



सत्यमेव जयते

Friday
5th March, 1954

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

(Part I- Questions and Answers)

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**PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

689

690

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 5th March, 1954

The House met at Two of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

साथ तथा कृषि मंत्रालय में छटनी

*६५६. श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी : क्या साथ तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) ११ सेक्शन आफिसर्स, ४६ असिस्टेन्ट्स, ४४ लोअर डिबीजन क्लर्कों और १ स्टैटिस्टिकल असिस्टेन्ट की छटनी करने के सम्बन्ध में प्राक्कालन समिति की सिफारिश पर क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है;

(ख) उपरोक्त छटनी के फलस्वरूप उच्च अधिकारियों, परामर्शदाताओं, विशेषज्ञों स्टैनोग्राफरों और पर्सनल असिस्टेन्टों के कितने पद खाली होने की सम्भावना है ;

(ग) उपरोक्त भाग (क) तथा (ख) में उल्लिखित छटनी के फलस्वरूप प्रतिवर्ष कितनी बचत होने की सम्भावना है; और

(घ) यह काम कब तक पूरा होने की आशा है ?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (d). The recommendations of the Estimates Committee are under consideration.

752 P.S.D.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know for how long these recommendations have been under consideration?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is not as long as the Estimates Committee took to make the recommendations.

FAMILY PLANNING

*657. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state which of the recommendations of the Family Planning Research and Programme Committee have been accepted and implemented so far?

(b) Have Government published any literature on this subject for use in the rural and urban areas?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) All the recommendations of the Family Planning Research and Programmes Committee have been generally accepted by the Government of India. The main recommendation made by the Committee is to make grants from the Centre to the State Governments and to private Family Planning Clinics in the ratio of 4 to 1. A scheme indicating the detailed terms and conditions on which such grants will be made has been sent to the State Governments and Voluntary Organisations.

(b) Yes.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: Do Government propose to establish birth control clinics in big cities like Delhi and Bombay?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: The recommendations have been sent to the

State Governments, and their replies are awaited. The Government of India have no intention of having any clinics.

Shri S. N. Das: What is the total sum required to implement the recommendations of this Committee?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: A sum of Rs. 3 lakhs has been provided in the current year's Budget and Rs. 30 lakhs have been provided for the next two years.

Shri Kelappan: May I know if it is not a fact that better food and a more balanced diet results in reduced birth-rate.....

Mr. Speaker: He is arguing, and there would be no end to it.

Shri Kelappan:.....and do Government propose to improve the quality of the food available to the people?

Shri M. D. Ramasami: What steps have Government taken to educate the public in regard to the need for family planning?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: A fair amount of education has been given and is still being given in all our health centres.

INDIAN STAMP

*658. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) when the first Indian Postage stamp was produced and at which place ;

(b) whether it is proposed to celebrate the Centenary after hundred years are over; and

(c) whether exhibits from other countries would also be invited?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) India's first postage stamp was produced in 1854. The stamps were printed at the Surveyor-General's Press, Calcutta.

(b) Yes, in October, 1954.

(c) Yes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any countries have been addressed on the subject so far, and have any of them sent their stamp exhibits?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Several foreign countries have been addressed by the Director-General of P & T. We have also approached foreign countries through our diplomatic channels.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any souvenir would be issued containing the stamps that have been put out so far, and if so, whether it would be available for sale to the public or for presentation purposes?

Shri Raj Bahadur: There would be a facsimile of some stamps issued by way of a souvenir.

Shri Velayudhan: How much money have Government sanctioned for this Exhibition?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The estimated expenditure is Rs. 10 lakhs.

बी० सी० जी०

*६५६. **सेठ गोविन्द बास :** क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि दिल्ली राज्य में १९५३ में कितने व्यक्तियों को बी० सी० जी० के टीके लगाए गए ?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): 1,86,867 persons were vaccinated with B.C.G. in Delhi State during 1953.

सेठ गोविन्द बास : अब तक इस टीके की जो रिपोर्टें मिली हैं, इस देश में या विदेशों में, उनसे क्या गवर्नमेंट को इस बात पर विश्वास हो गया है कि इस टीके से लम्बे दौरान में कोई नुकसान नहीं होता और फायदा होता है ?

स्वास्थ्य मंत्री (राजकुमारी अमृत कौर) : जी हां, यहां तो हम इस के बारे में अभी कुछ नहीं कह सकते, लेकिन जो कुछ काम हम यहां पर कर रहे हैं वह सन्तोषजनक है। विदेशों में

जो इस के बारे में अनुभव हुआ है वह साबित करता है कि यह टीके लाभदायक हैं और इन से कोई नुकसान नहीं पहुंचा।

सेठ गोविन्द बास : क्या इस तरह की रिपोर्ट कुछ ऐसे देशों से भी आई हैं कि जो भारत देश के सदृश्य गरम देश हैं ?

राजकुमारी अमृत कौर : जी, आबोहवा का इस वैक्सिनेशन पर कोई फर्क नहीं पड़ता।

Shri Dhulekar: May I know if any statistics are kept showing the number of cases in which T.B. has been checked or prevented?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It will be impossible at this stage to give any statistics, but the actual research in regard to this question is being carried out at Madanapalle.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT (DECCAN QUEEN)

***660. Sardar A. S. Saigal:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact, that on the 29th December, 1953, Bombay-bound Deccan Queen collided at Masjid Bunder station with another local train;

(b) the number of persons injured;

(c) the extent of damage done to the trains as well as to any other property;

(d) the causes of the accident; and

(e) the findings of the Railway official who inquired into this accident?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. At about 10-25 hours on 29th December, 1953.

(b) Five persons received grievous and 42 others minor injuries.

(c) The approximate cost of damage to railway property was Rs. 12,600

(d) and (e). The Government Inspector of Railways, Bombay, held his

statutory enquiry into this accident. His Provisional Finding is that the accident was caused by the failure on the part of the Driver of the Deccan Queen.

R. M. S. VANS

***661. Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 362 asked on the 8th December, 1953 and state:

(a) whether the proposal to provide facilities for rest in the R.M.S. vans on broad gauge lines has been finalised; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to provide similar facilities in the metre gauge sections also?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). Yes.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know the number of vans that are under use on the metre gauge section?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have said that we have developed a design that will provide for resting accommodation by way of an additional bunk for the staff to rest.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether there are proposals to make any changes in the existing R.M.S. vans?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is what I have just now submitted.

LEPROSY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

***662. Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to refer to starred question No. 712 answered on the 8th December, 1953 and state what progress has been made in the direction of the establishment of a Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): A Governing Body for the Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Institute has since been constituted. They will take necessary action to take over the two State leprosy institutions in the Madras State and expand them

to meet the requirements of the Central Leprosy Institute.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether the financial arrangements with the Government of Madras have been finalised, and if so, what is the result of the arrangements?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The financial arrangements have been finalised, and the Madras Government have consented to give an amount up to a maximum of Rs. 3 lakhs as they were spending for the last three years.

Shri S. N. Das: What is the estimate of recurring and non-recurring amounts which will be incurred on this Institute during this year?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The amount is Rs. 10 lakhs for non-recurring and Rs. 3 lakhs for recurring expenditure.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether there is any governing body for administrative control of the Research Institute, and if so, who are its members?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Orders have been issued for the constitution of a governing body.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Silver Jubilee Children's Clinic, Madras, has been handed over to this Institute?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Yes, Sir.

FOREST COLLEGE, DEHRA DUN

*664. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tuition fees for the two-year course of the Indian Forest College, Dehra Dun, for students of the Indian States are Rs. 7,000/- whereas only Rs. 1,000/- is charged from foreigners; and

(b) if so, the reasons for charging a lower fee from foreigners?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) For the two-year course, the sum of Rs. 7,000 is

paid by States per Forest Officer as their contribution towards the maintenance of the Forest College. Rs. 1,000 is the tuition fee charged from foreign students.

(b) The Forest College is run on self supporting basis; States sharing the expenditure between themselves. Foreigners pay only a tuition fee which is of the same order as charged by other Universities.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether it is a fact that in the opinion of the Estimates Committee this very great difference between the tuition fee for Indian and foreign forest officers is a curious anomaly and whether Government have thought of removing this anomaly?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am surprised that the hon. Member should persist in saying that there is a difference in fees: one is a fee and the other is not.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether it is a fact that the annual expenditure per student in this college comes to Rs. 6,675 and that the training in forestry in India is far more expensive than that in even rich countries like U. S. A., if that is so, what are the reasons therefor?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have a full comparison of the expenditure per head per student in foreign countries as well as in our own. If we compare it even with Roorkee University, it will be found that as against the cost incurred at Roorkee University, viz., Rs. 3,502, the total cost in the Dehra Dun college is Rs. 2,094. If we compare it with Edinburgh, or Oxford or Yale, we find we are far behind.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether the students admitted to this college are required to reimburse directly or indirectly the State Governments in this matter of Rs. 6,000?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am not in a position to state it just now.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know whether the Minister is challenging

the Statement of the Estimates Committee to the effect that Indian students are charged much higher than foreign students who are charged very low, whereas the reverse is the rule in foreign countries?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I think, Sir, the conclusion of the Estimates Committee is somewhat hasty.

TRAIN ROBBERIES

***665. Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number of robberies in running passenger trains on the various Railways during the last three years?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): The number of such robberies was:

61 in 1951,
70 in 1952, and
85 in 1953.

Shri Dabhi: May I know the number of robberies according to class of compartment?

Mr. Speaker: I do not think he will be able to answer it.

Shrimati A. Kale: May I know the total value of the properties robbed and the number of persons injured and killed in the robbery?

Shri Alagesan: I am sorry I do not have that information too.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether any escorts are provided in any of the trains in our Railways and if so in which places?

Shri Alagesan: The Railway Protection Police are escorting some of the trains.

Shri Dabhi: May I know the number of robberies in ladies' compartments?

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question.

Shri T. N. Singh: On a point of order, Sir. In reply to an earlier question the hon. Minister was pleased to state that a Committee of this

House was hasty in its conclusions. I want to know whether it is open to a Minister to cast a slur in this manner on a Committee of this august body.

Mr. Speaker: The word 'hasty' is not unparliamentary. (*Interruptions*). I do not think I should decide this point of order.

Shri Venkataraman: In connection with the point of order raised by my friend, I want to know whether it is not a fact that the report, before it is finalised, is circulated to the Ministries and if there are any mistakes the Ministries correct it. Why was it not done in this case?

Mr. Speaker: We will deal with the question separately.

CHEQUE SYSTEM IN SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNT

***666. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken in regard to the introduction of the cheque system in post office savings banks; and

(b) if so, when this system will be introduced?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes. It is proposed to introduce the system of withdrawal from Post Office Savings Bank accounts by cheques, as an experimental measure at the Bombay G.P.O., and at certain Head Post Offices in the Bombay Circle.

(b) As soon as the procedural details connected therewith are finalised.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know whether this system will increase the small savings?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is what we hope.

Shri Venkataraman: May I know whether the cheque system will be introduced in areas where there are no banking facilities or they will be

duplicated in places where there are already banks?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The introduction of cheques is presenting us with many difficulties. We will have to make an amendment in the Negotiable Instruments Act in order to bring the postal savings bank within the definition of a 'banker'; the rules and forms have got to be framed; and, thirdly, we have got to provide for necessary staff and organisation, we have also to provide for other things.

METAL HARROW

*667. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a new harrow made of metal has been designed by a member of the staff of the Engineering Institute of Anand, Bombay State;

(b) whether this harrow has been tried in any agricultural farm; and

(c) if so, with what results?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes. It has been designed at the Institute of Agriculture, Anand.

(b) and (c). It is still in an experimental stage.

Shri Gidwani: Nowhere has it been tried even on an experimental basis?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is being tried and that is why we call it being in an experimental stage.

Shri Gidwani: Can we have an idea of the results?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the names of the places where it is being tried. The Director himself says that it is in an experimental stage. He has reported that it is being tried.

Shri Gidwani: What is the cost of this harrow?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the details of prices. I have the various dimensions, but the cost has not

been given. Further efforts are being made to make it simpler still.

CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SERVICE SCHEME

*668. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch contributory Health Service scheme for the employees in Delhi of the Central Government; and

(b) if so, when is this scheme likely to be launched?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Yes.

(b) The scheme will be introduced early in the next financial year.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know what the nature of the scheme is and whether this scheme is going to cover all the categories of all employees of the Government of India?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, Sir. The scheme will cover all the categories of the Government of India employees in Delhi and New Delhi.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What is the cost involved in implementing this scheme?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I think the cost will be between Rs. 14 and 14.25 lakhs a year.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Is it also contemplated in this scheme to introduce compulsory health insurance of the employees of the Central Government?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Inasmuch as all the employees of the Central Government will pay a graded scale of contribution, it may be said to be a health insurance in that sense of the term.

RAILWAY SERVICE COMMISSIONS

*669. **Shri C. R. Narasimhan:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that applicants for posts advertised by the

Union Public Service Commission are permitted to send advance copies of their applications if they are in Government service;

(b) whether this procedure is adopted by the Railway Service Commissions; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The question is under consideration.

JAPANESE METHOD OF RICE CULTIVATION

***671. Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japanese Method of rice cultivation has been adopted in any Government Experimental farms; and

(b) if so, with what results?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) The results are reported to be uniformly encouraging. Detailed data are, however, still awaited from the States.

Shri K. P. Sinha: Is it a fact that for want of good seeds, the desired effects are not being achieved?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We are trying to do our best to increase the supply of good seed. Of course, if better seeds could be found for the use of this method, better results will be achieved. I am conscious that everywhere good seeds are not available.

Shri K. P. Sinha: What is the total area put under rice cultivation this year under this method?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: According to the reports so far received, the total is 206,174.25 acres. From one or two States final reports have not yet been received.

Shri Shivnanjappa: May I know whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to apply this method of cultivation for growing other food crops?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes. Many of the items in this method, except trans-

planting and one or two others, are applicable to other crops. It is our endeavour to make it applicable to other crops also.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether any recommendations have been by the Indian Commission which had been to Japan to study this method and if so, whether they were implemented here?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: They have studied the question and they have made recommendations. They have been separately replied to in this House.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know what is the comparative cost of cultivation of one acre under the Japanese method and under our Indian methods?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have got figures from two places so far. We will probably get figures from every State, almost for all the 2 lakh acres, and we are likely to get complete data from beginning to end. It is observable that the costs vary from place to place. For instance, at Karjat, according to the Japanese method the expenditure was Rs. 304-2-0 as against Rs. 119-4-0 for the Indian method. In Kosbad School in the Bombay State, the difference was little Rs. 254-9-6 against Rs. 209-6-0. But there are people who have, after a certain amount of practice, done it very very cheaply.

AERODROMES

***672. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many new aerodromes are proposed to be opened during the first Five Year Plan;

(b) whether any abandoned aerodrome is proposed to be taken up and operated;

(c) whether all the existing aerodromes are equipped according to standards prescribed by I.C.A.O.; and

(d) which of the important equipments for installation at aerodromes are manufactured in India and which are purchased from abroad?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). It is proposed to construct 9 new aerodromes and develop 4 abandoned aerodromes during the First Five Year Plan period.

(c) Recommendations made by the I.C.A.O. are implemented from time to time to the extent of India's resources and operational requirements.

(d) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 35.]

Shri S. C. Samanta: With reference to answers to parts (a) and (b), may I know whether the contemplated Port Blair aerodrome has been included in the number?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have got a provision of Rs. 41.35 lakhs at the moment and for that in the order of priority, we have taken up four aerodromes, viz., Kandla, Udaipur, Chandigarh and Haldwani. Port Blair is not there at the moment.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Cooch Behar and Balurghat aerodromes have been handed over by the West Bengal Government to the Department?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I would like to have a separate question put for it.

Shri Raghuramiah: Considering that there is absolutely no aerodrome in the new State of Andhra, may I know whether it is proposed to revive the abandoned Gannavaram aerodrome or construct a new one near Kurnool?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I might respectfully remind the hon. Member about Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को मालूम है कि जबलपुर का एरोड्रोम बहुत खराब हालत में हो गया है और थोड़ी सी मरम्मत से वह ठीक हो सकता है ? ऐसी हालत में उस पर भी कुछ थोड़ा सा खर्च करके क्या उस को ठीक कराने का इरादा है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : प्रत्येक एरोड्रोम के बारे में बताना मेरे लिये कठिन है क्योंकि किस अवसर पर उस को लेना चाहिये और किस तरह उसका इस्तेमाल करना चाहिये यह इस पर निर्भर करता है कि वहां से कितना ट्रैफिक मिलता है और उस के ठीक करने की कहां तक आवश्यकता है ।

TREATED GRASS THATCH

*674. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun has developed any process for making thatch grass non-inflammable ;

(b) if so, what will be its cost; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to popularise this method in the rural areas?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) No. They have developed a process to make grass fire-resistant.

(b) Fire-resistant grass would cost about Rs. 80 per 100 sq. ft.

(c) The stage has not yet been reached for taking this to the rural areas but the work so far carried out is fully described in the Indian Forest Leaflet No. 133. copies of which are available in the Library of the House. Demonstrations were also made at the Railway Centenary Exhibition and at the International Low Cost Housing Exhibition at Delhi.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: Do I understand that the cost is Rs. 80 per sq. ft., or per 100 sq. ft?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Per 100 sq. ft.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: Is it square feet or cubic feet?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Square feet of the upper area covered by the thatch.

PENCH VALLEY COALFIELDS

*675. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of the regional hospital for the Pench Valley Coalfields has begun;

(b) if not, when it is likely to begin;

(c) the recurring charges on the hospital;

(d) the number of beds provided; and

(e) the number of labourers for which this hospital is intended?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No.

(b) Shortly.

(c) The annual recurring expenditure on the working of the hospital will be Rs. 96,000 approximately.

(d) 30.

(e) The hospital is intended for colliery workers numbering about 7,000 and their dependents.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: When was the money sanctioned for the purpose?

Shri Abid Ali: Last year the Welfare Fund Committee decided to have this hospital and thereafter the estimates were sanctioned.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What is the cost of the hospital?

Shri Abid Ali: About Rs. 5 lakhs.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: What is the employers' contribution towards the construction of this hospital?

Shri Abid Ali: It will be constructed from the Coal Mines Welfare Fund. Nothing will be collected from the employees or the employers. This Fund, as the hon. Member may be knowing, is from the cess which is collected on the despatch of coal.

SURVEY OF WASTE LANDS

*676. **Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the names of States which have accepted the recommendations of the Planning Commission regarding reconnaissance survey of waste lands and extension of area under forests?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III. annexure No. 36.]

Shri N. M. Lingam: In the statement information has been given only from about twelve States. May I know if information will be collected from all the States and placed on the Table of the House?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes. It is awaited.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know if Government have any idea of the extent of waste land in the country, the land that could be allotted to the landless and the land that can be used for afforestation?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes. I have made suggestions to the State Governments that rehabilitation could take place even on barren lands, where forest produce could be grown. This is under consideration.

Shri N. M. Lingam: I wanted to know the extent of the land.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will be pleased to see that the hon. Minister has not got the figures for six of the States, and he has called for them. How can he be expected to give for all the States?

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: At least the approximate figures.

Mr. Speaker: It will be only a guess.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know whether the Central Board of Forestry has indicated to each State the proportion of the area that should be afforested?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No. As the hon. Member himself knows, we have not

even got a complete survey as yet. Therefore, it is not possible to say how much land there is and how much land can be utilised for this purpose.

CENTRAL CONCILIATION OFFICE, PATNA

*677. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to abolish the Central Conciliation Office, Patna;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of cases disposed of in 1951, 1952 and 1953?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). Yes; for reasons of economy two posts of Conciliation Officers have been abolished. Consequently the office at Patna has been closed.

(c) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III. annexure No. 37].

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: In view of the fact that this Office has been able to dispose of a large number of cases, do Government propose to reopen this Office?

Shri Abid Ali: No. The work at Patna does not justify the existence of such an Office there.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Are Government aware that Bihar being an industrial area, and the disputes being very frequent, the abolition of this Office will make justice very dear to the labouring class?

Mr. Speaker: If I mistake not, this very supplementary question was put some time back.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: What alternative have Government suggested, after the abolition of this Office at Patna?

Shri Abid Ali: The Asansol Office will attend to the work at Patna also.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether the disputes in the coalfields

in Bihar are increasing day by day due to the machinations of the British capitalists who own the mines there?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member must not make insinuations and allegations of that kind.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: It is a fact.

TRAIN EXAMINERS

*679. **Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the present pay scale and recruitment rules for Train Examiners;

(b) whether the pay scale and status of Train Examiners are lower than those of the category of railway employees classed as 'Technical Supervisory Personnel'; and

(c) to what extent the recommendations of the Isaac and Letham Committee Report on Accident Enquiry, with regard to the training and promotion of Train Examiners have been accepted and implemented by the Railway Board?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The lowest scale of pay for Train Examiners is Rs. 80-5-120-EB-6-160. Apprentices with the minimum qualification of matriculation are recruited and are given training for a period of 4 years. Promotion is also made to this grade from skilled staff in the Carriage and Wagon Branch.

(b) Yes.

(c) The system of apprenticeship has already been introduced and the recruitment of apprentices is in force on the various Railways.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that Dr. John Matthai, when he was Railway Minister here, had definitely stated that the service conditions of train examiners should be brought on a par with those of other technical supervisory personnel, such as foremen, chargemen etc.?

Shri Alagesan: In fact, the Central Pay Commission fixed the lowest scale

of pay as Rs. 55—130. But subsequently the Railway Board decided that it should be higher than that, and since then, this lowest scale of Rs. 80—160 has been fixed.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that in some large-scale railway depots like the Sealdah and the Howrah goods depots etc. on the Eastern Railway, periodical maintenance work, otherwise known as the 'P.O.H.' work is under the supervision of these train examiners, and if so, what prevents the Board from bringing the service conditions and designations of these technical train examiners on a par with those of other technical supervisory personnel?

Shri Alagesan: There are certain differences. One of the main differences is that the standard of technical knowledge required of this category of staff is a bit lower than that in the case of the other supervisory staff that my hon. friend has in mind.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: What is the minimum qualification required of these train examiners, and what training are they imparted? What is the difference in the two cases?

Shri Alagesan: As I said, apprentices with the minimum qualification of matriculation are chosen, and are given a training for four years. Also, some skilled and semi-skilled staff are promoted to this grade.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: What is the difference between these train examiners and the other technical supervisory personnel?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I think it will mean going into a lengthy discussion over this matter. I think this may better be left for some other occasion.

BIHAR FLOODS

*680. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total amount of financial aid given to Bihar to meet the situation caused by the floods in 1953?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): The Government of India have sanctioned to Bihar 50 per cent. grant towards the following items for purposes of flood relief during 1953:

- (i) Gratuitous relief etc. in the shape of supply of food grains and weekly cash payments, subject to a maximum of Rs. 60 lakhs.
- (ii) Rebuilding of houses, subject to a maximum of Rs. 15 lakhs.
- (iii) Schemes intended to provide employment to the middle class, estimated at Rs. 25,000.
- (iv) Schemes involving hard manual labour which do not create permanent assets, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50 lakhs.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that some claims made by the Bihar State Government are still unheeded? If so, what is the amount demanded and the nature of the purpose for which it was demanded?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I must refer the hon. Member to the Ministry of Finance so far as that is concerned.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that Government refused to make any grant towards works carried on for providing relief to certain areas of North Bihar?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, our relief programme is governed by very specific rules which are applicable to every State uniformly, and action is taken by the Government of India according to those rules. In all probability, the item referred to by my friend does not fall within it.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether Government have sanctioned any amount as loan or grant to take preventive measures against recurrence of floods in North Bihar?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I require notice of that question. I think some steps are being taken.

Shri S. N. Das: What is the total amount so far spent by the Government of Bihar for this purpose?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: According to the latest report I have received, the total comes to Rs. 6,09,90,132.

उत्तर प्रदेश में भूमि को कृषि योग्य बनाना

*६८१. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या साहब तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) केन्द्रीय ट्रैक्टर संस्था ने उत्तर प्रदेश में अब तक कितनी भूमि को कृषि योग्य बनाया है और इस भूमि का कितना भाग तराई क्षेत्र में है;

(ख) कृषि योग्य बनाई गई भूमि पर किस प्रकार की फसलें उगाई जा रही हैं; और

(ग) क्या यह काम केवल राज्य सरकार ने प्रारम्भ किया था या राज्य सरकार तथा केन्द्रीय सरकार ने मिल कर ?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The total area of land reclaimed upto January, 1954 in the Uttar Pradesh by the Central Tractor Organisation is 2,16,303 acres. Of this 75,631 acres are in the Naini Tal Tal.

(b) The kinds of crops grown in the reclaimed areas are Wheat, Paddy, Gram, Millets and Sugarcane, etc.

(c) The reclamation work was done entirely by the Central Tractor Organisation, and the follow-up cultivation by the State Government.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : सरकार की तरफ से पानी का क्या इन्सिजाम किया गया है ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : मेरी सलाह में वहां पानी काफी है ।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : इस एरिया में कितने नलकूप खोदे गये हैं ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : यह सब काम जो हमने किया है वह यू० पी० गवर्नमेंट के लिए किया है । मैं समझता हूँ कि यह सवालात जन्हीं से पूछे जाने चाहियें ।

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, out of the reclaimed land how much belongs to the State and how much belongs to private individuals?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am not in a position to give that information.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that in the Ganga Khader area the land that has been reclaimed has developed salinity?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have no information. We did it for the U.P. Government.

सेठ गोबिन्द दास : उत्तर प्रदेश में यह जो नयी जमीन काश्त में आयी है, क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को मालूम है कि उसमें कुछ जमीन ऊसर है। क्या उस जमीन को आबाद करने के लिए वैज्ञानिकों से परामर्श करके कोई योजना बनायी गयी है, केन्द्र द्वारा या प्रान्तीय सरकार द्वारा ?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Does this question relate to the U.P. Government area?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have no information.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri rose—

Mr. Speaker: We are going into details within the knowledge of the State.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: This relates to the cost of reclamation. Does the Central Government levy any tax or something of that nature as compensation from the U.P. Government?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes. For deep ploughing of blocks of 200 acres or

more, the cost is approximately Rs. 60 per acre. For deep ploughing of blocks of less than 200 acres but more than 100 acres, the cost is Rs. 72 per acre. Blocks less than 100 acres are not accepted for reclamation. For clearance work, Rs. 65 per hour is charged.

राजस्थान में जमाएँ गए तेल पर प्रतिबन्ध

*६८२. श्री पी० एल० बाळूपाल : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि राजस्थान सरकार ने उस राज्य में जमाएँ हुए तेल के आयात पर कोई प्रतिबन्ध लगाया हुआ है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार कर रही है ?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India have written to the Rajasthan Government suggesting that the ban on import of Vanaspati into the State should be withdrawn but they have not yet done so.

श्री पी० एल० बाळूपाल : क्या यह सही है कि राजस्थान के साथ के प्रदेशों से जमा हुआ तेल चोरी छिपे जाकर राजस्थान में चोर बाजार में बिकता है ?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is more for the Rajasthan Government to answer.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भागंब : क्या यह दुस्त नहीं है कि मरजर से पहले राजस्थान में ऐसा तेल ले जाने की इजाजत नहीं थी, और क्या यह दुस्त नहीं है कि इस तरह से गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया का राजस्थान की मजबूर करना प्राविशियल प्रातानमी को टेम्पर करना है ?

डा० पी० एल० देशमुख : मैं समझता हूँ कि जो कानूनी सवाल पैदा होता है उसको ध्यान में रख कर ऐसा किया है, और हम

समझते हैं कि कानूनन भी यह बात ठीक नहीं है कि एक गवर्नमेंट बैन करे। यह बात सही है कि जब तक स्टेट्स थीं वहाँ पर यह पाबन्दी थी। लेकिन फिलहाल इस कांस्टीट्यूशन के अन्दर यह पाबन्दी लगाना ठीक नहीं है ऐसी राय है।

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether the Government of India have ascertained from the Rajasthan Government the reason for the banning of such import, before asking them to withdraw the ban?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: As has been made clear by my hon. friend, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, there were such bans before the Constitution came into effect, when the princely Indian States were there. They want to continue the practice.

COAL MINERS STRIKE

*683. **Shri L. Jogeswar Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that coal miners all over the country have threatened to down tools from 1st March, 1954.

(b) What are their specific demands?

(c) What steps have so far been taken for a settlement of the dispute?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Certain organisations of coal mine workers in Bihar, West Bengal and Assam indicated their intention to go on strike from the 1st March, 1954.

(b) and (c). A notification appointing a Tribunal, which had already been under the consideration of Government, has been issued a copy of which is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in the Library. See Index No. S-63/54]. It will show the nature of the demands made by the workers.

Shri L. Jogeswar Singh: I find from the statement, schedule II, that the matters under dispute are as follows:

"Wages of all categories of workers employed in coal mines, including....."

Mr. Speaker: Does he propose to read the whole statement? He need not read all the demands here. What is his question?

Shri L. Jogeswar Singh: The question which I want to put is this. Are the employers prepared to concede some of these demands?

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether the employers are willing to concede any of the demands.

Shri Abid Ali: That is a separate question. All the important demands of the workers have been referred to the adjudicators and the details thereof are published in the notification, which has already appeared in the Gazette.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether any time-limit is fixed by which the arbitrator has to submit his award?

Shri Abid Ali: It is not proper to fix any time-limit in such matters.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know the consideration which weighed with the Government in not including representatives of the workers in the Tribunal?

Shri Abid Ali: That is not the system so far in vogue, Sir.

PENSION CASES OF P. AND T. OFFICIALS

***684. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many pension cases of P. & T. Officials in the Hyderabad sub-circle are pending since 1st April, 1950?

(b) What are the reasons for the delay in the grant of final pension orders?

(c) Are Government aware of the fact that this causes considerable hardship to retired employees?

(d) What steps are being taken to expedite the disposal of pension cases?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Twenty-seven, of which 19 are pension

cases and the rest are claims of dependents of deceased officials for death-cum-retirement gratuity and family pension. Out of pending pension cases only 2 relate to 1950.

(b) Delay in verification of services by Ex-State authorities, regularisation of overpaid leave salary and irregular retention of officials beyond the age of superannuation and settlement of fraud cases pending against the pensioners.

(c) Yes. To avoid hardship to the officials, anticipatory pension has been granted in 16 out of the nineteen cases.

(d) Review of pending pension cases is made frequently and subordinate authorities have been instructed to dispose of these cases expeditiously.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know the number of cases pertaining to the year 1951?

Shri Raj Bahadur: Two of 1950, Eleven of 1951 and Eleven of 1952.

PADRAUNA AND KHADDA SUGAR FACTORIES

***686. Shri Bishwa Nath Roy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the workers of Padrauna and Khadda sugar factories (U.P.) have not received their pay for several months; and

(b) if so, what amount is to be paid to them?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) The arrears of wages including retainer and bonus, amount to about Rs. 7 lakhs and Rs. 2.5 lakhs in the case of Padrauna and Khadda sugar mills respectively.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: May I know, Sir, what steps are being taken by Government for the immediate payment of these dues?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Essentially, Sir, this matter rests with the Uttar Pradesh Government. We are, however, trying to see what we can do. There is likelihood that if loans are advanced from the co-operative bank they may probably be able to pay.

Shri Bishwa Nath Roy: Is there any time-limit for payment?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am afraid, Sir, the whole thing is a very complicated affair. There are domestic feuds and all sorts of things.

VENDING CONTRACTS ON RAILWAYS

*687. **Shri Ramachandra Reddi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints or representations about the undesirable effects of the practice of subletting vending contracts at railway stations; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, occasionally.

(b) Instructions exist to terminate contracts where complaints of subletting prove to be correct.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: Is it the general policy of Government to allow subletting of vending contracts?

Shri Alagesan: It is not the policy. We have issued instructions to terminate contracts wherever subletting is proved.

Shri Gadilingana Gowd: May I know the procedure adopted by Government for the licensing of these vendors—is it by auction or otherwise?

Shri Alagesan: It is a system of licensing. There is no procedure of calling for tenders and giving the contract to the people.

Shri Gidwani: Do Government still contemplate giving contracts to a few persons, or do they contemplate to

give them to a large number of people on different railways?

Shri Alagesan: I do not quite catch the question. It is a system of licensing. Wherever subletting has been proved.....

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether the general policy is to give the contract to a large number of people, or a smaller number of people.

Shri Alagesan: It is not a question of a large number or small number. Already licences exist; there is no question of multiplying them.

Shri Nanadas: May I know, Sir, whether Government is contemplating to replace these contracts by co-operative organisations and governmental institutions?

Shri Alagesan: No such thing is in our contemplation.

AMENITIES TO CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

*688. **Shrimati Jayashri:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what arrangements are provided on the premises for education and medical aid for the families of the employees of the Civil Aviation Department in view of the fact that most of the aerodromes and aeronautical stations are situated far away from towns and cities?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Government have not provided any special facilities at the premises of aerodromes and aeronautical communication stations for the education of children. They have, however, permitted the use of Government transport at concessional rates by the children to go to the schools in the adjoining towns and back.

There is a small hospital attached to the Training Centre at Bamrauli (Allahabad) aerodrome. At Dum Dum, the Airport Health Officer is available for rendering medical aid to the Government servants and their families stationed there.

Government dispensaries are being opened at the Santa Cruz and Dum Dum airports.

Shrimati Jayashri: Is it a fact that many deaths have occurred on account of non-availability of transport?

Shri Raj Bahadur: No such case has come to our notice.

BONUM BRIDGE

***689. Dr. Natabar Pandey:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the amount that has been sanctioned for the construction of Bonum bridge near Jharsuguda on the Eastern Railway?

(b) How much of the sanctioned amount has so far been spent?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Rs. 4.30 lakhs.

(b) Rs. 3.75 lakhs.

Dr. Natabar Pandey: May I know whether the work will be completed, before the monsoon commences this year?

Shri Alagesan: Work is likely to be completed within two months' time.

KONKAN COASTAL TRAFFIC

***690. Shri M. D. Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state the present total tonnage of the passenger ships of the Bombay Steam Navigation Company?

(b) What is the total number of ships?

(c) Is it a fact that the present number of the Bombay Steam Navigation Company's passenger steamers is inadequate to cope with the passenger traffic on the Konkan Coast?

(d) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what measures do Government propose to take to increase the number of passenger ships on the Konkan line?

(e) Have Government given any financial aid to the Bombay Steam

Navigation Company to enhance its tonnage and if so, how much?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The Bombay Steam Navigation Co. (1953) Ltd. possess seven passenger ships of a total tonnage of 5,047 GRT.

(c) Not to Government's knowledge

(d) Does not arise.

(e) None, so far.

Shri M. D. Joshi: Have they ever made any application to Government for aid?

Shri Alagesan: We have not received any.

ORANGE RESEARCH INSTITUTE, COORG

***691. Shri N. Somana:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether any decision has been taken on the location of an Orange Research station in Coorg?

(b) If so, when will the station start functioning?

(c) Who will be incharge of the station?

(d) Who will meet the (i) capital and (ii) recurring expenditure of this station?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) After the Officer-in-Charge is appointed through the Union Public Service Commission.

(c) A Horticulturist in the Central Services Class I (Senior).

(d) The entire non-recurring and recurring expenditure except land and buildings will be borne by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Shri N. Somana: What will be the total cost of this Institute.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The total cost during the operation of the scheme, which will be for a period of five years, would be Rs. 1,69,300.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether any research is being carried on in the Food Technology Institute, Mysore in this direction and, if so, how far it has progressed?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would require notice of that question.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: In view of the large percentage of oranges produced in the Nagpur area, may I know whether Government propose to establish such a station in that area?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This station will also attend to the requirements of Madhya Pradesh to a certain extent.

Shri N. M. Lingam: Is Government aware that out of 20,000 acres of orange plantations in Wynaad all but two thousand have disappeared owing to stem-borer and die-back diseases; if so, what steps do Government propose to take to rehabilitate these plantations?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am not sure of the area, but our attention has been directed to this. There are also the State Governments who take the necessary steps in this matter.

SOIL CONSERVATION

*693. **Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the steps that have so far been taken for the control of erosion and conservation of soil under the First Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr P. S. Deshmukh): A Central Soil Conservation Board has been set up. Programme for conservation of soil and control of erosion is being worked out by the Board in consultation with the States.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: How much money has so far been spent by each State on this matter?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got that information with me.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: In which district of Bombay has the area been selected for bunding?

752 P.S.D.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: From personal knowledge I know that Sholapur district is the one where bunding is going on on a large scale.

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: May I know whether the Bombay Government started this under the Five Year Plan or whether it was started earlier?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: According to my information the work has been going on for a fairly long time.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know if the agronomic and engineering practices observed generally for the conservation of soil in the States have proved successful, and what steps Government propose to take to accelerate the progress in this direction as the work already done is only an infinitesimal part of the problem?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, there are many parts of the question and it would be difficult to reply to all of them. But wherever the methods are successful we are trying to pursue them.

Mr. Speaker: We will go to the next question.

RAILWAYMEN'S TRIBUNAL

*694. **Sri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tribunal to enquire into Railwaymen's demands is holding discussions with the representatives of the Railway Federation;

(b) how far has it progressed in its work;

(c) whether any interim report will be submitted by the Tribunal; and

(d) when the Tribunal is expected to submit its final report?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The first sitting was held by the Tribunal on 4-12-53 when the procedure to be adopted was settled. The National Federation of Indian Railwaymen are to furnish the particulars of demands and the ground:

on which they are based. On receipt these will be communicated to the Railway Board who will submit their reply within a specified time. Thereafter the regular sittings of the Tribunal will be held.

(c) This is a matter for the Tribunal to decide.

(d) It is not possible to state at present.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know if Government are aware that some of the Associations of the Indian Railways are not able to push through their case from the Railway Federation; and if so may I know whether any source is available to them to represent to the tribunals?

Shri Alagesan: It is the Railwaymen's Federation that we have recognised, and it is for them to prepare the case and submit it on behalf of the railwaymen. In fact the terms have been defined.

Shri Muniswamy: I wanted to know whether those Associations are eligible to represent their case direct to the tribunal if they are not able to send it through the Federation?

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if one of the reasons for the delay is that a member of the tribunal has to perform the duties of Custodian of Evacuee Property?

Shri Alagesan: No. In fact we are awaiting the case from the Federation. They ought to have submitted their case by the end of February and they have in fact asked for one more month's time.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether any instructions have been given to the Railway Federation to see that almost all the representations of all Associations on the Indian Railways are sent to the tribunal?

Shri Alagesan: I am sure the Federation will take all these aspects into consideration.

DEVELOPMENT OF DELHI

*695. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to have a statutory body for the development of Delhi has been finalised; and

(b) if so, what are the important features of the proposed scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise as the proposal has not yet been finalised.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know to what extent recommendations of the Birla Committee that submitted its report in 1951 have been given effect to?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): As many as forty-two recommendations were made by the Committee. Many of them have been implemented. Some of the main recommendations have also been given effect to by the Government of India, as for example, that no residential premises constructed hereafter shall be requisitioned by the Government, the residential buildings constructed hereafter should be exempted from the operation of the Rent Control Act, there should be no additional charges for putting up additional buildings in certain areas, and so on, and the building laws have also been amended. This particular recommendation which the hon. Member has referred to, had also been referred to the Delhi State Government and to the Ministries of the Government of India. Their replies have now been received and the matter is under active consideration of the Government.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know when these various parties and the Ministries were asked to submit their suggestions and why there has been so much delay?

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It took a very long time to get replies from the Delhi State Government, and then we had to consult the Ministries of the Government of India also.

FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, DEHRA DUN

*696. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ascu method of treatment for preservation of soft-wood has been developed in the laboratories of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun;

(b) if so, whether the scientist responsible for the discovery has been allowed to take out a patent in his own name and exploit commercially the patent process; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Prior to 1933, it was the policy of Government to permit private exploitation of a patent by a Government servant who was the inventor, subject to the condition that Government could use the patent for their own purposes without any payment to the patentee. In accordance with that policy, the late Dr. S. Kamesam, the then officer-in-charge, Wood Preservation Section of the Forest Research Institute, was permitted to take out a patent on Ascu. in his own name.

The practice is no longer in force.

Shri Dabhi: Can the hon. Minister tell us the extent of monetary benefit likely to accrue to these scientists by using the patent?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not know. It is very difficult to say how much will accrue from this patent.

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE SURVEYS

*697. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Hygiene Surveys undertaken in 1951 have been completed;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations;

(c) the amount spent for the surveys;

(d) whether any foreign industrial Hygiene units helped in the survey work;

(e) if so, what are they;

(f) whether any booklets on the hygienic condition of labour have been published so far; and

(g) if so, what are they?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 38.]

(c) Rs. 12,500/- including travelling expenses.

(d) Yes.

(e) Under the Point 4 Programme of Technical Assistance, the services of one Industrial Hygiene Unit from the U.S.A. were secured for assisting in the survey work. The Unit comprised a Chemical Engineer and a Medical Expert.

(f) Yes.

(g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 38.]

Shri S. C. Samanta: From the statement I find that four books have been published. May I know the names of the authors, or whether they have been published by the Government of India?

Shri Abid Ali: Yes, these were published by the Government and the work was done by the Chief Adviser of Factories to the Government of India.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether this survey party also surveyed tobacco and other similar factories? If not, may I know whether Government contemplate setting up a fresh survey party?

Shri Abid Ali: The survey party mostly visited mines and I do not think they visited tobacco factories. At present it is proposed to complete the work which was previously undertaken, and thereafter we will think of expanding it further.

RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN BOMBAY AND MANGALORE

***698. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to construct a Railway line along the coast between Bombay and Mangalore; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in that direction?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). A line to connect Bombay with Mangalore is a long-term project. For the present, engineering and traffic surveys for a rail connection from Diva to Dasgaon are in progress and an aerial survey from Dasgaon to Mangalore is proposed to be under-taken in the near future.

Shri Gidwani: When will the survey be completed?

Shri Alagesan: Which survey?

Mr. Speaker: The aerial survey or the other survey?

Shri Gidwani: Both.

Mr. Speaker: I think I should call the next question.

W. H. O.

***700. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the total contribution paid to World Health Organisation by India during 1953 and 1954;

(b) the extent of help received from the W.H.O. by India;

(c) whether a reduction has lately been made in this contribution and if so, by how much; and

(d) the reasons for this reduction?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) US \$ 273,055 for 1953 US \$ 272,533 for 1954.

(b) The assistance given by World Health Organisation to India in 1953 amounted to US \$ 474,900 (nearest

estimate). World Health Organisation have budgeted US \$ 533,021 for assistance to India during 1954.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What is the rupee value of these grants?

Mr. Speaker: I think the amount should be multiplied by five.

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Yes, Sir.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: What is the nature of the help given?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: The help is given in the field of tuberculosis, malaria, the nursing programme, venereal disease, maternity and child welfare, fellowships to D.D.T. plant, anti-biotic production plant, plague research, environmental sanitation and public health administration.

Shri S. C. Samanta: How many experts from the W.H.O. were here in 1953?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I would like a separate question to be put down.

LANDING GROUNDS

***701. Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wartime emergency landing grounds in the country; and

(b) the number renovated for commercial use and the cost of renovation?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 94.

(b) 9 were taken over by the Civil Aviation Department and the total cost incurred on their development comes to Rs. 21 lakhs approximately.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know if the landing grounds mentioned have been upgraded into regular aerodromes?

Shri Raj Bahadur: We have taken them over and developed them for

our use. If by "upgrading into regular aerodromes" the hon. Member means to ask whether big runways have been constructed, I may say that it has not been done in all cases.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know whether in selecting these landing grounds the needs of defence have also been taken into account?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The needs of civil aviation as such and the development of civil aviation have been taken into account while taking over these landing grounds.

RICE

*702. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the names of the States which have declared surplus rice production in the current year?

(b) What is the approximate amount of such surplus?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) The States of Andhra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Pepsu, Coorg and Vindhya Pradesh.

(b) 12 lakh tons.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: What would be the approximate amount of rice demanded by the deficit States from the Centre?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The total demand of all the deficit States comes to about ten lakh tons.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: In view of the fact that we have a good surplus this year, do Government propose to import any rice, and if so, how much?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The import would go towards building up a reserve in the country. It is likely to be about 6000 tons. The figure would be announced very soon as to how much we would be importing from Burma.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if any of the States which have declared a surplus have taken any supply of Burma rice, and in this connection, may I also know if Assam has taken any quantity of Burma rice?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: No. We do not intend to give Burma rice to surplus States. Burma rice is meant mainly for deficit States like Travancore-Cochin, Bombay and Madras. If any State wants Burma rice for any particular purpose, we are prepared to give it.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: My question is this: has Assam which has not declared a surplus taken any supply of Burma rice?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Assam will not require rice this year, and if it wants, we are prepared to give.

Dr. Rama Rao: Just now, the Deputy Minister said that the Burma rice deal has not yet been finalised, but today's papers say that the hon. the Prime Minister and the Food Minister have already signed an agreement for nine lakh tons of Burma rice.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I also learnt it from the papers.

Shri Nanadas: On what basis has this surplus been calculated, and what is the amount of foodgrains left with each of the surplus States?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The surplus is generally calculated, taking into account the past experiences and the present crop conditions in various States. For example, in the Andhra State they had every year more than three lakh tons of surplus, and this year the crop conditions are exceedingly good there. So, they have calculated and declared a surplus of three lakh tons. Actually, we hope it will be more than that.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

EXHIBITION TRAINS

*663. **Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) the number of places in each State so far visited by the two Exhibition trains that are moving on the broad and the metre gauge;

(b) the number of visitors;

(c) the income from the sale of entry tickets;

(d) whether there has been a request for the stopping of the trains at small wayside stations where there are sidings; and

(e) if so, what action is being taken in this respect?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Upto 31-1-1954, the number of stations visited by the Broad Gauge and Metre Gauge Exhibition Trains is 49 and 64 respectively. The location of these stations State-wise is shown in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 39.]

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

NEW AUTOMATIC TELEPHONES

*670. **Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether Government propose to institute experiments on the AUTOMATIC telephone-answering and message-taking phones recently patented in the United States of America?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The matter is under consideration.

SETTLEMENT OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' CLAIMS

*673. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that great inconvenience is caused to retired railway employees by the inordinate delays in the settlement of their dues; and

(b) the number of cases pending settlement for (i) one year and (ii) over two years?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. As stated in the reply to Starred Question No. 1188 answered on 21-12-1953 the payment of settlement dues is often held up by delay in completing preliminaries like verification of service, determination of outstanding dues, production of succession certificates where relevant, etc.

(b) 7459 cases are pending for over a year and of these 3420 are pending for over two years.

EXPORT OF CATTLE

*678. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a census of cattle has been taken in Manipur;

(b) if so, the number of milch and plough cattle (bullock); and

(c) the number of the cattle heads exported from Manipur in 1953?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). The last livestock census in Manipur was taken in 1945. According to that census the number of milch and plough cattle in the State was:

Cows in milk	18,000
Buffaloes in milk	2,000
Plough cattle (Bullocks) ...	43,000

(c) 165.

KASHMIR P. AND T. DEPARTMENT

*685. **Shri P. N. Rajabhoj:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of the Kashmir Post and Telegraph Department have been treated on the same level as other Government of India Posts and Telegraphs employees; and

(b) the number of persons working in the Kashmir Posts and Telegraphs Department?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The employees of all the Post Offices and a few Telegraph Offices in the State were already under the employ of Government of India. The staff of the Ex-State Telegraph and Telephone systems, which have now been taken over by Indian P. & T. Department with effect from 16-9-53 will be treated on par with other P. & T. employees excepting that in the matter of emoluments those who opt for Central Service conditions will get the P. & T. scales and others who do not so opt will remain on their Ex-State scales of pay and conditions.

(b) 1107, out of which 378 officials have been taken over from the Jammu and Kashmir Government on account of the integration of the Telegraph and Telephone systems.

AERODROME AT MALDA

*692. **Shri S. M. Ghose:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for the construction of an aerodrome at Malda, West Bengal, has been finally accepted by Government; and

(b) if so, when the construction work is proposed to be taken up?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration.

INDIAN AIRLINES CORPORATION

*699. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether, while making new

appointments in the Indian Airlines Corporation the cases of retrenched personnel were considered?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Yes.

COMMITTEE ON LABOUR POLICY AND INDUSTRIAL COSTS

*703. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee has been appointed to examine the effect of labour policy on employment and industrial costs; and

(b) if so, what their findings are?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

TELEGRAPH OFFICES

*704. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether sanction has been accorded for the opening of telegraph offices at Banjar and Indora in Punjab; and

(b) the reasons for the delay in opening them?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) Stores are awaited.

PAY SCALES OF EX-STATE P. AND T. EMPLOYEES

*705. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to refer to the answer given to unstarred question No. 474 regarding pay scales of ex-State P. and T. employees asked on the 16th December, 1953 and state whether any decision has since been arrived at in regard to the grant of Central scales of Pay to ex-State Postal, Telephone and Wireless employees with effect from 1st April, 1950?

(b) If so, what decision has been arrived at?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) So far there has been no change in the orders already in force.

(b) Does not arise.

SOIL CONSERVATION

***706. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in certain States the work of control of erosion and conservation of soil is being done on a very limited scale;

(b) what work has been done so far in this direction; and

(c) whether any data relating to this work has been collected?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement giving the available information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 40.]

RAW SUGAR

***707.** { **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:**
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Raghavaiah:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to permit import of raw sugar during the year 1954;

(b) the approximate landed price of raw sugar; and

(c) the cost of refining the raw sugar?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes. There is a proposal to allow factories to import raw sugar for refining purposes, but the terms of such import acceptable to factories have not yet been finalised.

(b) About Rs. 16/- per maund.

(c) Very roughly from Rs. 4/- to 4/8/- per maund.

P. AND T. ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

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

(a) the number of surplus staff taken over from the Accountant-General's Office and absorbed in the P. & T. department;

(b) the conditions under which the above staff were absorbed; and

(c) whether the assurances given to the Union that the surplus staff so absorbed would not supersede in seniority the P. & T. employees who are already in service have been adhered to?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 149.

(b) They were treated as transferred.

(c) No such assurance was given to the Union.

TELEGRAPH FACILITIES IN RAJASTHAN

118. Shri Karni Singhji: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of Tehsil headquarters in Rajasthan where no telegraph offices exist?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): 95.

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS

119. Ch. Raghbir Singh: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what are the reasons for the late submission of the appropriation accounts for Railways for 1949-50 for audit?

(b) Who was responsible for the late submission?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The late submission of the Appropriation Accounts for audit was due to delay in their compilation caused by the dislocation in the accounting

machinery as a result of war and later on partition. The delay in the compilation of these accounts was discussed by the P.A.C. *vide* paras. 3 and 41 on pages 4 and 22 respectively of their Fifth Report (1952-53) Volume I. Steps have already been taken to overtake the arrears in the compilation of the Appropriation Accounts and their submission to Audit.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reasons above.

OVER-BRIDGES AT BIKANER

120. **Shri Karni Singhuji:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the hardship which is caused to the public for want of an over-bridge at the level-crossings in Bikaner City; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any proposal for providing over-bridges at these points and at what stage the matter stands?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). No proposal for the replacement of any of these level-crossings by an overbridge has been received from the State Government, who, under the extent rules, have to bear a share of the cost of such works.

AIR ACCIDENTS

121. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of major accidents to Indian aircrafts (i) inside India and (ii) outside India during the second half of 1953 (July-December 1953);

(b) the number of lives lost; and

(c) the number of accidents in answer to part (a) above in the case of (i) passenger services, (ii) freight services, (iii) flying clubs and (iv) private aircraft?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c).

752 P.S.D.

I lay on the Table of the House a statement giving the required information. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 41.]

NATIONAL TUBE-WELL COMPANY

122. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to starred question No. 567 asked on the 3rd December, 1953 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Tube-well Company has gone into liquidation; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the Central Government will be put to any loss as a result of the insolvency of the Company?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) None.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRES

123. **Shri Thimmaiah:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) how many Industrial Training Centres there are in Bangalore under the Ministry of Labour;

(b) the total number of trainees in each centre; and

(c) the number of trainees belonging to the Scheduled Castes in each Centre?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) 2.

(b) There were no trainees at the end of January, 1954.

(c) Does not arise.

नौकरी दफ़तर

१२४. श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या श्रम मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) बिहार में नौकरी दफ़तरों में जिन लोगों के नाम लिखे हुए हैं उन्हें काम दिलाने में कौन कौन सी सरकारी तथा सरकारी संस्थाएँ सहायता देती हैं; और

(ख) बिहार में १९५३ में विभिन्न स्थानीय निकायों ने कितने लोगों को नौकरी दफ्तरों के द्वारा काम दिलाया है ?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

MOBILE HEALTH UNITS

125. Shri Radha Raman: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile health units working in the rural areas of Part C States during the year 1953-54;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) the States where they were working;

(d) the various medical aids and facilities which they provide to the people; and

(e) whether Government propose to increase the number of such mobile health units?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Twenty one.

(b) Rs. 2,35,000/- approximately.

(c) In all Part C States except Bilaspur and Coorg.

(d) All medical facilities are available in a dispensary to out-door patients, are provided by these mobile dispensaries. In the event of an outbreak of epidemic diseases, the services of these dispensaries are also utilised for rushing medical aid to the patients and for intensifying control measures to check the spread of epidemics.

(e) Yes.

MINISTERIAL CONFERENCES ON HEALTH

126. Shri Ramachandra Reddi: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number of conferences held by the Central Government with the representatives of the State Governments in 1952-53 and 1953-54 in regard to matters relating to health (i) at the ministerial level; (ii) at the Secretariat level; and (iii) at the level of heads of administration;

(b) the decisions arrived at; and

(c) the decisions that have been implemented?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Contents

Friday, 5th March, 1954-

Conviction of Shri Bhajahari Mahata	1281
Distribution of Budget Papers	1281--1284
Railway Budget—General Discussion— <i>Concluded</i>	1284--1318
Motion <i>re.</i> third report on Private Members Bills—adopted	1318
Resolution <i>re.</i> promotion of rifle training—Substitute resolution adopted	1319--1354
Resolution <i>re.</i> withdrawal of Cadets from National Defence Academy— with- drawn by leave	1354--1380

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

1281

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Friday, 5th March, 1954

The House met at Two of the Clock.[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part 1)

3 P.M.

CONVICTION OF SHRI BHAJAHARI
MAHATA

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that I have received the following communication from the Magistrate, First Class, Purulia.

"I am to inform you that I have today convicted Shri Bhajahari Mahata, M.P. and sentenced him to undergo simple imprisonment for one year and to pay a fine of Rs. 300 in default one month simple imprisonment under section 9(5) of the B. M. P. O. Act.

He has been placed in division 'A'."

DISTRIBUTION OF BUDGET
PAPERS

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): I desire, with your permission, to raise the question of break-down of distribution arrangements of budget papers in the Press gallery on the 27th February, leading to the

757 PSD

1282

leakage of the taxation proposals long before the Finance Minister started reading them to this hon. House. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the facts are as follows:

Instead of distributing part A of the budget statement, known generally as the 'review', part B, containing taxation proposals, was distributed—some fifteen or so copies—to Press representatives, with the result that, to the best of my knowledge and belief again, though some of the Press representatives, with their high sense of conduct and code of honour, returned them, a few copies left even the premises of this august Parliament.

I raise this question so as to get an enquiry instituted for the purpose of getting the guilty people punished, and more so, to ensure that such a mistake does not occur in the future.

Shri Raghuramaiah (Tenali): May I say something which has got a bearing on this. Immediately after I came to know about this nearly four days ago, I have myself tabled a short notice question on it. Would it not be better, before pursuing this matter, to await the reply of the Government to that question, so that we may know the facts and then decide what to do?

Mr. Speaker: Let us see what the Minister has to say, now that the matter has been raised, and we shall perhaps disallow the short notice question.

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): I would like to place before the House the

[Dr. Keskar]

facts as they are which are not exactly the same as what my hon. friend gave. As in previous years, the Press Information Bureau received this year also, on the day of the presentation of the Budget, sealed bags containing Parts A and B of the Finance Minister's speech. The bags were handed over to an assistant of the Press Information Bureau by the Finance Ministry at 4 P.M. He brought them to the Press Room of the Parliament House and kept them in the shelves under security arrangements.

The procedure of distribution of the Budget papers is explained in the letter attached, which was sent earlier by the Press Information Bureau, and which was circulated to the Press representatives, and which I will lay on the Table of the House. This procedure has been followed for a number of years.

At 5 P.M., the officer-in-charge of distribution asked the assistant who had brought the budget papers to open the bag containing Part A of the speech, but through inadvertence, the latter opened the wrong bag, namely, the bag containing Part B papers and the distribution started. At that time there was a tremendous rush, nearly 100 correspondents, eager to go back to the Press gallery to listen to the Finance Minister, pressing for copies.

The mistake was detected within a few seconds but within that time about a dozen copies had been taken by correspondents. Immediately steps were taken to withdraw the copies and, thanks to the co-operation of the Press, it was possible to get them back within a few minutes. No premature publication or leakage occurred.

It will be seen that the incident happened on account of a mistake almost accidental, and it was discovered in the course of a few seconds. Copies were immediately withdrawn. The person who is in charge has been handling the distribution of budget papers for many years and is one of our trusted hands. Apparently, a

momentary confusion caused by the rush of pressmen was responsible for this mistake.

I very much regret the mistake. To avoid such mistakes in future, it is proposed to take delivery of Part B of the Budget speech from the Ministry of Finance half an hour after the Finance Minister has begun his speech instead of simultaneously with Part A as at present.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: May I make a submission?

Mr. Speaker: There is no scope for it. We will now proceed with the Budget discussion.

RAILWAY BUDGET—Contd.

Shri Nevatia (Shahjahanpur Distt.—North cum Kheri—East): Sir, as the time available is very short, I shall try to be brief. No other statement of the hon. Minister has aroused so much enthusiasm in the minds of the millions inhabiting vast and undeveloped areas of this country as the one which he has made in his Budget speech. He has said that "considering the vast areas in our country which are awaiting economic exploitation through the introduction of satisfactory transport facilities, I feel it is necessary to adopt a bold policy of development and expansion of the Railways". I am sure that all Members of this House as well as the public outside would wholeheartedly welcome this statement. But the question is: how and when this bold policy is likely to be implemented. People inhabiting the undeveloped areas are not prepared to wait indefinitely for the implementation of this policy.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

In this connection, I recall the speech of some hon. Members who have expressed satisfaction over the financial condition of the railways. I wish I could agree with them. The facts and figures however are otherwise. The capital at charge of the community in respect of this vast undertaking will be Rs. 907 crores.

Our savings after paying 4 per cent. dividend on capital is only half per cent. This amount of half per cent. is totally insufficient for development purposes. We are paying about Rs. 33 crores annually to our Depreciation Fund but are withdrawing therefrom Rs. 43 crores every year. Thus in the course of the next few years this Fund will be wiped out. The hon. Railway Minister is aware of this position. He has stated that our working expenses are increasing. They have risen by nearly Rs. 50 crores over that of 1948-49. He has also said that the future prospects for increasing the revenue are more too bright. This is not a position in which we can be complacent. Railways have to contribute large amounts for developing the undeveloped areas. How can this be done? Out of Rs. 95 crores provided this year for development purposes, nearly half will have to come from the General Finances which in the present context means deficit financing. Since we have to develop as quickly as possible, the Railways must contribute a large amount for development purposes. The hon. Minister said that for meeting the situation he is considering adjustment in fares and freights. Now, I would request him that this question of revision of fares and freights should be gone into very cautiously and very thoroughly.

There have been complaints by the sugar industry that the recent steep increase in sugarcane freights has not been conducive to bringing maximum quantity of cane and it has to some extent been responsible for preventing maximum sugar production. Again in certain other industries also there has been a general complaint that the fares and freights need to be revised. This question should be considered after taking into account all the factors, such as production, marketing costs, etc.

For meeting developmental economy, the hon. Minister has suggested charges on basis of inflated mileage. This could not be objected to— if it is done for a limited period,

and if the inflated mileage costs are not penal. But, for the existing lines that would not be a fair proposition. I would not adopt this even for the restoration of the dismantled lines, because that was done to meet the war effort.

The hon. Minister has drawn the attention of the House to the fact that though there has been no increase in passenger traffic, several new trains have been added. Nearly 190 new trains have been added this year. I congratulate the hon. Minister for looking after the amenities of the passengers by adding trains as well as by spending money annually for passenger amenities. But, the amount which is being spent, that is, Rs. 3 crores per year, is not quite adequate. Especially now, when passenger earnings are going down, it is necessary that more amount should be spent to attract passengers to a certain extent. Of course, we cannot expect to get 1300 million passengers, the peak which was reached in 1950-51. Perhaps, that was not even desirable looking to the over-crowding. But, at the rate at which our passenger earnings are falling, nearly Rs. 10 crores. I think that something should be done to provide more amenities to the passengers. I would request the hon. Minister to increase this amount by at least one crore rupees annually.

As stated by me earlier, there will be an increase of 15 per cent in the wagon supply position in the next two years. Wagons which were procured during the last three years have not resulted in any increase of wagon supply because all of them were utilised for replacing overaged wagons. In the coming two years, the Railways expect to add 27,000 wagons. It is a matter of great satisfaction that out of the 27,000 wagons, 22,000 will be from indigenous sources and only 5,000 from abroad. It is a happy feature that the indigenous capacity is going to be utilised to the fullest extent.

There are one or two features which are not clearly understood. Statistics of engine usage show that while per-

[Shri Nevatia]

centage of the locomotives under or awaiting repairs in the mechanical or transportation workshops to the total number on the line stood at 18 per cent on the broad gauge, the same as in the previous year, on the metre gauge, the percentage increased from 16 per cent. in 1951-52 to 17 per cent. in 1952-53. I hope it is not due to any slackness of work in the metre gauge workshops. The speed of goods trains has declined on broad gauge as well as on metre gauge. On the broad gauge it declined from 10·7 miles per hour in 1951-52 to 10·4 in 1952-53. On the metre gauge, it declined from 9·22 miles per hour to 9·14 miles per hour during the same period. With replacements of overaged locomotives, there does not appear to be particular reason for the decrease in speed of the goods trains.

The last thing that I wish to touch upon is about my own constituency. A large part of my constituency is cut off by the Sarda river. There are no road communications and no road bridges over the river there. There is one rail bridge at Paliakalan. If that could be made a road cum rail bridge, it would facilitate movement over that very large area, which is entirely cut off so to say from civilisation. I would strongly appeal to the hon. Minister to see his way to sanction that project. I would also urge upon him to restore the Mailani-Shahjahanpur line. That line was dismantled during the First World War in 1917. Since then, it has not been restored, though the inhabitants of that area have sent several appeals through the U.P. Government. Every time, it has been replied that the matter is being considered. When the restoration of other lines is being taken in hand, the restoration of this line also should be favourably considered.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee (Hooghly): In May, 1952, the hon. Railway Minister made a statement that if in the course of one year, the regrouping system revealed any deficiency, he would be the first man to initiate proper steps towards readjustment.

That was a commendable gesture in response to persistent public complaints made. If I remember correctly Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri made a promise in the course of his last year's Budget speech that he would study the effects of regrouping and make a statement on the subject in the next year's Budget speech. That was an equally reassuring statement, and we were assured that he would keep an open mind on the subject. It is deplorable that that promise has not been redeemed. I am not saying this as a carping critic of the Railway Minister. What is regrettable is that the hon. Minister is even today unable to evaluate the advantages owing to difficulties in arriving at comparable figures. Mark you, Sir, it is a strange confession to make by the head of the Department which is in charge of the largest commercial undertaking in India with Rs. 900 crores of capital. Now, when will the comparison be completed, and when will he be in a position to give us a complete picture? If a person has to wait till all the commodities have to be moved and fixed in a definite manner throughout the year, then probably we shall never know how transport behaves.

From the statistics we find that the objectives of the Railway regrouping have not been achieved. So far as we know, the first objective was to achieve economy in the administrative and operational expenses. With regard to economy, may I ask the hon. Minister if it is a fact—which is our information, and I am saying this with a certain amount of responsibility—that there has been an overall increase in expenditure for the period from April to October 1953, to the tune of Rs. 13·60 crores as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year? I shall be glad if I am told that my figures are wrong, but my figures are these: the financial result of regrouping for these few months has been a total expenditure of Rs. 116·39 crores, and the expenditure for the corresponding period of the previous year was Rs. 102·79

crores. Therefore, there has been an overall increase in expenditure to the tune of Rs. 13·60 crores.

The gross earnings, as you know, have gone down. Last year's earnings were Rs. 154·86 crores. This year they have dropped to Rs. 162·01 crores. That means a net drop in gross earnings by Rs. 2·85 crores.

The average detention of loaded wagons has also been disappointing. The target at Moghal Sarai was 24 hours. The figures are: in May it was 25·9 hours, in July it was 32 hours, in October it was 29·9 hours. On an average it has been 30 hours.

I maintain with sufficient data that unless there is a mental obsession, unless there is some perverse mind behind it, a case can be made out by the Railway Minister to appoint a Committee or a Commission to re-examine what has been done.

The Eastern Railway has become too unwieldy. The North-Eastern Railway, which is the biggest metre gauge system covers practically half the territory of North India, and that is running at a loss. So far as I have been able to find out, the financial loss on the North-Eastern Railway has been Rs. 7 crores, on the Southern Railway Rs. 1·3 crores—on the other Railways of course not so high as that,—but the total financial loss has been very appreciable, and particularly in the case of the North-Eastern Railway.

We had been pleading: "Tack Seal-dah Division to the North-Eastern Railway." The exclusion of the Seal-dah Division from the North-Eastern Railway has caused serious interruption in the flow of traffic between Assam and North Bengal on the one hand and Calcutta on the other.

The second objective was to raise operational efficiency, and I am sorry that has also deteriorated. There has been alarming over-detention of loaded wagons at almost all the principal points of interchange. I have cited a single instance, but if necessary the

hon. Minister can check the figures and he will find that at important places the average period of detention is very high. The third objective was to form each Railway system to serve a compact region and to maintain an uninterrupted flow of traffic. That also has not been achieved.

The Eastern Railway has become too unwieldy. And it has been criticised by different Chambers of Commerce and by business circles that the North Eastern Railway extending from Vrindaban to Ledo gives a very dismal picture. The transportation system is not at all working efficiently.

What I am suggesting is this. In England they had regrouping such as the one we have, in 1948. But in 1953, they have scrapped it. They had the courage to go into it, and they found it that it did not work, and therefore they passed the Transport Act, 1953 (Elizabeth Statute II, Chapter XIII) and by Sections 16 and 17 of that Act, they have scrapped the regrouping system and have ordered another kind of reorganisation with viable and sizable units. The most important thing is what the Wedgwood Committee said in this connection. They said that if you are behaving in this way, you must take into consideration certain other factors. I am reading one paragraph from their report, which says:

"If it should be decided that the proper policy is for the Government in course of time to take over the whole of the railway administrations, we are of opinion that it would still be desirable for them to maintain separate State-managed administrations of reasonable dimensions. If the administrations are unduly extensive, headquarters supervision becomes too remote, and the machine as a whole becomes unwieldy. The *esprit de corps* of such overgrown concerns is weakened and they lose the individuality that comes from direct personal initiative at the top."

[Shri N. C. Chatterjee]

The *esprit de corps* has gone down, and people in the know of things have assured us that the situation is such that the General Managers are losing grip over their staff and workers, because of the unwieldy size of their charges. Will the hon. Minister please find out from the General Managers if this is not the fact? The officers are steadily losing touch with their subordinates and their men, and this should be corrected without delay. Otherwise, it may have serious repercussions. It should not be forgotten that in a well-organised system, changes of a far-reaching character do not produce the desired result all at once, and in the beginning, changes are slow, but once deterioration sets in, it gathers momentum and it becomes very difficult to control; unless timely remedial measures are adopted, it would become apparent that the changes are not producing the desired objective.

I am therefore appealing to the hon. Minister that he should take into account the serious warning given by a body of experts, viz. the Wedgwood Committee in 1937, endorsed and supported by the Pandit H. N. Kunzru's Committee in 1949. What was their recommendation? They warned you against unwieldy Railway Administrations. I am saying that you should make it more viable and more sizable and maintain State-managed administrations of reasonable size and dimensions. Otherwise, the whole system will go down in efficiency.

I am appealing to the hon. Railway Minister to take Parliament into confidence and to say that some kind of an investigation at a proper level, either by a Parliamentary Committee or an independent Commission, should be instituted so that the matter could be thoroughly gone into, and it could be found out whether the desired objectives have been achieved, or whether regrouping has resulted in loss of operational efficiency and led to greater expenditure and an overall deterioration of the entire system. It will not do simply to say that you

are not in a position to give us a complete and precise picture. Whatever data are there are quite enough to warrant a thorough re-examination of the whole thing, and I hope there will be no mental obsession which would bar a rational approach to a re-examination of the entire matter.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta North-East): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are discussing a Budget which, I fear, is even more dismal and dispiriting than it was last year. It was not surprising that when the Railway Minister made his speech, it was rather cold and colourless. I do not blame him, Sir, for it. But I say that he works in a political and economic context which has got to be changed, and that was the reason why he presented to us this very uninspiring budget. His hands are tied by this set-up and when he imagines that his hands are free, he really works on rotten wood which cannot be carved. Sir, the bankruptcy of this present set-up, the stagnation of this welfare state economy, is writ large over the Railway Budget, but at the same time, if there was any department of Government where courage and an imaginative grasp of the needs of the country were most called for, it is the Railway department, because it deals with a system which is operated by a magnificent corps of nearly a million of our people.

Let us never forget how we paid for every foot of our railway track with our people's blood and treasure. For many decades we have had to send out of our country hundreds of crores of rupees as "interest charges" apart from salaries and pensions to British officials and the purchase at inflated prices of stores in Britain. When in 1950, we stopped paying interest charges, we had to make a gift of a portion of our sterling balances in settlement of so-called British claims. We have still an undischarged liability on this score of more than Rs. 8 crores, and though the Minister said last year that it really amounted to no liability at all.

possibly this year he is driven to counting his crores very carefully and he will not say the same thing. I wish to remind him that last year he said he had decided to hold fast to the 9-crore surplus and that he would not let it come down below that figure. But this year he has had to let go more than Rs. 6 crores of that 9 crores.

It will be a job for the Minister to explain properly the fall in railway traffic receipts from Rs. 290.81 crores in 1951-52 to Rs. 272 crores in 1953-54. When we remember that Rs. 15.01 crores represent a difference in accounting, there is a drop in gross traffic receipts of Rs. 5 crores. This happens at a time when industrial production is supposed to be 10 per cent up, when railway statistics show that there are 75 more engines and over 6,000 more wagons on the lines.

Now, Sir, this is extremely disturbing. If passenger traffic was down, surely it could have been possible to carry more freight, when particularly in regard to coal railway loadings remain far from completely adequate. We are supposed to have acquired very high-powered locomotives from Canada under the Colombo Plan and from the United States under their foreign aid programme, and we are told that our internal production is improving. Why is it then that traction power does not expand? Is it because rolling-stock is not being expanded or cannot be expanded? Is it because track conditions—as Mr. Shastri's predecessor in office admitted in 1952—are pretty nearly alarming? Is it because bottle-necks in line capacity at strategic points are preventing expansion? Really, Sir, the Minister does not appear to be happy about the present state of affairs. He is indeed very far from thinking that he can make good the railways' projected Rs. 320-crore contribution to the financing of the Five Year Plan. He is leaving it to 'adjustments' in the freight structure. It sounds very ominous when the anticipated short-fall of Rs. 60 crores is borne in mind. He is waiting, Sir, for something to turn up.

I do not blame him so much as the company he keeps. Their little clay feet appear only too often behind the front of brass that the Treasury Benches try so often to put up.

Now, Sir, I do not mind the Minister making a song or even a dance about Chittaranjan. It certainly looks very impressive in a bullock-cart country. But let us try to look a little beneath the surface. It still does not manufacture 30 per cent. of the parts, many of them essential, some of them proprietary items like British injectors, which with a dogged legalism we refuse to copy and reproduce in our own factory. Chittaranjan has built 100 locomotives out of 268 scheduled for production in the Five Year Plan period. Sir, this is not the fault of Chittaranjan as such, but of Government's methods. Why must we have an unequal contract with the North British Locomotive concern which impedes our work, whose agents and technicians pay us expensive visits and leave scribbings of cost accounting which are gathering dust in Chittaranjan's shelves? They supply two boiler plates against one full boiler plate; they refuse to supply only boiler plates which, if available, might easily make possible manufacture of complete boilers in Chittaranjan. Our trainees from Chittaranjan do not get proper facilities for training in the United Kingdom. And, in this connection, I would refer the Minister to a fortnightly report dated the 26th May, 1953, from the fifth team of our trainees in Glasgow, complaining of discrimination by the North British Locomotive people. I would draw his attention to the fact that in the financial year 1953-54, the Budget provided, for purchase of imported components through our High Commissioner in the United Kingdom, a sum of Rs. 59½ lakhs for Chittaranjan alone and my information is that more than that sum has been spent before the end of January this year. I have learnt also of abuses creeping over the accounting of the various Development Suspense

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

Accounts in Chittaranjan. I suggest very seriously that a Committee with non-officials in it and the present Auditor-General as Chairman goes in to the cost structure and accounting done at Chittaranjan. To make our workers—not only the 'top dogs' in the services, but to make our workers enthusiastic about Chittaranjan, I wish the Minister takes steps to do away with the notorious "security" organisation, which, functioning in addition to the West Bengal Police, eats into a full one-tenth of the total establishment expenditure at Chittaranjan. They decide, on their whim, who shall be allowed to enter not only the factory area but the entire township of nearly 7 square miles. The reason given for this ban of entry was that construction was not complete. But, production has started since 1952 and the workers have ceased getting construction allowances since 1st January 1950. The registered union, which Government has found by repeated enquiry to be the only really representative organisation is not recognised. Four of its Secretaries have been successively victimised and disabled even to visit their union offices. Sir, who would not wish to be proud of Chittaranjan, which bears the name of a very great patriot? But the prison-house methods pursued there and its continued dependence on foreign supply leave a very bad taste in our mouth.

Sir, the House knows of our agreement with Schlierens, about which last year the Public Accounts Committee had made some very un-savoury comments. The revised agreement is the same in essence and the stable is sought to be closed after the horse is stolen. Neither Perambur nor TELCO furnishes a pleasant picture and, in the meanwhile, we are getting bogies and under-frames and wagons from Belgium and, the Devil knows what other countries.

I ask the Government what they have done about the Moolgaonkar Committee's estimate that the idle capacity in our various engineering

units ranges from 25 to 30 per cent, although there is enormous scope for producing within the country many of the engineering products which we are getting from abroad. The Railway Report for 1952-53 speaks of a set-back in steel supply—a theme repeated by Mr. Badhwar in a recent Press Conference. What has the Minister done to impress upon his colleagues the urgency of moving really fast on the steel front? I take it that the Minister is an enthusiast of *swadeshi*. The purchase of imported railway stores leapt from Rs. 18.37 crores in 1950-51 to Rs. 29.32 in 1951-52 and was as much as Rs. 28 crores in 1952-53. He seems to me to be a stickler for economy, but he is happy that the stores balance stood at Rs. 57.20 crores at the end of March 1953. But the Stores Enquiry Committee has reported that the 1950-51 balance of Rs. 45.42 crores was inordinately high, that, before the current year, there should have been a reduction by Rs. 10 crores, with a view to bringing it down to a "much lower level". The Committee said this because they found 'incredible' stocks—I am quoting their words—they found a "shocking state of affairs," they found stocks which would last "162 and 222 years." They found "fresh indenting" going on; they found "excessive stocks of certain items of stores like steel bars, rounds, galvanised sheets, copper and enamel wire" which they wanted to be made available for the country's industrial needs. Lest Government says that pilferage by the workers is responsible for it, I shall remind the Minister of questions asked in this House on the 13th of August 1953 when it transpired that in spite of police reports regarding the responsibility of high railway officials and big bosses at Modinagar for alleged misappropriation of wagon-loads no steps were taken and the opinion of the Solicitor-General behind which Government sought shelter was refused to be placed on the Table of the House in spite of repeated demands by Members.

Now, Sir, I suppose the Minister expects some congratulations from me on his proposals for the Calcutta-Burdwan electrification scheme. I am sorry I cannot congratulate him. Last year we were promised a survey and told that Rs. 27 crores would be spent in three phases of six to seven years, but that foreign stocks and equipment were difficult to get. This time we are told that work will commence. But the budget provision is for a beggarly Rs. 20 lakhs out of the projected amount of Rs. 7 crores. I wonder how the West Bengal Congress Chief Minister could promise that electric trains would ply between Calcutta and Kalyani—a route not yet within Mr. Shastri's calculation—by 1956.

But I do not understand his niggardliness for electrification not only in the Calcutta area but elsewhere also. We only have a little over 239 miles electrified on our railways. Electric traction, an answer in this House suggested, costs a little more than half the cost of steam traction. The Kunzru Committee recommended electrification of all the main lines and yet, Sir, we find not only the country's most industrialised area, the Calcutta area, but other areas are not being electrified. I need not mention, of course the Ganga Barrage which the pandits of Planning have postponed till Doomsday, but I wish the Railways and Transport Minister demands that its immediate commencement should be there.

Sir, some interested people have already begun saying that the workers are getting much more and working less. Now, Sir, this is a slander. But I say the morale of the workers is low. And why not? How do the workers live? Last year I heard the Minister saying almost with tears in his eyes how sorry he was that in the Sealdah Division there were more than seven hundred condemned wagons where workers were living. Those condemned wagons are still there in the Sealdah Division and the workers have to live there. At Chittaranjan 28.2 per cent. of the workers have no quarters still. In 1947 the

Mitra Committee said that there must be four lakhs quarters built; for the coming fiscal year there is provision for the building of 8722 new quarters!

Now, Sir, the workers live in sordid conditions. They can be discharged on a month's notice without cause being shown. The Damocles' sword of National Security Safeguarding Rules hangs over the heads of those who have self-respect and corporate feeling. And lately, in the name of the Constitution, even the likelihood of their children's employment in the railways, which once could be more or less taken for granted, is now, I understand, as good as vanished. It is not for nothing, Sir, that Mr. Guruswami said in his note of dissent to the Kunzru Committee report that it is amazing that railway-men do not paralyse the railway transport system in protest against their unjust service conditions.

Now, Sir, for the delectation of their foreign friends Government ordered the most luxurious array in India's railway history of the best saloons they could muster from all over the country to take the Colombo Plan Conference delegates on their tour of Sindri and other project areas. To please the same foreign friends the Ministry ordered a ban on the sale of Soviet publications at railway stalls which are replete with libidinous literature that comes from a certain country that I do not wish to name.

I wish the Minister tries his hand at heartening his railwaymen and in improving their living conditions and morale. That will not be done by trying to dictate from above and getting them to join unions of the Government's choice. There is no railwaymen's organisation in the country which today is against the formation of a unified union of their own. But it has to be a process. After all there are certain unions like the S. I. Railway Union with a large membership, of more than twenty thousand. And it will take some time before you can get a real consolidation into a unified structure

[Shri H. N. Mukerjee]

of all the different unions in this country. Nobody stands in the way of the achievement of that unity, but the unity can only be achieved if the workers are left to themselves. The unity will come from below and not from above. I remember one capitalist newspaper said that the Railway Minister, in spite of his being a very good man, is not able to look after the Ministry because he is a Congress politician too busy with the problems of Uttar Pradesh. I do not wish to say the same thing about the Minister, because I do think he is a kindly man and he can, if he wishes, do a great deal in his Department. But let not this accusation of political partisanship be hurled against him as far as recognition of unions is concerned. Let him try to find out from the workers themselves whether they want certain of their own unions to continue, and he will realise that the workers themselves will come forward to have unified organisations of their own.

I am sorry, Sir, there is not much time. I could refer to so many points. But I wish to conclude by saying that we owe it to our railways and the magnificent men who work the railway system to make a real, proud job of it. That, I am afraid, the Minister cannot do till he realises that he and his friends are trying to cling to a system on which history has pronounced its doom; and he must, if he wishes to do something, steel himself to basic changes which alone can bring happiness and hope to our long harried people.

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): Sir, I am thankful to the House.....

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): May I request the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to come nearer and speak?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I am thankful to the House for its kind handling of the Railway Budget. It naturally throws additional responsibility on me. I shall most gladly consider the

various proposals that have been made and also see how best they could be implemented.

I have already spoken in the other House about the development of railways, and I need not repeat here what I have said there. I think the four categories that I mentioned, in the logical order in which we should tackle them, are :

Firstly, lines required to meet the needs of heavy industrial and agricultural development schemes will receive first priority.

Secondly, lines required to serve areas rich in mineral resources but still not exploited and those which provide commodities for export abroad will come in for consideration next.

श्रीमती मणिबेन पटेल (कैरा-दक्षिण) :

यहां कुछ सुनाई नहीं पड़ता है ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members want the Railway Minister to be in the front bench.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): Just like the engine, Sir.

Shri L. B. Shastri: Thirdly, undeveloped areas lacking adequate means of communication will then be considered.

Fourthly, there may also be schemes such as those of electrification of railway lines, which are a class by themselves.

If we are able to programme our development on these lines, there should be no reasonable objection from any quarter. I may make it clear that no consideration except the needs of different areas and the needs of different industries, and of our own developmental economy as a whole, is our guiding factor. If political people also take interest, it is only for one or two out of these very same lines. Whether a railway line comes first or later, it does not make much difference in an area which is still to be opened up. So, the fear of politics playing any part in this

matter has no special significance. Yet priorities have to be fixed properly and they will be finalised in consultation with the Central Board of Transport on which are represented the various Ministries of the Government of India and also the State Governments.

In the course of the debate, hon. Members have referred to the need for railway construction in various parts of the country. Hon. Members will be interested to know that these requests will mean new construction of nearly four thousand miles of railway costing about two hundred crores of rupees. Mention has been made of Waltair-Madras and Wellore-Rayalaseema lines in Andhra, Chamrajnagar-Satyamangalam line in Mysore, Tambaram-Villupuram line in Madras, Assam-Agartala link line in Tripura, Himmatnagar-Udaipur line in Rajasthan, restoration of line in Kosi area in Bihar, Satna-Rewa line in Vindhya Pradesh. Many other lines have also been mentioned. I would not like to name each and every one of them here, but I can quite appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Members in this regard. As I have said in the other House, all the suggestions made in this respect in Parliament and elsewhere, will be looked into and a list compiled for consideration in connection with our second Five Year Plan. It is my intention to prepare a blueprint, from now on, for execution during the next five years. Provided the necessary material is available, it will be our endeavour to undertake construction of new railway lines including doubling etc. totalling something like one thousand five hundred to two thousand miles during the second Five Year Plan. I have no doubt that for the development of railways we will have to find more funds. As has been suggested by hon. Members, a sum of about hundred crores of rupees is what the railways would require for the purpose. But, we have to cut our coat according to the cloth. I am sorry, our colleague the Finance Minister is not here, but he is aware of the wishes

of this House as well as the other House and will certainly consider how they could be met.

Some doubt was expressed by Shri Sarangadhar Das about the wisdom of undertaking electrification of railway lines instead of undertaking construction of new lines in underdeveloped areas, as this would be an unremunerative project. Mr. Mukerjee has said exactly otherwise, quite contrary to what Shri Sarangadhar Das has said. Shri Sarangadhar Das meant the Calcutta suburban service. I would like to make it clear that the electrification of Calcutta suburban service will ultimately be extended to Moghal Sarai and it is likely to be a remunerative project as it will handle heavy goods traffic besides the suburban traffic. I think Mr. Sarangadhar Das very well realises the conditions existing at present in Calcutta. An over-populated city where living conditions have become difficult naturally causes serious anxiety to the residents and to the State Government. The surplus population must therefore find a place in the suburbs, and this is not feasible unless quick means of transport are made available to it. Besides, the quadruple lines from industrial areas to Calcutta are also reaching the saturation point, and we must take steps to speed up our trains through electrification in order to meet the transport needs of this area.

The position in Bombay is also none too easy. I, therefore, think that we should go ahead with our electrification schemes which will benefit the urban area as also a large part of the rural areas through which these lines will pass. It will be appreciated that electrification, especially in heavily worked areas, will not only make the transport more dynamic but will be economical in operation as well. It will also help to conserve the fuel used in operating train services which can usefully be employed in the development of industries in other sectors. The electrification of railways, where it is justified, will I am sure, pay dividends and should be in

[Shri L. B. Shastri]

the best interests of the developmental economy.

I need not say much about the restoration of dismantled lines. We are restoring them all except a few which are wholly unremunerative or where roads have come up and bus services have developed. The Railway Board, however, is constantly reviewing the position. In this connection, I may, for example, refer to the restoration of the Morappun-Hosur line in Madras about which Shri Ramaswamy spoke a good deal. I would like to inform him that its urgency and usefulness have been accepted by the Railway Board, but only with some diversion of alignment inclusive of an extension as well. The State Government have also recommended its early construction. We shall have, therefore, to consider and decide about it soon.

It is with the desire of increasing the pace of development of new lines to be undertaken, unimpeded by considerations of remunerativeness that I had indicated my intention of applying an increased rate of charge on inflated mileage basis which may be one and a half to two times the actual distance, depending upon the remunerativeness of the proposed line. I may make it clear that it is not proposed to adopt this as a permanent policy or to extend it to the existing lines, but to apply it for some time to new unremunerative lines until the areas served by them develop and the lines become self-supporting.

Some apprehensions have been expressed regarding the capacity of the railways to undertake development works on a large scale due to the shortfall of about Rs. 60 crores, to which I referred in my speech, to make up the railway contribution of Rs. 400 crores in the first Five Year Plan. During the first four years of the Plan, my colleague the Finance Minister has agreed to allow extra expenditure of Rs. 11.71 crores, and I have no doubt that he will extend his support to the extent necessary

for our commitments which have already been made and those which may be made in future for the development of railways.

Shri Somani is not here, but it seems that the reference to the adjustments in the freights and fares in my Budget speech in this context has, in many quarters, not been correctly understood. My intention is that in the background of our developmental economy and the requirements of railways, suitable adjustments of freights and fares may be made wherever justified after necessary examination. All changes need not necessarily be upward.

In this context, I would like to apprise the hon. Members that the average freight per ton mile over Class I railways has increased from 5.85 pies in 1938-39 to 11.1 pies in 1952-53 involving an increase of only 90.1 per cent. against the increase in working expenses of 238 per cent. So, it will be appreciated that the increases made in the past years were modest and the railways could earn surpluses due to increase in passenger traffic during the post-war period when there was so much overcrowding and inconvenience to passengers, which is not the position today.

I would now say a few words regarding the regrouping of railways to which Mr. Anthony, and just now Shri Chatterjee, made a reference. At the outset, I would like to assure the House that the efficiency of the working of this vast national undertaking is one of my primary concerns, and there is no need for us to be sentimental about it. The efficiency of the railways will be watched closely, and I can assure the House that the Railway Board and myself will take all the necessary steps to improve the standards of performance wherever recession is clearly established and to improve upon the past performance progressively.

So far as the overall performance of the broad and metre gauge systems of Indian railways in 1952-53 is

concerned, it has already been indicated in the pamphlet on the working of the regrouped railways that there has been a general improvement in almost all features of railway operation on the metre gauge. There has been, no doubt, some slight recession under certain items in the working of broad gauge sections, principally due to reduction in the net ton miles owing to the causes detailed in the pamphlet. There are, however, a number of features of improvement also on the broad gauge. Some of them are engine miles per engine day and wagon miles per wagon day, but still I do not want to be complacent about this matter. I may point out one thing more, namely, that the comparison of the operating ratio of the Indian railways with the ratios of the United Kingdom, France and Germany which have comparable mileages shows that the performance of the Indian railways is the best. The operating ratio of India is 80.8 per cent. against the United Kingdom ratio of 90 per cent., the France ratio of 103.3 per cent. and the Germany ratio of 100.5 per cent. So, I do not think there is any reason for taking a very alarmist view of the situation, but as I said, I do not want to take a complacent view also. I am asking the Railway Board to be watchful about the performance of the railways in the current year as compared to past years.

The complaint made about the workload also has to be investigated. I share the views expressed by Shri Chatterjee that the workload of the railways has increased and perhaps increased considerably on certain railways. Therefore, I propose to entrust this examination of various aspects of performance of the Regrouped Railways to the Efficiency Bureau which I have just now set up. The Efficiency Bureau will be able to bring a fresh and independent mind on this subject and I shall await their report anxiously.

4 P.M.

As regards housing, Shri Frank Anthony was good enough to say

that we will have to wait for some time.

An Hon. Member: Fifty years.

Shri L. B. Shastri: He did not say 50 years. He said that he was prepared to wait for 50 years because these things do take time. But, perhaps Shri Nambiar or one of his colleagues said that we will have to wait for centuries. I may make the position clear. We expect that by the end of 1954-55, we will have 320,000 quarters. We do not at present estimate our requirements of staff quarters to exceed 500,000, after making allowance for staff who do not want quarters and sometimes even refuse to accept when allotments are made. I hope that this difference will be made up in about 10 or 12 years' time. Even at the present rate of construction, we will be able to build about 150,000 quarters in the next 10 or 12 years' time.

I may also say a word about what Shri H. N. Mukerjee said with regard to wagon quarters at Sealdah. It seems that he has not visited that area recently. He is the leader of the common people as is generally said about him. I thought he would have gone and seen the improvements that we have made, and how many new quarters we have provided. I do not remember the number of new quarters built; I think we have provided for about 400 quarters there. A large number of wagon quarters have been under disuse and are not being used. Their roofs have been removed so that no new men could start living there.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: How many wagon quarters still remain there?

Shri Nambiar: About 200.

Shri L. B. Shastri: About 100 or it may be more I don't know exactly.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Last time you said 700 and odd.

Some Hon. Members: The position has improved.

Shri L. B. Shastri: The position has considerably improved. You better go and visit that area. On the day I mentioned about it in this House, instructions were issued and construction of quarters started soon after. We have made very satisfactory progress.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi referred to the Hindustan Aircraft Limited not being permitted to expand their capacity to manufacture coaches. There was some difficulty, no doubt, about the supply of an adequate number of under-frames to them. But, we have recently imported a sufficient number of broad gauge under-frames and we are now supplying at the rate of 15 per month to the Hindustan Aircraft Ltd. At this rate, they are expected to produce 180 coaches per annum when their capacity is gradually developed. As regards the Integrated Coach Factory at Perambur, about which also he mentioned, I would like to inform him that construction was commenced in 1951. Nearly 30 per cent. of the work has been completed. The factory, as I have said before in this House, will start production in the middle of 1955 and will ultimately produce 350 broad gauge coaches per annum.

I may refer to a few points raised by Shri G. D. Somani. He complained that the revised rate structure introduced in 1948 has led to a substantial increase in the freight rates. But, he should also keep in view the fact that the index of wholesale prices, as I have just now mentioned, has gone up considerably and the working expenses have also increased. So, the increase in freight rate will have to be considered in that context. Whether there should be increase or reduction will have to be considered in the light of what I have said just now. He referred to the recent memorandum which has been sent to me

by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce. This is at present under our examination. But, I may make it clear that there does not appear to be any case for a general review of the freight structure of the Railways. As I have already indicated in my Budget speech, the practicability of adjusting our freight structure in certain cases with a view to assisting the developmental economy all over the country is being examined. We may have to adopt suitable measures in this connection. But, it will be necessary to ensure that the Railway revenue as a whole is not adversely affected. It is possible that freight reduction made for stimulating movement for developmental purposes will have to be balanced by small increases in certain cases where there is scope for such action without hampering the movement of traffic in any way.

Similarly, in respect of fares, I do not consider it unreasonable to raise the fares for air-conditioned accommodation, where the amenities provided are the best. I would have done so. But, I am afraid of the reactions of my colleague the Minister of Communications who always has an eye on our passengers who use our first class and air-conditioned accommodation because he tries to divert them to his planes.

Shri Nambiar: They are afraid of going by planes.

Shri L. B. Shastri: Then, we will certainly raise the fares of air-conditioned coaches. **Shri Bansal** said that the abolition of the first class has involved increased expenditure on Government officials as a result of the use of air-conditioned coaches in the place of first class, by them. I may inform the House that this is not quite correct as officials are required to pay the difference from their own pockets if they want to use air-conditioned coaches.

Some Hon. Members: What is the saving?

Some Hon. Members: That is a hardship.

Shri Nambiar: There is no hardship.

Shri L. B. Shastri: I do not know—however we cannot have it both ways.

Shri A. P. Sinha (Muzaffarpur East): We will have to look after their interests also.

Shri L. B. Shastri: When the whole country will be travelling in second class, you do not expect them to travel in a higher class. If they want to have more comforts, let them pay.

I want to say a word about indigenous production. I have already dealt with it in my Budget speech. I have stated the steps that we propose to take in the matter of indigenous production. I should further make it clear that we are governed by limitations of time. The Railways have to serve and serve in good time. We will therefore have to continue, the House has to understand it clearly—to import certain parts and components as well as locomotives for some time to come. Of course, we have to fully assure ourselves that they cannot be secured in the country or manufactured here. Hence the idea of setting up a Committee to investigate this matter. As Shri Khandubhai Desai has suggested. I would certainly like to associate non-official Members with this Committee. The second Committee which will examine the capacity of Railway workshops is, of course, to be a departmental Committee of two senior officers of the Railway.

As regards compensation claims paid by the Railways on account of loss or damage to goods booked by rail, though there has been a slight improvement in the position, I must say that I am not at all satisfied with the progress made. In the current year, I propose to apply myself to this task especially and to take expeditious steps to bring about an improvement. I do realise that the loss on this account to the Railways is very heavy and we must take early action.

Shri Sarangadhar Das and one or two other Members have suggested that the terms of reference of the Anti-Corruption Enquiry Committee should be enlarged. I do realise the force of their argument. I shall examine this matter immediately and inform the Chairman of the Committee about this.

Shri Natesan referred to speeding up of Express trains between Madras and Bombay and Madras and Delhi. The matter of increasing the speed is receiving consideration, and Railways are giving priority to the renewal and strengthening of the track where required and to improve the signalling standards on sections where the speeds are restricted. If these improvements are carried out, it is proposed to increase the maximum permissible speed to 65 miles per hour and the journey time between Madras and other important places will be reduced substantially.

Shri Sarmah from Assam has questioned the propriety of undertaking a survey for a Railway line to the Garo Hills when the results of a qualitative and quantitative survey of the coal deposits in the Garo Hills are not available. I may inform him that we are already in touch with the Ministries concerned to obtain the information as to the quality and quantity of coal that might be expected to be raised from the Garo Hills. But still we do propose to go ahead with our survey etc., while this matter is being examined by the various Ministries concerned, because I think that the need of Assam in this matter is really genuine and urgent.

Shri Natesan also referred to economies being effected by the use of lignite. The Research Director of the Railway Board has already been directed to undertake investigation regarding the use of lignite as coal fuel when it is produced. The Railways are watching with keen interest the development of the production of lignite which is at present entirely the concern of the Madras Government.

[Shri L. B. Shastri]

Shri Vittal Rao raised the question of the higher prices of coaches and locomotives imported from abroad and expressed doubts about the deliveries of imported stock in time. I would not like to take much time of the House, but I shall simply say that there is no apprehension that the delivery schedules will not be kept to time as the dates of delivery were specifically agreed upon between the representatives of the firms and a specific clause is provided in the contract whereby the contractors are liable to pay liquidated damages for delayed deliveries at the rate of one per cent. of the price of the rolling stock for every month or part of a month for which delivery is delayed beyond the scheduled date.

As regards wheel sets, procurement of 24,000 sets is being arranged in 1954-55 while the Tatas capacity is 9,606 per annum. The difference between the requirements and the indigenous capacity has necessarily to be met by imports. Tatas have already been requested to expand their capacity to 13,000 wheel sets per annum.

The case of temporary staff was also referred to by some Members. I shall place the figures before the House. On 1st September, 1951 there were 98,000 temporary staff; 69,000 out of these have been confirmed by January, 1954, leaving a balance of 29,000. Including the staff which had been recruited since September, 1951, the number of temporary staff at present is about 97,000. A special directive has recently been issued to the Railways to place two officers on special duty—one from the Administrative Department and the other from the Accounts Department—to examine the justification for conversion of temporary posts into permanent ones, so that decisions may be taken quickly. The rules for seniority of staff of the regrouped Railways have also been issued, and as soon as the combined seniority lists are ready, it will be possible to accelerate the pace of confirmation. The conditions in the workshops are peculiar, and it is not

feasible to apply the same rule to the non-workshop staff.

I may say a few words regarding the provision of T.B. sanatoria. The position is that the Railways have already reserved 62 beds for Railway employees in various hospitals. It is now proposed to provide 24 beds in the K.B. Ray T. B. Hospital at Jadhavpur for the Eastern Railway employees, and 20 beds at Tambaram for the Southern Railway employees. Annexes will be built likewise in other Railways as soon as details are worked out. Besides, the Staff Benefit Fund Committee has reserved 55 T. B. beds in various hospitals. It is proposed to provide 250 beds.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): Is it during this year?

Shri L. B. Shastri: I think within two years, it may be completed. It may be possible to do it within this year also, but it might go on to the next year.

Shrimati Sinha complained that the interests of the local people regarding employment in the Ganga Bridge Project were adversely affected. I may inform her that the Allahabad Commission will now be making recruitment for Class III staff. The requirement, in fact, of such staff in the Project will be very limited. Recruitment of Class IV staff and work-charged labour will be made by officers from the local people. She is suggesting to have members from each of the States on Railway Commissions. I may submit that it would not be correct to presume that the absence of such a representative will result in the claims of the residents of the State being ignored. The Commissions have been asked to give adequate consideration to the people of particular regions, and the fears of the hon. Lady Member on this score are therefore unfounded.

Shri Radha Raman referred to 145 vacancies of Class I posts not being filled up by promotions from Class II. The actual number of promotion vacancies to be filled up by 1st April

1953 is 59 against which 27 promotions have already been ordered and of the remaining 32, eight are under consideration of the Railway Board in consultation with the Railways and 24 are with the Union Public Service Commission whose concurrence in respect of two has just now been received.

I have given careful consideration to the complaints of Class II officers and have agreed to change the rule in their favour to the maximum extent I consider possible in public interest.

Shri Kachiroyar had asked why we were importing sleepers and not using wooden sleepers from Indian forests. In fact, the Railways are at present experiencing a serious shortage in the supply of this material and we are buying every wooden sleeper that we can get within our ceiling prices, which are economic prices, at which sleepers can be purchased. In fact, effort has been made by addressing the Chief Ministers of all State Governments—I myself have addressed letters to all the Chief Ministers—to assist the Railways in the supply of wooden sleepers, and it is hoped that some of them may agree to increase the supply to the Railways.

Shri Nijalingappa referred to the 17,000 cast iron sleepers lying with the Bhadravati Iron and Steel Works not having been taken over by the Southern Railway. I may inform him that the firm has been offered a rate for sleepers, which is the highest we are paying anywhere in the country. The Southern Railway has been instructed to take over these sleepers, provided the Steel Works are prepared to supply them at this rate.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh has pointed out that a lot of damage is caused by the blocking of water by the railway line to Sakaria village in Shahabad District. I shall have this matter examined, but I myself propose to issue

general instructions that before the rainy season sets in, the railway engineers should go about and see where water-logging takes place on account of our railway culverts or bridges, to take necessary steps to tackle it.

Dr. Krishnaswami said that the North Eastern Railway was heavily burdened with strategic lines. I would like to inform the House that there are no strategic lines on the North Eastern Railway. It is however, true that the loss on the North Eastern Railway is to some extent attributable to the abolition of the charge on inflated mileage basis, which was applicable to certain plain sections, with effect from 1952-53. This contributed to a loss of Rs. 1.75 crores. I may also point out that the Assam section of the North Eastern Railway has, ever since its formation, always incurred losses in working.

In this connection, Dr. Krishnaswami also said that the idea of regrouping was that each regrouped Railway should pay its own way, as this was essentially the purpose of the late Shri N. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar. I would draw the attention of the hon. Member to paragraph 7 of Shri N. Gopaldaswami Ayyangar's speech when presenting the Budget for 1951-52, from which it would be clear that regrouping was intended for planning and carrying out a policy of uniformity in administrative pattern, rationalisation of workshops and other operational facilities, and for reducing the overheads by eliminating duplication of work and unnecessary correspondence between contiguous railways, in order to ensure more expeditious disposal of business. The hon. Member is already aware that it was not the intention that each zone should necessarily pay its own way financially. Consequent on regrouping, all the six zones were treated as one single system.

The hon. Member made another point regarding contribution to the

[Shri L. B. Shastri]

Depreciation Reserve Fund. It is not quite clear whether he desired that the contribution should be of the order of Rs. 115 crores or whether he meant that the Railways should spend Rs. 115 crores per annum on rehabilitation and development programmes instead of at the present rate. The contribution to the Depreciation Reserve Fund as the House is aware, was fixed by the Convention Committee of the Constituent Assembly, at Rs. 15 crores, but was later raised to Rs. 30 crores per annum. I have no doubt that the scale of contribution to the Fund will receive the attention of the new Convention Committee to be set up for the purpose. Nevertheless, I must point out that the balance of Rs. 98.16 crores in the Fund at the end of 1954-55 cannot be said to be totally inadequate. Even if the rate of contribution is not enhanced, this balance would be adequate to meet the present and the future tempo of expenditure over a period of nearly ten years.

Kumari Annie Mascarene was rather vehement in her condemnation of the working of the Railways and the results produced by them, and she derived support in respect of her conclusions from a new yardstick of her own, which she has applied to the contribution by the Railways to the General Revenues. She has referred to the contribution to the General Revenues from 1950 onwards having been steady, in relation to the gross earnings, even though some of these years were peak years. I would like to point out to the hon. Member that the contribution to the General Revenues bears no relation to the gross earnings or income of the Railways, but is paid as dividend to the General Revenues at the fixed rate of 4 per cent. of the capital-at-charge under the new Convention of 1949. The increased quantum of payment to the General Revenues, however, is there to the extent of the increase in the capital at charge from year to year. I hope she will now agree that

this is not a clear proof of the unhealthy functioning of this department.

She also referred to a small mileage of 38 only having been promised to be completed in 1954-55, during the period of six years in respect of the Quilon-Ernakulam link. I am sorry, but there is a little misunderstanding of the position, in the mind of the hon. Member in this matter. The construction work actually commenced in 1952-53, and not in 1949, as supposed by her, only a survey had been authorised and completed during the intervening period. Then she said that the Gandhidam-Deesa railway link was built in a very short time, whereas this Quilon-Ernakulam construction is being delayed. About that, I would also like to inform her that the construction of the Gandhidam-Deesa railway link was started in January 1950, and the line was opened for traffic in October 1952, i.e. after 34 months.

Kumari Annie Mascarene (Trivandrum): 170 miles.

Shri L. B. Shastri: And not 19 months as stated by you.

I thought the ladies were not generally given to exaggerate, but somehow she has done so (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Still a *kumari*.

Shri N. C. Chatterjee: Attack on ladies.

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): *Kanya Kumari*.

Shri L. B. Shastri: It is a pretty word to use. Shri Frank Anthony referred to the reduction in the productivity of railway labour and stated that as against the figures of 1938-39 as base, the productivity in

Bills

1948-49 had come down to 69 per cent. But I am glad to inform him and the House that on the same basis the index has gone up to 83 per cent. in 1952-53. The performance in 1948-49 was the lowest, but since then, there has been a steady improvement. He has referred to the low morale of railwaymen, and attributed this to various grievances, perhaps mostly due to regrouping—I do not know that, but I accept that railwaymen have grievances and they should be looked into, and I can assure him that grievances are being removed, as they come to my notice. Steps have already been taken to decentralise the sanction of leave and passes to the local officers.

As I just now informed the House, the seniority lists of the staff are being worked out and confirmations being speeded up.

Well, Sir, I do not like to say much about Chittaranjan. Shri Mukerjee is perhaps the only Member of this House who is critical of Chittaranjan. Perhaps, he is not so much against Chittaranjan or its workshop or production; he is greatly agitated over the security arrangements that exist there.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Purnea *cum* Santal Parganas): He wants more 'Chittaranjans'.

Shri L. B. Shastri: If he wants more 'Chittaranjans', his proposals are most welcome.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): Minus the security.

Shri L. B. Shastri: I would like him not to bother much about the security arrangements that exist there.

Shri K. K. Basu: He cannot enter there.

Shri L. B. Shastri: What we have to concentrate on is more production in Chittaranjan and I entirely agree with him that we must make efforts to increase the production in Chittaranjan. I have no doubt that during the next four or five years, we will be able—al-

though we have not been able to reach the target just at present—to go beyond our target and try to produce 150 or if possible, more locomotives.

Sir, I am thankful to hon. Members for the patient hearing they have given me and I can only assure them that it would be my earnest endeavour to raise the efficiency and standards of railways higher still in order to serve the best interests of the people and of the Indian Railways themselves.

MOTION RE THIRD REPORT ON
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

House proceeds with Private Members' Resolutions, the time-limit has been fixed by the Advisory Committee.....

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): Is there a Motion?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes.

Shri Altekar (North Satara): I beg to move:

"That this House agrees with the Third Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 2nd March 1954".

Sir, this is a simple recommendation fixing the time-limit for the first Resolution as 1½ hours, for the second Resolution, one hour, and if absolutely necessary, half an hour more, and for the third Resolution, two hours. It is not a controversial matter.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad (Purnea *cum* Santal Parganas): We are all agreed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Third Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 2nd March 1954".

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE PROMOTION OF
RIFLE TRAINING

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now proceed with further consideration of the following Resolution moved by Shri Ramachandra Reddi on the 18th December 1953:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India, Government should provide facilities for promotion of rifle training, *inter alia* by—

- (a) subsidising the National Rifle Association and providing it with necessary aid, in the shape of arms and ammunitions and otherwise;
- (b) co-ordinating the efforts of the Auxiliary Territorial Force with recognised local rifle clubs so as to provide for training programmes throughout the year;
- (c) relaxing import restrictions and minimising the duty for specialised weapons required by recognised clubs; and
- (d) relaxing the provisions of the Indian Arms Act of 1878 accordingly".

We are starting just at 4.35. How many minutes the hon. Member will take?

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): Probably about 15 minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How long is the Minister going to take?

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: The Minister is not available here.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In between, I have got a number of hon. Members who want to speak—as many as nine or ten. Even if I allot ten minutes each, it will come to 1½ hours. So I will give five minutes to each Member. (*Interruptions*) Hon. Members who prepare the speeches can speak very well in five minutes

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): Some of us would prefer to be left out rather than be given five minutes. I would withdraw from the list.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right. I will proceed in the order in which it has been given here. I generally say five minutes. An hon. Member—whoever is on his legs—will appreciate that if he is making a good point, he may continue; otherwise he may decide for himself and sit down.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: Sir, I do not know if the Home Ministry is represented on the Treasury Benches just now.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Who is the hon. Minister who represents Government on this Resolution?

Sardar A. S. Saigal (Bilaspur): Sardar Majithia.

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia): Not on the Rifle Resolution, but on the second one. The Home Ministry is concerned with the first resolution.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): Then let the House stand adjourned.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then some Minister will kindly note it down. It is the concern of the Home Ministry.

Shri P. S. Naskar (Diamond Harbour—Reserved—Sch. Castes): The Minister is on his way.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: On the 18th December last, I had just an opportunity of moving this Resolution, but I could not speak on it at some length. The object of this Resolution is very simple, it being to develop marksmanship in the youth of India. To achieve that object, there are other suggestions, namely, to subsidise or encourage the National Rifle Association, to co-ordinate the efforts of the Auxiliary Territorial Force, to relax import restrictions and minimise the duty for specialised weapons required by recognised clubs, and to relax the provisions of the Indian Arms Act of 1878 accordingly.

The National Rifle Association, which has been started about the year 1951 or so, has been doing some good work in creating enthusiasm amongst young men to take to rifle training. Amongst the objects the following seem to be prominent: (a) imparting military education, including rifle training, to the young generation with a view to develop in the youths qualities of fearlessness, discipline, *esprit de corps*, resourcefulness, and public service, (b) to impart knowledge of physical culture and sports to build up healthy bodies, steady hands and eyes, good nerves and self-confidence. (c) to organise, help or recognise Military Academies, (d) to popularise the knowledge and proper use of firearms. (e) to popularise the use of arms in proper (regulated and disciplined) manner for the purpose of self-defence. (f) to disseminate the knowledge of correct aiming, particularly among agriculturists to enable them to protect their cattle and crops from wild animals, for training the eye and the hand, (g) to establish or to co-operate in the establishment of rifle ranges in different parts of the country, (h) to organise shooting competitions, excursions, etc.

With these laudable objects this Association has been developing its activities in the States also. I am told that about six States are actively encouraging the Association to function more effectively. One of the impediments in developing the activities of this Association seems to be that the import duties on rifles and explosives are so high that it is not able to finance them.

I am told that to the extent of 62 per cent. import duties are levied and that makes all the difference in the utilisation of the resources of this Association, which are just in the making. The difference between the costs they have to incur and the costs that Government have really to incur on importing them seems to be nearly 100 to 110 per cent. This distinction between the government imports and the imports through this Association or similar as-

sociations will have to be removed, just to encourage the people as well such associations to use the rifles and ammunition to a greater extent. It might be said that rifle shooting is a sport and therefore, a luxury. We have now come to a time when we should no longer think that it is a luxury. It has become a necessity and every one must be in a position to equip himself with the training in rifle handling. The private sector as well as the military sector will have to be entrusted with the work of defending the country as well as defending themselves. The Indian Arms Act has been there on the statute-book since 1878. Subsequently, certain amendments have been brought about. But, every amendment that has been brought about seems to have restricted more and more the scope of the Arms Act. It is, therefore, very desirable that at this stage a committee should be appointed—however small it might be—to look into the matter of relaxing the provisions of the Arms Act or to scrap the Act itself. We have been accusing the British Government for retaining the Arms Act on the statute-book and one of the planks on which the independence movement fought its way out was the removal of this Arms Act. Even though we achieved independence nearly seven years ago, the question of retaining the Arms Act or of scrapping it has not seriously engaged the attention of the Government. I hope it will soon be found possible for the Government to look into the matter and see that the rules are relaxed or, if possible, the Act itself is scrapped. It is necessary that every man must be equipped with the necessary training for holding a rifle and for using it in times of need. It is sometimes said that in an atomic war there will be no need for rifles. When the 'push-button war' comes in, they say, the rifles will be of no use. But, it so happens that even the push-button operations will have to be conducted by the rifles on the ground and, at no stage, can we remove the human element as well as the need for developing equipment with regard to the handling of rifles.

[Shri Ramachandra Reddi]

Another suggestion made in this connection is that the several shooting ranges that are available in the country now would have to be placed at the disposal of the rifle associations so that they might use them for the training of the members of such associations. There might be, in certain cases, inadequate provision or inadequacy of these ranges. Especially in cities, it is not possible to have access to these ranges by the common man. Some method has to be improvised by which these private associations have access to these public ranges and such ranges should also be adequately improved. If it is necessary that proper control over these associations should be had, rules might be framed by the Government and the rifle associations would be able to act according to those rules. For instance, I may suggest that, to have a proper control over the activities of these associations, the officials in each State or district might be entrusted with the work of developing these associations.

The officials may be *ex officio* members of rifle clubs in each district;

Membership of the club should precede the approval of the District Magistrate or the president of the club;

Every Rifle Club should be affiliated to the National Rifle Association to be eligible for Government aid;

Any educational institutions having similar activities wishing to have rifle clubs started, should get the approval of the District Magistrate;

These clubs should be assisted financially or otherwise to enable them to work satisfactorily and regularly and efficiently;

In Universities and Colleges such rifle clubs might be formed and encouraged;

Government might issue directions to the State Governments to organise or encourage the organisation of such clubs in each district and parts of the district and in colleges;

The assistance of military or police officers available in the region should

be afforded for training the members.

Wherever possible, the Army, Police and magisterial officers should be directed to organise and assist such clubs;

Import facilities and reduction of import duty for the arms that are imported or purchased for the use of such clubs, should be given.

Finance is usually the greatest impediment to the organisation of such associations. The Government come forward and say that it might not be possible for them to afford large financial assistance to associations or branches of this type. I would only say that if the Government can make up its mind to organise these associations, in whatever small way it might be, with financial and other assistance that I have suggested already, public donations might be coming forward and such associations might be built up and made strong and useful for the country's cause.

As it is, a person keeping a fire-arm is subjected to all sorts of difficulties. It looks as if the possessor of a revolver will have to protect the revolver more than protect himself with the revolver, because the rules are so strict and the police, if they are not properly disposed towards the possessor of the revolver or a fire-arm, is prone to put the possessor to all sorts of difficulties, with the result that one does not like to have a fire-arm at all. In this view, the vigilance of the police, wherever it is unnecessary, may be withdrawn. If need be, in due course of time the rifle clubs, or the National Rifle Association might be made a statutory body with functions that will be controlled by the Government. And, through that control and a healthy development of the Association, the Government should eventually be doing its duty to the country.

I therefore commend this Resolution for the acceptance of the House. I may assure the House that this Resolution is not based on any party considerations. Almost all the parties in the House are agreed on this Resolution and I am sure that if freedom of vote

is allowed this Resolution will certainly be passed. Of course, the Government will have a say in the matter. But I hope the Government will come forward and generously accept this Resolution, and find ways and means of implementing it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Resolution moved:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India, Government should provide facilities for promotion of rifle training, *inter alia* by—

- (a) subsidising the National Rifle Association and providing it with necessary aid, in the shape of arms and ammunitions and otherwise;
- (b) co-ordinating the efforts of the Auxiliary Territorial Force with recognised local rifle clubs so as to provide for training programmes throughout the year;
- (c) relaxing import restrictions and minimising the duty for specialised weapons required by recognised clubs; and
- (d) relaxing the provisions of the Indian Arms Act of 1878 accordingly."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, there are some amendments which have been tabled. I find some of them in order and others out of order. Mr. Samanta may move his amendment.

Shri S. C. Samanta (Tamluk): Sir, I beg to move:

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India, Government should immediately provide all facilities to rifle training institutions in India."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: In Mr. S. N. Das's amendment, the words "such youth movements and activities including" as also "and physical exercise as will go" may be omitted. He may move the amendment omitting those words.

Shri S. N. Das (Darbhanga Central): I beg to move:

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee be appointed by Government to draw up a scheme for developing and promoting rifle training to inculcate a sense of discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India and to suggest ways and means to give effect to the said scheme."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. D. C. Sharma wants to substitute for the original Resolution his own, which has nothing to do with rifles.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur): "Marksmanship" means rifle training. I use the general to include the particular.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does it mean table tennis. Does marksmanship apply only to rifles?

Anyhow, I shall allow his amendment.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I beg to move:

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee consisting of members of Parliament, educationists and organisers of Youth Welfare agencies be appointed to suggest ways and means with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendments moved:

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

leadership in the youth of India, Government should immediately provide all facilities to rifle training institutions in India."

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee be appointed by Government to draw up a scheme for developing and promoting rifle training to inculcate a sense of discipline, marksmanship initiative and leadership in the youth of India and to suggest ways and means to give effect to the said scheme."

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee consisting of members of Parliament, educationists and organisers of Youth Welfare agencies be appointed to suggest ways and means with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India."

Mr. Radha Raman may move his amendment omitting the words "national physical development and youth activities including".

Shri Radha Raman (Delhi city): I beg to move:

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India, Government should prepare a comprehensive scheme for rifle training, and give effect to it."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How long will the Minister take?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): About fifteen minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So, this discussion will close at six o'clock. It is now five. I will call upon the hon. Minister at quarter to six. Hon. Members

will try to finish their speeches in five minutes. Amendment moved:

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India, Government should prepare a comprehensive scheme for rifle training, and give effect to it."

श्री भागवत झा आजाद (पूर्निया ब संघाल परगना) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे इस बात की बड़ी प्रसन्नता है कि मुझे इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करने का आज अवसर प्राप्त हुआ है। मैं बिना किसी भूमिका के प्रस्ताव जो हमारे सामने है उस के सब से आखिरी क्लॉज "डी" को लेता हूँ। उस क्लॉज में कहा गया है कि इंडियन आर्म्स ऐक्ट आफ १८७८ में सुधार किया जाय।

यह बात सर्वविदित है कि सन् १८५७ के गदर के बाद से अंग्रेजों की सदा यह कोशिश रही कि इस देश के लोगों के हाथ से हथियार छीन लिये जायें और इसी बात को अपने दिमाग में रख कर उन्होंने ने यह ऐक्ट बनाया था और उस के कारण कानून में इतनी अधिक सख्तियाँ की गईं कि लोगों को आज आर्म्स के मिलने में बहुत असुविधा हो रही है। आज के दिन इस बात की बहुत आवश्यकता है कि इस आर्म्स ऐक्ट में सुधार किया जाय ताकि इस देश के नागरिक कम से कम अपने बचाव के लिए अपनी रक्षा के लिये अपने को तैयार और समर्थ कर सकें और ऐसे रक्षक दल तैयार कर सकें, यह कानून इतना लिबरल हो जाय कि लोगों को आर्म्स अपनी रक्षा के लिये आसानी से मिल सकें। इस सम्बन्ध में मैं आप को बतलाऊँ कि आर्म्स के लिये लाइसेंस मिलने में विधान सभा, संसद और कौंसिल आफ स्टेट के

मेम्बर्स को भी मुश्किल पड़ती है। पांच महीने हो गये में ने एक पिस्तौल के लिये ऐप्लाई किया हुआ है, लेकिन आज तक पिस्तौल का लाइसेंस मझे प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है। हमें यह कहा गया कि पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर्स के लिये लाइसेंस प्राप्त करने में कोई मुश्किल नहीं है और यह कार्यवाही तो सिर्फ एक फार्मल चीज है, लेकिन वाक्या यह है कि आप का आर्म्स ऐक्ट ऐसा खराब है जिस के फलस्वरूप आज लाइसेंस मिलने में बड़ी कठिनाई हो रही है और इसलिये रेड्डी साहब के प्रस्ताव का जो "डी" क्लोज है यह बहुत आवश्यक है और इस ऐक्ट में सुधार किया जाना चाहिये।

इस के बाद रेड्डी साहब के प्रस्ताव का जो "सी" क्लोज है उस में दिया हुआ है : *relaxing import restrictions and minimising the duty for specialised weapons required by recognised clubs*। इस के पहले कि मैं इस की व्याख्या करूँ मैं आप को बतला देना चाहता हूँ कि क्लब हमारे जीवन के लिये इतने आवश्यक हैं कि अभी अभी सरकार ने यह टैरीटोरियल आर्म्स फ़ोर्स की स्थापना की है जिस के द्वारा सरकार चाहती है कि हर जगह लोगों को सात दिन की ट्रेनिंग दी जाय और इस सात दिन की ट्रेनिंग में इच्छुक नौजवानों को ट्रेनिंग दी जाय और इस सात दिन की ट्रेनिंग इम्पार्ट करने के बाद वह जो सरकारी दल सिखाने वाला है वह चला जायगा और अगर वह ट्रेनिंग देने का काम लोकल राइफल क्लब जारी नहीं रखेंगे तो लोग सात दिन के बाद फिर उसी अवस्था में पहुँच जायेंगे जहाँ वह पहले थे। यह राइफल क्लब बहुत उपयोगी सिद्ध होंगे और यह टैरीटोरियल फ़ोर्स के उस काम को जीता जागता रखेंगे। इसलिये यह बहुत जरूरी है कि आर्म्स टैरीटोरियल फ़ोर्स की

एफर्ट्स का लोकल राइफल क्लब्स के साथ कोऑर्डिनेशन हो।

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

इस सिलसिले में मैं आप को बताऊँ कि नेशनल राइफल असोसियेशन के मातहत जो क्लब्स बंगाल, मध्य प्रदेश, बंगाल, बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश में काम कर रहे हैं वह वही काम कर रहे हैं और शिक्षा दे रहे हैं। इस नेशनल राइफल असोसियेशन आफ इंडिया के सभापति हमारे इस सदन के अध्यक्ष श्री भावलंकर हैं और श्री के० जी० प्रभु अहमदाबाद के उस के सेक्रेटरी हैं जो इस काम को पिछले सोलह-सत्तरह साल से बड़ी खूबी के साथ चला रहे हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस असोसियेशन को भरपूर सहायता व सहयोग दे और उस को जरूरी आर्म्स सप्लाई करे और इस के लिये यह जो मौजूदा आर्म्स ऐक्ट है इस को लिबरेलाइज किया जाय। इस के अलावा इम्पोर्ट रिस्ट्रिक्शन्स ढीले करने चाहियें और बाहर से जो हथियार आते हैं उन पर इम्पोर्ट ड्यूटी कम की जाय।

अभी हाल में यहाँ पर एक प्रतियोगिता हुई थी और उस प्रतियोगिता में भाग लेने के लिए जापान के लोग भारत में आये थे और जब वह जापान के चुने हुए आदमी हिन्दुस्तान में आये और हम उन का स्वागत करने के लिये ऐयरोड्रोम पर पहुँचे तो उन के आर्म्स जो वह अपने साथ में लाये थे वहीं रोक लिये गये, हालांकि इंटरनेशनल ला के मुताबिक अगर कोई सज्जन ऐसी प्रतियोगिता में भाग लेने के लिए आर्म्स लाते हैं तो उन को वह हथियार लाने दिये जाते हैं। लेकिन हिन्दुस्तान के इस क़ानून के अनुसार जब वह जापानी दल यहाँ आया तो ऐयरोड्रोम पर ही उन के हथियार रोक लिये गये, इस १८७८ के क़ानून की यह खराबी है। जब हम लोगों ने काफ़ी प्रयत्न किया तब कहीं जा कर

[श्री भगवत झा आवाज]

बड़ी मुश्किल से शाम को उन को उन के हथियार वापिस मिल पाये। यह इस ऐक्ट का नमूना है इस ऐक्ट की खूबी का दूसरा नमूना यह है कि मुझे पिस्तौल का लाइसेंस आज पांच महीने हो गये अभी तक नहीं मिला और यह इस ऐक्ट की बलिहारी है कि जो जापानी दल यहां की प्रतियोगिता में भाग लेने के लिये आया, उन के हथियार रोक लिये गये। इस के अलावा मैं आप को बतलाऊं कि इस ऐक्ट की खूबी देखिये कि अगर हमारा एम० पी० राइफल क्लब पांच सौ रुपये के करीब के आर्म्स मंगाना चाहता है जिस पर अंदाजा है कि दो सौ रुपये की ड्यूटी बैठ जायगी।

अन्त में मैं और अधिक न कह कर सिर्फ यह कहना चाहता हूं कि सरकार को नेशनल राइफल असोसियेशन आफ इंडिया को मदद देनी चाहिये और उन को आर्म्स आदि के सप्लाई की सहूलियतें प्रदान करनी चाहियें। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूं और आशा करता हूं कि हमारे दातार साहब इस पर सहानुभूति पूर्वक विचार करेंगे।

5 P.M.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Sir, I support the resolution before the House and I have pleasure in doing so. I am glad this question has been taken up in this House. There is no doubt left in our minds that Pakistan has evil designs on our country. Just the other day, when I was going round in PEPSU in connection with the election meetings, a paper was handed over to me in which a Pakistani had subscribed a poem and conveyed a message to our Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, that he should be on his guard now, that Hindus and Sikhs of this country should be on their guard now. He had conveyed in that poem: let them take warning that the Pakistanis are now coming armed with U.S.A. arms and they should not run away from their

positions now. That was the message conveyed in that poem which was read out and handed over to me. Of course I replied at that time that we re-convey our reply to those Pakistanis who have written this poem that "we are prepared for your reception, come as you like, armed with U.S.A. arms or with any that you can yourself produce and we will stand together for your reception because we have had occasion to meet you on many a field".

That was all right so far as the reply was concerned. But I thought within myself whether we are really doing something to meet them or whether it would be only a verbal warfare with them. If they are coming with aeroplanes and with other most modern armaments we would like to know whether our Government is eager and genuine in giving training to our youth so that we might withstand any assault or attack that might come on us. That time has gone when a soldier could be given a sword and asked to go into the field either to die or to come out victorious. It is not the army alone that has to fight now if hostilities are declared and we have to fight against Pakistan. With such an extensive border we cannot expect that our army would be available everywhere to fight the Pakistani or any other enemy that might come against us. It is therefore essential that we should prepare our civilians for any emergency that might arise. When our neighbour has not concealed its intentions and is now roaring from the housetops that it certainly wants to settle all affairs by means of arms, and when responsible officers of Pakistan have announced that the Kashmir problem would be easy of solution when they have been armed by the U.S.A., we ought also to consider how we are going to fight any aggression. It is good to declare that we are not entering into a race for armaments with Pakistan; it is very good. It is very well to say we would not increase our defence budget; only an increase of six crores of rupees we have shown in

the recent budget. Then what is the other factor? How are we going to fight these Pakistanis if they are bent upon creating mischief? We won't get any arms from outside; that is all right. We won't increase our defence budget; that is also good. But what is the other method by which we can prepare ourselves? Are we doing anything in that direction? Whereas Pakistan has been preparing its civilians.

So little time?

Mr. Chairman: The point is that already the hon. Member has taken about six minutes and I would ask him to conclude within two or three minutes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I had just introduced the subject. The subject is so important, and even the Deputy-Speaker.

Mr. Chairman: Certainly he can have two minutes more.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I will do as you, Sir, order.

Mr. Chairman: The difficulty is that so many people are anxious to speak. I quite realise that the hon. Member has only introduced the subject and not so far advanced full arguments. At the same time I would request him to finish within two or three minutes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Then I would begin to conclude before beginning!

My request is that we should also consider calmly whether we are doing anything. Pakistan has been preparing its citizens and has been giving them training since the formation of that country. But we have not taken any steps to arm our citizens and to train them in the use of arms. On the contrary we have, rather, forfeited a good number of arms licences on the border. That is the pity. And the excuse given is that if those persons living on the border are freely armed with those weapons they will mis-use them, they will fight against one another. Sir, I should say that instead of devising any contraceptives or taking to family planning, it were better if a hundred or two hundred people of our country died, mutually fighting

against each other and using those arms. This would not affect our huge population of thirty-six crores so far as our nation is concerned. I would rather prefer it that they did use the arms freely and were disciplined and had that courage to use the arms. I would welcome it and prefer it to their not being able to fight. If there are hundred murders more it does not matter. But if Pakistan marches on our land and our youths are not disciplined and do not know the use of arms, then they would get panicky. Rather, they would obstruct the march of the regular army as well, and the army itself would not be able to march on. They would put obstructions and impediments in its way. And if we depend entirely on the army, their process also would be retarded in view of the obstructions and impediments that might be created.

Therefore, it is essential that we should train our youths in the use of arms, and particularly rifles. It has been argued that in the present advanced age rifles would not be of much use against the atom bomb. The use of aeroplanes and bombs might be a preliminary, to begin with, and they might create any amount of havoc and destruction. But ultimately the thing has to be decided by the soldiers and citizens by the use of these rifles alone. Because, if the possession of the country is to be taken, if it is to be occupied, then certainly it will come to the use of these arms; and human element must play a great role ultimately. Therefore this argument is not well founded when we are asked to believe that these rifles would not be of much avail at that time. I say their use is as essential today as it was in the old days when the decisions were taken by the use of these rifles.

Therefore, from every point of view, particularly taking into consideration the time that we are passing through and the emergency that we apprehend, it is necessary that our youths are armed and given suitable training in the use of rifles. Whether it is by this association or that association, it is necessary and essential. If we want to safeguard our country and main-

[Sardar Hukam Singh]

tain the freedom that we have won it is necessary that we should train our civilians. And this is the best proposal that has been put in the form of this resolution.

Dr. N. B. Khare (Gwalior): Sir, this Resolution which I rise to support whole-heartedly is very opportune in view of the grave foreboding adumbrated in the Prime Minister's statement on the floor of the House on the 1st March with regard to the Pak-U.S.A. Military Alliance. The British who were ruling here for a long time, in order to keep their stranglehold on our people perpetually, took every step to emasculate us; and this Arms Act as well as other methods they used to keep us far away from anything concerning their military activity are well known. I am surprised to find that the same things should continue, even though we have got independence for the last six and a half or seven years. I am very much mortified to see that this is so. It is now definite that the horizon is very gloomy about the safety and security of our dear mother land.

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): Not at all.

Dr. N. B. Khare: One need not be surprised if Pakistan attacks us. They want to conquer Assam to West Bengal and then Punjab up to Delhi, and if that is so, we cannot remain supine, imbecile and weak. We must militarise our nation. That should be our policy, and there is not the least doubt about it. In the British days it was very difficult to start rifle clubs in schools and colleges. But, I am proud to say that when I was the Congress Prime Minister of Central Provinces and Berar, I was the first man to permit freely the starting of rifle clubs in all the schools and colleges there. You are laughing but I am proud of that. The rifle shots began to be heard near Sevagram and that might be one of the reasons for my deposition.

Sardar A. S. Saigal: No, no. That is not correct.

Dr. N. B. Khare: You may have your own opinion and I have mine. I am not sorry for it. But, I must say that this Government must liberalize the Arms Act, if not totally abolish it, because I know what difficulty I myself had in renewing the licence for my pistol which I held from 1935 during British days. In 1948 or 1949 my pistol was seized. I tried to get it back from the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Somehow or other they asked me to deposit it with the District Magistrate's nazarat. I did as I was directed although I held a licence for many many years before that. Ultimately I was upset and took courage to write to Shri Rajagopalachari who was the Home Minister then, and I must thank him, for, immediately after that letter, I got my licence.

So, I plead that now at least this Arms Act must be liberalised. It may be brought on the lines of England which country we are following everywhere. These rifle clubs must be started at all places. Unless we arm our people, strengthen them and make them able, bold and courageous, now are we going to fight the menace which is brewing in Pakistan? They are training every able-bodied young man and even woman and we are lying supine. They raid our villages. Every other day we read news about raids in papers and we simply protest. Why not we raid the village of Pakistan? What harm is there, I cannot understand? If that is not done, how are you going to meet the menace, by *Chankha* or *Jap Ram Nam*, or by saying:

ईश्वर अल्लाह तेरे नाम,
सब को सम्पत्ति दे भगवान ।

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : यह तो
पहले आप भी कहते थे ।

Dr. N. B. Khare: The Prime Minister has said that we must be firm, resolved, stiffen our backs and all that. As against this, is it not wrong to say that, to militarise us is not possible? I say that a blow must be met by blow and aggression by aggression. That is the principle even in our Vedas. Unless we follow that we are bound to suffer.

How are we going to meet Pakistani attack? If Pakistan attacks us shall we send books, volumes after volumes of the Prime Minister's *Discovery of India*, to be thrown on their soldiers and then sit quiet? I, therefore, strongly support this Resolution and hope the Government will not oppose it.

Shri Khardekar (Kolhapur *cum* Satara): I rise to oppose this Resolution. This Resolution is apparently innocent, but I think very mischievous in its consequences. I know that the Mover has very honest and very innocent intentions, but it is not intentions and motives that matter, it is the actual consequences that are inevitable and necessary, which must be considered.

I am all for the army and a very powerful and highly well equipped army. Keep the army well contented; let them eat well, drink even better. I do not mind that, because in a period of crisis it is the army that will have to be sacrificed first. Civilians must be civil and cultured. It is all right for the army and it is necessary that the army must be war-minded. But, the moment you get civilians war-minded and willing for war as we have seen from the speeches, well, war is not very far off. Nowadays, war is a matter for specialists. It is a matter for the professionals. It is no longer a luxury for the amateur to indulge in for the sake of personal glory. If we are to carry this Resolution to its logical conclusion and understand the intentions of the speakers from their speeches, we will have the spirit of militarism. To be prepared for war, to be anxious for war, and to be willing for war is to have war. And, war as you know is nothing but organised murder. It is the worst possible political disease. Are we not going to learn anything from the political history of the world? We know the way Germany went. We know the way Italy went. We know how they went to dogs. We know the path America has been mischievously following. Pakistan, foolishly and wrongly, is taking to the same path.

Now, in the Resolution there are certain words like, discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership. I would like you to open the books by Hitler and Mussolini and you will find identical words being used by them in their political philosophy. If this Resolution is to be carried too far, this country would be turned into nothing else but an R.S.S. camp, 'God forbid', because the philosophy of the R.S.S. is that of hatred communalism and war. Expressions such as "co-ordination with the Territorial Force", "training camp", and "importing of specialised weapons", well, their achievement will drive us to totalitarianism. I can understand a resolution like this moved by my friend Shri Deshpande. He would have been adequately militant, but I am surprised to find my friend Mr. Reddi who is normally very mild, is the means of such a destructive cause. This Resolution is the beginning of mass hysteria and war fever. We do want discipline, but we certainly do not want regimentation. Ours is the only country perhaps which stands for peace the gospel of peace has been fostered by Mahatma Gandhi, and it has been enhanced, strengthened and admirably advertised by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. This gospel of peace is our national heritage. This has come from Ram to Ramkrishna and from Gautam to Gandhi. I do not know why some people are jealous of our national sanity. Therefore, I would request my hon. friend Mr. Reddi—unfortunately he is not here—to withdraw this Resolution.

Sardar Hukam Singh: He is here.

Shri Khardekar: But, without his upper part. You know it is a cannon of psychology that what you use has a very great bearing on what you are. I know one of our great friends was very kind and generous and extremely good to us on all occasions, but lately I have been finding him to be very harsh towards us—I refer to the Speaker, Sir. Now, mainly because he is the President of the Rifle Association, he is almost like a sergeant-major treating us as if we were raw recruits. Ruskin said, "Tell me what you like, and I will tell you what you are." If

[Shri Khardekar]

you are rifle-minded and war-minded, naturally you are a little offensive. That is an inevitable consequence. Discipline is necessary, and we must have it not only in young men but also in old men. But discipline can be introduced only by educational institutions. You know the proud saying of the Englishmen that "the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton and Harrow." During the last two wars, the English graduates from Oxford, Cambridge and the other English universities that proved to be the best pilots and the best officers. Why? Because they had not been trained in a semi-sort of manner, but they had their character, their moral fibre, moulded by their educational institutions.

Unfortunately, in India we have not got those institutions which can give good character you cannot give what you don't possess. So, the right way is to improve our educational institutions where our young men will have their character developed, and then they will have everything that can be sacrificed at a time of crisis. But half-trained and half-baked young men who would be more a nuisance at a time of crisis than anything else. So, let this nation spend as much as it likes on the Army. Let the Army be well-fed and in every way well-looked after. Let our civilians be full-blooded and well-developed persons, so that they will be persons who can give something not only to this country but they can leave a heritage to the whole world, because we are the only country in the world towards which people are looking for world peace.

श्री राधा रमण : सभापति जी, मैं जो प्रस्ताव अभी हमारे आनरेबिल मैम्बर रेड्डी साहब ने इस सदन के सामने रखा है, उस का समर्थन करने के लिये खड़ा हुआ हूँ। कुछ भाइयों ने यहाँ इस प्रस्ताव के समर्थन में या विरोध में ऐसी बातें कह दी हैं कि जो इस प्रस्ताव को रखते समय या समर्थन करते समय मेरे सामने नहीं हैं। उन्होंने कहा है

कि पाकिस्तान में चूँकि बड़ी तैयारी हो रही है, इसलिये हमें भी अपने मुल्क के अन्दर तैयारी करनी चाहिये और उस के लिये यह एक साधन, यानी राइफल ट्रेनिंग, अपने सामने रख सकते हैं। कुछ ने यह कहा है कि हमें इस बात की जरूरत है कि हम अपने नौजवानों को आरमी के लिये तैयार करें, अपने लोगों को फौज के लिये तैयार करें, और इस के लिये हमें उन को राइफल ट्रेनिंग देनी चाहिये। मेरा नज़रिया या नक्ते निगाह इस से बिल्कुल अलग है। मैं यह समझता हूँ कि हमारे देश की जो नीति है, उस नीति के आधार पर हमें पाकिस्तान में जो हों रहा है वह नहीं करना है, न हमें इस चीज़ को उठाना है कि अगर आज हमारे पड़ोस में बार हिस्टीरिया है तो हम अपने मुल्क में भी उस हिस्टीरिया को लायें। हमारे सामने तो एक सीधा सादा सवाल है और वह यह कि हमें अपने नौजवानों को ऐसी तरफ़ ले जाना चाहिये कि जिस से खेल कूद के जरिये ही उन का शारीरिक व्यायाम हो जाय और इस तरह की ट्रेनिंग उन को दी जाय कि जिस से उन के अन्दर डिसिप्लिन और अनुशासन में रहने का ढंग आ जाय। मैं कभी माक्सिमन नहीं रहा, न मैंने कभी राइफल चलाई है और न समझता हूँ कि कभी इस को चलाने की मुझे जरूरत पड़ेगी।

[SARDAR HUKAM SINGH in the Chair]

जो बात हमें महात्माजी ने सिखाई है, मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर उस के अनुसार नान बायलैन्स आफ दी स्ट्रॉंग हमारे अन्दर मौजूद है तो वह स्पिरिट वह काम कर सकती है जो राइफल नहीं कर सकती। आज दुनिया में जब एटम बम और हाइड्रोजन बम्ब की बातें हो रही हैं, तो वहाँ यह कहना कि आधुनिक लड़ाई में यह राइफल काम आवेगी, यह बिल्कुल शल्लत बात है। हमें यह चाहिये कि हमारे नौजवान खाली बखत में ऐसी

चीजें सीखें कि जिस से उन को निशानेबाजी आये, जिस से उन के अन्दर डिसिप्लिन पैदा हो, अनुशासन का तरीका वह सीखें और उन के अन्दर एक क्रिस्म की हिम्मत पैदा हो और डर और भय उन के अन्दर से निकल जाय, उन को डर और भय से नजात पाने का मौका मिले। यह चीजें हम चाहते हैं। मैंने अपने तजुबों से यह देखा है कि जिन भाइयों या बहनों को राइफल ट्रेनिंग की शिक्षा दी गई उन के अन्दर यह चीजें आईं।

मैं आप को यह बताने में ज़रा भी नहीं हिचकिचाता कि दिल्ली में जब राइफल ट्रेनिंग का काम शुरू किया तो क्या हालत थी। आप को यह सुन कर ताज्जुब होगा कि जब यह काम शुरू हुआ तो यहाँ २५ हजार लाइसेंस होल्डर्स थे। मैंने इस बात का पता लगाने की कोशिश की कि इन में से कितनों को राइफल पकड़ना आता है, तो मुझे आश्चर्य हुआ कि उन में से लगभग दस या बारह हजार ऐसे आदमी थे जिन को राइफल पकड़ना आता था और उन में से भी बहुत से चलाना नहीं जानते थे। दस बारह हजार आदमी ऐसे थे जिन के पास राइफलों केवल रखी थीं। वह महीने या दो महीने में उन को निकाल कर उन पर पालिश कर के और ग्रीस लगा कर वापस रख देते थे और उन के घर में वह राइफलों एक तरह की नुमायशी चीज की तरह रखी हुई थी। हमारे मुल्क के अन्दर हम क्रिकेट खेलते हैं, फुटबाल खेलते हैं और तीर कमान चलाने का भी बहुत पुराने वक्त से तरीका चला आता है। उस से फायदा यह होता है कि हम अपने नौजवानों को निडर और अनुशासन में अच्छी तरह रहने का ढंग सिखा देते हैं, वह अनुशासन को अपने जीवन का अंग बना सकते हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि हम को अपने मुल्क में आज इसी तरह के काम सिखाने की ज़रूरत है। मैं आप को

बताऊँ कि जब से हम ने दिल्ली में राइफल ट्रेनिंग देने का काम शुरू किया है तब से उन २५ हजार नौजवानों में से कई सौ नौजवान ऐसे निकल आये हैं कि जिन्होंने अपनी राइफलों को निकाला है और उन को जंग लगने से बचाया है और उन्होंने निशानेबाजी भी सीखी है। यह कहना ठीक न होगा कि ऐसा करने से हमारे देश में ऐसे नौजवान पैदा हो गये हैं, जैसे खड्केर भाई ने कहा, कि वह लड़ाई के लिये तैयार हो रहे हैं या राइफल चलाना सीख गये हैं इसलिये वह किसी को मारेंगे। लेकिन उन में यह एहसास पैदा हो गया कि हमारे पास एक चीज है, जिस का इस्तेमाल हम ने सीखा और जिस से मुल्क को फायदा पहुँचा। लेकिन यह मुल्क के फायदे की बात इस में लाना गौण चीज है। निशानेबाजी एक ऐसी चीज है कि जो मैं समझता हूँ कि जिस वक्त आप को दूसरा काम करने को न हो या जिस को आप अपने दूसरे काम को करते हुए साथ साथ करें तो आप अपने देश के लिये बहुत कुछ कर सकते हैं, इस से आप अपने अन्दर ऐसे गुण पैदा कर सकते हैं, जैसे कि इस रिजोल्यूशन के अन्दर बतलाई गई हैं।

श्री अलगू राय शास्त्री (जिला आजम-गढ़—पूर्व व जिला बलिया—पश्चिम) : निर्लक्ष्य जिशाना।

श्री राधा रमण : लक्ष्य को कायम करना या लक्ष्य को हासिल करना भी मार्क्समैनशिप या राइफल ट्रेनिंग से बहुत अच्छी तरह सीखा जा सकता है। जीवन भी एक लक्ष्य है कि जिस के अन्दर पूरी तरह ठीक उतरना हर एक इन्सान के लिये बहुत ज़रूरी है। इसलिये मैं तो यही कहूँगा कि राइफल ट्रेनिंग देनी चाहिये। इस रिजोल्यूशन का मंशा भी यही है, यही इस के अन्दर मुख्य बात है कि राइफल ट्रेनिंग की शिक्षा दी जाय। इस में मैं मानता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट से सहायता मिलती

[श्री राधा रमण]

हैं, डिफेंस मिनिस्ट्री की तरफ से भी सहायता दी जाती है और एजुकेशन मिनिस्ट्री की तरफ से भी सहायता मिलती है।

इस रिजोल्यूशन का मकसद यही है कि हम अपने नौजवानों का ध्यान इस ओर खींचें जिन को अपने सिर पर भविष्य में बड़े बड़े उत्तरदायित्व लेने हैं। उन नौजवानों को इस काम में रुचि दिलाई जाय और उन को ऐसे कामों में लगाया जाय जिस से कि उन की हिम्मत बढ़े और वह देश के लिये ज्यादा फायदेमन्द साबित हो सकें। इसलिये मैं समझता हूँ कि जो कानून इस वकत तक बना हुआ है उस को लिबरलाइज्ड करने की जरूरत है। गवर्नमेंट को इस तरफ तवज्जह देनी चाहिये कि वह नौजवानों की रुचि इस तरफ पैदा करे जिस से कि वह मुल्क के लिये फायदेमन्द साबित हो सकें। अगर इस तरह से उन को शिक्षा दी जायेगी तो कल को वह बहुत काम कर सकते हैं। अगर फौज में भरती करने के लिये जरूरत हो तो जो यह नौजवान राइफल ट्रेनिंग सीखे हुए होंगे वह बहुत काफी तादाद में मिल सकेंगे और वह शानदार साबित होंगे।

इसलिये मैं इस रिजोल्यूशन की पुरजोर ताईद करता हूँ और उम्मीद करता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट इस तरफ ध्यान देगी और इस काम के लिये पूरी सुविधायें देगी। कानून के लिबरलाइजेशन द्वारा इस तरह के निशाने-बाजी की तरक्की होगी, और आरगनाइजेशन को काफी इमदाद मिलेगी।

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): I am at a loss to decide whether to support the Resolution or not to support it.....

Shri K. K. Basu: To'ss and decide.

Mr. Chairman: If the hon. Member has to decide. I can call another hon. Member.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Because the few speeches that I have now heard have created an impression in me that their mind is working in the war path. The spirit of the Resolution is not to take the nation in the path of militarism, in the path of war. The implication of the Resolution seems to me to be to bring about more discipline, more orderliness and more team-spirit amongst the youth. If this is the main import of the Resolution, I have to support the Resolution. But, we cannot make this as the ground to say that we should follow the policy of militarism. By making the youth more disciplined, more valourous, more self-confident and more physically fit, we are not in any way endorsing that we should follow a policy of militarism in our affairs. There is a saying in our part; if wealth is lost, nothing is lost; if health is lost, something is lost; if character is lost, everything is lost:

Shri V. G. Deshpande (Guna): If time is lost?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: It is very important that we should remember this. We must remember that the human factor is the most important thing. We have seen what happened in Finland. Finland was a comparatively very small country when compared to Russia. Russia's military strength could not do anything against Finland till Germany came to the aid of Russia. In Finland, we see the exhibition of the moral force in its true colours. Again, it is the failure of the human element in France that made France prostrate before Germany. So if there is a failure of the human factor, we see a crisis, subjugation, chaos and such other evils. The most important thing at present in India is to arm ourselves morally.....

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: (Shahabad South): And follow Buchman.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Not in the sense of Moral Rearmament. There should be a rearmament of morality; (interruption) not in the sense that the international organisation is doing.

but in the Gandhian way. If the will and the determination of the people is at the lowest ebb, we cannot be a great nation. In my opinion the path of militarism is a path of war. People who talk of militarising a nation by various methods are either ignoramuses or congenital idiots. I feel this is a very important matter and at present when we are having a lot of trouble around us on our borders, we must exercise caution, restraint, tolerance and should not allow ourselves to become impetuous and we should not lose our balance of mind.

The greatness of our nation lies in our character, not in our military equipment, not in our weapons, not in our physical exercises, not in the exhibition of all these things. Our greatness lies in our self-confidence, determination and will. The proper emphasis should be on the building of character. If the use of weapons and the use of exercises could help in the building up of character, it may be permissible to a certain extent. But, this should not be carried too far, because it is dangerous. When once a man takes to weapons, it is inevitable and natural that he likes to use them. Suppose a child has certain toys; the very presence of the toys makes the child use them. It naturally plays with the toys. In the same way, if weapons are given freely, if there is more relaxation in the use of arms and armaments, it is quite likely that we may like to play with them. It is a very dangerous thing. We have seen what is happening in Egypt and what is happening in other countries in the Middle East. To allow free use of weapons is not only dangerous inside India; it will be dangerous also so far as our external relationship with other countries is concerned. We must be very cautious. We should not be carried away by slogans, catch words, and emotions. We must restrain ourselves; we must concentrate our attention in building up our nation on the basis of character. Today we are suffering from lack of character. There is a crisis on the plane of morality. It is the bounden duty of every organisation, every man and woman in India

757 PSD

to arm ourselves properly in morality. There is a crisis in our morality.

Shri N. Somana (Coorg): How?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: This unprecedented crisis in our morality should be averted and reversed by education and through other methods, not by giving military weapons or weapons of war to the youth. After all, we know the mind of the youth works in such a fantastic fashion nowadays, because.....

Dr. Jaisoorya (Medak): How old are you?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I am a youth myself and I know my feelings. I can appreciate the dangerous consequences which result in chaos because of the uncontrolled emotions which are working in the minds of the youth. So, I say that this encouragement to give weapons may end badly for us. Finally I say this: I do not oppose the Resolution; nor do I support it. I leave the matter as it is. I leave the matter to the good sense of the House. Let them decide.

Shri S. C. Samanta: I have put in an amendment to the Resolution and I think the hon. Mover of the Resolution will accept it. The Resolution as I have drafted will have no difficulty in finding favour with the Government. The Government is for it. I may refer the hon. Minister to page 119 of the summary of recommendations of the Planning Commission, in which it is said:

"The National Association for physical education and recreation should be strengthened. It should organise branches in all States."

Again it says that "facilities in respect of equipment and play grounds should be made available for the use of every community Centre and rural and youth organisations". This Youth Organisation is for the good of the youth. You know the youth of today are the makers of tomorrow. They will take the reins of Government and so far as the youth will be men of character, the Government of the future will to that extent be good and excellent. When the Government

[Shri S. C. Samanta]

themselves have proposed in the Five Year Plan that Youth organisations should be organised and a sum of one crore has been provided, where is the difficulty in accepting such a Resolution? Some friends who were not in the Congress fold say that when these youths will take to rifles, they will go far from non-violence, they precept preached by Mahatma Gandhi. Reference has been made to the National Rifle Association whose President is no less a person than the hon. Speaker. How can he be there? He was a follower of Mahatma Gandhi, and he is now the organiser, nay, the President of the National Rifle Association. Here I may say one thing. Though it is personal, I must reveal it to the House.

You know the movement that went on in Midnapore District in 1942. The then Government harassed the people to the utmost and the local people there established a national Government. You will be astonished to hear that that national Government did away with the lives of 80 persons. The then British Government could not prove it, in courts but when Mahatma Gandhi came out from jail and went to Midnapore, he stayed at Mahishadal. The people there went to him and accused the organisation. I was asked to give an explanation as to why the lives of so many persons were done away with. I told Mahatmaji: "We are at your feet. Please hear us and give the punishment you desire. We are ready to take it." The thing was the Government was burning houses even after the cyclone, and in one case in broad day light the police and the military surrounded five villages, harassed and arrested all the male persons and allowed the sepoys to do what they like in those villages. You will be astonished to hear that in broad day light 40 females were raped. Under those circumstances, the organisation and the people there could not keep non-violence. The lives of those people who then helped the British Government were done away with. I said this openly

to Mahatmaji. He said: "Though I do not approve of your act, yet I feel proud that the workers of Midnapore were not cowards. They did what I do not want, but they were not cowards. They wanted to destroy those persons not in my way but in another way, and they were not cowards."

Shri K. K. Basu: Advise your Government to accept that.

Shri S. C. Samanta: These were the words that came out from the mouth of Mahatma Gandhi.

So, we should not be afraid of the name of the rifle. We must train youths who will have the rifle in their hands but will not use it. We want to defend ourselves. We are not going to commit aggression on others. In that respect the youth organisation is necessary, and I place the Resolution before the House for the acceptance of the Government, amended as under:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India, Government should immediately provide all proper and practicable facilities to rifle training institutions in India."

Dr. Katju: We have heard many fine speeches. I have felt very much heartened by listening to them. I think there can be no doubt whatsoever that the spirit underlining the Resolution is a fine spirit and the object that the movers have in view is a proper object.

I do not like that this Resolution should be connected in any way with recent developments. That is not the proper approach. If, God forbid, anything happens, then we will have to approach the dangers ahead or the dangers we may have to confront on another and wider scale, and we will make all suitable preparations.

So far as this matter is concerned, the Government of India have themselves shared the anxiety of encouraging these rifle clubs, and the House will be interested to hear what the

Government has done already in this field. They may be interested also to compare what I am going to say now with what the movers of the Resolution have mentioned specifically in the four clauses of this Resolution.

In 1951 the Government of India, in pursuance of the policy of establishing and encouraging rifle clubs, addressed the State Governments and requested them to render assistance to rifle clubs in every possible manner—that was in January—and they suggested particularly three things: providing storage facilities they require for arms and ammunitions in police armouries, making available the services of trained police personnel to act as instructors, and financial subvention for the purchase of arms and ammunition. I suggest respectfully that this is practically going the full length of what the movers of the Resolution have in view.

Next year, that is in 1952, Government decided to extend to rifle clubs the facility of direct import of arms and ammunition required by them. This was done so that these rifle clubs may be able to buy their requirements without the intervention of an intermediate dealer and thus secure arms and ammunition at reasonable prices. It was suggested then that on the arms and ammunition so imported by rifle clubs customs duty might be waived. The question of exemption from payment of licence fees was also raised. These questions were examined and the conclusion we arrived at in 1952 was that it would not be practicable, nor would it be good policy, to make such direct concessions, but State Governments were advised that whenever they possibly could, financial assistance might be given to the associations or rifle clubs in many ways. And one way suggested was the reimbursement of the licence fees.

A little later, we received another proposal from the National Rifle Association to the effect that it might be permitted to obtain supplies of ammunition from ordnance depots at con-

cession rates, and this request has been acceded to.

Let me now repeat where the matter stands. We are prepared to give them free instructors. We are prepared to provide storage facilities for them. Financial subventions can be given and are being given. Arms can be imported directly from outside, without the intervention of any intermediaries. The State Governments have been advised to give as much financial assistance as may be possible, including the reimbursement of the licence fee for arms. Further, the ammunition can be obtained from the ordnance factories in India at concession rates. I suggest that all this is a fairly strong catalogue of encouragement, and no particular relaxation is called for in these. In this context, so far as the Home Ministry is concerned, we are always willing to render all possible assistance and encouragement in every possible way to the National Rifle Association and to the rifle clubs that approach us for assistance in any way.

In the Resolution, there is another clause—I am referring to clause (b)—which says:

“co-ordinating the efforts of the Auxiliary Territorial Force with recognised local rifle clubs so as to provide for training programmes throughout the year”.

This probably has been included in the Resolution on a misapprehension or rather on not a full appreciation of the existing practices. The Auxiliary Territorial Force camps have been set up in different parts of the country, and there are altogether about 36 camps. They are mostly in rural areas, and I find that out of 36, only 3 were established nearabout urban areas. In these camps, all sorts of training is given in rifles and arms, but they are of a restricted character, and I submit that the training given in these camps cannot be co-ordinated

[Dr. Katju]

profitably or usefully with the training given in rifle clubs. Therefore, this will not be possible. But wherever these camps may be established, there would be no difficulty placed in the way of any member or members of rifle clubs going and asking for permission to take part in the training which may be imparted there.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

I respectfully submit that really in this particular matter, there is no difference between the policy which the Government of India have been following up till now, and the policy which this Resolution advocates. As a matter of fact, the Government of India have been fully alive to the usefulness of rifle training. Something was said about the policy of non-violence. It has got really nothing to do with this, and I do not think that if Mahatmaji had been alive today and had been here, to assist us, he would have taken any objection to the policy which we are pursuing. I think it is desirable that every young man should know how to handle a rifle. I also agree that these rifle clubs have served a very useful purpose. I have been to several of them myself, when I was in Bengal, and it was really a delight to see the outstanding young men who used to acquire this training. Not only young men were there, but I used to see also some young women in every rifle club, and they were very fine, what shall I say, marksmen or markswomen.

Shri Algu Rai Shastri: As you like You are the master of the situation.

Dr. Katju: It seemed to come to them very handy.

Something was said about discipline. I think it is a well-recognised fact that these rifle clubs do inculcate a sense of discipline in our youth. We have had disturbances of various kinds in various cities including...

Shri Algu Rai Shastri: Lucknow.

Dr. Katju:...the city of Calcutta, and let us say, Lucknow, with which I am familiar. But I am pretty confident that if a census were taken, you would have found that very few, if at all any, members of a rifle club had taken part in these disturbances. This is all mob psychology, which prevails in Calcutta or in Lucknow. Only the mob has to do with it. But the moment you go there and have a National Cadet Corps or a rifle club, the very fact that a young man is able to handle a rifle makes him a little bit of an expert in self-restraint and self-control, so that he does not indulge in all these irregular practices which we sometimes read in the newspapers.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.]

Now, I might have asked the House after hearing my statement to withdraw the Resolution as well as the various amendments to it, because the Government of India are already carrying out the policy which is advocated by the Resolution. But it might be useful, and I have no objection in accepting the amendment of my hon. friend Shri S. C. Samanta, instead of the big Resolution that has been drafted, which goes into details. A general indication of the policy which appeals to the House would be more useful for us as a guidance, viz. the one advocated in the amendment of Shri S. C. Samanta, which reads:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India, Government should immediately provide all proper and practicable facilities to rifle training institutions in India."

This alternative Resolution gives us a general policy which the House can approve. Let me point out once again that we shall do everything to further this policy in every way and at all times.

I would beg of the House once again not to connect this Resolution or this discussion with any warlike preparations of any kind or form, which might mislead others, for that is not the object. I should like this rifle training and these rifle clubs, even if there were perfect peace and contentment in the country, and we were on the friendliest terms with everybody in the world at large. Even then, the establishment of these rifle clubs is necessary for the proper building up of the youth of India.

I would not take the time of the House any further. I would accept the amendment moved by my hon. friend Shri S. C. Samanta, with the addition that he has made to the same.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: I have got only a few words to say. I am very glad that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has given a very generous approach to the entire problem, and that he is anxious to accept the more comprehensive amendment that has been given notice of by Shri S. C. Samanta. I would therefore not press my Resolution.

But I may say that I was amused to hear our esteemed friends Shri Khardekar and Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy; the one advocated militarisation, while the other advocated sterilisation.

An Hon. Member: Moralisation.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: With these few words, I beg to withdraw my Resolution, in view of the assurance that the amendment of Shri S. C. Samanta is to be accepted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member must keep the Resolution.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: But the amendment is going to be accepted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He may say that he is accepting the amendment.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: I have already suggested that I am accepting the amendment, and I am not going to press my Resolution.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put the amendment of Shri S. C. Samanta to the vote of the House. If that is accepted, the original Resolution will go automatically.* The question is:

That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

"This House is of opinion that with a view to inculcate discipline, marksmanship, initiative and leadership in the youth of India, Government should immediately provide all proper and practicable facilities to rifle training institutions in India."

The motion was adopted.

6 P.M.

RESOLUTION RE WITHDRAWAL
OF CADETS FROM THE NATIONAL
DEFENCE ACADEMY

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now proceed to discuss the Resolution of Sardar Hukam Singh. The time-limit is one hour. It will finish at 7. How long does the hon. Member propose to take?

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala—Bhatinda): Half an hour.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If he himself takes half an hour, then what about the Government?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh (Shahabad South): What about others?

Sardar Hukam Singh: I will be very brief.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Fifteen minutes. He may take as long as he wants to take. But we have fixed one hour.

An Hon. Member: Fifteen minutes will do.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): I would suggest that the hon. Mover may take 15 minutes, then 15 minutes for the Minister and the rest for others.

*Other amendments were deemed to have been negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Immediately after the hon. Mover concludes. I will call upon the hon. Minister to speak. Let us see what the reaction of Government is. Then we shall proceed.

Sardar Hukam Singh: There was a provision, Sir, that an additional half an hour would be allotted, if necessary.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I beg to move:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee consisting of five Members of Parliament be appointed to examine the system of withdrawal of Cadets from the National Defence Academy and to suggest remedial measures where withdrawals during the last two years have been found to be unsatisfactory".

This is a Resolution of very great importance. It might be said others are of no less importance. But I feel so because this national institution of ours at Dehra Dun is performing a very heavy responsibility and it is the concern of everybody without affiliation of any party so that they must be interested in the progress that it makes or the way in which it functions. I am glad to find that besides myself, there are several Members in the ruling party who have given notice of the same resolution.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: This expression is distasteful. We are all servants.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Therefore, I am gratified to find that even Congress Members—some of them—have given notice of the same resolution. Now, he ought to be satisfied.

That encourages me in my conviction that this Resolution is of very great importance.

It would be, I should say, known to every hon. Member of this House how difficult it is to get admission to the National Defence Academy. There is a complicated procedure followed for the admission of cadets. In the first

instance, a candidate or applicant has to appear before the Public Service Commission in an all-India competition. After he is successful there, he is produced before the Services Selection Board. This Board, I should say, consists of various experts in every line and men of mature judgment. Some psychiatrists are also associated in that interview, who even claim that they can find out and judge the hidden qualities of a cadet as well. The Services Selection Board examines the quality of leadership and the personality of a candidate in all respects and tests the candidate in all manners humanly possible. At least this is the claim that they make. In short, the Selection Board has to assure itself and give a verdict that the candidate possesses all the qualities that go to make an officer in the Indian Army. During this process of interview that is held there, the candidate is subjected to great hardships and difficult tests—physical as well as mental. Sometimes it has been found that in those physical exercises and physical tests several candidates broke their limbs and bones as well. Government are aware of that because they get an undertaking from the candidate that if such a thing happens, then certainly Government would not be responsible for any compensation for the injury that the candidate receives during those tests. It is not only a theoretical provision there, but it has been found that several persons there have received injuries, because that was a condition and never has any compensation been claimed. Above all, after the candidate has stood those tests—first, of the U.P.S.C., and subsequently of the Selection Board—he is put before a medical board and after satisfying itself in all respects the medical board gives a certificate to the effect that that person, that candidate, is fit for service in the whole world.

From this it will be clear how complicated is the procedure and what checks over checks are put before admission is granted to a candidate who wants to seek it in that institution. It

will be better, I suppose, if I read some portions from the *Defence Science Journal* where there is an article by Dr. Sohan Lal, Chief Psychologist, Ministry of Defence. He has said about these admissions:

"A careful examination of this system of selection reveals that the written examination aims at measuring a candidate's abilities developed by the exercise of cognitive powers. The interview, on the other hand, attempts to assess the personality traits of the candidate by observing his behaviour pattern in the interview situation and interpreting it in the light of the biographical data obtained during the interview...The introduction of psychological techniques in the process of selection is a development of this system."

Then he has further to remark:

"In 1941, Britain had evolved a system of selection for officers in which psychological techniques were employed. It was an improvement on the old American method used in 1917 inasmuch as it measured the intelligence of the candidates and also assessed their personalities. This method was adopted after suitable modifications for the Indian armed forces in the year 1943."

For the tests that are applied, he has to say:

"There is one disadvantage in the formal interview, namely, that it may not be possible during the short time available to the interviewer to be able to pierce through the masked behaviour of a candidate".

Now they claim that by the present method even 'masked behaviour' is revealed.

"The basic personality of a candidate can be seen either by a trained eye or by putting the subject under an emotional stress or by administering Projection Tests".

Then about these Boards as well, he says:

"There are three methods of assessing a candidate's personality. The first is the method of formal interview...The second is that of putting a candidate in situations which are mainiatures of those which he is likely to come across during his service career ...The third is the method of using the projective technique... A list of qualities of personality has been prepared. This has been arrived at by condensing the opinions of over 250 senior officers of the Indian Army with regard to qualities which, according to them, an average officer should possess."

The object of my reading these passages is to demonstrate and to show clearly how difficult tests are applied there and every caution is taken to see that really the candidate possesses those qualities that are required of an officer who is to be in the Indian Army. Finally, when he concludes the article, he says:

"It will be noticed, therefore, that there are so many agencies connected with the selection procedure that the chances of any irregularities being practised unnoticed are very small. The number of checks under which the system works ensure the greatest measure of fairness that is possible in human affairs".

When this might be the case, one wonders how it is that after so many checks and so many tests we find—when the candidate is admitted and he has been there for, say, two or three years—instances where those candidates have been withdrawn, asked to leave—rejected. And the chief ground given was that it was found that the officers did not possess officer-like qualities. Now, it is a very vague term. It is very difficult to assess, at least for others, whether really that was the case and those persons did not possess those qualities which were required of an

[Sardar Hukam Singh]

officer in the Army. When once we find that these candidates were tested and found, by the Selection Board applying all those tests that human agency can devise, to possess all those officer-like qualities and, if after some time the duration in some cases is even two years or three years—the training authorities in the Academy come to the conclusion that these very persons lack those qualities which go to form an officer, then we certainly come to the conclusion that either the original tests were defective and the claim that is made by the Government on behalf of those Selection Boards is very tall or.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the percentage of persons so rejected?

Sardar Hukam Singh: That would be for the Minister to say because I have not been able to find out exactly the percentage. But, at the other place, the Minister was pleased to remark—I read—that it would not be more than 2 per cent. I read that in a debate, when Pandit Kunzru took up that question in a speech he made in the Council of States, he said that he was astonished to find that people were being rejected after 20 or 25 months of training. We can only conclude

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has a Committee been appointed?

Sardar Hukam Singh: If you want me to take it up now, I will do so.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: As the hon. Member likes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: A Committee has been appointed because there was a discussion. But that is a different Committee. That was on the 14th of November, 1953. The Committee has been appointed and Pandit H. N. Kunzru is the Chairman of that Committee. The terms of reference are to find out whether the assessment of the cadets to the training at the National Defence Academy and the corresponding institutions in the Navy and Air Force is fair and reason-

able, and whether there is any scope for improvement with a view to reduce the number of rejections. The object is to find out whether the method is sound and fair and, if it is not, whether there is any possibility or scope for reducing these rejections. It has been admitted even by the Government that there are rejections and they should be reduced somehow. But, my purpose would not be served by that resolution.

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): That at least shows the vigilance of the Government.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I congratulate the Minister for Defence Organisation that he is so vigilant that even my remark gets a quick reply.

My point is that that resolution does not fulfil the purpose that I have in mind because, I want, in addition to that enquiry and assessment, that cases where the Tribunal or Commission that is appointed find that within the last two years—it will not be possible for that Commission to come to any conclusion until they take up individual cases—on account of the whims and caprices of certain officers, certain cadets have been withdrawn and there has been some unfairness or injustice to them, they should have the competence as well to set them right. That is the object of my Resolution. If the Government are prepared to add that term to the original terms of reference that they would be competent to go into that question as well and set right those cases where they come to the conclusion that the rejections or withdrawals were not correct, then my purpose would have been served. Of course, I have asked for a Parliamentary Committee. That can also be done by having one or two Members added. Even if the Government thinks that there is no need to have any other Member, then too, I would not persist. But the terms of reference should include that, when they come to the conclusion that there has been in-

justice done in some cases, then, certainly, they should have the right, the authority and power to set those right. That is the main difference between my Resolution and the terms of reference of the Committee appointed by the Government.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Then this would become a permanent committee, which it is not.

Sardar Hukam Singh: It should be a permanent committee. Pandit Kunzru also took objection to the Director of the Defence Academy being allowed to remain there because he was a foreigner. Of course, we might require some foreigners to continue for some time simply on the ground that he is a foreigner. But, when for our Commander-in-Chief we can find an Indian, there is no reason why, so far as training is concerned, we should not have any Indian, who could be entrusted with this job of training the cadets in the National Defence Academy. We have also heard that instead of taking action in that respect the Government has been pleased to give an extension to that gentleman against whom many complaints are coming out.

Now, reverting to my own Resolution again, I have this much further to say that after the tests by the Selection Boards—for whom the Government claims perfection and spends lakhs of rupees on advertisements and films that they have got this perfect system of selection—we fail to understand what there is that results in the complaints that trainees are being withdrawn or rejected after undergoing so many months of training.

If the first system has any defects, then that should be amended. But, if we claim, as the Government does, that that system is perfect so far as is humanly possible, then we have to see what other defects there are that these training authorities find two or three years later that these cadets lack officer-like qualities. My first objection is this. These candidates are sent to the Academy for training. The selection is made by the U.P.S.C. and

the Selection Board. They have selected those candidates. It is for training that they are entrusted to the Academy. They have to train them and not to carry on fresh selections, and say this one we will have and that one we reject. It is not the business of the National Academy to scrutinise at a later stage that this boy does not suit the purpose that he has to serve. The selection has already taken place.

The second way of thinking is that these are persons who have been given permanent commissions. Among the professors or teachers who are in charge of this training, we have a number of temporary Commissioned Officers and Emergency Commissioned Officers—those who were themselves considered not fit for permanent commissions. It would certainly be a queer thing to entrust these boys to those persons who could not get permanent commissions themselves. That is another anomaly that exists.

The third thing that I came to know of is that there were some members of the staff who had come from the State Forces. I have nothing particular to complain against the State Forces. Of course, when the integration took place, there was a test applied to them. But that test and the passing in that test does not mean that those State Force Officers have passed through the original tests that are required to be undergone by these cadets. They had never an opportunity, in the Princely States, to undergo those tests. They may be good soldiers or officers who may go and work in the field. They might have some practical experience. But in this National Academy they have to teach the cadets things which they never learnt themselves. Therefore to put persons—a few they may be, but that does not matter—who never had such training and who cannot see into the character or hidden qualities of the cadets, in charge of the training of the cadets is something that looks odd to me at least.

Then there are relegations also. This works very hard on the cadets

[Sardar Hukam Singh]

of the National Defence Academy. For after some time even though it is found that the boy has made up for his deficiency, he loses his seniority and is put behind by about six months. When the boy is found to have come up to the standard expected of him, at the time of his commissioning his seniority should be fixed in relation to his date of enlistment in the Academy.

The other complaint is that when a cadet is relegated there is no arrangement for special coaching. He is left to himself. If in the course of training, boys are found who are not able to keep pace with their colleagues, they should be given special coaching in the subjects in which they are found to be deficient. This is a complaint which is very often made, and I suggest the committee, if one is appointed, should go specially into this aspect of training.

I do not for a moment vouchsafe for the correctness of all my statements; nor do I say that everything I say is correct. I have nothing personal against any individual officer, or member of the staff whether he be a foreigner or one of our own countrymen. But it is commonly alleged that the whims and caprices of subordinate staff do play a great role in these relegations and rejection. The officer at the top may be all right, but there is the danger of the likes and dislikes and small prejudices of persons in charge of the training of these cadets, especially those who themselves did not have such training, affecting such rejections and relegations. Even if there is the slightest element of truth in these allegations, it is but fit and proper that an enquiry is made and things set aright.

Shri Algu Rai Shastri (Azamgarh Distt.—East cum Ballia Distt.—West): Will it not give rise to a spirit of indiscipline?

Sardar Hukam Singh: Then, Sir, when after two or three years of training a cadet is rejected, though he may

have enlisted himself only for the army, a certificate is issued that he is not suitable for any of the armed forces. This is another matter which has to be seriously looked into. The candidate enlisted himself only for the Army and the test applied at the Academy was whether he would be a suitable officer for the Army. I fail to see why the certificate should extend to the other wings for which he was never recruited and for which he was never trained. This certificate bars the entry of the cadet to other branches as well.

Then again when a candidate is put on the warning list and is to be rejected he is at once deprived of his uniform, even before the order of confirmation comes from the Minister of Defence Organisation, or whoever else might be the deciding authority. Soon after the recommendation of rejection is made the cadet, a young man who had a brilliant future before him, is deprived of his uniform and subjected to indignity. This humiliates the cadet and demoralises him. The authorities at the Academy should at least wait till they get approval or confirmation of their recommendation, before they punish the cadet and deprive him of all the privileges and concessions that he was enjoying. But even before they get the approval from above action is taken against the young man and for two or three weeks the cadet is kept like a criminal and subjected to an ordeal. This has a great demoralising effect on the boy, as even to affect his future. Not only is it a punishment of the cadet but also of his parents who have spent so much money on his education and have also entertained high hopes that he would turn out to be an officer.

It is therefore very essential that we should find out whether the drawback is in the initial selection. If it is so we have to remedy it. If it is found that the defect is not in the initial selection, there should be something wrong with the training, be-

cause in the course of two or three years it is found that certain qualities which we adjudged to be in the candidate have evaporated!

This is a serious matter and should be gone into thoroughly and at least the cases of rejection that have taken place during the last two years should be enquired into.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: How many cases have happened?

Sardar Hukam Singh: I am not aware of it: perhaps the hon. Minister to tell us.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I will place the Resolution before the House.

Resolution moved:

"This House is of opinion that a Committee consisting of five Members of Parliament be appointed to examine the system of withdrawal of Cadets from the National Defence Academy and to suggest remedial measures where withdrawals during the last two years have been found to be unsatisfactory."

Shri Velayudhan (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara—Reserved—Sch. Castes): On a point of Order, Sir, is this an administrative matter to be corrected or rectified by a Resolution?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not see any point of order in it. The House is always competent to give its own opinion and call upon the Government to take a particular course of action.

Shri Nambiar (Mayuram): It is only a point of disorder.

The Deputy Minister of Defence (**Sardar Majithia**): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity of intervening in the debate at this early stage, because I feel that there are quite a number of misunderstandings and I should like to remove them at the earliest opportunity.

To begin with let us consider the problem of rejection of cadets. Let me first take, as the hon. Member put it, the rejection rate. I shall give the House our figures and also of the

various other countries of which we know.

I should like to start off with America first. At West Point the percentage of withdrawals is 12·3. At the Naval Academy, again in the United States, it is 12·73. In the Netherlands Armed Forces it is 18 per cent. In Belgium it is 17·5 per cent. At Sandhurst, that is England, it is 8·7 per cent. And at Kingston it is 40 per cent.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I make a request? It would be very helpful to the House if the hon. Minister also gives the period during which these withdrawals have taken place after their admission to the institutions.

Sardar Majithia: If the hon. Member will bear with me for a moment I will give all that. Well, this was during the last three years, the average of the last three years.

Now I would like to come over to our own country. In the first J.S.W. course the percentage of withdrawals was 5·8; in the second course it was 11·7; in the third course it was 7·1; in the fourth course it was 3·0; in the fifth course it was 3·8; in the 6th course it was 5·2; and in the 7th course, which was from 14th January 1952 to the end of 1953, it was 3 per cent.

Now, these are of the Joint Services Wing. These withdrawals, as you will see, Sir, are very very low as compared to the other countries which have had such a lot of experience.

Apart from this I would give the House further figures. The hon. Member was confining himself particularly to the army. I will now give the House the percentage of withdrawals at Dehra Dun, that is in the Military Wing of the Academy. In the second course the percentage was 3·6; in the third course it was 3·3; in the fourth course it was 4·4; in the fifth course it was 4·9; in the sixth course it was 6·6; in the seventh course it was 4·2; in the eighth course it was 1·5; in the ninth course it was 6·1; in the tenth course it was 2·4; in the

[Sardar Majithia]

eleventh course it was 4·7; and in the twelfth course it was 5·7. These again, are very much lower than the withdrawals in the other countries.

The hon. Member made out that the selection is very severe. It goes to the credit of the Government that they have got a system by which they pick up cadets and later on they do not have to suffer from their being not fit enough. There is a small percentage which has to be thrown out. Mostly they get their commissions. It will not be out of place to mention the system now.

To begin with, the Services Selection Board has been mentioned. I have not only seen it working but am intimately connected with it, and I should like to say that the tests which are given to the candidates in Selection Boards have a scientific basis. Every effort is made to check up on the candidate. We see his potentialities and we do give due allowance for his immaturity. It is not that we judge him from the officer like qualities which we expect from the officers. We see that he has the potential to develop those officer like qualities; and that is what we look for. Later on, during his training period, if we find that that particular candidate has not developed what we expected him to develop, we have to throw him out.

It will be quite pertinent here to mention how many people have been thrown out due to this lack of officer like qualities. I will again go back to the figures, and the House will perhaps be surprised to know—because the hon. Member made out such a case for it—that in the first J.S.W. course out of 190, two cadets were thrown out for lack of these officer like qualities. In the second course, out of 111, again, two cadets were thrown out—which means just two per cent, while in the first case it was one per cent. In the third course, out of 98, one was thrown out. In the fourth course, out of 101 none was thrown out. In the fifth course,

out of 183, three were thrown out. In the sixth course, out of 174, two were thrown out. In the seventh course, out of 163, one was thrown out. In the eighth course, out of 202, two were thrown out. In the ninth course, out of 215, three were thrown out. As regards the tenth course which was the last course I have not got the figures.

All this will conclusively prove that rejection is not done at the whim of the instructors. It is really after giving the cadet every possible opportunity, when we find ultimately that he has not got in him what we had expected from him, when he went through the Selection Board, that we are forced to say good-bye to him.

It will not be out of place, again, here to say that this action of sending a cadet away is not taken by the J.S.W. or the Defence Academy. Each and every individual case comes up to the Ministry through the various people and ultimately it is the Minister of Defence Organisation himself who goes through the case, satisfies himself that it is really a fit case, and it is only on his finally saying so that a cadet is withdrawn; not before that. Therefore, that particular reference which the hon. Member made does not have any real justification.

The hon. Member, again, mentioned that the cadets lose quite a bit. That is not correct, for the simple reason that if the individuals who are withdrawn have done two years in the Academy, they are as good as intermediates although they were matriculates to begin with. Therefore, the two years which the hon. Member thinks they have lost, they do not lose; because they go back to the college and continue with their studies without any loss of years. We are at the moment approaching the Universities to grant year to year recognition: in other words, if a person has done one year he should be treated as equivalent to his having completed the first year; and if he has

done two years then he should be treated as an intermediate etc. so that that particular boy will not lose on that account.

He definitely does not lose financially, because that is where the Government comes in. All the expense on his training is borne by Government; it is at government expense, which is quite high, and he is not asked to reimburse the Government. So whatever education he gets, whatever discipline he imbibes, whatever personality he develops is all at government expense and is to his credit side and not debit side.

Again, I should like to mention that the Government considers life a very precious thing, particularly of the young men of our country. We do not treat them so lightly. Obviously, they are very precious to the country and very precious to their parents as well. It is with due regard to these that we ask them to go away. To give you a couple of examples Sir, I would take the case of the Air Force.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: A committee has been appointed to look into this matter. This is only a consequential one. In case in one out of hundred cases the committee finds the withdrawal was incorrect, then what happens to that. That is the simple point in this matter, I think.

Sardar Majithia: I am just telling you what the hon. Member is doing by suggesting such a measure. I will give you the case of one cadet.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We will assume that there is a hypothetical case....

Sardar Majithia: Why hypothetical? I can give you half a dozen cases with very serious consequences, where even one boy lost his life because we persisted in giving him flying training and ultimately the plane crashed and he killed himself. That is a serious loss. How can you say that a cadet should be continued even if you find that he cannot do the job? That, incidentally, takes me to the other question.

Shri Aigu Rai Shastri: May I with your permission seek some information from the hon. Minister?

मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि दूसरे देशों का उदाहरण आप ने दिया कि जहाँ पर विद्वानों का परसंटेज हिन्दुस्तान से ज्यादा मालूम होता है, तो क्या वहाँ पर पालिया-मॅटरी कमेटीज कोई हैं कि जो उन विद्वानों को स्कुटीनाइज करती हैं ?

सरदार मजीथिया : कोई नहीं हैं ।

श्री अलगू राय शास्त्री : बस, इस मामले पर ज़रा प्रकाश डालिये, क्योंकि जो इस तरह का विचार कर रहे हैं, ऐसी कमेटी अप्वाइंट करने का, तो इस का नतीजा यह होगा कि हम बहुत आरम्भ में ही उन के फौजी जीवन में बहुत ज्यादा डिसेन्शन पैदा कर देंगे और यह उचित नहीं होगा ।

Sardar Majithia: The hon. Member is quite right. In no other country are there Parliamentary committees of that type. As I was saying, the hon. Member raised the point that we throw the fellow out and he has got no place to go. It is not the case. In case a person is found unfit to make the pilot's grade, he is certainly considered in the Air Force for the navigation side. In case we find him lacking there, he is again considered for other services and due consideration is given. It is only if we find that he cannot fit in anywhere, that we have to part company, and only then it is done. Quite a lot of cases, as I said, were brought up by Members of this House to the notice of the Minister for Defence Organisation. He again recalled those papers, went through the cases very carefully and it was found that the decisions arrived at were correct.

Apart from this, the hon. Member has put up various points about the hardships and injuries. I should not like to dwell on that because I consider that there are no hardships. After all, when you are selecting

officers, you have to get the best from the material that is available to you.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I did not complain of hardships.

Sardar Majithia: Well, I am glad that the hon. Member agrees that we should not relax the standards. For another reason too; we have studied this question very thoroughly and we have found that it should not be so. I will give you another case in which the pass percentage was rather high. In other words, possibly, the instructors were not so 'harsh', as the hon. Member would call it. We found that when border line cadets went on to the Service, the number of accidents in the case of Air Force in that particular lot was very much higher than in the case of others. That again shows the necessity of checking up at every stage.

Apart from this I would like to make one point more, and that is that the Academy cadets are not treated lightly.

An Hon. Member: What about the Army?

Sardar Majithia: I am coming to that. The care given to their training, as the hon. Members know, is very great. To begin with, a cadet is watched by his platoon commander. He is further watched by his company commander. He is again watched by his battalion commander. Then on top of that his commanding officer is watching all the cadets. It is not that one officer gets a funny notion about a particular fellow and he is chucked out. A particular defect must be present in him, noticed by all the instructors, not by one but by so many instructors; not only that, in various ranks right from platoon commander up to the commandant who is a Major-General. It is checked up by all of them and if all of them agree, it is only then that they recommend to the Ministry and the Minister of Defence Organisation that the fellow is fit to be withdrawn. It is only under these circumstances that we do withdraw him.

A word must also be said about the Kunzru Committee to which the hon. Member has made a reference. It is on the cards that the Committee is going round visiting places and collecting evidence. We have in certain cases caught hold of cadets who were being thrown out and we did ask them if they had any complaints. I am glad to say that they have, without exception, said that they had a fair chance and that they really did not have the talent in them and that was why they were thrown out. Individual cadets are asked by the Commanding Officer if they have any suggestions or complaints. They have said that the instructors are very good and that they have nothing to complain about. But, I should like.....

Sardar Hukam Singh: The cadets who have been thrown out have no complaint, but I have a complaint.

Sardar Majithia: Unfortunately, the hon. Member does not know the conditions.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I never claimed to know them.

Sardar Majithia: The hon. Member knows only one side of the picture. Only if you had cared to come and check up, you would find for yourself that the system evolved is very very fair and just and that it is the best that we can have. The results have proved that the system is working efficiently. Of course, there can be exceptions. The hon. Minister is there always to check up and see the instances of injustice whenever they are brought to his notice and remedy them. After all, he can do that. I have taken quite a lot of your time. I am very grateful to you and I should not take any more. With these remarks, I hope the House will be satisfied. I therefore oppose this Resolution.

Shri Dhulekar (Jhansi Distt.—South): I shall not take much of your time because the Mover has already explained all the circumstances about the selection as well as training of the cadets. He has also placed before you the cases in which the National

Defence Academy trains cadets and after 2½ years rejects them. I have also given deep consideration to the hon. Deputy Minister's remarks and I find that he has given very careful consideration to the points that he has submitted. But, I wish to tell you that he has forgotten that the very appointment of a Committee and the opening words of the Resolution of the Ministry of Defence clearly prove that the reactions of the Officer cadets were not on these lines. The Resolution says:

"New Delhi, 14th November, 1953.

....To advise the Government of India on matters relating to the rejection of Officer cadets during their training at the National Defence Academy....."

The words that the Committee has been appointed about the rejection of the cadets clearly mean that some reports are certainly in the possession of the Ministry of Defence which go to prove that there were certain defects somewhere and therefore the Government was forced to appoint a Committee. The terms of reference also show that. The same thing is repeated here also:

"Is the method of assessment of cadets during the training within the National Defence Academy and in the corresponding institutions of the Navy and the Air Force sound, fair and reasonable?"

That means that there is some doubt in the mind of the Defence Ministry that the method of assessment was defective, that it was not sound, fair and reasonable. Then it says:

"Is there scope for improving with a view to reducing rejections?"

I submit that these words are very important. If my hon. friend the Deputy Minister is satisfied that as compared with other nations, two per cent. or one per cent. is quite satisfactory, where was the necessity for

placing these words in the terms of reference:

"with a view to reducing rejections"?

Sardar Majithia: We would like to reduce it as much as we possibly can.

Shri Dhulekar: If two per cent. or 1 per cent. is quite satisfactory, why should you reduce it? If it were 18 per cent. or 20 per cent. certainly you may reduce it. When the hon. Deputy Minister says that it is quite satisfactory, why appoint a Committee. Where is the question of going into all this investigation, going round the country and spending good money for reducing the rejections which are only 2 per cent., and 1 per cent. I submit that the very position taken up by the Defence Ministry in this case is not correct. I would certainly not insist upon the appointment of a new Committee. I have certainly got a Resolution, but I shall request the Defence Minister that when a Committee has already been appointed to reduce rejections, that Committee may also be instructed to go into the cases over the last two years and if there has been any injustice in any case, that cadet may be re-taken. I do not at all mean in any way that assessment should not be made properly, that no rules should be there, but the very appointment of the Committee means that there have been some injustices, some irregularities, and therefore, if some people have been the victims of these irregularities, then that must be set right. So I hope justice will be done by expanding the terms of reference to this extent only that those cases in which some irregularities have been found, in which people have been thrown out without reason, may be considered sympathetically. That is my submission.

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): I am glad that this Resolution has come and the Government is in the position of clarifying the issue. In fact, Mr. Dhulekar's objection seems to be on the very

[Shri Tyagi]

face of it, quite relevant. He says unless there was something wrong, why did the Government appoint a Committee? I confess it is my mistake, because, as I was receiving proposals of relegation...

Pandit K. C. Sharma (Meerut Distt. —South): Is the mistake to appoint a Committee or to have found the fault?

Shri Algu Rai Shastri: To appoint the Committee it seems.

Shri Tyagi: As I was getting complaints about these cadets every time because no action could be taken unless the Government gave their final decision, as I got one after another a few complaints, I and my colleagues objected as to why they should be turned out after they have received two years' training.

Shri Algu Rai Shastri: It was very hasty.

Shri Tyagi: It was the very sentiment which my hon. friend Sardar Hukam Singh has put before the House, and my other friend too. Biassed by these very considerations we went on discussing with the headquarters. They tried to justify their position. We felt it was justified. But then we wanted to further investigate into the matter and find out if these relegations and rejection could be avoided. For that purpose the Committee was appointed.

Shri Algu Rai Shastri Weak-kneed policy.

Shri Tyagi: We took pretty good care to see that a non-Government Member of the Parliament sits as Chairman of the Committee. We took Dr. Kunzru who is known for his great interest in Defence matters and his judicious mind. He is also an educationist. There are other educationists also. They sit on the Committee and report to the Government as to whether the system is really defective. Because the Committee has been appointed, it is not a proof of the fact that there is any defect already existing. The only point is that

the Government wanted to be doubly sure that these rejections are done on a fair line and they add to the health of the Armed Forces and do not dispel people from coming into the Armed Forces.

Shri Algu Rai Shastri: Frank admission.

Shri Tyagi: One point, however, may be realised by the House. If individual cases of rejection are to be looked into by a Committee of the House, it will be a bad precedent. I must say, because the House will then sit in judgment over decisions of the Ministry on cases of dismissal of those who are not Government servants yet, because those students are still students. They are simply selected. They are selected not for service yet. They are selected to deserve coming into that institution for training.

Then, the training is given, as my colleague has already said, at Government expense. We train them, and they do not lose any year of their education, because, even after two years' training, if they have passed in academic subjects, practically all the Intermediate Boards and Universities have agreed to take these boys back in the third year because they have finished two years here.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are all cadets students from colleges?

Shri Tyagi: Yes. After two years are finished and they have passed in academic subjects, they are recognised as having passed the Intermediate examination of the Universities of India. It is recognised by the Union Public Services Commission, by the Home Ministry and by the Universities. They can go and join any college in the third year and pass their B.A. examination after two years.

Shri Damodara Menon (Kozhikode): Since when are these concessions given?

Shri Tyagi: I think they have been there for some time past, at least before I took charge these concessions were there. They are there at present. There was one concession lacking, because the boy who was rejected in the first year, after passing his first year, was not taken in the second year by the colleges. That is one defect which still exists: the colleges would agree to take the student in the third year course, only if he has undergone two years' training. But if a boy has left his training after one year, then, of course, the colleges would not take him into the second year, which they should do. About that proposal, we are still considering, and we shall see to that even those boys who give up the training after one year do not lose any year of their college career.

7 P.M.

I submit once again that the boys are educated not at the expense of their parents, but at Government's expense. We are spending for them, and we are giving them full education—and perhaps better education—which they would otherwise receive in the colleges. That being the case, the choice must of course remain with Government as to which of them they should take, and which of them they should not, because they are not even apprentices. In the case of Government servants, who are taken on probation, in the case of probationers, Government are not required to give any reason before they are discharged. If Government are not satisfied with the work of any probationer, he is given no notice, no chargesheet is needed, no inquiry is needed, and neither does the House care to know how many probationers Government have not confirmed or have taken into regular service. I would submit that it will be going too far if Parliament were to inquire into these individual cases.

I submit that everybody should realise—and I hope my hon. friend the Mover of the Resolution realises it perhaps more than I do—that we

should not do anything which will weaken the armed forces. There are matters of discipline on which some people are charged, and our army officers from one end to the other have already judged each case, and after that Government also have judged these cases. If they are to be reopened, I am afraid, the officers at the helm of affairs in the armed forces will lose quite a lot of their prestige. While justice is done to all officers, I as a Minister have taken particular care to see that the prestige of the Army Headquarters, the Naval Headquarters, and the Air Headquarters, is not in the least diluted. The prestige of the Commanders-in-Chief of these armed forces must be above all things. Since they have taken decisions about the cadets, I believe perhaps it will be too small a matter for my hon. friend to press for the holding of an inquiry into each case. I would prefer very much his co-operation into an inquiry into the system, because that will deal with the policy in this regard, and any suggestion on a question of policy will always be welcome.

I can only assure this House and my hon. friend the Mover of the Resolution that as we have taken pretty good care, we shall not sleep over it, but every case will continue to be still further thoroughly examined. I am very hopeful that the Committee which is presided over by Dr H. N. Kunzru will give us some further information on this point, and I hope that things will go well, and there will not be many complaints. I do not think I have to say anything more except that I appeal to the sense of patriotism of my hon. friend not to interfere with the armed forces.

Sardar Hukam Singh: I would like to put only one question to the hon. Minister. If the hon. Minister or Government themselves have appointed that Committee by mistake or otherwise, I presume that in order to come to a finding, they shall have to go into individual cases. Supposing they come to a decision that in a

[Sardar Hukam Singh]

particular case, justice was not done and that the withdrawal of a candidate was without ground, then shall there be any authority either for this Committee or for the Minister, after such a conclusion is arrived at, to set it right? That is the very simple question I would like to put, leaving aside the question of appealing to my patriotism. If the House feels that it is not in the interests of the country, I am not particular to press my Resolution. Once the Committee has been appointed, let that Committee remain. But if that Committee comes to a conclusion that in some particular case, the withdrawal was not justified, is there any remedy provided with the Committee or with the Minister or with Government to set it right?

Shri Tyagi: The Committee is not going to look into individual cases. As I have suggested, the Committee will inquire into the method of selection and into the method of rejection. They will also see on what basis they are rejected. They will look into a few cases of the past also to make up their minds as to whether the manner in which they were rejected should be pursued in future or not. Therefore, they will give us their recommendations as to in what manner we should, in their opinion, assess the capabilities and efficiency of the cadets who are educated there. I am sure their recommendations will be of great value and Government will take advantage of them for future guidance. But surely

they are not going to sit in judgment over the cases which have already been gone into and approved by Government.

श्री अलगू राय शास्त्री : इस कमेटी को इन्डिविजुअल केसेज में नहीं जाना चाहिये ।

Sardar A. S. Saigal: Sir, through you, may I ask a question from the hon. Minister—whether the recommendations of the Committee which has been appointed will come before the House?

Shri Tyagi: Sir, I will see what the recommendations are. I cannot give an undertaking. But may I again assure this House that I sit in this House as the agent of the House? I am absolutely in their hands and unless there is anything which goes against the security of the country, I have little objection in putting my papers before this House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, is it necessary to put it to the House?

Sardar Hukam Singh: I would like to withdraw it.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House now stands adjourned till 2 P.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned till Two of the Clock on Saturday, the 6th March, 1954.