand it. I do not know why the hon. Member does not understand it.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: In view of the report that in the other divisions of the Eastern Railway which use the same kind of water and are suffering from the same kind of salinity, the same variety of late running did not take place, may I take it that there was something wrong and that actually the use of over-aged engines alone was responsible for this defect?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As far as I am aware, the only other railway that uses the Hooghly water is the Port Trust Railway. They have plenty of trouble. The other divisions do not use the Hooghly water.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that this is one of the areas where there is heaviest train traffic and also in view of the fact that the salinity of water will continue year after year until the Ganga Bar-

rage work is completed, may I know whether the electrification of Sealdah Division is going to be taken in hand immediately?

The Minister of Railways (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The Sealdah Division is very important from traffic point of view, and the traffic during recent years has tremendously increased. We have taken steps to overcome this difficulty of high percentage of salinity in water, and with that end in view, we are sinking tube-wells for that purpose. I may assure the hon. Member that electrification of Sealdah Division will also be taken up.

Casualty in Irwin Hospital, New Delhi

*636. **Shri Tangamani:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prosecution launched against Dr. Gaitonde of the Irwin Hospital for alleged indifference in the conduct of operation of a girl has been withdrawn; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the withdrawal?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From the evidence available, it was extremely doubtful if the prosecution was sustainable.

Shri Tangamani: This prosecution against Dr. Gaitonde was started under section 336 I.P.C. for endangering human life and for the act of negligence, because, after the death of the girl after the abdominal operation took place, forceps was found, after the cremation took place, in the abdomen.

Mr. Speaker: He gives information. What is it that he wants to ask? The whole case is, the forceps was not removed after the operation from the body of the patient, and that, therefore, forceps was discovered after cremation.

Shri Karmarkar: The Home Ministry, after considering all the evidence that was available, came to the conclusion that it was doubtful whether

the case was sustainable, and in their discretion, they asked the Delhi Administration to withdraw the case.

Shri Tangamani: The prosecution?

Shri Karmarkar: Am I expected to discuss the evidence and place the evidence before the House, Sir?

Shri Tangamani: It is a case of withdrawal. May I know whether, when the case was pending before the court of the magistrate, Shri K. P. Gupta, any evidence was adduced before the magistrate?

Shri Karmarkar: My information is that the case was under section 304-A, I.P.C. in the Faiz Bazar police station. It was under their investigation, and like in every other case, it went to the magistrate also—I have not got that particular piece in my notes—and at this stage, the Home Ministry went into the matter, looked into the whole matter, and from the evidence, they came to the conclusion, after giving all consideration, that the evidence did not justify a prosecution. That is the case.

Shri Tangamani: My point was this. The case was pending before the magistrate when the prosecution was proceeding with the case. What I would like to know is whether witnesses were examined before the withdrawal order of the District Magistrate was filed before the magistrate's court?

Shri Karmarkar: During the course of the investigation of the case, they recorded the statements of different persons. No witnesses were examined in the court. That is exactly so.

Shri Dasappa: May I know whether there was any reference to the Government from the prosecutor, whoever it may be, that the evidence was not sufficient to justify further proceedings?

Shri Karmarkar: It would not be in the public interest to tell the House as to what transpired between the prosecutor and the police and the Home Ministry. (*Interruptions*). Otherwise,

it is very obvious that the whole statement before the police, the whole evidence, how the Home Ministry came to the conclusion and all that, will have to be placed before the House and not piecemeal.

Shri Dasappa: I wanted a reply to my question. As I understand, it is only when the prosecutor finds that the evidence would not justify a conviction, that it is too poor, that a reference is made to Government. I would like to know whether the Home Ministry acted *suo motu* or on reference made by the prosecutor.

Shri Karmarkar: As I said earlier, my information at present shows that the case was registered by the Faiz Bazar police station and was under investigation, at which stage, the Delhi Administration was asked not to proceed with the case.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Shri Tangamani assumed, or at any rate put the question whether the police had not launched a prosecution in the magistrate's court, and he wanted to know whether any witnesses had been examined before the withdrawal of the case took place. He assumes that a case had been launched in the magistrate's court and that it was under investigation. If the hon. Minister wants to say that the police were investigating and that, at that stage.....

Shri Karmarkar: That is my information. That is in my possession at present. In any case, the case was not proceeded with in the magistrate's court. I do not want to shut out any answer. I can only give the House what my present information shows. If further information is required, I wish a proper question is tabled to the Home Ministry who are in possession of the matter. I come in here because it related to a case connected with the Irwin Hospital. Otherwise, the Home Ministry is the proper authority.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Dasappa only wanted to know at whose instance the withdrawal took place. The hon. Min-

ister is the Minister for Health. Of course, he may not be conversant with what happened so far as the Home Ministry is concerned. So far as his own Ministry is concerned, evidently hon. Members want to know, barring the conviction, what has happened to the doctor who kept the forceps?

Shri Karmarkar: At this stage, the Delhi Administration withdrew the case on the advice of the Home Ministry of the Government of India and the case was not proceeded with.

Shri Tyagi: Was any departmental action taken?

Mr. Speaker: They want to know what departmental action has been taken against the doctor.

Shri Karmarkar: I very respectfully submit that a proper question may be tabled to the Home Ministry in the matter.

Shri Tyagi: Is the Home Ministry running the Health Department, Sir?

Shri Karmarkar: If you order me, Sir, I shall give the information. I would not like to trespass into what belongs to some other Ministry, namely, the Home Ministry. So far as the Irwin Hospital is concerned, I have given the information I had as to whether the case was actually registered in the Magistrate's court and then withdrawn. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has said that he has given whatever facts he has in his possession, but he would like to know something more from the Home Ministry and then place it before the House if a suitable question is put.

Shri Tyagi: May I know if it is a fact that forceps was found or not, and whether the girl was operated by this particular doctor or not? This is factual information.

Shri A. C. Guha rose—

Mr. Speaker: Both hon. Members are ex-Ministers and they ought not to put questions along with another hon. Member. Let there be some order.

Hon Members are anxious to know whether as a matter of fact, the forceps was discovered in the body after cremation

Shri Karmarkar: May I make a submission that this question may be put to another responsible Ministry, as to whether it is in the public interest to disclose this information or not

Mr. Speaker: May I assume that the hon Minister does not know whether any forceps were discovered in the body of the patient who was operated upon in the hospital over which the hon Minister has got control?

Shri Karmarkar: I seek your protection, Sir I shall tell you how it is. Supposing I say the forceps was found in the body (*Interruptions*) Let me put the matter before you and the House Sir I must discharge my duties in the public interest and in the interest of the House itself. Suppose a forceps was found or was not found, where was it found, whether it was found in the body and what happened to it after the cremation, whether it was found on the ashes or within the ashes—I seek your guidance as to whether this House would like me to discuss the evidence. That is one thing.

Then, on the other point also I seek your guidance. This is a responsible matter connected with some other Ministry. Why not hon Members table this question to the Home Ministry, because it happened in the Irwin Hospital? I very respectfully submit that I am not called upon to commit another Ministry to the wisdom or unwisdom of my answers. It is a very responsible matter, let them table the question to the Home Ministry.

Mr. Speaker: It is a rather difficult affair really for the reason that after cremation, when there are ashes, how is it possible to say it was in the body? May be somebody might have put it there. God alone knows what exactly has happened. With all care and attention, nobody can say that this was in the body before cremation. It might have been introduced into the ashes by somebody, or it might have been

as a result of that. What are the *indicia* of its having been burnt there or its having been substituted? Hon Members who have been practising criminal law will find that many such cases occur. In one case somebody may be murdered and the corpse may be thrown into another house. Is that owner caught hold of merely because the corpse is there?

These are the difficulties and I appreciate them. I therefore proceed to the next question.

Shri Tyagi: On a point of order, Sir, I do not want to put another question. Your ruling is quite conclusive and I can understand the embarrassment of the hon Minister. On a point of information.

Mr. Speaker: What is the point of order?

Shri Tyagi: The point of order is whether we shall put questions about departmental actions against officers belonging to a particular Ministry to the Home Ministry or to the Ministry in charge of the officer?

Mr. Speaker: I will consider that. Now I am not able to decide. The hon Minister says he is in charge of the Irwin Hospital.

Shri Karmarkar: I submit that the Health Ministry is not in charge of the Irwin Hospital. We come in there because it is a matter of health. Otherwise, it is under the charge of the Home Ministry.

Mr. Speaker: To enable me to put it against the proper Minister, the hon Minister might have written to me that it is the business of the Home Minister. In many cases when we send a question to some wrong Minister, he says, "this is not exactly within my jurisdiction and so I am transferring it to the other Ministry." The hon Minister might have done so or might have written to me that I may send this to the other Minister. I hope Ministers hereafter will see to this matter. I shall now transfer it to the other Ministry and fix up the earliest day possible for answering it.

I hope and trust the Home Minister will come sufficiently armed with all the facts. This question will stand over.

Lower Damodar Conservancy Board

*638. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Lower Damodar Conservancy Board as suggested by the Lower Damodar Investigation Committee has been set up;

(b) if so, when;

(c) the constitution and the works done so far by the Board; and

(d) if not, why?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) to (c). The Lower Damodar Conservancy Board has not yet been set up.

(d) Since the functions of the proposed Board go beyond the statutory limits of DVC, the West Bengal Government have been requested by the DVC to set up the Board.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know why the investigation committee specially suggested the setting up of a conservancy board for the lower Damodar Valley?

Shri Hathi: The committee, after looking at the data available, thought that a special committee should be established and that should look into and formulate the necessary hydrological and engineering investigation that will have to be carried out to study the effects of the operation of the dam, to suggest alternative plans of operation and to formulate schemes for improvement of the channels in the local area. This was the work which would require lengthy and detailed investigation. So, they suggested another committee to investigate it on a long-term basis.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is it true that 99 per cent of the committees set

up to go into the Damodar Valley Corporation have not completed their work so far?

Shri Hathi: So far as this particular question is concerned, investigations about the effect of the dams on the lower terrain of the river are not yet complete.....

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: My question is this. More than two dozens of committees have been set up regarding the D.V.C. ever since the initiation of this corporation. 99 per cent of them have not completed their work so far. May I know the causes for that?

Shri Hathi: I do not think I can give a general reply regarding all the committees. I think most of them have done their work.

Bhakra Dam Project

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*639. { Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Ram Krishan:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 577 on the 28th February, 1958 and state:

(a) whether Central Government have settled the terms of repayment of the Central Government loan to Punjab Government for the construction of Bhakra Dam and its other works; and

(b) if so, the main terms of repayment?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether any discussion between the Central Government and the representative of the Punjab and Rajasthan Government has been held in this regard?

Shri Hathi: Not in this regard.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know what are the main difficulties in the settlement of this repayment of loans?

Shri Hathi: There is no difficulty as such. Perhaps the hon. Member knows that the Finance Commission has suggested as to how the repayment of these loans should be made. They have laid down certain procedure, namely, that all loans balances of which are outstanding on 31st March, 1957 and which were paid by Government of India to State Governments between 15th August, 1947 and 31st March, 1956 should be consolidated as one loan for each State in a certain manner. So, on that basis, the Finance Ministry is taking action.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that the Central Government had asked the Punjab Government to form a State Board and transfer some of the amounts to this Board and the Punjab Government has not agreed to it?

Shri Hathi: That question does not arise. This loan was given both for irrigation and power.

Shri Daljit Singh: May I know the estimated amount for the completion of the Bhakra Dam and the amount spent so far?

Shri Hathi: The estimated amount is Rs. 170 crores; that is the total cost of the Project. The loan advanced up till now is Rs. 156 crores.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: What part of the loan will be utilized for irrigation?

Shri Hathi: The allocation between irrigation and power is being calculated.

Shri B. K. Galkwad: May I know whether Government charge any interest on these loans and, if so, the rate?

Shri Hathi: Interest is charged on each loan that is granted. It varies from year to year. For example, the loan given in 1947-48 bears an interest of 21/8 per cent. In 1955-56 the rate of interest was 4½ per cent. It is fixed according to the prevailing rates.

Mr. Speaker: I have made a general request to the Ministers of Railways, Transport and also Defence

that whenever any accidents occur they may, of their own accord, make a statement as to what exactly has happened instead of waiting for hon. Members to put questions. Now that the Central Government has taken on hand a number of river valley projects, steel projects and so on, if any accidents occur anywhere, I expect the hon. Minister in charge of the respective department to come and tell the House the exact position. Sometime back we saw a newspaper report that about 160 ft. or so of the Bhakra Dam was damaged. I was really anxious to know the position. But I could not put the question myself. That was the difficulty. So, I would urge upon the hon. Ministers that whenever something in the nature of an accident happens, they should come and inform the Parliament of their own accord. Since we have no king in this country, I would like to make this Parliament the supreme source of information. Whenever anything happens, the Ministers should, before making a statement outside, come to this Parliament and make a statement. We are the representatives of the people. It will also help Government, because if the hon. Members get to know something they will explain it to the public. I do not know the magnitude of the damage to the Bhakra Dam; I hope it is not much. Whenever anything happens to any property vested in the Government, they should, of their own accord, make a full statement in Parliament instead of making the hon. Members wait to see the newspaper to know what has happened. It will also remove possible misunderstandings. This House should know about such things before the newspaper knows. Now it is only through newspapers all of us get information about our own House.

Shri Hathi: So far as the damage to Bhakra Dam is concerned, the Minister will make a statement as soon as possible. But I may submit that this happened on the 7th of August when the Parliament was not in session, and the Punjab Govern-

ment had issued a press note. Had the Parliament been in session, naturally we would have made a statement as soon as it occurred. Anyhow, we will make a statement here also.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: There is a question on this subject in today's list Question No. 894 That may be taken up.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Bhakra Dam

*894. { **Shri N. E. Munisamy:**
Shri Ram Krishan:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Bhogji Bhal:
Shri Assar:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a portion of the Central Spillway training wall in the Bhakra Dam got damaged by the overflowing Sutlej waters on the 7th August, 1958;

(b) if so, whether this damage will hamper the construction work of Bhakra Dam; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to repair the wall?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The repairs will be carried out during the next winter when the pond level in the reservoir drops below the level of the temporary Spillway blocks.

Shri N. E. Munisamy: May I know whether this damage caused to the wall is going to affect the main structure of the dam?

Shri Hathi: No, sir. This is not going to affect the main structure of the dam.

Shri Tyagi: What is the total amount of loss in terms of money on that account?

Shri Hathi: It is not possible to assess the damage, because the water is still flowing on the spillway. So, it cannot be definitely stated now. It would not be much. According to the present estimates, it will be about Rs. 7 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: What were the causes for this damage? Was it due to defective cement pouring or due to any other factors?

Shri Hathi: If you will permit me, I will give the details. Between the two spillways a partition wall has been constructed. The spillways are, of course, the places from which the water flows through the dam. Now the object of constructing this partition wall was this. In winter water does not flow with greater velocity as there is less water. Then, if one of those spillways had to be repaired, this partition wall would not allow water from one spillway to go to the other and, therefore, repairs could be carried out without any obstruction to the other spillway from which water would be flowing. For this purpose, a wall was constructed, rather, is being constructed. This wall is not a part of the main dam. It is on the other side of the reservoir. If the dam is on this side of the storage water, the spillway and the partition wall are on the other side. This wall was not really meant to bear the stress and strain of the current or the main flow of the water. When the whole dam is completed, water will be regulated from these spillways and the whole push of the water would not be there. But this time the dam is only half built, and they wanted to store water in order to get the benefit of partial irrigation. Therefore, water passed over this partially constructed wall and it was damaged. The dam as such has not been affected at all. Whatever small damage has been caused is to the partition wall between the two spillways. That is the position.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that not only the

spillway but also a small part of the dam has been damaged?

Shri Hathi: No, sir. My information is that there was no damage to the dam. The dam is absolutely safe.

Shri P. S. Daulta: May I know whether any action has been taken against the engineer who was responsible for the construction of this wall? It was damaged even before it was complete.

Shri Hathi: Actually, the question of action does not arise because, in fact, this wall was not meant to withstand the pressure of the water. It was only a partition wall between the two spillways. The main dam is quite safe. There is no doubt about that.

Shri A. C. Guha: Then hon. Minister has stated that repairs could be undertaken only in winter. But will the position not be aggravated during these two-three months?

Shri Hathi: The engineers do not expect any further danger.

Shri Ranga: May I know whether this question has been studied by the biggest of their experts either jointly or separately and whether they are receiving from time to time reports in regard to this?

Shri Hathi: On the very day when we received intimation of that, the Chairman of the Central Water and Power Commission had been there. He stayed there and discussed with the Engineers and the General Manager and also discussed with Mr. Slocum, the American expert there. Of course, the Prime Minister had been there accidentally on that day. The question has been discussed. After the water recedes, they will further look into the matter and whatever is necessary will be done.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: May I know whether the engineers anticipated the damage?

Shri Dasappa: May I know whether one of the diversion tunnels was closed in order to store up water here?

Shri Hathi: That is exactly what I said. That was closed in order to store water to take earlier benefit of irrigation.

Shri Dasappa: May I then know why they allowed the water to get over the dam over the spillway instead of allowing the water to go by the tunnel itself?

Shri Hathi: The question was that they stored water with the idea of utilising the water and taking the benefit of the storage later on for irrigation purposes. That is why they have closed it.

Shri Dasappa: That is obvious. Why did they allow the surplus water over the spillway and not by the tunnel?

Shri Hathi: When the river is in flood, water has to be stored. If they allowed the water to pass, it will go away. They have to close and store the water when the river is in flood.

Deraiment of Allahabad Express

'641. { **Shri Supakar:**
Shri Kalika Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any inquiry was held into the causes of derailment of 5 up Allahabad Express on the 31st May, 1958, at Dulahpur Station on Bhatni-Banaras line on North-Eastern Railway.

(b) if so, whether a copy of the Report will be laid on the Table;

(c) what steps have been taken to prevent further mishaps in similar circumstances in future; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Dulahpur Railway Station then was understaffed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes, an enquiry was held by the Government Inspector of Railways, Lucknow.

(b) The Government Inspector's Reports on Railway Accidents are published by the Railway Inspectorate, which is under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, and they are being asked to take suitable action in the matter.

(c) Among the various measures taken are—deterrent disciplinary action against the delinquent staff, education of staff in safety rules, provision of certain mechanical devices to minimise the chances of human failures, and more frequent inspections of non-interlocked stations etc

(d) No Sir.

Shri Supakar: Arising out of part (b), may I know why the report of the Railway Inspector was not available from the Transport Ministry and why it was not placed on the Table of the House?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: So far, only a preliminary report has been received. The final report has yet to be received. Besides, the matter is *sub judice*.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I...

Mr. Speaker: The matter is *sub judice*.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: What *sub judice*? I am asking a general policy question. There are 900 enquiries per year. May I know whether this will be discussed in the General Managers' conference?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes, Sir. It was discussed.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Any positive steps taken?

Mr. Speaker: How derailment can be stopped hereafter? No, no. That matter has been discussed. Pointed attention has been drawn to that. Regarding details, the hon. Member will go and study them there. Next question.

Air Mail Service in North Bihar

*642. **Shri Anirudh Sinha:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2079 on the 8th May, 1958 regarding air mail service in North Bihar and state:

(a) whether Government have since received the report from the Post Master General, Bihar regarding his discussion with the Government of Bihar and the Bihar Flying Club; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):

(a) Yes.

(b) Neither the Government of Bihar nor the Bihar Flying Club are in a position to undertake the service.

The possibility of chartering a plane for this purpose was, also, examined but it has been found to be completely uneconomical and the proposal has, therefore, been dropped.

केन्द्रीय कृषि कालेज, दिल्ली

*६४३. { श्री नवल प्रभाकर :
श्री भक्त वर्मान :

बया खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री ८ मई, १९५८ के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या २०९१ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) केन्द्रीय कृषि कालिज, दिल्ली के बन्द हो जाने से अब तक कितने अध्यापक व अन्य कर्मचारी वस्तुतः सेवामुक्त किये जा चुके हैं;

(ख) उन्हें उपयुक्त रोजगार दिलाने के बारे में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है; और

(ग) शेष अध्यापक तथा कर्मचारियों के बारे में क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

सहकार मंत्री (डा० पं० शा० बेशामुख) :

(क) कोई नहीं ।

(ख) स्टाफ के १२ सदस्य, जिन्हें १७ जुलाई, १९५८ से सेवामुक्त कर दिया

गया था, अनुसन्धानशाला में अन्य पदों पर ले सिंचे गये हैं ।

(ग) बाकी २४ सदस्य भ्रगले वर्ष शैनामुक्त हो जायेंगे और उचित समय पर उन को इस के एवज में नौकरी देने के प्रश्न पर कार्यवाही की जायेगी ।

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : इस विवरण को देखने से ज्ञात होता है कि स्टाफ के १२ मेम्बरों को अन्य नौकरी दे दी गई है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो २४ व्यक्ति भ्रगले साल सरप्लस हो जायेंगे, उन को कब तक एकामोडेट किया जा सकेगा ।

डा० पं० झा० हंसमुख : जितनी जल्दी हो सके। जैसा हमने उन १२ आदमियों की निस्वत किया है, उसी के मुताबिक यहां भी कोशिश की जायेगी ।

Postal Services in Rural Areas

*644. **Shri Sanganna:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Runner System in the rural areas will be replaced by mail motor service;

(b) if so, from what date; and

(c) which areas of the country will be taken first?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) It is the accepted policy of the P. & T. Department to arrange for the transport of mail on the existing foot lines by motor vehicles or any other suitable means of conveyance wherever such facilities are available and the procedure is economical.

(b) This policy has been pursued for the last several years and foot lines are being converted into mail motor lines as and when found practicable.

(c) wherever public motor vehicles ply on the routes to convenient timings and the same can be utilised with advantage on an economical basis.

Shri Sanganna: Are the Government aware that in the rural post offices there are no postmen with the result that the letters sent to these post offices are not at all delivered to the addressees?

Shri S. K. Patil: It is not so. The usual methods are followed and within a reasonable distance that is laid down, if a letter has got to be conveyed, letters are conveyed.

Shri Jadhav: May I know whether the benefit of the mail motor service will be extended to the gram panchayat villages which are in the neighbourhood of the regular motor services?

Shri S. K. Patil: There is a regular programme as to how these foot lines have to be replaced by motor or other methods and actually that programme is followed.

Shri Tangamani: From the statement we find that the Government has been adopting this policy for several years of making use of public motor vehicles wherever it is possible. Where these villages are not accessible by public vehicles like motor buses, may I know whether scooter services will be made use of?

Shri S. K. Patil: Yes. In fact, they are made use of wherever possible.

Shri Sanganna: By what time will the scheme be extended to the whole country?

Shri S. K. Patil: It is very difficult for me to say—there are 5,70,000 villages in this country—how the last village has to be approached. There is a programme. It is part of the Second Plan.

Survey Staff on Railway

*645. **Shri Vajpayee:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the scales of pay sanctioned for the "Survey" staff recruited for the surveys in connection with the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the scales are in operation in all the railways, including the Central Railways; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The scales of pay subject to adequate qualifications are as follows:—

(i) Junior Surveyors - Rs. 150-225

(ii) Senior Surveyors - Rs. 200-300 & 260-350

(iii) Head Surveyors - Rs. 260-350 & 300-400

(b) and (c) Generally—Yes, provided they have the necessary experience. The Junior and Senior Surveyors recruited on the Central Railway did not possess the requisite experience and were, therefore, given lower scales.

Shri Vajpayee: May I know if it is a fact that on the Central Railway, Surveyors who have completed more than 10 years service are still temporary and not made permanent?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: That is an aspect which we will look into.

Shri Ranga: For how many years have they been looking into these matters; people who have put in 10 or 15 years of service still kept temporary?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Railway is not the only Ministry which is guilty.

Shri Vajpayee: Is it not a fact that on the Western, Southern and South Eastern Railway, the Surveyors cadre has been merged into the cadre of the A.I.Ws. and I.WOs.? Why has that not been done in the Central Railway?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: There was no separate recruitment made on the other Railways. The only Railway on which special recruitment of Surveyors was made is the Central Railway. In the other Railways, the services of the existing staff were utilised for carrying out this work.

Investment in State Transport Undertakings

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*647. { Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Kumaran:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has invested in State Transport Undertakings;

(b) if so, on what conditions;

(c) the total amount invested in each State so far; and

(d) the rate of dividends earned by the Railways on their investment for the last five years, year-wise?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 65]

Sardar Iqbal Singh: May I know whether these profits have been actually credited to the Railway department?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: The returns have been given in the tabular form. It is presumed that the moneys have been credited.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: My contention is that the profits are declared, but they are not actually credited to the Railway department account. May I know whether these are actually credited or not?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: I would require notice.

Shri Tangamani: From the statement, I find that there are eight road transport corporations functioning with the collaboration of the Railway Board. May I know whether there is a proposal to start similar road transport corporations in the Madras State?

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: As far as I could see, there is nothing with regard to Madras.

12 hrs.

Short Notice Question

Power Supply in Delhi

6. **Shri Naushir Bharucha:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a result of recent further deviation in the course of Jamuna, there is imminent danger of City's Electric Supply being cut off partially or wholly; and

(b) if so, what alternative source of power supply Government has in view as a short-term stand-by?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) As the position stands today, there is no imminent danger of the electric supply in Delhi being reduced or cut off as a result of deviation in the course of the Jamuna. The maintenance of continuing supply power to the city during the course of the next week or so, would however, depend on the behaviour of the river. The situation is being watched very closely and every effort is being made to continuously desilt the intake channels.

(b) If the flow of water from the Jamuna to the power house discontinues due to the silting up of the intake channels, the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking would be able to supply power for essential services and also to give partial supply to the town, with the power being received from the Bhakra-Nangal Project, and that generated at its 'B' station and the diesel plant.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: May I know whether the channel dug up to the power house was silted completely due to the recent floods?

Shri Hathi: I could not follow the question.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: There was a channel dug up in order to get water for cooling purposes for the power-house. May I know whether that has been silted up during the recent floods?

Shri Hathi: That has not yet been silted up completely. In fact, this channel exists since several years. One channel, namely the north channel is being silted. The south channel works properly. But the south channel even otherwise had not been silted up.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: May I know whether the river still continues to deviate away from the power house?

Shri Hathi: Yes, it has deviated, but still, the channel is not silted up. We have placed men to desilt it, and the men are actually working round the clock.

Shri Naushir Bharucha: May I know how many yards of deviation would cause the supply to the power-house to stop?

Shri Hathi: It would not be a question actually of the deviation in terms of yards. It would be a question of silting. The silt brought would, in fact, fill up the channel. The more important question is the silting up.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Doubling of Railway Lines

*629. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of work done so far in doubling the Delhi-Sarai Rohila-Garhi Harsaru Railway line on metre gauge section of the Northern Railway; and

(b) when the traffic is likely to start on this line?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) The overall progress to end of June 1958 is 75 per cent.

(b) About March, 1959.

Conversion of Meter-Gauge into Broad Gauge

*633. **Shri Narasimhan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of the conversion of meter gauge lines into broad gauge has been examined by Government;

(b) whether any special officer has been appointed to report on the problem as a whole; and

(c) the broad outlines of the report if submitted by the special officers?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) to (c). An Officer on Special Duty was entrusted to go into this question and the Report submitted by him is under scrutiny by the Railway Board.

D. V. C.

*637. **Shri Subiman Ghose:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the original estimate for completion of Barrage and Irrigation Scheme of Damodar Valley Corporation;

(b) the amount of money already spent;

(c) the amount expected to be spent for completion of works yet to be done; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the target date for completion of the work has been extended to June, 1959?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Rs 19.64 crores.

(b) Rs. 17.20 crores upto the end of May, 1958.

(c) Rs. 5.71 crores.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Sewage in Delhi

*640. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred question No. 709 on the 7th March, 1958 and state:

(a) whether all sewers which went to River Jumna contaminating its waters will be totally stopped before the end of this year or directed to Okhla Sewage Works or elsewhere;

(b) to what extent this work has been accomplished;

(c) the expenditure incurred thereon so far; and

(d) the total cost likely to be incurred on completion?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The overflow from sewers at present falling into the river will be stopped when the trunk sewer from Delhi Gate to the Ring Road Pumping Station is constructed. This work is expected to be completed by the end of 1959.

(b) The last date for receipt of tenders for this work was 15th of August, 1958. The tenders received have been scrutinised and the work will be taken in hand shortly.

(c) Nil.

(d) Rs. 60 lakhs.

Sugarcane

*646. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the heat wave of May and June, 1958 has affected the sugarcane crop to a large extent in Bihar, U.P. and in some other States; and

(b) if so, the estimated damage to the crop?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The sugarcane crop is reported to have been damaged slightly in Bihar, U.P. and the Punjab.

(b) It varies from 5 to 10 per cent.

Kansabati Project

*648. **Shri Ghosal:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal Government approached the Central Government for including the Kansabati Project in the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Central Government has accepted the proposal; and

(c) if not, why not?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). The Kansabati Project has already been included in the Second Five Year Plan of West Bengal.

(c) Does not arise.

Industrial Hard Oil

*649. **Dr. Sushila Nayar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual production of Industrial hard oil for the last three years;

(b) whether edible oils are being used for the preparation of Industrial hard oil;

(c) if so, what is the quantity thereof; and

(d) whether any steps are being taken to substitute non-edible oils for this purpose?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The production of industrial hard oil during the last three years is:—

Year	Production (Tons)
1955	9,500
1956	8,970
1957	12,240

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) About 10,000 to 12,000 tons annually.

(d) Yes, use of non-edible oils is being encouraged.

Thefts of Railway Articles

*650. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether thefts and pilferages of railway articles from train compartments of Northern, North Eastern, and Eastern Railways have recorded recently enormous increase; and

(b) if so, what precautionary steps have been or are being taken to prevent them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Thefts and pilferages of railway articles have not increased enormously.

(b) The following steps have been taken to prevent theft of carriage and electrical fittings:—

(i) Joint checks both by the Train Lighting and Railway Protection Force staff have been introduced at different points to localise place of occurrence;

(ii) trains on notorious sections are escorted by plain clothed staff of Railway Protection Force;

(iii) the stabled coaches of upper classes are padlocked while third class coaches are locked by carriage keys after their shutters and windows are closed;

(iv) Railway Protection Force Sainiks are posted at stabling and washing points to guard empty rakes;

(v) special detective staff and plain clothed staff of Railway Protection Force are detailed to collect intelligence regarding receivers of stolen property;

(vi) surprise raids are conducted by Railway Protection Force on trains from which such losses are frequently reported;

(vii) the system of sending Deficiency in Rolling Stock cards through the guards of the trains

have been introduced in which the deficiencies are mentioned as and when detected

Malaria Control Programme

*651. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Antirelapse Therapy measures have been introduced in any States under the Malaria Control Programme,

(b) if so, the names of the States,

(c) whether there would be any change in programme due to change over from Malaria Control Programme to Malaria Eradication Programme; and

(d) whether it is a fact that anti-malaria drugs will be distributed free to all participating States for anti-relapse treatment?

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): (a) Such measures are expected to be introduced in 1959

(b) Does not arise

(c) Yes

(d) Yes, as and when the Anti-relapse Therapy measures are introduced

Indo-Italian Air Agreement

*652. **Shri Shivananjappa:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the date by which the agreement for starting a direct Italian air service between India and Italy will be concluded?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): The draft bilateral air transport agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Italy which was initialled in New Delhi on 2nd August, 1958 by the leaders of the Indian and Italian delegations appointed for the purpose, will be formally signed as soon as the draft is approved by the two Governments.

वाई० बी० टाइप के रेल के पुराने इंजन

*६५३. श्री मोहन स्वरूप क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि वाई० बी० टाइप के सब पुराने रेलवे इंजनों को पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के ग्रार० के० ग्रार० सेक्शन में भेज दिया गया है,

(ख) यदि हा, तो इन इंजनों की मरुत्पा का ब्यौरा और उम सेक्शन में काम आने वाले सब इंजनों की मरुत्पा का ब्यौरा क्या है,

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि निरीक्षण करने पर यह पता लगा है कि अधिकतर इंजनों के एकमल और दूसरे पुर्जे खराब हैं और फिर भी उन्हें चलाया जा रहा है,

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि कुछ मास पूर्व कामगज-बरेली गाड़ी ज्योहि वितरोई स्टेशन में चली उम की धुरी टूट गई, और

(ङ) यदि हा, त सरकार ऐसी घटनाओं को रोकने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खां)

(क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) ग्रार० के० ग्रार० सेक्शन पर ११५ इंजन हैं जिनमें २७ "कंप्राट्टी वाल्व गियर" वाले वाई० बी० इंजन हैं । २७ वाई० बी० इंजनों में सबसे पुराना इंजन १९३५ में चलाया गया ।

(ग) 'सुपरसानिक फ्ला डिक्टेटर' में जांच करने पर मालूम हुआ है कि पुराने ग्रार० के० ग्रार० सेक्शन पर चलने वाले वाई० बी० टाइप के इंजनों के कई धुरे चटक गये हैं । जिन इंजनों के धुरे चटक जाते हैं उन्हें मुख्य लाइन से हटा दिया जाता है और जब तक उनमें नये धुरे नहीं लगाये जाते, तब तक उनमें सिर्फ शटिंग का काम किया जाता है ।

(ब) जी हा ।

(क) सिर्फ इस दर्जे के नये और मजबूत धुरो मे जो टूट फूट और चटक पैदा हो गया है उससे इस बात का शक होता है कि शायद 'कैम्ब्रिज वाल्व गियर' वाले वार्डो बी० इंजन काठगोदाम के चढ़ाव-उतार वाले सेक्शन पर चलते हैं इसलिये, उन पर बहुत ज्यादा भार पड़ता है, जिसकी वजह से उन के धुरे चटक जाते हैं इस सम्बन्ध मे ये कार्रवाई की गयी है ।—

(१) जिन इजनों के धुरे चटक जाते हैं उन्हें मुख्य लाइन को गाड़ो से हटा दिया जाता है और जब तक उनके धुरे बदले नहीं जाते, तब तक उनसे केवल शटिंग का काम लिया जाता है ।

(२) वार्डो बी० टाइम के इजिन जिन में "कैम्ब्रिज वाल्व गियर" लगे हुये हैं और जिनके धुरे मजबूत हैं वे दूर रे डिस्ट्रिक्ट मे भेजे जा रहे हैं । जिन समत है क्योंकि समतल लाइन पर इस तरह के इ नो ने बहुत अच्छे काम किया था ।

(३) इस बात की भी जाच की जा रहा है कि चढ़ाव-उतार वाले सेक्शनो पर चलनेका प्रसर सिर्फ कैम्ब्रिज गियर वाले वार्डो बी० इंजनों पर ही क्यों पड़ता है ।

Import of Foodgrains from U.S.A.

*654. Shri Nath Pal: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total volume of foodgrains purchased by the Government of India through the India Supply Mission in the U.S.A., since January, 1954;

(b) the total value in dollars and rupees of these purchases; and

(c) the charges paid to the Supply Mission for its services?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). Approximately 50.8 lakh tons of foodgrains costing about \$ 330 million equivalent to about Rs. 157 crores were purchased and shipped by the India Supply Mission, Washington during the period 1st January, 1954 to 31st July, 1958

(c) 4% as Departmental charges.

Southern Regional Minor Irrigation Conference

*655. Shri N. R. Munisamy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what are the financial requirements for increasing food production in the current year for the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Kerala, Mysore and Bombay through Minor Irrigation Schemes and programmes?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): As a result of the discussions of the Annual Plan for the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Kerala, Mysore and Bombay, a sum of Rs 590 80 lakhs was allotted to these five States during the current year for their Minor Irrigation Programme. The States have asked for an additional allocation of Rs 240 lakhs during the current year. This demand is under consideration.

Purchase of Rice from Andhra Pradesh

*656. Shri Maniyangadan: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) the quantity of rice purchased by the Central Government from Andhra Pradesh since April, 1958;

(b) the price paid for the same;

(c) the quantity of rice purchased by the Kerala State Government from Andhra Pradesh and Madras respectively, and

(d) the price at which the purchases were made by the State Government?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The quantity of rice purchased during the period 1st April to 17th August, 1958 is about 55.5 thousand tons.

(b) The prices of the different varieties of rice from Rs. 15.50 nP. to Rs. 20.00 per maund (bagged) inclusive of the cost of gunny.

(c) From Andhra Pradesh .. about 20,000 tons from August, 1957 to June 1958.

From Madras .. Nil .

(d) The prices ranged from Rs. 34.34 nP. to Rs. 36.87 nP. per bag of 2 maunds.

Agricultural Demonstration in Manipur

***657. Shri L. Achaw Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that D—4 threshers and graders sent to Manipur by the T.C.M. were never shown for agricultural demonstration in the rural areas of the territory; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agricultural fields in Manipur are not suitable for demonstration of the thresher or the grader. The grader is normally used for construction of roads and it was utilised for this purpose.

Ravi Canal Project

***658. Shri Ramji Verma:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ravi Canal project in Jammu province of Kashmir State has been retained in the revised Second Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether any work on it has started; and

(c) when it is likely to be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Nathi): (a) to (c). The Jammu and Kashmir Government are carrying out certain investi-

gations in regard to the Ravi Canal Project. The investigations are in progress and the final Project Report has not so far been received by the Government of India. The question of including the Project in the Second Five Year Plan will arise only after the scheme has been fully investigated and a Project Report for the same prepared and scrutinised by the Central Water and Power Commission.

Co-operative Societies in Tripura

***659. Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of co-operative societies set up in Refugee Colonies and Camps of Tripura;

(b) the number of such societies where all posts of office bearers are held by displaced persons alone and not by any Government employee;

(c) whether running of co-operative societies by employees of Relief and Rehabilitation Department of Tripura Administration goes against the accepted policy of the Central Government so far as management of Co-operative Societies is concerned; and

(d) whether Government propose to hand over these Co-operative societies to the displaced persons?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) 47. Besides, there are 15 artisan co-operatives.

(b) 15.

(c) The officials have been associated at the formative stage of these societies. The decisions in the Managing Committees are taken on the basis of majority views.

(d) Yes, in due course.

Civil Hospital, Imphal

***660. { Shri Narayanakutty Menon:
Shri Warrior:**

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no departments for specialised

treatment of specific diseases in the Civil Hospital, Imphal; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to open such departments?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Except for cases of general surgery and dental treatment, there are no departments for specialised treatment of specific diseases in Civil Hospital, Imphal.

(b) Steps are being taken for construction of Hospital building as without accommodation opening of departments for specialised treatment of specific diseases is not possible

खजुराहो मन्दिर के यंत्रां

*६६१. श्री रा० स० तिवारी : क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मध्य प्रदेश के जिला छारपुर में खजुराहो के मन्दिर को देखने के लिये बहुत से विदेशी पर्यटकों आने हैं ,

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि खजुराहो में कोई रेलवे स्टेशन या हवाई अड्डा न होने के कारण पर्यटकों को बहुत असुविधा का सामना करना पड़ता है ; और

(ग) यदि हा, तो पर्यटकों की सुविधा के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की जायेगी ?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : (क) जी हा ।

(ख) जी हा ।

(ग) दिल्ली से पल्लः तक जन्दी ही एक साप्ताहिक हवाई सविम शुरू की जाने की आशा है । खजुराहो से सब से नजदीक हवाई अड्डा पल्लः ही है । खजुराहो के पास विदेशी पर्यटकों और उंचे दर्जे के भारतीय पर्यटकों के लिये एक अच्छा और बड़ा विश्राम गृह चाल योजना की अवधि

में बनाया जाने वाला है । इसके अलावा निचले और भीसत प्राय वाले पर्यटकों के लिये भी इसी अवधि में एक विश्रामगृह बनाने का विचार किया गया है । जहाँ तक रेलवे लाइन का सम्बन्ध है, रेलवे मंत्रालय ने हमको सलाह दी है कि कोष और बुनियादी निर्माण सामग्री कम होने के कारण यह जरूरी है कि जोर उन्ही तरीको पर दिया जाना चाहिये जो विशिष्ट औद्योगिक योजनाओं के लिये आवश्यक हो । इसलिये इस योजना की अवधि में खजुराहो तक सीधी रेलवे लाइन बिछाने की व्यवस्था हो सकेगी इसकी सम्भावना अभी बहुत कम है ।

Railway Employees removed from service under National Security

*662. **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether any employees removed from service under National Security (Railway Services) Rules of 1949, have been reinstated as a result of review; and

(b) how many are still under suspension from duty under these rules?

The Deputy Minister for Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) As a result of a review made in 1953 in pursuance of an undertaking given at that time, 23 employees were re-employed. A fresh review is in hand now

(b) 26 in all.

Embezzlement by Postal Employees

*663. **Shri Kunhan:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some employees of the postal department embezzled Rs. 10,000 given to them for conveying to Modinagar Post Office on the 23rd June, 1958;

(b) if so, action taken against the employees; and

(c) whether the amount has been recovered?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):

(a) A sum of Rs. 10,000 has been lost from the custody of the mail overseer who was entrusted the same for conveyance to Modinagar Sub-office from Meerut Head Office duly accompanied by the Complaints Inspector

(b) The case was reported to the police who have arrested both the officials. They are also kept under suspension

(c) No

Hydro Electricity to Bikaner City

***664 Shri Karni Singhji:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state

(a) the year by which Hydro Electricity will be made available according to plan to the City of Bikaner,

(b) whether any delay is anticipated in this regard, and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by the Central Government to help Rajasthan to tide over this delay?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b) According to the present phased programme, Bikaner should expect to receive Power from Bhakra in 1959. According to the original programme, power was to be delivered at Sri-Ganganagar and Rajgarh by the Punjab Government in April, 1958. Owing to difficulties in the matter of procurement of Steel, they have not been able to adhere to this programme. The bulk of the foreign exchange required for the Ratangarh-Bikaner line has since been released and orders have been placed or are being placed for the required equipment. It is hoped to complete this line by the time power is made available to the State Government at Rajgarh.

Delivery of Telegrams in Villages

***665 Shri B C Mullick:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no arrangement in village telegraph offices to deliver telegrams except on beat days, and

(b) if so, steps being taken to ensure every-day delivery?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S K Patil): (a) No. All telegraph offices, whether in villages or elsewhere, have arrangements for free delivery of telegrams within 5 miles radius, irrespective of postal beats

Regarding villages beyond 5 miles radius of telegraph offices, special delivery of telegrams is effected, irrespective of postal beats, provided suitable portorage charges are paid at the time of booking the telegram.

(b) Does not arise

रेलवे मंत्रालय के लिये नया भवन

***६६६. श्री क० भें० मालवीय**
क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रेलवे मंत्रालय के लिये एक नया भवन बनाया जा रहा है,

(ख) यदि हाँ तो उमका अनुमित व्यय क्या होगा,

(ग) यह भवन कहा बनाया जायेगा, और

(घ) इस भवन के बनाने में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खाँ) :

(क) जी हाँ ।

(ख) लगभग ७८ लाख रुपये ।

(ग) यह हमारा राममीना रोड पर उस जगह बनायी जा रही है जहाँ पहले 'एन' ब्लॉक था ।

(ब) कुल मिला कर लगभग ४ फीसदी काम हो गया है।

Land Reclamation in Assam

*667. **Shrimati Maftda Ahmed:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total area of land reclaimed so far in Assam with the assistance of Central Tractor Organisation and how the reclaimed land is being used?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): A total area of 5,252 acres has been reclaimed by the Central Tractor Organisation in Assam.

Out of the area of 5,018 acres reclaimed in Philobari, 4,635 acres have been allotted to earthquake and flood affected families. 234 acres reclaimed in Cachar are being distributed to displaced persons for cultivation.

Import of Foodgrains

*668. { **Shri Rami Reddy:**
Shri Kodyan:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the quantity of food-grains proposed to be imported during the current year;

(b) the countries from which the foodgrains are to be imported and the quantities to be imported from each country;

(c) the value of such imports; and

(d) how the payments are to be made?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a), (b) and (d). A statement of imports so far arranged for 1958 is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 66.]

(c) The total C. & F. value of the imports so far arranged for would be about Rs. 106 crores.

Groundwater Exploration Project

*669. **Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India has decided to extend the Groundwater Exploration Project for another period of 2 years from April, 1959;

(b) if so, the number of new tube-wells proposed to be drilled during the period; and

(c) the areas and States in which they are proposed to be drilled?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) A proposal for the extension of the Project is under consideration.

(b) The proposal is to drill about 200 exploratory bores in two years.

(c) The State Governments and the Geological Survey of India are being consulted about the promising areas in need of groundwater exploration for irrigation and related uses.

Pakistanis Employed in Merchant Shipping

*670. { **Shri Gotay:**
Shrimati Maftda Ahmed:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the number of Pakistanis employed as ratings and officers in our Merchant Shipping at present;

(b) what is the number of Pakistani dock labourers in the various docks of our country at present; and

(c) the steps being taken to replace them by Indian nationals?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) (i) Ratings: There are about 18000 Pakistani Seamen registered in India of whom about 475 are employed on Indian ships at any one time.

(ii) Officers: 2.

(b) Number of Pakistani Labourers

Cakutta	* 2528
Vizagapatam	Nil
Madras	18
Cochin	Nil
Bombay	* 708
Kandla	Nil

* includes number working under Dock Labour Board.

(c) It is not the policy of Government to displace the existing Pakistani nationals but when they go away the resulting vacancies are filled by Indian Nationals.

Employees' Provident Fund

*671. **Shri Rajendra Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a mandatory provision in the Indian Railway Establishment Code. Vol. I that as soon as possible after the close of each year, an annual statement of the assets in an employee's Provident Fund account shall be sent to the subscriber for his information and satisfaction that correct account of his Provident Fund is maintained; and

(b) whether it is a fact that in a very large number of cases the annual Provident Fund account slips are not supplied to the Railway employees in time, and if so, why?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes.

(b) While some of the accounting units are able to issue the slips to the subscribers according to the normal schedule, others have not been able to do so, due to arrears in the Provident Fund Accounts work. Special efforts have been made to pull up these arrears as early as possible.

Construction of Rohtak-Gohana Line

*672. **Shri Ram Krishan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 525 on the 25th February, 1958 and state the progress so far

made in construction of Rohtak-Gohana line?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): Upto the end of July, 1958, 75 per cent. of the work has been completed.

Grant of Post-retirement Passes to Railway Employees

*675. { **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao;**
Shri Bhakt Darshan;
Shri S. C. Samanta;
Shri Vajpayee;

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1377 on the 1st April, 1958 and state:

(a) whether a decision has since been arrived at regarding the removal of the disparity between class III and IV staff in the matter of grant of post-retirement passes; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

The Deputy Minister Of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes; it has been decided that it will not be feasible to grant post-retirement passes to class IV staff on the same scale as for class III but the minimum period of qualifying service for eligibility for such passes will be 25 years for both class III and class IV staff.

(b) Does not arise.

Slaughter-House in Delhi

*676. { **Shri D. C. Sharma;**
Sardar Iqbal Singh;

Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 365 on the 20th February, 1958 and state the progress made with regard to the proposal for relocating the present slaughter-house in Delhi?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): The recommendation of the Town Planning Organisation in this regard has been referred to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi for

implementation. The matter is under consideration of the Corporation.

Report of the Lower Damodar Investigation Committee

*677. { Shri S. C. Samants;
Shri Bhakt Darshan;
Shri Rameshwar Tanti;

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) when the Lower Damodar Investigation Committee was set up by the Damodar Valley Corporation;

(b) when the Committee submitted their report;

(c) their main recommendations;

(d) how far they have been implemented; and

(e) whether a copy of the Report will be placed on the Table?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The Lower Damodar Investigation Committee was set up by the Damodar Valley Corporation on the 24th February, 1955.

(b) It submitted its report on the 4th March, 1957.

(c) The Committee made the following recommendations:—

(1) Encroachment on the river by private interests must be prevented by suitable legislative and other measures.

(2) The growth of vegetation in the bed of the river and also along the bank should be carefully watched and suitable action taken so as to cause minimum obstruction to the flood flow, frequency of which would be definitely less than what it is now. Controlled cultivation above normal high flood level and in chars will be helpful in restricting jungle growth.

(3) Concentrated flushing doses should be occasionally released down the river in the interest of the conservancy of the river channels. Proper studies should be made while releasing the flushing doses as to the effect of such operation on the regime of the river as well as on the various interests on the banks. Such studies would be of valuable guidance for future operation of the reservoirs.

(4) In fixing the priority of water uses the conservancy of the river channel itself must not be ignored and should be given due consideration along with other uses of water viz., irrigation and generation of power. The operation of the reservoirs should be flexible enough in the initial stages, so that a proper and careful study can be made and suitable adjustments in the plan of operation are introduced for the benefit of all concerned.

(5) Some suitable method of supply of irrigation water for the trans-Damodar area may be investigated.

(6) The problem of drainage of local area in the lower valley should be separately studied and investigation and suitable action for drainage of these areas should be taken up by the appropriate authorities.

(7) Detailed investigations should be carried out to effect improvement over the present condition of the Amta channel. Care should, however, be taken to ensure that it does not affect the river Rupnarain adversely.

(8) Immediate and suitable steps should be taken for carrying out systematic hydrological

investigations and observation in this area.

- (9) It is well-known that several problems arise in the lower reaches of the river after construction of the dams. In the present case the problems are further complicated by the tides in the lower reaches. It is, therefore, difficult to forecast the actual problems that would crop up in this area after the completion of the Damodar Valley Project. It would, therefore, be necessary to have a proper control so as to co-ordinate the activities of the different authorities concerned.

A Board to be called the "Lower Damodar Conservancy Board" be set up with the representatives of the Government of West Bengal, Calcutta Port Commissioners and the Damodar Valley Corporation. The function of this Board will be:—

- (i) to formulate the necessary hydrological and engineering investigations that will have to be carried out to study the effect of operation of dams especially the releases during the floods;
- (ii) to suggest alternative plans of operation, if any; and
- (iii) to formulate schemes for improvement of channels and any local area in the lower valley.

It is necessary to have a proper unified development of the entire lower valley as a whole instead of solution of individual problems for local and short-term benefits.

(d) The recommendations stated above cannot be implemented unless the main recommendation for constituting a "Lower Damodar Conservancy Board" is implemented. Since the steps suggested by the Committee go much beyond the statutory functions of the D.V.C., the D.V.C. in

consultation with the Government of India, have asked the West Bengal Government to constitute the Board.

(e) Copies of the Report will be placed on the Table of the House shortly.

Import of Fertilizers

*678. **Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether any special allotment of fertilisers has been made during the current year for Jute, Tea and other foreign exchange earning agricultural crops in States like West Bengal?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): It has not been possible to make any special allotment of fertilisers for jute, tea, coffee and rubber plantations having regard to the overall deficit of 45 per cent. in nitrogenous fertilizers. The new fertilisers, namely, urea, ammonium sulphate nitrate and calcium ammonium nitrate have, however, been allotted in full to the Plantation crops as their demand for these is comparatively small.

Assam Rail Link

*679. { **Sardar Iqbal Singh;**
Shri Hem Barua;
Shri Barman;

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 323 on the 20th February, 1958 and state:

(a) the progress since made in the survey for the alternate Assam Rail Link; and

(b) the steps taken to stabilise the existing Assam Rail Link and make it a dependable and all-weather line of communication?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Field work of the survey has been completed and the Reports are under preparation of the Railway Administration.

(b) An Urgency Certificate amounting to Rs. 3.5 crores approximately has already been sanctioned for strengthening the major bridges and stabilising their approaches. Out of the total 39 of such works tentatively fixed for the purpose and proposed to be carried out within two to three years, 17 were taken up in 1957-58 and are almost complete excepting erection of girders in some cases and ancillary works in others. The remaining 22 works will be taken up in 1958-59 and later.

Venereal Diseases

*680. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the State in which the incidence of venereal diseases is the highest in the country;

(b) what special measures have been formulated for preventive aspect of the diseases;

(c) whether clinics for venereal diseases have been opened in all the States; and

(d) if so, whether both aspects, curative and preventive are covered in the clinics?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No accurate data are available on the incidence of venereal diseases in the different States. However, from limited surveys conducted in recent years, it appears that the incidence of Syphilis is high in the sub-Himalayan tracts extending from Kashmir in the west to Assam in the east.

(b) A national Venereal Diseases Control Scheme has been included in the Second Five Year Plan. The scheme envisages both curative and preventive measures. It also includes educational programme.

(c) Under the V.D. Control scheme clinics have been opened in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Madras and Uttar Pradesh.

(d) Yes.

Railway Employees Opting for Pension

*681. { **Shri Vajpayee:**
Shri Bagnath Singh:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway employees (Category-wise) who have so far opted for pension;

(b) whether any modification has been made in the scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a)

Class I.	..	170
Class II.	..	115
Class III.	..	6461
Class IV.	..	7514
		<hr/>
	TOTAL	14260
		<hr/>

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Passenger Amenities in Electric Trains

*682. **Shri Subiman Ghose:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in electric train running between Howrah and Bandel there is no lavatory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in the said trains the alarm chain is provided only on one side of the coaches; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not having it on both sides?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) Electric Multiple Unit Stock are used for Suburban Service only. Provision of lavatories has been dispensed with in order to make available maximum accommodation for Suburban passengers and to minimise overcrowding.

(c) On the 16 Electric Multiple Unit supplied by a German Firm, the alarm chain is provided on one side only.

(d) The modern practice is to have the alarm chain pulls on one side only. The time lag between the effectiveness of the brakes, whether the alarm is provided only on one side or both sides, is so little that provision on both sides is not considered justified when the additional initial cost and maintenance difficulties therefrom are considered.

Merger of All India Railwaymen's Federation and National Federation of Railwaymen

*683. { Shri Tangamani:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state at what stage have the unity proposals mooted by Government about the merger of All India Railwaymen's Federation and National Federation of Indian Railwaymen, reached?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): Copies of the Resolutions passed by the two Federations in June 1958, are placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 67]. In view of these, Government feel that they will have to wait for an opportune moment when probably the representatives of the two Federations can come together at another conference and revive their efforts for merger.

Ticketless Travelling

*684. Shri Kalika Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway authorities in coordination with U.P. State Government Officers carried out successful raids on three passenger trains at Gorakhpur Cantt. Railway Station on the North Eastern Railway on the 27th June, 1958, and found a large number of passengers including Railway servants travelling without tickets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what further steps have been taken to stop such travelling without tickets, particularly when a number of Railway servants are found to be themselves violating the rules?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 68].

(c) In addition to the normal checks against ticketless travel, special mass raids with large forces of ticket checking parties are also conducted. All these measures are directed against both the general public and the railway staff travelling without or with improper tickets or passes. In addition, the Railway staff involved are dealt with departmentally depending on the merits of each case.

C.D. and N.E.S. Blocks in Kerala State

*685. Shri Maniyangadan: Will the Minister of Community Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent tour of the Kerala State he expressed the opinion that working of Community Development and National Extension Service Blocks are not satisfactory in the State;

(b) the reasons for such unsatisfactory state of affairs; and

(c) what, if any, are the remedies suggested?

The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) Yes Sir, so far as programme relating to agriculture, animal husbandry and village industry is concerned.

(b) Inherent weakness of the Departments which have been the legacy of a long feudal past.

(c) Adequate organisation including personnel, procedure, and supervision.

Non-Departmental Telephone Operators

***686. Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to make the non-departmental telephone operators working under the Posts and Telegraphs in West Bengal permanent; and

(b) what is their number?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil):

(a) The Government have issued general orders in November, 1957 that all Non-Departmental Telephone Operators could, if they satisfy certain conditions, be absorbed as regular telephone operators. They are eligible for being made permanent in due course, in their turn.

(b) About 186 out of which 146 Non-Departmental telephone operators working in West Bengal are eligible for being absorbed as regular telephone operators.

Mata Tila Dam

***687. Dr. Sushila Nayar:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the completion of Mata Tila Dam Project has been reduced to priority 3 under the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) has the Government received any representations against it?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). The Planning Commission, while making reappraisal of the Second Plan provision, have only considered the question of categorisation of irrigation and power projects. They have not fixed priorities *inter se* these categories. It is really for the State Government concerned to give priorities to the schemes included in various categories.

The Matatila Dam Project Stage II has been included by the Planning Commission under Category (B), i.e. new schemes taken up in 1956-58 as against Category (A) which is for schemes continuing from the First Plan.

The Matatila Hydro-electric Project has been included under Category (4) which includes projects which are neither in an advanced stage of construction nor included in the 'Core' of the Second Plan nor assured of foreign assistance.

(c) Representation against the postponement of the construction of the Matatila Hydrel Project has been received and is receiving consideration.

Stabbing of Railway Employees

***688.** { Shri Rajendra Singh:
Shri Damani:
Shri Tridib Kumar
Chaudhuri:
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last few months a number of Railway employees have been done to death by stabbing or shooting while discharging their duties;

(b) what are their names, designations, places and dates of occurrences;

(c) what Government have done so far in rendering help financial or otherwise to the bereaved families; and

(d) what steps Government have taken so far or propose to take in the near future to meet this situation?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) There have been 10 cases in the past 18 months.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 69]

(d) The following steps are being taken:—

1. Close Liaison is being maintained with the State and Government Railway Police.
2. Government Railway Police have been requested to depute plain clothes staff in running trains during night time in notorious sections
3. Armed men from the RPF are posted at places where timely intelligence is received of possible danger to Railway Employees.
4. All passenger and goods trains in disturbed areas of Assam are being escorted by Armed men.
5. Armed Police pickets have been posted at strategic stations.

Import of Rice from Burma

*689. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a), the total quantity of rice imported in 1958-59 so far from Burma;

(b) how much of this has been sold out so far; and

145 L.S.D.—3.

(c) the loss incurred by Government in respect of the rice already sold?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) 219.1 thousand tons received upto 31st July, 1958.

(b) The quantity of Burma rice sold during 1958-59 (upto 31st July, 1958) was 137.4 thousand tons including sale of stocks in hand at the beginning of the year.

(c) Rs 119 lakhs approximately.

Export of Fruit Products

*690. **Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned a scheme of subsidy on indigenous and imported tin plate used in the manufacture of "Open top sanitary" type of tin cans for the fruit preservation industry for stimulating the export of fruit products;

(b) what is the amount of subsidy;

(c) whether Government are aware that the Metal Box Company (India) Ltd. are the only suppliers of such cans in this country and will the subsidy be paid to this Company alone; and

(d) whether Government have worked out the precise terms and conditions on which the subsidy will be paid?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs 500 per ton of tin plate used.

(c) The subsidy is paid to the fruit products manufacturers through an arrangement with fabricators

(d) Yes, Sir. A copy of the terms and conditions regarding the subsidy on tin plates is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 70]

Supply of Electricity in Delhi

*691. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 891 on the 8th December, 1957 and state the progress made so far to increase the supply of electricity to Delhi?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 71].

Dismissal of Railway Employees

*692. **Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the review into the cases of railway employees dismissed or discharged under Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution has been finalised;

(b) the total number of employees involved;

(c) the number of cases reviewed; and

(d) number of employees reinstated in their former services as a result of the review?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The review is in progress.

(b) 17.

(c) One completed.

(d) Nil.

Railway Bridge at Kanpur

*693. **Shri Vajpayee:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Starred Question No. 752 on the 7th March, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the District Officers joint enquiry into the causes of a depression in the track over the Railway bridge on the ganges at Kanpur has since been completed;

(b) if so, its findings; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to implement them?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir. This enquiry was held and completed on 11th February, 1958.

(b) The Heads Sarang and the Bridge Inspector of the section were held responsible.

(c) The Head Sarang has been permanently reverted to his substantive grade of Sarang. A departmental enquiry against the Bridge Inspector, who was served with a charge sheet for removal from service, is in progress.

Railway Track in Assam Section of N.E.F. Railway

1013. **Shrimati Masida Ahmed:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether some track renewals have fallen due in Assam Section of the N.E.F. Railway,

(b) if so, what is the total length of such track; and

(c) whether the work has been taken in hand?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Renewals have fallen due between Dhubri and Golaghanj, Sorbhog and Tihu, Rangapara and Tezpur, and Amingaon and Tihu stations on the Section of the North-East Frontier Railway falling within the State of Assam.

(b) The total length involved is 77.45 miles.

(c) All these works of relaying have been taken in hand and are expected to be completed within two years, subject to the availability of track materials.

Rolling Stock of Metro-Gauge

1014. **Shrimati Masida Ahmed:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what is the number of rolling

stock of metre-gauge proposed to be acquired during 1958-59 and how many of engines, passenger carriages and goods wagons are going to be allotted to the Assam Section of the N.E.F. Railway?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 72].

Supply of Fertilizers to Bombay

1015. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total quantity of fertilizers supplied by the Central Government to Bombay during the year 1958-59 so far?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): The following quantities of fertilizers have so far been allotted and supplied to the State Government:—

(All figures in tons.)

Name of Fertilizers	Quantity allotted from 1st April, 1958 to 30th September, 1958	Quantity supplied till 15th August, 1958
Sulphate of Ammonia	26,860	19,500
Urea	1,500	1,000
Ammonium Sulphate Nitrate	7,225	3,700
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate	3,800	3,600

The supply is expected to be completed before 30th September, 1958.

Development of Goshalas in Bombay State

1016. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the grants given to Bombay State during 1957-58 by the Central Government for the development of Goshalas?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Rs. 96,664.

Irrigation and Power Projects in Bombay State

1017. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state the Central assistance in the form of loans and grants given to Irrigation and Power projects located in the State of Bombay during the First Five Year Plan and the Second Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): A statement showing the loan assistance given by the Centre to the State of Bombay is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 73]

Harnessing of River Waters in U.P.

1018. Shri Pangarkar: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes to harness the river waters in U.P. which are under the study of the Central Water and Power Commission; and

(b) the number of schemes approved during the year 1957-58?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Only one scheme viz. Ramganga project included in the Second Plan is under examination in the Central Water and Power Commission.

Final comments of the Commission are being drawn up on Matatila Project Stage II, which has already been approved for execution.

(b) The following eight projects were approved by the Planning Commission during 1957-58:—

1. Ohen Reservoir.
2. Upper Khajuri Reservoir.
3. Kuwand Pumped Canal.

4. Jirgo Reservoir
5. Meja Reservoir
6. Matatila Stage II
7. Sarda Sagar Stage II
8. Tumaria Reservoir

Another scheme viz Nanak Sagar was recommended by the Central Water and Power Commission for approval during 1957-58 and approval of the Planning Commission is awaited.

Conversion of D C Electric Lines into A.C. in Areas in New Delhi

1019 **Shri Vasudevan Nair:**
Shri Warrior:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have decided to transform D C electric lines into A C in areas round about Janpath, Feroze Shah Road and Ashoka Road in New Delhi,

(b) if so, when will it start, and

(c) how long it will take to complete it?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi). (a) Yes

(b) The work is already in hand

(c) The entire work is expected to be completed during the current financial year

Chittaranjan Locomotives

1020 { **Shri S. M Banerjee:**
Shri Jaganatha Rao:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) the number of locomotives manufactured in Chittaranjan during 1957-58 (1st April, 1957 to 31st March, 1958);

(b) the cost of each locomotive,

(c) the number of locomotives manufactured in TELCO Jamshedpur during the same period; and

(d) the cost of each locomotive?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawas Khan): (a) 164 WG locos

(b) Rs 416 lakhs without dividend, and Rs 46 lakhs including dividend charges

(c) 64 YP & 21 YG locos

(d) *Rs 4,42,755 for a YP loco, and *Rs 4,44,873 for a YG loco

*These prices have been fixed by the Tariff Commission and are subject to escalator vide paras 21.7 and 21.8 of their "Report on the prices of locomotives and boilers produced by Tata locomotive and Engineering Co Ltd"—a copy of which is also available in the Parliament Library

Rural Indebtedness in Tripura

1021 **Shri Dasaratha Deb.** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) the per capita indebtedness of the peasants of Tripura,

(b) whether Government propose to scale down the indebtedness, and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this direction?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) According to the All India Rural Credit Survey Report (Vol I) 1951-52, the average debt per indebted family of the cultivators in Tripura was Rs 387

(b) and (c) The following measures are proposed to be undertaken during the Second Five Year Plan. The implementation of these measures will go a long way in re-

ducing the indebtedness of the peasants.

1. Regulation of money lending,
2. Limiting interest rates,
3. Supply of credit through co-operatives and re-orientation of loan policies to meet the needs of production,
4. Improvement of agricultural techniques and the productivity of the farmers,
5. Development of cottage and small scale industries, and
6. The various measures of land reform.

Late Running of Trains

1022. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trains on the North-Eastern Railway are running usually late as the engines are worn out; and

(b) if so, the action being taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Koyana Project

1023. **Shri Asar:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) total amount sanctioned by the Central Government for Koyana Project;

(b) total amount allotted to Bombay Government till 31st July, 1958 for Koyana Project; and

(c) system of allotting amount for Koyana Project i.e., whether yearly or lumpsum and if yearly, the amount of instalment?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) An amount of Rs. 910 lakhs has

been advanced by the Central Government to the Government of Bombay by way of loans for the execution of the Koyana Project during the period ending the 31st March, 1958.

(b) Provision has been made in the Central Government Budget for Rs. 700 lakhs to be advanced as loan to the Government of Bombay to cover expenditure on the Project during the current financial year ending the 31st March, 1959.

(c) A ceiling of Rs. 29 crores has been fixed for expenditure on the project during the Second Five Year Plan period. Having regard to this ceiling and also the availability of resources and the phased programme of expenditure, yearly allotment of funds is made.

Seed Multiplication Farms in Bombay State

1024. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the amount allotted to the Bombay Government for the establishment of seed multiplication farms as subsidy during 1958-59?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Rs. 41 lakhs.

Pumping Sets in Bombay State

1025. **Shri Pangarkar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any assistance for setting up of pumping sets in Bombay State;

(b) the total amount given to the Bombay Government in this respect during 1957-58 and 1958-59 so far; and

(c) how far the Bombay Government have utilised this amount?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The total amount of Central assistance given during 1957-58 is Rs. 18,14,750 and that agreed to for 1958-59 is Rs. 7,53,000.

(c) A sum of Rs 15,90,744 has been utilised by the State Government during 1957-58. As regards the amount utilised in 1958-59, the information will be available only at the end of the financial year.

T.B. In Rajasthan

1026 **Shri Onkar Lal:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the total amount to be given to Rajasthan for the prevention of T.B. during 1958-59?

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar). A sum of Rs 2,22,000/- is proposed to be given to Rajasthan for the prevention of T.B. during 1958-59 for (1) the establishment of 40 Isolation beds and (2) reservation of 90 beds for free treatment of and grant of cash assistance to indigent displaced T.B. patients from West Pakistan. Tuberculin, Vaccine and Publicity Material for the Mass B.C.G. Vaccination Campaign is also supplied.

Soil Conservation in Rajasthan

1027 **Shri Onkar Lal:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) the total amount allotted for soil conservation in Rajasthan for the year 1958-59,

(b) the names of the schemes sanctioned, and

(c) the amount already spent during that year?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Rs 8 00 lakhs including Central and State's share

(b) The following schemes have been included in the State Plan for 1958-59 —

(1) Field improvement in Agricultural lands by Agricultural Department

(ii) Junior Staff Training Scheme

(iii) Afforestation of eroded marginal lands

(iv) Soil Conservation—Ajmer

(c) In Scheme No (i) some contour bunding and survey work has been done but no expenditure is reported to have booked so far. Scheme No (ii) has not been started. Expenditure of Rs 14,200 upto 30th June 1958 has been reported under Scheme Nos (iii) and (iv).

Train Halt

1028 **Shri Siddiah:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether he has received any representation regarding the re-opening of the way-side halt at Chinnadagudihundi on Mysore-Chamarajanagar Section in Mysore Division, Southern Railway, and

(b) if so what is the action thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy). (a) Yes

(b) The matter is under examination.

Minor Irrigation Schemes in Andhra

1029. **Shri M. V. Krishna Rao:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) whether they have received any new schemes of minor irrigation from the Government of Andhra Pradesh during the course of the year, and

(b) whether any special grant is being made by the Central Government for the purpose?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Yes Sir. An additional provision of Rs 45.00 lakhs

has been asked for by the State Government for the following Minor Irrigation Schemes:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

(i) Tank improvement and restoration	40:00
(2) Sinking of wells.	3:00
(3) Distribution of oil engines and electric motors.	2:00
TOTAL	45:00

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Surplus Rice in Andhra

1030. **Shri M. V. Krishna Rao:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how much of the surplus rice in Andhra Pradesh has been allotted to each of the States in the different zones for the current year?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (**Shri A. P. Jain**): 162,809 tons of rice were actually taken over from the millers in Andhra Pradesh during the period 1st January, 1958 to 17th August, 1958 and were despatched to the Central Reserve Depots in

Simla	17
Kangra	54
Hoshiarpur	11
Kulu Sub Dn. (Kangra District)	48

(b) About 14,028 maunds of wheat and 1,190 maunds of rice have been released through these shops from

the following States for distribution from those depots:—

States	(Quantity in Tons)
1. West Bengal.	.. 30,634
2. Bombay.	.. 39,736
3. Bihar.	.. 14,730
4. Kerala.	.. 5,528
TOTAL	90,628

The balance of 72,181 tons has been stored, for the time being, in depots in Andhra Pradesh, Mysore, and Madhya Pradesh.

Fair Price Shops in Punjab

1031. { **Shri Daljit Singh:**
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fair price shops opened upto 31st July, 1958 in the different districts of Punjab district-wise;

(b) the quantity of different kinds of foodgrains released for sale through the fair price shops and the rates at which foodgrains are sold; and

(c) the position of the stock of foodgrains as on the 31st July, 1958?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (**Shri A. P. Jain**): (a) The district-wise break-up of 130 fair price shops functioning in Punjab as on 31-7-1958 is as under:—

1-4-58 to 31-7-58. The rates at which foodgrains are being sold from these shops are mentioned below:—

(Issue rates per maund)

Districts	Wheat Atta Rice		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Simla	..	15.90	..
Kangra	14.61	..	..
	to		
	16.27		
Hoshiarpur	15.12	..	..
	to		
	15.90		
Kulu Sub Dn. (Kangra District)	16.50	..	18.50
	to		to
	30.58		32.58

The above-mentioned prices in Kulu Sub-Division are subsidized prices. The State Government bears 50 per cent of the incidental cost on the handling and transport of foodgrains

(c) On 31st July, 1958 the State Government had a stock of about 7,640 maunds of wheat and 1,844 maunds of rice in these districts

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Posts and Telegraphs Circle, Punjab

1032 Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in each category which have been filled up in each postal division in Punjab Posts and Telegraphs Circle from the year 1955-58 upto 1957-58,

(b) whether the full quota reserved for them had been filled up,

(c) if not, the reason thereof, and

(d) what steps are being taken in this respect by Government?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S K Patil): (a) to (d) The required information for the calendar years 1955 to 1957 and for the period January-July, 1958 has been called for from the Postmaster-General, Punjab Circle, Ambala and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as soon as it is received

Quarters for P & T. Employees

1033. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) the number of quarters for the Post and Telegraph employees constructed in the Punjab circle during 1957-58 and 1958 so far; and

(b) the number of quarters for Post and Telegraph employees to be constructed in the Punjab circle during the Second Five Year Plan period?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S K. Patil):

(a) 1957-58. 15 Units.

1958 so far 2 Units.

(b) 1277 units approximately.

Quarters for Railway Employees

1034. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) how many quarters for Railway employees have been constructed on the Northern Railway during 1957-58 and 1958-59 so far,

(b) the amount spent thereon, and

(c) the number of quarters proposed to be constructed during the Second Five Year Plan period on the Northern Railway?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) In 1957-58, 3,145 quarters and 3 barracks were constructed. During 1958-59, construction of 172 quarters has so far been completed

(b) In 1957-58, a sum of Rs 147 crores was spent. The actual expenditure incurred on quarters constructed so far during 1958-59 is roughly Rs 9 lakhs

(c) About 8,245

Development of Tourism in Punjab

1035 Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Punjab Government have submitted any proposal for the development of tourism in that State during 1958-59, and

(b) if so, what kind of assistance is proposed to be given by the Central Government for the purpose?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the

Lok Sabha [See Appendix III, annexure No. 74]

बरेली-मेरठ राष्ट्रीय राज-पथ

१०३६. श्री मोहन स्वरूप: क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बरेली-मेरठ ग. ट्रीय राज-पथ पर दोनों ओर के हरे वृक्षों को बरेली ओर सक्का पुल के बीच में काटा जा रहा है जिसके कारण पैदल चलने वालों को असुविधा हो रही है जो गर्मियों में छाया ग वंचित हो गये हैं ,

(ख) यदि हा, तो इस प्रकार कितने वृक्ष बेचे गये तथा इससे कितनी राशि प्राप्त हुई

(ग) क्या बेचने से पहले उनका मर्यादित निर्धारित किया गया था

(घ) यदि हा, तो उमकी राशि क्या थी और क्या निर्धारित मूल्य और विनियम मूल्य में कोई अन्तर था और

(ङ) क्या ये वृक्ष नीलाम विधे गये थे ?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मन्त्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : (क) प्रश्नों में पूछे गये पेड़ों की बिक्री राज्य जंगल विभाग (State Forest Department) द्वारा कर दी गई है। यह पेड़ पक्की सड़क से १० फुट की दूरी के अन्दर होते थे और यातायात में रुकावट पैदा करने थे। सड़क की केन्द्र-रेखा से उचित दूरी पर नए पेड़ यथासंभव लगा दिये जायेंगे। इस सड़क पर पैदल चलने वालों को छाह के लिये अब भी कुछ पेड़ छूटे हुए हैं।

(ख) १५८ पेड़ हटाये गये जिस से हुई बिक्री की रकम ८,६०० रुपये हैं।

(ग) जी, हाँ।

(घ) प्राप्त की गई बिक्री की रकम काकी गई क्रम में क्रमिक थी। इनकी काकी गई क्रम १५,५० रुपये था जब कि नीलाम से मिली हुई रकम ८,६०० रुपये थी ,

(ङ) जी, हाँ।

Construction of Over-bridges on Northern Railway

1037. **Shri Mohan Swarup:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government have been considering the construction of over-bridges on the stations of Bhitaura, Nagaria, Sadat, Dhanata and Milak of Northern Railway to avoid the hardship of the passengers, as all the down trains stop on 3rd line?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): There is no proposal, at present to provide foot-over-bridges at these stations. The necessity to provide foot-over-bridges at these stations *vis-a-vis* others will be examined by the Railway Administration in consultation with the Railway Users' Amenity Committee with which the public is associated, subject to the availability of funds and materials. It may be mentioned further that due to shortage of steel, works of this kind which have already been approved are also being curtailed or deferred for the present.

Milk Boards

1038 { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 322 on the 20th February, 1958 and state the names of the places where the Milk Boards have been set up so far?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (1) An *ad-hoc* Milk Board, with Chief Commissioner,

Delhi, as Chairman, has been set up in Delhi for planning and implementation of the Delhi Milk Supply Scheme

(ii) The position in respect of the various States is as under

- (a) Madras, UP and Bihar are taking action for setting up Milk Boards
- (b) Madhya Pradesh and Mysore will be taking up the question after their Milk Schemes are established
- (c) Bombay, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir are still considering the question

(iii) Replies from other States are awaited

Willingdon Hospital, New Delhi

1039. Shri D. C. Sharma. Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state

(a) the average attendance per day of outdoor patients during 1957 and 1958 so far separately at the Willingdon Hospital New Delhi, and

(b) the number of doctors to attend them during 1957 and 1958 separately

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The daily average attendance of outdoor patients in the Willingdon Hospital, New Delhi for 1957 and 1958 (upto 30th April) is 881 and 648 respectively

(b) Normally seven doctors

All-weather Aerodrome at Shillong

1040. Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for construction of an all weather aerodrome at Shillong (Assam) or near about it is under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the progress made in regard thereto; and

(c) when a final decision is likely to be arrived at?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): (a) to (c) Owing to technical difficulties and paucity of funds, it is not proposed at present to construct an all-weather aerodrome at Shillong

Cancellation of Trains on Kuria-Mankhand Section

1041. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Railway has cancelled a number of trains on the Kuria-Mankhand section of Bombay since the 1st April, 1958,

(b) whether Government have received any protests against this action of the Railway authorities from the residents of Chembur, and

(c) what are the reasons for reducing the number of trains?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, three trains each way during the non-peak period have been cancelled with effect from 1st April, 1958

(b) Yes

(c) There was no traffic justification for these trains. However, the matter has been reviewed, on receipt of representations from the residents of Chembur, and the following additional trains have been introduced on the section with effect from 1st July, 1958

(i) One Bombay-Kuria Local has been extended to Chembur

(ii) One extra train has been introduced between Kuria and Mankhand between the hours of 19 00 and 22 00.

Fisheries Extension Unit, Patna

1042. Shri Bibhuti Mishra: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start Fisheries Extension Unit at Patna; and

(b) if so, when?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). A Fisheries Extension Unit has already been sanctioned at Patna and is expected to start functioning in October 1958.

Compensation to Families of Railway Workers Killed in Kalka Firing

1043. Shri Muhammed Elias: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the compensation to the railway workers killed in the Kalka firing on May 29, 1958 has been paid to the families of all the workers; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). No compensation has been paid to the dependents of any of the persons by the Railway, as death did not arise in the course of their duties. The Government of Punjab to whom the matter was referred have stated that, out of the five persons who died, three died as a result of the round of firing which was held by the Judicial Commissioner of Enquiry to be unjustifiable and that in their cases, the dependents were paid an *ex-gratia* compensation of Rs. 3,000 in each case; the death of the other two persons occurred due to the round of firing held to be justifiable and no compensation was granted.

दिल्ली में बांध

१०४४. श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या साहब तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली राज्य में सुलतानपुर, चिंटोरनी, महरोली, खिड़की, होज खास और गढ़ईपुर के बांध मरम्मत न होने की वजह से जीर्ण अवस्था में हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार का उनकी मरम्मत कराने का विचार है ?

साहब तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री छ० प्र० जैन) :

(क) और (ख) : जी हां ।

अलापुर विकास बंड, दिल्ली में कुओं का निर्माण

१०४५. श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या साहब तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि १९५७-५८ में अलीपुर, दिल्ली विकास बंड में किसानों को कुएं बनाने, रहट लगवाने तथा बैल खरीदने के लिये तकावी नहीं दी गयी ;

(ख) यदि हा, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) उक्त अवधि में कितने किसानों ने तकावी के लिये प्रार्थना-पत्र भेजे ?

साहब तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री छ० प्र० जैन) :

(क) और (ख) : केन्द्रीय शासित दिल्ली राज्य के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में किसानों को ऋण के रूप में एडवॉन्स (advance) देने के लिये ६ लाख रुपये उपलब्ध थे । इस में से ४ लाख रुपये खर्च किये गये और २ लाख रुपये खर्च नहीं हुए, इस का कारण ऋण देने से पहले यथाविधियों को पूरा करने

में बेर होने का था। अलीपुर से कोई भी मनुष्य ऐसा ऋण प्राप्त नहीं कर सका।

(ग) कुम्भो के निर्माण के लिये अलीपुर विकास ढाका से ३९ मनुष्यों ने ऋण के लिये प्रार्थना पत्र दिये थे। किसी ने रहूट लगवाने या बैल खरीदने के लिये ऋण लेने के लिये प्रार्थना पत्र नहीं दिये।

Khesri Dhal

1046. { Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the annual production of Khesri Dhal?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): The production of Khesri Dhal was about 260,000 tons in 1956-57

Pay Scales of Railway Employees

1047. Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Class of employees designated as "Store-Issuers" and "Coal-Issuers" serving under the South Eastern Railway (the Ex-BN Railway) are continuing in a lower scale of pay viz, Rs 55—85 although similar categories of employees such as "Coal Checkers" "Fuel Checkers" etc both in the South Eastern Railway and the Eastern Railway who perform almost identical duties have been given a higher scale of pay viz, Rs 60—130,

(b) whether Government and the Railway Board have received any representation from the said "Store Issuers" of the South Eastern Railway who perform almost identical of their scale of pay; and

(c) if so, what decisions have been taken on these representations?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) It is a fact that Store Issuers and Coal

Issuers on the South-Eastern Railway are in the scale of Rs. 55—85. It is also a fact that Coal Checkers/Fuel Checkers on the Eastern Railway and Fuel Clerks on the South Eastern Railway are in the scale of Rs. 60—130. However, the duties of Stores Issuers are not identical with those of Fuel Checkers/Coal Checkers on the Eastern Railway or Fuel Clerks on the South Eastern Railway

(b) Yes

(c) As a result of detailed examination it was found that there was no justification for revision of the scale from Rs 55—85 to Rs 60—130

Pay Scales of Railway Employees

1048. Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Store Issuers attached to water softening in SE Railway are continuing in the pay scale of Rs 55—85 while employees in analogous posts in the same Railway or other Railways, such as Time Keepers (in Eastern Railway), Material Checking Clerks (in SE Railway), water treatment Mistries (in Eastern Railway), and Q T Van Clerks (in SE Railway), who perform similar duties, have been given a higher scale of pay at Rs 60—130 or Rs 80—160, and

(b) if so, whether the Railway Board have taken any steps to remove this anomaly?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b) Store Issuers attached to water softening on the SE Railway are in scale of Rs 55—85. The question whether the duties of Time Keepers on the Eastern Railway are comparable to those of such Store Issuers is under examination. There are no Q T. Van Clerks or Material Checking Clerks on the SE Railway. There is, however, a category of staff designated as Material Checkers in scale Rs. 55—85 on that Railway. There are no water treatment Mistries on the Eastern Railway

Development Work in Rural Areas

1049. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Community Development be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the names of non-official organisations which rendered help in the development work in rural areas between 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58; and

(b) the amount spent in this way?

The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) and (b). A number of non-official organisations e.g., Vikash Mandals, Mahila Mandals, Youth Clubs, Farmers' Clubs, Bharat Sewak Samaj, Kastruba Trust, Social Welfare Board, Rama Krishna

Mission etc. are participating in the programme. But the specific information asked for is not available.

Anti-T.B. Work in Punjab

1050. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 89 on the 12th February, 1958, and state the amount given for anti-T. B. work to institutions in Punjab so far (institution-wise)?

The Minister of Health (Shri D. P. Karmarkar): The required information is given below:—

Statement showing amounts given/allotted to institutions in Punjab for anti-T.B. work.

1956-57 1957-58 1958-59

	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1. Gulab Devi T. B Hospital, Jullundur.	50,000	54,580	..	For reservation of beds for displaced T. B. patients and purchase of cinema projector.
2. Punjab Government	2,86,000	2,71,150	1,42,000	For reservation of beds and cash assistance to displaced T. B. patients.
3. Lady Lintithgow Sanatorium, Kasault.	78,278	77,473	9,000	For reservation of beds for displaced T. B. patients and Central Government Servants.
4. Lady Irwin Sanatorium, Jubar.	66,755	72,000	18,000	For reservation of beds for displaced T. B. patients.
5. Christian General Hospital, Palwal.	4,500	15,900	9,000	For reservation of beds for displaced T. B. patients and construction of a T. B. ward.
6. T. B. Clinic, Sangrur	..	50,000		} Cost of X-Ray and Laboratory equipment.
7. T. B. Clinic, Nabha	..	50,000		
8. T. B. Clinic, Ambala	..	50,000		
9. T. B. Clinic, Ludhiana	..	50,000		
10. T. B. Clinic, Simla	..	50,000		
11. Civil Hospital Bhiwani, Hissar.	10,000	..	..	For purchase of equipment.
12. T. B. Demonstration and Training Centre, Patiala.	..	..	2,00,000	Approximate cost of X-Ray and laboratory equipment.
TOTAL	4,91,533	7,41,103	3,78,000	

Pusa Institute

1051. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had allowed a passage for residents of village Naraina behind Pusa Institute for use at the time of acquisition of land for this Institute from villagers;

(b) if so, whether this passage is consequently closed for vehicular traffic to the disadvantage of the residents of Naraina and newly developed colony of Inderpuri;

(c) whether Government would consider the desirability of providing facilities of vehicular traffic to these residents; and

(d) if so, what is proposed to be their nature?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes; it is a fact that a Kutcha cart track was provided outside the boundary fence of the I.A.R.I. at the time of its shifting to the present site in 1936 for use by the villagers of Naraina, Todapur and Dasghara purely on humanitarian grounds

(b) No; this passage has not been closed, but the cart track was shifted from its original position along the toe of the hullock in 1952, because additional land of 241 acres was transferred to the Institute and it was not desirable in the interest of the research work of the Institute to allow a public passage through experimental plots.

(c) and (d). The desirability of providing facilities of vehicular traffic to the village of Naraina is already under active consideration. Estimates have been framed for providing a link from near the National Physical Laboratory to Naraina and then joining the Cantonment and Najafgarh road.

पंचविम्पलिया की योजना

१०५२. श्री डाक्टर क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पश्चिम रेलवे के दोहद तथा रतलाम स्टेशनों के बीच स्थित पंचविम्पलिया स्टेशन का नक्शा बदला गया है ; और

(ख) इस परिवर्तन के फलस्वरूप ठेकेदार को कितना अतिरिक्त रुपया मंजूर किया गया ;

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खाँ) : शायद माननीय सदस्य का मतलब पंचविम्पलिया (Panchimpolya) स्टेशन से है । यदि ऐसा है, तो जवाब हम प्रकार है .

(क) जी हा । मूल योजना में सिर्फ एक 'डाउन रिफ्यूज साइडिंग' बनाने की व्यवस्था थी । लेकिन बाद में परिचालन-सम्बन्धी कारणों से एक 'अप रिफ्यूज साइडिंग' बनाना भी जरूरी समझा गया ताकि स्टेशन के पास वाली सुरंग से होकर सिर्फ इकहरी लाइन से काम चल जाय और दोहरी लाइन बिछाने का भारी रुचं बच जाये ।

(ख) दूसरी 'रिफ्यूज साइडिंग' का जितना काम ठेकेदार को दिया गया था उसमें मिटटी डालने की लागत ३५,००० रुपये और पुल-सम्बन्धी काम की लागत ८,५०० रुपये थी ।

Sugar Mills

1053. **Shri Anrudh Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of sugar mills which have sought the permission and financial assistance for expansion of their existing units; and

(b) if so, the permission accorded and financial assistance given factory-wise?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 75.] No sugar mill has sought financial assistance for its expansion project.

Tampering with Railway Tracks

1954. **Shri Oza:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempt to tamper with track was made near Jetpur (Morvi) Station, Western Railway, on the 5th June, 1958;

(b) whether any inquiry was held in this incident; and

(c) if so, what is the finding of such inquiry?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes. An attempt to tamper with the track was made on 5th June, 1958 at mile 727-1 between Morvi and Jetpur.

(b) Yes. Sub-Inspector of Police, Morvi has registered the offence under section 126(1) of the Indian Railways Act and section 379 I.P.C. and investigation is in progress.

(c) The result of the police investigation is awaited.

Representation from Merchants Association at Kharagpur

1055. { **Shri S. C. Samanta;**
Shri Subodh Hansda:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3540 on the 8th May, 1958 and state:

(a) whether the representation received from the Merchants Association at Kharagpur on the South Eastern Railway has been considered and decision taken;

(b) whether it is a fact that in all electrical establishments preference is given to consumers for industrial purposes; and

(c) if so, why pooled rate has been applied to all consumers at Kharagpur indiscriminately?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) the representation received from the

Merchants Association at Kharagpur is under consideration;

(b) and (c). Generally power supply authorities have different tariff for domestic and power purposes. The Railways are not in the business for supply of Power and generate normally only for their own needs and those of their staff. They have fixed one rate for domestic and power purposes for their staff and have applied the same principle in charging the outside consumers at Kharagpur. Compared to the rate charged by the West Bengal Electricity Board, the rates charged by the Railway are lower for electric power used for domestic purposes.

Naraj and Tikarapada Project

1056 **Shri Panigrahi:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3603 on the 8th May, 1958 and state whether the construction of proposed dams at Naraj and Tikarapada for prevention of floods in River Mahanadi will be taken up during the Second Plan period?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): There is no prospect of taking up the construction of a dam either at Naraj or at Tikarapada during the Second Plan period. Experience of regulation of Hirakud Reservoir in 1956 and 1957 has indicated that there is enormous flood control potential at Hirakud. The Chief Engineer, Hirakud Dam Project, is of the opinion that no more flood control reservoirs on the main stem of the Mahanadi downstream are necessary.

पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे की लाइनें

१०५७. { **श्री भक्त वरदान :**
श्री स० चं० सायन्त :

क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उत्तर रेलवे के नजीबाबाद व कोटद्वार स्टेशनों के बीच श्री रायवाला व

श्रृषिकेश स्टेशनों के बीच तथा पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के मुरादाबाद और रामनगर स्टेशनों के बीच रेल की पटरियां कब बिछायी गयी थीं ;

(ख) क्या कभी उन पटरियों को बदला भी गया है ;

(ग) क्या उन पटरियों का जीवन समाप्त हो चुका है ;

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि इसी कारण से उन पटरियों पर चलने वाली रेल गाड़ियों की चाल नहीं बढ़ाई जा सकती और रात्रि के समय वहां गाड़ियां नहीं चलाई जा सकती हैं, और

(ङ) उपरोक्त स्थिति में सुधार करने के लिये कौन से कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री २० बं० रामस्वामी):

(क) उत्तर रेलवे के नजीबाबाद-कोटद्वारा सेक्शन (१५ मील) और रायवाला-श्रृषिकेश सेक्शन (७ मील) यातायात के लिये क्र.मश. १८६६ और १६२७ में खोले गये। पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे का मुरादाबाद-रामनगर सेक्शन (७७.७५ मील) यातायात के लिये १६०७-०८ में खोला गया।

(ख) जी नहीं।

(ग) जी नहीं। सिर्फ पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के मुरादाबाद-रामनगर सेक्शन की ४१।१।४ पौंड की पटरियों और फिशप्लेटों की मियाद खत्म हो चुकी है।

(घ) उत्तर रेलवे के नजीबाबाद-कोटद्वारा और रायवाला-श्रृषिकेश सेक्शनो पर जितना यातायात होता है, उसे देखते हुए इन सेक्शनो पर गाड़ियों की रफ्तार बढ़ाने या रात के समय गाड़ी चलाने की जरूरत नहीं जान पड़ती। मुरादाबाद-रामनगर सेक्शन पर गाड़ियों की रफ्तार बढ़ाना सम्भव नहीं है क्योंकि इसकी पटरियों

और फिशप्लेटों से बहुत अधिक काम निचा जा चुका है।

(ङ) उत्तर रेलवे के नजीबाबाद-कोटद्वारा और रायवाला-श्रृषिकेश सेक्शनो पर लाइन की 'रिलीयिंग' करने का इस समय विचार नहीं है। लेकिन पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के मुरादाबाद-रामनगर सेक्शन पर चालू वित्तीय वर्ष में अधिक बज्जती पटरियां बिछाने की मंजूरी दे दी गई है।

डाक तथा तार विभाग में विभि.गातिरिक्त कामचारियों सम्बन्धी समिति -

श्री भगत वंशज :
श्री २० बं० तार मश :
१०५८. श्री राम कृष्ण :
श्री सुबोध हंसदा :
श्री संबंदम् :

यथा परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री ८ मई, १९५८ के भ्रताराकित प्रश्न संख्या ३५०७ के उत्तर के संबन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या डाक तथा तार विभाग की विभागातिरिक्त प्रणाली की जांच करने के लिये नियुक्त समिति ने इस बीच अपनी रिपोर्ट पेश कर दी है ;

(ख) समिति की सिफारिशों पर क्या निर्णय किया गया है ;

(ग) क्या समिति की रिपोर्ट की एक प्रति सभा-घटल पर रखी जायेगी ;

(घ) यदि उपरोक्त भाग (क) का उत्तर नकारात्मक हो, तो अब तक उस समिति ने अपने कार्य में क्या प्रगति की है ; और

(ङ) समिति की रिपोर्ट देर से देर कब तक मिल जाने की आशा है ?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री (श्री २० बं० वाटिल) : (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) यह प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ग) रिपोर्ट के प्राप्त होने के पश्चात् इस पर विचार किया जायेगा ।

(घ) और (ङ) यह रिपोर्ट तैयारी की प्रगतिम अवस्था में है और सितम्बर, १९५८ के आरम्भ में सरकार को इसके भेजे जाने की सम्भावना है ।

Inter-State Goods Traffic

1059. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether there is an increase in the Inter-State goods traffic by road between Delhi-Punjab and Delhi-Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, to what extent, and

(c) the steps taken by Government to cope with it?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) The increase in traffic is reported to be about 100 per cent.

(c) The number of public carrier permits on the Inter-State routes has been increased as follows:—

	In October 1957	Present
Delhi-Punjab	600	1650
Delhi Uttar Pradesh	582	992

Vegetable Ghee

1060. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total vegetable ghee consumed in each State during the last five years, State-wise?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): The consumption of Vanaspati, State-wise, during the last five years was as follows:—

(Figures in thousand tons)

Serial No	Name of State	Prior to re-organisation of States				After re-organisation of States	
		1953	1954	1955	1956 (upto October)	1956-December	1957
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	0 08	0 89	0 62	1 54	0 69	3 74
2	Assam	3 49	5 00	6 62	6 11	0 79	8 36
3	Bihar	12 06	14 57	16 71	13 94	2 82	21 26
4	Bombay	30 22	36 65	37 32	29 94	8 05	49 99
5	Kerala					0 14	0 73
6	Madhya Pradesh	7 48	8 46	8 90	6 49	2 24	16 30
7	Madras	7 18	8 14	9 26	6 95	1 41	9 86
8	Mysore	2 84	2 86	3 44	2 81	0 65	5 02
9	Orissa	2 02	2 36	2 56	2 15	0 66	4 00
10	Punjab	12 79	19 29	21 06	17 78	4 11	38 98
11	Rajasthan	0 90	0 42	3 61	5 35	1 50	13 64
12	Uttar Pradesh	33 79	39 60	47 84	36 96	5 29	51 78

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
13	West Bengal . . .	23.96	25.42	29.92	25.13	4.71	32.16
14	Delhi	26.28	25.51	29.10	25.60	5.17	26.26
15	Himachal Pradesh .	0.18	0.16	0.05	0.04	..	0.07
16	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	..	..	..	..	..	0.02
17	Pondicherry . . .	..	..	0.03	0.02	..	0.09
18	Tripura . . . . .	..	0.10	0.01	0.04	0.03	0.07
19	Pepsu	3.80	4.77	5.09	4.50	..	..
20	Madhya Bharat . .	3.53	4.16	4.74	3.60	..	..
21	Vindhya Pradesh . .	0.30	0.33	0.55	0.50	..	..
22	Ajmer	1.59	2.52	2.81	2.01	..	..
23	Hyderabad	2.40	2.96	3.16	2.60	..	..
24	Bhopal	0.84	1.08	1.17	1.08	..	..
25	Travancore-Cochin	0.28	0.30	0.35	0.30	..	..
26	Saurashtra	3.56	4.14	4.37	2.77	..	..
27	Kutch	0.53	0.52	0.96	0.58	..	..
	TOTAL	180.10	210.21	240.25	198.81	38.26	282.33

Telegraph and Telephone wire Thefts

1061. **Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of circuit-hours lost weekly in trunk telephones and telegraphic services due to telegraph and telephone wire thefts since May, 1958 so far, Circle-wise;

(b) the areas where such thefts are frequent;

(c) number of cases of such thefts apprehended by the police so far;

(d) number of cases launched by the police under the provisions of the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950 as amended; and

(e) the cost of replacement of the wire stolen?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 76.]

हिमाचल प्रदेश में सड़कें

१०६२. श्री पद्म देव : क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जब से सुंगेरी-बहाली सड़क को जो पहले कच्ची थी, मोटर चलाने लायक बनाने के लिये इसकी भरम्मत प्रारम्भ की गयी है, तब से इसकी हालत और भी अधिक खराब हो गयी है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि मरम्मत का काम सुंगरी के बजाय बहाली से प्रारम्भ किया गया है ; और

(ग) क्या इस संबंध में कुछ जाच की जायेगी ?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य-मंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) : (क) सुंगरी-बहाली सड़क को मोटरो के भावागमन के लायक नहीं बनाया जा रहा है। पहाड़ की चट्टानों अथवा मलबे के खिसक जाने या आ गिरने से यह सड़क कभी कभी रुक जाती है लेकिन देखभाल और मरम्मत करने वाली मजदूर टोलिया इन को साफ करती रहती हैं और पहले से अब यह सड़क जाहिरा में खराब हालत में नहीं है।

(ख) मरम्मत का काम पहले खदरोली में शुरू किया गया था लेकिन अब काम को शीघ्र पूरा कर देने के उद्देश्य में सड़क के भिन्न भिन्न खण्डों पर मरम्मत करने वाली कामगर-टोलिया लगा दी गई हैं।

(ग) इस विषय पर किसी प्रकार की जाच आवश्यक प्रतीत नहीं होती।

P. & T Forms Committee

1963. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S C Samanta:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Posts and Telegraphs Forms Committee set up by the Government in the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate has submitted its report, and

(b) if so, what are its recommendations?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K Patil): (a) No

(b) Does not arise

Late Running of Madras Mail

1964. Shri Ghosal: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what is the average late running time of the Madras Mail of the South-Eastern Railway in the months of May and June, 1958?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): The average late running of the Madras Mail trains over the South-Eastern and Southern Railways during the months of May and June, 1958 is indicated below—

3 Up Howrah—Madras Mail		4 Dn Madras—Howrah Mail	
On S. E Railway	On Southern Railway	On S Railway	On S. F Railway
(Howrah—Waltair)	(Waltair—Madras)	(Madras—Waltair)	(Waltair—Howrah)
May 68 Mts.	91 Mts.	51 Mts.	85 Mts.
June 38 „	127 „	98 „	129 „

Wagons for Export of Eggs

1955. Shri Ramam: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state.

(a) the number of wagons supplied for the export of duck eggs from the districts of Krishna and West Godavary, Andhra Pradesh, during the years 1954, 1955, 1956 and 1957; and

(b) whether any complaints have been received regarding the lack of adequate supply of wagons for exporting these eggs in season?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Duck eggs in baskets are not offered for booking in wagon or van loads, but only in small lots by passenger trains. Details of traffic booked by passenger trains during the years 1954 to 1957 from stations on the Krishna and West Godavari Districts are indicated in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 77.]

(b) No, but complaints have been received insisting on the clearance of the entire traffic of duck egg baskets by Mail and Express trains, which is not feasible due to limited luggage when accommodation available on such trains.

कानपुर-कासगंज पैसेंजर गाड़ी का अनवरगंज स्टेशन पर रोका जाना

१०६६. श्री जगदीश अग्रस्वामी : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि २८ जून, १९५८ को पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे पर अनवरगंज के सभीप कानपुर-कासगंज पैसेंजर गाड़ी रोक दी गई थी

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितनी देर तक और उसका प्रयोजन क्या था ; और

(ग) क्या इस के कारण यात्रियों को जो असुविधा हुई थी उसकी जांच की गई ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री साहूनावाज खान) (क) जी हां ।

(ख) कानपुर-अनवरगंज स्टेशन पर गाड़ी ६३ मिनट तक रुकी रही जिसके कारण इस प्रकार है :—

(१) धार० एम० एस० के कर्मचारी अनधिकृत रूप से एक दूसरे दर्जे के डिब्बे में बैठ गये जब कि उनके लिये एक तीसरे दर्जे का डिब्बा अलग रखा गया था और रेलवे कर्मचारियों के कहने पर उन्होंने ने दूसरे दर्जे के डिब्बे को खाली करने से इनकार किया ।

(२) नं० ३१ ग्रप कटिहार-कानपुर सवारी गाड़ी लेट चल रही थी, उससे मेल लेने के लिये रेल कर्मचारियों ने नं० १७ ग्रप सवारी गाड़ी को अनावश्यक रूप से रोक लिया ।

(ग) जी हां, जहा तक ३१ ग्रप सवारी गाड़ी का मेल लेने के लिये अनावश्यक रूप से गाड़ी को रोकने का सवाल है उस सम्बन्ध में सम्बन्धित कर्मचारियों के खिलाफ उपयुक्त कार्यवाही की गयी है । धार० एम० एस० कर्मचारियों के कारण जो गाड़ी को रुकना पड़ा, उसकी रिपोर्ट डाक विभाग के अधिकारियों से की गयी है ।

कानपुर-कासगंज पैसेंजर गाड़ी का रोका जाना

१०६७. श्री जगदीश अग्रस्वामी : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि ४ जुलाई, १९५८ को १७ ग्रप कानपुर-कासगंज पैसेंजर गाड़ी को पूर्वोत्तर रेलवे के अनवरगंज स्टेशन के केबिन के पास रोका गया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितनी देर तक और उसका प्रयोजन क्या था ; और

(ग) क्या इसके कारणों की जांच की गई थी?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री एस. वी. रामस्वामी)

(क) और (ख) की हों। १७ अप्रैल कानपुर-कासगंज सवारी गाड़ी कानपुर घनवरगंज स्टेशन के केबिन के पास ३५ मिनट तक रुकी रही क्योंकि यह गाड़ी बिना सिगनल पाये स्टेशन की सीमा में दाखिल हो गयी थी।

(ग) सीनियर स्केल अफसरों द्वारा इस घटना की जांच करायी गई। गाड़ी का ड्राइवर इस बात के लिये जिम्मेदार ठहराया गया है कि उसने गाड़ी को स्टेशन के बाहरी घोर निकट सिगनल से प्राये बड़ा दिया जबकि ये सिगनल 'रको सकेल' दे रहे थे।

Volume of Traffic on Bhatinda Railway Station

1068. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) the volume of traffic at Bhatinda Railway Station at present,

(b) whether there is any proposal to extend the present Waiting Halls at the Bhatinda Station, and

(c) if so, when and at what cost?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) (a) The number of passengers dealt with at Bhatinda during the year 1957-58 is as under—

Outward traffic—21.5 lakhs approximately

Inward Traffic—18.4 lakhs approximately

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) During the current financial year, at an approximate cost of Rs 50,000

Accidents on Bangalore-Harihar Section of the Railway

1069 Shri Mohammed Imam: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware that there have been two accidents

of derailment on the 16th May, 1958 and 8th June, 1958 on the Bangalore-Harihar Section of the Railway;

(b) the causes of these accidents, and

(c) the total loss sustained by Railways in each case?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes One on 16th May, 1958, when twenty wagons of 2944 Up Goods train got derailed between Kadur and Devanur stations and the second on 8th June, 1958, when nine wagons of 2950 Dn Goods train derailed between Honnavalli Road and Tiptur stations

(b) In the former accident it was the excessive speed and uneven loading of one of the wagons of the train while in the latter case it was due to a mechanical defect

(c) The cost of damages incurred in each of the accidents was assessed at Rs 20,350 and Rs 6,000, respectively

शाही और बिजौरिया स्टेशन के बीच पुल

१०७०. श्री मोहन स्वर्ण क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या सरकार को विदित है कि पूर्वोक्त रेलवे के शाही और बिजौरिया स्टेशनों के बीच पुराने पुल के साथ जो नया पुल पुराने पुल की मरम्मत के लिये बनाया गया था वह वर्षों से बह गया है,

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि जिस बंद पर ट्रेने चलाने के लिये नई लाइने बनायी गयी थी उसमें भी दरारें पड़ गयी हैं और उनके बह जाने का खतरा है, और

(ग) यदि हा, तो इन बंदों और पुल के बनाने में इतनी सुस्ती के क्या कारण हैं और सरकार अब इस विषय में क्या कार्यवाही करना चाहती है ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री एस. वी. रामस्वामी)

(क) श्री. (ख) जी नहीं। दूसरी लाइन

(diversion) का सिर्फ कुछ हिस्सा बनाया गया है और उसमें एक अस्थायी पुल के लिये जगह छोड़ दी गयी है। बरसात के बाद मौजूदा पुल की मरम्मत का काम शुरू होने वाला है। उस समय इस लाइन (diversion) को पूरा करके उसे काम में लाया जायेगा।

(ग) सवाल नहीं उठता।

Guards on Northern Railway

1971 Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) the number of posts of A, B and C Class Guards in each Division of Northern Railway,

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of Class A Guards has been reduced by abolishing Conductor Guards,

(c) if so, how the Guards have been compensated for this reduction,

(d) whether it is a fact that guards are not being confirmed for the last few years, and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan) (a)

Division	Guards			Total
	Gr A	Gr B	Gr C	
Delhi	26	67	267	360
Ferozapore	14	56	129	199
Allahabad	37	49	332	418
Moradabad	24	61	291	376
Lucknow	13	74	239	326
Bikaner	7	47	125	179
Jodhpur	10	25	94	129
TOTAL	131	379	1,477	1,987

(b) Yes

(c) It was not necessary as except for a slight reduction in the number of A Grade guards, no individual guard suffered any reduction

(d) & (e) No, but on the ex-EI Railway Divisions of the Northern Railway, there was some delay in confirmation due to difficulties in fixing the relative seniority of directly recruited Guards *vis-a-vis* staff promoted as Guards from other categories. The matter has since been finalized and confirmations have been ordered

Power Plant at Chandrawal in Delhi

1072 Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct power plant at Chandrawal in Delhi,

(b) main features of this proposal,

(c) total cost of these plants, and

(d) when this project will be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Nathi): (a) to (d).

Two units of 1,600 kw each of thermal generating plant are being erected at Chandrawal by the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking. This plant will be connected to the 33 kv grid of the Undertaking and would ensure a regular supply of energy to the water pumping station and the All India Radio transmitters situated in that locality even when supply from the main power house or the Bhakra-Nangal system fails. The total cost of the plant, as erected, is estimated to be Rs. 19.35 lakhs. The plant is expected to be commissioned by the end of 1958.

Offtake of Sugar from Factories

1073. { Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Pangarkar:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total off-take of sugar from the factories during 1957 and 1958 so far, month-wise?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): The monthly off-take of sugar during 1957 and 1958 was as under:—

	Offtake of Sugar						(In Lakh tons.)	
	1957			1958				
	For Internal consumption	For exports	Total	For Internal consumption	For exports	Total		
January	1.41	.	1.41	1.45		1.45		
February	1.72	0.04	1.76	1.95	..	1.95		
March	1.84	0.18	2.02	1.72	..	1.72		
April	1.68	0.30	1.98	1.84		1.84		
May	1.67	0.25	1.92	1.83	..	1.83		
June	1.73	0.27	2.00	1.78	..	1.78		
July	1.44	0.19	1.63	1.60	0.09	1.69		
August	1.95	0.15	2.10	..	..	..
September	1.42	..	1.42	..	..	..
October	1.73	0.06	1.79		..	..
November	1.52	0.02	1.54	..	..	..
December	1.37	0.05	1.42	..	..	..

Strength of Railway Protection Force

1074. { Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri Daljit Singh:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what was the strength of the Railway Protection Force of Northern Railway as on the 31st July, 1958;

(b) the number of Chief Security Officers, Assistant Security Officers, Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and other Junior Officers; and

(c) the total expenditure involved in maintaining the Force during 1957-58 and 1958-59 so far?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawaz Khan): (a) and (b)

Chief Security Officer	1
Security Officer	1
Commandant Armed Wing	1
Assistant Security Officers	8
Assistant Commandant (Armed Wing)	1
Principal, R P F Training Centre	1
Inspectors	39
Sub-Inspectors	145
Others (including fire fighting staff)	7586
	<hr/>
Total strength	7783
	<hr/>

(c) 1957-58—Rs 77,53,000
1958-59—Actual expenditure booked not yet available

Contractors

1075 **Shri B. K Gaikwad** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of loading and unloading was being done previously by the Railway Department at Delhi Lahori Gate Station but now it is being done by the contractors,

(b) whether it is a fact that contractors harass the workers by paying them less wages and many times not paying the workers regularly,

(c) whether Government have received complaints and representations from the Mazdur Workers' Union in Delhi in this behalf, and

(d) what action Government have taken in this direction?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah nawaz Khan): (a) Yes

During the period from 23rd January, 1954 to 31st March, 1957 the work was done through Departmental labour but since 1st April, 1957 it is being done by a contractor

(b) and (c) A representation has been received from the Secretary, Mazdur Workers' Union, Delhi, alleging less payment of wages and not paying the workers regularly

(d) According to the agreement entered into with the contractor, the contractor shall comply with the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act and pay not less than the fair wage to the labourers engaged by him on the work, the fair wage being the wage including the allowances paid for similar work in the neighbourhood. The matter was examined by the Northern Railway and it was ascertained that the labourers were being paid at the rate of Rs 50 per month. A check was also made regarding the dates on which the wages have been paid to the labourers from April 1958 to the period ending 20th July 1958 and it was found that there has been no inordinate delay

Balwantrai Mehta Committee Report

1076 **Shri Pangarkar**, Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 1993 on 5th May, 1958 and state in which of the States agricultural loans are being sanctioned as per recommendations of the Balwantrai Mehta Committee Report?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A P Jain), In all States except West Bengal

Cancer

1077 **Shri Pangarkar**, Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state

(a) whether any financial assistance has been sanctioned during 1958-59 to the Tata Memorial Hospital of Bombay, and

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned?

The Minister for Health (Shri Karmarker): (a) Yes.

(b) Rupees two lakhs.

Pilot Project in the Community Development Block at Thoubal

1078. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Community Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pilot Project in the Community Development Block at Thoubal for the development of cottage and small scale industries has produced any result in that area in Manipur;

(b) whether the said production-cum-training centre is to continue its work; and

(c) if so, what are the trades and industries in which training is imparted to the villagers and how many trainees have been turned out so far?

The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey): (a) There is no pilot project in Thoubal Development Block but there is one Arts and Crafts Training-cum-production Centre at Thoubal;

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Training is imparted in four trades viz., (1) weaving including dyeing; (2) Carpentry; (3) Blacksmithy and (4) Foundry. Till the end of May, 1958 thirty two trainees have been trained in this centre

T.C.M. Programme in Manipur

1079. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether tractors and its implements meant for Manipur under the T.C.M. programme have been properly utilised; and

(b) if so, how it has benefited the agriculturists in general and agricultural training in the Union Territory?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a result of demonstration of power-operated tractor, its use is growing in popularity amongst farmers and Co-operative Societies in land reclamation work.

Co-operative Societies

1080. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total amount of loan granted to Co-operative Societies during 1957-58?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): A sum of Rs 230.38 lakhs was given by the Central Government as loan by the State Governments/Union Territories for assistance to co-operative societies. Besides the Central Government contributed a sum of Rs. 7.14 lakhs towards the share capital of co-operative societies in the Union Territories.

American Aid for Community Development

1081. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Community Development be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of aid received from U.S.A. in the form of materials for Community Development during 1957 and 1958 so far; and

(b) the main items of materials which were received during the above period?

The Minister of Community Development (Shri S. K. Dey): (a)

\$ 824,635.53 during 1957.

\$ 1,290,801.92 during 1958.

(b) A statement indicating the items of equipment received is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. '8.]

Marine Engineering College, Calcutta

1082. **Shri Raghunath Singh.** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the building of Marine Engineering College, Calcutta which was completed in 1952-53 has cracked at several places and the roof is leaking resulting in inconvenience to students during the rainy season?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): There have been no cracks in the main building of the Marine Engineering College. Some cracks have however, been reported to have occurred in surface plastering in the roof of the Cadet's Hostel during rainy seasons resulting some-

times in leakage of rain water through the joints between concrete slabs used in the construction of the roof. Alternative accommodation in other vacant rooms is provided to the affected cadets pending repairs to the surface plastering.

Calcutta and Bombay Docks

1083. **Shri Raghunath Singh.** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the number of foreigners particularly Pakistani and Portuguese Nationals employed at present at Calcutta and Bombay Docks?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur)

	Europeans	Pakistanis	Portuguese
Calcutta Port Commissioners	19	2478	Nil
Calcutta Dock Labour Board (employment as Stevedore workers)	Nil	50	Nil
Bombay Port Trust	2	148	143
Bombay Dock Labour Board (employment as stevedore workers)	Nil	50	51

Allotment of Khas Land in Tripura

1084. **Shri Dasaratha Deb.** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) the number of non-tribal landless peasants who applied for settlement of Khas land in Tripura so far

(b) whether such petitions are lying with Government for more than two or three years, and

(c) what steps are being taken to settle such peasants in fallow khas land?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A P Jain): (a) to (c) The information has been called for from the Tripura Administration and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha as soon as it becomes available

Production of Foodgrains in Tripura

1085. **Shri Dasaratha Deb.** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state

(a) the steps taken to increase production of foodgrains in Tripura

(b) the steps taken to enlist people's co-operation in growing more food, and

(c) whether Government would form any popular committee to assist the Administration in all matters relating to food problem?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A P Jain): (a) The following steps have been taken to

increase production of foodgrains in Tripura:—

- (i) Chemical fertilizers, improved seeds and bonemeal are being distributed among cultivators at subsidised rates.
- (ii) Pumping sets are being let out to cultivators at a concessional rate. The sets are also sold to them at cost price which is payable in easy instalments.
- (iii) Seed farms have been opened for the multiplication of improved varieties of seed for distribution to cultivators.
- (iv) Cultivators are being educated in improved methods of cultivation and use of local manurial resources.
- (v) Loans are being given to cultivators for increasing food production.

(b) An Agricultural school has been established to impart training in improved agriculture to sons of cultivators. Training of farm leaders in approved methods of agriculture is also being organised in the Development Blocks to ensure increased food production through rural leaders.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Ship "ALLEGEA" in Distress

1086. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a ship named "Allegea" which sprang a leak in one of its holds on the high seas about 450 miles west of Bombay transmitted as S.O.S. for help to save the life of the crew; and

(b) if so, what steps were taken by the Indian Marine Department or any Indian ship to save the said ship?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). It is a fact that the ship "Allegra" of Panama Nationality (and not 'Allegea') sprang a leak in No. 1 hold while she was about 700 miles from Bombay and sent out a general distress message for assistance to save the crew. The need for taking any steps by the Mercantile Marine Department or by an Indian ship for the rescue of the crew did not however arise, as at about the same time another message was received stating that the British Ship R.M.S. "Carthage" on her way to Aden was proceeding to the scene and that she did actually rescue 23 out of 24 crew on the 21st July, 1958. The fate of the missing member of the crew is not known.

Engines under District Mechanical Engineer, Samastipur

1087. Shri Rajendra Slugh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state—

(a) the number of engines in District Samastipur (N.E. Rly.) which are not provided with dynamos, vacuum gauze and vacuum combination;

(b) whether these engines are put on line without proper repairing;

(c) whether these engines were not attended to though several drivers booked such engines for repairs; and

(d) whether it is not in contravention of safety rules?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnewaz Khan): (a) Number of engines not provided—

(i) With Dynamos as well as vacuum gauges .. 3

(ii) With dynamos only .. 11

(b) No.

(c) Booked repairs on all engines are attended to immediately except in case of deficiencies of fittings which are not available and no engine which is not in a fit condition is permitted to work a train.

(d) No if this part refers to using engines without dynamos and vacuum gauges.

कटनी-बीना रेलवे लाइन

१०८८. पंडित ज्वा० प्र० ज्योतिषी :

क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जिस क्षेत्र में कटनी-बीना रेलवे लाइन गुजरनी है वहां के लोग बहुत समय में यह माग कर रहे हैं कि शीघ्र ही वहां एक एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी या अतिरिक्त गाड़ी जारी की जाये और

(ख) क्या सरकार का यहां के भारी बातायात की मभावना को दृष्टिगत रखते हुये शीघ्र ही यह सेवा आरम्भ करने का विचार है ?

रेलवे उपमन्त्री (श्री साहन्वाज खाँ) :

(क) जी, हाँ ।

(ख) लाइन-क्षमता न होने के कारण कटनी-बीना सेक्शन पर एक और गाड़ी चलाना संभव नहीं है । लेकिन इस सेक्शन की गाड़ियों में भीड़ कम करने के लिये उनमें १-४-१९५८ में तीसरे दर्जे का एक और डिब्बा लगाया गया है और इस बात पर भी विचार किया जा रहा है कि क्या इन गाड़ियों में और डिब्बे लगाये जा सकते हैं ?

Rihand Dam Project

1089. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimate of Rihand Dam has greatly increased, and

(b) if so, to what extent and what were the main causes of this increase?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) and (b). The revised estimate for the Rihand Project indicates an increase in the total cost of the Project by Rs 10 84 crores

The original estimates for the Rihand Dam Project comprising generation, transmission, and distribution was sanctioned by the Government of Uttar Pradesh in 1952 for Rs. 35.21 crores. According to the revised (1956) estimate, the Rihand Project is estimated to cost Rs. 46 05 crores.

Major revision in the estimate has been made in respect of the concrete dam, spill-way and earthfill embankments (excluding gates and appurtenances). According to the revised estimate, the rise in these items alone is of the order of Rs 11 crores. This excess is due to the adoption of higher unit rates based on actual cost and also increase in the cost of cement and steel. There is an increase in the cost of compensation for land, structures, etc., by Rs. 76.8 lakhs. The unit rate provided in the original

estimate was based on incomplete and meagre data then available for the cost of execution of a project of this magnitude. In the revised estimate, there are savings also against certain items of work which are based on tendered prices.

The revised estimate is being examined by the Rihand Dam Control Board set up by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. After the Control Board and the State Government have made their recommendations, the revised estimates will be placed before the Planning Commission for approval.

प्रायुर्वेद

१०६०. श्री पद्म देव : क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) सरकार ने भारत में प्रायुर्वेद की शिक्षा के प्रचार के लिये कितना शिक्षा केन्द्र खोले हैं ;

(ख) उन पर प्रतिवर्ष कितना व्यय होना है और

(ग) सरकारी मन्थाओं में इस समय कितने छात्र शिक्षा प्राप्त कर रहे हैं ?

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (श्री करमरकर) :

(क) सरकार ने भूतपूर्व मीराट्ट सरकार (अब बम्बई सरकार) तथा गुलाब कुवरवा प्रायुर्वेदिक सोसाइटी की सहकार्यता में जामनगर में प्रायुर्वेद का एक अधिस्नातक प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र (पोस्ट ग्रेजुएट ट्रेनिंग सेंटर) स्थापित किया है।

(ख) केन्द्र पर अब तक हुआ वार्षिक व्यय इस प्रकार है —

वर्ष	राशि
१९५५-५६	५०,०००
१९५६-५७	१,००,०००
१९५७-५८	२,७५,०००
१९५८-५९	१,००,०००

(घाज की तिथि तक)

(ग) प्रथम वर्ष पाठ्यक्रम में २५ और द्वितीय वर्ष पाठ्यक्रम में १८।

Passenger Amenities on Assam Rail Link

1091. Shri Hem Barua: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that no amenities for passengers are provided in and along the Assam Link of the N E F R, and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter so far and the results achieved?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). The needs of the area by way of improvement of amenities have been borne in mind and continue to receive attention

Uptill now, provision for Rs. 15 lakhs used to be made annually for passenger amenity works by the North Eastern Railway for the ex-Assam Railway portion. This amount has been increased to Rs 30 lakhs during 1958-59.

रेलवे पदाधिकारियों द्वारा यात्राएँ

१०६२. श्री प० सा० बाबूपाल : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) आफिसर मैनुअल द्वारा उत्तर रेलवे में बीकानेर स्टेशन में दिल्ली स्टेशन तक की यात्रा में कितना व्यय होता है और

(ख) एक पदाधिकारी द्वारा प्रथम श्रेणी के डिब्बे में यात्रा करने पर कितना व्यय होता है, और इसमें प्रतिवर्ष रेलवे को कितनी बचत हो सकती है ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खाँ) :

(क) और (ख) इस बात का पता नहीं लगाया जा सकता कि किसी गाडी से एक डिब्बे के कर्षण (haulage) या एक मग-

किर के टोने की लागत कितनी होती है और इसलिये सबाल में लागत और बचत की जो बात पूछी गयी है उसका हिसाब लगाना संभव नहीं है ।

चतुर्थ श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों का चुनाव बोर्ड

१०६३. श्री प० ला० बालूपाल : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करके कि

(क) क्या उत्तर रेलवे में चतुर्थ श्रेणी के कर्मचारियों की भर्ती के लिये कोई चुनाव बोर्ड बनाया गया है ,

(ख) यदि हा, तो डम बोर्ड के कितने सदस्य हैं .

(ग) क्या इनमें कोई सदस्य अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित आदिम जाति का है

(घ) उनकी मर्यादा क्या है और क्या उनकी एक सूची टबल पर रक्की जायेगी

(ङ) बोर्ड द्वारा भर्ती की क्या विधि निश्चित की गयी है और

(च) उम्मीदवारों की भर्ती के लिये क्या क्या योग्यताये और परीक्षायें नियत की गयी है ?

रेलवे उपसंत्रो (श्री शाहनवाज खाँ) :

(क) जी हा जब जैसी जरूरत होती है, चुनाव-बोर्ड बनाये जाते हैं ।

(ख) तीन ।

(ग) जी नहीं ।

(घ) सबाल नहीं उठता ।

(ङ) एक नोटिस जारी करके मीधे सादे फार्म पर अज्ञिया मागी जाती है । जिस क्षेत्र में भर्ती होती है वहा के रेलवे दफ्तरो के बाहर नोटिस-बोर्डों पर यह नोटिस लगा दिया जाता है । इसकी एक-एक प्रतिलिपि यूनिट

के एम्प्लायमेट एक्सचेंज दफ्तरो के अलावा अनुसूचित जातियो और अनुसूचित आदिम जातियों के संबंधित सगठनों को भी भेजी जाती है । जब सहायक कर्मिक अफसर (Assistant Personal Officer) जो चुनाव बोर्ड का सदस्य भी होता है, इन अज्ञियों की प्रारम्भिक जाच कर लेता है, तो चुने हुये उम्मीदवारों का 'इन्टरव्यू' होता है । आमतौर पर जितनी जगहें होती हैं उनमें छ गुन उम्मीदवार 'इन्टरव्यू' के लिये बुलाये जाते हैं ।

(च) काम के अनुसार उम्मीदवारों के लिये यह जरूरी होता है कि वे किसी एक प्रादेशिक भाषा (regional language) में साधारण वाक्य लिख पढ लें । इसके अलावा उम्मीदवारों की तन्दुरुस्ती समझ-दारो और चुस्ती पर भी समन्वित ध्यान दिया जाता है ।

Passenger Coaches at Izatnagar

1094. Shri Mohan Swarup: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) how many contractors have been assigned the manufacturing of passenger coaches and wagons at Izatnagar (North Eastern Railway);

(b) whether the Railway Administration is also doing the job in addition to the contractors at that place;

(c) how many wagons and passenger coaches are prepared every month, and

(d) the actual cost thereof and the commission paid to the contractors therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Three contractors are constructing coaches at Izatnagar at present Wagons are not built at Izatnagar

(b) Yes

(c) At present the average number of coaches constructed by all the con-

tractors together is about 6 per month.

Name of the Contractor	No. and type of coaches ordered	Date of Contract	Contract price per coach
			Rs.
1. M/s. D. C. Dhiman & Bros., Calcutta.	(a) 30 bogie III Luggage and Brake Vans (b) 30 do	10-1-58 27-2-58	56,900 56,750
2. M/s. Paharpur Timbers (P) Ltd., Calcutta.	32 bogie I & III class coaches	15-7-57	62,300
3. M/s. K. B. R. Corporation	(a) 31 bogie I & III class coaches (b) 20 bogie III Luggage & Brake Vans	3-6-57 12-12-57	62,300 57,750

The contractors are supplied under-frames and wheelsets only by the Railway free of cost. All other equipment and materials needed in coach construction have to be supplied by the contractor.

is linked with the shifting of the wireless office from Podanur, which requires the consent of the other wireless user Departments in the area and the approval of the Radio and Cable Board.

Signalling Arrangement at Olavakkot

1095. **Shri I. Eacharan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any railway message signalling arrangement at Olavakkot, which is the Divisional Headquarters and controlling centre of the Division; and

(b) what are the reasons for not shifting this station alone from Podanur after the establishment of the Divisional Headquarters at Olavakkot?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The telegraph office at Podanur could not be shifted to Olavakkot due to the following reasons:—

(i) Some of the Divisional Offices continued to remain at Podanur even after the establishment of the Divisional Headquarters at Olavakkot. These offices were shifted in stages

(ii) The shifting of the major portion of the telegraph office

Railway Hospital at Shoranur

1096. **Shri I. Eacharan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether the construction of the Railway Hospital building at Shoranur has been completed,

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay,

(c) whether there is any crack on the wall of the completed building; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Not yet, Sir. About 40% of work has been done

(b) Revision of the design to suit up-to-date requirements delayed the starting of the work

(c) There are no cracks in any portion constructed to date

(d) Does not arise

Revision of Seniority in the Assistants Cadre in Railway Board

1097. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the question of revision of seniority in the Assistants cadre of Railway Board's office on the basis of the incumbents clerical service in Board's office is pending for a long time, and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The matter is still under examination and it is hoped to finalise this shortly,

(b) The various implications of different alternatives had to be thoroughly examined

Waiting Rooms on Sadulpur-Hanumangarh Section

1098. Shri Karni Singhji. Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there are no waiting rooms at almost all the stations on the Sadulpur-Hanumangarh Section of the Northern Railway as a result of which the travelling public has to face the inclemencies of weather in open space and thus suffer great hardships?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan). On the Sadulpur-Hanumangarh Section of the Northern Railway, waiting rooms for upper class passengers have been provided at stations where they are justified on the basis of the traffic offering. For example, at Nohar and Tehsil Bhadra waiting rooms already exist. One waiting room is under construction at Ellenabad. Waiting halls for III class passengers exist at Sherekan, Tibi, Kalana, Sidhmukh, Tulwara Jhal, Hansiawas and Narwasi, while a waiting hall is proposed to be constructed at Rangarh Ujalbas

Boundary Wall near Parihara Village

1099. Shri Karni Singhji: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether investigation has been completed regarding the desirability of providing fencing or boundary wall along the Railway line opposite the Parihara village for safety purposes; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this connection?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The result of the investigation did not indicate any necessity for deviating from the normal practice of not providing a fencing or a boundary wall between stations

डीलक्स रेल गाडियो

११०० श्री क० भ० मालवीय : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि द्वितीय श्रेणी के पास रखे जाने वाले रेलवे कर्मचारियों को डीलक्स गाडी के वातानुकूलित तृतीय श्रेणी के डिब्बे में यात्रा करने की अनुमति नहीं है और

(ख) यदि हाँ तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खाँ) : (क) जिन कर्मचारियों की इयूटी खाम तौर पर इन गाडियों में होती हैं, वे तीसरे दर्जे के वातानुकूल डिब्बे में सफर कर सकते हैं चाहे उनके पास किसी भी दर्जे का पास हो। लेकिन दूसरे लोग तीसरे दर्जे के वातानुकूल डिब्बे में तभी सफर कर सकते हैं जब उसका अग्रिभार (surcharge) दे दें चाहे उनका पास किसी भी दर्जे का पास हो।

(ख) टिकट की तरह पास पर भी उसी स्पष्टरण दर्जे में सफर किया जा सकता है जो उसमें दर्ज हो।

रेलवे बोर्ड की केन्द्रीय जांच एजेंसी

११०१. श्री का० भे० मालवीय : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) रेलवे बोर्ड की केन्द्रीय जांच एजेंसी ने फरवरी, १९५७ और फरवरी, १९५८ के बीच कितने मामलों की जांच की ;

(ख) कितने मामलों की जांच सफल हुई; और

(ग) सरकार ने इस एजेंसी पर उक्त अवधि में वेतन भत्तों आदि को मिलाकर कुल कितना व्यय किया ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री साहूबाबू झा) :

(क) १७०

(ख) ७१

(ग) खर्च के बारे में सूचना अभी नहीं मिल रही है क्योंकि आफिस सिम्बन्दी (office establishment) पर खर्च का हिसाब वित्तीय वर्ष के अनुसार रखा जाता है और वह खर्च डाइरेक्टर (सिम्बू-रिटी एण्ड विजिलेंस) के अधीन जो दूसरे खर्च हैं उनके साथ मिला कर रखा गया है। फिर भी, १९५७-५८ में पूरे निदेशालय (Directorate) पर जो खर्च हुआ वह १,७५,५७० रुपये आता है।

Accommodation for Postmasters

1102. Shri Subhman Ghose: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Post Masters and Sub-Postmasters of the Post Offices are provided with rent free quarters;

(b) if so, how many Postmasters have not been provided with accommodation in West Bengal;

(c) whether it is a fact that in West Bengal Rs. 9/- or Rs. 10/- are given monthly as house rent allowance to such Postmasters who have not been allotted quarters; and

(d) if so, whether any information has been taken by the Ministry as to how many such Postmasters have been able to procure residence at a monthly rental of Rs. 9/- or 10/-; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to provide Postmasters with accommodation in the near future?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) Yes.

(b) 170.

(c) Head Postmasters and Sub-Postmasters who are not provided with rent free quarters are paid House Rent Allowance in lieu thereof at the rate of 10% of average of the scale of the official concerned plus Dearness Pay. Payment is generally as follows:

Grade and scale of pay	House rent allowance
(i) Time Scale (Rs. 60/170).	Rs. 13.31 nP.
(ii) Lower Selection Grade (Rs. 160/250)	Rs. 34.12 nP.
(iii) Higher Selection Grade (Rs. 250/325).	Rs. 34.12 nP.

(d) No information has been collected.

(e) Only one Postmaster is expected to be provided with quarters in the near future.

Railway Station at Malahar

1103. Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to open a Railway Station at Malahar between Bhaluka Road and Samsi on

the Katihar-Singabhad section of N.E.F. Railway and whether the proposal was supported by the District Magistrate of Malda, the Regional Railway Users' Consultative Committee, Pandu and the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee;

(b) whether the Railway Board has considered a proposal of opening a contractor operated passenger halt at Malahar and made any decision on the same, and

(c) if not, when the decision is likely to be made and, if any decision has been made, when the halt or the station is likely to be opened? ,

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Yes, except that the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee has not yet given its opinion on this proposal and the matter is pending further consideration by that Committee

(b) and (c) The proposal will be considered by the Railway Board on receipt of the views of the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee.

Plant Disease in Manipur

1104. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a disease in an epidemic form has invaded the crop plants in almost all parts of Manipur,

(b) if so, what is the total acreage of paddy lands affected by the disease; and

(c) what are the steps taken to protect the paddy plants in Manipur?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) The paddy crop in all the revenue sub-divisions of the Territory was affected by insect pests in a few localised areas. It was not in an epidemic form and the affected crop after treatment is rapidly reviving.

(b) No data regarding the area affected is available.

(c) The insecticides were sold at 50% subsidised sale price and equipment distributed to the farmers by the Manipur Administration. Insecticides and the control equipment were also despatched to the area for distribution in the affected area by the Central Plant Protection Station, Gauhati.

All-India Railwaymen's Federation

**1105. { Shri Vajpayee:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether leaders of the All India Railwaymen's Federation met the Members of the Railway Board recently,

(b) if so, the points discussed at the meeting, and

(c) the decisions taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes

(b) A copy of the agenda is given below —

- 1 Withdrawal of the Essential Services Maintenance Act
Withdrawal of the Railway Service (Conduct Rules, 1956)
- 2 Victimisation of Railwaymen.
- 3 Decasualisation of Labour
- 4 Equal treatment in the matter of privileges to Class III and Class IV employees
- 5 Stoppage of recruitment in intermediate grades
- 6 Extension of the NEW DEAL advantages to the Workshop Staff
- 7 Equality in treatment to all staff in respect of privileges.
8. A 42-hour week in the Railways.
- 9 Calculation of Overtime allowance on daily basis.

10. Abolition of efficiency bars and promotion by seniority in the next two higher grades above the initial grade.
11. The Permanent Negotiating Machinery.
12. Issues before the Tribunal of Shri Justice Saran.
13. Filling up of vacancies.
14. Station Masters.

(c) The record of discussions is being finalised in consultation with the All India Railwaymen's Federation.

Electricity in States

1106. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the kilowattage of electricity produced in all States under the First and Second Five Year Plans till 31st July, 1958;

(b) what portion of the total output in each State has been utilised for Industrial and Agricultural purposes with increase of production; and

(c) to what extent people are being benefited by that?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Two statements, I and II, showing units of electricity produced in all States and Centrally Administered areas, under the First Five Year Plan (1951-56) and the Second Five Year Plan (1956 till the 31st July, 1958), are attached. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 79].

(b) Two statements, III and IV, showing the quantity in Kilowatt Hours sold for industrial and agricultural purposes by public electric utilities in the various States and Centrally Administered areas during the periods 1951-56 and 1956 to 31st July, 1958, are attached. [See Appendix III, annexure 79].

Information regarding increase in industrial and agricultural production is not available.

(c) A statement V is attached [See Appendix III, annexure No. 79].

देहाती क्षेत्रों में डाकघर

११०७. **श्री ज० बी० मिश्र :** क्या परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५६-५७ और १९५७-५८ में उत्तर प्रदेश के देहाती क्षेत्रों में कितने डाकघर खोले गये ;

(ख) इनमें से कितने शाखा डाकघर और कितने सदर डाकघर हैं और उन पर अलग-अलग कितना वार्षिक व्यय होता है ;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि इन डाकघरों में से अधिक में हानि हो रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो ऐसे डाकघरों की संख्या और उन पर कितनी हानि हुई ;

(ङ) क्या यह भी सच है कि इन घाटे पर चलने वाले डाकघरों के कारण उन स्थानों पर नये डाकघर नहीं खोले जा रहे हैं जहाँ इनकी आवश्यकता है; और

(च) यदि हां, तो जहाँ पत्र आदि भेजना कठिन है वहाँ डाकघर खोलने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही की जा ही है?

परिवहन तथा संचार मंत्री (श्री स० बा० पाटिल) : (क).

१९५६-५७ में	.	३७२
१९५७-५८ में	.	२६२

(ख) संख्या [वार्षिक व्यय
(अनुमानत.)

र० न०प०

(१) अतिरिक्त विभागीय शाखा डाक-घर	६५०	३,३४,२००.००
(२) अतिरिक्त विभागीय उप डाक-घर	२	२,१६०.००
(३) उप डाक-घर	२	५,७४०.००
योग	६५४	३,४२,१००.००

(ग) जी हा ।

(घ) लगभग १,१६,८६० रुपये की कुल वार्षिक हानि पर ४१८ डाक-घर ।

(ङ) जी नहीं ।

(च) यह प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

हिन्दी में तार भेजने की सुविधायें

११०८ श्री भ० बं० मिश्र क्या परिचय तथा सचार मंत्री यह बताने की की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश के किन-किन जिलों में हिन्दी में तार देने की सुविधा दी गई है; और

(ख) कब तक यह शेष जिलों में भी उपलब्ध हो जायेगी ?

परिचय तथा सचार मंत्री (जी स० का० पाटिल) : (क) उत्तर प्रदेश के ५२ जिलों के सब मुख्यालयों में हिन्दी में तार भेजने की सुविधायें उपलब्ध हैं। इसके अलावा सम्पूर्ण उत्तर प्रदेश में इसी प्रकार के १५२ अन्य दफ्तर हैं।

(ख) अतः शेष जिलों में इन सुविधाओं को उपलब्ध कराने का प्रश्न नहीं उठता है।

Compensation for Acquisition of Land for Bhakra Dam

1109. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that com-

penensation has not yet been paid to the land owners whose land had been acquired for the Bhakra Dam; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No. Out of the total compensation payable amounting to about Rs 167 lakhs, compensation amounting to about Rs 67 lakhs has been paid by the end of March, 1958, either in cash or in the shape of land

(b) Reasons for the non-payment so far of the remaining amount, i.e., about Rs 100 lakhs, are —

(i) the compensation in many cases is disputed and can be paid only after final decision by competent court, and

(ii) in some cases, the payments are withheld for want of sanction of mutations entered in revenue records as a result of inheritance and other transactions

Cholera and Smallpox

1110 Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the total number of deaths due to Cholera and Small-pox epidemics in Punjab State during the current year upto 31st July, 1958?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): The requisite information is given below —

	Deaths
(1) Cholera	1
(2) Smallpox	249

Rural Water Supply Schemes in Himachal Pradesh

1111. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount allotted to Himachal Pradesh for implementing the rural water supply scheme has been utilised during the First and Second Five Year Plans; and

(b) if so, the exact amount the State Government has utilised?

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Seed Multiplication Farms in Himachal Pradesh

1112. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the amount allotted to the Himachal Pradesh for the establishment of seed multiplication farms as subsidy during 1958-59?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): Himachal Pradesh being a Centrally Administered area, the question of subsidy does not arise. A sum of Rs. 2,19,500 has been provided for during 1958-59 for the setting up of four seed multiplication Farms.

Minor Irrigation Schemes in Punjab

1113. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any new schemes of minor

irrigation from the Punjab Government during the course of the year; and

(b) whether any special grant is being made by the Central Government in this respect?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Misuse of Alarm Chain on Northern Railway

1114. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of instances of pulling of alarm Chain on the Northern Railway during 1958 so far, month-wise;

(b) the number out of them found unjustified; and

(c) the number of cases where offenders have been prosecuted and convicted, during the same period?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c).

Month	No. of cases of alarm chain pulling	No. of cases of unauthorised pulling	No. of cases in which offenders have been arrested and/or prosecuted	Number of persons convicted
January, 1958 . . .	841	672	1	1
February, 1958 . . .	953	700	1	.
March, 1958 . . .	1,033	744	5	1
April, 1958 . . .	911	689	1	..
May, 1958 . . .	1,089	795	3	..
June, 1958 . . .	855	617	6	1
TOTAL . . .	5,682	4,217	17	3

Amritsar Railway Workshop

1115. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the articles manufactured annually at the Amritsar Railway Workshop on the Northern Railway; and

(b) the percentage of the annual requirements of the Northern Railway met by this workshop?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) 5208 items of Rolling Stock components were manufactured during the year 1957-58, besides carrying out Periodical overhaul to Locomotives

(b) 18.5 per cent of the total requirements of Rolling Stock Components of the Northern Railway during the year 1957-58

जौनपुर जंक्शन पर पानी की सप्लाई

१११६. श्री गणपति राम : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उत्तर रेलवे के जौनपुर जंक्शन पर जल सभरण की व्यवस्था बहुत खराब है और स्टेशन के पाइपों में बहुत गन्दा पानी मिलता है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि जौनपुर के प्रथम श्रेणी के प्रतीक्षालय में जो पीने का पानी उपलब्ध है वह हानिकारक है ; और

(ग) इस विषय में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खां) :

(क) जी नहीं । जौनपुर रेलवे स्टेशन पर पानी साफ करने के लिए नवोदारीन मिलाने का संयंत्र (Plant) है । नलों और प्याऊ के जरिये स्टेशन पर पीने के लिये साफ पानी दिया जाता है ।

(ख) जी नहीं । फिर भी, यह सच है कि प्रतीक्षालय के साथ जो नहाने का कमरा बना हुआ है उसके नलों से बिना साफ किया हुआ पानी आता है, लेकिन यह पानी पीने के लिये नहीं है ।

(ग) पहले जो नलकूप (Tube-well) लगाया गया था, वह कारगर साबित न हुआ । अब दूसरा नलकूप लगाया जा रहा है । आशा है कि इस नलकूप से काफी पानी मिलेगा और इससे स्नानघरों के नलों में भी पानी दिया जा सकेगा ।

जौनपुर जंक्शन का यार्ड

१११७. श्री गणपति राम : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जौनपुर जंक्शन (उत्तर रेलवे) के यार्ड को बढ़ाया जा रहा है ;

(ख) यदि हा, तो इस सम्बन्ध में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है ;

(ग) क्या यार्ड के साथ साथ स्टेशन और प्लेटफार्म को भी बढ़ाने का विचार है ; और

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि प्लेटफार्म नं० १ पर बहुत देर से एक शॉट की आवश्यकता अनुभव की जा रही है किन्तु अब तक वहां कोई शॉट नहीं बना है ?

रेलवे उपमंत्री (श्री शाहनवाज खां) :

(क) जी हां ।

(ख) काम अभी शुरू नहीं हुआ है । आशा है कि अक्टूबर, १९५८ से काम शुरू हो जायेगा ।

(ग) स्टेशन की इमारत को बढ़ाने का विचार तो नहीं है ; लेकिन बड़ी साइज के दो और प्लेटफार्म बनाने का विचार है ।

(ब) प्लेटफार्म नं० १ के एक हिस्से में शीट पहले से है। १९५८-५९ में पूरे प्लेटफार्म पर शीट डालने का विचार था, लेकिन दूसरे जरूरी कामों के लिये इस्पात को बचा रखने की गरज से यह काम स्थगित कर दिया गया।

Hindustan Shipyard

1118. **Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what is the loss incurred in working of the Hindustan Shipyard during the years 1956-57 and 1957-58, and

(b) what are the reasons for the losses?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The loss incurred by the Hindustan Shipyard was Rs. 3,69,081 for the year 1956-57 and Rs. 4,75,353 for the year 1957-58.

(b) The loss sustained during the two years was mainly attributable to the loss incurred on the assets which had to be either discarded or dismantled consequent on the implementation of the Development Programme as well as the provision made for obsolescence of materials lying in stock over a long period.

Wagons

1119. **Shri Goray:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wagons that are wasted on terminal delays and the number of wagons on the move per day;

(b) the number of hours for which the wagons keep moving during the 24 hours per day;

(c) what steps have been taken to reduce the period of detention of damaged-wagons before they are placed in sick lines;

(d) what suggestions have been submitted by the Efficiency Bureau in order to cut down terminal delays; and

(e) whether the Railways have chosen any specific Section to give an all-out trial of the suggestions made by the Efficiency Bureau?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) No wagons are wasted as such at terminals where, however, detentions incidental to working to take place. A close watch is kept on such detentions during various operations at the terminals and every endeavour is made to cut it down to a minimum.

The average number of wagons on line daily in terms of 4-wheelers during 1957-58 was 175,334 on the Broad Gauge, 83,296 on the Metre Gauge, and 8,829 on the Narrow Gauge, and the extent of wagon time spent daily on train service by these wagons is indicated in reply to part (b).

(b) The average number of hours, for which a wagon remained on trains daily during 1957-58 was 5.08 on the Broad Gauge, 3.68 on the Metre Gauge and 1.81 on the Narrow Gauge.

(c) The following steps have been taken to reduce the period of detention to damaged wagons before they are placed in sick lines:—

(i) Where defective layouts have been responsible for delays in placement, remodelling of such yards by provision of through tracks instead of dead-ends has been undertaken for sick lines;

(ii) Adequate facilities for sorting out heavy and light repair wagons are being provided;

(iii) Repair capacity in sick lines has been increased by provision of multiple placements thus achieving larger output per day;

(iv) As many wagons as are possible are repaired in the goods yard;

- (v) Delays to wagons requiring transshipment have been reduced by sending such wagons to goods shed before placement in the sick lines;
- (vi) Railway administrations have been directed to ensure the closest watch on detentions in traffic yards and to take steps to reduce them. Targets for major operations, i.e., placement, removal etc. have been prescribed and traffic staff are enjoined to work as far as possible within the targets.
- (d) The following suggestions were made by the Efficiency Bureau in order to cut down terminal delays:—
- (a) An intensive watch on the working of terminals where facilities are limited, including a watch on quick placement and release of wagons containing Railway's own consignments and machinery to ensure that wagons which are likely to be detained heavily due to one reason or the other are cleared as quickly as possible;
- (b) A watch on the working of colliery sidings and ensuring regular running of colliery pilots;
- (c) Maintenance of 'in sight' balances of wagons, temporary regulation of incoming traffic by quotas, timely imposition of restrictions in the booking of traffic and tightening up of wharfage and demurrage rules as also raising their rates for terminals which get frequently congested;
- (d) Appointing Area Officers at terminals where the volume of traffic is heavy.
- (e) The suggestions made by the Efficiency Bureau have been implemented by the railways to cover all their important terminal points and

as such the Railways choosing a "Specific Section to give an all out trial of the suggestions" does not arise.

Letter Boxes

1120. Shri P. R. Patel: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many villages in Mehsana district (Bombay State) are not provided with letter-boxes to post letters; and

(b) time by which letter boxes will be provided?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) The Posts and Telegraphs Department does not provide letter boxes in every village. The policy of the Department is to provide letter boxes in rural areas in localities which post two letters or more per day and are situated at a distance of one mile or more from the nearest post office or letter box. Although the Mehsana District in Bombay State has 1186 villages, according to this policy, letter boxes are due to be provided at present in 601 such villages. Letter boxes are already existing in 471 villages. 130 villages could not be provided with letter boxes as yet due to short supply of letter boxes.

(b) Letter Boxes are proposed to be installed shortly in 80 villages of the Mehsana District and the rest will be installed as soon as the Director General, Supplies and Disposals, who is giving top priority to the supply of letter boxes to Bombay Circle, is in a position to supply them.

Telegram and Telephone Facilities in Villages

1121. Shri P. R. Patel: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages having a population of 3,000 and more which are not provided with telegram and telephone facilities in Mehsana District of Bombay State; and

(b) the time by which such facilities will be provided?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a)

*Without facility

Telegraph Telephone

48 58

(b) As and when each proposal is found justified (subject to the availability of stores).

*1. Villages with less than 5000 population are not entitled to telegraph facility on a loss basis.

2. Telephone facility on a loss basis is permissible to administrative stations upto the status of Tehsils and Thana headquarters stations in States of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal. At other places, the proposal must be self-supporting.

Thefts of lead ingots

1122. Shri B. Das Gupta: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lead ingots booked from Katrasgarh (Dhanbad Eastern Railway) to Howrah have been stolen by breaking wagons several times;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents since 1951 year-wise and the date and place of the last incident;

(c) what is the total quantity of lead ingots stolen up-to-date booked from Katrasgarh;

(d) whether the offenders have been detected and stolen lead ingots recovered; and

(e) what is the total amount of compensation demanded by the sender and paid by the Railway authorities so far?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes. There have been a few such cases of shortages of lead ingots.

(b) Records pertaining to the years 1951 to 1954 are not available. In the subsequent years, only 3 incidents have been reported, all in the current year 1958, one on 26-3-58, one on 31-5-58 and the last one on 8-6-58.

The last incident was noticed on arrival of the wagon in Howrah yard.

(c) 236 pieces of pig lead are reported to have been stolen in the 3 cases, from the year 1955 to 1958 (up-to-date).

(d) No.

(e) The following amounts of compensation have been demanded by the sender for alleged losses of lead ingots on consignments booked from Katrasgarh to Howrah

1951-1956	..	Nil.
1957-58	..	Rs. 39.77 np.
1958-59	..	Rs. 9474.10 np. (up-to-date).

No compensation has been paid by the Railway Administration so far, but some claims are still under scrutiny. These amounts include, some claims relating to alleged shortages from wagons which arrived with sending stations seals-in-tact at destination and were repudiated, as the loading is done by the senders at their private siding without Railway staff.

Railway Quarters

1123. Shri Rajendra Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway employees occupying Railway quarters have to pay more for electricity compared to what is charged from the other citizens of Bombay area for the same purpose; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) and (b). The Railway employees living in Railway quarters are charged at a uniform average pooled rate. The pooled rate is worked out periodically on "No profit no loss" basis taking into consideration cost of power at all stations over the entire length of the railway zone. Pooled rate is reviewed from time to time.

In Bombay the rates charged for electricity from public by the local

licences is lower than pooled rates charged by the Railways. But there are many other places where the pooled rates charged by the Railways from their employees are much lower than the rates charged by the local supply authorities.

Ghat Drivers

1124. **Shri Assar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special training is given to Ghat Drivers to drive trains in Ghats;

(b) whether any certificate of training is given to Ghat Drivers;

(c) whether any special Ghat allowance is given to the Ghat Drivers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there are any trains in Bhor Ghat on Central Railway running without Ghat Engine and Ghat Drivers; and

(f) if so, names of the trains and reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

12.03 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

LAY-OFF OF 1135 SKILLED WORKERS IN MESSRS BURN AND CO.

Mr. Speaker: I have received notice of an adjournment motion

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat) rose—

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. Member referring to it?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I was going to ask about this adjournment motion.

Mr. Speaker: I am trying to ask the hon. Member as to how this is ad-

missible. Firstly, this seems to be State subject. Secondly, if 1135 unskilled workers

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Skilled workers.

Mr. Speaker: It is 'unskilled' in my copy

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): That has been corrected to 'skilled'.

Mr. Speaker: 'Unskilled' is written here.

'Un' is scored out, I think

Then, it reads:

" . . . skilled workers of premier engineering firm being laid off resulting in creating a situation where priority"

I find that in the original copy itself, it is 'unskilled'.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: It was a bit of carelessness on my part. It was my mistake I apologise for it

Mr. Speaker: There is a lot of difference between 'skilled' and 'unskilled' I was wondering whether any company has not the right to put off some unskilled labour also when it does not find them necessary. Even assuming that it is 'skilled', is it contended that no company has got a right to lay them off and take them in from time to time?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: The position is this

Mr. Speaker: My only difficulty is this. Is the Parliament to take the responsibility of deciding for any particular factory or any concern as to whether, if a few skilled or unskilled workers are removed and then are taken again, we must sit in judgment here and then say they ought not to have sent them away? That is my difficulty.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: The point is this. It is not only a question of the 1135 skilled workers of Messrs. Burn & Co., a premier engineering works in Calcutta, who have been laid off, but the entire engineering belt in Calcutta, which has the premier fabricating workshops of the country which are carrying out priority projects for the Bhilai, Durgapur and the Ganga bridge projects and wagon-building, is closing down, and every week, a hundred workers are being thrown out, because there is shortage of steel. We have been coming consistently to the Central Government, urging them that there should be some pooling of the available material, and that some sort of steps should be taken by the Central Government to see that our entire plan projects are not stopped or at least the lay-off which they contend is necessary at the moment, and also to see whether there could be some agreement entered into between the labour, the employers and Government. Otherwise, there would be a complete paralysis in the whole engineering belt which is situated in Howrah and Calcutta. That is why it is a matter of urgent public importance, not only for Bengal or Calcutta, but for the whole country. That is why I have raised this particular question. It cannot be solved by the State Government; it cannot be solved by anybody except the Central Government. That is why it has to come before this House.

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): I sought the permission of the Home Minister in regard to the earlier question on which the House wanted further information. (Laughter).

Shri V. P. Nayar (Quilon): This is about steel.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister might have waited. There is no hurry for that question.

Shri Karmarkar: I thought I might state the position.

Mr. Speaker: I would request hon. members to seriously think about this matter. The House is engaged in some other business. Where is the hurry to interrupt that business like this?

Shri Karmarkar: I beg to be pardoned. I gave a message to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, and when you had a look at me, I thought I was being called.

Mr. Speaker: I am really sorry. It is not right. I cannot get along with this work, — whoever might be in charge of this. When I am engaged, and I have taken up some other work, what is the hurry? The hon. Minister might have waited until this was over and then brought it to my notice.

Shri Karmarkar: I beg your pardon.

Mr. Speaker: The adjournment motion is more serious than the other item. I would like to know from the Minister of Commerce and Industry whether he is prepared to make any statement regarding this adjournment motion.

Shri Karmarkar: After I had (Laughter).

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): So far as the general question of shortage of steel is concerned, the hon. Member is quite correct in saying that the shortage is there and in certain respects it is serious. But the House is very well aware of the fact that we are trying to get as much steel as possible. But, in that regard too, there is the limitation of the foreign exchange. So, certain restrictions have to be imposed, and we cannot provide adequate quantity of steel to all the industries.

This particular motion is related to a particular firm, a premier engineering firm, Messrs. Burn & Co. in Howrah. I have not got the details

[Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri]

with me. There are two other Ministries also concerned, namely the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Steel. So, if you so like, and the House so desires, I am prepared to make a statement a day or two later, when I have been able to collect all the information.

Mr. Speaker: All right. I shall take this up on Monday. The hon. Minister may make a consolidated statement.

12 07 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: STARRED QUESTION ON WITHDRAWAL OF PROSECUTION AGAINST DR. GAITONDE

Mr. Speaker: Regarding the question relating to Dr. Gaitonde, I have adjourned it to some other day. So, why can it not wait? If the Minister makes a statement now, the hon. Members may ask supplementary questions.

The Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar): They can ask.

Mr. Speaker: Let this be on some other day.

Shri Karmarkar: What I thought was that this being an important question, the House may not be kept in suspense. Therefore, I sought the permission of the Home Minister to give the grounds for the withdrawal of the case, so that there might be no suspense. That was I thought.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. The hon. Minister may make a statement now. And if hon. Members want to ask any questions....

Shri Geray (Poona): May I say something? This question involves the reputation of one of the foremost of surgeons that we have, and unless

the hon. Minister is prepared to allow us to ask more supplementary questions, I think it may do harm to Dr. Gaitonde who has a very high name, so far as surgery is concerned. He is one of those people who stood foremost in our Goa struggle. Of course, I do not mean to say that because he is a patriot, even if he has done something wrong, it should not be brought up here. But what I would like to press is that before we discuss this, let us bear in mind that his is not here to defend himself, and perhaps, all our discussion may harm his reputation as a surgeon.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I was not here when this question was raised. So I do not know what happened. But as the House is interested, I should like to say what came to my knowledge because I was somewhat intimately connected with this matter. As soon as this matter came to my knowledge, we appointed a Committee informally of eminent doctors and others to go into all these facts and to report to us what they thought about it. We consulted others too, and the unanimous report of all those people was that it was not fair to bring any charge against Dr. Gaitonde. The police automatically had taken some steps without any inquiry. They started some kind of proceedings. They ought to have really consulted others. As soon as they were consulted, the Home Ministry took steps to consult these doctors and they went thoroughly into this and said that they saw no ground for proceeding in this matter. It was on that basis that it was withdrawn.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): Obviously what the Prime Minister has said is not sufficient ground for withdrawal of the case. If the Committee had said that there was no ground, they must also have mentioned on what ground the case was weak, whether the forceps were implanted in the

body and so on. Was it due to lack of proof or was it on some other ground that they recommended withdrawal of the case?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: They said that there was nothing to connect Dr. Gaitonde with this. We are now concerned with this gentleman. If I may say so, I looked up numerous cases like this, in fact, books on the subject because I was interested in it. As my hon. friend, Shri Goray, said, Dr. Gaitonde is a man of the highest ability and integrity. Now, when an operation is conducted, there are large numbers of people in the operation theatre—surgeons, junior surgeons, nurses and others, and undoubtedly the operator—the big surgeon. So all kinds of people are there. Nobody can ever be absolutely sure as to whose lapse or error it was that something was left in the body. It may be of the nurses; it may be of somebody else's.

It is very unfortunate. But nobody can ever be sure as to whose lapse it was. Even if the matter is taken up, it is impossible to prove out of a group of persons whose momentary error it was. That was one thing. Other facts too were mentioned. So far as Dr. Gaitonde was concerned, it was quite clear, looking at it from the strictest point of view, that nothing in the nature of any proof could be brought against him. All his reputation was in his favour, of being an extraordinarily careful man. Apart from being an able surgeon, he is a very careful man.

So we felt that it was not right to take this matter to a court of law when both in his entire record, which was very fine, and in this particular instance, there was nothing against him as far as we could gather, except vague charges. At the most, nothing could be done because no proof could be found and there was no point in proceeding with it, except, no doubt, if people wanted to injure his reputation—a very fine

and patriotic man. That was the only thing left.

Mr. Speaker: They wanted to know whether at an earlier stage there was any proof to show that these forceps which were found in the cremation ground were really in the dead body or not.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As I ventured to say, it is very very difficult to prove. In fact, it is not even provable that these forceps belonged to the Hospital. Nobody can say; nothing can be proved about this matter.

Shri Karmarkar: With your permission, I would like to supplement what the hon. Prime Minister has said because I should not like to keep the House away from the analysis. The matter came up before the Home Ministry. They forwarded the summary evidence furnished by the police with the statements of others as well as the brief note submitted by Dr. Gaitonde to the Ministry of Health. They were forwarded to the technical officers in the Ministry of Health. They were examined by the Directorate General of Health Services and upon the evidence as was available, the comments they offered were briefly as follows:

“(1) Regarding the police report, there is no conclusive evidence to prove that the artery forceps in question was recovered from the abdominal cavity of the deceased. Merely finding it in the ashes at the cremation ground does not prove that the artery forceps was inside the body. It might have been used to fasten the ligatures outside or to clip dressings or drainage tube that was put in to prevent them from going inside the body. It might also have been inadvertently included in the dressings. If the defence adopts any of the above arguments, it would be difficult to counter them.

[Shri Karmarkar]

(2) There is no conclusive evidence to prove that artery forceps in question is missing from the Irwin Hospital.

(3) No evidence whatever is forthcoming in the investigation as to the steps of technique that were adopted during the operation. Such information would be available only if the investigating officer is assisted by a technical officer, namely, a surgeon. This does not seem to have been done. To prove culpable negligence in a case like this, it would be necessary to prove definitely that the Surgeon did not do what he should have done or did what he should not have done, that is, ordinarily, he should have taken all precautions before closing the abdomen to see that the abdominal cavity is free, that there is no bleeding and that no foreign body like sponges and instruments have been left behind. He should also have asked the Sister-in-charge if all sponges and instruments were collected before closing the abdomen. These have not been elicited in the investigation. The statement of Dr. Gaitonde that this was done is not enough; and

(4) From the evidence, it is extremely doubtful if the prosecution is sustainable".

The above comments of the Directorate General of Health Services were forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs. That Ministry (Home Affairs) however, after consulting the Ministry of Law, instructed the Delhi Administration to withdraw the case from the police as it was extremely doubtful if the prosecution was sustainable. The case was accordingly withdrawn by the Delhi Administration. These are the full facts.

Shri Ranga (Tenali): Why was not all this information given to the House when the question was under discussion?

Mr. Speaker: Now it has been given. There is nothing more required to be done.

Shri Ranga: The way in which they proceeded about this is rather strange.

Mr. Speaker: In view of the statements made, there is no useful purpose served by my transferring this question to some other day for the Minister of Home Affairs to answer. The matter is now set at rest.

12.18 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT ON FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAMME AND FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim): Before I lay the Statement, as promised by me, on the Table of the House, with your permission, I beg to make certain observations.

The magnitude of the flood damage in the country is a matter of grave concern to the Central and State Governments and the Members of the House would naturally like to be appraised of the measures undertaken so far in the sphere of flood control. On 14th August 1958, while speaking on the admissibility of an adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha regarding the flood situation in some parts of the country, I promised to lay a comprehensive statement on the Table of the House. Before doing so, I would like, with your permission, to appraise the House of the general position in a few words.

The problem of affording protection to all the areas vulnerable to floods in the country is of gigantic magnitude while our ability to implement the programme of flood control works is naturally governed by availability of resources and technical personnel

The House is aware that the provision for flood control works originally estimated at Rs. 117 crores for the Second Plan period was reduced to Rs. 60 crores in the light of the overall financial resources. As a result of a fresh appraisal of available resources made by the National Development Council which has led to the reduction in the total outlay on the Second Plan from Rs. 4,800 crores to Rs. 4,500 crores, the Plan provision for flood control has had to be reduced further to Rs. 4.9 crores.

Heavy precipitation of a local character occurs in different parts of the country in different years and, because of the unpredictability of the natural forces, unprecedented situations are created in areas which may not have been badly affected by floods in the past. Each river thus poses different problems at different times. Still we have to continue our efforts to eradicate the causes and afford relief to the extent possible.

It was for the first time in 1954-55 that Flood Control measures were planned on a scientific basis and top priority was accorded to the collection of hydrological and other essential data as well as for the formulation and execution of schemes of an emergent nature in the worst affected areas. Among the works completed in pursuance of the emergent programme I should like to make a special mention here of the flood protection works at Dibrugarh. These works have withstood the floods in the Brahmaputra very well.

Mr. Speaker: Is it a long one?

Hafez Mohammad Ibrahim: No, Sir. Only one more paragraph.

The flow through the left channel close to Dibrugarh town is reduced to almost one-third of what it was in 1954-55 and in many places where the depth previously ranged from 20 to 30 ft. it is now only 5 to 6 ft. This is very clear proof that the spurs have

been effective in diverting the river from the left channel to the central channel. The channel for storm water drainage has also functioned effectively in spite of the fact that Dibrugarh recorded unusually heavy rainfall of 7.17 inches (182.0mm) during the 24 hours ending 8 A.M. on the 13th July 1958. The Kosi embankments have stood well and afforded protection to a population of about 15 lakhs. The floods protection works so far executed in the country have given protection to over 50 lakh acres. In addition, 42 towns have been protected and 4,000 villages raised above the flood level. A good beginning has thus been made in mitigating flood damage and I can assure the House that every effort will be made to give protection to as large an area as possible.

Sir, I beg to lay the statement on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-869/58.]

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): May I submit that the statement may be circulated to all of us?

Mr. Speaker: Yes; let the statement be circulated to all hon. Members.

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER DELHI DEVELOPMENT ACT.

The Minister of Health (Shri Kar-markar): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under section 58 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957, a copy of each of the following Notifications:—

- (1) G.S.R. No. 391 dated the 17th May 1958, containing in the Delhi Development Authority (Election of Representatives of Delhi Municipal Corporation) Rules, 1958. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-867/58.]
- (2) G.S.R. No. 479 dated the 14th June 1958, containing the Delhi Development Authority Rules, 1958. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-868/58.]

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, a copy of each of the following Notifications:—

- (1) G.S.R. No. 638A dated the 25th July 1958, containing the Wheat (Regulation of Use in Roller Mills) Order, 1958.
- (2) G.S.R. No. 687 dated the 8th August 1958.
- (3) G.S.R. No. 702 dated the 14th August 1958.
- (4) G.S.R. No. 703 dated the 16th August 1958 containing the Wheat (South Zone Export Control) Order, 1958. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-866/58.]

12.23½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT

Sardar Hakam Singh (Bhatinda): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.24 hrs.

CENTRAL SALES TAX (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha on the 27th August 1958, namely:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Sales Tax Act, 1958, as amended, be passed."

Shri V. P. Nayar may continue his speech.

Shri V. P. Nayar (Quilon): Mr. Speaker, you observed yesterday morning that there must be some arrangement to make the proceedings more lively. Even then it did not work and we saved about an hour and a half on the Bill.

Yesterday, while I was attending to the debate on this I had the impression that hon. Deputy Minister, despite her attending the Select Committee and also hearing the speeches here, did not quite understand the point of view of the Opposition. Referring to Shri Bharucha she said yesterday that she was of the opinion that Shri Bharucha himself doubted the intelligence of the Bill. I for one would never think that Shri Bharucha, of all persons, would doubt the intelligence of anything in cold print even though he doubts the intelligence of the Mover.

The points which we have urged in the dissenting minutes are of great importance. We made an effort in the Select Committee to put across our point of view, and, as usual, in vain. There is a specific exclusion of the newspapers from the purview of this legislation, and it was brought to the notice of Government in the Select Committee. The answer was that this Bill has been brought forward under item 92A of List I in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. And the hon. Deputy Minister yesterday contended that it was therefore barred. She said that we were barred from considering this aspect because item 92A did not include newspapers.

We know that the Sixth Amendment of the Constitution had specially provided for 92A and the original Act to which we are now having this amendment— if I remember correctly—was passed in September 1956. It was in November that the

original Sales Tax Bill was introduced by the then Finance Minister, Shri Krishnamachari. Before that, the Constitution had the provision and I do not see any reason why at this time the Government should say that because item 92A specifically excludes newspapers from the purview of Inter-State Sales Tax, we have no power to include them.

As a matter of fact, by this Bill Government have sought to clarify the position. In the original Act, as it stood, newspapers should necessarily have been included because there was no specific exemption and under a law made by Parliament, which was competent to pass a law for inter-State Sales Tax on newspapers, there was no reason why sales tax was not collected from newspapers.

Our argument has been very clearly indicated in the Minutes of Dissent, and, if I might be allowed to repeat, we consider that the newspapers have no case for exemption at all. Sir, I have made some calculations. If we calculate at the rate of one million papers as being subject to inter-State sales, my contention is that already, even though they are not paying sales tax, they are earning more than Rs 5,000 per day. How does it happen? Because, as you know, when the country adopted the decimal system of coinage, most of the leading newspapers increased their prices. If a newspaper was priced at 2½ annas, on conversion, it ought to have been only 15nP; but we find that the price has been raised to 16nP. Some papers which were selling at 6nP have raised it to 8nP. Even taking the average increase inherent in the conversion to decimal coin as half a nP, the newspaper magnates have been getting an additional income of Rs. 5,000 per day. According to my computation, the average should be at least one nP in which case the average additional amount earned purely on account of the Govern-

ment's conversion to decimal coinage should be Rs. 10,000.

We know the attitude of the newspaper owners, especially in the matter of labour and in the case of working journalists. Why should we have this softness for newspapers whom we have allowed, despite the legislation by which we are competent to have sales tax, to go on collecting this additional revenue and paying nothing to Government. Government do not seem to be alive to this situation at all. We were under the impression when we heard replies in the committee as also in this House that Government have an unwarranted softness for the newspaper magnates. I do not know how to express it in other words. But, I want Government to consider whether in view of the additional revenue which the newspapers have been getting and also in view of the enormous money which they get by advertisements—let alone the fact that many of them indulge in black-marketing newsprint—they should not be taxed. All that is not relevant for the time being. Why should we not include newspapers, at least inter-State sales of newspapers, in the ambit of this enactment? The argument of the hon. Minister was that article 269 stands in the way. If I have the freedom I should have said that it is a ridiculous argument. I am glad that the hon. Minister read one of two provisions of the Constitution, and I would very much like her to read the other provision also so that she will not raise the same point again.

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha): I shall always be prepared to be enlightened by you.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Such enlightenment will never be gratuitous in such matters.

The other point which I raised in the Minute of Dissent was about the question of taxing vegetable oil at source. Here again, the Minister's

[Shri V P Nayar]

answer was that Government are not prepared to go on adding to the list of commodities. We know that sales tax is today levied on certain other articles of importance in inter-State commerce and trade along with the excise duty. The answer in the Committee was that we did not have sufficient experience to consider or to decide whether the time was right for having sales tax added on to the excise duty. I submit vegetable oils have a separate case and an importance which very many other commodities do not have. Even granting that they are equally important, in the case of vegetable oils it was pointed out by the Delhi Trade Association that because of the surreptitious practices and because of the law prevailing in adjoining States in the matter of sales tax, the Delhi Administration alone should be losing a sum of Rs 6,000 a day. You know, Sir, in the neighbouring State of UP groundnut oil has no sales tax on it and it was specifically pointed out to the Committee in a printed memorandum that because of this one aspect the avoidance of sales tax is so great in respect of vegetable oils that it can easily be computed to be Rs 6,000 per day. I want the Government to consider whether it is a small sum to be left out from the purview of this Bill.

We know that if it is added to the excise duty, there is a lesser chance of avoidance and much less of evasion, and India being the largest producer of vegetable oils in the whole world, I submit that Government did not take the opportunity to have this additional revenue, and if they do not want to accept our suggestion, it only means that they are not interested in getting money whether it is possible and in stopping evasion wherever it is possible.

The third point which we had raised in our Minute of Dissent, and

which was also not answered yesterday, was about inter-branch transactions. We know that even before we brought forward this measure, many leading concerns in our country had opened branches at places where there was no justification for the branches of such companies. If a leading manufacturer of vanaspati, for example, opens a branch in Ghaziabad, what is the justification unless it be that they want to manipulate in the trade and show that it is an inter-State trade? Inter-branch transactions cannot be, according to us, controlled and a tax on inter-branch transactions which is legitimately due cannot be collected if the provisions remain as they are. As it is the third reading stage, I do not want to elaborate upon it because it is rather late.

My submission is that we have given the suggestions in all earnestness and with the idea that Government may avail of them, if they themselves did not think of them, in order that they may collect more money through sales tax. Our efforts have been in vain, and however much we pressed it appeared to us that Government were not prepared to accept our suggestions if they themselves could not take credit for bringing forward such provisions. Therefore I submit that even if it is not possible in the present Bill the hon Minister, in all her earnestness for bringing more money to our revenues, should take up this matter with all sincerity and before long bring forward another measure incorporating the amendments which we have suggested. It is usual in such cases, as we find in the case of the Bill to be discussed later in the day, the Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill, that our suggestions which are thrown out in all good spirit and in all earnestness are not accepted at that time, but five years later they come forward and accept the suggestions without any exception. This

should not be the case in the case of taxation measures especially, and I wish very much that the hon. Minister considers these questions and brings forward amending Bills for this in the light of the suggestions which we have given, and in doing so will not take the times which usually Government takes in such matters.

Shri Ghosal (Ulberia): Though certain improvements have been made on the anvil of the Select Committee, still it is not to our satisfaction.

I would only confine myself to two points, regarding the absence of uniformity in the structure of sales tax in the different States and also regarding the matter of evasion.

At present there is anarchy in the rates of sales tax in the different States. There is no fixed rate, it varies from State to State. In some States there is the multi-point system, in some the single-point system and in others the double-point system. Therefore, taking advantage of these different systems, the tax evaders get opportunities to go scot-free and avoid the tax. Of course, the States will try to augment their income by imposing sales tax, but there must be some parity in the rates of sales tax in the different States, because ultimately the sales tax is paid by the consumer, it is realised from his pocket. So, in the interests of the consumers and the people at large, the Central Government should see that a uniform rate of sales tax is maintained in the different States.

Secondly, regarding the evasion of taxes, I am very happy that the traders themselves have openly acknowledged that they are addicted to the evasion of sales tax because of haphazard rates and also the much-condemned procedure of realisation.

Sales tax evasion generally takes place in three ways—firstly by not giving vouchers for cash purchases. In Calcutta I have seen it is prevalent among many traders and in many shops. They do not give cash memos and vouchers to the customers, and the customers also do not demand it because they also will be relieved of paying sales tax.

Secondly, it is done by maintaining two sets of accounts books. In our side it is called *do number khata*, and they maintain a whole-time accountant for maintaining these *khata*s in order to avoid payment of sales tax, and they save much more by sales tax evasion than the amount they pay by way of salary to the accountant.

The third method of evasion is the manipulation of the realising officers. That is also prevalent very much. I know that lawyers who have acquaintance with the officers are only briefed with sales tax and income-tax cases because the procedure of realising sales tax is much the same as the procedure of realising income-tax. Naturally all the loop-holes of the realisation system of the income-tax also exist in the realisation system of the sales tax. Therefore, my request to the Government is that the Government should at least see that there is parity of sales tax in different States. It should be achieved at least on a zonal basis and the loop-holes in the realisation of the sales tax should be plugged. That is my submission.

श्री रम शरण (मराठाबाद) अध्यक्ष
महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान
मेकेशन ५ (२) (बी) की तरफ दिलाना चाहता
हूँ जिस के सम्बन्ध में मैं ने अपने मिन बाफ

[श्री राम शरण]

डिसेंट बें चर्चा की है। इस में रजिस्टर्ड और अनरजिस्टर्ड डीलर्स और डिक्लेअर्ड और अनडिक्लेअर्ड गुड्स का जो भेद है उस के सम्बन्ध में मेरा यह कहना है कि जो अनरजिस्टर्ड डीलर्स हैं और जो अनडिक्लेअर्ड गुड्स हैं उन पर जो इस बिल के द्वारा ७ परसेन्ट रेट लगाया जा रहा है उस का असर छोटे छोटे दूकानदारों पर बहुत अधिक बुरा पड़ जायेगा, खाम तौर से उन राज्यों में जहां पर कि सेल्स टैक्स की दर ७ परसेन्ट से कम है। ऐसे बहुत कम राज्य हैं, बम्बई ही शायद एक ऐसा राज्य है, जहां सेल्स टैक्स की दर ७ परसेन्ट से ज्यादा है। वहां पर तो इस का बुरा असर नहीं पड़ेगा, लेकिन बहुत ऐसे राज्य हैं जहां सेल्स टैक्स की दर ७ परसेन्ट से कम है। ५ परसेन्ट है या इस से भी कम। कहीं तो ३ १/२ परसेन्ट है। वहां पर जो छोटे दूकानदार हैं उन पर और खाम तौर से जो अनरजिस्टर्ड हैं उन पर इस का बुरा असर पड़ेगा। इस सम्बन्ध में मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में जो कूल्स बनाये जायें उन में रजिस्ट्रेशन के नियमों को लिबरल कर दिया जाये जिस से कि अधिक से अधिक लोग अपने आप को रजिस्टर कर सकें।

दूसरी बात इस के सम्बन्ध में यह कहना है कि जो छोटे उद्योग धंधे हैं उन के उपर भी इस का बुरा असर पड़ेगा। जो लोग बाहर से, दूसरी स्टेट्स से सामान मगायेंगे उन पर अगर ७ परसेन्ट कर देना पड़ेगा तो जिन चीजों की कीमत आज कम देनी पड़ती है उन की कीमत बढ़ जायेगी। जो छोटी छोटी दस्तकारियों की चीजें हैं उन की कीमत साधारण लोगों को ज्यादा देनी पड़ेगी जिस से कि वे चीजें चल नहीं सकेंगी और उन के चलाने का उत्साह लोगों में पैदा नहीं हो सकेगा।

इन बातों की तरफ मैं ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ और आशा करता हूँ कि भागे चल कर तमाम स्टेट्स में ७ परसेन्ट की दर हो

जायेगी, जैसा कि समझा जाना है कि विपत्तियों का विचार है और जब तक यह न हो तब तक कुछ इस प्रकार के नियम बना दिये जायेंगे जिस से कि जो छोटे छोटे बिक्री करने वाले हैं, जो छोटे उद्योग धंधे हैं जिन की बस्तुओं की कीमत कम है, उन पर इस बिल का बुरा असर नहीं पड़े।

पंडित ठाकुर दास भागव (हिसार) : मुझे आज इस मीके पर वह दिन याद आता है जब हम ने अपना कांस्टिट्यूशन बनाते वक्त एक दफा १६ रखी थी जिस की मुराद यह थी कि सब स्टेट्स में, सारे हिन्दुस्तान में ही "ट्रेड शेन वी फ्री"। "स्टेट इंटरकोर्स ऐंड ट्रेड एटमेटर शुड बी फ्री", यह फंडामेंटल राइट रखा गया था। होते होते वह फंडामेंटल राइट नहीं रहा और उम के बजाय कुछ दीगर मेक्शनम्स हमारे कांस्टिट्यूशन में दाखिल हुए, लेकिन फिर भी हम ने खाम तौर पर कांस्टिट्यूशन में इस चीज को रखा। जहां तक ऐसी चीजों का सवाल है जो रोजमर्रा की जिनगी में काम आती है, फूडग्रेन्स वगैरह की, उन के वास्ते खाम प्रोटेक्शन रखा। ग्राहिस्ता ग्राहिस्ता खुसुमन मद्रास और दूसरी स्टेट्स के अन्दर जरूरत पैदा होने से यह हुआ कि बहुत से आर्टिकल्स पर स्टेट्स ० टैक्स लगा। आखिर में जनाब वाला के याद होगा, जनाब वाला उस सेलेक्ट कमेटी के चेअरमैन थे जिस में यह सवाल रखा गया कि सारे देश में सेल्स टैक्स के वास्ते एक यूनिफार्म पालिसी कायम की जाये और एक बिल हाउस के सामने रखा गया। उम वक्त हमारे श्री सी० डी० देशमुख साहब फाइनेन्स मिनिस्टर थे और बहुत काफी झगड़ा उन से हुआ। मुझे याद है कि सेलेक्ट कमेटी में हम ने यह तय किया कि जहां तक फूडस्टफ्स का सवाल है, उन को सारे देश में सेल्स टैक्स से बरी रखा जाये। उस वक्त उन्होंने एक ऐयोरिन्स इस के लिये दिया था, जिस के लिये उन्होंने कहा था कि वह ऐयोरिन्स

नहीं ग्रन्डरस्टैंडिंग है। उस के बाद दूसरा बिल आया जिस में यह शर्त उठ गई। आज यह बिल आया है जिस के ग्रन्डर मुझे बहुत सी चीजों पर एतराज है जिन में से एक यह भी है कि जहाँ तक फूडस्टप्स का ताल्लुक है उन को टैक्स से बरी नहीं रखा गया। आज हिन्दुस्तान के ग्रन्डर फूडस्टप्स की क्या हालत है? आज गरीब आदमियों की क्या हालत है फूडस्टप्स और दूसरी खाने पीने की चीजों के महंगे होने से वह किमी से पोशोदा नहीं है। रोज अन्नबारी में पढ़ते हैं कि स्टार्वेशन डेथ हो रही है। गेज पार्लियामेंट में हम कहते हैं कि हम हिन्दुस्तान में सोशलिस्ट पैटर्न आफ मोसायटी लायेंगे। मैं तो एक ही सोशलिस्ट पैटर्न को जानता हूँ कि कोई आदमी ऐसा न रहे जो कि भूखा रहे, जिस को पेट भर खाना न मिले। मैं तो इसी को सोशलिस्ट पैटर्न समझता हूँ, बाकी किमी भी चीज को सोशलिस्ट पैटर्न नहीं समझता हूँ। मेरी गुजारिश यह है कि फूडस्टप्स पर मेल्स टैक्स नहीं लगना चाहिये। अगर खाने पीने की चीजों पर टैक्स लगना है, अगर ऐसा वक्त आ जाता है कि फूड स्टप्स पर टैक्स लगाया जाता है तो यह वाजिब नहीं है। हम अपन आइडियल्स से बहुत दूर जा रहे हैं। जब मैं देखता हूँ कि रजिस्टर्ड और अनरजिस्टर्ड डीलर्स में इतना फर्क है कि एक को मात टाइम्स टैक्स देना पड़ता है तो मेरे नाज्जब की कोई हद नहीं रहती। गरीब आदमी की इस देश में बैसे ही बड़ी बरी हालत है, उस पर ज्यादा टैक्स नहीं लगना चाहिये सिर्फ इस बिना पर कि उन के सेल्स ज्यादा नहीं हैं और वह रजिस्टर्ड नहीं हैं। आइन्दा जो भी मेल्स टैक्स बिल आये, जो भी उस के मुताबिक डीलर बने उस में और दूसरे डीलर में हिन्दुस्तान के हर एक हिस्से में कोई फर्क नहीं होना चाहिये। हर एक हिस्से में फ्री ट्रेड होना चाहिये। हमारे तो ध्येय यह है जिस को हमें पूरा करना चाहिये। मैं तो कहता हूँ कि अगर पंजाब में भाखरा डैम बना और वहाँ गल्ला ज्यादा पैदा होता है तो यह हर्गिज पंजाबियों का हक नहीं है कि वह सस्ता गल्ला

लायें और सारे हिन्दुस्तान में इस कदर मुसीबत हो और लोगो को खाना न मिले। हिन्दुस्तान के हर हिस्से में हर आदमी के लिये एक सा भाव होना चाहिये। अगर कोई फर्क हो तो सिर्फ ट्रान्स्पॉर्ट चार्ज का हो। बाकी कोई फर्क नहीं होना चाहिये। मैं तो मुन कर हैरान हो गया कि आगरे के ग्रन्डर गेहूँ का भाव ३० ६० मन है और पंजाब के ग्रन्डर गवर्नमेंट कहती है कि १५ ६० मन गेहूँ बिकता है। मैं जानता हूँ कि दिल्ली में हालत क्या है। मामूली खाने पीने की चीजों में, जब कि हम सारे लोग एक मुल्क के हैं, हमारा देश एक स्टेट है, तो कोई वजह नहीं कि हमारे स्टेट्स में जो लोग रहने हैं उन को यह महसूस हो कि हालांकि हम एक मुल्क के हिस्से हैं लेकिन हम मुसीबत में हैं और हिन्दुस्तान की पैदावार का पूरा फायदा नहीं उठा सकते। इस वास्ते जो खाने पीने की चीजें और कपड़े हैं, जो जरूरियातें जिन्दगी हैं, उन के ग्रन्डर ज्यादा फर्क मारे हिन्दुस्तान में नहीं होना चाहिये। यह आइडियल है हमारे सामने जिम की तरफ सारे मेल्स टैक्स के स्ट्रक्चर को लाना चाहिये। मैं इस चीज का इस बिल के ग्रन्डर कोई इंडिकेशन नहीं पाता। मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि हर रोज गवर्नमेंट सबरू मिथानो है यूनिफार्मिटी का, एक देश का, लेकिन जहाँ तक सारे देश को एक बनाने का गवान है, मैं गवर्नमेंट के ऐक्शन में इस का कोई इंडिकेशन नहीं पाता। मुझे यह चीज बहुत दुःख देती है। मैं तो अर्ज करूंगा कि आइन्दा जो भी बिल इय मेल्स टैक्स के तिलसिले में आये उस में इस प्र इ डयन का पूरा करने की कांशिश की जाये जिस को हमारे कांस्टिट्यूशन ने रखा था, जिस के बारे में हमारी पिछली हिस्ट्री का हमें पता है और जिन के बारे में मैं ने बताया था कि कितन वज्रान से हम उन को मजूर करे और इस तरह से उन को बनाये कि जिम से हम अपने आइडियल्स को प्रटेन कर सकें।

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, while answering to some of the points raised by

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the hon. Members, I had already answered the point just now raised by the hon. Member about the sale of foodgrains. It is a subject entirely within the competence of the State Governments and our jurisdiction does not apply to that. The only thing that we can do is to recommend the importance of the things. I do not think the whole idea comes under the purview of this Bill with which I am concerned now.

Another hon. Member has raised the point of taxing the unregistered dealer; the tax is 7 per cent. I had already taken much time of the House in explaining the details of the provisions and why and how we have allowed that. I do not want to repeat the story again. I will only try to meet the little confusion that has been created by the hon. Member. He has confused the whole issue and I want to explain to him these things. The seven per cent. tax is not on the sale by an unregistered dealer about which he is feeling very anxious. It is a sale to a consumer or an unregistered dealer which is to be taxed at 7 per cent. So there is a fundamental difference between this and a sale by an un-registered dealer to an un-registered dealer in the next State. A dealer who makes the original sale cannot be un-registered, because under statutory provisions he has to register himself, otherwise he is liable to be penalised. Therefore, in imposing 7 per cent tax on un-registered dealers, a person who does the original sale does not come under this category at all. I want to assure him that when the registration of that sale or that dealer is a necessity under law, there is no question of his being penalised by this 7 per cent; he will be penalised under law if he does not get himself registered.

Another point was raised by the hon. Member opposite. He has also raised it in his Minute of Dissent, and in spite of the best efforts of mine I could

not satisfy him. I would like to just narrate a little history behind the whole thing, why newspapers have been excluded from the purview of the present Bill. It is not the intention of Government to patronise a particular section of society or a particular business. The entire scheme of Central Sales Tax is based more or less on the recommendation of the Taxation Enquiry Commission and it was accepted by the Government of India with small or minor modifications here and there.

The Commission themselves recommended that in levying sales tax on inter-State sales the Central Government should largely depend upon the State's tax system. They recommended further that as sales tax has a strong local economic bearing, it should wholly belong to the States and be administered by them. Thirdly, they said, in permitting levy of sales tax on inter-State sales the main intension should be to ensure that some revenue accrues to the exporting State without violating the general principle that sales tax is primarily a tax on consumption and should accrue to the State in which the article is consumed. Therefore, Sir, the sales of goods which are exempt under the sales tax law of the exporting State should be exempt from the inter-State sales tax as well. All the provisions of those recommendations were by the Taxation Enquiry Commission, and Government accepted them.

I am not for a moment denying the competence of the hon. Member to refer to this point, because there is a provision in the Constitution that we can override the present position by further amending the Constitution. I would always be happy to be enlightened on constitutional matters by the hon. Member sitting opposite. But the difficulty with the present Bill is that it is outside the scope of the present Bill to have any jurisdiction over the newspapers at all. It is not within

the scope of the present Bill to touch the newspapers as they are.

There is another difficulty also. Under entry 54 of List II of the Seventh Schedule, State Governments are also not competent to levy sales tax on newspapers. In List I also, as has been mentioned before, there is entry 92A under which the Act derives its power to levy an inter-State sales tax, but that excludes newspapers. I mentioned about it yesterday, and the hon. Member sitting opposite also knows about that. According to these provisions, not only the Central Government has no competence to levy any tax on newspapers, the State Government also has no competence to levy any sales tax on newspapers. These are the considerations by which newspapers cannot be included within the scope of the present Bill.

Shri V. P. Nayar: With your permission, Sir, may I ask one question? I did not say that we have any power or not. The hon. Deputy Minister is now referring to entry 92A, while I was referring to 92. 92A was brought in by the sixth amendment. Even before that this House had power to legislate for inter-State sales tax on sale of newspapers. If entry No. 92 is looked into, we will find that this is specifically mentioned. It reads like this: "Taxes on the sale or purchase of newspapers and on advertisements published therein". That was the position in the Constitution as it stood before until we brought in the sixth amendment in 1956. The contention of the hon. Deputy Minister now is that this is under 92A. My submission was only that—it may be argued that it is under 92A—nothing precludes the House from imposing a sales tax on the sale of newspapers, because even before the sixth amendment to the Constitution was brought we were given express powers under entry 92. There is also no indication either in the Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill or the original Bill that this particular Bill has been brought under entry 92A.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: I was myself going to point out that we have authority under entry 92 to levy tax on sale or purchase of newspapers. But even if the power is assumed under this provision, as I said before, a separate legislation will have to be promoted which will embrace within its purview not only tax on sale or purchase of newspapers in the course of inter-State sale but also on such sales that are inside States.

Mr. Speaker: Is it clear that entry No. 92 relates to inter-State sales tax?

Shri V. P. Nayar: It is not. We have an overall power. Even if it is not inter-State, we can levy tax on sale of newspapers. There is also article 269 which says that in case an inter-State tax is levied on sale of newspapers then it has to be distributed among the States or something like that.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: That is why I was saying that even if the tax is levied with the agreement of the States and the Centre, we shall have to think of a system of distribution of such tax as provided under article 269(2) of the Constitution, and we have also to ascertain the possible revenue to be derived from such a tax. We have also to take into consideration the reaction likely to be caused, by and large, in the newspaper industry as a whole. It is not only that the problem of distribution of tax is difficult, but certain other difficulties are likely to be caused. Except for certain important newspapers which have a wide and all-India circulation and which might give a little revenue, mostly the newspapers are confined to particular States. They are mostly not newspapers with so much circulation, and I think they would yield a very very negligible amount of revenue. By bringing this provision it may seriously affect the very circulation of these newspapers which have only a very limited circulation. These are

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the difficulties. We have placed them before the House even in our previous discussion, and I would like to place them again before this hon. House and, therefore, express our inability to accept the suggestion given by the hon. Member sitting opposite.

He raised another point, of which reference was given in his Minute of Dissent. Because no hon. Member raised that point, I did not enlighten the House on that point. The point that he raised was about the transaction between branches and head offices and *vice versa* situated in different States. Our difficulty is that for levying a tax on sales of goods in the course of inter-State trade or commerce this Act derives power under entry 92A of List I of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. The words used in the entry have to be given their national meaning; that is, transaction or sale should involve transfer of property in goods from one person to another. Thus, Sir, the Act has to confine itself to taxing transactions or actual sales involving transfer of property in goods and commodities. Inter-branch transactions do not involve transfer of property from one person to another and as such do not come under the purview of entry 92A mentioned by the hon. Member in his Minute of Dissent. We have, therefore, no competence to legislate on that. About excise duty on oil, I have to repeat that all these matters are to be decided by the State Governments. We are only a recommending or advisory authority and I do not think the State Governments would be very agreeable to making the sales tax on vegetable oil into an excise duty. That is our difficulty. I have nothing more to add. I move.

13 hrs.

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): It was suggested by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava as also by me that because of the high prices of food-

stuffs at least the foodstuffs should be exempted from the sales tax. I wish to know whether a suggestion would be made to the State Government about this.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members forget again and again that there are legislatures in States; let them take this up. It is not for the Central Government to go on giving suggestions; the State Governments may resent it. The Centre cannot legislate for States so far as that matter is concerned. Let provincial autonomy work very well in our country.

The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

13.02 hrs.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (BANKING COMPANIES) DECISION AMENDMENT BILL

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes (Banking Companies) Decision Act, 1955, be taken into consideration."

This is a simple Bill to amend the Industrial Disputes (Banking Companies) Decision Act, 1955. The original Act was intended to give effect to the recommendations of the Bank Award Commission which had, *inter alia*, recommended certain formulae for adjustment of dearness allowance in accordance with variations in the cost of living. According to the original formulae, the dearness allowance can be raised or lowered when the average cost of living index in a period of six months, i.e., from January to June and July to December increases or decreases by ten points over 144.

case of clerical staff, this variation will be one-seventh and in the case of subordinate staff one-tenth of the dearness allowance admissible at the index level of 144.

The employees have represented to us that the six months' period and 10 points variation act to their detriment. The State Bank of India and its employees union have since entered into an agreement to change the ten-point limit in the Commission's formulae to five and the period from six to three months. The other bankers are also agreeable to accept the changes in the formulae on the same lines. Accordingly this Bill is only intended to give power to Government to appropriately modify the original formulae of the Bank Award Commission, of course, adhering to the proposition laid down therein.

With these words, I commend that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes (Banking Companies) Decision Act, 1955, be taken into consideration."

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): Sir, I welcome the spirit of the Bill. I am sorry to say the contents of the Bill will not mitigate the hardships of the bank employees, the purpose for which the hon. the Labour Minister is bringing this Bill before the House. I am glad that unlike in other instances where they did not agree to amend the Banking Companies Decision Act in spite of the fact that certain provisions were creating considerable hardship for the employees, at least in this particular case they have taken the matter into consideration and have come before the House.

Sir, we represented to the Government on various occasions how provisions relating to the classification of areas and other things were creating hardships to the employees, but we were told that the Government of

India did not consider that any action is required on our demand so long as the Award remained in force. In this particular matter the Government have changed their attitude and for that I congratulate them.

Sir, I would like to ask the Labour Minister as to whether the purpose for which the Bill has been introduced will be served by the amendment sought to be made. In order to convince the House, I crave your indulgence to refer to the existing state of affairs. The Bank Award Commission has in paragraph (e) of their recommendation said:

"If the average all-India cost of living index for the half year ending June or December for any year should rise or fall by more than 10 points as compared to 144 the dearness allowance for the succeeding half year will be raised or lowered by one-seventh of the dearness allowance admissible at the index level of 144 for each variation of ten points."

This is for the clerical staff.

For the subordinate staff:

"If the average all-India cost of living index for the half year ending June or December of any year should rise or fall by more than ten points as compared to 144, the dearness allowance for the succeeding half year will be raised or lowered by one-tenth of the dearness allowance admissible at the index level of 144 for each variation of ten points."

This is the formula which, as has been stated, the hon. the Deputy Labour Minister proposes to amend. Before I place my points before the House to show that this is not going to help the bank employees, I would only urge upon the Deputy Labour Minister not to carry any prejudice against the statement I am making. I had the privilege of representing

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these facts before the Labour Minister as the General Secretary of the All India Bank employees association for a long time, and I am sorry to say that steps had not been taken to mitigate the hardships of the employees, in spite of our repeated requests.

Now, Sir, it has been said that the employees represented that the interval of six months is too long a period. I would say specifically that this was not the demand made by the employees. The employees wrote to the Labour Ministry that the formula as it exists at present works hardship on the workmen and they urged for an amendment of it. We said that it is very necessary that there should be a special compensatory allowance. This was what we were told on the 11th July 1958:

"I am directed to say that the question of revising the formula of adjustment of dearness allowance through legislation is already engaging the attention of the Government of India. In view of this it is considered no useful purpose will be served by calling a Tripartite meeting to discuss the question of compensatory allowance."

Now, the House can very well see that while this particular formula was introduced and was binding, a compensatory allowance was asked for, and the Government informed us that it is not necessary to have a conference for the compensatory allowance as they were now thinking in terms of amending the formula of the dearness allowance. Naturally, it was expected that when the formula would be given, that formula would add to the amount of the dearness allowance available to the bank employees all over the country.

I will just give the House a gist of what has happened as a result of this particular amendment, at a time when the prices of the daily necessities of life are going up and when, as has been said, the prices of foodstuffs are

soaring high in every part of the country. Perhaps, you will be sorry to note that as a result of the formula now proposed by the Labour Minister, there will be a reduction of the dearness allowance in the case of the bank employees, as it is linked up with the cost of living index on certain averages, and the average today shows a downward trend. But, in the case of employees in other industries in the cities of Bombay, Calcutta or Madras or Delhi, their dearness allowance is linked up with the cost of living index, they are getting an increase in their dearness allowance. It is the experience of all people today that the cost of living is going up. Even as a result of the introduction of this amendment, the dearness allowance of the bank employees will be reduced. It is not going to be increased. When you say that you want to mitigate the hardship of the employees and introduce an amendment, and that amendment also results in a reduction of the dearness allowance at a time when the prices of the daily necessities of life are going high, I do not know how the purpose for which this amendment has been brought can be served. Your intention is to redress the hardship, mitigate the hardship, but, as a result of this, there will be a reduction. Where is mitigation? According to the existing dearness allowance scheme, there will be a reduction of Rs. 7 and according to the suggestion that has been put forward by the hon. Deputy Minister of Labour, there will be a reduction of Rs. 3½.

When you talk of the amendment and when you talk of the mitigation of the hardship, the first question is whether there should be any reduction or whether there should be any increase. What we find today is, while the dearness allowance of other employees is going up, the dearness allowance of the bank employees, according to this amendment, will only go down. I would also inform the hon. Deputy Minister one thing about the formula which he has chalked out. I do not

know whether he is aware that even that formula is not working in the State Bank of India, for, if the formula has been adhered to in the State Bank of India, the fact is that the other employees were continuously getting Rs. 57 as the maximum dearness allowance, and according to this formula, the State Bank employees, during this period, were getting Rs. 53.57. The State Bank employees again represented the matter to the State Bank Management and the State Bank management, finding it difficult to reduce that amount according to the formula because all other bank employees were getting Rs. 57, did not reduce that amount and they allowed this amount to continue. So, as a result of the State Bank formula the employees were to get less than what the other bank employees were getting today. I shall give the exact figures month by month according to which the State Bank employees are getting and other bank employees are getting,—the employees in the different parts of the country. As I said I want the hon. Deputy Minister not to carry the prejudice, because I want him to consider this without any bias against anybody or any organisation.

13.14 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

When it is his intention to mitigate the hardship of the employees, I want that he should take every factor into consideration so that really his intention is fulfilled. I would not have placed all these factors before the House if the proviso in the amending Bill was not put in there. The proviso says:

“Provided that any adjustment so made shall, so far as may be, bear to the rise or fall of the cost of living index the same ratio as is indicated between the adjustment of dearness allowance and the rise or fall of the cost of living index in the formulae recommended in that clause.”

It was, otherwise, an enabling clause and the Government to decide the dearness allowance formula should be adjusted. But for this proviso. I would not have placed all the factors here for consideration, for, I would have taken the opportunity of meeting him, and making a representation and discussing with him, before the Government came out with the formula. But here, he wants to bind himself. In spite of my representation to the Labour Minister, afterwards, it would not have been possible for the Government to accede to our request, although they may be convinced of the reasonableness of our demand and the lacuna of this particular formula for the dearness allowance. I may tell the House that even today, as a result of the recommendations of the Bank Award Commission, they will be surprised to know that the employees are getting a dearness allowance, in a city like Calcutta, Bombay, or Delhi, of Rs. 13 to Rs. 15 per mensem. When the prices of the main commodities, that is to say, foodstuffs, are so abnormal, just imagine that the bank employees are getting a dearness allowance of Rs. 13 in a city like Calcutta, Bombay or Delhi. And you are now coming before this House to say that with a view to mitigate that hardship of the bank employees, “we have put forward this amendment.” The amendment, when it is implemented, will result in a reduction of the dearness allowance.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): No worker in other industries gets such a low amount.

Shri Prabhat Kar: That is why I want to place before the House exactly what this amendment would mean. I would give you certain figures. Take for instance Bombay. In the Bombay State, the number of bank employees will be about 15,000. The employees are governed by the cost of living index of that particular place—in big firms and big commercial firms. I am giving you the figures. January, 1957,

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355; January, 1958, 382. The difference was 27 points. 1957-58: February, 1957, 357-380. Difference is 23 March 1958, 356-381; Difference is 25 April, 1958, 356-379; May, 363-387; June, 370-395. All the time, the difference is ranging between 23 and 25 points.

The employees who are governed by the dearness allowance linked up with the Bombay cost of living index were getting in January, 1958, 95 per cent of their basic salary as dearness allowance. Today, or rather, in June, they were getting 100 per cent. In the case of the bank employees, they were getting Rs 57. As a result of this amendment, they will get Rs 53.57. In the other case, from 95 per cent., it goes to 100 per cent. In our case, from Rs. 57, it is coming down to Rs 53.57.

I shall give you the figures for Calcutta. January, 1957, 414-427; February, 1958, 414-427; March, 419-428; April, 417-432; May, 425-432, June, 425-437. The dearness allowance payable to the employees working in firms other than banking institutions—commercial firms, etc—was, in February, 1958, 125 per cent of their basic salary. In May, 1958, they were getting 130 per cent of their basic salary. In July, they were getting 135 per cent of their basic salary. So, in their case, the dearness allowance is rising because there is a rise in the cost of living.

In the case of employees working in Calcutta numbering about 10,000, from Rs. 57 it will come down to Rs. 53.57 np. Also, the smallest amount of Rs. 13 which the bank employees get will be again reduced. In one case, it will be an increase, but in another case, it will be a reduction at a time when rice is selling at Rs. 40 in the city of Calcutta.

Take Delhi. In March, 1958 the figure was 103; in April 105 and in June 107. The dearness allowance

paid in March was 120 per cent., in April 125 per cent, in May 125 per cent, in June 130 per cent and in July 130 per cent. These are the figures relating to middle-class employees working in commercial firms in the city of Delhi. There are 5,000 bank employees in Delhi. Out of 85,000 bank employees all over the country, Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi contain about 45 to 50 per cent of the bank employees. Whereas their counterparts working in commercial firms shall be getting an increase in the dearness allowance due to rise in cost of living to the tune of 125 per cent, the bank employees working in these cities coming from the same strata of society shall be receiving less dearness allowance. Today they are getting Rs 57, but hereafter they will be getting only Rs 53.57 np.

We appeal to the Labour Minister that the dearness allowance scheme should be amended, because it is working hardship on the employees. I agree that at a certain stage it is an improvement. But, as I have said, even the State Bank of India could not allow this scheme to continue to work, because as a result of this particular formula, whereas the other employees of A Class banks will get Rs. 57, the State Bank of India employees will get only Rs 53.57 np. But it was not possible for the State Bank authorities to reduce the dearness allowance, because of the agitation of the bank employees there and so that has not been adhered to in that particular bank. So far as the other banks are concerned, from January to March, 1958, the employees would get Rs 57.32 np D.A. under the State Bank scheme and Rs 57.82 np. D.A. according to the original bank award's decision also. But from April to June, 1958, it would be Rs. 53.57 np. under the State Bank scheme and Rs. 57.32 np. under the original award. Here is an adjustment and an amendment to mitigate the hardship of the bank employees. Where they are getting

Rs. 57.32np today, they would have got only Rs 53.57nF

My main contention is that while in the case of other workers and middle-class employees, the dearness allowance is going up—whether it is Rs 1-8-0 or As 4—in the case of bank employees, it is going down. We have all the time approached the Labour Minister saying that this particular dearness scheme is working hardship on the bank employees. Now they have come forward with this amendment, but even this does not stop this reduction, at a time when the prices of daily necessities are going up. Therefore, while I welcome this Bill, I might say that the contents of this particular amendment are not going to mitigate the hardship.

What is the formula today? You will be surprised. It is linked up with the all-India average cost of living index. In that for 18 points, there will be no difference in the dearness allowance. From 135 to 153, there will be no increase in the D.A. Whereas the employees will get Rs 50 as D.A. when the cost of living index is 135 they will get the same D.A. even when the index is 153. The employees getting Rs 13 in big cities will continue to get the same proportion, in spite of the fact that there is a difference of 18 points in the all-India average cost of living index, while in between there have been increases to the tune of 20 to 30 per cent in the D.A. of the other people working in big cities.

I, therefore, request the hon. Labour Minister to consider this matter. The original Shastri award made certain specific recommendations. This was confirmed by the Labour Appellate Tribunal and again confirmed by the bank award commission. For the last five years, this particular D.A. scheme was working hardship on the bank employees. During the food debate, we found how every section of the House was complaining that as a result of shortage of foodstuffs, the prices are going up. At this particular

moment, it is imperative on the part of Government to see that those provisions which work hardship should be so amended that the hardship may be mitigated.

I would plead with the hon. Labour Minister that while he has come before this House amending this particular D.A. scheme, he should take all the factors into consideration. I am quite sure that he has received representations from the bank employees from all parts of the country. I am quite sure that at least he has seen that there is a demand as to how this particular D.A. scheme should be amended. There is unanimity on the part of bank employees on this particular point. It is possible for the Government to make the employers agree to discuss this matter and accede to the demands suggested by the bank employees.

Evidently because the bankers have agreed to accept this particular amendment it has been brought before the House. It is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that

“An agreement has been arrived at between the State Bank of India and its employees to solve the above difficulties. The two associations of banks are agreeable to follow suit.”

Simply because the banks are agreeable to it, this amendment has been brought before the House. It does not matter whether the workers are experiencing hardship. This amendment has not been brought before the House with a view to mitigate the hardship of the workers. I would say that this particular formula was put before us by the banks as early as September, 1957 and it was rejected by the employees, because it did not work to their advantage. As I have already said, the State Bank of India had to agree to the change in the formula, because as a result of that formula, there was reduction in the dearness allowance. The employers offered this formula directly to us and we did not agree. Now because the

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employers have agreed to follow suit, Government comes before this House with this amendment and not with a view to mitigating the hardship of the employees. It is a statement of fact that I have made with all the necessary facts and figures.

As I have said, as a result of this, the bank employees will get a reduction in their D.A. If the intention of the Government is to mitigate the hardship of the bank employees, it is not surely going to serve that purpose. I want to know the real intention of the Government. Is it because the banks have agreed to implement that formula or is it the real intention of the Government to mitigate the hardship of the employees? I would have very much liked the hon. Labour Minister to have said, "Let it not be decided here; let the Government be given the power to decide what should be the future D.A. after hearing the representations that have been made." Then, I would have understood that there was an opportunity to express our viewpoint and to convince the Labour Ministry of the justness of our demands, but it comes within a frame work. As I have said, today, according to the existing award, the reduction would be Rs 7. As a result of the adjustment the reduction would be Rs 3.57. But the reduction will be there. The only difference is that instead of a reduction of Rs 7 at a time, it will be in two instalments of Rs. 3.57 each. But do you expect, in view of the existing circumstances about the price of the daily necessities of life, it will be possible for the bank employees to accept this reduction? I know even the bankers today hesitate to reduce the amount, because they know the real position. They know the market prices. The bankers hesitate to reduce it, because they feel it is not justified. As I said, even in the case of the State Bank of India, in spite of the fact that they also come under the scheme, they did not implement it until March 1957. They did not implement this, because it was not possible to do so. As a result of its

implementation the dearness allowance of the State Bank of India employees would have gone down by Rs. 3. So, it is not possible even for the bankers to reduce the amount.

If we agree to this amendment and if we simply say "all right, because there is less reduction; therefore, it is an improvement" this negative approach will not solve the problem. It is a problem of one's life and death. Today in the case of a middle class family, people belonging to fixed income group, even the reduction of Rs 1 will cause great hardship, because it is impossible for them to reduce their budget. It is not possible, because they have no non-essential item in their budgets to cut. So, they can cut only their own throats. So, if it is a question of any reduction in the existing emoluments, it is not going to be accepted by the bank employees.

I would only appeal to the Labour Minister not to be carried away by the pleading of the bankers. I am saying this again and again, because he does not care whenever we make any representation. The Ministry do not care at all to go into them and find out the reasonableness of the demands. But they are prepared to accept the requests of the bankers. I would say that it is shamelessness on the part of the Government to come forward and say: "the two bankers' associations wanted this and we are agreeable to follow suit", as if the whims of the bank management will be the guiding factor in deciding these matters. Here is a statement made by the Labour Ministry—I am reading from the Statement of Objects and Reasons—"The two associations of banks are agreeable to follow suit." It is not the hardship of the bank employees that is responsible for the Government bringing in this measure. That is not the motive of the Govern-

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ment. It is not because the other employees in the big cities like Bombay, Calcutta or Delhi are getting higher wages, that this Bill is brought forward. They are not going to take into consideration whether the dearness allowance and the cost of living index have any relationship. Simply because the bankers have agreed to this, Government have brought forward this measure. The bankers are not prepared to pay more; they will pay less; they wanted a reduction, so Government came forward with a Bill. That is the reason. I want to say that I never knew that the Labour Ministry would shamelessly come forward with this suggestion.

The matter has been examined by the two associations of bankers and they are agreeable to follow suit. But is not the viewpoint of the workers' associations to be consulted? That has not been done by the Labour Ministry. They consider only the viewpoint of the employers. Because the employers wanted the Labour Ministry to act in a particular way, they have acted. They do not care for the feelings of the employees. They are only anxious to see that the employers are pleased. When it is a question of dearness allowance, it is only the employers that are to be consulted and not the employees; that seems to be the view of the Government. If the employers are agreeable they are prepared to take any course of action.

The All India Bank Employees Association took up this matter with the Government as early as in the month of March 1957. Since then we are carrying on correspondence with the Government. We were told on the 11th July that the question of revising the wages and adjustment of dearness allowance is already engaging the attention of the Government of India. It raised hopes in our minds that after all we have been able to convince the government of the necessity of amending this formula. We never knew that the amendment was

at the instance of the employer. Everytime we represent, they say there is no justification for our representation. We wanted the classification of areas to be abolished. I am confident that many hon. Members of this House are in agreement with me on this issue. The other day, the hon. Member, Shri C. D. Pande, was telling us that Naini Tal is classified as a Class IV area, though the cost of living there is very high, and that we should take up the matter with the Labour Ministry. These are facts which everybody will experience.

But when we make a representation, they say it is not necessary to amend the Act, because, after all, the Act has been passed. Now there is a tendency on the part of the Government to say: after all, the Act has been passed, now it is not good to touch it. I can understand the parents of an ugly child saying it is beautiful. There the parents try to make the child beautiful. Here, as far as the Government is concerned, once an Act is passed, whether good, bad or indifferent, they are not going to change it, because it is an Act. It may be causing hardship to a large number of employees, but that does not matter. The only thing is that it should not cause any hardship, so far as the employers are concerned, so far as the capitalists are concerned.

Here there is an indication of it in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. The Government is coming forward with this Bill, not because they have consulted the employees and they have agreed, but because the employers wanted it. It is a shameless statement. It says: "The two associations of banks are agreeable to follow suit." That is why they have come forward with this Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is labouring the same point again and again.

Shri Prabhat Kar: I want to place before you my case. In my anxiety to state the case, I may have repeated a point.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has drawn up his case very beautifully

Shri Prabhat Kar: I want to stress upon the House that the result of this amendment will be reduction of dearness allowance in the case of bank employees

I would ask the hon Minister what should be the interpretation of the term "dearness allowance" Here we have got an authority on the interpretation of this term who is no less than our Law Minister This is the view of such a eminent lawyer, who is today the Law Minister So I would appeal to the Labour Minister to take into consideration that view and amend the Act in such a way that there should be at least no reduction in the dearness allowance of the bank employees at this particular juncture when all the employees in the fixed income group are facing a crisis in their family budgets That is the appeal that I would like to make to him now He may consider the matter and let him go through the interpretation given by the Law Minister himself Instead of having 5 point rise or 10 points rise, let there be 2 point rise Let it be calculated monthly and let there be an increase Under the present scheme there may be even a reduction in the dearness allowance That will psychologically be bad A small increase in their wages is not going to run the bankers A reduction of Rs 3 57 from the total emoluments of Rs 85, Rs 90 or even Rs 120 is too much for a middle class family Therefore, it will not be possible for them to accept this amendment I would, therefore, request the hon Labour Minister to consider this aspect which I have placed before you on behalf of the bank employees of this country

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur) Mr Deputy-Speaker, my hon friend, Shri Prabhat Kar, has very ably presented the view point of the bank employees As far as the intentions of the Bill are concerned, I do not doubt the sincere motive behind it. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons it is stated,

"The formulae provided for changes after intervals of six months and after a fall or rise of not less than ten points in the cost of living index level It has been represented on behalf of the employees that the interval of six months is too long a period"

I wish to know one thing There is one organisation called the All India Bank Employees Association, of which my hon friend Shri Prabhat Kar is the General Secretary Before bringing this piece of legislation before this House may I know from the hon Minister whether he cared to consult on this particular point or discuss this particular point with the All India Bank Employees Association? I know this is the only representative organisation of bank employees in the country and as such it would have been better if the sentiments of the bank employees now expressed by Shri Prabhat Kar were taken into account and were considered before bringing this piece of legislation before this House

About dearness allowance, when I say something, I would refer to the various recommendations of the Gadgil Committee This Committee was appointed with a view to see whether a portion of the dearness allowance, the whole of the dearness allowance or 75 per cent of the dearness allowance or even 50 per cent can be neutralised and can be merged with the pay Shri Gadgil and the other eminent economists who were on this Committee tried their best to ascertain the views of the various unions of Central Government employees and also the views of the various economists belonging to the different trends They wanted to know whether prices had been stabilised I remember that the First Pay Commission had summarily assumed that prices had stabilised at 160—175 after the war It is most unfortunate that the war gave us a serious set back and our entire economy was disturbed with the result that the prices of all things shot up So, the

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

Gadgil Committee came to the conclusion that dearness allowance had come to stay. This Committee submitted its report in 1952, and a portion of the report was implemented also in the case of the Central Government employees. The bank employees are afraid today because of one thing. The intention of the bank magnates may not be very well known to the hon. Minister, but it is well known to us and the employees whom we represent. They take the benefit of all legislation. They treat all legislation as a double-edged sword, and they use it as a sharp instrument in depleting the emoluments or earnings of the bank employees. Their fear is that this formula, if this Bill is accepted, will revise the dearness allowance after every three months or after rise or fall of every five points. May I submit for your information and also for the information of the hon. Minister that the minimum dearness allowance given to a Central Government employee is Rs. 45 or Rs. 50. The interim report submitted by the Pay Commission gives a further sum of Rs. 5, thus making it from Rs. 40 to Rs. 45 and from Rs. 45 to Rs. 50, to those employees getting less than Rs. 250. This clearly indicated that the index figure today does not warrant any reduction in the dearness allowance. This dearness allowance or house rent allowance or compensatory allowance demanded by the bank employees was a sort of substitute for wage increase. There is a general demand from all classes of employees, whether textile workers, jute workers, bank employees or Central Government employees for wage increase. They are unable to maintain their social status with this rising cost of living. If the dearness allowance is reduced, I know the serious effects on the employees. I have bitter experience of the textile employees. In Kanpur, the textile workers are paid dearness allowance according to the rise or fall in the cost of living. I remember they lost about Rs. 5 or 6 in a month because the price of *alu* or *beagan* or a particular vegetable

fell down. The employees and workers in that particular mill were disappointed. They said to the unions and to the management also, how can it possibly be reduced, this is only a temporary fall in the price of certain vegetables, can it possibly warrant a reduction of the dearness allowance. They said, no, no, your dearness allowance is linked with the cost of living and as such the misfortune or fortune is yours. I feel that there should be some minimum guaranteed. The hon. Minister should not reject the amendment which has been given by my hon. friend Shri Prabhat Kar only because it has been sponsored by a Member who is fortunately or unfortunately, I should say, in the Opposition. This will have to be considered and a minimum dearness allowance will have to be assured. A bank employee working in A class banks gets, I think, Rs. 50 a month as dearness allowance. If this particular Bill is accepted, or if this clause is accepted, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether this is going to affect the minimum dearness allowance which is given to him according to the present rules.

There is another point which is very vital: on what index figure this is to be based. I know this jugglery of statistics. When I gave my evidence before the Central Pay Commission this time, I quoted certain figures mentioned by our Ex-Finance Minister Shri T. T. Krishnamachari here and I said that the All-India figure is like this. The Chairman of the Pay Commission asked me, what is the source of your information, whether it is the Reserve Bank or some Statistical institute. I said, my source of information is the source of the Finance Minister and his words. He said, look here, we cannot take it as correct. That is what they feel. I may be excused by you if I say, there is a lie, there is a damn lie and more than this is statistics. Sometimes it works like this. Unless there is an All-India national index, we do not know what we are aiming at. Some employer

may come forward and say, look here, this has been reduced, we quote the Reserve Bank figure. Somebody can come and say, we are quoting the Labour Ministry's figures. What is the safety against all these things? I submit that the hon. Minister may try to understand the sentiments of the bank employees very well expressed by my hon. friend Shri Prabhat Kar and the sentiments expressed by me and try to convince the House that this piece of legislation has been brought not as a pressure from the capitalists, not as the sweet will of some people, who wanted to revise it immediately and they could not do it before six months. Because, we personally feel that the bank employees have been betrayed many times not only by the bank magnates, but also by the Government officials in the various phases of their struggle. When they demanded compensatory allowance, they were told that it could not be sanctioned. Now, the Government have come forward with a piece of legislation saying we are very much concerned, you have made an appeal to us, now we will revise D.A. after every three months. The intention, though very pure and sublime, we have reasons to doubt because of our past experience.

I may humbly submit that dearness allowance today has come to stay. We cannot possibly dabble with it on the ground that after every three months it will rise and fall. We have seen how after 1946 prices have risen. Prices of all commodities are rising. We are unable to check that. When we talk about food prices, when we talk about stabilisation of food prices, we get peculiar replies from the Ministers. When I heard the different versions of the different Ministers when the food policy was being discussed, I was reminded of the story of the nine blind men and the elephant. Nobody knows what the elephant is, because nobody has seen it.

When the cost of living index has increased, when the prices of different

commodities, whether it be cloth or grain or anything else, are not showing any tendency towards decrease, I feel that such a piece of legislation as this, if not correctly followed, if not honestly followed, will harm the bank employees.

I would request the Minister who is very well connected with the bank employees, who knows the bank employees very well and whom the bank employees also know very well, and who can feel the pulse of the bank employees, to try to ascertain their sentiments through their undisputed representative Shri Prabhat Kar, and try to solve their problems not only by this piece of legislation, but by trying to convince this House that this piece of legislation has been brought forward with a sincere motive, and not at the instigation of the bank magnates, and not for their advantage. These magnates who have earned fabulous profits are denying the bank employees of their dearness allowance, they are denying the bank employees of wage increases, and they are denying them of everything. So, we should not try to protect their interests any more. We have done it enough. Let us have this piece of legislation, if we are at all interested, and let us accept this amendment of Shri Prabhat Kar, so that the bank employees may restore their confidence in this piece of legislation, and they may also congratulate the Ministers as we have done.

Dr. Melkote (Raichur): I am happy that the Labour Ministry has thought fit to bring forward this amendment to the benefit of the bank employees. The bank employees form what is called the white-collared section of the population, and it is usual for this white-collared section not to resort to a strike as in the case of ordinary labour. But they should not be driven to the extreme. It is, therefore, a welcome feature that the Labour Ministry has taken early measures to mitigate the grievances of the bank employees in order to give them some benefit. I have listened fully to the arguments

[Dr. Melkote]

of both the Members of the Opposition, but I must admit that I have not been able to be convinced of their arguments. They have tried to argue it out from only one side of the picture. But there is the other aspect of the question which I would like to place before the House for its consideration.

It is known that in most of the modern countries, whenever there is a rise in the cost of living index, a proportionate rise in the dearness allowance is usually granted the very next month, and, therefore, the different employees do not have to suffer for a prolonged period. Six months is too long a period, especially in a country like India where the cost of living indices vary rapidly.

Take, for instance, a case where instead of once in six months, it is once in one year. By the time the award is implemented, if the rise goes down, the employees do not benefit themselves in any manner, because most of the employers would reflect their argument on the lower cost. I think six months is too long a period, especially in a country like ours. Therefore, the amendment that has been sought to be moved or rather has been moved in this House to bring it down to three months is welcome, but it is still unsatisfactory. But that is not the only thing.

So far, in the agreement already entered into it has been said that for every rise of ten points, once in six months, the employees should be proportionately paid; or if the indices went down by ten points, the allowance would be reduced in the same proportion. Suppose, for a period of nearly five and a half months, the increase in the index is only about $9\frac{1}{2}$ points. $9\frac{1}{2}$ is almost 10, but the employers would come up and say that it is not 10 points, and, therefore, the employees should not benefit themselves even by a single pie. That argument legally would hold good, but the employees would suffer enormously. Therefore, instead of 10 points, if it is 5 points, and instead of

six months, it is three months, then to that extent, with every rise in the index by 5 points, and once in three months, the dearness allowance can be modified to the benefit of the employees.

I would take another instance now. Suppose, instead of five points, it is only three points, and instead of ten points, it is thirteen points. If the same six months and ten points had prevailed, then the increase by three points would not give them any benefit. If it is 13, they will get an increase up to only ten points; and the extra three points will not give the employees any benefit for the next six months, just as in the case of an increase by $9\frac{1}{2}$ points. But, in this particular instance, they will get up to at least 10 points, and for the next three, the suffering will not be so great and acute as in the case of $9\frac{1}{2}$ points. But, if, instead of 13, it is 16, they would get the benefit up to 15 points, and they would lose the benefit of only one point. Therefore, this specious argument that this would not benefit the employees to a great extent is not very valid. Equally so, that argument can be placed when it is to the convenience of the employers.

I personally feel that the dearness allowance that is permitted today is not quite adequate and that it should be revised more frequently, if possible, month after month, and that there should be a national register where we should give the exact number for both the employees and the employers to calculate the increase or the decrease as the case may be.

Similarly, the employees could argue it out that they are in favour of a particular level of dearness allowance, and that a basic level has to be fixed; that would be to the good of the employees. But whilst they argue their case and say that an increase or decrease by ten points should proportionately affect the dearness allowance

[Dr. Melkote]

either plus or minus, the employees will have no right to argue their case out when it is a decrease. They have got to take both sides of the picture and not merely say that if it is to their advantage, they agree, but if it is to their disadvantage they do not agree. That will not be correct when this particular clause has been accepted by the employees. That is why I say that it is good to the benefit of both to have this arrangement. Whenever the cost of living in the country goes down, it is necessary for the employees to have their scales of dearness allowance affected proportionately in a decreasing manner, and if there is an increase, they can benefit themselves. That is the logical conclusion which the employees themselves have accepted, and therefore, this amendment that is being moved is to the benefit of the employees, though not to the maximum extent at least to some extent

Therefore, I welcome this measure from the Labour Ministry and congratulate them for having brought it forward at an early opportunity.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): I am glad that the previous speaker also feels that the revision of dearness allowance should be on a monthly basis. Having advanced those arguments, he somehow supports the new amendment which Government are seeking to bring before us today.

14 hrs.

Shri Prabhat Kar has explained to us the difficulties which will be caused if this legislation enters the Statute-book. This deals only with one aspect of the emoluments of bank employees, namely, dearness allowance. I would like to give a very short summary of how the question of fixing the dearness allowance to the bank employees has come about. Through their organisation, the All India Bank Employees' Association, the bank employees have been for quite a number of years taking up the case of their emoluments.

It was first before the tribunal which was presided over by Mr. Shastri. Later it was taken to the Appellate Tribunal presided over by Mr. Jeejibhoy, and Government thought it fit to interfere with the decision of the Labour Appellate Tribunal. Because there was so much justified agitation amongst the bank employees, supported by public opinion also, the Government has to revise their decision and a one-man Commission with Mr. Justice Gajendragadker was appointed. That is a story which is very well known to this House. Ultimately on 25th July 1955, the Gajendragadker Commission submitted its recommendations and these recommendations have been more or less adopted by Act 41 of 1955. The Appellate Tribunal's decision as amended by the suggestions and recommendations of the Gajendragadker Commission is now in vogue.

Shri Prabhat Kar referred to recommendation (e) which appears in the Report (Chapter XI, page 176). For the sake of completeness, I will read that recommendation in full:

"The following formulae should be adopted for adjustment of the dearness allowance for variations in the cost of living index for clerical and subordinate staff respectively in lieu of the provision in the Labour Appellate Tribunal's decision:

Clerical staff: If the average all-India cost of living index for the half year ending June or December of any year should rise or fall by more than ten points as compared to 144 (1944: 100), the dearness allowance for the succeeding half year will be raised or lowered by 1/7th of the dearness allowance admissible at the index level of 144 for each variation of ten points:

Subordinate staff: If the average all-India cost of living index for

the half year ending June or December of any year should rise or fall by more than ten points as compared to 144 (1944: 100), the dearness allowance for the succeeding half year will be raised or lowered by 1/10th of the dearness allowance admissible at the index level of 144 for each variation of ten points".

This is the material point so far as dearness allowance is concerned. How does it work out? I will tell the House how it has worked in the past and how it is working in the present also. The Government of India have the all-India cost of living index fixed, and as ably pointed out by Shri Prabhat Kar, it has nothing to do with the regional cost of living index. If we take the city of Madras, for the first six months of 1958 there has been on the average an increase of 10 to 15 points. In big cities like Madras, Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi, during the first six months of 1958, the cost of living index has recorded an increase of 10 to 20 points. But the all-India cost of living index will show a different picture.

At the time the award was published, the cost of living index was 144. So far 144, the dearness allowance—I will take the case of the lowest paid employee—paid is Rs. 50. If the cost of living index comes down to 135, he will still get Rs. 50; if it goes up to 153, he will still get Rs. 50, but if it reaches 154, he will get in addition 1/7th of what he has been getting, that is, instead of Rs. 50, he will get Rs. 57. In other words, from 135 to 153, that is, an 18-point increase, there is absolutely no increase in the dearness allowance at all. That is from the theoretical point of view.

During the last six months—as the House knows, the average of the last six months is taken, that is, July to December is taken, and if on the average it shows 10 points or more over 1944, then the employee will be given for the first six months in 1958 at the

rate of 1/7th more, that is, Rs. 57—during the six months ending with December 1957, it is seen that on the average the cost of living index, taking 1944 as the base, is 154 point something. In other words, they are getting Rs. 57 dearness allowance. Now, what is the story from January to June of 1958? He has given detailed figures month by month how the cost of living index has been increasing in centres like Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi. The all-India cost of living index shows that in January it was 153·18 (taking 1944 as the base)—generally 1939 or 1949 is taken as the base, but for the purpose of this award 1944 is chosen—in February it was 151·80, in March 151·90, in April 153·18, May 153·56 and June 153 point something. So the average is 152 point something.

It is a very peculiar phenomenon that when the cost of living index has been increasing regionally and locally, the all-India cost of living index has been going down. It has gone down by two points. But whether it goes down by two or three points is immaterial. The question is how it affects the bank employees who were getting Rs. 57 till the end of June. On the 1st August, they get not Rs. 57 but only Rs. 50. For the first six months in the year, the cost of living has been going up, but the all-India cost of living has come down. It is an accepted fact that in July-August, the cost of living index has been going up. When the cost of living index is going up and when the other commercial employees or industrial employees are getting more and more dearness allowance, the bank employees will be getting less and less dearness allowance. This is the human problem involved in this which I would like the House to consider in an impassionate manner, because if this matter is not looked at in this way and if there is some discontent expressed by the bank employees, let it not be said that the House was not told about the entire facts.

[Shri Tangamani]

I would have been very happy if the hon. Minister had dealt at length with the purpose for which this particular amendment was brought. Even last year—I remember it was in September 1957—the bank employees did not want to disturb this. They said—‘let there be a compensatory extra allowance paid to us, because it is accepted on all hands that the cost of living index is going up’. When the cost of living index was going up, the bank employees made a submission to the Government that instead of disturbing the existing formula, they be given an extra compensatory allowance. The strike went on for 31 days and the West Bengal Government had to intervene. Dr. B. C. Roy intervened in the dispute; it was also the subject matter of several questions on the floor of this House. Ultimately, it was agreed that the terms of reference would be formulated only after consulting the bank employees. I am only explaining to the House how there has been discontent over the way in which this formula was adopted. This discontent was not from the side of the bankers, but it was from the side of the bank employees

I would like to say that in almost all the industrial units which I have come across, textiles for example, the cost of living index is based upon one point rise. Supposing the cost of living index for January is 154 and in February it is 156, then for February, the wages paid will be an increase of 3 annas per point; that is for two points it will be 6 annas. This will be paid by way of dearness allowance in addition to what he has been getting. So, month to month consideration is a practice that has come to stay.

Now, Government is trying to make a compromise. If we stick to the 10 point increase alone, then the bank employees are going to suffer; and it will not be related to the real situation today. The Government are now

suggesting a compromise that instead of a 10 point increase or decrease let there be a 5 point increase or decrease.

Even if that is done, as Shri Prabhat Kar has pointed out, the bank employee who is getting Rs. 57/- today will have a wage cut of Rs. 3/8/-. Tomorrow you are going to face this problem. After this amendment is passed the thing that is facing the bank employee is a wage cut of Rs. 3/8/- from tomorrow onwards.

This is not going to last very long because the life of the Act itself is only till the 31st March, 1959. After 31st March, 1959, the whole question will have to be reviewed. The question of fixing the dearness allowance will probably have to be started *de novo*. Probably, the bank employees will come forward with a proper charter of demands. The anomalies between A, B and C categories is decreasing. The bank employees are better organised. The State Bank employees have now entered into an agreement with Government; the Reserve Bank employees have also entered into an agreement with Government. The organisation of the bank employees today is not the old organisation of 1954. The State Bank employees, the Reserve Bank employees and the employees of the Scheduled Banks will all combine together. They are very excellent men. If only anybody goes through their arguments before the L.A.T. where they presented their case or when the matter was being discussed here or when it was being taken before the Gajendragadkar Commission, he will agree that these bank employees are reasonable people and that they will help Government in such a way as to explain to the people why the revision is made.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Were all the arguments prepared by themselves?

Shri Tangamani: Mostly, if I may say so, in all these Tribunals what

really happens is that the lawyer has very little to do because most of the materials have to be supplied by the employees. I have appeared in various Tribunal cases.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I did not want an explanation; it was not in a lighter mood that I asked it.

Shri Tangamani: What I am saying is this. The bank employees are extremely clever people and they do not want to mislead. If they want to mislead they would not have got so much support from the House when the revision had to be made.

Anyway, coming to my point, although it is not in the objects, the hon. Minister, when he introduced this, said that we are trying to make it in line with the agreement that has been arrived at between the State Bank employees and also the Government. As he himself pointed out, the State Bank employees are not standing by their agreement if that agreement would mean a wage cut of Rs 3/8/-. We can resist all attempts when they are asking for more; but when there is a deliberate cut, naturally, people who are getting fixed wages will, certainly, resist that.

I will explain how even the State Bank formula can work hardship. Supposing in July, August and September 1958, if the rise in cost of living index is 9 points, then the dearness allowance will be Rs. 53/57. Supposing in October, November and December the average rise in cost of living index is 3 points, then the dearness will be Rs. 53/57. From July to December, if the original thing was accepted, it will be Rs. 53/52 because there has been an increase of 10 points and the loss per employee will be 22/50. No State Bank employee will accept that. I am giving simple arithmetic to show that the State Bank employees who, according to the hon. Minister, are very much agreeable to the agreement that has been arrived at will not be agreeable they will not accept it.

Even now the bankers know that if there was a wage cut when the monthly emoluments were paid on the 1st of August, there would be discontent. No banker dared to do that. If the old formula applied the banker would be justified if he had paid Rs. 7/- less. In some cases even more. But no banker has dared to do this. The issue has been raised with the Government by the employees; and the employees themselves have got a concrete proposal. The bankers want a compromise; instead of cutting Rs. 7/- they say, let us cut Rs 3/8/-

Now Government has come forward with this legislation. After it is passed, bankers who did not have the courage to effect a wage cut of Rs 3/8/- will be free to effect this wage cut. This is a point I had to develop in detail because this is not such a harmless legislation as is sought to be made out. Because there is only one clause, any amendment that we bring will overthrow the entire spirit of the thing. But we outcome of this is going to affect 85,000 bank employees. Let us not touch this hornet's nest; let us leave them alone and let us negotiate.

Even if the amendment which was explained by Shri Prabhat Kar is not accepted, I would suggest the proviso in clause 2 be deleted. That will at least give elbow room so that there can be an adjustment made and a compromise arrived at between the cost of living index and the formula recommended. There may be an elbow room and even when there is a fall there may not be a cut. When the increase is 5 or 4 points, which is more than 50 per cent of 5 points, then, there will be an increase. The ideal thing will be to fix the dearness allowance on the statistics on a month to month basis and it must be tacked on to each point rise over the previous month and not to 10 or 20 points.

That was introduced so far as the Railways were concerned when the Pay Commission gave its award.

[Shri Tangamani]

There was also the tendency to take the slab system. If the hon. Minister cares to go through many of the awards which have been passed by eminent men who presided over the Labour Appellate Tribunals, he will find that they have always held that it is better to link up the dearness allowance to each point rise in the cost of living index. They have always fixed the pre-war period as 100, and it has developed in a very scientific manner, but in this particular case if 1955 is taken as the base and in the year in question it was 144, let us not disturb that 144.

I will give another argument. Probably it is an arguable point. Supposing today the bank employee says that till the end of June he was getting Rs. 57 on the basis that the cost of living index for July—December 1957 was 154, now the cost of living index average for January—June 1958 has gone down by $1\frac{1}{2}$ or two points. Now it can be argued this way. The index of 144 can no longer be the base; 144 which existed in 1955 is never going to come down, 154 is likely to be the base. So, unless there is a rise or fall of ten points from 154, this cut in the dearness allowance or increase in dearness allowance will not arise. That is an arguable point. That is a point which the bankers also see, and it is their weak point because it has more or less stabilised at 154.

Now the employee is getting Rs. 57. Since it has come down to 152 the employer wants to reduce it to Rs. 50. A compromise is said to be arrived at that it may be Rs. 52-8-0, but there is an arguable point that unless it comes down by ten points and because it has more or less stabilised at 154, no cut in the wages will be justified. That argument is also open to the employees.

If this legislation comes about, I am afraid that certain unsocial elements among the employers, might try to

make use of this, and if they start using it in certain units, then the disease is likely to spread to other places. After all, by the end of March 1959 the whole thing is going to lapse and new legislation will have to come. Till that time let us not disturb the peace which is existing today. And as I have suggested, when the clause is taken up, at least the proviso may be deleted so that it may give more elbow room for negotiation between the management and the employees. With these observations I submit that though the spirit and the intention may be good, in view of the facts that exist today the outcome is likely to be what was never intended.

श्री० रणवीर सिंह (रोहतक) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, देश के आर्थिक जीवन में बैंकिंग का तथा बैंकों का महत्व बहुत बढ़ गया है और बैंक बड़ी ग्रहभियत रखते हैं। अगर बैंक दो चार दिन के लिये भी बन्द हो जाते हैं तो उस के कारण देश के आर्थिक जीवन में काफी मुश्किलें पैदा हो जाती हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि इसी चीज को ध्यान में रखते हुए माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने यह कोशिश की है कि जो छः महीने का इंटरवल रखा गया था उस को घटा दिया जाय और जो प्वाइंट्स हैं उन को भी घटा दिया जाय ताकि कभी इस देश के अन्दर बैंकों के कर्मचारी हड़ताल न कर सकें और बैंकों का जो काम है वह ठीक प्रकार से चलता रह सके।

जो हमारे साथियों ने इस विषयक के बारे में अपने विचार प्रकट किये हैं उन को मैंने बड़े ध्यान से सुना है मुझे तो कुछ अजीब सी उन की जो आर्गुमेंट्स थीं, वे लगीं। हमारे भाइयों का ऐसा खयाल है कि जो तनखाहें हैं वे बढ़ती ही रहनी चाहियें, जो भत्ते हैं वे बढ़ते ही रहने चाहियें तथा उन का जो घटना है वह सही नहीं है। मैं उन की बात से सहमत हो जाता अगर इस देश के अन्दर आम आदमी की भाँक बँह

२५० रुपये साल आमदनी है वह इतनी न हो कर और ज्यादा होती। मुझे कोई एतराज नहीं है अगर किसी का भत्ता बढ़ा दिया जाय। यह अच्छी बात है। लेकिन जितना बढ़ा हमारा देश है और जितनी बढ़ी आबादी गरीब आमदियों की है, उस को देखते हुए हमें कुछ सोच समझ कर चलना होगा। मुझे याद है वह वक्त जिस वक्त कि एक तरफ तनख्वाहदार हुआ करते थे और दूसरी तरफ खेती में काम करने वाले तथा दूसरे जो अपना आजाद काम करते हैं वे हुआ करते थे और तनख्वाहदार बहुत मज्जे में रहते थे। एक आदमी जो फीज में भरती हो जाया करता था और १७ रुपये माहवार पाता था वह उस कुनबे के मुकाबले में जो ५० या १०० बीघा खेती करता था, ज्यादा अच्छी तरह से जीवन व्यतीत कर सकता था। जो खेती करने वाला हुआ करता था वह पूरे तौर पर अपना लैड रेवन्यू भी अदा नहीं कर सकता था। लेकिन आज जमाना कुछ बदला है, चाहे यह मजबूरी में ही क्यों न बदना हो और समाजवाद की तरफ इस का झुकाव है और गरीब का जीवन स्तर यह ऊंचा उठाना चाहता है। अगर आम गरीब आदमी से मतलब केवल पढ़े लिखे ही आदमी से है, तो मेरे साथियों का जो तर्क है, वह मेरी समझ में आ सकता था, लेकिन अगर एक हिन्दुस्तानी के नाम पर ३६ करोड़ हिन्दुस्तानियों को हमें लेना है, तो उन के तर्क को समझने के लिये हमें कुछ थोड़ी सी बुद्धि लगानी होगी। मैं यह मानता हूँ कि जहां तक भत्ते के घटने बढ़ने का तात्त्विक है, यह तो जैसे जैसे भाव घटें बढ़ें, उन के मुताबिक ही होना चाहिये।

एक और बात मेरे साथी ने कही है; उन्होंने ने कहा है कि यह जो कास्ट आफ लिबिंग इंडेक्स है, वह सही नहीं है। मुझे भी इस में कुछ एतराज हो सकता है। मैं भी जिस हिसाब से उस को नापा जाता है, उस से सहमत नहीं हूँ और मुझे भी उस तरीके से ठसलनी नहीं है। लेकिन मैं बतलाना

चाहता हूँ कि जो भाई आज इस लिबिंग इंडेक्स पर एतराज करते हैं इसी इंडेक्स के नाम से इस देश के अन्दर कई सत्याग्रह और कई लड़ाइयां चलाई गई थीं। अगर उस वक्त यह जो इंडेक्स था यह सही था उन के विचार से, तो आज यह कैसे गलत हो सकता है। अगर उस रोज यह गलत था तो आज भी गलत है। लेकिन मैं इस बात को मानता हूँ कि जो हिसाब नगाने का तरीका है, उस की अच्छी तरह से जांच होनी चाहिये, उस का अच्छी तरह से एग्जामिनेशन होना चाहिये। हो सकता है जिम वक्त इस को बनाया गया था, उस वक्त ठीक ढंग में न बनाया गया हो और उन के दिमाग में कुछ एसी चीजें थी जो आज की बदली हुई परिस्थितियों में नहीं होनी चाहिये और उन को आज बदलने की आवश्यकता महसूस हो रही हो। जिन चीजों की उस वक्त एक आदमी को जरूरत थी या जो इंडेक्स बनाने वालों के दिमाग में थी, हो सकता है उनकी आज के बदले हुए समाज में जरूरत न रह गई हो, इस वास्ते इस की जांच होनी चाहिये और अगर इस की जांच की गई तो इस के अच्छे नतीजे निकलने की ही आशा की जा सकती है। लेकिन यह तर्क मेरी समझ में नहीं आया कि कभी तो इस के नाम पर लड़ाइयां लड़ी जायें और कभी उस को एक दमसे बुरा भला और गलत समझा जाये।

आज हमारे देश के आर्थिक जीवन के अन्दर बैंकों का बड़ा महत्व है। बैंकों में करीब १३०५ करोड़ के करीब रुपया लोगों का जमा होता है और इस तरह से बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में रुपये का लोगों में प्रसार होता है। मुझे खुशी है कि हमारा श्रम मंत्रालय तो यह चाहता है कि लोगों में रुपये का प्रसार हो लेकिन जो वित्त मंत्रालय है जिस से मुझे गिला भी है, वह इस देश के अन्दर आर्थिक तरक्की होने के बावजूद, पैदावार के बढ़ने के बावजूद, इस के खिलाफ है। रूरल बैंकिंग के बारे में जो कमेटी बैठी थी उसने सिफरिस की थी कि रुपये के प्रसार

[श्री० रणवीर सिंह]

को बढ़ाया जाये लेकिन आज रिजर्व बैंक तथा स्टेट बैंक इसके हक में नहीं जात पड़ते हैं। इसको इन्होंने घटाया ही है। पिछले साल जब काश्तकारों की फसल बाजार में आई और उसके बिकने का सबाल पैदा हुआ तो पिछले वर्षों के मुकाबले उस वर्ष ३५ कराड रुपया कम रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा दूसरे बैंकों को इस काम के लिये दिया गया। आज हमारा जा श्रम मंत्रालय वह छः छः महीने और महीने महीने का हिसाब रखना चाहता है लेकिन जो वित्त मंत्रालय है तथा जिस क तहत देश क ७५ प्रतिशत आदिमियों क जीवन का सबाल है वह उतनी तेजी से उसका ध्यान रखना नहीं चाहता है। मैं चाहता हू कि जा वित्त मंत्रालय है वह श्रम मंत्रालय की इस मामले में नकल करे।

Shri Ghosal (Uluberia): (After a long tussle between the bank employees and employers and Government, the Government has come to realise in the long run that the revision of the dearness allowance of the bank employees is necessary. The present method of determining the dearness allowance is quite unsatisfactory. Though they have accepted the reasonableness of the demand of the bank employees, they have got no intention of solving the problem because there is no possibility of any increase in the dearness allowance by this Bill but there are possibly plans for determining the reduction.

It has been admitted on all hands that the system by which the dearness allowance of the bank employees is determined is far from satisfactory and it is causing hardship to the bank employees. Now what is dearness allowance? If we go into the definition of the term dearness allowance, we find that it will be difficult for us to determine even the quantum of

dearness allowance. Dearness allowance is temporary increase over the basic pay in order to meet the rising costs till normalcy is restored. Every month there is an increase in the cost of living index and there is no question of coming down of this index. So, the real problem is the revision of the basic pay. The neutralisation of D.A. by slab system will not solve the problem. The logical conclusion is to relate it point by point with the increase of cost of living index. The Government has taken the year 1944 as the base year. We do not know why this fictitious year of a dead and bygone age has been taken as the base. There is no chance of the cost of living index coming down to that level in the near future. The Central Pay Commission fixed total emoluments with the dearness allowance at the rate of Rs. 55/- and Rs. 90/- for the working and middle class people respectively in the belief that this abnormal rise in price would come down in the near future. That was the basis on which they calculated the dearness allowance. But in actual practice, ever since 1947, there has been increase in the cost of living index; there is no question of its coming down. The dearness allowance has lost its fundamental character and it is most unjust to divide the total emoluments into dearness allowance and basic pay. Therefore, the only way out in order to decrease the hardship of the employee is to adjust the dearness allowance according to the point of the cost of living index. When the Government is introducing this Bill, it should also consider whether without disturbing the present economy and without reducing the dearness allowance, the total emoluments can be increased on a par with the employees of the other mercantile concerns in big cities so that the bank employees may not suffer. With that request, I would ask the Government to reconsider its view in order that there may be cent per cent neutralisation of cost of living index in D.A. because the bank

employees are doing the most important job in the country.

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): Sir, I must submit in the beginning that, although very much accustomed to the speech of the hon. Members opposite, their opposition to this measure today has completely bewildered me.

Shri Prabhat Kar: I want to point out that it is not opposition.

Shri Abid Ali: Say, conclusions reached or the charges made. Take for instance, the last speaker. He is puzzled because Government has fixed 1944 as the base year. Friends who want to participate in these discussions should take a little trouble and glance through the literature which is available in plenty. This has not been fixed by the Government. It was fixed by the award of a commission whose report was submitted to us. It was fixed in accordance with an agreement reached between the parties concerned and that agreement was accepted unanimously by this House in 1955. We are not to be charged for doing a thing which was done on the basis of the agreement reached between the parties.

One hon. Member said that we were betraying the cause of the workers. Yes. Somebody is betraying the workers; not we. He referred to me personally also. While tracing the history of these awards and adjudications, one hon. Member said that these adjudications started in 1949; it is incorrect; it was long before that. I was connected with that; it was perhaps in 1946. During that period we had an agreement between the union of which I was the President in 1946, and the banks in Bombay. That agreement today stands better than all the awards of adjudications..... (Interruptions.) The first effective organisation of white-collar workers was started by me. It is not like those who exploit the workers for their party purposes, selfish purposes.

The 31 days strike in Calcutta was not a trade union strike; it was known that nothing was coming; it was known that the strike cannot bring any good to the workers. In spite of that, not only the workers were betrayed; the community was also betrayed during the puja holidays. The strike was forced on the community and what was the result? Who lost? The workers and the community. They come here and charge us that we betray the workers. The workers should know better. There was the latest notorious agreement. Did we betray? Friends living in glass houses should not throw stones at others... (Interruptions.) It has been said that this will do harm.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The hon. Minister referred to some notorious agreement. May we know what it is?

Shri Abid Ali: "Notorious" should be sufficient; it is known to everybody. Then why make a mention of it? (Interruptions).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. He has explained that it is notorious and known to everybody.

An Hon. Member: Only notorious persons know it.

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Rai Bareli): Why don't you mention it?

Shri Abid Ali: धरे भाई, जाने दो। It is said that the proposed amendment will harm the cause of the workers. But I am still at a loss to know how the workers will be harmed because there is nothing mentioned in the amendment which only says that the Government should be empowered to change this formula while retaining the proportion as has been mentioned in the recommendation of the Commission as accepted by Parliament.

Now, the hon. Member from Bengal has said that we have brought forward this amendment on the support of the bankers. It is entirely

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incorrect. It is mentioned here in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and was mentioned by me also in the opening remarks that the bank employees approached us. Since then agreement has been entered into between the State Bank and their employees. Afterwards we consulted the employers whether they are agreeable to this formula. It came on the suggestion of the employees and not at the instance of the employers, and after the employees wanted a particular system acceptable to the bankers we have come forward with this amending Bill here. The intention is not to harm the bank employees. We are certainly taking powers, but before notifying any change, I want to make it quite clear, we will consult the parties concerned. If the employees say that this will be harmful or not beneficial to them, we shall not touch it, we will leave the present scheme to continue.

As I have said earlier, the scheme has been agreed to by them. Let it continue. We do not want to do anything. If we do anything, that should be to their benefit and not to their disadvantage. Our intention is not that they should lose because of any action of Government.

It has been said that if this scheme is accepted they will lose Rs. 3/50nP. If it is not accepted, they will lose Rs. 7/-. Therefore, to that extent they will be benefited. Every employee will save Rs. 3/50nP. Then where is the question of their losing Rs. 3/50 nP. because of this amendment? If this amendment is not brought they will be losing Rs. 7/-, whereas now they will be saving Rs. 3/50nP.

Anyway, as I have already submitted, we will not make any announcement under the powers that we are taking according to this Bill without consulting the parties concerned. If they say that we should not come anywhere near it and we should leave them to settle peacefully

with their employers, we shall be happy to do so. Of course, if increase is expected because of the cost of living going up, decrease also should be there when cost of living goes down.

The suggestion by the hon. Member opposite is acceptable to us, that all factors should be taken into consideration before making any change. As I have already said, by this amendment we are not deciding anything, we are only taking powers. The allegation is that if we amend the Act of 1955 and within a short period there is a sudden rise then the workers will be put to loss. We do not want to do that. But here I must submit that the rise in the cost of living index for the period of six months ending June, 1958—it is 153.87—will be 9.87 over the figure of 144. Under the existing formula banks will not pay the increased dearness allowance from and for the period commencing from 1st July, 1958. With a view to solve such hardship only it is proposed to amend the clause which is under discussion.

The difficulty has been felt on the representation of the bank employees. The present scheme is that if there is a rise of ten points in six months then only the increase can be allowed, but if it is even 9½ points then they will not get any increase. Therefore, what we suggest is, let it be three months and five points. Still some hon. Members feel that we are betraying the cause of workers.

Shri Tangamani: We are not feeling anything like that, but it means a wage-cut for the employees.

Shri Abid Ali: As I said, Sir, for the period ending June 1958, the rise is 9.87 and still the workers will not be benefited. According to the scheme that we are proposing they will be benefited. Still there is opposition. It is very much surprising. I wonder whether hon. Members are

feeling that the cost of living index will be going down rapidly, and we should not reduce the period from six months to three months because otherwise the workers will be harmed. That is why I said in the beginning, I have not been able to appreciate the opposition. They always say that any suggestion or amendment coming from the other side is rejected by us because it is coming from the other side. That is not our intention. If anything reasonable is suggested, certainly we will accept. If it is unreasonable, certainly it is unreasonable and it should not be accepted. We bring all facts and figures to show that the intention is to benefit the employees, but still they say that we are harming the cause of employees. As I submitted, Sir, it is bewildering.

The hon. Member has said that workers are now better organised and bank employees are very much clever. I do not agree with this view. I submit it is my feeling that the bank employees' organisation was much more stronger, much more effective before some of the hon. Members could take possession of it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Why enter into that controversy now.

Shri Abid Ali: Because they were having organisational strength, sitting with the employers and getting things done..... (*Interruption*)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. That is not the issue before us today.

Shri Abid Ali: An hon. Member said that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not that everything that has been said has to be refuted.

Shri Abid Ali: It is true. I was referring to that. As soon as the first Bank Award came it was called a 'black award', not by the organisation first but by some of the leaders. Because it was called a 'black award', afterwards the employers went to the

court, went to the Supreme Court to get it annulled. Because it was called a 'black award', the employees who were spread all over the country did not give their support to the committee which was to defend the award. The result was that the award was squashed and another adjudication had to be appointed. As soon as the Supreme Court said that it was a bad award, the employees came forward and said that it was a good award, and wanted Government, by Ordinance, to restore the award.

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): Sir, to submit that these are not facts. This is not what exactly happened during the year 1949-50. It was not the employees who said it was a 'black-award'—the reference is to Sen Award. It was the employees who welcomed this award. It was the employees, again, who defended this award in the Supreme Court spending not less than Rs. 30,000 to Rs 35,000, bringing in the best lawyers and paying them huge sums of money to conduct the case. Now he says that the employees said that it was a 'black award' and, therefore, the employers came—as if to minimise the wisdom of the employers. They were all the time trying to torpedo all the attempts of workers to bring in a peaceful settlement. Now he is again supporting the employers by saying that they had gone to the Supreme Court, instead of chastising them that they ought not to have taken that action.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is not a support that is being given to the employers.

Shri Prabhat Kar: He is finding out a plea in their support.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He has only stated what happened. I do not think that interpretation can be put on what he has said.

Shri Abid Ali: Sir, I stick to the statement that as soon as the award was out some of the leaders of the

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bank employees came out with a statement that it was a 'black award' and therefore—subsequently, of course, pleaders were engaged—a committee was formed to defend the award. But because of that statement that it was a 'black award' that committee did not get the support that it deserved and, therefore, its plea did not prevail in the Supreme Court, that is my opinion.

Shri Prabhat Kar: The Supreme Court decided the case on technical grounds.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How could it be said that because that support was not forthcoming the Supreme Court did not hold that view. Does the hon. Minister mean to say that if the support had come the Supreme Court would have held otherwise? They should have engaged better lawyers and they should have convinced the Supreme Court that it was an Award which should be maintained. It could be possible. Therefore, I said the workers' interest was not sufficiently protected. Then the position of that Committee, became weak because of that statement. Anyway, my submission is—

Shri Prabhat Kar: For the information of the House, I may say that the Supreme Court decided it on a technical point of law, on the failure on the part of the Government to issue a notification when Mr Justice Chandrasekhar Aiyar went into the question. That was the ground on which the Supreme Court decided it. So, the Deputy Labour Minister ought not to make a wrong statement of fact.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Labour Minister had already made it clear. There is no question of making a wrong or correct statement. He said that the case was not very well represented as the Labour Minister would have wished it to be done.

Shri Abid Ali: Still, the fact remains that the Award was called a 'black award', and subsequently, a request was made to the Government to restore it through an ordinance. Anyway, as I have mentioned earlier, our intention is to take powers to benefit the workers and wherever it is necessary to intervene, and whatever we will do will be done in consultation with the representatives of the workers concerned. I hope the hon. Members, after having a little perusal of the correct facts, will be convinced that the intention is honest and the Bill will be to the benefit of the employees. I request that the Bill be considered.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes (Banking Companies) Decision Act, 1955, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2.— (Amendment of Section 3)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We shall now pass on to the clause-by-clause consideration. Does the hon. Member wish to move his amendment No. 1?

Shri Prabhat Kar: Yes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I thought that perhaps after the explanation it will not be necessary for him to speak.

Shri Prabhat Kar: I beg to move:

Page 1, for lines 8 to 25, substitute—

"(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of the Act, the dearness allowance available to the bank employees at figure 144 (1944-100) will not be reduced at any time and beyond that level the dearness allowance will be linked to the month-wise All-India cost of living index and adjusted with the rise or fall of every two points of All-

India Consumers Price Index (1944-100) with an increase or decrease of one-tenth of dearness allowance available at cost of living figure 144."

I want to point out that I have still been misunderstood. What I have said is this. While the Bill seeks to amend the dearness allowance formula evolved by the Bank Award Commission, this relief intended for the bank employees has not been given. That was my contention. What I pointed out at that time is not any opposition to the Bill as it is. As far as it goes, I welcome the spirit of the Bill. But I disagree with the content of it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is just a one-clause Bill, so to say. Where is the doubt about the contents?

Shri Prabhat Kar: I agree with the objects of the Bill. The Bill is meant to mitigate the hardships. Now, I placed before the hon. Labour Minister certain figures and I placed before him the actual state of affairs in the State Bank of India. I wanted him to take those factors into consideration. Therefore I moved this amendment. Instead of sticking to the State Bank formula, another formula could be evolved. But here, I can quite appreciate the difficulty. The proviso is there. It says:

"Provided that any adjustment so made shall, so far as may be, bear to the rise or fall of the cost of living index the same ratio as is indicated between the adjustment of dearness allowance and the rise or fall of the cost of living index in the formulae recommended in that clause."

The whole point here is, unless that "same ratio" is changed, there will be no mitigation of the hardship, because, instead of a reduction of Rs. 7, the reduction will be Rs. 3-8-0. Further, if it is two months instead of five months, the reduction may be to the

tune of Rs. 1-12-0, but then, there will be reduction still. I pointed out to the hon. Minister that while in every part of the country other employees are getting an increase in their dearness allowance, in the case of the bank employees there will be a reduction. I am agreeable even to withdraw my amendment if this particular proviso is withdrawn by Government so that we get an opportunity to place our facts and to convince the Government to evolve a formula by which it will be beneficial to the employees. As there is a provision, the Government's intention is already made out in the Act, namely, that they want to limit themselves within the framework of the existing scheme of dearness allowance which is working hardship, and that is why I have moved this amendment.

The first part of the amendment is the accepted interpretation of the Award by no less a person than the present Law Minister. The first part is, as it should be, the interpretation of the Award itself, and according to the second part, as I have placed before the House, there will be a variation of two points with the rise or fall, with the increase or decrease being one-tenth of the dearness allowance.

Shri Abid Ali: After nearly eight years of tangle, a sort of agreement was reached between the representatives of the workers and the management on the basis of which the Bank Award Commission submitted its report which was unanimously accepted by Parliament and which will remain in force for about a year more. We do not intend interfering with this scheme which has been accepted on this basis.

This Bill has been brought here, as I have said earlier, because the employees wanted it and the employers have consented to it. Otherwise, we would not have interfered with the Act. So, there is no intention to

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change the scheme in the Act which has been accepted already. In the remaining period of this scheme, we want to help the employees if it is found that our help will be necessary. To that extent, as I have explained earlier, we want to get things changed, and the suggestion made by the hon. Member upsets the whole scheme. That is not acceptable.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Only one suggestion. Is he agreeable to see that the present dearness allowance that is being paid to the bank employees will be maintained,—that is, the status quo being maintained—instead of entering into new schemes before 1959?

Shri Abid Ali: That is what I have said; instead of a big cut—

Shri Prabhat Kar: Status quo not of the formula but of the amount.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is what he says. They are not enforcing any adjustment. Government have taken powers to see whether it is really necessary to go further or not. If it is not in the interests of the employees, then they would not do it.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Not the formula.

Shri Abid Ali: And also after consulting the representatives of both the parties.

Shri Prabhat Kar: If the formula is allowed to continue, it will be a reduction of Rs. 7.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is good so far as it goes. Let this be given. But if it is not done, something more should be done. Seven should not be reduced to 3. That is what the hon. Member says.

Shri Abid Ali: He should appreciate what will be the position if this scheme is not accepted. The present position is more unfavourable or will become less.....

Shri Prabhat Kar: I have agreed. It will be more unfavourable.

Shri Abid Ali: Then why should there be opposition?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is not opposing it. He says he welcomes it so far as it goes. But he wants that something more should be done.

Shri Abid Ali: All the time he has been attributing to the Government that we are going wrong and that we are betraying the workers. Now, they are realising the correct position.

Shri Prabhat Kar: I am sorry that—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am also sorry. I am now putting the amendment to the vote of the House. The question is:

Page 1, for lines 8 to 25, substitute—

“(5) Notwithstanding anything contained in the foregoing provisions of the Act, the dearness allowance available to the bank employees at figure 144 (1944-100) will not be reduced at any time and beyond that level the dearness allowance will be linked to the month-wise All-India cost of living index and adjusted with the rise or fall of every two points of All-India Consumers Price Index (1944-100) with an increase or decrease of one-tenth of dearness allowance available at cost of living figure 144.”

The motion was negatived

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

“That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

“That clause 1, the Enacting formula and the Title stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill

Shri Abid Ali: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I am glad that the hon. Minister has assured the House that before issuing any notification or before evolving any formula, he would consult the representatives of the bank employees. That is a welcome thing.

But another point I would like to say is this. These awards or formulae which have been evolved have been made, having regard to a set of figures compiled by the Government of India, namely, the all-India cost of living index and the consumer price index. The Gadgil Committee on dearness allowance had held that the very method of compilation of these figures did not represent the correct cost of living obtaining in the country. The Government had accepted that recommendation and in pursuance of that recommendation, they are carrying out fresh surveys. But my grievance is that though the committee reported in 1952 and the Government accepted the recommendations in 1953, now we are only in the stage of conducting a survey.

15 hrs.

I would only request the hon. Minister to see that the present survey that is being carried on under the Ministry of Labour, the all-India survey for determining the cost for the working class and also the survey that is being carried on by the Central Statistical Organisation under the Cabinet Secretariat into the cost of living of the middle-class should be completed very quickly, because already five years have passed.

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Regarding the scheme of D.A. adjustment, I welcome it, because I know what is happening in the coal award. There also, for every 10 points, you will have to get Rs. 4-14-0. But when the cost of living index rises on an average by five points, the workers do not get anything. Even up to seven points, they don't get anything. For instance, from 1st January, 1957 to 30th June, 1957, there was nearly an increase of seven points in the average consumer price index, but no increase in dearness allowance was given, because the rise was not by 10 points. There also the position is similar.

Finally, I would like the Minister to consider the fact that the system of D.A. was a war-time measure. The war ended in 1945 and since 13 years have elapsed, this should be given up, and wage should rise or drop according as the cost of living index rises or drops. That is the procedure which is adopted in various countries. But here still that war-time measure is continuing 13 years after the cessation of war. I hope and trust that the Minister will give some thought to this matter and very soon, at least in the Standing Labour Committee meeting which is going to be held in the next two months, this system of D.A. should be dropped and it should be merged with the basic pay. That would be the ideal thing and that is the thing I would like to impress upon the hon. Minister.

Shri Prabhat Kar: I had an apprehension that the hon. Labour Minister carried some prejudice against me and now at last I find that he has completely misread my approach to this particular Bill and all that I have said. Naturally if he is already prejudiced against a particular person, he will not be in a position to give proper thought to what he states. So, he has completely not taken into cognizance what I have said in this House today. I am very sorry for it. It is a very difficult proposition; if the hon. Minister does not want to hear and understand, then nobody can

[Shri Prabhat Kar]

make him understand. Even then, I represent the bank employees and I look to their interests and therefore, I have come again and again before the Ministry.

Now the Bill is going to be passed. The hon. Minister said he will take into consideration all factors. I am very glad He has assured that he will hear the representatives of the workers I am very glad about that also. The only point I want to stress is this. Will he give this assurance that until all these things are done, he would ask the employers not to reduce the D.A. at least until all the differences are finally settled by the Government?

I am very apprehensive that today when the prices of daily necessities of life are going high, any reduction in the emoluments of an employee will react very severely and we will be charged that we were the persons creating all these troubles. In spite of all these efforts, I can tell you that it is the bank employees who will make the Government know exactly how they feel. We do not want to create that situation. I am appealing to the hon. Minister. Now that the Bill is going to be passed and this power has been given to the Government, will the Government at least ask the employers not to reduce the D.A. until the whole matter is settled, so that we may have an opportunity to discuss the matter with the Labour Ministry and with the employers and come to a final understanding, because any reduction will have serious repercussions? That is my appeal to the hon. Minister.

Shri Abid Ali: As I said, we had decided already that before issuing any notification, we should have the benefit of consultation with the representatives of the parties concerned and I have given an assurance to that effect.

With regard to amalgamation of D.A. with wages, as the hon. Members themselves know very well, in all our enactments, wage means including the D.A. The D.A. has already been included in the wage for the purpose of overtime and several other matters. The employees' provident fund scheme also is applicable not only to the basic wage, but also to the D.A. On that basis, the provident fund scheme is working.

With regard to the hurrying up with the work of the survey, the hon. Member should appreciate that it is a big job to be done thoroughly and sufficient time should be taken. But in the meantime, there is no hardship, because the increase or decrease is on the basis of the same index. If the basis is the same, when it goes up, workers get more and when it goes down, workers get less. So, the cost of living index calculation basis is applicable both ways. Therefore, there is no hardship because of this delay.

With regard to the last suggestion, I may submit that there have been such suggestions by the employers also that Government should change the basis of the recommendations of the bank commission. We are not accepting that, because, as I have said, a thing which has been finalised after eight years of efforts should remain *pucca* for four years at least. So, there is no intention of making any change in that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is—

“That the Bill be passed”.

The motion was adopted.

15.00 hrs.

**ESTATE DUTY (AMENDMENT)
BILL**

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up the Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill, 1958 as reported by

the Select Committee. As the House is aware, five hours have been allotted for all the stages of the Bill. I would like to take the sense of the House as to how these five hours should be distributed among the various stages of the Bill.

Shri Prabhat Kar (Hooghly): 4 and 1.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Hissar): 3½ and 1½.

Shri V. P. Nayar (Quilon): Yesterday we found that as soon as the general discussion was over, there were no speakers and when the clause-by-clause consideration started, it collapsed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I cannot help that.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: There are 30 amendments.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes; so there should be some time for that also.

Let it be 3½ hours and 1½ hours

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri B. Gopala Reddy): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Estate Duty Act, 1953, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

As the House is aware, this Bill was referred to a Select Committee consisting of 43 members on the 25th April, 1958. The Committee has submitted its report on the 18th August 1958. I do not propose to go into all the details of the changes made by the Select Committee as they are fully explained in the report. I shall refer only to the more important points.

As hon. Members are aware, during the discussion on the motion for reference to the Select Committee, a point of order was raised in this

House by Shri K. Periaswami Gounder that Parliament was not competent to consider the Bill in the absence of resolutions passed by the Legislatures of at least two States, as envisaged in clause (2) of article 252 of the Constitution. After a full discussion of the constitutional position the speaker ruled that clause (2) of article 252 of the Constitution applied, but that it did not act as a bar to the consideration of the Bill by the House and its reference to a Select Committee. The Bill was, accordingly, referred to the Select Committee and, in the meanwhile, we also consulted the Attorney-General as to the further procedure to be followed, and in particular, the form of the resolutions which should be passed by the State Legislatures. Following his advice, a new clause has been added to the amendment Bill by the Select Committee in order to make it clear that the provisions of this Bill do not apply to the levy of estate duty on any estate which consists wholly or in part of agricultural land. Clause (1) of the Amendment Bill has also been amended so as to make it possible for the Central Government to bring the Act into force from a suitable date to be notified by Government, instead of from 1st April, 1958. The intention is that after this Bill is passed in its present form by Parliament, steps will be taken to consult the State Governments with a view to get resolutions passed by the State Legislatures, requesting the application of the amending Act to agricultural land in their States. After the resolutions are passed by the State Legislatures, Government will again bring before this House a short Bill, which would make the amending Act applicable to estate duty on agricultural land in the States concerned. It is only thereafter that the amendment Act will be brought into force for non-agricultural property as well as agricultural property in the States which pass the resolution. I hope this procedure that has been suggested by the Select Committee will not only solve the practical difficulties but also

[Shri B. Gopala Reddy]

remove the doubts expressed by the Members of this House on the last occasion. This procedure will also ensure that the State Legislatures know definitely what changes in the principal Act they are being asked to agree to, and there would be no possibility of different States suggesting the adoption of varying and possibly contradictory amendments.

Another important change made by the Select Committee is with regard to the rates of estate duty prescribed under clause 30 of the amendment Bill. As hon. Members are aware, no estate duty is at present leviable on an estate the principal value of which does not exceed Rs 1 lakh and which does not include coparcenary interest in the property of a joint Hindu family. The amendment Bill seeks to reduce this limit to Rs 50,000. Thus, an estate of the principal value of Rs 1 lakh would have had to pay an estate duty of Rs 3,000 according to the rates originally proposed in the Bill, whereas nothing is payable under the existing Act. An estate of the value of Rs 1,50,000 would have had to pay a duty of Rs 7,000 under the rates proposed in the original Bill, whereas the duty leviable at present is only Rs 3,750. Members of the Select Committee felt that the increase in duty on estates of the value of Rs 1,50,000 and less was rather steep and that some concession should be shown in such cases. The Committee has, accordingly, recommended that the duty on the second slab of Rs 50,000 should be reduced from 6 per cent to 4 per cent and the duty on the third slab of Rs 50,000 should be reduced from 8 per cent to 6 per cent. With the change suggested by the Select Committee the duty payable will be Rs 400 in the case of an estate of the value of Rs 60,000, Rs 1,200 if the value is Rs 80,000 and Rs 2,000 if the value is Rs 1,00,000. As the reductions are in the lowest slabs, the effect of this reduction in rates will be felt not only

in the case of the small estates, but also the bigger estates.

The House is aware that in the amendment Bill, as introduced before the House, it has been proposed that the period within which gifts are charged to estate duty should be raised from the present two years to five years. This was based on the recommendation of the Taxation Enquiry Commission. At the same time, to prevent double taxation of gifts, first under the Gift-tax Act and later under the Estate Duty Act, it was provided in clause 22 of the amendment Bill that no estate duty would be levied on any property which had been gifted and in respect of which gift tax had been paid. On a careful consideration of this clause, the Select Committee felt that it would lead to large-scale tax avoidance by the making of large gifts just before one's death. At the same time the Committee noted that the proposed extension of the two year period to five years had also been criticised on the ground that it would lead to hardship in genuine cases and that in any case, it amounted to giving retrospective effect to legislation. It was also argued that now that the Gift-tax Act has been enacted, it would itself be a check on attempts at avoidance of estate duty through the making of gifts and hence there was no need to extend the two year period to five years. The Committee, therefore, felt that it would be better to retain the two year period for chargeable gifts. At the same time, they have recommended that clause 22 of the Bill should be amended so as to provide that any gifts made within the two year limit should be included in the principal value of the estate and subjected to estate duty, a rebate being given for the amount of gift-tax actually paid on such property.

It will be recalled that when the amendment Bill was originally introduced in the House, the Prime

Minister had estimated the yield from the measure at Rs. 50 lakhs for the current year. As was explained during the Budget Debate, that figure represented the effective receipts for six months only, because of the period of six months allowed for the filing of returns. For a full year, therefore, the additional revenue expected was of the order of Rs. 1 crore. In a matter like this, it is very difficult to make any firm estimate of the probable yield. However, at a rough guess, I feel the result of the changes made by the Select Committee, particularly in respect of rates, would bring down the additional revenue in a full year by about Rs. 30 lakhs. So far as this year is concerned, as I had stated earlier, we have to consult the various State Governments and, through them, the State Legislatures. I doubt, therefore, whether it would be possible to notify the coming into force of the amendment Act on a date earlier than the 1st April 1959; hence, no portion of the additional revenue budgeted for may be realised this year.

I have briefly explained the changes made by the Select Committee and their financial effect. The changes suggested by the Committee are, in my opinion, fair and equitable and constitute a definite improvement on the original provisions. I hope they will have the overwhelming support of the hon Members of this House.

With these words, I move that the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration by the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Estate Duty Act, 1953, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Shri Prabhat Kar: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am sorry, the Estate Duty Amendment Bill, as it has emerged out

of the Select Committee, will only serve purposes other than the one for which it was introduced. At the time of moving this Bill it was stated that the revenue will come to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs. Now the Select Committee has varied the rate and it will reduce the expected revenue. Not only that. An assurance was given at the time of moving the Bill in this House that out of the experience of the last five years it has now been proposed to change the two years' time to five years. That suggestion of the Government which was made in the Bill presented before the House has completely again been taken out. While moving the Bill it was said that almost five years are now passed and we can now review our experience of the operation of the Act. As far as I can judge from the reference made and questions asked in this House, I see a certain amount of disappointment at the poor yield from this duty. Though definite estimates were never made, and by the very nature of things could not have been made, of the actual yield of the duty, I believe both the House and the country expected that the actual yield would be much more than Rs. 2 crores per year. We know that there was an expectation and a concrete statement was made by the then Finance Minister that the yield will be about Rs. 7 crores annually. Actually, during the last five years, we have received only Rs. 8.63 crores, that is, less than Rs. 2 crores a year. An amending Bill was brought with a view to increase the revenue. But, instead of making provisions so that the revenue may be increased, it has been recommended to the House that any such suggestion made by the Government should not be taken into consideration and as the hon. Minister has said, it was said that this will cause harassment and a change from two years to five years will, in fact, give retrospective effect which is not fair.

Knowing well how in this country there are many persons who evade taxes and knowing also what a big

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amount of tax evasion still exists, now to talk of harassment of this type of people at the cost of the country cannot be understood, and I am sorry to find a soft corner for this type of anti-social people, I would say, from the Government. It was admitted that there was inherent difficulty here in this country for the recovery of this particular duty because of so many complications and manipulations. Yet, while passing legislation imposing taxes, we spend much more time in considering the so-called harassment of this type of people and every time during the last two years, whether in the case of the wealth tax or expenditure tax or gift tax, the Bill has come back from the Select Committee granting concessions to those persons who, in the past, have evaded payment of tax. When we place these legislations before the House, we let our people know that, with a view to bridge the gulf between the higher income group and the smaller and with a view to tax more those people who can pay, these legislations are being introduced. The expected revenue, whether of the wealth tax or of expenditure tax or estate duty, all the time, we find, is not only not being fulfilled, but it has been found that it has gone down to an extent which nobody could have imagined. In the case of expenditure tax, very recently introduced, for the assessment year 1958-59, very few returns have been received from assesseees before 30th June, 1958. Individual notices have therefore been issued calling for returns of the expenditure in about 6,000 cases. So far, the returns have been received only from a small number of people. The same thing happened in the case of estate duty, where, in spite of all provisions, it was found that we expected about Rs. 7 crores annually and against that, we have received during 5 years only Rs. 8.63 crores, that is, less than Rs. 2 crores a year. To grant any concession to this type of people.....

An Hon. Member: Which type?

Shri Prabhat Kar: Persons who evade tax; these are the persons who have been evading the taxes. Because, the estate duty or wealth tax is being imposed on persons who are in a position to pay the taxes. These are the persons who, all the time, circumvent by any means the provisions of the Act and find out by their manipulating of their accounts how not to pay the tax to the Government.

When this amending Bill was placed before the House, it was stated that for two years, five years have been substituted. It has been omitted now, as already said by the hon. Minister here.

Again, in the schedule which was placed before the House, you will find that the suggestion was that it would be 6 per cent. and 8 per cent. It has now been reduced to 4 and 6. It is admitted that so far as estate duty is concerned, it is the lowest in this country. If I may give you the figures, so far as U.K. is concerned, for Rs. 20 lakhs of property, it is 19 per cent. in India and in the U.K. it is 50 per cent; for Rs. 30 lakhs of property, it is 22 per cent. in India and in the U.K. it is 60 per cent; for Rs. 50 lakhs of property, it is 27 per cent in India and in the U.K. it is 60 per cent. For Rs. 1 crore of property, it is 44 per cent. in India and in the U.K. it is 70 per cent. For Rs. 1½ crores of property it is 35 per cent in India and in the U.K. it is 80 per cent. I could have understood that while amending the estate duty Bill, a reduction is made at the lower slab and there is a corresponding increase in the case of properties worth more than Rs. 15 lakhs or 20 lakhs. No such thing has been made. A suggestion was made, but it was said in the Select Committee that the rule requires the permission of the President and the Cabinet did not think that it will be possible at this particular moment to increase the rate in the

higher property group. You reduce the percentage here. You want money for the fulfilment of the Plan. You impose indirect taxation on the people. You give concessions to the richer class and you impose taxes on the poorer class. Coming before Parliament you say that we are amending the Estate Duty Act with a view to enlarge its scope. Coming before Parliament you say that we are imposing the wealth tax, gift tax and expenditure tax. In the Bill itself you make provisions by which you allow these persons to escape and impose taxes on the common people. I think that this taxation policy of the Government needs change.

There is one provision in clause 18 of the Bill which I am not able to understand, and that is the provision that half of the probate duty should be exempted. I can understand that if the estate is worth Rs. 1 lakh, and the probate fee is paid for Rs. 5,000, while imposing a tax on the estate, you impose it only on Rs. 95,000. That is understandable. But that has not been done. As I have said, these duties are imposed with a view to increase the revenue. So, an attempt should be made to see that the revenue increases. But that was not the consideration which the Select Committee had while discussing this matter, and that is why instead of putting in provisions to improve the revenue, they have placed before the House a Bill which will reduce the revenue to something less than was expected when the Bill was originally introduced by the Minister.

About the retrospective effect, I would like to say a word. It has been said that the Bill will come into operation after one year. Now, the persons who are to pay this estate duty were aware that the Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill was coming. Knowing fully well how these gifts are made, how the accounts are manipulated and how the transfers are made, we should have taken this into consideration and given retrospective

effect. But, instead of doing that, it has been proposed that this Bill will come into operation not earlier than 1st April, 1959. This will again give scope for further manipulation of the transactions in between. It has been said that the State Governments have to pass legislations in regard to agricultural income. Now, it was within the competence of the Central Government to have taken this matter up with the State Governments, and I can say that even a whisper from the Centre would have sounded thunder on the ears of the State Governments and they would have acceded immediately to such a proposal. Therefore, to take the plea that the State legislatures have to pass resolutions and, therefore, we have to wait for another year before this Bill can come into operation, is not the proper way for bringing this particular section of the Bill into force.

Lastly, I would say that the Bill will surely be enacted. The main point is how to collect the revenue. Every time a Bill seeking to impose taxes is brought forward, we have brought it to the notice of the House that unless and until the tax-collecting machinery is put in order, it will be difficult to realise the taxes, and every time, it has been said before the House that the expected revenue, whether it be from wealth tax or expenditure tax or income tax has not come. What is the reason for that? What are Government doing? What steps are Government going to take to remodel the whole structure of the tax-collecting machinery! Parliament's duty is not merely to pass legislations, but also to see that the expected revenue is realised by Government.

In this connection, I would like to say that the other day I saw a paper which is coming out from Delhi, where they have challenged the Government that all these tax evasions are done with the connivance of the officers, and they have said that they are even prepared to prove it. I am

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not going so far as that. But I am sure the Minister will agree that there are some lacunae somewhere. Unless the loopholes are plugged, it is no good passing legislations with the expectation of a particular amount of revenue, and then coming before the House and telling us that as against an expected sum of Rs. 7 crores a year by way of estate duty, only Rs. 1.5 or 1.7 crores have been realised and so on. This is a matter which should be taken into consideration very seriously. I hope while replying to the debate, the Minister will inform the House of what steps are being taken to see that the expected revenue may be realised by the Department.

I hope that even at this stage, Government will see their way to increase the rate of estate duty in the case of property worth more than Rs. 10 lakhs and will, if necessary, take the sanction of the President for that purpose, so that really we can get good revenue out of this estate duty, in respect of which the present Bill has been placed before us.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I do not know whether I should congratulate Government, so far as this Bill is concerned, or I should condemn them for doing certain things in this Bill which are of a monstrous nature.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He may not do anything.

Shri Prabhat Kar: Or do both.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is also open to him.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I shall certainly congratulate Government on the good things that they have done. At the same time, I shall not spare them in regard to things which I think have not been rightly done.

To start with, let me dispel the confusion which may have occurred in the minds of the hon. Members who heard the previous speaker. It appears that the previous speaker had it in mind that the Government's function is only to collect money and do nothing else by way of taxes. He is not alone in this, for, I know of a speech by the previous Minister of Finance who said to me on one occasion that he was the Finance Minister and he was not concerned with the equities of taxation, and that he was only to collect money. When I brought up that point last time, while considering the Gift Tax Bill, I was very glad to find that our present Finance Minister did not accept that position of the Finance Minister. On the contrary, he gave us to understand that as a matter of fact, the fairness of a tax and the equity of a tax were considerations which must be taken into account at the time of imposing any tax.

From the Bill as it has emerged from the Select Committee, I find that the Finance Minister has in the Select Committee concurred with hon. Members, and from the speech of the Minister in charge now, I find that they have practically accepted what the Select Committee has done. In regard to certain matters, the Select Committee has done very well. I congratulate the Select Committee on their reducing the rates of duty as well as on their not changing the limit from two to five years and on their general approach to the relevant questions.

It would be a sorry thing if we did not act according to equity, so far as taxes were concerned.

The previous speaker told us that Government were not right in agreeing to adhere to the limit of two years. May I quote from the Finance Act of Great Britain when they enhanced this period from three to five

years? They did not do it retrospectively. They had some transitional provisions to which I need not refer at this stage. If an amendment to this effect is moved, I will have occasion to quote from the Act of Great Britain what the law is there and all the world over the law is—that so far as taxes are concerned, they are not imposed in a retrospective manner. So I think the Select Committee and the Finance Member did very well in not agreeing to the recommendations contained in the original Bill that this period be increased.

So far as the taxing limit is concerned, I am sorry I do not agree with the provision that the limit of Rs. 1 lakh should be reduced from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 50,000. So far as this limit is concerned, originally we fixed Rs. 1 lakh, and the conditions in the country, if any, are to be considered in this matter. This Rs. 1 lakh is not of the same value today as it was in 1953 or earlier. At the same time, so far as India is concerned, this *kafanfar* tax—as it is called by ordinary people—is not suited to our genius. A person dies and the servants of the Government are happy at the prospect of realising taxes. They go there and before his dead body is taken away, they think they must have their own share.

Shri M. C. Jain (Kaithal): Only when a rich person dies.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: At the same time, when this Bill came before this House in 1953, I supported it, because so far as our country is concerned, it cannot stand alone; in the whole world there are enactments like this, and in a welfare State we need money. Therefore, on both these grounds I supported it, and I support it now.

At the same time, I think the way in which the previous speaker has told us, that we are only to collect money, will not be a fair thing to do. For instance, this amount of Rs. 1 lakh is, in my humble opinion, too much.

Shri Prabhat Kar: It is a tax-imposing Bill. So we are thinking of revenue. If there are other things, they will be considered separately.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I understand that if the Government bring forward a Bill for imposing taxes on air and water, my hon. friend will be there to support them, because it is a tax-imposing Bill.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): Water is already taxed.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: This is not a fair way of looking at things. You may certainly tax people, but in a fair way. This limit of Rs. 50,000 may, in fact, be sure to lead to harassment. My hon. friend is not at all concerned with the harassment to the ordinary people. He says harassment will be there and the tax will be there. May I humbly submit that if we fix the amount at Rs. 50,000 as the taxable limit, it will be the middle class people, who have not got much, who will be affected?

What about agriculture? Does my hon. friend think that in villages people can pay taxes like the one proposed? It is too much. Even where land is worth Rs. 1,000 an acre, what will be the position? A man owning 50 acres will be taxed. An ordinary house in a city is worth 50,000. Therefore, the amount of Rs. 1 lakh which we had fixed in 1953 was fair.

What about joint family, to which I will come later? Joint family property worth Rs. 50,000 is to be taxed; practically, I say joint family property worth Rs. 50,000 will be taxed though the property of the deceased passing on his death may be only ten thousand. In a case of this nature, the question will not be whether the deceased had property to that extent, since we have made a very serious encroachment in this Bill on the rights of the Hindu joint family, because we do not tax only the property of the deceased person but we

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tax the property of the entire family. This is the amendment that we are making, and I am very sorry that except for one dissenting note, I have not seen many dissenting notes to the Report of the Select Committee on this matter. This is a very serious matter. I will come to it later.

The first thing I want to suggest to the Government is this. Of late, I have been saying that the Government are acquiring greater and greater powers so far as income tax officers are concerned. Practically, income tax officers or those like them will use all these powers against the assesses. Since the enactment of the Income Tax (Investigation Commission) Act, I find that all those provisions which were contained in that Act are being imported into our ordinary law year by year and very drastic powers have been taken by the Government for their income tax officers. I have always been opposing it and will go on opposing it because, in my humble opinion, it is not fair to arm these income tax officers with these large powers.

To start with, the income tax officer in India—and perhaps all the world over—is a person who is himself an investigating officer. He is also a taxing officer. He has got very large powers in his hands. He is himself the police officer and the judge. Therefore, he is all powerful, and any assessee can be coerced into doing anything. And when we find that the income tax department is not so competent and at the same time not free from corruption, we can very well appreciate the difficulties of an ordinary assessee.

The income tax department has been burdened with so much work. There are the gift tax, expenditure tax, wealth tax and other taxes concentrated in the hands of the income tax officers and we have got a dearth of competent officers. After two or three years of his joining, a person becomes

an income tax officer and is invested with these large powers whereas previously only after 8 or ten years the man who entered the department used to be made income tax officer. Incompetent officers are there with authority to discharge all these functions. These functions are new to India. I know, at the same time, that the department has sent many officers to foreign countries to study the administration of these taxes there and they have come back. All the same, the work is very new.

Therefore, I think we should see that all those safeguards which we have been advocating here should be adopted by Government to see that between the income tax officers and the general public there is a sort of *rapprochement*. Every assessee does not go to an income-tax officer as he now goes to a police officer. In fact, the police officer is not so dreaded now as the income tax officer.

In this chain of officers, I would submit that there is one officer in this department who is, as a matter of fact, loved by the assesses and whose services are appreciated by them. He is the Appellate Commissioner. He is independent of the Board theoretically, though in practice he is not so independent. At the same time, in all these laws of income tax, expenditure tax, gift tax and so on, we have put in these words for the Appellate Commissioner, for the Appellate Controller and for their counterparts in the other Acts:

“Provided that no such orders, instructions or directions shall be given by the Board so as to interfere with the discretion of the Appellate Controller of an estate duty in the exercise of appellate functions”.

Under this Bill also, Appellate Controllers are being appointed for the first time. We have got this safeguard. At the same time, as I have

submitted earlier on many occasions in this House, we have got article 50 of the Constitution which enjoins upon Government, which makes it the fundamental duty of Government, to see that there is separation of the executive from judicial functions. This Appellate Officer—call him Appellate Commissioner or Appellate controller—ought not to be subject to the Board in matters of his own promotion, transfer and conditions of service. This is absolutely necessary if you want to see that people approach Government and honestly pay their taxes. If you do this, they will certainly have confidence in the officers also. But if you make it a rule that the terms and conditions of these officers are conditioned to their enhancing the taxes and recovering more and more money, it will be disastrous for the Government as well as for the people.

You talk of tax evasion. Tax evasion is there because the taxes are too many and too onerous. And further if an honest man goes there, his word is not accepted. You mistrust him and think he is evading tax. This is one of the grounds for evasion, though I do not say that evasion is only due to this. When the appellate functions are discharged, it is very necessary that the assessee should feel that he is being dealt with according to law and no such considerations as enhancement and drastic assessment of the assessee will affect the promotion of the officers functioning in that capacity.

Therefore, I am anxious, as I have always submitted before this House, that this appellate authority should be absolutely free from all these considerations. I have, therefore, proposed an amendment to this effect. I hope it will be rejected, as others have been rejected before.

This is not the first time. Once in 1953, there was Income Tax Amendment Bill before us which went to the Select Committee and I happened

to be the Chairman of the Select Committee. We tried to see that this reform was accepted, and in spite of all our efforts and the efforts of the Finance Minister—Shri C. D. Deshmukh was the then Finance Minister—who realised what we said was right, it could not be done. Even now, in spite of the best intentions of our Finance Ministers—so far as I am concerned I have got confidence in them—they will not be able to effect this reform because the Board as well as the Income-tax Officers and the department are too strong for them also. Therefore, I am submitting that this may also be rejected. But, at the same time, I know there must come some time when this thing will be accepted.

I am only submitting that this Government should follow the Constitution which they themselves have framed. Under article 37 it is one of the fundamental duties of Government to follow the Constitution. If you cannot do it in the Incometax Department, how can you do it in other departments of Government? Therefore I am submitting that the time should come—it should come as soon as possible—when these Appellate Commissioners will not be subject to the Board, in all these matters.

Shri Braj Raj Singh (Ferozabad): Why should it not come here and now?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: They raise many objections; they say they have not got an ample cadre; there are no chances of promotion. Twenty other objections are raised which are such that could be brushed aside if the Finance Minister is strong. But, at the same time, the Department is too strong.

As I have complained before, of late years I find that all these Acts, the Expenditure Tax Act, the Wealth Tax Act and all these have got the same provisions as are found in the Income-tax Act. Since 1948 our laws have

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been worsened and all those things are being introduced which were the subject-matter of the Investigation Commission Act. If a person wants to appeal the sword of Damocles is hanging over his head. In criminal appeals the appellate courts cannot enhance the punishment whereas in this Bill you also say that the appellate court can enhance the tax. Therefore, you are discouraging appeals.

Similarly in matters relating to assessment and re-assessment also, though for the first time I find that you have placed section 73A on the Statute book. All the same, these laws are too stringent. They say, at any time the assessment order can be rectified.

So far as these provisions are concerned, I have given some amendments and I know their fate. They will meet with the same fate as other amendments in other cases have met with. The result will be the same. But, all the same, I believe in going on hammering. One day we will see the result of all this as I have seen results in many other cases. We went on doing the right thing and ultimately we got results. I have got that confidence.

Ultimately, I come to a very important aspect of the matter. Governments are generally capable of doing very wonderful things. When we passed the Marriage Act in this House, we enacted that an impotent person could have a son. In fact, parenthood was forced on an impotent person by section 16 of that Act. But this time we have done something better. Go to any part of the world and you will find that Estate Duty is applicable to the estate of the deceased persons. The property of a living person can never be the subject of Estate Duty. I went to the Library and saw some books and I found that they were all death duties and no living person was charged with death duty.

An Hon. Member: That is why they call it Estate Duty here and not Death Duty.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: But here I find that Government are going to charge duties on the properties of living persons. This is an anomaly—I should say a monstrosity—which I find in this Bill.

As a matter of fact, so far as previous Governments were concerned, I had occasion many times to criticise those Governments in this House in regard to their treatment of the Joint Hindu family so far as taxation is concerned. On many occasions I found that the Finance Ministers of previous Governments did admit that the incidence of income-tax was hard and unfair to the joint Hindu family. With your permission Sir, I will just quote two Finance Ministers. This is what Sir George Schuster said:

"I am quite ready to admit that, as the law stands at present, there are frequent cases of I may almost say injustice, certainly of hardship as regards taxation. But I do submit that the existence of these cases does not justify the wholesale alteration of the law without careful consideration."

Then, on the 28th March 1946 Sir Archibald Rowlands said:

"From my short study of this question, it seems to me that there may be cases in which the operation of the law at present works hardship on the Hindu joint family. I do recognise there are several cases in which the operations of the present law may be hard on a Hindu Joint Family."

At this stage I do not want to go into the entire history of what happened so far as the Hindu Joint family is concerned in the last 80 years. But, since 1928, when we realised that the Hindu Joint family was

not being fairly treated like all other families in the land, we brought this question. I have quoted only two Finance Ministers who admitted this fact and I can quote many more.

Even in 1947, when I brought this matter before Parliament, Liaqat Ali Khan of blessed memory was the Finance Minister and he also said that when the next Taxation Enquiry Committee comes, then we will go into this question. Our Finance Ministers have been saying the same thing lately also.

In 1924 the question arose and the Taxation Enquiry Committee said that so far as the Estate Duty is concerned it cannot apply to the Hindu joint family. In 1946, the same question arose but they found a solution which I accepted as the right one. But before I come to this aspect of this case, let me, for your consideration, complete the history.

When Shri Mathai was here he accepted my criticism and was pleased to say that the limit on taxation of joint Hindu family should be increased from 3,000 to 3,500 and then from 4,200 to 8,400. Ultimately, the matter went to Investigation Commission and they said it should be Rs. 12,600, that is, three times Rs. 4,200 for Hindu joint families where the family had got 3 or more than 3 coparceners as a palliative measure. The matter went before the Taxation Enquiry Committee and I appeared as a witness before the Committee and I asked Shri Mathai to look into the matter. Again, he shirked the issue. If you go through the Taxation Enquiry Committee Report you will be pleased to find that the report said that since the Hindu Code was on the anvil of the Legislature it refrained from making any recommendations whatsoever. The report said that so far as joint family property was concerned, the incidence of taxation depended on the rules of the Hindu law and therefore they were not competent to go into the question.

They shirked the issue, but at the same time, they confirmed the recommendation of the Income-tax Investigation Commission and they said: "We accept this that so far as three members are concerned, the family will not be taxed unless it has got an income of three times the taxable limit if the family consisted of three or more adult members.

16 hrs.

When the matter came up before the predecessor of the present Finance Minister, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, he brushed aside everything and said: "No, I am not going to accept this. Money is the only consideration with me, and I am not going to be influenced by these considerations of the Hindu joint family, etc." I told him that for the last so many years we had fought out the issue and gained certain points and asked him how he would be guided by the stroke of the pen brush that aside. He was very obdurate but on my resistance, he became a bit considerate and said that he would appoint a committee which would go into this question and then the Government will take decision. He disregarded the three times the amount of the taxable limit and said that only twice the amount would be considered in regard to families which had a membership of two persons or more.

Last time when we were considering the issue, our present Finance Minister adopted a somewhat hesitating attitude, and then on my insistence agreed that he would appoint a committee, but the committee has not been appointed, and this Bill has come imposing new penalties and committing new monstrosities as I have submitted.

Now, so far as the previous Bill was concerned, in 1953 the Hindu joint family was discriminated against. Whereas in the case of ordinary persons, Rs. 1 lakh was the limit, in the case of the Hindu joint family, Rs. 50,000 was the limit, and I had

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very hard things to say from my place here, and went on for hours submitting to the Finance Minister that he had not acted properly. However, at that stage the thing had gone too far. Section 34 had been passed, and when he came to the schedule, he could not do anything

This time I find that the limit is placed, so far as the individual and the Hindu joint family are concerned, at the same level, but they have introduced another unthought of innovation, a thoroughly unjustifiable, a thoroughly iniquitous innovation I will read it out and you will kindly consider what they have done

Shri D. C. Sharma (Gurdaspur): When will the committee be appointed?

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am sorry I could not hear him

Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the hon Minister who is in charge appoint a committee?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That would be seen afterwards

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: He is only reminding me of the promise of the Finance Minister to appoint a committee which he has not so far carried out. I will certainly ask him to do the right thing because this is a matter which does not end here. That committee related to income-tax. This committee just might . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: By the time Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has succeeded in his efforts to get something for the Hindu joint family, perhaps the family might have disappeared from the scene.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am at one with you in wishing the same thing. In fact, when we were considering the question of succession, I

said to the Government: "Take courage in both hands and finish this family, because, after all, in these 80 years crores, hundreds of crores of rupees have been taken illegally from the Hindu joint family based on no principle of justice."

Now, what is happening? You are quite right I am just reading out, and this very sentence will show that the joint family will disappear sooner than we think. What do they say? In the new section 34 they say:

"(1) For the purpose of determining the estate duty to be paid on any property passing on the death of the deceased,—

(c) in the case of property so passing which consists of a coparcenary interest in the joint family property of a Hindu family governed by the *Mitakshara*, *Marumakkattayam* or *Ahiyasantana* law, also the interests in the joint family property of all the lineal descendants of the deceased member,

shall be aggregated so as to form one estate and estate duty shall be levied thereon at the rate or rates applicable in respect of the principle value thereof."

Now, what would happen? Supposing a man of 75 dies and he has got six sons, the eldest being 55. Supposing he has got some daughters also, they are also lineal descendants. The expression used is not "male lineal descendants". The property of all his sons, and of his daughters if he has any daughters, will all be aggregated, and the more sons the greater the aggregation. I do not know whether it is a population control measure, whether this is a birth control measure, or what it is. If a person has got one son, well, the aggregate will not be too much. If he has got five, the aggregate will be five times the amount, so that in the case of living people . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then it is wealth control or duty control and not population control.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: According to Hindu law a copy of which I have got in my hand, a Hindu in a *Mitakshara* family gets an interest by birth. As soon as he is born, he gets rights in the family, whereas in the *Dayabagha* this is not so, and he gets all his rights independent of his father. The father has got an equal right with the son in a *Mitakshara* family. If a *Mitakshara* family consists of a father and four sons, all the five have got one-fifth—not more, not less, so that the birth gives him the right, and not succession. There is no succession in a Hindu joint family practically so far as joint family property is concerned. This joint family even defied death and the family continued in spite of the death of the father. My submission, therefore, is that when the sons have got an independent right, how can you take into account their properties?

Shri M. C. Jain: Then, there cannot be any estate duty on a joint Hindu family according to you.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: My friend is only submitting a thing which is quite obvious and which was conceded by this Government; for a very long time since 1924 till 1946 they did not impose this duty as they said the joint family was not capable of being subject to any estate duty.

Then again in 1946 the Government brought a new proposal. They said any property which passes on the death of a member of a *Mitakshara* family is a property equal to the property which would fall on a notional partition made just before his death. This is the principle even today. There is a notional partition and it is taken that the man who is dead has effected a partition of his property just before his death and that is the property which is taxable. This is the principle

today. Why do you add the property of other lineal descendants? Perhaps when they impose taxes Government forget the ordinary principle of Euclid, that the part cannot be equal to the whole, the whole must be greater than the part. Today an individual getting Rs. 5,000 pays the same tax as a family constituted by ten members. Is it justice, is it equity?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All must be deemed to have died.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: At least a partition can be made very easily. Even in succession there is a notional partition when the share of the daughter is determined under the Hindu law.

What has happened in the succession law? When we passed the Hindu Succession Act, there was a Joint Committee according to which section 6 ran as follows:

“When a male Hindu dies after the commencement of this Act, having at the time of his death an interest in a *Mitakshara* coparcenary property, his interest in the property shall devolve by survivorship upon the surviving members of the coparcenary and not in accordance with this Act:

Provided that, if the deceased had left him surviving a female relative who is an heir specified in class I of the Schedule, such female relative shall be entitled to succeed to the interest of the deceased to the same extent as she would have done had the interest of the deceased in the coparcenary property been allotted to him on a partition made immediately before his death.”

And this did not satisfy the daughters. Therefore an Explanation was added:

“Explanation.—For the purpose of the proviso to this section, the

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interest of the deceased shall be deemed to include—

(a) the interest of every one of his undivided male descendants in the coparcenary property, and

—that is not all—

“(b) the interest allotted to any male descendant who may have taken his share for separate enjoyment on a partition made after the commencement of this Act and before the death of the deceased, the partition notwithstanding;

and the female relative shall be entitled to have her share in the coparcenary property computed and allotted to her accordingly.”

According to the Select Committee on that Bill, the daughter was entitled to a share out of the entire family property including the independent property of the sons who had separated from the family. This came up for discussion before the House and then this proposal of the report was rejected by the House and it was accepted that the daughter could take a share only in the property of the deceased. The operative part of section 6 reads like this:

“Provided that, if the deceased had left him surviving a female relative specified in class I of the Schedule or a male relative specified in that class who claims through such female relative, such female or male relative shall be entitled to succeed to the interest of the deceased to the same extent as she or he would have done had the interest of the deceased in the coparcenary property been allotted to him on a partition made immediately before his death.”

The only thing passed in the proviso was that the only property which could be inherited was the property which would fall to the share of the

deceased if he had separated from the coparcenary before his death. The principle accepted was that only the share of the deceased would be divisible among the sons and daughters and not the independent rights of the sons also who got them by birth. We accepted this principle in the Succession Law. With what face can we now come and say that we do not accept this principle because according to the Government and some of my non. friends in the Opposition, they want money and nothing else. This was the accepted principle in 1946 and even in 1953. What has happened since then in these years to change this law? It is very unfair. We have got articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution; we shall have equality before law. We do not want any discrimination so far as law is concerned.

May I just give an example, Sir? Suppose a man of 75 dies and he does not belong to a joint Hindu family. Will the property of his sons and daughters also be calculated for this purpose? My submission is that so far as the law goes there are certain things in a joint Hindu family which give certain advantages; there are certain things which give some disadvantages. We must take it as a whole as we find it. I am not here to complain about the difficulties of a joint Hindu family so far as this Bill is concerned. But at the same time, I do wish to contend that so far as the Hindu joint family is concerned the Government is not well advised in changing its fundamental rules like this. I am one of those who would be happy if the joint family goes away; nothing will be lost. But if you allow it to continue, let it continue in its pure form with all the incidents and fundamentals which govern it; these should not be changed.

May I just give only one more example for your consideration?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Panditji has taken about forty minutes; now he should be brief.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am sorry to have taken such a long time.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): There are many coparceners (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I concede to Mr. Tyagi that there are many coparceners in this argument.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: My difficulty so far as Mr. Tyagi is concerned is that he knows as much about the Hindu law as the Government, about the difference between a coparcenary and a Hindu joint family. I do not think that this is appreciated by any person. Hindu joint family is different from coparcenary. A coparcenary consists of father and those who inherit something by birth and not daughters and wives. That is so far as *matakshara* is concerned. Whereas in *dayabhaga*, wives, daughters and mothers are all parts of the coparcenary. I do not think Shri Tyagi knows it. Shri Tyagi knows about coparceners. He has enough knowledge of Hindu law. Among lineal not a coparcener You are speaking of rights of daughters also because a daughter is a lineal descendant. You do not realise the difference between coparcener and lineal descendant.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I was getting nervous that I may also be accused of the same ignorance

Shri D. C. Sharma: Even he has not made clear the difference between coparcener and lineal descendant.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I will try to be brief. As a matter of fact, I can understand the anxiety of Government to get more money, the anxiety of many other Members to get more money, but at the same time I was submitting another rule which has made a lot of difference so far as the Hindu joint family is concerned. You know, Sir, a member of a Hindu joint family or a coparcenary has within the hollow of his hand the entire solution for himself. He can separate any

time by an unequivocal declaration that he is separate. Even if he brings a suit for partition, the family will be divided and joint status would be disrupted. If he makes an application for partition, even by that very act he loses his joint status. Similarly, if a member unequivocally declares that he is not a member of that joint family, according to strict Hindu law there and then the joint status of that family will be finished.

But what have the income-tax people done to get more tax? They have enacted section 25 in the Income-Tax Act in which they say that unless there is a registered deed,—even that is not sufficient—unless there is division by metes and bounds, unless each property has been partitioned off and divided into bits, they will not accept that family as disrupted, as not joint, as separate. It is because their income suffers. This is the basis why they have really maimed and wounded all these principles of Hindu law; it is for the purpose of getting more revenue.

In the British Government days I made all these points before the then hon. Finance Ministers. They only sympathised with me and said: "Let the Taxation Enquiry Commission come." It has come now, and it has not given us justice on the plea that they are not competent to deal with it as long as there are social laws about joint family on the anvil of the legislature.

What I submit to Government now is, finish with this joint family business, we will all be happy, or do things in the right way. So far as this Act is concerned, you cannot tax the property of all those who are not subject to Estate Duty. I can give you many examples, but as you have already said, Sir, that I have taken too much time, I will only give one example. Let us see what happens in a Hindu joint family where the father has retired at the age of 60 and he

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and his wife, who are parents in the family, get only maintenance, and the real work is done by the juniors who may acquire the whole property. The father might have got only a property of Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 20,000, whereas the sons may have acquired property worth some lakhs. When the father dies, is it fair to tax the entire earnings of the whole family to which the young men not only contributed but vigorously contributed and acquired the whole property of the family? Is it fair to put all the property in the name of the father and say that it should be taxed, as if not the father alone but the whole family has died? That is not fair at all

Shri Braj Raj Singh: They want the whole family to die.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Therefore, Sir, my submission is that this 'aggregation' section No. 34 requires modification.

Shri M. C. Jain: A very good argument by the capitalists.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: In fact, Sir, I wanted to say many things, but since I have taken a long time I will not take any more time of the House. I will only submit for the consideration of the House that so far as this Bill is concerned, we will be doing an entirely wrong thing if we pass this section. Therefore, I am going to press my amendment seeking the deletion of the words "lineal descendants of the deceased". It is, as a matter of fact, to my mind, certainly discriminating, iniquitous and entirely wrong to include those properties which are not included in the case of other persons.

I will therefore respectfully submit that they should take it as a serious problem. The House should not be a party to it, to the tyranny which has been exercised for many years over the joint family. The broad question of the income-tax is not before the House.

This is a new measure, a new innovation which the Government are putting before the House. The House will not be stultifying all the previous laws by accepting this suggestion of mine, because it relates to a separate measure which has got a background of its own. We had accepted in 1946 and also in 1953 that only the property of the deceased which on partition would have fallen to his share is the subject of or is subject to this duty and nothing else. We ought not to enlarge it by including the interests of the members of the Hindu joint family. The daughters are also lineal descendants and they have got an interest in the joint Hindu family, an interest on maintenance, getting married, etc. I can go on giving you many examples, but I refrain from doing it.

I feel that the House should kindly consider sympathetically what I have urged, and on principle also, we as the House, have got a duty to discharge to the entire population. It is not a question of money alone. Let money be taken, and money will be taken. Who are the persons to pay it? The joint Hindu family is to pay a very large amount. I do not grudge it since we have to contribute to the coffers of the Government, but in this manner, putting an estate duty, as soon as a person dies when the whole family is stricken with sorrow, and the minions of this Government going on making inventories of the entire property and not the property of the deceased only, but of his descendants also, is not correct. An inventory shall be made of all the ornaments of the wives of the sons and every piece of property shall be taken into account. As against only the property of the deceased, everything in the family will be made an inventory of, and ultimately, if the words relate to 'aggregation', the property will be much more. Perhaps the words as they are relate only to the rates. But the words are very ambiguous. I will beg of the House to read the words. So far as the first operative part is concerned, it says that it will form an entire estate and

for the purpose of rates, an explanation is given. The opening words of the clause are:

"For the purpose of determining the estate duty to be paid on any property passing on the death of the deceased,—"

For that, aggregation shall be made I am afraid that if these words remain there, not only for the purposes of the rates, but the entire property may be subject to duty.

I oppose both the things—either for aggregation purposes or for the purpose of rates. It should not be done. At least so far as the aggregation for the purpose of actual charging of the estate duty is concerned, this is absolutely unjustified.

Shri M. R. Masani (Ranchi—East). I am sure the House has listened with sympathy to the forceful plea of the speaker who has just concluded. As a Member of the Select Committee I was glad to hear at the beginning of his speech that he felt that the Select Committee had made certain improvements in the Bill. That is true, and I think we all welcome the improvements to which the Finance Minister was good enough to agree.

There is, however, one feature of this Bill with which I cannot possibly associate myself, a feature to which I shall now confine my remarks, and that is the lowering of the limit of taxation or the bringing within the scope of this duty all estates worth between Rs. 50,000 and a lakh of rupees. Somebody at the back—one of my hon. friends—talked about the rich. The plea that I am making has nothing to do with the rich, because the people involved in this change which I resist are not the rich but the relatively poor.

An estate of Rs. 50,000 today is the equivalent of an estate of Rs. 12,000 before the war. If we cast our minds

back to 1939, I wonder whether we would have thought that if a senior clerk or a junior official or a shop-keeper died, leaving Rs. 12,000 to his widow and four or five children, we should consider it a lordly inheritance which may be mulcted or penalised. I am sure Members of the Government, as all of us here, would agree that that thought would not have occurred to us. And yet, we are so hypnotised by the larger figures which the inflation through which we have gone since 1939 make us real, in that, when we think of Rs. 50,000, we think of something rather big. Actually, what we are discussing is whether a man leaving Rs. 12,000 to his family, on the pre-war purchasing power of the rupee, leaves such an inheritance or estate as deserves to be penalised or mulcted. Today a man who leaves Rs. 50,000 or a little over would be a middle-class man who might have drawn the greater part of that amount from his provident fund or retirement gratuity. Those Rs. 50,000 may reflect the hard-earned savings of his life-time on which a great deal of tax has already been paid. In other words, the man about whom I am talking is the small man and I must confess that I am amazed that the Government should think that the savings of the small man, born out of hard labour, should be forfeited even up to the extent that is contemplated.

The middle-class is the back-bone of our nation and to hit at his back-bone on every financial issue that comes before this House is bad economics and bad politics. By demoralising and depressing the middle-class, this Government, which resists communism and other disruptive tendencies in other fields, is aggravating those very tendencies on the economic field without knowing it.

As I said, these Rs. 50,000 represent the savings of a life-time, which we are all supposed to encourage. The fact is, if I do not save these Rs. 50,000 out of my earnings, but spend them,

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I escape from the tax. But if I take the trouble of leaving Rs. 50,000 for my widow and children, which the Government wants us to do, then I should pay tax.

That I am not alone in this view was borne out a few days ago by editorials in two leading newspapers of this capital, from one of which I shall quote, because it is well put. This is what the editorial says:

"...it is certainly the case that neither at the stage of the introduction of the Bill nor at any subsequent stage have the Government brought forward any convincing argument for flinging its tax-net so wide as to catch such small fish . . . It remains for the Government to consider whether it is really worth their while to persist in the intended unremunerative harassment of relatively small property-owners."

Shri B. Gopala Reddy: Which is that newspaper?

Shri M. R. Masani: This is the Hindustan Times. About four days ago the *Times of India* carried a very similar editorial which you must have read also.

What are the Government going to get out of it? As far as I can make out from discussions with the Finance Minister in the Select Committee, the amount is relatively small, and the Finance Minister at one stage in the Select Committee, I think at the concluding stage, was good enough to say, "All right, you find the money by modifying the rates and I shall agree to reconsider this matter."

I have given notice of an amendment and I am glad to see that some other Members of the House, Shri Khadiolkar, Shri Assar and Shri P. K. Deo, who have also put in minutes of dissent similar to mine have moved in the same direction. We are quite prepared to agree that part of the reduction in the rates from 5 to 4 per

cent. and from 3 to 6 per cent. be revoked and that we go back to 5 and 7 per cent. striking the mean, so that part of the loss that would accrue to the Government through keeping the limit at Rs. 1 lakh and not at Rs. 50,000 may be restored to them. I think the figures can be worked out and I hope the Finance Minister will do so. He will find that by accepting what we are suggesting, the loss will be only a very few lakhs of rupees. I do suggest to him that the psychological harm that he will do and the disincentive to saving that he will set in motion will be out of all proportion to the gains that he will make with a few lakhs of rupees from these poor people. So, the force of my amendment would be to tax the people with Rs. 1 lakh and more higher, and thereby to tax the rich more and to relieve the poor or relatively poor.

The first speaker, from the communist benches, made the statement that this is the lowest estate duty rate in the world. I was expectantly waiting for him to tell us the very high inheritance tax and estate duty in the Soviet Union, from which he derives his inspiration. But he was silent; and that is not an accident, because the fact is that in the Soviet Union, the so-called communist country, there are no estate duties and no inheritance taxes whatsoever. After the first ten years' attempt at equality, the Soviet Union has swung so far back in the direction of inequalities of wealth and income that today in the Soviet Press, you can read reports of millionaires, people with millions of roubles leaving their fortunes to their family without paying even 1 per cent. tax. So, it is not for people who derive their inspiration from that part of the world to preach to us as to how much we should tax our lower middle-class or the poor people. Now, as the Finance Minister is not here I do request the Minister in charge of this Bill to consider, along with his colleagues, whether in response to the wide feeling that was expressed in the Select Committee which, I am con-

vinced, is shared by this House, this unfortunate retrogressive measure of taxing the poor is really necessary. I do appeal to him to consider whether by raising the slabs on estates over Rs. 1 lakh in the manner that I have suggested, or some other manner that Government might devise, this amount of Rs. 20 lakhs or 30 lakhs, whatever it may be cannot be recouped from those estates which are better-placed to bear this loss, this burden. I do hope, therefore, that even now, belated though it might be, the Government, whose general political ideologies are esteemable, will refrain from passing this Act, which injures the general climate of political democracy and the growth and development of the middle classes in which they believe. I believe all these measures, with which you come before us every year, increasing the burden on the middle class, people who work hard, people who are the backbone of the nation, will encourage the forces of disruption and communism in this country. And if the Government will not accede to this suggestion, I do hope at least some of the governments of our States will apply their minds to these considerations and desist from applying this law in its present form.

श्री यू० चं० जैन : माननीय डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, सिलेक्ट कमेटी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में जो कनसेशन दे दी हैं, में उन को अपोज कर रहा हूँ, न सिर्फ़ इस लिये कि हायर लिमिट्स में, रेट को कम कर के रियायत दी गई है, बल्कि इसलिये भी कि पिछले सेशन में, जब कि यह बिल पेश हुआ था, वह कहा गया था कि एग्जीक्यूटिव प्रापर्टी पर यह बिल लागू नहीं हो सकता है, जब तक कि प्रदेश असेम्बलियों से इस की इजाजत न ली जाय, लेकिन मुझे अफ़सोस है कि इतने दिनों तक किसी असेम्बली से इस की संकशन नहीं ली गई है।

मुझ से पहले बोलने वाले दो स्पीकर ने हिन्दू ज्वायंट फ़ैमिली के नाम पर, मिडिल

क्लासिस के नाम पर और वहाँ तक कि शरीबों की बिना पर इस बिल की मुबालाज़त की है। मुझे ताज़्जुब है कि श्री मसाली से पहले पंडित भागंब ने हिन्दू ज्वायंट फ़ैमिली के नाम पर बहुत कुछ कहा है। उन्होंने जिस दफ़्ता ३४ का हवाला दिया है, उस में साफ़ तौर पर लिखा है —

“in the case of property so passing which consists of a coparcenary interest in the joint family property of a Hindu family governed by the Mitakshara, Marumakkattayam or Aliyasantana law, also the interests in the joint family property of all the lineal descendants of the deceased member;”

इससे तो जहाँ तक में समझा हूँ यह जाहिर है कि अगर किसी डिप्टीज्ड की अपनी हिन्दू ज्वायंट फ़ैमिली है और उसके लड़के चाहे कितने ही हों, अगर उनकी अपनी अपनी प्रापर्टी अलग से नहीं है और सारी की सारी हिन्दू ज्वायंट फ़ैमिली की है तो उन लड़कों का जो हिस्सा है वह बाप की वजह से बनता है और वह हिस्सा सारे का सारा शामिल किया जायेगा न कि अगर में अपने बाप से अलग हूँ और में अपने नाम पर अलग से मकान बनाता हूँ और मेरा मकान भी उस प्रापर्टी में शामिल होगा। यह नहीं हो सकता है। पंडित ठाकुर दास भागंब जी के दिनाग में में समझता हूँ यह बात नहीं थी

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अगर आप अलहदा हैं तो आपकी बाप से ज्वायंट फ़ैमिली कैसे हुई ?

श्री यू० चं० जैन : उनकी प्रार्थना से यह बात साबित होती है कि

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने तो ज्ञानदान मुवातरिका के बारे में कहा। अगर ज्ञानदान मुवातरिका होगा तो लड़का इकट्ठा होगा।

जी बू. बं. बीन : उन्होंने अपनी स्पीच में यूकलिड की मिसाल दी है और कहा है कि हमारी गवर्नमेंट ने उसे मात कर बिबा है और उसको भी भुला दिया है। इसके साथ ही साथ उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि पार्ट इज प्रेटर देन दी होल। अगर खानदान मुशतरिका है तो हमें यह नहीं भूलना चाहिये कि बेशक लडके का भ्रय से राइट होगा लेकिन वह राइट बू. फादर होता है। अगर किसी बाप के चार बेटे हैं और पांचबा हो जाता है, तो उनका हिस्सा कम हो जायगा और पांचबा भी हकदार हो जायगा। इसी तरह से अगर छठा लडका हो जाता है तो इन छहों में वह बायदाद बटेगी और जो हिस्सा है वह भी कम हो जायगा। मेरे कहने का मतलब यही है कि जो हिस्सा लडके को मिलता है वह बाप के बू. ही मिलता है। अगर उसके लडके का जो हिस्सा है वह मुशतरिका खानदान में है तो बाप के मरने के बाद उसके द्वारा मिली सारी प्रापर्टी को एग्जीगेट करना ही होगा। क्या वह यह चाहते हैं कि इसको एग्जीगेट न किया जाये ?

उन्होंने कास्टीट्यूशन का हवाला दिया और कहा कि खुद कास्टीट्यूशन को बना करके हिन्दू ज्वाइंट फैमिली के साथ डिसक्रिमिनेट किया जा रहा है। अगर पंडित ठाकुर दास जी की धार्गुमेंट को माना जाये तो मैं समझता हूँ कि हम हिन्दू ज्वायंट फैमिली के हक में डिसक्रिमिनेट करेंगे। अगर उनकी धार्गुमेंट को मान लिया जाये और जैसा उन्होंने चाहा है कर दिया जाये और हिन्दू ज्वायंट फैमिली पर इस्टेट ड्यूटी न लागई जाये तो क्या हम उसके हक में डिसक्रिमिनेट नहीं करेंगे ? इन्वेन्स्यन्स देने का मतलब यह होना कि हम सब कहने लग जायेंगे कि हमारी ज्वायंट फैमिली है और इसका मतलब यह होगा कि स्टेट ड्यूटी ही उड़ जायेगी। मैं

समझता हूँ कि जो बिल में प्रोवाइड किया गया है वह मुनासिब है और काबिले स्पॉट है।

मुख से पहले बोलने वाले स्पीकर महोदर ने ख़ास तौर पर मिडिल क्लासिस और लोअर मिडिल क्लासिस का जिक्र किया है और वह यहाँ तक कह गये कि यह एक रेट्रोग्रेड मशर है जिसके जरिये से गरीबों पर टैक्स लगाया जा रहा है। उन्होंने इसकी सपोर्ट में टाइम्स प्राफ इंडिया और हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स का हवाला दिया है और जो कुछ इन प्रब्लवारों के एडिटोरियल्स में लिखा गया है, उसको पढ़ कर सुनाया है। मैं आपको बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे देश की जो कैपिटलिस्ट क्लास है वह बहुत होशियार है। वैसे तो दुनिया की कैपिटलिस्ट क्लास ही बहुत होशियार है लेकिन यहाँ की क्लाम ख़ास तौर पर बहुत होशियार है।

16.35 hrs.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

वह जब सीधे टैक्सों की मुसालिफत नहीं कर सकती है तो गरीबों की भाड़ लेती है और गरीबों की भाड़ लेकर उनको उकसाती है। मुझे अफसोस है कि हमारी गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से जो कुछ प्रेस में छपता है उसका कोई जवाब नहीं दिया जाता है। दूसरी बात यह भी है कि ये जो प्रब्लवार हैं वे बड़े बड़े लोगो के हैं जैसे डालमिया का है या बिडला का है। इन प्रब्लवारों से जो कुछ भी कैपिटलिस्ट क्लास चाहती है लिखवा सकती है। मैं आपको एक मिसाल बतलाना चाहता हूँ जो कि शायद मैं पहले भी बतला चुका हूँ। जो कैपिटलिस्ट क्लास है वह गरीबों की भाड़ में इन टैक्सों की मुसालिफत करती है। उस कहानी को अगर मैं पहले यहाँ बयान कर चुका हूँ तो फिर ने दोहरा देना चाहता हूँ।

एक मुसाफिर जो कि एक भ्रमीर आदमी था रेल में सफर कर रहा था। डिब्बे में बैठे बैठे किसी मुसाफिर ने उससे कहा कि भाई तुम जिस जगह जा रहे हो उस के रास्ते में डिब्बे में बैठे बैठे लोगों की डाकू घा करके लूट लेते हैं। उसके पास १०,००० के करीब रुपये थे। वह बहुत घबराया। उसने सोचा कि यह तो बहुत मुश्किल हुई और अब क्या किया जाये। उसको खयाल आया कि पास में बैठे दूसरे मुसाफिर से भी पूछ लिया जाना चाहिये, शायद कोई रास्ता निकल आये। उसने दूसरे मुसाफिर से पूछा कि भाई तुम कहां जाओगे? उसने कहा कि मैं जासूल जाऊंगा। वह वही स्टेशन था जहां वह भ्रमीर मुसाफिर जा रहा था। उसने इस के बाद उससे पूछा कि तुम्हारे पास कितने रुपये हैं? उसने जवाब दिया कि मेरे पास २० रुपये हैं। उसने कहा कि उफ तुम्हारे पास २० रुपये हैं? यहां पर तो डाके इत्यादि की वारदातें हो जाती हैं, तुम्हें कहीं कोई लूट न ले। इस पर वह घबरा कर पूछने लगा कि अब क्या करना चाहिये? उसने कहा कि तुम्हें जागना पड़ेगा और अगर कोई वारदात हो जायेगी तो शोर मचाओगे इत्यादि। फिर क्या था, वह बीस रुपये वाला जो आदमी था वह तो सारी रात जागता रहा और जो भ्रमीर मुसाफिर था वह रात भर मजे म सोया। यह सब वह गरीब के दिल में डर पैदा करने में कामयाब हुआ।

इसी तरह से कैपिटलिस्ट क्लास गरीबों को भड़काती है। मैं इससे कहूंगा कि वह इस प्रवृत्ति को त्याग दे। साथ ही साथ मैं गवर्नमेंट से भी कहूंगा कि कैपिटलिस्ट क्लास जो हैवाक प्ले (Havoc play) कर रही है घाम गरीबों की आड़ में, उससे वह इंडिफरेंट (Indifferent) न हो। हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स और टाइम्स आफ इंडिया इत्यादि ऐसे पेपर हैं जिन को कि मिडिल क्लास तथा लोअर मिडिल

क्लास इत्यादि भी पढ़ती हैं। इसका असर उन पर भी होता है। इस बास्ते इस तरह के प्रापेगंडा से गवर्नमेंट इंडिफरेंट न हो और लोगों को गवर्नमेंट की टैक्सेशन पालिसी के खिलाफ जिस तरह से भड़काया जा रहा है, उसको रोकें। इस क्लास से भी मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि गरीबों को इस तरह से वह भड़काती नहीं रह सकती है और हमेशा किले में नहीं बनी रह सकती है। हिन्दुस्तान के अर्थव्यवस्था आहिस्ता आहिस्ता आगे बढ़ रहे हैं और वे चाहते हैं कि टैक्स लगे तथा हमारा जो दूसरा प्लान है वह कामयाब हो। ये जो टैक्स हैं ये उन्हीं पर लग सकते हैं जो देने के काबिल हैं। ब्रिटिश राज्य में इन कैपिटलिस्टों पर टैक्स बहुत कम लगा करते थे और वे इनमे बच जाया करते थे। आज भी उनमें यही आदत घर किये हुये हैं। आज भी वे यह चाहते हैं कि उन पर टैक्सेस न लगे। यह नहीं हो सकता है। उन पर हमको टैक्स लगाने ही होंगे।

मुझे यह देख कर अफसोस हुआ कि सिलैन्ट कमेटी ने कई मामलों में कैपिटलिस्टों को रियायतें दी हैं और ये ऐसी रियायतें हैं जो कि पहले प्रोपोज्ड बिल में नहीं थीं। ये रियायतें उनको नहीं दी जानी चाहियें थीं। जो टैक्सों में कमी की गई है वह नहीं की जानी चाहिये थी। मसामी साहब ने तजवीज पेश की है कि ५०,००० की लिमिट को बढ़ा कर एक लाख कर दिया जाय। और जो शरह है वह घाट से छः और छः से चार न करके उसको बढ़ा दिया जाये। मेरी तजवीज यह है कि शरह उसी तरह से रहनी चाहिये जो पहले बिल में थी तथा जो कंसेशन दिये गये हैं वे उड़ा दिये जायें और जो लिमिट है वह ५०,००० तक ही रखी जाय। जब यह होगा तभी हमारा जो प्लान है वह कामयाब होगा और तभी सब चीजें चलेंगी।

Shri Khadilkar (Ahmednagar):
Before coming to the Bill proper, on

[Shri Khalikar]

this occasion I would like to make two observations. This is perhaps the last measure in the effort of our Government to broaden and integrate the tax structure in this country, and as we all know, this integration and broadening were more or less based on the proposals of Mr. Kaldor. In fact, this is the last measure in the process. When this Bill came before the House, I thought that there was no intention to change the basis of it, for, as I said, the time had come when Government should take into consideration the social effects of taxation in our society and the result of taxation. I would, at the outset, appeal to Government to apply their mind to this social aspect of taxation.

Do you really desire, and is it possible by imposing taxes, to reach the so-called ideal of an egalitarian society? It is really a matter for serious study, how the different sections in society and how the whole class structure have been affected by the taxation measures which Government have brought forward. I would appeal to Government and the Planning Commission to apply their mind to this aspect of taxation.

There is another aspect which is equally important. As I had observed while criticising the budget proposals there is a certain amount of stagnations, if we were to see the results of all the tax proposals and imposition of burdens that Government have put on the people. That is also an aspect I mean the yield, which has to be thoroughly gone into. My little inquiry leads me to the conclusion that it has not only affected the class structure unevenly, but it has put an added burden on the lower strata of society, the middle strata, while the upper strata are comparatively untouched by the taxation measures.

Some people might think that Government have lowered the limit down to Rs. 50,000, and therefore, this is a

very radical measure. I would like to appeal to the House not to go by pseudoradicalism, but to try to apply some scientific thinking to everything that is done. Otherwise, tomorrow, Government may say that they want some money and they would go down to the limit of Rs. 25,000. Of course, that might be welcome. But, ultimately, while enacting a measure of taxation of this nature, do you really want to hit a class which I have called in my minute of dissent as the lower middle class, consisting of teachers, professors, lawyers and government servants, who have certain cultural traditions and traditions of learning; they want to preserve it, but in the changing pattern of society, they are finding it extremely difficult to preserve that tradition. If at all, you are aiming at pauperising this particular section of society, I have no grouse, and you can go ahead and bring down the limit to Rs. 25,000 also. And why keep it at Rs 50,000? Tax the lowest strata as much as possible. But what would be the result? Are you really serious in laying down a democratic foundation for a social change? If you are, then you have to follow a different course.

Therefore, they should give serious thought to all their taxation measures and particularly this measure. The class I have referred to has no economic pulls. It does not live on coupons as the richer class lives; it lives on its earning either by way of retirement benefits or by way of gratuity or provident fund or whatever earnings it has. That is their only ambition, a certain cultural standard, a certain academic life, a life of learning. Preservation of that tradition in their family is their only ambition.

Therefore, if you are going to pauperise those people in a society who have socio-ideological influence and no economic pull, no means to exploit the society at their disposal, I have nothing to say. Go ahead. But my

humble submission is that it is contrary to your ideal that you have placed in the Five Year Plans and the method by which you want to achieve that and build up our society. That is my first submission.

I referred to stagnation. In a developing society, while taxing, Government must see the results, whether they are really mopping up, whether tax evasion is lessening. Have Government started a study of this nature? To my knowledge, they have not. On the contrary, they feel, 'All right; go ahead'. But unfortunately, they have not given deep thought to this aspect of the problem. In a developing economy, incomes are growing. But the incomes of the upper strata in our country grow in a geometric proportion and that of the lower strata in an arithmetic proportion if at all—calculating it in this way.

Therefore, if Government keep this aspect in mind, the first consideration they have to take into account is: what are the effects? Have we tightened up the machinery? Have we removed that blot which Prof. Kaldor has pointed out of Rs. 200 crores going away by way of tax evasion? Has some machinery been set up and is it at work to remove it? Government are proceeding in a complacent manner. They think: 'Go ahead. This is the last Act of estate duty to integrate, broaden and cast the net as wide as possible'. This measure has been visualised and they have brought it before the House. But what are they going to get by it? I asked this question of the Finance Minister in the Select Committee. He fumbled a little. He was not sure about it, because he has not given any serious thought to this aspect of the problem. He knows that the Cabinet has taken a decision and it is a matter of prestige and the rigid man that he is, as we know, by temperament—though he is now showing some signs of flexibility; perhaps this House is responsible for that change—said to me: 'Look here, of all persons you are asking this?' I said: 'Yes, because I

have seen what the effect of this measure would be. You are going to practically uproot by pauperising a class of people who are really the bulwark of democracy, if at all you are thinking of democracy in this country'. He said he would get about Rs. 30 lakhs. Then I said, 'I am prepared,—and my hon. friend, Shri M. R. Masani said the same thing—to find a way out. You begin your lowest slab at the present limit; keep it at Rs. 1 lakh. If it reaches Rs. 1 lakh, of course give effect from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh. In that reverse proportion you can tax the whole estate, but do not tax property worth Rs. 50,000'.

What would be the effect? Now urbanisation is taking place. If you take any district place, a small house there will be worth about Rs. 50,000. And it depends on the evaluation officer, and under this law the man becomes accountable. He is served with notice; and at the time of death or immediately after death the family is posed with the problem of where to get the money from to get probate, pay the income-tax authorities and satisfy them and how, in the present situation, live with the same prestige which perhaps, the father enjoyed. This is a very serious problem before the middle class people. With urbanisation and the money value having gone down 4 or 5 times as we all know, this is a measure which is most inequitable on record and would not lead to any substantial addition to the Government treasury. This is my submission.

I would very humbly submit that, without making it a point of prestige, Government should give serious consideration to this serious aspect of this taxation proposal and reconsider their original proposal because Estate Duty was never intended to get more money. Primarily, it was intended to plug the loophole. There was a lot of evasion and Government could not get anything. By what logic have they brought forward this measure in such a way by lowering the limit?

[Shri Khalilkar]

We say that higher rates for the apex class does not matter. But from this angle, if at all, it was not intended to get more money for Government. But we intended it as a last measure in the process of new taxation proposals that we have adopted to make it really a broadbased and integrated one, and casting the net wide and it would be in the fitness of things to accept the proposal.

Even now it is not too late. I would appeal to the Finance Minister and the hon. Members opposite that they should give very serious thought to this aspect of the problem. I am not motivated or pleading any cause. I feel my hon. friend, Shri Jain, will also admit that I am not pleading for any particular class of exploiters. On many an occasion I have criticised my hon. friend Shri Masani; but, on this occasion he is applying his mind in a broad scientific way and that should appeal to the House. I would again appeal to Government not to allow prestige to stand in the way of accepting the amendment as it has been suggested.

Shri Karni Singhji (Bikaner): Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak on the note that I have appended to the Report of the Select Committee on the Estate Duty Amendment Bill. I shall confine myself to the exemptions that I wish to secure for the members of the Armed Forces and the Police Forces, when they are killed on active service, while discharging their duties in the service of the nation.

In the Select Committee meetings when I had raised this point, though some of my brother Members were sympathetic, I do not know whether they were fully apprised of the situation as it exists in other parts of the world. Since then, I have collected certain data and I would like to place it before the House.

In the United Kingdom and in the United States, members of Armed Forces killed on active service have been given very specific exemptions. I shall read out extracts from what I have with me. In the United Kingdom, the exemption extends to the exemption of the property of Commons, Seamen, mariners, soldiers or airmen who are slain or die in His Majesty's Service. In the United States, it goes on this way:—

“(a) Deaths after December 6, 1941 and before January 1, 1947.—The tax imposed by section 985 (Additional Estate Tax)—in addition to the estate provides for taxation of estate of residents and non-residents of the United States—imposed upon the transfer of the net estate of a citizen or resident of the United State dying on or after December 7, 1941 and before January 1, 1947, while in active service as a Member of the military or naval forces of the United States or of any of the other United Nations if such descendant—

(1) was killed in action, or

(2) died as a result of wounds or other injuries, or of disease suffered while in line of duty by reason of a hazard to which he was subjected as an incident of military or naval service.”

On the basis of that I appeal to my brother Members here that we have probably one of the finest armed forces in the world, and I think we may be doing a great service to them in recognising their services if we came forward with an exemption to exempt them when they give their lives in defending us.

Shri Tyagi: We accept your amendment.

Shri Karni Singhji: There are some reasons which I will also advance as

to why I feel this exemption should be given. I have already given the first reason as it pertains to other countries.

Secondly I feel that when our armed forces or policemen are discharging their duties, they must have their mind completely free. They should not be thinking: "If I got killed today, what is going to happen to my children? Maybe my son will be paying estate duty for the next 20 years." We expect every fighting man in the country will give the best that he can.

Thirdly I think it is only fair that the nation, or rather the Finance Ministry, should not directly or indirectly gain by the death of a soldier who is ordered to give his life in the interests of the country. Taking the case of the police, we see that in anti-dacoity works policemen are killed frequently. We also want that our policemen should discharge their duties and rid the country of dacoits. But we must also likewise recognise their service, and when they are killed in such service, exempt them from estate duty.

There are a number of arguments, of course, advanced by people as to why we should not exempt the armed forces from the duty. One of them is that we should wait till war comes.

An Hon. Member: Who says so?

Shri Karni Singhji: That was advanced as one of the arguments. There are some of our troops who are today in the Middle East. There may be Indian troops who will be going out to do U.N. work. There are people who may be killed in police action in our country. We must have a provision whereby we can give them that exemption. Every day policemen are killed in discharging their duties. We do not have to wait for wars to enact this exemption.

Another question I have been asked, which is rather strange: "How are the Indian army people any braver than others?" It is obvious that

the troops are governed by an entirely different code. If during warfare any army personnel refuses to fight, he can be shot or court martialled, whereas no action can be taken against any of us refusing to fight or give up our lives.

Shri Tyagi: Or refusing to vote.

Shri Karni Singhji: Another question which some of my friends have asked is: how many men are going to be affected in the armed forces by estate duty? Firstly, by reducing the exemption limit to Rs. 50,000 a very large number of fighting men are going to come in this category. Secondly, we are also proud that some of our richest families' boys are going through the mill, and they are coming up from the lowest rung of the ladder, and climbing up. These men will be fighting in the forefront to defend their country, and they may be slain while doing so. Therefore, I feel that, although not a very large number may be affected by this, a certain number is bound to be attracted to the tax. I should finally conclude by making an appeal to my friends here. Let not our brave men of the armed police forces feel that we, the Members of Parliament, are not their friends and let us, therefore, recognise their services and let us recognise their sacrifices. We can be proud of our gallant men of the armed forces and the least we can do is to exempt them from the Estate Duty when they die in defending our homes.

17 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT

Shri Raghunir Sahai (Budaun): Sir, I beg to present the twenty-eighth report of the Business Advisory Committee.

17.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday the 30th August, 1958.

[Thursday, 28th August, 1958.]

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The Speaker postponed till the 1st September, 1958 his decision on the admissibility of an adjournment motion given notice of by Shrimati Renu Chakravarty and Sarvaswari S. M. Banerjee, Tangamani and Prabhat Kar regarding the alleged lay off of skilled workers of Messrs. Burn & Co., an engineering firm in Howrah

Subject	COLUMNS	Subject	COLUMNS
STATEMENT BY MINISTERS	3463—68	PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—contd.	
(i) The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru) and the Minister of Health (Shri Karmarkar) made statements regarding Starred Question on withdrawal of prosecution against Dr. Gaitonde of the Irwin Hospital, New Delhi.		(iv) G.S.R. No. 703, dated the 16th August, 1958, containing the Wheat (South Zone Export Control) Order, 1958.	
(ii) The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim) made a statement regarding the Flood Control Programme and the Flood situation in the country and also laid a statement on the Table.		REPORT OF COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED	3471
		Twenty-fifth Report was presented.	
		BILLS PASSED	3471—3540
		(i) Further discussion on the motion to pass the Central Sales Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 1958, as amended, continued. The Bill was passed, as amended.	
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	3468—71	(ii) The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali) moved for consideration of the Industrial Disputes (Banking Companies) Decision Amendment Bill, 1958. The Motion was adopted. After clause-by-clause consideration, the Bill was passed.	
The following papers were laid on the Table :—			
(1) A copy of each of the following Notifications under Section 58 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957 :—			
(i) G.S.R. No. 391, dated the 17th May, 1958 containing the Delhi Development Authority (Election of Representatives of Delhi Municipal Corporation) Rules, 1958.			
(ii) G.S.R. No. 479, dated the 14th June, 1958, containing the Delhi Development Authority Rules, 1958.			
(2) A copy of each of the following Notifications under Sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :—			
(i) G.S.R. No. 638A, dated the 25th July, 1958 containing the Wheat (Regulation of Use in Roller Mills) Order, 1958.			
(ii) G.S.R. No. 687, dated the 8th August, 1958.			
(iii) G.S.R. No. 702, dated the 14th August, 1958.			
		BILL UNDER CONSIDERATION	3540—90
		The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri B. Gopala Reddi) moved that the Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill, 1958, as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration. The discussion was not concluded.	
		REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTED	3590
		Twenty-eighth Report was presented.	
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		Consideration and passing of the Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill and the Benares Hindu University (Amendment) Bill as reported by Select Committees and Private Members Resolutions	

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