



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

OFFICIAL REPORT



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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Thursday, 16th March, 1950

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock.

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

VISIT OF BURMESE FOREIGN MINISTER

*896. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Foreign Minister of Burma had visited India in the third week of December, 1949?

(b) If so, what was the object of his visit?

(c) Was there any discussion, regarding the treatment of Indians in Burma?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b). The Foreign Minister of Burma visited this country in December 1949 to have a talk with the Government of India on various matters of common interest.

(c) No.

Shri Sidhva: The hon. Minister said there were various subjects that were discussed. May I know what were the particular subjects of common interest that were discussed?

Dr. Keskar: The Foreign Minister of Burma visited this country to have a discussion, as I said, with the Government of India on various matters. The hon. Member is well aware that it is not possible for Government to reveal specific points of discussion without the consent of the Foreign Minister of Burma himself.

Shri Sidhva: Was the subject of the property of our nationals in Burma also discussed?

Mr. Speaker: How can that question be put in view of the answer given?

Shri Bharati: What is the proposition before the delegation which is proposed to be sent from here to Burma? There was a proposal for a non-official delegation.....

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of this question?

Sardar B. S. Man: May I know whether the Indians who are living now in Burma are domiciled there or have acquired citizenship rights in Burma, or are they still aliens there?

Dr. Keskar: The position is that Indians in Burma are free to acquire Burmese citizenship. As far as I know, quite a large number have acquired Burmese citizenship but I do not think that the majority of Indians settled in Burma have yet acquired it. I am not aware of their intentions and it is not possible for me to say anything on that though it is quite clear that a large number would still remain, or prefer to remain, Indian nationals.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : बर्मा के वदेशिक मंत्री के आने के बाद क्या वहाँ पर भारतीयों की स्थिति कुछ सुधरी है , या और बिगड़ती जा रही है ?

Seth Govind Das: Have the general conditions of Indians there improved anyway or have they deteriorated further after the visit to India of the Foreign Minister of Burma?

Dr. Keskar: The visit of the Foreign Minister of Burma was not specifically in connection with the question of Indians in Burma. Therefore, I do not think it is possible for me to say whether the situation has improved or deteriorated after his visit here.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know whether it is a fact that the Commonwealth countries have agreed to give a loan to Burma, and if so, whether.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It does not arise.

Shri Kamath: Without disclosing any top secrets or even ordinary secrets, could the Deputy Minister tell the House whether the Foreign Minister invited our Foreign Minister or the Deputy Minister himself to visit Burma at the earliest possible opportunity?

Dr. Keskar: The Burmese Government had invited representatives of the Government of India to visit Burma many times, not specifically to discuss any outstanding questions as such but for strengthening the relations between India and Burma.

گیانی جی - ایس - مسافر : کیا گورنمنٹ برما اور گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا کے درمیان کوئی ایسی بات چیت ہو رہی ہے یا ہو چکی ہے کہ جو ہمدوستی برما گورنمنٹ کے ملازم ہیں ان کو گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا اپنی سروس میں لے لے ؟

Giani G. S. Musafir: May I know whether there have been, or there are still going on any talks between the Governments of India and Burma as regards the absorption in service of the Government of India, of all those Indians who are at present the employees of the Burma Government?

Dr. Keskar: The question of taking Indians who were in service with the Government of Burma into the service of the Government of India has been engaging the attention of Government for sometime, but there are certain difficulties in the way of which my hon. friend is also aware. But the Government is sympathetically inclined towards this question.

HINDU AND SIKH SHRINES IN PAKISTAN

***897. Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the total number with details of the Hindu and Sikh shrines in Pakistan?

(b) How many of these have been treated as "Evacuee Properties"?

(c) How many have been preserved under the Inter-Dominion Agreement relating to the sanctity of places of worship?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri Mohan Lal Saksena): (a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to my reply to Started Question No. 732 answered on the 19th December, 1949.

(b) Government have no exact information on this point though it is known that generally all landed property and other built up property with which shrines were endowed, are being treated as evacuee property.

(c) According to information received from the Pakistan Government 274 Gurdwaras and temples in West Punjab are in good condition and their sanctity is being preserved.

Shri Sidhva: May I know the number of shrines which existed there on the 19th of December? -

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I am reading the answer given by me on the 19th December:

"Government of India have no authentic record of the exact number of Hindu and Jain Temples and Sikh Gurdwaras in Pakistan, their location and the value of their movable and immovable properties."

Shri Sidhva: Am I to understand that there were no Hindu and Sikh shrines in Pakistan?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: No.

Shri Sidhva: Has our High Commissioner been asked to enquire and has he made any note of it?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: As a matter of fact, the hon. Member will remember that we have made a reference about 800 and odd temples and Gurdwaras to the Pakistan Government. As we get information about them, we take up the question with the Pakistan Government.

Shri Sidhva: Will he at least inform the House as to the number of shrines that are there?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: We have not got any record of the temples, Gurdwaras and shrines in Pakistan and the Pakistan Government has supplied information only about 274 temples. There is no other means of getting the exact information. Our High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner cannot go to all towns and villages and get the exact number.

Prof. Ranga: Are there any Sikhs or Hindus there in Pakistan to make use of these shrines and offer their prayers?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes, in some of these Gurdwaras there are Sikhs, and there are Hindus who are using these shrines.

Sardar B. S. Man: Have Government any information as to whether the income accruing from the properties attached to these Gurdwaras and shrines

is given direct to those who are living there and looking after those shrines, or whether it is in any way being debited to the account of those shrines?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: As I have informed the House, all this property is being treated as evacuee property and therefore whatever collections, if any, must be credited to the account of the Custodian there.

گہانی جی - ایس - مسافر : کیا یہ ٹھیک ہے کہ گورو نانک صاحب کے جلم استھان
نکنہ صاحب کی جتنی زمین ہے وہ ایویکیو پراپرٹی قرار دی گئی ہے ؟

Giani G. S. Musafir: Is it a fact that all lands attached to Nankana Sahib, the birth place of Guru Nanak, has been declared as evacuee property?

श्री मोहन लाल सक्सेना : मेरे पास ठीक ठीक इत्ला तो नहीं है लेकिन मेरा ख्याल यह है कि वह ईवैक्यूई प्रापरटी करार देदी गई थी ।

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have no exact information to this effect but I think the lands in question had been declared as such.

گہانی جی - ایس - مسافر : گوا اسکے متعلق شروملی گرو دوارہ پربندھک کمیٹی نے
کوئی شکایت یا رپریزنٹیشن سرکار کے پاس بھیجا ہے ؟

Giani G. S. Musafir: Have the Government received any complaint or representation from the Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee on this subject?

श्री मोहन लाल सक्सेना : जी हां, जैसा कि मैंने अभी सवाल के जवाब में बतलाया है मेरे पास एक रिप्रेजेंटेशन भी आया था और एक डेपुटेशन भी मिली थी, लेकिन अभी उसका कोई नतीजा नहीं निकला है ।

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes, I have just stated in answer to a question that I received a deputation as also a representation. But there have been no results thereof.

Sardar Hukam Singh: In reply to a question, we were told here that some representation had been made to the Pakistan Government about some hundreds of Gurdwaras and temples being desecrated and turned into butchers' shops etc. Has any reply been received to that representation?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have already informed the House in reply to part (c) of this question that the information received from the Pakistan Government is that at least 274 Gurdwaras and temples in West Punjab are in good condition and their sanctity is being preserved.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What was the total number of shrines regarding which representation had been made? It was about 600 or 800 so far as I can recollect.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: To be exact the number was 719. If the hon. Member wants the figures province-wise I can give them. They are as follows:

	Temples	Gurdwaras
West Punjab	266	327
N. W. F. P.	30	304
Sind	207	76
Baluchistan and Tribal Areas	1	12
	504	719

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the trustees of the two Jain temples in Karachi have written to the hon. Minister saying that they are being misused and the unauthorised persons should be evacuated and the sanctity preserved? If it is so, may I know what action has been taken by Government?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The usual action, that is to say, our High Commissioner represented to the Government of Pakistan.

Shri Sidhva: What happened? Have they been restored?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. We are going into details. The general position is well known to the House.

Sardar B. S. Man: May I put one question, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Sardar B. S. Man: Was there an agreement arrived at between the two countries not to treat places of worship as evacuee property?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: No. There was no agreement to that effect. As a matter of fact, a Special Committee was appointed, consisting of three representatives of the Pakistan Government and three representatives of our Government, to go into the question and make recommendations to be considered by the two Governments in regard to the disposal of the properties attached to places of worship. In the meanwhile, these properties are being administered by the Custodian.

FRENCH DEMAND FOR INDIAN TEXTILES

*899. **Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that French importers have placed large orders for Indian textiles with Indian manufacturers?

(b) If so, what is the total value thereof and have any shipments been made so far?

(c) Is there any trade treaty between India and France?

(d) Has there been any demand for any other Indian articles from France?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Neogy): (a) and (b). It was reported to Government sometime back that a substantial demand existed in France for Indian cotton piecegoods of cheaper varieties. No information is however available of any orders having been actually placed by French importers with Indian manufacturers. No shipments have been made so far.

(c) No.

(d) Some of the commodities for which there is a demand from France are groundnuts, niger seed pepper, crushed bones, manganese ore, Amritsar papra Sheen skins and sandalwood oil.

Shri Sidhva: The hon. Minister stated in reply to part (c) that the answer is in the negative. May I know whether any negotiations have been going on between France and India regarding this treaty?

Shri Neogy: Yes.

Shri Sidhva: With what result? What stage has it reached?

Shri Neogy: Nothing has been decided yet, but talks are progressing.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether any Technical Mission from France visited India and if so, with what result?

Shri Neogy: Technical Mission from where?

Shri Sidhva: From France.

Shri Neogy: What about? I am not aware of it.

Prof. Ranga: About commerce and trade.

Shri Sidhva: *rose*—

Mr. Speaker: Does he want to put any further question?

Shri Sidhva: I want a reply to my question, Sir.

Shri Neogy: I cannot recollect definitely. At least I do not remember to have received any such Technical Mission having anything to do with a commercial treaty or agreement.

Shri Sidhva: What are the articles exported from France to India?

Shri Neogy: I should like to have notice of that.

Sardar B. S. Man: What are the main French articles that we import in return for Indian articles that we export?

Shri Neogy: As I said just now, I should like to have notice of that.

MANUFACTURE OF STEAM ROAD ROLLERS

***899. Dr. M. M. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of **Industry and Supply** be pleased to state how many steam road rollers have been manufactured in this country to date?

(b) Have some of them been exported to any other country and if so, to what country?

(c) What other machines and machinery parts are exported from India and to what countries are they exported?

The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee): (a) 436 up to 10th March, 1950.

(b) No.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix V, annexure No. 14.*]

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether it is a fact that the machineries which are exported to other countries are not manufactured in India but are assembled from parts imported into India?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Does the hon. Member refer to steam rollers?

Dr. M. M. Das: No, Sir. I refer to the machineries which are in the list.

An Hon. Member: He is afraid of the steam roller!

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I have not got here the list of all the machineries specifically mentioned and I do not know to which particular one the hon. Member is referring.

Prof. Ranga: Steam rollers!

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: So far as steam rollers are concerned, 87 per cent. of the components, excluding the boilers, are being manufactured in India, today. (*Hear, hear.*)

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know the total value of foreign exchange realised by Government through the export of these machineries and machine parts?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I have given the figures in the statement as far as figures were available. The hon. Member may refer to them.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the industries which manufacture these machineries and machine parts enjoy any protection at the hands of Government?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: It depends upon the industries.

Shri Kamath: How many of these steam rollers is Government using for its own purposes?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I think the hon. Member knows that very well.

MUSLIMS GOING TO PAKISTAN AND *Vice Versa*

*900. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Muslims who have gone over to Pakistan to live there as Pakistani nationals during the year 1949-50 up to the date for which figures are available; and

(b) the number of non-Muslims who have come over to India to live here as Indian nationals during the year 1949-50 up to the date for which figures are available?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri Mohan Lal Saksena): (a). Nearly 18,800.

(b) From 1st January, 1949 to 24th February, 1950 about 27,000 from West Pakistan and 62,000 from East Pakistan.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether any non-Muslims other than Hindus have migrated to India, and if so, what is their number?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have not got that information, because we have not been collecting information religion-wise—we have been collecting only the number of those who have come to India and those who have gone out of India: both Muslims and non-Muslims.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether Government have ascertained the reasons why non-Muslims other than Hindus have migrated to India?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Of course, we have. They have come over for the evident reason that they have not been able to live there. They have come over for economic reasons as well.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या सरकार के पास इस प्रकार की कोई रिपोर्ट है कि कई मुसलमानों के कुटुम्ब पाकिस्तान में रहने लगे हैं और उनके कुटुम्बों के कर्ता यहाँ पर अब हिन्दुस्तान में रहते हैं ?

Seth Govind Das: Have the Government any reports to the effect that the families of many Muslims have shifted their residence permanently to Pakistan whereas the Heads of the families live still in India?

श्री मोहन लाल सक्सेना : बिल्कुल ठीक है । मगर इस सवाल से इसका कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है ।

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Quite correct but it does not arise from this question.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know what is the number of non-Muslims who have come from Eastern Pakistan into this country and of Muslims who have gone over to Eastern Pakistan from India?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have given the figures. They relate to the period from 1st January 1949 up to 24th February 1950. About 27,000 non-Muslims have come over from West Pakistan and about 18,800 Muslims have gone over to Pakistan.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know the number of non-Muslims who have come over from Eastern Pakistan to India?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have given the figures separately. Non-Muslims who have come over from West Pakistan are about 27,000 and 62,000 from East Pakistan. These figures are only up to 24th February 1950. After that, of course, there has been a big influx.

Dr. M. M. Das: What is the number of Muslims who have gone over to Eastern Pakistan?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Muslims have been going too, but I cannot give exact figures.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is the hon. Minister aware that non-Muslim non-Hindu nationals of Pakistan have come over to India because there are restrictions on the sale and purchase of properties by them in Pakistan?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I do not know, but it may be one of the reasons.

Shri Buragohain: What is the number of Muslims who have gone over from Assam into Eastern Pakistan?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have given the information. It is not province-wise. About 18,800 Muslims have gone over to Eastern Pakistan. But recently I was in Assam and I was told that a large number of Muslims from there have gone to Eastern Pakistan.

COAL MINES IN SOUTH INDIA

*901. **Dr. M. M. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state how many coal mines there are in South India?

(b) What quality of coal do they produce?

The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee): (a) The following three collieries are situated in Hyderabad State (i) Kothagudium, (ii) Tandur, and (iii) Singareni (Yellandu).

(b) Kothagudium and Tandur produce Selected Grade; Singareni (Yellandu) produces Grade II coal.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know what percentage of the total output of Indian coal is covered by this South Indian Production?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Of the total production of 30 million, the South Indian collieries account for about a million.

Prof. Ranga: Is it true that recently the geological experts of the Government of India have discovered large seams of coal in South Arcot district, south of Madras?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Investigations are going on with regard to the finding of lignite and we are awaiting the final report.

CENTRAL SALT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

***902. Shri Raj Bahadur:** Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

- (a) the terms of reference of the Central Salt Advisory Committee;
- (b) the personnel of the Committee;
- (c) the progress made so far in the work and deliberations of the Committee; and
- (d) the date by which the Committee is expected to submit its report or recommendations?

The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee): (a) and (b). A copy of the Government Resolution giving the terms of reference and the personnel of the Committee is placed on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix V, annexure No. 15.*]

(c) and (d). This is a Standing Advisory Committee and is not required to submit any report as such. This Committee has held three meetings so far and has submitted its recommendations about the production, distribution, consumption, import and price of salt. A summary of the important recommendations made by the Committee is placed on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix V, annexure No. 16.*]

Shri Raj Bahadur: In view of the fact that an expert salt committee was appointed in 1948, what was the necessity of appointing another committee?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: That was a committee of experts for the purpose of giving a report as regards future development. This is an advisory committee which functions throughout the year to advise Government regarding various matters I have mentioned.

Prof. Ranga: Are there any representatives of salt producers on this committee?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Yes. The names are given in the resolution which I have placed on the Table of the House.

Shri Kamath: Is it the same committee of which Mr. Sidhva is the Chairman?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Exactly.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Has it gone on tour to the various parts of the country which have got potentialities of salt production?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: The Chairman was reluctant to spend money on travelling allowance; so they have not travelled much.

REGIONAL OFFICES UNDER DISPOSALS DIRECTORATE

***903. Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the number of regional offices under the Disposals Directorate functioning on 15th August, 1947 and 31st December, 1949?

The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee): The Regional Offices under the Director General (Disposals) working on 15th August, 1947 as well as on 31st December, 1949 comprise the four Regional Commissioners' Offices at Calcutta, Bombay, Kanpur and Madras.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What percentage and value of the items has been utilised or disposed of up to now and what percentage still remains with the Government?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: We have given the details in the report and the whole matter will come up for discussion, I take it, during the budget discussion today.

Shri Tyagi: May I know if the officers in charge of these Regional Offices are interchangeable or have they been staying at their very stations since long?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: They are interchangeable and also subject to removal—both.

Kanwar Jaswant Singh: What is the value of disposals still remaining?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I think the book value will be about Rs. 120 crores. All these details have been given in the report.

Shri Joachim Alva: By what time will these offices be closed down or wound up?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: If nothing untoward happens, by the end of March 1951.

LICENCES FOR IMPORT OF SELF-RAISING FLOUR FROM AUSTRALIA

***904. Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the merchants in the State of Madras to whom licences for the import of self-raising flour from Australia were issued in 1949, and the value of the quota given to each;

(b) whether it is a fact that Messrs. K. Ramson & Company, of Madras, was given a licence during this period; if so for how much;

(c) whether the said Messrs. Ramson & Company is a newcomer; and

(d) if so, the reasons for giving the firm such special treatment?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Neogy): (a) I lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the names of merchants in the State of Madras to whom licences for import of self-raising flour from Australia were issued in 1949 and the value of the quota given to each. [See Appendix V, *annexure No. 17.*]

(b) Yes. A licence was granted to this firm for import of self-raising flour worth Rs. 8,00,750/-.

(c) Yes.

(d) On looking into the list of Madras licences in this connection, I myself felt that the matter required further investigation. I have accordingly ordered that a full enquiry should be held and I shall lay on the Table of the House a statement explaining the position fully when the enquiry is over.

Shri Kamath: Is it not a fact, Sir, that this firm Messrs. Ramson & Company was not merely a new-comer in this particular commodity, but a new-comer entirely to import business?

Shri Neogy: All these facts will be the subject-matter of this enquiry which I have already ordered. I may add for the information of the House that the enquiry will be conducted by two officers of the Commerce Ministry who had no concern with this particular licence and two officers of the Finance Ministry. These four officers will go into all the relevant facts and I hope to be able to make a statement before the Parliamentary Session is over.

Shri Kamath: Is the Minister in a position to assure the House that this enquiry will not take too long a time?

Shri Neogy: I have every hope that I will be able to make a statement before the Parliamentary Session is over.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: Has the hon. Minister considered the desirability of appointing a judicial officer not below the rank of a District Judge for investigating into this matter?

Shri Neogy: The enquiry is for the purpose of enabling me to give an answer to this question. The hon. Member has raised quite a different issue which we might reserve for further consideration when the report is available.

Pandit Maitra: What is self-raising flour, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Tyagi: Is the officer who issued this licence still in the same office, or has he been transferred from that office?

Shri Neogy: I do not know exactly. There may be more than one officer concerned. But all that will be enquired into by this Committee of officers.

Shri Kamath: Pending the enquiry has anyone been suspended?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

HEADQUARTERS OF EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION

*905. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the headquarters of the Employees' State-Insurance Corporation will be located at Bombay;

(b) in which building the office will be housed;

(c) when the building was acquired by Government, and for what amount; and

(d) whether Government deputed any officer to carry on the negotiations for the purchase of the building, and when the deal was finalised?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes.

(b) In a building under construction on Plot No. 3 Scheme C, Colaba Causeway, Bombay.

(c) The building is to be purchased by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation for about Rs. 8 lakhs. The deed is not yet complete.

(d) The Director General was authorised by the Standing Committee of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation to carry on negotiations for purchasing the building. The deal is not yet finalised as the building is still under construction but earnest money amounting to Rs. 50,000 has been paid.

Shri Kamath: Which officer was deputed by the Labour Ministry to negotiate this deal?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: The Director-General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation.

Shri Kamath: What is the interim report made by him about this negotiation or deal?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: That the building should be purchased.

Shri Kamath: For eight lakhs?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes.

TRAVELLERS FROM TIBET INTO INDIA AND *vice versa*

*908. **Shri B. S. Arya:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of traders and other travellers coming into India from Tibet every year and *vice versa*?

(b) Are they required to obtain a permit for entry into Tibet or India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) As persons of Indian domicile and Tibetans do not require passports for travel between India and Tibet, it is not possible to furnish the desired information.

(b) No.

श्री बी० एस० आर्य : क्या तिब्बत में व्यापार करने वाले ट्रेडर्स की ओर से वहाँ अपनी रक्षा चाहने के लिए सरकार के पास कोई आवेदन पत्र आया है ?

Shri B. S. Arya: Have the Government received any representation on behalf of Traders from Tibet, requesting to be provided with necessary protection?

Dr. Keskar: There has been no representation on behalf of traders from Tibet, but it has been brought to the notice of Government that various difficulties are now coming up in the way of the traditional trade which used to be carried on between India and Tibet.

Shri Borooah: Is it a fact that some Tibetans come every year to the north-east frontier and collect blackmail from some of the hill tribes in Assam?

Dr. Keskar: I do not think that such a statement would be generally true. It is true that it does happen sometimes that Tibetans who might be called marauders have encroached on our territory and tried to collect money in the form of taxes or otherwise from villages on the Indian side.

Shri Borooah: Is it a fact that certain Tibetan officers are allowed to be stationed inside the Indian territory during some part of the year?

Dr. Keskar: No, Sir.

Sardar B. S. Man: The answer has been given that Tibetans are permitted to enter into India. May I know whether there are any conditions for our entry into Tibet?

Dr. Keskar: Such going and coming is confined to the trading communities. Indian traders on our side and Tibetan traders on the Tibetan side, who traditionally go and come, and no one questions their right of going and coming.

Shri A. B. Gurung: May I know whether there has been a great influx of Tibetans into India this year? And if so, may I know the reason?

Dr. Keskar: There has been a great influx in certain stations. I am unable to give the reasons immediately.

Sardar B. S. Man: What are the conditions regulating the entry of Indian tourists into Tibet, apart from traders?

Dr. Keskar: Tourists as such cannot go into Tibet without the permission of the Tibetan Government.

Prof. Banga: May I know whether we keep any forces or officers to prevent the entry of such undesirable people as marauders from Tibet into our territory?

Dr. Keskar: We have got certain trading posts for checking such people and at certain places we have got also what may be called a kind of police force. Unfortunately the number of passes between India and Tibet are so many that it is not possible, without spending a large amount of money, to keep a very effective check. Traditionally traders on both sides used to come and go and nothing untoward has happened so far. If the situation does change, I can assure the House that the Government will see that the situation does not deteriorate in any way.

Shri Joachim Alva: In view of the political change in China and the consequences thereof on Tibet, do Government propose to check the entry of Tibetans into India?

Dr. Keskar: The entry into India of people other than Tibetan traders is always regulated.

REPRESENTATION OF DISPLACED STALL HOLDERS, KHARI BAOLI

*908. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the displaced stall holders, Khari Baoli, submitted a representation that they would be prepared to build stalls at their own expense if a suitable site were given to them?

(b) What has been the result of that representation?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri Mohan Lal Saxena): (a) Yes.

(b) A scheme for building shops near Ajmeri Gate is being processed.

Sardar Hukam Singh: What is the accommodation offered to them till that site is built up?

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: The accommodation offered is the shops available in Lajpat Rai Market and Amrit Kaur Market in Paharganj.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is it a fact that these shops offered to these stall holders as alternative accommodation were offered to the stall holders in Chandni Chowk and Nai Sarak and they refused to have them because there was no customer?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: No. The position was that in view of the fact that those squatters who were there before the 9th December 1948 had to be provided with alternative accommodation before they could be removed, those shops were kept vacant although there were thousands of applications for those shops.

Sardar Hukam Singh: For how long have they been lying vacant?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: They have been lying vacant for some time. As already stated the Municipal Committee had to give alternative accommodation to squatters before they could be removed.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: What will be the time before new shops could be built for these Khari Baoli stall holders?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It is difficult to say. Before the Standing Committee yesterday the statement was given that the estimated time is likely to be anything up to four to five months.

लाला अचिन्त राम : क्या यह बात ठीक है कि चांदनी चौक और नई सड़क से जिन सैंकड़ों आदमियों को लाजपतराय मारकेट में जगह अलाट की गई उनका बिजनेस नहीं चला और वह वापस लौट कर आ गये। अगर ऐसा है तो क्यों गवर्नमेंट उनको वहां वापस भेजने का हौसला करती है ?

Lala Achint Ram: Is it a fact that hundreds of the squatters in Chandni Chowk and Nai Sarak who were allotted shops in the Lajpat Rai Market had to return because of their business proving a failure there? If it is so, what is there to encourage the Government to send them back?

श्री मोहन लाल सक्सेना : मैं नहीं जानता कि वह लोग लौट कर आये या नहीं, लेकिन मैं जानता हूँ कि म्युनिसिपैलिटी के चैयरमैन की तरफ से कहा गया है कि अगर ३५० आदमी एक साथ वहां जायें तो कोई वजह नहीं है कि बिजनेस न चले।

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I am not aware whether those people have returned or not. I, however, know the Chairman of the Municipality to be of the view that there could be no reason for the business proving a failure provided these 850 persons went there together.

लाला अचिन्त राम : ३५० से ज्यादा आदमी वहां गये।

Lala Achint Ram: More than 850 men went there.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member is arguing on the question.

लाला अचिन्त राम : I am not arguing. I am stating a fact. ३५० आदमी वहां गये और वापस आ गये। अब उनको क्यों वहां भेजा जाता है।

Lala Achint Ram: I am not arguing. I am stating a fact. 350 men went there and they have returned from there. Why are they, again, being sent there?

श्री मोहन लाल सक्सेना : मेरी इत्तला यह नहीं है । वह जहां से गये थे वहां तो वापस नहीं आये । कहीं और चले गये होंगे ?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It is not my information. Those people have not returned to those very places wherefrom they were removed. They might have shifted somewhere else.

Mr. Speaker: I think we will now proceed to the next question.

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

*909. **Shri Ethirajulu Naidu:** (a) Will the Minister of **Industry and Supply** be pleased to state whether Government are imparting Industrial Training?

(b) What is the expenditure incurred by Government for (i) establishment and (ii) stipends for candidates?

(c) What is the total expenditure incurred by Government?

The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee): (a) There is no special arrangement for industrial training as such.

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

گیانی جی - ایس - مسافو : کیا جاپان سے کوئی ٹیکنیکل انسٹرکٹر ہلدوستان میں بلائے گئے ہیں ؟

Giani G. S. Musafir: Have any technical instructors from Japan been invited to India?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: That does not arise from this question.

Prof. Ranga: What has happened to the Government plan for imparting training in industrial management?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: We have not been able to draw up any scheme. Of course, what we have done with regard to our own factories and other workshops is that we have made provision for giving training to selected people. We have also arranged to send some people abroad for specialised training.

Prof. Ranga: Have Government any project at all to establish a training institute for training people in industrial management?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: There is no such scheme.

Prof. Ranga: Is not the answer to part (a) in the negative apart from the project for establishing a special research and training institute for cottage industries?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: As I said, Sir, there is some provision for giving training to some apprentices or some particular individuals, but there is no such scheme for over-all training in industrial affairs.

STEEL BELT LACING

*910. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of **Industry and Supply** be pleased to state whether steel belt lacing is manufactured in India?

(b) If so, what are the names of the factories that manufacture the same and where are they located?

(c) What are the raw materials required for its manufacture?

(d) Are they all available in India?

The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee): (a) Yes.

(b) (1) M/s. Madan Engineering and Tool Products, Delhi.

(2) M/s. New India Engineering Works, Delhi.

(3) M/s. Bolinjikar Metal Works, Bombay.

(c) Cold rolled bright steel strips, galvanised steel wire and hard bright wire.

(d) No.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it a protected industry?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Yes.

Shri S. C. Samanta: How much steel belt lacing was imported in 1949 and from what countries?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I have not got the exact figures. In 1948 it would be about 117,000.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is mild steel black sheet a substitute for cold rolled bright steel strips?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: A poor substitute.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is there any difference in quality?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Yes, there is some difference in quality.

Shri S. C. Samanta: What are the prices of the indigenous and imported belts?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I have not got the price structure, but the imported stuff will be costlier than the indigenous product.

Shri S. C. Samanta: What is the estimated demand of this item per annum?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: It will be about 200,000 boxes per annum.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: What is the capacity of this industry and what was the actual output last year?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: About 225,000, but the production in 1948 was only about 50,000 and in 1949, 72,800.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know whether this Industry has achieved sufficient internal economy as to hold its own against foreign competition?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: No. The Industry wants some help and we are trying to help it so that it can come up to the required standard.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is the special type of steel (cold rolled hard bright steel) required by the Industry allowed to be imported from abroad?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: We are allowing such imports.

MACHINERY FROM JAPAN

*911. **Dr. R. S. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the kinds of machinery India needs from Japan?

(b) Is any negotiation going on between India and Japan for the purchase of such machinery?

The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 18.]

(b) No. A trade agreement has, however, been finalised.

Dr. R. S. Singh: May I know whether the Government of India have taken any steps to manufacture such machinery locally?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: We are now exploring the possibility of importing machinery, from Japan, especially for cottage and small industries and a scheme for that purpose is now under consideration.

Dr. R. S. Singh: May I know whether India will need the services of Japanese experts in that connection?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: If necessary we shall get some technical experts from Japan.

DIGWIJAY COTTON MILL, JAMNAGAR

*912. **Shri Zangre:** Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Digwijay Cotton Mill of Jamnagar has been closed due to the non-supply of cotton?

The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee): No. The mills closed down from 15th February, 1950 on account of financial difficulties and consequent inability to purchase cotton.

Kanwar Jaswant Singh: Is there any other mill that has closed for want of cotton?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Seven other mills have closed down. So far as this mill is concerned, I have got the figures. When the mill actually closed down, it had a stock of 476 bales of cotton whereas its monthly requirement was about 550 bales but on account of financial difficulties it could not run the mill. We were prepared to offer it more cotton also.

श्री जांगरे । क्या सरकार को यह माज़ूम है कि उस मिल में कितने मज़दूर काम करते थे ?

Shri Zangre: Have the Government information as to the number of labourers employed in that mill?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: About 1,000.

Prof. Ranga: Are Government taking any steps to help these mills to re-start again?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: We have heard from the Saurashtra Government that they are trying to render necessary financial assistance for the purpose of enabling the mills to continue production.

Shri Sidhya: May I know whether the financial difficulty has arisen on account of accumulation of stocks of cloth?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: We were prepared to give them all facilities for selling their stocks but even then they could not carry on production.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: May I know what textile goods are lying with the other mills which have closed down?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I have not got the figures for the other mills.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: What is the total number of mills that have closed down during the past six months for want of cotton, or finance or even due to mismanagement?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: The total number is 60, not that all have closed down for want of cotton. Some have closed down for want of finance.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AIRCRAFT MACHINE PLANT

*913. **Shri Sanjivayya:** (a) Will the Minister of **Industry and Supply** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that proposals have been submitted to Government by some foreign as well as Indian interests, for setting up an aircraft machine plant which can supplement the Hindustan Aircraft Factory in Bangalore?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take in this matter?

The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee): (a) and (b). Enquiries are received from time to time but no proposal has matured yet.

BUILDINGS IN POSSESSION OF CUSTODIAN OF EVACUEE PROPERTY IN RAJASTHAN

*914. **Shri Raj Bahadur:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state the number of various houses and shops taken possession of by the Custodian of Evacuee property in Rajasthan District-wise?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri Mohan Lal Saksena): Statement giving the required information up to 31st January, 1950 is placed on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix V, annexure No. 19.*]

Information in respect of Jaisalmer, Chittor Garh, Banswara, Jhunjhunu, and Sikar is awaited and will be placed on the Table as soon as received.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know the number of local persons affected by the evacuation?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I do not understand the question. How are the local persons affected? If they have taken possession of these houses after the Muslim occupants had left, they are going to be affected. If they were occupying those houses before the Muslims left, they are not affected.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What about people who were tenants of Muslims before the Muslims left for Pakistan?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Then they are not disturbed.

Sardar B. S. Man: May I know whether these houses and shops which have been taken over by the Custodian of Evacuee Properties in Rajasthan have been allotted to the refugees or to the local people?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: As a matter of fact many of these houses have been allotted again to local people and we have issued orders that these houses should be vacated and they should be allotted to the displaced persons.

Shri Gautam: Is it a fact that the expenditure on the establishment of the Custodian at Ajmer is more than Rs. 20,000/- per month and the income less than Rs. 10,000/- and if so, who pays this deficit?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It does not arise from this question because it relates to Rajasthan. If the hon. Speaker permits me, I will answer this question.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the hon. Minister has been able to collect the statistics as he promised about the total amount of evacuee property in the whole of India?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: If I had got the full information I would have laid it on the Table of the House. I will give that information as soon as it is collected fully.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether there were any houses in the States which were taken possession of by the Custodian under the Ordinance of October and then released on account of relaxation under the Ordinance of January?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have not got that information and if the hon. Member puts down a question, I will give him the information.

KASHMIRIS INTERNED AT ALIBEG

*915. **Shri Baigra:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of Kashmiris were interned by the raiders from Pakistan at Alibeg Camp, after the fall of Mirpur in September, 1947;

(b) whether Government are also aware that selected educated young men including doctors, lawyers, etc., were removed from the said camp under the orders of Sardar Ibrahim and taken to some unknown destination; and

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to find out the fate of these unfortunate young men?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). We have seen reports that some persons from this camp were removed to their original homes but we have no means of verification as we have no access to this area. In spite of repeated efforts the Pakistan Government have so far not agreed to let these refugees come to India.

श्री बैगरा : क्या जिस वक्त सीज़-फायर का मसला तय हुआ था, तो क्या उन लोगों के मुताल्लिक भी कुछ तय हुआ था कि उनका क्या किया जायेगा ?

Shri Baigra: May I know if something was decided about the future of those people at the time when the Cease Fire Agreement was reached?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member wants to know whether there was any agreement about those people when the Cease Fire Agreement was reached.

Shri Gopaldaswami: Not in the Cease Fire Agreement but there was an agreement in 1948 as regards the people held in Alibeg Camp.

Sardar B. S. Man: May I know whether Government have taken any steps to ascertain the whereabouts of these people from the U.N.O. which is primarily responsible for the Cease Fire?

Shri Gopaldaswami: The Cease Fire was an Agreement between the two Governments. The U.N.O. has certain Observers so far as the implementation of the Cease Fire is concerned. But I do not think they are allowed to roam about the area held by the rebels on the other side of the Cease Fire line.

Dr. Deshmukh: What were the terms of the Agreement which has been referred to and to what extent have the Pakistan Government acted upon it?

Shri Gopaldaswami: The Agreement was that there was to be an exchange of persons between Pakistan and Kashmir. The original Agreement contemplated that at Suchetgarh which is between Jammu and Sialkot all the Kashmir abducted girls recovered in Pakistan territory or rather in raider-held territory and in their custody should be handed over to the Kashmir authorities. They were also to send about 2,000 people held at the Alibeg Camp and the Kashmir authorities were to hand over in return about 249 abducted girls recovered by the Kashmir Government along with 300 to 400 other persons who were in the custody of the Kashmir Government. When the exchange actually took place, the Kashmir Government handed over all the people they had agreed to hand over whereas the Pakistan authorities handed over only 132 recovered girls and a few of the persons from the Alibeg camp. The Pakistan authorities explained that the other Alibeg evacuees could not be sent on account of transport difficulties and gave assurance that they would be sent shortly after. Later on about 200 of the non-muslims from Alibeg camp were got over to Lahore and they were detained there for about seven months. After a good deal of pressure and effort we secured the handing over of those people to us and they have come over to India.

Sardar B. S. Man: I want to know, Sir, whether at the time of the Cease Fire Agreement between the two Governments, was it stipulated or not that the prisoners as well as the internees on both sides will be exchanged and if so whether the present incident is a breach of that agreement.

Shri Gopaldaswami: So far as I remember, I do not think that there was any specific clause in the Cease Fire Agreement to that effect. But, there has been other correspondence in the course of which what the hon. Member refers to has been stipulated from our side.

Sardar B. S. Man: I want to know whether it has been stipulated from Pakistan side or not.

Shri Gopaldaswami: I said, advisedly, from our side. They have so far not committed themselves to it.

KASHMIRIS STRANDED IN PAKISTAN

*916. **Shri Baigra:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that a large number of people, including some families, whose homes are not in the occupied areas of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, are at present stranded either in Pakistan or in the occupied

areas of the State and that many of these people are neither permitted to return to their homes, nor are given freedom of movement, work and religion?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to have these persons repatriated without delay?

The Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami): (a) Yes.

(b) Representations to the Pakistan Government have been made by our High Commissioner at Karachi, but so far that Government has not agreed to release these persons.

Prof. Ranga: Have Government any information about the number of people who have been thus taken away?

Shri Gopaldaswami: If the hon. Member is referring to the people taken away from Skardu and Gilgit, I think the number was about 258. They were removed to Rawalpindi and are being held there.

Sardar B. S. Man: Have Government any information about the exact conditions under which people in areas occupied by the raiders are living?

Shri Gopaldaswami: We have had reports from un-official quarters that their treatment has not been satisfactory in Rawalpindi.

Shri Tyagi: Is the so-called Azad Kashmir Government, which is in occupation of the occupied Kashmir also a party to the Cease Fire Agreement?

Shri Gopaldaswami: There is no Azad Kashmir Government in the eyes of the Government of India.

Shri Tyagi: If these prisoners in the occupied area are in the hands of the so-called Azad Kashmir Government, when the Government is not recognising that, why does the Government not break the Cease Fire line and bring back those persons?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I have not followed the point.

Shri Tyagi: My point is this. I quite understand the Government attacking the other Government, Pakistan, which is a party to the Cease Fire Agreement. When this so-called Azad Kashmir Government is not a party to that agreement, why could we not go into that occupied area to bring back our people?

Shri Gopaldaswami: These 258 people who have been taken over to Rawalpindi have been taken over by the Pakistan authorities and they are held in Rawalpindi which is in Pakistan.

Sardar B. S. Man: Have Government got any idea as to the number of Hindus and Sikhs who are living in the raider held territory?

Shri Gopaldaswami: I answered the question the other day; we have not got any figures on which we could rely.

BORDER RAID IN BIKANER

*917. **Shri Raj Bahadur:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether an armed raid by Pakistanis was made on the border village of Bhompore (Phusawala) in the Raisingh Nagar circle of the Bikaner Division of Rajasthan?

(b) If so, what is the number of casualties sustained and the amount of property lost by Indian citizens in the raid?

(c) Were any raiders shot down by our military, if so, were any statements made by any one of the injured raiders and if so, to what effect?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) to (c). Yes. On the 4th February 1950 about 50 Pakistani raiders, armed with service rifles and shot guns raided the village of Bhompore. Our military patrol engaged the raiders, killing one on the spot while two others who were wounded died later. Some more appear to have been wounded but they managed to escape. One of our sepoy was also slightly wounded in the engagement. Three camels, some cash and a few pieces of ornaments are reported to have been carried away by the raiders. One of the wounded raiders, Mohd. Bashir by name, made a statement before he died giving the names and other details of his associates.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether it is a fact that certain Pakistani nationals or people having sympathies towards Pakistan, living on this side of the border, were reported by Bashir Ahmad to be actively assisting the raiders when they raided over villages?

Dr. Keskar: Something of that nature was stated in the statement of Bashir Ahmed.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What steps have Government taken to pick out such persons and make them ineffective and secure our country from them?

Dr. Keskar: I may assure the House that Government is taking every possible step with regard to this matter.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What steps have been taken?

Dr. Keskar: I hope my hon. friend realises that it is not in public interests to detail here all the steps that Government takes in these matters.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Has any protest, regular and formal, been lodged with the Pakistan Government about this particular raid?

Dr. Keskar: Pakistan Government's attention has been drawn to one or two things connected with this raid. There has been a protest with regard to this raid as also with regard to other raids.

Kanwar Jaswant Singh: Is Government aware that these raids are of frequent occurrence and what steps are being taken to stop them?

Mr. Speaker: Practically repeating the same question.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : पाकिस्तान को इस सम्बन्ध में और दूसरे रेड्स के सम्बन्ध में जो पत्र लिखे गये हैं क्या उनके कोई उत्तर अभी तक प्राप्त हुए हैं या नहीं ?

Seth Govind Das: May I know whether or not any replies have as yet been received from Pakistan to our letters on this subject as also in connection with other raids?

Dr. Keskar: There are replies sometimes from the Pakistan Government; I would not be able to give off-hand the replies received. It is true in most cases we have not received any satisfactory replies.

Sardar B. S. Man: May I know, Sir, whether the raiders who raided across our frontier were ordinary civilian nationals of Pakistan or whether they were soldiers clad in *mufti* dress?

Dr. Keskar: I am sorry I am not able to say whether they were in uniform. They were fully armed people.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: May I know whether the Pakistan Government has ever complained that Indians have raided their territory?

Dr. Keskar: No, Sir.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know whether any proposal to arm our people on this side of the border to defend themselves as also to raise an adequate force of homeguards is under consideration of the Government?

Mr. Speaker: He is making a suggestion.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether Government has realised by now that nothing short of retaliation would stop these raids?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Raj Bahadur: No answer to my question, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The question is not allowed.

Shri A. P. Jain: May I know, in the event of not getting any satisfactory reply, is any action open to Government, and if so, what action has been taken?

Dr. Keskar: Government, as my hon. friend is aware, is taking steps to see that our border is effectively protected and that is, I think, the best and the most effective answer that we can give.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Have any damages been claimed from the Pakistan Government for the losses?

Dr. Keskar: Damages have been claimed with regard not only to this raid, but other raids that have taken place. But, as my hon. friend knows, we have not received, with regard to all these raids, any reply from Pakistan.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Will Government allow counter raids in order to put a stop to these enemy raids for ever?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Pandit Maitra: Has Government got any section which deals only with lodging protests with Pakistan, and what is the strength of that department?

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: May I ask a question, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is over.

Shri Kamath: There is one minute more, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Then, I must go to the next question. I do not think there is time. It is now exactly 11.45.

DISALLOWED QUESTIONS

Shri Frank Anthony: Sir, before we proceed to the business for the day, I wish to raise a point which I feel is of considerable importance to the House. I received a note from your office yesterday with regard to a question of which I had given notice containing this cryptic reply, "Disallowed by the Speaker." Sir, I feel two principles are involved in this. While the House will not question your discretion in the matter, I feel in fairness to the House that that discretion will have to be shown to be reasonable, to the satisfaction of the House, according to the conditions set out. And the second principle is, assuming that your discretion has been exercised reasonably and judiciously, which is the normal way you do exercise it, we have the right to have some elucidation and reason why the questions are disallowed.

Mr. Speaker: I think the hon. Member, as a very old Member, knows the

practice and which practice is continued here. If any question is disallowed and the hon. Member feels a doubt as to why the question is disallowed, the usual practice is that the hon. Member goes to the Secretary and wants a clarification. He gets the clarification. And if he is still dissatisfied with that clarification, he has the right to come to me and then represent the matter to me. That is the usual practice followed, and many hon. Members are coming and taking advantage of this practice. It is not possible in each and every case to give elaborately the reasons as to why a question is disallowed. As hon. Members know, it is impossible, the office cannot work in that strain and it will lead to such a lot of correspondence, arguing the case one way or the other. Hon. Members know that many questions are being disallowed for the simple reason that they are being repeated over and over again. One Member does not know what questions the other Member has put.

An Hon. Member: And has been answered.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, and has been answered. Also the same question is being put some times by the same Member. And then questions relating to States are being put in, questions containing suggestions for action are put in, questions asking for action are put in. It is not possible to inform hon. Members each and every time of all the various grounds or one or more grounds on which a particular question is disallowed. The practice which I have just stated may be followed, and I am sure it will safeguard the interests of everybody and also safeguard the rights of the House. I may also say that in some cases—they are very few or rare—after hearing the representation, I have reconsidered the position and allowed the question when the ground is clarified. That is the procedure to be followed. I do not think it now requires any further clarification.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TOWNSHIPS FOR DISPLACED PERSONS FROM EAST PAKISTAN

*918. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state the names and number of townships established for displaced persons from East Pakistan in West Bengal, Orissa and Assam?

(b) How many families and persons have been rehabilitated in those townships?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri Mohan Lal Saksena): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix V, annexure No. 20.*]

(b) The information is not available and will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

DICTIONARY OF ECONOMIC PRODUCTS

*919. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many volumes of the Dictionary of Economic Products and Industrial Research have so far been published, how many volumes will this work eventually comprise of and when the whole work is likely to be completed?

(b) What are the details of the staff employed on this work?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) The first volume in two parts was published in January, 1949. The second volume also in two parts is in press and is expected to be out in the next four months. The Dictionary is expected to run into 9 volumes each in two parts. It is expected that the work will be completed in 5 years.

(b) A statement showing details of staff employed on this work is placed on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix V, annexure No. 21.*]

AWARDS OF INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNALS

***921. Shri Venkataraman:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases in which the managements have not implemented the Awards of Industrial Tribunals in each of the States specified in Part A of the First Schedule to the Constitution during the year 1949;

(b) the number of prosecutions laid against the managements for such failure in each one of the Part A States in the year 1949;

(c) the number of convictions under the Industrial Disputes Act against managements in each of the Part A States in the year 1949;

(d) the number of civil proceedings taken against Industrial Tribunals restraining them from proceeding under the Industrial Disputes Act in each of the Part A States in 1949; and

(e) the number of Awards of Industrial Tribunals quashed by the High Courts in each of the Part A States in 1949?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Government have no information regarding awards in disputes falling within the State sphere. The information in so far as the central sphere undertakings are concerned is given below:

(a) Complaints have been received that certain mica mine owners in Bihar and the management of the Vallier's Colliery, Talcher, have not fully implemented the awards of Tribunals and enquiries are proceeding.

(b) Nil.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Nil, there are two such cases in 1950.

(e) Does not arise.

ASSURANCE TO DISPLACED PERSONS IN POSSESSION OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

***922. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to withdraw the assurance given to displaced persons that they would not be disturbed from their present possession of Government buildings till "suitable alternate accommodation" was provided to them?

(b) If so, why?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri Mohan Lal Saksena): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

GAZETTED AND NON-GAZETTED STAFF IN MINISTRY OF LABOUR

103. Prof. Yashwant Rai: Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scheduled caste members on the staff of the Ministry of Labour in each of the following categories: (i) Gazetted officers (ii) Superintendents and Assistants and (iii) Senior-grade and junior-grade Clerks and Stenographers;

(b) whether the number is not as reserved for scheduled castes; and

(c) what special steps Government propose to take to fill in the reserved quota in the spirit of Article 335 of the Constitution of India?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) (i) Gazetted Officer—1

(ii) Superintendents and Assistants—10

(iii) Senior grade clerks and junior grade clerks and stenographers—7.

(b) The communal orders apply only in the case of direct recruitment and not to posts filled by promotion. The representation of Scheduled Castes in the grade of Assistants is slightly in excess of the quota but in other cases it falls short of the required quota.

(c) Certain reservations of vacancies have been made, and concessions also given in the matter of age and examination or selection fee.

TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRES

104. Shri Sidhva: (a) Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state how many centres have been opened to give students technical and vocational education in India?

(b) How many students have applied for admission and at what places have these centres been opened?

(c) How many students have completed the full course during the year 1949?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) At the end of December, 1949, there were 70 technical and 75 vocational training centres functioning under the Ministry of Labour (Directorate General of Resettlement and Employment). In addition, apprenticeship training facilities were provided in 221 industrial undertakings.

(b) The number of students who applied for training is not known. 17,825 persons were, however, selected and posted to technical and vocational training centres during 1949. A list of training centres is placed on the Table of the House. [See *Appendix V, annexure No. 22*].

(c) 13,313 trainees passed the full course of training during 1949.

EXPORT OF IRON AND MANGANESE ORES TO JAPAN

105. Dr. M. M. Das: Will the Minister of **Commerce** be pleased to state the amounts of dollar earned by India by the export of Iron and Manganese Ores to Japan during the year 1949-50?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Neogy): Trade with Japan is carried on in sterling and not in dollars, although any surplus or deficit in payments in respect of trade between Japan and the sterling area as a whole is liable to be settled periodically in dollars. A statement giving figures of exports of iron and manganese ores to Japan during April-November 1949, is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Quantity and value of iron ore and manganese ore exported by sea from India to Japan during the eight months April to November 1949.

(8 months, April to November, 1949)

	Quantity (Tons)	Value (Rs.)
Iron ore	4,300	1,23,082
Manganese ore	9,530	7,31,715

TYPEWRITERS FOR DISPOSAL

106. Shri Sidhva: (a) Will the Minister of **Industry and Supply** be pleased to state whether there was any stock of typewriters in the Disposals Directorate?

(b) If so, what was the number, make, book-value and date of receipt thereof?

(c) When were they sold and at what price?

(d) Was any typewriter sold to any Government Department?

(e) What was the number of typewriters purchased by the Government of India during the period these typewriters remained unsold in the said Directorate?

The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Like other surplus stores, typewriters were reported to Director General (Disposals) from time to time, on various dates. The number available for disposal after the Partition, *viz.*, from August 1947 to February 1950, was 7,519—comprising various makes. Values are not available in every case. A large proportion, *viz.*, 3,806 were taken over from American surpluses of which the book value is not known.

(c) From August 1947 to February 1950, 7,225 typewriters were sold realizing total price of Rs. 10,87,783—sale prices differed in individual cases according to condition, etc.

(d) 1,689 typewriters were sold to Government Departments including 1,182 taken over and issued to Government offices by Controller of Printing and Stationery. The remaining 5,536 typewriters could not be taken over by Government Departments as the machines were not in serviceable condition.

(e) From August 1947 to December 1949, the Government of India purchased 7,247 typewriters.

Thursday, 16th March, 1950



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME I, 1950

First Session
of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950



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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(PART II—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Thursday, 16th March, 1950

The House met at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-47 A.M.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

SECOND STAGE—*contd.*

DEMAND NO. 27—MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,16,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of ‘Ministry of Industry and Supply’.”

DEMAND NO. 53—INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,33,15,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of ‘Industries and Supplies’.”

DEMAND NO. 54—SALT

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,28,94,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of ‘Salt’.”

Now we will proceed with the discussion on these Demands. What about the cut motions? Is any going to be moved?

Shri Sardar Singhji (Rajasthan): Sir, I would like to move my cut motion.

Mr. Speaker: Yes. He may just move it so that the Demand and the Cut motion may be before the House for discussion, and then, in due course, he will be called upon to speak.

Shri Sardar Singhji: I beg to move:

“That the Demand under the head ‘Industries and Supplies’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Mr. Speaker: But what is the object of moving this cut motion? He wants to discuss the general policy, I suppose?

Shri Sardar Singhji: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: That he can do even on the Demand placed before the House, without this cut motion.

Shri Sardar Singhji: In that case, I do not press it, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Then I need not place it before the House now.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar (Madras): We have all heard with rapt attention the opening speech of the hon. Finance Minister. After reviewing the situation prevailing this year and the prospects in the coming year regarding the lowering of prices and the reduction of inflation in the country, the one panacea for all these ills suggested by him is increased production. I entirely agree with him. It is not only true in the field of agriculture, but in the field of industry also. If primary products are produced in abundance in the country, that production alone will bring down prices and also the inflationary tendencies. Agriculture we discussed the other day. Impetus has, no doubt, been given and Government are taking the necessary steps. So far as industries are concerned, we know that under the policy enunciated by the Government and approved by this House on the 6th April 1948, the entire field of industries has been divided into two sectors, one reserved for State enterprise and the other for private enterprise. Before I proceed further to say how far during the year under review the Ministry of Industry and Supply has progressed either in the first field or brought about changes for increased production in the second, and the prospects of yielding more in the coming year, I would like to lay down a proposition in general, for acceptance or for being followed by the Ministry. There are a number of industries and it is not in a negative manner that the Ministry ought to work in this field. In the sector reserved for State enterprise, it is an obligation, it is the duty of the Ministry itself to take charge of them and push these industries as much as possible. Even in the field of private enterprise, I would urge upon the hon. Minister to take industry after industry, first of all to address himself to the needs of the community, see what imports are being made into this country from various sources, and try if private enterprise is not forthcoming, to induce private enterprise by various means to manufacture those articles that are imported into this country from various foreign countries. Sir, this Ministry must be able to say that this new industry has been started this year, or that it helped the growth of this particular industry and helped producing these articles locally, those articles which were being imported. I do not say that every article being imported into this country ought to be manufactured locally irrespective of the cost of production. But to a large extent, this ought to be the attitude of the Ministry and this duty, I find, the Ministry has been discharging to some extent. But greater initiative and enterprise are necessary in the field. Now, Sir, let me review as briefly as possible the work that has been done so far, that has been undertaken during the past year in the field reserved for State enterprise. I wish to make a few observations with a view to see that the pace is accelerated. Sir generally speaking, articles produced in the State sector do not directly bring down prices or the inflationary tendencies, because they are not consumer goods. In an indirect manner they have some effect on inflation. Let me consider the Sindri factory first. It is a good enterprise. But there are figures given for estimating the work done so far. I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister and also to the Finance Minister that along with the Budget proposals, there must be a separate section or a book devoted to the manner in which or the way in which private, public or State industries are started, the time of starting, the original estimate, what was spent each year, what progress was made during the year, and how much more is necessary for the completion of the enterprise. Such information is lacking, though to some extent, this information has been furnished to us in the brochure that has been circulated by the Ministry. I say that it must be a regular feature in the future, as we

have a separate Budget prepared and placed before this Parliament for Railways which is an important subject. There is the possibility of various State enterprises, one after another growing in importance, just as the Railways and detailed budget figures are therefore necessary.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): The Planning Commission will do that.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: The Planning Commission may lay down plans. But year after year an account should be given to Parliament of the progress of work done by a particular state enterprise. Instead of this, if only the expenditure incurred in a year in any particular concern is given to us, we may have no data to compare with the original estimates and the amounts spent previously. It is true that as regards the Sindri factory some figure has been given that the ultimate expenditure would be Rs. 22 crores. I do not know what the original estimate was. This is a very valuable factory and the sooner it comes into existence the better.

No doubt on account of various circumstances we have not been able to complete the construction and start production. We are told that in August this year the factory will be completed and that thereafter it will take one full year for starting production there. I would ask the hon. Minister to accelerate the pace as much as possible while at the same time remembering the need for economy in expenditure. Of course it is a fact that whatever money is spent on this will be usefully spent, because the products of this factory will improve the volume of production in this country in the field of agriculture.

In this connection I wish to refer to another factory, viz., the agricultural fertilizer factory at Alwaye. Wherever there is private enterprise in this industry the State must help. I am sorry to learn, however, that in the case of a pioneer fertilizer industry, which was started under the patronage of the Government of Travancore and followed up with help by the Madras Government, in Alwaye, the Government of India have not offered much help. I learn that only half-hearted support has been given to the application of this concern to the Government to take shares to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs. In view of the fact that the other partners of this concern are the Governments of Travancore and Madras, this Government could have participated with capital, making the factory the joint concern of all the three Governments. I do not know why they have not done so and why they have not even granted the loan asked for. As their loan application is still hanging fire, they were obliged to seek the help of a foreign bank for helping them with finance. I want to say that that factory is doing very useful work and their products are sold out then and there. Its production capacity is enormous and it is now producing only half its capacity. I am sure the hon. Minister will take greater interest in this matter and the hon. Minister of Finance will try to expedite the grant of such loans or subsidies as may be necessary in the interests of greater production.

I next want to say a few words about the two steel factories for which survey has been made by three or four western and competent engineers in this country.

Prof. Ranga (Madras): Estimates also.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: One is to be located in Madhya Pradesh and the other in Orissa. I welcome the erection of these two factories as early as possible. The Parliament will remember that this industry is reserved for State enterprise and that the Central Government have been authorised to grant permission to Tatas at Jamshedpur to expand their factory within a period of ten years, if they wish to do so. I do not know why Tatas are not being encouraged and nothing has been done in the direction of encouraging other private concerns. I am aware that with respect to the Bengal Steel Corporation five crores of

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rupees have been granted. Tatas wanted fifteen or twenty crores of rupees to increase the steel output for which Government considered the establishment of a factory at a cost of Rs. 87½ crores. If this sum of rupees twenty crores is granted to Tatas they would produce a million tons more of steel. Let us not be sticklers to this or that pet theories. In the short period at our disposal, we must try to increase production one way or the other. We must treat the established private industries as our own and help them. It is open to us to lay our hands on them at any time. Therefore I would urge upon the Minister to see that Tatas are also helped to produce much larger quantities of steel.

In this connection I would state that the allocation of the products of steel factories has not been made with a view to greater production of agriculture. I am afraid the hon. Minister seems to be more anxious about industries and has left the Agriculture in the cold. He has allocated only a very small proportion of the steel output for agriculture. Out of 9,00,000 tons of steel produced and out of the 4,00,000 tons imported into this country, only 1,00,000 tons are allotted for the manufacture of agricultural implements. Look at the enormous difference between the production figure and the quantity made available to agriculture! I shall quote the figures given at page 7 of the brochure. If I wrongly quote figures the hon. Minister may correct me.

"In the third quarter of 1949-50 the allotment increased from 14,867 to 80,412 tons. The total for the year was 9,45,15 tons." The House is aware, Sir, that the Central Government is granting subsidies for the sinking of 1,000 wells at the rate of Rs. 500 for each well, but the number of crow-bars made available is only 25. How can 25 crow-bars do for digging a thousand wells? All the 25 may be necessary for digging a single well. That is the way in which what is given by the Central Government with one hand is, for want of co-ordination, taken away by the other. Therefore I request the hon. Minister to see that more iron and steel is allotted for agricultural purposes for making implements. I was told that 50 per cent. of the production has been allotted for agricultural purposes. But today I find that it is not 50 per cent. but only 1/10th of the production that is distributed for this purpose.

Referring again to the Sindri factory, I want to suggest that the factory instead of being managed directly by the Ministry of Industry might be entrusted to a Corporation. If this is not done there will be a lot of delay in the various offices in pushing through the programme laid down. But the Corporation ought not to be on the model of the Damodar Valley Corporation. We must gain by experience. When a Corporation is established, it gets over the head of Parliament claiming that it is autonomous and people who were till yesterday taking instructions from us assume power, go to America and other places and try to negotiate on their own. Such things should not happen. We may create a Corporation for the Sindri factory but its annual statement must be as much open to our scrutiny as the other enterprises managed by us today. Subject to this condition we must create a Corporation for the Sindri factory.

Now let me say a few words about the machine tool factory which is going to be established in Mysore. In the course of my recent tour to Calcutta I found a number of machine tool factories springing up there. The Engineers' Association made a representation to us. They said that a machine tool factory can never manufacture precision tools for all kinds of machines in the country. They can specialise only in particular patterns of machines. If these tools are required for defence purposes I have nothing to say. But if the intention is that these factories should make tools for all kinds

of machines and all kinds of precision instruments, as the Engineers' Association represented to us, before large sums are invested in the industry, the Ministry should go into the matter further.

There are two more matters of great importance, which the State is dealing with directly. They are the Hindustan Aircraft Factory and the Vizagapatam Shipbuilding Yard. The Hindustan Aircraft Factory has enormous possibilities. When I went there the other day I found that it was not working to its full capacity, for want of prototypes. On account of delay on the part of the Defence Department in sending the prototypes they were not able to start work. I learn that they have since been sent by the Defence Department.

I might also mention that a number of railway coaches could easily be built by this factory but it is reduced to the position of running about from department to department to secure the order for manufacturing the coaches, so that they may be able to keep their labour going. I do not understand why the Railway Minister should place orders with a firm other than the Hindustan Aircraft Factory. I was told that a Swiss firm was engaged side by side, within the same compound of Aircraft factory. It does not matter whether it is engaged inside or outside the same compound. But why should a Swiss company be brought into existence at all? I saw the coaches built by the Hindustan Aircraft Factory and they were quite good. The model was approved and it was also shown in various places. I do not know why we should have been anxious to get a Swiss firm, though under the same roof. They may carry on the work and ultimately walk away with a large portion of the profits that they make. I want further information regarding this matter.

I am nearing the end of my time limit. I am sure many hon. Members will refer to textiles, controls and other matters. So I shall confine myself to the shipbuilding yard at Vizagapatam.

Thanks to the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, they have been the pioneers in the industry. It is a very difficult industry and is of national importance. They are not able to find the finance to continue the industry. This year they came to the Government to obtain 1½ crores for building three ships. Next year the same difficulty will arise and they will have to be given another 1½ crores by way of subsidy. My suggestion therefore was that a corporation should be established in which the existing capital and assets of Scindias must be taken to be their share capital and the Government's 1½ crore contribution should be taken as Government's share capital. In that way we may take it up directly, increase the number of docks and thus run the industry on more economic lines. It is said that this matter is to be considered hereafter. My quarrel is that they did not do it earlier before contributing the 1½ crores. At that time they must have brought the corporation into existence in which they should have taken shares to the value of 1½ crores as being their contribution to the capital. These are my suggestions.

I am to a large extent satisfied with the manner in which the Ministry has been working. Being a member of the Standing Committee of this Ministry I must congratulate the hon. Minister on the number of meetings he has convened. In all important matters he took our advice, though in some matters he did not agree to abide by our advice. I do not expect that an Advisory Council can always insist upon their advice being accepted, willy nilly, whether the Government approves of it or not. On the whole I have much to congratulate the hon. Minister, though in some details I differ from him.

I would like to make one more suggestion and that is regarding capital expenditure. You have put the demands, and they refer only to the Industry and Supply Ministry. The capital expenditure comes to nearly six or seven crores. Why should not that also be brought as a demand directly and taken into consideration I am unable to understand. It should hereafter be made one of the

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Demands. The details are given in the Explanatory Memorandum but the Demand itself is not placed separately for the consideration of the House.

Shrimati Benuka Ray (West Bengal): My hon. friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar has dealt at length with the actual work of the Ministry concerned with regard to State ventures. In the short time at my disposal I want to focus attention on the industrial policy declaration made on the 6th April 1948 by this Government and to discuss how far they have adhered to the objectives laid down in that policy.

Before I enter into any such examination I would like to say that mention was made in that Resolution about the need for a National Planning Commission to formulate programmes of development and secure their execution. It has taken almost two years before the Commission has come into existence. But better late than never. The Resolution establishing this Commission mentions that the directive principles of State Policy will be taken into account. I presume that the Commission's objectives will be based on these. If we examine the Industrial Policy Resolution it also talks of a social order in which justice and equality of opportunity will be secured to all. We have to see how this fits into the record of the past two years.

As the House will remember there were many Members who did not feel very happy about this Resolution when it was passed but in view of the exigencies of the situation and to give a longer chance to private enterprise this Resolution was adopted as it was. There were sectors reserved for private enterprise and sectors for State enterprise. I will not go into the details of that but I want to bring two or three points before this House.

In this resolution mention is made that:

"Under present conditions the mechanism and the resources of the State may not permit it to function forthwith in industry as widely as may be desirable but the Government of India are taking steps to remedy this situation. In particular they are considering steps to create a body of men trained in business methods and management."

The answer given by the hon. Minister this morning to a question put to him says specifically that the centres for training people in business methods are not even under contemplation at the moment. I would ask the Government what steps they have taken, whether at least they are satisfied with the machinery that they have for execution in connection with their ordinary normal functions, as such, we can hope for the implementation of the plans or schemes. Otherwise how is Government going to undertake new ventures in industrial undertakings. The hon. Prime Minister said on more than one occasion that nationalisation of existing industries, which were *outmoded* in many ways, would not perhaps serve much useful purpose but that any new ventures would be nationalised. I do not see what steps the Government has taken so far towards achieving this object.

Secondly, there is mention in more than one place in this resolution that private enterprise will be properly directed and regulated and that even the industries which after ten years will remain in the private enterprise sector will be subject to central execution.

I will not go into the details of the record of failures of control. I do not say that the hon. Minister of Industries has not tried his best but these have to be made much more effective. I am sure that it was for the purpose of getting more power so as to control industries more efficiently that he brought forward the Industries Control Bill. This Bill became the target of bitter attack of the so-called industrialists in this country. In the Select Committee this Bill has undergone changes which have vitally affected its effectiveness. I do not know when this Bill is to come up. But I hope that the hon. Minister in his reply will give this House an assurance that top priority in this

session will be given to this Industries Control Bill and that those provisions which are essential for its efficient working will be brought back into this Bill by way of amendments.

Thirdly, this Resolution on Industrial Policy goes into great length about profit-sharing. It quotes from the Industrial Conference of December 1947. I am well aware of the valiant efforts made by the hon. Industry and Supply Minister and also the hon. Labour Minister in order to bring about an agreement. It is true to say, as the hon. the Labour Minister mentioned only the other day in this House, that while labour to a large extent has kept to the agreement, our speculator-capitalists, as I should like to call them, have not done so. Today they repudiate any idea of profit-sharing altogether.

Then I will deal with another point. This Resolution says that "the system of taxation will be reviewed and readjusted, where necessary, to encourage savings and productive investment and to prevent undue concentration in a small section of the community". I say that the Budget this year is an actual contravention of this. The taxation relief measures in the present Budget give relief to the highest income sectors. I would like to ask the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Industry and Supply Minister whether the relief given to this sector is going to help the small investor. Is it not the small investor on whom, the Finance Minister has said time and again, we must depend for capital formation? What relief is there to him in this Budget? I do not want to go into the details of this Budget which has its good and bad features. I merely want to point this out to the Finance Minister and I would like to ask the hon. Industry and Supply Minister how he expects industrial expansion in this country if taxation measures of this type are brought in. Do the two Ministers really believe that our speculator-capitalists are going to bring about great productivity in this country? I am afraid that the rosy dreams of those who perhaps compare conditions in America and think in terms of them will be rudely shattered in the near future. The record of the war years shows what the so-called industrialists in this country did when they had a chance. Did they come forward with a vision and a long-sighted policy, or was it merely speculation about which they were most concerned? I do not say that there are not a few genuine industrialists, but I say that there is not a sufficient number in this country for the Finance Minister to take the gamble that he has taken. I do feel that at the end of one year he will be the first to admit that this gamble has been in vain.

Then, the creation of wealth does not depend only on capital or on machinery: it also depends on human labour. It is men and women who are the builders of society. Greater production depends on increased output, increased output must depend on the increased efficiency of labour. In this country how can we compare the conditions of labour with those in America? As compared to America, labour here lives under sub-human conditions. Even if labour puts forward its most valiant effort, is it in a position really to increase its efficiency unless health and housing, unless education and all the development that is needed to build the workers of this country are first brought in? Sir, let us be hard-hearted realists, by all means, let us not think of the claims of equity or of justice. But if we want production to go up in this country, if we want that our people should put forward their best effort then we must build up the people. It is on these lines that we have to think and therefore inevitably production and distribution cannot come one after the other; they have to come together to a large extent.

Fifteen crores of rupees is not a very large sum and the hon. the Finance Minister has given this relief on the highest level income groups more in the nature, I suppose, of producing a psychological change. But I would like to point out to him that a psychological change of attitude amongst the small

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investors or amongst the working classes would have brought about better results. Had this amount of fifteen crores of rupees been spent in giving amenities to labour, I do not talk of money wages, because money wages do not necessarily bring about better conditions or by way of implementing the Employees' State Insurance scheme or of giving relief to the small investor, I think that results might have been achieved. But the record of two years shows that this new relief to one speculator is also not likely to give us any results. We have seen that while we have deviated greatly from the Industrial Policy that was accepted by this House as a compromise measure, the record of two years has shown that we are drifting towards a *laissez faire* economy. In that case I would really like to question: is there any need for an Industries Department; why should it not be abolished? The money that is spent on the Industries Department which is supposed to control and regulate and to see that enterprises in the national interest are encouraged, would then be better spent in giving more relief to those highest income levels! Let me assure the Finance Minister that I am not indulging in the sense of humour of the type in which he was indulging when he spoke of some of the hon. Members in this House. But that I mean this in all seriousness. We have to make up our minds. Let us see clearly where we are going and what our objectives are. It appears that many industrialists in this country, the so-called speculator-capitalists, are very much offended with the hon. Industry and Supply Minister and would like to see him go, because he helped towards an agreement between capital and labour on the basis of profit-sharing, and because he had the audacity to bring the Industries Control Bill before this House. I should say that the audacity and the expectations of the speculator-capitalists today have gone beyond all bounds.

The Minister of Industry and Supply (Dr. S. P. Mookerjee): If we abolish the Ministry the problem will be solved!

Shrimati Renuka Ray: The Ministry has only to be abolished if we are going straight ahead towards a *laissez faire* economy in which the vested interests are to have free reign and do what they like and the welfare of the people does not count at all.

Sir, there is no time for me to go into the details regarding this Ministry, but I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that there was another point made in this resolution, that is in regard to the encouragement of small-scale cottage industries. The mere formation of a Cottage Industries Board I am afraid, does not enthuse the people. In the villages of India we do not see any difference on account of its formation and a great deal has to be done before we can feel any satisfaction.

Lastly, I hope that the Planning Commission that has now been set up will really make some substantial difference. The Commission also has got very high objectives. But I feel that high objectives can only be implemented if we have the proper machinery for such implementation. I would humbly like to place before the Prime Minister who is the Chairman of the Planning Commission, and before its Members, the point that the first step taken should be to strengthen the machinery for implementation of any plans or schemes because otherwise they will only remain on paper, as they have done in the past.

Shri Raj Bahadur (Rajasthan): Let me begin by quoting the hon. Minister of Industry and Supply himself from a foreword that he has written to the latest publication of his Department, the *First Census of Manufactures in India, 1946*. This is what he says:

"India being an industrially important country the development of her industries has a direct bearing on the prosperity and well-being of her people."

It is an axiomatic truth. Nobody can dispute the fact that if we want to pull our people out of the mire of poverty, squalor, and ignorance, we have got to build up the economic life of our country by putting our industries on a very sound and firm basis. I think I need not emphasise the importance of cottage industries when I use the word "industries".

I would be taking too long if I were to traverse the entire field of the various types of industries. Therefore, I would confine myself to two industries which affect the people of the part of the country I come from. I shall specifically refer to the glass industry and the salt industry. Though the Indian glass industry first saw the light of the day as early as 1870, when a British firm, Messrs. Muree Brewery, established a bottle-making factory at Jhelum, yet after 80 years we still find that our country has not been able to become self-sufficient in its glass requirements. The causes that have been attributed for the failure of this industry are stated in the I. & S. Bulletin for January-March 1949 as follows:

- “(a) the lack of efficient organisation;
- (b) foreign experts' ignorance of Indian conditions and the financiers' impatience for quick results;
- (c) the lack of technical skill on the part of Indians and consequent dependence upon foreign experts; and
- (d) the improper location of the factory.”

It has been mentioned there that there is no dearth of raw material—and there could be none. So, it is lack of planning and lack of technical assistance that has been responsible for the malaise in which this industry has struggled all through. As early as 1930, the hon. Finance Minister, when he was Chairman of the Tariff Board, drew our attention to this problem. He very wisely and aptly said that if you want to pull this industry out of its present plight, you shall have to look to the technical side of it and you shall have to make up for the technical deficiency it was suffering from. It was upon that recommendation that the U.P. Government organised a Glass Technology Department, but again it was a misfortune that we had to depend on such foreigners as have no love for our industries. I am sorry to say that obviously the foreign technician employed in that Research (Technology) Department has so far failed to do anything. Consequently the bangle industry the largest in U. P., as also other types of glass industry did not suitably develop and remained where they mostly were. That our glass industry has on point of production also not been satisfactory would be seen from the latest Report of the Tariff Board on Glass, wherein it is suggested that our regular and normal demand for sheet-glass is 32 million sq. ft. per annum and our capacity has been calculated to be 15 million sq. ft. per annum. As against it, production in 1948 was 6.8 million sq. ft. and in the first half of 1949 it was only 1.75 million sq. ft. That shows the hopeless state of affairs in which this particular branch of the glass industry is. Imports are tremendous and I would only say that we are losing very valuable money in having to import glass to meet our requirements.

Coming to the blownware and pressedware part of the glass industry, the latest Report of the Tariff Board on Glass states that our requirements of bottles and phials are about 1,20,000 tons per annum and that our capacity for manufacture is about 1,15,000 tons. The actual production figures however, were not available.

Here I would have to refer to the statistical side of the Department. There is a Directorate of Statistics under this Ministry and I wonder why, even though that Directorate was established as early as 1942 and an Act was passed in

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respect of its functions and powers as early as 1945, statistics about this production have not yet been made available to us.

Lastly, I would refer to the bangle industry, which has rather suffered through than benefited by the U. P. Technology Department.....

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: If the hon. Member refers to the latest statistics issued by my Department, he will find that in 1949 the production was about 70,000 tons.

Shri Raj Bahadur: I could not catch you. In your book, for the first half of 1949 production is only 1.75 as against a demand of 3.2 lakh sq. ft.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I was not referring to sheet glass. The hon. Member stated that no figures were available from the statistics issued by my Department. So far as ordinary glass was concerned, production in 1949 was about 70,000 tons.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Then I stand corrected. But that figure is much below our requirements which are as much as 1,20,000 tons. So far as I have been able to look into the figures, I find that production in this industry has shown a fall.

Thus, there is urgent necessity to do something so as to make our country self-sufficient in glass and improve its quality. I need not repeat that what we need immediately is planning of the industry in all its branches and technical assistance. For technical assistance we have had to depend on a foreign expert who has failed to justify his presence obviously. Now we must rid ourselves from the slavery of that. We must send our qualified young men to foreign countries so that we may not have to depend on foreign countries in this regard. I do not know whether anyone has been sent on behalf of the Government for training in glass technology in foreign countries, but I am sure some private individuals might have gone. It is high time that the.....

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I think the hon. Member knows that a Research Laboratory had been started in Calcutta and a number of Indian technicians are working there.

Shri Raj Bahadur: It has not been started fully. Only the building has been constructed. I have noted it from the brochure provided to us on Scientific and Industrial Research. The construction of the building is not synonymous with the starting of the Institute itself. Of course, I derive satisfaction from the fact that something is on the move. I do not know how long it will take to complete the idea. The industry has been suffering from a sort of a malaise for the last 80 years on account of the complete absence of planning and lack of proper technical guidance.

Sir, I hope the time taken up in these interruptions will be taken account of.

Mr. Speaker: The interruptions have not taken more than one minute.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Then I come to the Salt industry. In paragraph 30 of the Report of the Ministry, we are told that production of salt was 63 million maunds in 1948, whereas it fell to 55.6 million maunds in 1949. Sir, in this connection, may I humbly refer to certain questions and the answers given to them by the hon. Minister from time to time on the floor of this House? To Starred Question No. 1134 put by Shri Basanta Kumar Das on 1st April 1948, we were told that 80 to 90 per cent. of Bengal's requirements would be met from the industries started in that State. Then in answer to Question No. 1136 on the same day, we were given to understand that an Experts' Committee would be appointed and that in three to five years' time India should be self-sufficient in salt. The shortage was 10 to 12 per cent. Three years have elapsed since

1948 but instead of moving towards self-sufficiency we find from the present figures that production has gone down from 63 million maunds in 1948 to 55·6 million maunds in 1949. Again, we are told that co-operative societies would be established.

Shri Sidhva: May I interrupt my hon. friend and say that his figures are not correct? We have gone up from 553·5 lakh maunds in 1948 to 650 lakh maunds in 1949, and the target for this year is going to be 707·5 lakh maunds. We will become self-sufficient this year.

Pandit Maitra (West Bengal): We are doing it.

Shri Raj Bahadur: But if my hon. friend Mr. Sidhva would have taken the trouble, he would have found that on page 11 it is said that while the production of salt was 63 million maunds in 1948 it fell to 55·6 million maunds. The estimate is that in 1950 it would be 70 million maunds. It is a very good hope, but after all a mere hope. It has yet to materialise.

Pandit Maitra: We have actually got it.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Again, Sir, we were told that co-operative societies would be established for the purpose. In answer to Prof. Ranga's question, No. 2279 dated 10th February 1949, however, we were told that since 1945 only two co-operative societies for salt had been established in Orissa, two in Madras and one in Bombay. So, in the whole of India only five co-operative societies had been established. Again, we have been told that one crore maunds of salt had to be imported this year from abroad. This information was given in answer to a question by Dr. M. M. Das, No. 1057 dated 11th March 1949. Out of this quantity, fifty lakh maunds had to be imported from Pakistan. I wish to bring this pointedly to the attention of the hon. Minister, because time and again demands have been made by people in my part of the country that in view of the fact that there used to be a thriving salt industry there which was supplying salt to U.P., C.P. and the adjoining areas and that it should be encouraged. But it has not been done. A Government expert was appointed and it has been claimed that about 84 crores of maunds of salt could be produced by means of cottage industries in Pharatpur and the adjoining areas. Unless and until we take a serious view about our industries, and unless and until we give real fillip and impetus to them, nothing can be done. It is high time that sustained and systematic efforts were made in this behalf.

I now come to the vexed question of disposals. It was not my intention to broach upon this subject, but fortunately or unfortunately, certain facts came to light yesterday. I would not have even gone on the basis of facts alone, but certain evidence came to me. Here, I produce for the information of the House a brush. Three lakhs of these brushes were disposed of from the Cawnpore Disposals at one pice per brush.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: It is not that brush alone; these tooth brushes were also part of the stock of brushes.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Then, I have got another thing here. It is a knife. It has four blades. One lakh of these knives were sold away at ten annas each.

Shri N. S. Jain (Uttar Pradesh): On a point of order, Sir, can a knife be brought into the House?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have not brought it to stab anybody. I assure you I am a firm believer in non-violence. It is just to convince the House that I am showing it. I have got photographs also here which will prove to the satisfaction of the House how things are going on. 8,000 Godrej steel, water-proof, airproof boxes *the photograph is here*—Godrej steel boxes, mind you—they were sold at Rs. 8-8-0 each. Again, 40,000 steel knives 3½ ft. long for cutting grass—i.e., sickles—were sold at Rs. 1-8-0 each; 3 lakh hacksaw blades

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were sold at Rs. 0-4-0 each; 10,000 hacksaw handles were sold at Rs. 2-4-0 each; 3,000 pairs of weighing scales—*i.e.*, *Tarazuz*—were sold at just Rs. 0-14-0 each pair. Again, there were 3,300 carbide lamps—1,000 to 2,000 candle power—which were sold at Rs. 20 and Rs. 25 each. Again, there were 10,000 vacuum ice boxes containing, each one of them, two boxes inside to keep ice in the same condition. The capacity of each was 6 gallons. They were disposed of at Rs. 10 each. Again, there were 40,000 steel tubes 18 in. diameter, which were sold at Rs. 0-10-0 each. Then there were 2,500 portable wooden almirahs which were sold at Rs. 13-8-0 each. Then 75,000 canvas mattresses filled with cork 6' x 2' were sold at Rs. 3-8-0 whereas the cost in the market was Rs. 30. Then several thousand water tanks each 15,000 gallons in capacity, with very heavy wooden supports, 5½ ft. high—15 ft. diameter, were disposed of at just Rs. 70 each. I am told that they could have easily fetched not less than Rs. 1,000 in the market. Finally, there were 70,000 oil stoves which were sold at Rs. 1-8-0 each and 5,000 big oil stoves which were sold at Rs. 5 each. All these photographs are here. I may very well make a present of them in all humility and with the utmost respect to my hon. friend, the Minister of Industry and Supply. I am sorry, Sir. My list is not exhausted. There were three lakh pairs of horse riding straps that were disposed of at just Rs. 0-3-0 each pair. I have been told that the French Government purchased them at the rate of Rs. 2 per pair shortly afterwards. Two lakh sixty thousand canvas bags 6' x 3' were given away at Rs. 2 each, whereas the market price was Rs. 50 each. One lakh caps were given away at Rs. 0-7-0 each. Information has been given to me that 40,000 of these were re-purchased by one of our State Governments a short while afterwards at Rs. 1-10-0 each—only a difference of 19 annas. Then there was an item which is used for mosquito killer, which was sold at two annas per container. The market price was Rs. 6 per container. Again, there were 800 typewriters—I do not know whether they were new or old which were sold at Rs. 100 each. They were a good number and were sold at a good price. Two lakh gallons of lubricating oil were sold at Rs. 2-4-0 per gallon without having been subjected to any previous test. The market price of the same was said to be Rs. 7-8-0. Finally, thinner which is used in polishing—about a thousand tins of it—was purchased by Tatas at Rs. 3 per gallon. I understand that they sold it at Rs. 10 per gallon. Now that is not a very high profit. Is it?

To conclude, I would simply submit that I know the Disposal Organisation has done a really good job. It is here and there that some instances of this kind of bungling have come to light. I do not mean to say for a moment that the Department has not succeeded in salvaging so many things which have been immensely useful for our national defence and reconstruction and for other national use. But at the same time, I cannot help observing that it is necessary that we should probe into the secrets, into the doings, of people about whom it has been said that they are worth their weight in gold.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi (Uttar Pradesh): We demand an enquiry.

[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.]

Shri Hossain Iman (Bihar): The Department over which the hon. Minister for Industry and Supply presides is so wide and its work so great that it is difficult to compass its examination in the space of the one day that has been allotted to it. I therefore wish to concentrate only on one or two items. Firstly, I would like the hon. the Finance Minister to tell us whom we are to believe—the Industries Department or the Finance Department. On the question of stocks lying with the mills, the Industry and Supply Ministry's report says that at the end of February, the stocks had gone down to a very nominal figure

of 1,27,000 bales, whereas in the Explanatory Memorandum, the hon. the Finance Minister has stated that "the clearances of cloth have been much smaller than estimated due to accumulation of stocks with mills. This accounts for the substantial drop of Rs. 2½ crores in the receipts under this head". I find that although the incidence of excise duty on cloth has been reduced by 25 per cent. the income expected in the current year and in the coming year is almost the same. This year the estimate is Rs. 13½ crores and in the coming years it has been put at Rs. 13 crores and 90 lakhs. This is further complicated by the fact that the estimate made by the hon. Minister in charge of Industry and Supply about production of the mills of the two years is almost equal. The hon. Minister says that this year we have produced up till December, 3,910 million yards and for the next year he is expecting to produce 4,000 million yards. There does seem to be some difference—either the estimate for the current year is an under-estimate or the estimate for the next year is an over-estimate. This is a point which I should like to be clarified.

Then, I regret that the Industries Ministry in its note which should have been exhaustive, has given very meagre information to us. For instance, the fact that we are giving a subsidy of a crore and a half on purchase of foreign cotton is mentioned in the Demands for Grants, but finds no place in the report of the Ministry. Only a statement is made that it will be subsidised so that it may be sold at a comparatively cheaper price to the mill-owners in the country. But I feel that it is not an information which should have been withheld and should have been plainly stated so that we may know the cost to the Indian exchequer of giving this subsidy to the industry. I do not mind, it Sir, because it is going to bring us Rs. 13½ crores by way of excise. So, if we spend a crore and half to get this big amount there is nothing to be complained about. My complaint is only about the fact that this fact should have been mentioned clearly in the report.

Then, Sir, I cannot understand how and when this Ministry is going to learn about textile production. The complaint was that in the last year of controls the production was very small—3,800 million yards. But it is a well known fact in Bombay side, which can be corroborated by anybody who wishes to find it out that the great weakness of the system of controls was that there was no recording of production. The production was reported by the mills and we had no check on it. It was stated that in those days a good part of the production of the mills used to go into black market without coming into the records of the mill production, so much so that a well known mill-owner was charged with showing production at 86 per cent. of the normal production if we took the intake of cotton and off-take of cloth into account. Therefore, the statement that in the last year of control, we produced 3,800 million yards does not give a correct portrayal of the production of the cotton textile mills. It was a cooked figure in order to serve the purpose of the black market.

After removing the controls which we did as hurriedly in the case of cloth as we did in the case of food grains, we found the same position repeated again. Prices started rising up and according to the Ministry in March it was apparent that steps would have to be taken, but action was taken in August 1946. After knowing full well that the situation was getting out of hands nothing was done. This is my first charge.

Then we are told in this report that it was decided to impose certain restrictions, canalise production, and make certain kinds of reservations. All this was done in January 1949. And with what result? In 1948 we produced 4,340 million yards, whereas after the production was supposed to have gone up, we produced 10 per cent. less, that is, 3,910 million yards. Without mentioning as to when and to what extent these restrictions were removed, we are told that after all these removals the Government expect to have the magnificent production of 4,000 million yards which is an increase of less than

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8 per cent. Although in the last year for which we have got record, during the present Government's regime in 1948 we produced 4,340 million yards. I am stressing these points with one aim only. I find that there has been always changes in the policy of the Government, and I do not blame them for it. Dealing with these things are not in the day to day experience of the Government officials and if they do make mistakes they are pardonable. But one thing that is unpardonable is that they should go on repeating the mistakes. I refer to the fact that we are going to allow an export quota of 800 million yards. Now if our production is to be only 4,000 million yards this will take such a big slice out of it that you are bound to have very high prices in the country. Unless we correlate the exports to increased production, we will be in for difficulties. This is exactly what happened in the case of sugar. The Sugar Syndicate came forward and said: "We have got surplus; we must have export permit." You were considering whether to give export permit or not. The psychological effect was that there was a run on sugar stocks and we had all these difficulties. In this case sugar was a thing without which we could do; but cloth is not a thing without which we can do. I, therefore, wish to stress the fact that we must not have any quota for export which is unrelated to the production of the cotton mills. 3,600 million yards is the minimum which must be kept for the internal consumption of the country, for unless we have got enough cloth we will have difficulties and black-market will again begin to raise its head. We have no controls and the price of handloom cloth also will begin to rise, as one is related to the other.

I was rather surprised, Sir, that while some efforts have been made about the handloom industry, no mention should have been made of *khadi* by a Congress Government. Nothing seems to have been done by the Industries Department to encourage production of *khadhar*.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): There is a cottage industries emporium.

Shri Hossain Imam: They have got a Cottage Industries Board. But the whole of the report does not say a word even about the production of *khadi* which is so much in presence in this House, but so absent from the mind of the Ministry of Industry and Supply.

Prof. Ranga: My hon. friend does not wear it.

Shri Hossain Imam: I may not wear it now, but I may have the honour of wearing it in future.

The next item to which I wish to refer is about the Disposals Department. I have been unable to reconcile the statement of the Ministry that it has been able to bring down its expenses mentioned on page 1 of this report. The figures given in the first paragraph "Organisation" and in the Demands for Grants before me do not tally. I should like the hon. Minister to throw some light as to how these figures have been arrived at.

Another charge which has been made, but not referred to in the Report, is that a sum of a crore and three lakhs has been paid to the Tatas. This has been paid to Tatas probably on account of their commissions for the sale of Disposal stock. This is an item which has been left to us to find out in the Demands for Grants and not mentioned in the Report of the Department. An expenditure of a crore and three lakhs of rupees is a big item and should have found a place in the Report to indicate whether it was a final payment, or part payment or advance payment, or what sort of payment it is. This finds no mention in the Report.

Another thing that I find in the Report is that the Minister has given us the sale value and the book value of all the stores sold by the Disposals Department,

but so far as American surplus stores are concerned, no book value is given of the stores sold. I should have thought that there should be no difficulty in giving this when I find the book value of the remainder of the stocks is given. On page 25, at the end of para 74, it is said that the value of the American surplus stores still remaining to be disposed of is Rs. 61.4 crores roughly. I find no reason why the book value of the American stores disposed of should not also find a place in the Report. I find, Sir, that neither in the last year's Report nor in this year's report any mention has been made of the book value.

I have also noticed the fact that, while the policy of the Government is to reduce expenditure in the U.S.A.—dollar conservation is in the air—the expenditure of the India Supply Mission in the U.S.A. is on the increase. Our Stores Department in London is going to cost us this year, i.e., 1949-50, Rs. 35,27,000, while the Budget Estimate for that office for next year is Rs. 35,92,000; while for the Supply Mission in the U.S.A. the actual expenditure for 1948-49 was Rs. 12,95,880, the Budget Estimate for 1949-50 was Rs. 16,69,200 and the revised estimate for 1949-50 is Rs. 20,08,000, and for next year it has gone up to Rs. 22,10,000. While we are going to decrease our U.S. purchases, there does not seem to be any reason why our expenditure should increase.

Another item which has been glossed over is the subsidy to the aluminium industry. Under the Revised Estimate for 1949-50 we find that they have been given a subsidy of Rs. 11,50,000, while the industry is to be paid Rs. 21,32,000 in the Budget Estimates for 1950-51, but no mention is made of this in the Report. The Report is intended to give us all the salient facts and to enlighten the Members of this House as to the activities and expenditure of this Department.

Another innovation which has been brought about this year is that the expenses of the Disposals Department are recovered from the Department on behalf of whom disposals are made. This is a well-known system. These stores mostly belong to the Defence Department, and the cost is rightly charged to that Department, but this factor is of sufficient importance—some two crores are involved—to be mentioned in the Report that this is an innovation which is contemplated. To gloss over all these things is rather hard on us, who may not have the time and leisure to wade through the papers and find out all these things.

In the end, Sir, I should like to mention that this Department is one in which there should be greater integrity than is expected in other Departments. The things mentioned by Mr. Raj Bahadur require not only attention but close and thorough enquiry. I would commend to the hon. Minister the attitude of the Minister of Commerce who at question time, when a particular matter was brought to his notice, said that he had already ordered an immediate enquiry into it. That is the attitude which we all expect from our Ministers, and I am confident that the Minister will do all that is possible to see that the interests of the people are safeguarded.

The House then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The House re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past two of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Shri Sarangdhar Das (Orissa): On a point of order, Sir. With regard to these Cut Motions that we have tabled, I notice that sub-Rule (5) of Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure says:

"When several motions relating to the same demand are offered, they shall be discussed in the order in which the heads to which they relate, appear in the Budget."

Sir, you were, in the beginning of the discussion on the Demands, calling for those who had their Motions to move but yesterday in the three Demands we

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were not called. I was waiting to be called but I was never called. I also like to point out that one of the hon. Members—Shri Snatak—said at the end of his speech yesterday on the Education Demand:

“इन शब्दों के साथ मैं पुनः अपने शिक्षा मंत्रीजी को मुबारकबाद देता हूँ और साथ ही साथ मैं अपने चीफ़ व्हिप साहब को भी धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने मुझे कम से कम अन्त समय में तो बोलने का मौका दिया।”

I quite understand that the Chief Whip of the majority party will control his own Members and give a list but there are others. I for myself, am not a Member of that party and I should like to have your ruling as to how these Cut Motions will be moved by hon. Members who have given notice of the same. Should they stand up to catch your eye as in other cases or if they will be called by you, Sir. If they are not to be moved, there will be no use of giving Cut Motions.

Mr. Speaker: The practice in this House or its predecessor had been when there were more than one regular Parties in the Central Assembly, that the Leaders of the various Parties used to meet and settle the particular Demands which they would like to discuss that particular year and also select the Cut Motions. It was not that the whole Budget was taken in one year; but they so proceeded that the whole Budget was taken up in about three years time. Therefore it was not that every Demand was taken up for discussion. That procedure was possible because there were organized Parties and time used to be allotted to each Party *pro rata* according to the time allotted to a particular Demand; and the agreement also included a term as to the time that was being allotted to each Party. Members of each Party were within that time free to move their Cut Motions and of course when a Cut Motion was moved, the discussion was open to all. The allotment of time to a particular Party did not mean that only members of that Party were to participate in the discussion. That was the procedure. Thereafter the circumstances have changed and since the inception of this House, they have still further changed. If the hon. Member remembers, on the very first day, when an agreement was given to me, I enquired as to whether that included the unattached Members also and when I was told that the unattached Members were not parties to that particular agreement—hon. Members also said that to me—I said that I would like to reserve some time *pro rata* to the unattached Members. That procedure is being followed. I also said on the very first day that, if any hon. Members wished to move any Cut Motions, they would be at perfect liberty to do so, and, if they expressed a desire, I would call upon them. Of course, I could not guarantee that everyone of those who moved the Cut Motions or wanted to move could be called upon to speak because of the limited time at our disposal; but it would certainly be my effort to give every person who wishes to move his Cut Motions a chance to do so. I made the first position clear that I could not guarantee a chance, because I do not want the Members to carry an impression that the tabling of a Cut Motion would be a means of securing the right to speak. That was at the back of my mind and accordingly the hon. Member remembers that I called upon him—so far as his Cut Motions were concerned. Since that time, I believe, it is understood that—I can only imagine what happened yesterday as I was not in the Chair at that time—if nobody requested the Chair that he desired to move his Cut Motion, the Chair must have perhaps presumed that nobody was anxious to move any Cut Motion. I am merely expressing a surmise—it may or may not be a fact as I was not present here—but we need not go into that and in selecting the speakers the Chair will never restrict itself to the list given by the Chief Whip. That is principally a matter between the Chief Whip and the Members of his

Party and the Chair will always see that every Member representing a different point of view gets a reasonable opportunity of having his say, so that all points of view may come in the discussions. That is the only thing which I can say. Does Mr. Das wish any further clarification on any further point?

Shri Sarangdhar Das: I want to make it clear that after the Motion of the concerned Minister was read out one of the hon. Members was called to speak. So there was no chance for me to stand up and say that I wanted to move my Cut Motion.

Mr. Speaker: I regret that there was no chance but he could have intimated by a letter or chit to the Chair and I am sure the matter would have been set right. However all this has happened under a misapprehension.

Shri Sarangdhar Das: I sent a chit but I was not allowed. It was said that I had spoken too many times on the Budget.

Shri M. A. Ayyangar: Sir, I am not explaining as your Deputy but independently. I would like to say this for your consideration. The unattached Members have not formed themselves into a group. Therefore during the course of this Debate you have been pleased to allow them individually sufficient opportunities to speak. As a matter of fact Mr. Anthony spoke three or four times and Mr. Das also spoke. He came to me privately and asked permission to move a Cut Motion. Sir, generally all Cut Motions may be assumed to have been moved for this reason that whether a Cut Motion is moved particularly or not, there is general discussion on that and no guarantee can be given to any Member who wanted to move a Cut Motion that he will be called to speak. Under those circumstances, the question of Cut Motions here does not have the same meaning. Under these circumstances, except giving an opportunity to speak, nothing more has to be done in regard to Cut Motions.

Shri B. Das (Orissa): Sir, I wish to submit one thing. We do not yet publicly know who are the unattached Members. Of course, I know the Party Members; I belong to the Party. My point is this. As the Speaker, you should try to ascertain who are the unattached Members and whether they can sit together in one block. I am quite agreeable to your allotting a few hours for them to discuss their point of view on the Budget demands. But, I do not agree to the proposition that because one has given notice of a Cut Motion, he has a right to speak. Suppose I give a Cut Motion regarding the Finance Ministry; if I command respect of the hon. Minister for Finance, I expect he will examine the Cut Motion and have the grievance redressed. That a Member giving notice of a Cut Motion has the right to speak has never been conceded by you or your predecessors on the floor of this House.

Mr. Speaker: I have never accepted that position.

Shri Hossain Imam: As an unattached Member, Sir, I should like to thank you. Though we are numerically not as strong as the others, I think it is very kind of the House as well as of yourself to allow us this much opportunity and we should not encroach too much upon this.

Mr. Speaker: I have never accepted the position that whosoever tables a Cut Motion is entitled to speak. It is all a question of getting a chance. About the other proposal, all those who are not Members of the Congress Party which is the biggest Party are unattached members. The difficulty even in allotting seats to them is that they themselves, as was remarked, are not attached to each other. That is the whole difficulty. I would really prefer the forming of groups or even parties for the matter of that, because, it becomes easy for me to communicate and deal with them as a block instead of having to consider individual case of each individual Member. It is impossible to consider individually each Member each time. That is the general position. As regards the other point, I need not refer to that now. I think I might now call upon Mr. Jajoo.

Does Mr. Das want to move any of his Cut Motions?

Shri Sarangdhar Das: No, Sir.

श्री जाजू : इस वर्ष की उद्योग और वितरण मिनिस्ट्री (Ministry) की विवरण पत्रिका को देखने से ऐसा लगता है कि शायद इस मिनिस्ट्री में हमें कुछ भी कहने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। यह तो एक ऐसी बात है कि जिस को मान लेने से तो शायद हम अन्धेरे में ही रहेंगे क्योंकि वस्तुस्थिति और ही कुछ मालूम होती है। हमें अपनी रोजाना की जीवन चर्चा में जिन चीजों से काम पड़ता है आप देखें कि उनमें हमें कितनी कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता है। यह बात हमें बताती है कि उद्योग मिनिस्ट्री (Ministry) का जो विवरण पत्र है वह बिल्कुल ही ठीक नहीं है, बल्कि उसमें कहीं कहीं वतिश्लोक्तियां भी हैं। मैं इस समय अधिक चीजें नहीं पर कुछ चीजें आपके सम्मुख रखना चाहता हूँ।

पहली चीज होगी इस नियंत्रण के सम्बन्ध में, इस अनावश्यक नियंत्रण व्यवस्था के सम्बन्ध में जिसको कि दुनियां यह कहती है कि यह एक कृत्रिम नियंत्रण है यानी आर्टिफिशियल कंट्रोल (artificial control) है। यह तो सही है कि आज हम हर चीज को योजना युक्त देखना चाहते हैं और योजना युक्त स्थिति के अन्दर नियंत्रणों का भी स्थान है। पर इन नियंत्रणों को कहां तक ले जाना चाहिए इस चीज पर हम लोगों को गम्भीरता पूर्वक सोचना चाहिए। जैसे देखा जाय तो एक जगह जहां सीमेंट (cement) का जिक्र किया गया है उस जगह मिनिस्टर महोदय यह स्वीकार करते हैं कि हम इसको शनैः शनैः कम करते जायेंगे और ऐसी स्थिति आ जायगी कि हमको कंट्रोल (control) करने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी। परन्तु मुझे तो ऐसा लगता है कि यह जो स्थिति है वह भयावह स्थिति है। आज के इस बग में यह देखा जाता है कि किसी भी सफल शासन में सब से पहले शान्ति की जरूरत होती है। उसके बाद में यह देखा जाता है कि वहां की जनता को भोजन मिले और उसके बाद में दूसरी आवश्यक वस्तुओं के वितरण की जरूरत होती है और उसमें उद्योग का प्रमुख स्थान है। जहां तक आन्तरिक शान्ति का सवाल है हम यह देखते हैं और अनुभव भी करते हैं कि हमारे राष्ट्र के लोह पुरुष सरदार पटेल ने इस राष्ट्र में शान्ति स्थापित कर दी है। जहां तक दूसरी चीज का सवाल है यानी खाद्य पदार्थों का, उस सम्बन्ध में हमें बुद्धिमान्यी स्थिति में से होकर निकलना पड़ रहा है और ऐसा लगता है कि हमारे प्रधान मंत्री की घोषणाओं के बावजूद यह कठिनाई १९५१ में भी दूर हो सकेगी या नहीं। जहां तक उद्योग और दूसरी वस्तुओं के वितरण का सवाल है जो नियंत्रण रूमे हुए हैं उनसे ऐसा लगता है कि स्थिति भयावह है, मैं आपके सम्मुख इस सम्बन्ध में निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ।

जहां तक कपड़े का सवाल है और जिस तरह से उसका निबंधन चल रहा है उसमें हम देखते हैं कि रोजाना परस्पर विरोधी आदेश निकलते रहते हैं। अगर आज एक आदेश निकलता है तो कुछ घंटों के बाद और कभी कभी एक दो या चार दिन के बाद इस तरह का आदेश निकलता है कि चायद या तो पहले आदेश में कोई खामी रह गई है या आज पहले आदेश की आवश्यकता ही नहीं है। इस सप्ताह जो कि देश के उद्योगपतियों का सम्मेलन हुआ था उसमें वहां के गतवर्ष के अध्यक्ष ने भी यही कहा था कि आज देश को कंट्रोल की आवश्यकता नहीं है। यह उद्योगपतियों की विचारधारा है और जो हम जनसाधारण से पूछते हैं तो वह भी कहते हैं कि वह कंट्रोल से परेशान हैं। कंट्रोल ने आज यह स्थिति पैदा कर दी है कि हमारा नैतिक पतन हो गया है। हमारे जीवन में बहुत सी ऐसी चीजें आ गई हैं कि जिनको न सिर्फ छानि ही कहा जा सकता है वरन् वह तेजी से हमको पतन की ओर अग्रसर कर रही हैं और अगर यही रफतार रही तो हम निश्चित रूप से उस ओर चले जायेंगे जहां हम मानव नहीं रह जायेंगे बल्कि हममें बंबंरता आ जायेगी। आप सोचिये कि जिन चीजों की आवश्यकता बहुत जरूरी होती है और जो कि सुविधा से मिल जाती हैं उन पर भी कंट्रोल किया जाता है। मैं कपड़े के सम्बन्ध में कुछ बातें आपको बता दूँ। यह सही है कि हमारी सरकार हर एक चीज की दिक्कत के बारे में यह कह देती है कि पाकिस्तान बनने के बाद यह स्थिति ऐसी हो गई कि हम उस पर काबू नहीं पा सके हैं आज आप ने एक योजना कमीशन (commission) बना दिया है। उसके टर्म्स आफ रेफरेंस (terms of reference) आज आ गये हैं। यह सही है कि यह योजना कमीशन बहुत ही हाई पावर्ड (high-powered) है और उसके अन्दर हमारे देश की महान विभूतियां हैं और विशेषकर उसके अध्यक्ष हमारे प्रधान मंत्री महोदय हैं। पर उसका काम किस तरह होगा और उसका क्या फल निकलेगा यह दूर की वस्तुयें हैं। हमारे यहां कपड़े की यह स्थिति है कि यहां पहले सन् १९४९ में कपड़े की ३९७२२३ गांठें थीं और बाद में यह बताया गया कि फरवरी १९५० (February 1950) में यह १२७८८१ रह गई हैं। आप देखिये कि इतना स्टॉक (stock) होते हुए भी क्या बात है कि कपड़ा अब भी ब्लैक मार्केट (black-market) में बिकता है। आपने बताया कि आपने कुछ नियम ढीले कर दिये जिससे दिक्कत कम हो गई और आपने एक्सपोर्ट (export) के नियम कुछ बना दिये और उनको कुछ ढीला कर दिया और उनके मुताबिक काम हो रहा है। आपने बाहर कपड़ा भेजने की अपनी नीति का ऐलान कर दिया, पर हमारे दुर्भाग्य की बात है कि जो कपड़ा हमारे व्यापारी बाहर भेजते हैं, उस में यद्यपि गलती हमारे व्यापारी समाज की है, पर बाहर वाले यह समझते हैं कि भारत के लोग इस तरह के

[श्री जाजू]

अनैतिक है कि वह इस तरह की चीजें भेजते हैं। मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि आप बाहर जाने वाले कपड़े पर ऐसा नियंत्रण करें कि जो भी कपड़ा विदेश को भेजा जाय वह बिल्कल स्टैंडर्ड (standard) के मुताबिक हो। यह न हो कि ऊपर लिखा है २४ गज और निकलता है २३ ही गज या ऊपर जिस तरह की क्वालिटी (quality) लिखी है पर अन्दर दूसरी तरह का माल है।

दूसरे आपने इस नीति को कामयाब करने के लिए यह किया कि मिलों (mills) को इस बात की स्वतंत्रता दे दी कि वह जिस लाइसेंसदार को चाहें ३३ १/३ परसेंट (Per cent) कपड़ा बेच सकती हैं। और आपने यह भी कह दिया कि वह १४ परसेंट मुनाफा ले सकती है। आप देखिये कि बम्बई में क्या हो रहा है और व्यापारी लोग क्या कर रहे हैं। वह इस ३३ १/३ परसेंट में से जो कपड़ा देते हैं वह अधिकतर अपने रिश्तेदारों या दोस्तों को देते हैं।

यह बात सही है कि उनके पास लाइसेन्स होता है और फिर उस १४ परसेन्ट में से दस परसेन्ट मुनाफा ले लेते हैं। अब आप सोचिये कि चार परसेन्ट में या दो परसेन्ट में कोई आदमी बम्बई से कपड़ा लाकर पंजाब या राजस्थान या मध्यभारत में बेचकर क्या फ़ायदा उठा सकता है, और इसी कारण उसमें ब्लैक मार्केट होती है। हालांकि हम सब लोग ब्लैक मार्केट को बुरी चीज समझते हैं, लेकिन हमारी नियन्त्रण नीति जो है, वह गलत है और इसी कारण यह खराबी हमारे अन्दर है।

इसी प्रकार आपने एक ओपिन परचेज़ अथोरिटी (Open Purchase Authority) रियासतों की और सारे प्रान्तों की सरकारों को देने की नीति अपनाई है और उसके अन्तर्गत उन्हें सब अधिकार दे रखे हैं, उसका नतीजा यह होता है कि विशेषकर बम्बई सरकार अपने यहां पर जितनी मिलें हैं, उनका कोटा (quota) रिज़र्व (reserve) करा लेते हैं और उस कोटे को किस तरह से बेचते हैं। उनके पास १९४८ का पुराना काफ़ी स्टॉक पड़ा है और वह ऐसा है कि जिसको लोग नहीं लेना चाहते हैं, तो वह हाईयर प्राइस्ड क्लॉथ (higher-priced cloth) जो है, उसमें ब्लैक मार्केट होती है और ब्लैक मार्केट इतनी तेज़ी से हो रही है कि आप देखेंगे कि फ़ाइनर क्लॉथ (finer cloth) सिर्फ़ बम्बई में ही मिलता है और जगह नहीं मिलेगा। बम्बई और अहमदाबाद में यह होता है कि अगर आपको फ़ाइन क्लॉथ लेना है, तो उसके साथ में आपको दूसरा ख़राब गला हुआ कपड़ा ज़रूर लेना पड़ेगा और जिसे लोग कहते हैं कि साथ में बच्चा कपड़ा भी लेना पड़ेगा तब फ़ाइन कपड़ा मिलेगा।

दूसरी चीज़ जो बहुत खतरनाक साबित हुई वह यह थी कि आप ने (cotton) रूई पर तो नियन्त्रण कर दिया लेकिन कपास पर कोई नियन्त्रण नहीं रक्खा और सिर्फ रूई पर नियन्त्रण रखने से यह समस्या हल नहीं हो सकती। मुझे यह कहते हुए खुशी होती है कि मेरी प्रान्तीय सरकार ने कपास का भी नियन्त्रण किया, परन्तु दुर्भाग्यवश वहां की प्रान्तीय सरकार और केन्द्रीय सरकार के बीच ठीक समन्वय न होने के कारण वहां दूसरे प्रान्तों के बड़े बड़े पूंजीपति पहुंच गये और हमने जो कपास पर नियन्त्रण रक्खा था, उससे फायदा उठाया और केन्द्रीय सरकार को यह सुझाया कि मध्यभारत में जितनी कपास इकट्ठी होगई है, उसको बाहर भेजा जाये और इसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि हमारे यहां के किसानों को काफी हानि उठानी पड़ी और जहां पर कपास के ऊपर कन्ट्रोल नहीं किया गया था और कपड़े पर ही कन्ट्रोल किया गया था वहां के लोगों को बहुत ज्यादा पैसा मिला। यह एक ऐसी स्थिति थी और इसके कारण हमारे यहां काफी मिलें होते हुए भी कई मिलों को रूई बाहर से लेनी पड़ती है। दिक्कत यह है कि सेन्टर (centre) और प्रान्तों के बीच समन्वय नहीं होता है, और अब तक कोआरडिनेशन (coordination) नहीं होता है यह नियन्त्रण की नीति सही तरीके से नहीं चल सकेगी, क्या आपके टैक्सटाईल डायरेक्टरेट (Textile Directorate) और क्या दूसरे पदाधिकारी उनको कोई प्रैक्टिकल (practical) तजुर्बा टैक्सटाईल के काम का नहीं होता और वह उसमें विशेषज्ञ नहीं होते। मैंने सुना है कि आप अब कोई कर्मचारी ऐसा लाना चाहते हैं वह ऐसा होना चाहिए जिसे प्रान्तीय वितरण का अनुभव भी हो।

तीसरी चीज़ जो मैं आपके समक्ष रखना चाहता हूं वह सीमेन्ट के बारे में है। आपने यह फरमाया है कि हम सीमेन्ट का कोटा बढ़ा रहे हैं, परन्तु आपके सेन्टर का कोटा बढ़ा देने ही से क्या होता है, जब तक कि ट्रान्सपोर्ट की सुविधा न हो। केवल यह कह देने से कि तुमको यह सीमेन्ट मिल जायेगा, क्या बनता है, उसकी समस्या तो अभी हल होगी जब उसके लिये लेजाने का इन्तजाम होगा और रेल मिलेगी। जहां से मैं आता हूं वहां नीमच में एक सीमेन्ट फैक्टरी बनाने की एक जगह है, और मध्यभारत सरकार ने वहां पर सीमेन्ट बनाने के लिये केन्द्रीय सरकार से निवेदन किया और मुझे नहीं मालूम किन कारणों से वह प्रार्थना अस्वीकृत कर दी गई। वह कारण सही हो सकते हैं या ग़लत में नहीं जानता। पर इस पर पुनर्विचार की प्रार्थना अवश्य करता हूं।

[श्री जाजू]

चीनी चीज जो इस विवरण पत्रिका में लिखी है, वह ड्रग्स के नियन्त्रण के बारे में है। डीवैल्युएशन जब से हुआ तब से जो आवश्यक दवाइयाँ हैं, ड्रग्स हैं वह सब ब्लैक मार्केट में चली गई हैं और वह प्राइस कंट्रोल के मुताबिक नहीं मिल पाती हैं। भले ही हमारे जैसे कुछ लोग उनको ब्लैक मार्केट से खरीद कर अपने बच्चों और दूसरे घरवालों को जिन्दा रख सकते हैं, पर कुछ ऐसे केसेज भी होते हैं और विशेषकर देहातों में जहाँ पर उनको वह दवाइयाँ नहीं मिल सकती हैं। इस के बारे में मेरा कहना यह है कि अगर आप नियन्त्रण रखते हैं, तो ऐसा रखिये जिससे वाकई में फ़ायदा हो और पब्लिक को वह कंट्रोल प्राइस पर दवाइयाँ मिल सकें, मेरे नज़दीक तो नियन्त्रण रखने की कोई आवश्यकता ही नहीं है, लेकिन यदि हमारे देश के गणमान्य नेताओं की यह राय हो और वह यह समझते हों कि नहीं, नियन्त्रण आवश्यक है और रहना चाहिये और उसके बग़ैर काम नहीं चलेगा, तो मैं एक चीज बहुत जोरदार शब्दों में निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि नियन्त्रण आपका कम्पलीट होना चाहिये और प्रान्तों को उसमें छूट नहीं होनी चाहिये। और वह केन्द्रीय सरकार की देखरेख में सारे देश में होना चाहिये। इसका कारण यह है कि प्रान्तों के अधिकारियों के पास इतना काम होता है कि उन्हें इसके लिये फ़ुरसत नहीं मिलती है। सूबों के पदाधिकारी जैसे तहसीलदार वगैरह, एक तो उनके पास काम बहुत अधिक रहता है, दूसरे उनके कर्मचारियों को तनख़ाहें इतनी कम मिलती हैं कि वह इस सम्पूर्ण सिविल सप्लाय के काम को अपनी आमदनी का एक और साधन समझने लगते हैं और इस तरह से आपकी मंशा पूरी होने की जगह रिश्वत चलने लगती है। और जहाँ तक कर्मचारियों द्वारा रिश्वत लेने की बात है, यह इतनी प्रसिद्ध है कि इसके बारे में कोई सबूत देने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। इसलिये मेरा नम्र निवेदन यह है कि आप नियन्त्रण कंट्रोल केन्द्र के माफ़त इस तरह का रखें जिससे सब जगह यह ठीक ठीक चल सके। तथा सम्पूर्णतया एक नीति के अन्तर्गत रहे जैसे आयकर। दूसरी चीज जो मुझे कहनी है, वह नमक के सम्बन्ध में है। गत वर्ष नमक के सम्बन्ध में पाकिस्तान से आपका समझौता हुआ था। आपने पाकिस्तान के साथ यह निश्चय किया था कि आप २० लाख मन नमक ईस्ट बंगाल को देंगे और वह आपको २० लाख मन नमक पश्चिमी पंजाब से हिन्दुस्तान के लिये देगा। पर उसमें हुआ क्या। आपने तो अपनी सबाक़त की वजह से उस समझौते पर ईमानदारी से अमल किया, लेकिन पाकिस्तान ने वहाँ पर निर्यात कर ढाई रुपये मन लगा दिया और इस तरह उसने नमक पर ड्यूटी लगाकर पचास लाख रुपया ले लिया। पाकिस्तान सरकार ने इस नमक की बिक्री के लिये एक नामिनी मुक़रर कर दिया था जिसका मुनाफ़ा

एक आना मन रख दिया परन्तु हमारी सरकार ने उसको वहां से लाने की कोई एजन्सी नियुक्त नहीं की उसका फल यह हुआ कि यहां के व्यापारियों ने नमक दो रुपये, तीन रुपये और छः रुपये मन तक खरीदा जो एवरेज में तीन रुपये मन का मुनाफ़ा उस नामिनी को दिया और इस तरह से पाकिस्तान के नामिनी ने साठ लाख रुपये का मुनाफ़ा कर लिया और आपके यहां का जो नमक गया, उस नमक को सोचिये कितना नुक़सान हुआ है। मैं चाहूंगा कि आप इसकी जांच करें। दूसरी बात यह है कि नमक का वितरण ठीक तरह से होना चाहिये। यह बात भी आवश्यक है कि मैंने सुना है कि शायद आप अपने नमक का जो विभाग है, वह यहां से हटाकर हैदराबाद ले जाने की सोच रहे हैं। मुझे इसमें कोई एतराज़ नहीं है, आप इसको हैदराबाद ले जाइये और वहां के जो मकानात हैं, उनका उपयोग करिये। इससे मुझे ज्यादा नहीं कहना है। नमक अधिकतर स्टेट की ओर से राजस्थान में और सौराष्ट्र में पैदा होता है और जो दक्षिण भारत में पैदा होता है वह सबका सब प्राइवेट इन्टरप्राइज़ है, यानी व्यक्तिगत है। ज़रूरत, भरतपुर या राजस्थान में नमक जहां पैदा होता है, वहां केन्द्रीय देखरेख के लिये आपको काफ़ी मकान मिल जायेंगे। ज़रूरत इस बात की है कि एक केन्द्रीय देखरेख में नमक का वितरण होना चाहिये।

मुझे मालूम हुआ है कि एक जगह साल्ट कमिश्नर के डाइरेक्शन को उसके निम्न अधिकारियों ने नहीं माना। इस तरह की बातें इस डिपार्टमेंट में हुआ करती हैं।

दूसरी बात जो मैं कहना चाहता हूं वह नमक के बारे में है। नमक केवल इन्सान ही नहीं खाते हैं बल्कि जानवर भी खाते हैं। इस चीज की देहात में ज्यादा खपत होती है इसलिए मैं अर्ज़ करना चाहता हूं कि आप इस बात का ब्याल रखें कि देहात में नमक लोगों को आसानी के साथ मिल जाय। इसके साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी अर्ज़ करना चाहता हूं कि आईरन और स्टील देहातों के लिये दिया गया था। उसका एक कोटा देहातों के लिए मुकर्रर हो गया था। परन्तु क्या हो रहा है कि वह कोटा देहातों में नहीं जाता है। सिविल सप्लाइज़ के लोग म्युनिसिपल्टी वालों से कहते हैं जिनको कि शरणार्थियों के लिये मकान बनाने के लिये लोहे की ज़रूरत होती है कि वे ब्लैक मारकेट से लोहा खरीद लें। उनको आपके यहां से कोटा नहीं मिलेगा। इन्डस्ट्री वालों के लिए तो आपने कोटा मुकर्रर कर दिया है। सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट से बम्बई और बिहार के लिए जो लोहे का कोटा मुकर्रर हुआ है वह मेरे प्रान्त में ब्लैक मारकेट में बिक रहा है। और बड़ी तादाद में बिक रहा है। आपको इसकी जांच करनी होगी क्योंकि यह लोहा तो उन लोगों के घरों में पैदा नहीं होता है। यह लोहा तो जो आपने कोटा

[श्री जाजू]

मुकर्रर किया है उसमें से ब्लैक मारकेट किया जाता है। आपके विभाग में तो इसके बारे में सब फिगर्स मौजूद होंगे और आप इस चीज का आसानी से पता चला सकते हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस तरह की जो बातें हो रही हैं वह आपके ही डिपार्टमेंट से होती है। आपके विभाग में कर्मचारी लोग बेईमान होते हैं। इन सब बातों को दूर करने के लिए मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आप इस खराबी को दूर करने के लिए अवश्य कोशिश करेंगे।

(English translation of the above speech.)

Shri Jajoo (Madhya Pradesh): Looking at the annual Report of the Ministry of Industry and Supply, one gathers the impression that there is perhaps no need, at all, to say anything with reference to this Ministry. Once we concede that point, we are liable to be left in the dark. Such a possibility is there because the facts of the situation seem to be somewhat different. You can well imagine the difficulties we are called upon to face as far as the procurement of articles of day-to-day necessity in our life is concerned. This fact in itself is a sufficient indication that all is not correct in that Report. There are, on the other hand, much exaggerated statements at some places. On this occasion, I want to place before you only a few points.

First of these points relates to the control-system, which to me is quite an unnecessary measure and is, as commonly described, an artificial control in essence. It is, no doubt, correct to say that people to-day want a scheme of things in respect of every undertaking. The system of controls, therefore, has a definite place within that outlook. We should, however, think in a dispassionate manner as to the extent to which these controls should be applied. The hon. Minister in his remarks pertaining to the item on cement has even accepted in principle the necessity to decontrol the commodity after a situation justifying such action is reached as a result of gradual efforts in this direction. But I regard the present situation as a very terrifying one indeed. In modern times, peace within a country is considered to be the first requisite for its successful administration or governance. Second to that only, a successful Government must strive for a sufficiency in food for the masses and thereafter comes the necessity of a proper distribution of other articles which are necessary for our daily life. It is here that industry of a country occupies a very prominent position. So far our internal security, we realise it in actual practice that the hon. Sardar Patel known otherwise as the 'Iron Man' of our nation, has completely succeeded in setting it on a firm footing. As for the second issue namely that of food, we are passing through a very deplorable situation and it appears doubtful whether we shall be able to overcome it even in 1951 in spite of the announcements made by our Prime Minister to this effect. Judging, again, from so many controls imposed on the distribution or supply of industrial and other types of articles, one may feel as if our position in these respects is really a very disconcerting one. I may make a few submissions in this connection.

Coming to the item of cloth, we find that, not infrequently, contradictory orders are being issued on the subject of its control. The order issued to-day may be modified even a few hours after its issue and, sometimes, it so happens that a subsequent order is passed after a day or two making one believe as if there had been really some omission in the previous order or as if there was no more necessity left of that order now. In the conference of the industrialists of this country held during this week, its outgoing president had made an observation confirming the view that in the changed conditions of the country there

was left no more of justification for the continuance of these controls. This is the view held by the industrialists. Coming to the man in the street, he will also be found ascribing his woeful lot to these very controls. The situation arising out of these controls has led to a complete moral collapse on our part. In our day-to-day life we have introduced a number of things which are not only bogus and artificial in character but they are definitely taking us speedily towards a break-down. If the present speed is allowed to continue, we are liable to reach a stage when no more of humanity will be left within us and complete savagery will overtake us. You can well imagine the very undesirable course adopted in imposing controls even on things of vital interest to our very existence despite the fact that they can be available with much facility. I may reveal for your notice certain facts in connection with cloth. The Government have become accustomed to attribute their inability to check a deterioration in situation of every sort as regards the procurement of articles to the creation of Pakistan. Recently you have appointed a Planning Commission, whose terms of reference are available to-day. It is, no doubt, a fact that renowned personalities of the country are associated with that Commission and, in particular, its Chairman is none other than our Prime Minister himself. Nobody, however, can forecast at this stage the likely outcomes of its future labours nor one can have an idea as to the method they might adopt in conducting the work before them. Our position in respect of cloth is that there were 897228 bales in all with us in 1949. Thereafter we were told that the number had come down to 127881 by February, 1950. The noticeable aspect of the issue is that cloth is selling in the black-market in spite of there being a huge stock in respect of the same. Your stand seems to be that the rules in respect of cloth have been relaxed to some extent and there is, consequently, less hardship being experienced now; further that you have now framed certain rules and regulations in respect of exports and work is being carried on at present in accordance with those rules. You have, no doubt, sufficiently elucidated your export-policy regarding cloth. But what is our misfortune is that our businessmen export such an inferior quality of cloth that people of other countries come to regard all Indians as people devoid of all moral principles notwithstanding the fact that the basic error has been on the part of our merchants alone. I, therefore, request you to so effectively control the export of cloth as to allow only the standardized cloth to be shipped to foreign countries. There should never be a case when the quantity or quality as packed actually may be found to be quite different from the markings made on the outside of the packages.

For a successful working of this policy, you have given freedom to the mill-owners to sell 88½ per cent. of the total production of cloth to any licence-holder of their own choice. You have further allowed them a profit at 14 per cent. You can see what is happening in Bombay and how the businessmen are behaving there. A major part of this 88½ per cent. of cloth goes to their own relations and friends. It is true that these people possess a licence and forego as much as 10 per cent. of the profit. You can imagine how a person, under the circumstances can sell cloth at a profit to distant places like the Punjab, Rajasthan or Madhya Bharat when in Bombay itself he is left with only 4 per cent. of profit. This very fact gives rise to the practice of black-marketing. In spite of the fact that we disapprove of the practice of black-marketing, ours is a policy of controls based on altogether erroneous lines and because of this policy that evil continues to persist amongst us.

Similarly you have set up an Open Purchase Authority dealing with the problem of procurement for the various State-Governments who are given all powers within the frame-work of that policy. One of the results of this policy is that the Bombay Government, in particular, reserves its quota beforehand in all of the mills situated within its territorial jurisdiction. As to the method followed in disposing of that cloth, they have with them large stocks of cloth

[Shri Jajoo]

manufactured in 1948. The people generally are not inclined to purchase it. Consequently the total quantity of this higher-priced cloth is sold in the black-market. The extent to which it is practised can be imagined from the fact that fine cloth can be available nowhere excepting in Bombay. What one comes across in Bombay and Ahmedabad is that one must purchase the inferior and almost rotten variety of cloth otherwise known as the *bacha-kapra* along with the fine quality which is desired to be purchased by the intending customer.

Another thing which has proved to be very harmful is the imposition of control on unginced cotton while the ginned variety or *kapas* has been exempted from it. Such an imposition on only the unginced variety will fail to solve the problem to any extent. I am glad to state that the Government of my State imposed a control also on *kapas* but the unfortunate fact remains that big businessmen and capitalists from other States were prompt enough to avail this opportunity, there being no proper co-ordination between that State Government and the Central Government. They took advantage of the control on *kapas* and advised the Centre to arrange for the export of all accumulated *kapas*. This resulted in an appreciable loss to the growers or the *kisans* of my State whereas all others who had no control on *kapas* but only on cloth in their respective States, made much money. Such was this situation because of which our so many mills continue to depend on imported cotton for their working. The difficulty lies in the fact that there exists no proper co-ordination between the States and the Centre. Till there is a proper co-ordination of that type, this policy of controls cannot be worked out successfully. Whether it is your Textile Directorate or any other high-ranking official, all lack in a practical experience in textile and they are no experts in the subject. I have come to know that you are contemplating to appoint an expert. If so, the officer to be recruited must be one who is thoroughly experienced in the distribution work as carried out in the States.

The third thing I wish to place before you relates to cement. You have stated you are going to increase the quota of cement. But it will not do simply to increase the Centre's quota until transport facilities are there. It is no use just saying, "You will have so much cement", because the problem will be solved only when arrangements are made for its transport and wagons are made available. There is a site for the establishment of a cement factory at Neemuch from where I come. The Madhya Bharat Government sent a proposal to the Central Government for the production of cement there but it was turned down for reasons which are not known to me. I do not know whether those reasons are valid or not but I should certainly ask the matter to be reviewed.

The fourth thing mentioned in this explanatory memorandum relates to drug control. Ever since the devaluation all essential medicines and drugs have passed into the black market and are not available at the controlled prices. Maybe some people like us could afford to purchase them in the black market and thereby save the lives of our children and other members of our family but there are cases, especially in the villages, where these medicines are not available. In this connection, what I wish to say is this that if you want to keep the control it should be such as might be really beneficial and the people should be able to secure these medicines on controlled rates. So far as I am concerned I do not think control is at all necessary but if the accredited leaders of the country are in its favour and they hold that it is essential and must be retained and that it is indispensable then I would submit that this control should be complete and that no Provinces must be allowed to relax it. It should operate throughout the country under the supervision of the Central Government. The reason is that the Provincial authorities are so occupied that they have no time for it. Such officials in the Provinces as the Tahsildar

are, in the first instance, very much overworked and, secondly, their subordinate officials are so low-paid that they begin to look upon this entire civil supplies work as another source of income and in this way not only is your object not achieved but it rather helps corruption to set in. Now, so far as the matter of corruption on the part of the officials is concerned it is so well-known that it hardly needs any proof. Hence, I would humbly submit that the control must be administered under the aegis of the Central Government so that it might operate properly all round and also be guided by a uniform policy as in the case of the Income tax.

Another subject on which I wish to say something is salt. Last year you had an agreement with Pakistan about salt. You stipulated with Pakistan that whereas you would be giving 20 lakh maunds of salt to East Bengal, Pakistan would supply India the same quantity of salt from the West Punjab. But, what did actually happen? Actuated by righteousness you fulfilled your part of the agreement in all honesty but Pakistan, on its part, imposed an export duty of two-and-a-half rupees per maund and, in this way, realized fifty lakhs of rupees. The Pakistan Government had appointed a nominee for the sale of this salt whose profit was fixed at one anna per maund. But our Government did not appoint any agency for having it brought over from there. The result was that traders of this country purchased salt at the rate of two, three and even six rupees per maund thereby helping that nominee to make an average profit of Rs. 3/- per maund. In this way Pakistan's nominee made a profit of sixty lakhs rupees. You can imagine how much loss was incurred by us in respect of the salt that was supplied from this country. I should like this affair to be inquired into.

Secondly, the distribution of this salt should be done properly. This is very important. I have also heard that you are thinking of shifting the salt department from here to Hyderabad. I have no objection to your shifting it to Hyderabad and thereby utilizing the buildings available there. I have not much to say on that score. Production of salt by the State is done mostly in Rajasthan and Saurashtra. The production in South India is being done by private and individual enterprise. In Alwar, Bharatpur or Rajasthan where salt is produced you could find plenty of houses to facilitate supervision by the Centre. What is required is the distribution of salt under Central supervision. I have come to learn that at one place the directions of the Salt Commissioner were not obeyed by his subordinates. Such is the state of affairs in this department.

There is something else that I wish to say about salt. Salt is consumed not only by men but also by animals. Its consumption is greater in 3 P. M. the villages. Hence, I submit that you should see to it that it becomes easily available to people in the villages.

I should also refer to the fact that quotas of iron and steel were allotted for the villages but they are not being supplied. The Municipalities which need steel for the construction of houses for refugees are told by the Civil Supplies authorities to purchase it in the black market as they are not to be allotted a quota by the Government. For the industries you have fixed a quota. The steel quota allotted by the Central Government for Bombay and Bihar is being sold in my province in the black market and that too in large quantities. You must inquire into this affair because steel is surely not a domestic production of those people. This steel which goes into the black market belongs to the quota allotted by you. You must have got all the relevant figures in your department and can easily detect the mischief. I am inclined to think that all such things originate in your department. There are dishonest officials working there. Efforts must therefore be made to remedy this evil.

Mr. Speaker: May I know what time the hon. Minister would require for the reply?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I think I should have about 45 minutes.

Mr. Speaker: That means I must close the discussion at 4-15 P. M. Before I call upon the next speaker to have his say on the Demand, I would request hon. Members to take as short a time as possible. I find that speakers, even when I give the warning at the end of 15 minutes, still want two or three minutes more. I would be unable to give time to other speakers if hon. Members do not limit their speeches in favour of their colleagues.

Shri N. S. Jain: All right. I will try to keep to the time limit, though it is an uphill task to squeeze a speech within 14 or 15 minutes. However, I will do it.

Sir, the question of Industry and Supply is a vital question for the nation. It means production and distribution which affect the everyday life of the man in the street. My friend reminds me, 'why should I worry about the man in the street'. I must immediately say that the policy of this Budget, and for the matter of that of this Department, has not been able to convince me at all that it is a policy at all. I tried to find out what the blueprint or the picture of society which this Budget and this Industry and Supply Department want to build or cater for. As reminded by one of the hon. Members, the Finance Minister not only himself does not care for the man in the street, but he advises others also not to care about him. I think, Sir, he can well do it, because he has never rubbed shoulders with the man in the street. But I may warn him that we are all here sitting so comfortably not for the purpose of looking at things from the angle of vision of the Finance Minister, but for remedying the ills and the difficulties of the man in the street. If we cannot do it, none of us would be worth our salt.

With this spirit I want to find out in the Budget the underlying policy of the Industry and Supply Department. Our Finance Minister is not ashamed of admitting that he is groping in the dark and that in so doing he is in the high company of other notable countries. But I say, India cannot do it; India cannot afford it. We have on the one side communism in its stark nakedness gazing at us and on the other we have the colossal ignorance of the masses here. The demoralised condition in which the English people left us, coupled with other things, will make our position untenable unless we try immediately to solve the problems that are facing us.

Other countries may tolerate floundering, but not certainly India. We have got to find out and put in black and white what is the structure of society which we want to build. Unfortunately I find that the Budget policy changes with the change in the person of the Finance Minister because of the absence of any settled structure.

An Hon. Member: On a point of order, Sir. Is he speaking on Industry and Supply or on any other Demand?

Shri N. S. Jain: My friend has raised a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may proceed.

Shri N. S. Jain: As far as Industry and Supply is concerned, it is mainly a question of finance and therefore the two policies must be inter-linked. You cannot expect the Minister of Industry and Supply to frame his own Budget and develop industries and distribute them in a way different from what the Finance Minister wants him to do. So, Sir, I was saying that the questions of production and distribution of commodities are very closely linked with the policy which we want to follow in the matter of social reconstruction in India. I am sorry it required a long time for me to illustrate my point. Now I would rest content with saying that the hon. the Finance Minister should kindly be more akin to the man in the street and should try to find out his difficulties and his troubles and so mould his Budget and his future policy as may give him some concessions and some living space.

I am glad that a Planning Commission has been appointed. What I wish to say this afternoon to the Government, not only to the Finance Minister, is that they should please give us a cut and dry picture of the society which this Government wants to usher in India. I have not been able to find from this Budget or from the many speeches from the Government Benches which I have heard in this House such a picture. There was a National Planning Committee some years ago. It took many years to complete its efforts. They have published 27 volumes of report in which all the big minds of this country took part. That was not a Government Commission, but I think it was manned by people among whom practically all the members of the present Commission were included. But, anyway, what I expect from this Commission is that they would kindly draw up a policy on the lines of the election manifesto which we placed before the country, and which ought to be supplemented now when we are in full-fledged power.

I would now deal with the subjects which are under the immediate charge of this Ministry. As regards certain items some of my hon. friends have probed deep into them. It would have been better if my hon. friend over there had not showed that knife to the hon. Minister as also the photographs in this House. He should have remained content with drawing the hon. Minister's attention to them. The hon. Minister is trying his best, as he told us the other day, to overcome all the difficulties. Many of the complaints made may not be as true as they seem to be. However I expect the hon. Minister to kindly look into this Department of Disposals which is very notorious among the men in the street.

Sir, I may say something about textiles in a passing way. While going through this report regarding textiles I found that their policy there again is floundering. They have changed their policy in the course of one year so many times. I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that during the period of control the prices were marked on the cloth and if they were to be compared by an expert (as I had occasion to know as Director of the Provincial Marketing Federation in my Province) one would find that the prices marked were hopelessly unbalanced. Cloth far superior in quality had been under-priced as compared to the prices labelled on much inferior cloth. This fact must have come to the notice of the hon. Minister and I do not know what steps have been taken by him. I was told that certain influential mills could get this thing done. I do not know how far it is true.

I would like to deal now with the question of salt. It is a ticklish question. There was the historic Dandi March and when we came to power the first thing we did was to abolish the salt duty. What for? To give the man in the street salt at a cheaper rate. Are we doing it? This matter needs the special attention of the hon. Minister. I shall not go into details. I have so many figures to give to the hon. Minister and I am sorry I have only two minutes left. But I would like to tell him some important things regarding the administration of the salt department.

I understand that they are taking away that office to Hyderabad. I had given a short notice question on the subject and if the hon. Minister has not got it I would like him to reply to it now. What will be the cost, recurring and non-recurring of shifting the Salt Department to Hyderabad? Why is it being shifted to Hyderabad?

Prof. Ranga: Because there is no accommodation here.

Shri N. S. Jain: I know that there is no accommodation here. But it should be nearer to government-owned sources of supply rather than at Hyderabad. This Department is full of complaints and the complaints are likely to be shifted by shifting its office so far away.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): It is only distance that lands charm-

Shri N. S. Jain: I would request the hon. Minister to take into consideration the fact that Alwar and Gwalior are nearer the sources of supply. There are buildings there and there is ample accommodation. There are palaces where Maharajas use to stay. (*Interruption*). In Gwalior there is the Maharani's palace. In Alwar there are so many palaces and there is also the secretariat building.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is going into details.

Shri N. S. Jain: No, Sir.....

Mr. Speaker: He may think that he is not going into details but I think otherwise. He may mention only his points.

Shri N. S. Jain: I will mention another point in this connection. I am told that there has been too much extravagance in this department on account of T.A. and the air flights of the Salt Controller and other officers. I will request the hon. Minister to look into this matter of the Salt Controller who has already been given two superannuations and is still working as such. I hope he will kindly see how far such an extension is justified.

Prof. Banga: I am in agreement with my hon. friends when they complained about the working of many of these controls. At the same time, in view of the fact that we are going through rather trying times I would ask the hon. Minister and his Ministry to try to bring about decontrol in a planned manner, so that they would be able at any time to come back again to full control, should the necessity arise. I am extremely conscious of the special feature of the world's as well as India's own economy and politics. There is the cold war which is going on between two great countries as also here in this sub-continent. We cannot be blind to this and I am anxious that the hon. Finance Minister also should take note of it and try to cooperate with the Ministry of Industry and Supply in developing some of the key industries which are of strategic importance to our country. I have in mind the urgent need for the development of those industries for which we have been making projects—iron and steel, fertilisers, machine tools, ship-building industry as well as aircraft industry. Only this morning the hon. Minister told us that he had not received any applications from anybody for the starting of another aircraft factory but I am not satisfied with that. It is necessary that Government should take into consideration the industries of strategic importance and develop some of them without any more delay. Already as a result of this Budget we have prevented the Provincial Governments from carrying on their development projects to the tune of Rs. 60 crores, if not more. What would be the result of this? It would mean unemployment. If we are to make good this loss of employment certainly it would be necessary to develop some of these industries. Secondly, his own Budget, if at all it were to produce the results he expects, should enable him to find the necessary funds for the development of these strategic industries.

Secondly, I am not in favour of the Minister trying to keep to the target date that he has kept before himself for the winding up of the Disposals Department. I am anxious that as far as those commodities or goods that he has got which can be of any use at all to my hon. friend the Finance Minister are concerned, it is most necessary that they should delay the disposals in view of the uncertain conditions that have come to prevail in our own country.

So far as the ship-building industry is concerned, I wish to congratulate the Minister for having taken courage in both hands and allowed three keels to be laid there at Vizagapatam so that three new ships can be built there. It is easy for anyone to argue that Government should not go ahead with it because they might be losing—how many lakhs is it—seventy-five lakhs of rupees. But what would happen if we did not develop this industry at all? Not to speak of the unemployment among the workers and the consequent trouble,

we are in need of more and more ships and it is good that this policy is being pursued by our Government.

Shri Kamath: I hope they will build good ships.

Prof. Ranga: Well, let us all pray for it.

In regard to salt production, I also wish to voice my dissatisfaction with the manner in which our country is still being kept in short supply and also the prices are being kept so very high. We expected the prices to be kept down. I do not know what is wrong with it, but I am rather sorry that in spite of the fact that a Salt Advisory Committee has come to be established with my friend Mr. Sidhva as its Chairman, neither the Ministry nor the Committee have been able to give us satisfaction in regard to this matter.

Shri B. Das: Have you any suggestions to make?

Prof. Ranga: It is for them.

Shri B. Das: I am a Member of that Committee.

Prof. Ranga: My friend would like me to give suggestions within ten minutes not only over his charge but over various other charges also.

I am glad that the National Planning Commission has come to be established. But one cannot help feeling that this Government has some sort of fascination either for capitalists or for high finance or for superannuated people. Besides this I want to know why it is that they have found one great champion of high finance and another great champion of industrialists but not one advocate or one supporter or one protector of the agricultural and cottage industrial interests.

An Hon. Member: Labour is represented.

Prof. Ranga: That is administration which is represented there, and I am glad he is there too. But I am not satisfied with the omission that they themselves have made.

In regard to industrial research I want Government to spare more funds, especially in order to train the personnel needed to run as many of our industries as possible. The hon. Minister has made us so many promises but he has not been able to keep up to them.

Coming to cottage industries, it is a pity that the hon. Minister, though in favour of the development of cottage industries, has not been able to do very much for them because of my hon. friend the Finance Minister. The Finance Minister proposes to place at his disposal—how many lakhs of rupees—fifteen lakhs of rupees or something like that. With fifteen lakhs he wants work to be done to give satisfaction to forty million people who are employed in cottage industries all over India. How is it possible? And for the whole of the handloom industry he gave last year ten lakhs of rupees and there are ten million people employed in the handloom weaving industry alone. Therefore, although I have very much to say in criticism of the very crocodile—not crocodile but tortoise fashion, but both come into it nicely—the tortoise fashion in which the Industry and Supply Department has been moving in regard to cottage industries, I have very much more to say in regard to my own dissatisfaction with my friend the Finance Minister. It is unfortunate that the Finance Minister also believes in the potentialities of the cottage industries and yet he is not able to place as much funds as are needed for the development of these cottage industries.

In regard to the newspaper industry, the Madhya Pradesh Government have come forward to place quite a lot of money in order to build two factories, but unfortunately they have not been able to make much progress for want of support from the Centre.

An Hon. Member: Most of the money is misappropriated.

Prof. Ranga: Lastly, I would like to say in conclusion that it is very easy indeed to condemn the Finance Minister. He has made himself open to criticism as well as condemnation by his own Budget, by giving such a quick and roundabout turn in favour of one class of people as against other classes of people and so on. But what is even more difficult but at the same time the duty of everyone to remember is the nature of the times in which we are living and the need that there is for the Finance Minister as well as for this Government to withdraw from all those directions in which we have gone too far ahead in order to be able to spring whenever it is necessary for us and the moment the emergency is upon us. I think the hon. the Finance Minister has taken courage well into his own hands and made bold to bring forward this Budget and given us in an indirect manner a good enough warning as to the crisis that we are going through both on financial as well as strategic fields.

Shri Sardar Singhji: I have moved a cut motion before this House today because I believe it is time to draw the attention of the Minister of Industry and Supply to the general working of the control system in this country. When controls were reimposed on textiles in July 1948, the hon. Minister assured this House that they would in no way impede the progress of production.

[SHRI HOSSAIN IMAM *in the Chair*]

It was largely on account of this assurance that Members of this House and the country in general accepted the need for controls. But what has been the subsequent story? From the peak level of 401 million yards of cloth produced in July 1948 production steadily declined to 350 million yards by December of that year, to 328 million yards by May 1949, and finally to the still lower figure of 291 million yards by October last year—although their has been a slight recovery subsequently. In other words, in a period of fifteen months after the imposition of controls, production of cloth had fallen by 112 million yards.

Nor do we find that there has been an improvement in production if we take the general industrial situation as a whole. It is true that there are a few industries, notably steel and cement, in which there has been a slight increase in production. But if we analyse the general index of industrial production in this country—the only one which gives the information being the "*Eastern Economist*"—what do we find? In 1943-44 production reached the peak level of 126.8. The nearest that we have reached that figure subsequently was in July 1948 when it stood at 120. Since then production has steadily declined, the last recorded figure being 105.3 for August last year. And what has been the cost of these controls? We are seriously perturbed to find that out of the total demand of a sum of Rs. 4,38,15,000 under the head 'Industry and Supply', no less than a sum of Rs. 2.15 crores, almost half of the total demand, is to be spent on the administration of controls. This control organisation has swelled to such an extent that today its total personnel stands at 7117. Apart from the expenditure concealed under the general head of 'Directorate-General', the iron and steel organisation is to cost us Rs. 24.83 lakhs in the coming year, the Coal Commissioner Rs. 21.78 lakhs, the Textile Commissioner Rs. 45.49 lakhs and the Textile Enforcement Directorate Rs. 6.89 lakhs.

I do not pretend to be able to offer a solution to this appalling state of affairs which faces us on the production front today, but it is quite obvious that at any rate controls have not given us the solution for our troubles. On the one hand, controls have involved us in ever-increasing expenditure; on the other hand, far from having an increase we have a steady decline in production. It is high time that the whole situation was re-examined in order to find out whether there are defects in the manner in which these controls operate or whether the

whole system of controls should be continued at all. I would venture to suggest to the hon. Minister for Industry and Supply that he should seriously consider whether it would not be desirable to have a Committee of this House appointed for the purpose of examining the entire system of controls in this country. We in this House recognise that so long as there is a shortage in stocks there must be some controls, but if these controls hinder production we shall never be able to dispense with them as larger stocks have come into being. This is organised by Government but unfortunately the Ministry of Industry and Supply has not been able to devise simple controls which hold prices without injuring production. In Great Britain, experience of controls has been far more heartening and I am very far from asserting that all controls are intrinsically detrimental to production. I know that Members of this House will not be inappreciative of the great difficulties in this country of working controls. We sympathise with the Minister for Industry and Supply, but we wish him to recognise the extent to which he has failed to improve matters, and we ask only that he should place before the Committee which I have suggested all his difficulties so that some solution to this problem of maintaining production in spite of certain controls may be found.

Shri Shankaraiya (Mysore): In view of the limited time, I would like to confine myself to only one particular aspect of industry, namely the inadequacy of support and help given to the handloom industry, both silk and yarn, particularly in view of the distressful condition to which that industry has been driven.

Taking the silk industry first, I may say that it is an age-old industry. It is not a new one. Millions and millions of people are employed in this industry and thousands of families are eking out their livelihood from this industry and are entirely dependent on it. But in view of the scarcity of raw material, that is silk, they have been driven to unemployment and starvation. Many have been driven to the extent of selling away all their properties and getting into ruin. On account of the protective policy adopted by the Government in order to extend protection to the silk manufacturers, import of silk has been restricted and there has been practically no import for the last two years. In view of this shortage of raw material, these handloom weavers of silk have been driven to this pitiable condition and therefore I would request the hon. Minister to kindly consider the situation and give immediate relief to these people. No doubt, silk manufacturers also deserve encouragement and protection. That also is an industry which deserves consideration and therefore I am not questioning the validity or the propriety of the protective policy that has been adopted. I fully agree that protection should be given to it, but consistent with that protection given to the silk manufacturers, I would request the Government to import foreign silk to the extent that is absolutely necessary for the purpose of keeping the handloom industry intact so that it may not deteriorate or get ruined finally leading to a collapse.

Taking the statistics into consideration, the total amount of silk that would be required for our industrial purpose would be from fifty to sixty lakh pounds a year, but the local production, if I may be permitted to quote the figures actually furnished by the Department of Commerce, is only to the extent of twenty to twenty-two lakh pounds. That is, the local production is only one-third of what is actually needed. Therefore, there is all the greater necessity for importing silk from outside. In recommending the protective policy, the Tariff Board suggested, in order to equalize prices, levying a duty on foreign silk, as I understand from the Commerce Minister's own admission, to the extent of 80 per cent. *ad valorem* plus a special duty of Rs. 15/12/-. The special duty was subsequently reduced to Rs. 6/- but the 80 per cent. *ad valorem* remains the same. Now,

[Shri Shaukaraiya]

in view of the non-import of foreign silk, the weavers have been made to starve and all their looms are lying idle. They have been deprived of their livelihood. While recommending this protection to the silk manufacturers, the Tariff Board fixed the cost of production of local silk at Rs. 21/14/- for *charkha* silk and Rs. 31/12/- for filature silk. In spite of this protection and fixing of prices the market rates are high: Rs. 30 for *charkha* silk and Rs. 47 for filature silk. The weavers are unable to pay such abnormal prices and sell their finished products at the same high price. The finished products cannot fetch correspondingly increased prices and there has been considerable aggravation of the unemployment and starvation problem. These weavers are poor, uneducated and most ill-organised. Their distressful condition has been understood by the hon. Minister of Industry and Supply and also by the Central Silk Board. The Secretary of the Board inspected several of the areas sometime towards the end of January and has made a report. The Central Silk Board also have unanimously resolved on 29th January 1950 that the Government of India should immediately adopt the policy of importing foreign silk and supplying it to weavers at the rate of Rs. 81-12-0 recommended by the Tariff Board. They have also further recommended that if any loss occurs, it should be met by the Central Government. These unanimous recommendations of the Central Silk Board, I request, may kindly be implemented.

I understand that lately the Mysore Government have imported about 20,000 lbs. of silk from Italy and are releasing it at the rate of Rs. 40 or 41 per lb. If that is so, no help will have been given to the already suffering cottage silk industry. If the Central Government can forego the duty of Rs. 6, the weavers would be benefited. When the Central Government are giving a relief of about Rs. 15 crores to large scale industries, I do feel that they should consider the case of this cottage industry and forego this special duty.

Coming to handloom weavers, I am glad their pitiable condition has been appreciated and admitted by the hon. Minister who, in his brochure, says on page 11 that the handloom industry has been passing through a difficult period owing to comparatively plentiful supply of cheaper mill-made cloth and the virtual disappearance of export trade with Pakistan. Now, this silk and handloom industries are the most important and largest among the small industries. Millions of people are employed in them throughout the length and breadth of India. Therefore, the Ministry of Industry and Supply should take care to see that the handloom industry is not put to suffering and inconvenience.

As regards other cottage industries, there are a number of them. Though many artistic things are being produced, on account of lack of organisation and proper facilities for propaganda work, they have been suffering. If proper facilities are extended, they will get a great impetus and will serve their own interests as well as the interests of the nation by promoting our export trade.

Shri Krishnanand Rai (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I thank you for the opportunity that you have given to me to express my views on the general industrial policy of Government. There has been too much talk in the last three years about industrial development, but there is not much difference of opinion about the fact that we have not progressed much. Even the brochure issued by the Ministry of Industry and Supply admits that as far as State projects are concerned, much spade-work has been done and the schemes have been finalised but their execution has been held up for want of finance. As regards the private enterprises, it says that the progress has been slow and hesitant. As regards the cottage industries, it is silent altogether. I think it only says this much, that the Ministry has established an Emporium in Delhi for exhibiting cottage industry products. To my mind, they have done it to tell the fashionable public of the capital that the cottage industries are still living. To sum up,

therefore, State projects are merely on paper; the private projects are held up; and cottage industries have simply been ignored.

I was surprised to hear the hon. the Finance Minister saying that in most of the industries except jute and cotton there has been development. If I may revive his memory by drawing his attention to the information provided by the Ministry of Industry and Supply, there has been a drop in production not only in cotton and jute but also in salt, drugs, soda ash, bichromates, sheet glass, electric fans and machine tools. I think the hon. the Finance Minister will agree with me that 90 per cent. of our industries are in a bad state. None of them is in a condition to meet the needs of our country. What is the cause of all this? That is a very pertinent question. There is much controversy in the press and on the platform on this point. The Government of India have been saying that the industrialists have non-co-operated. The industrialists have been saying that Government always talk of socialisation and over-taxation and State projects. On studying the new policy of Government, it appears to one that they have surrendered to the judgment of the industrialists. We are seeing in this new policy the postponement of nationalisation for another ten years and taxation on accumulated capital has also been abolished. I want to assert before the House what is going on in the world. England, Sweden, France and Italy have nationalised a major portion of their key industries and the nations of Eastern Europe have nationalised almost a bulk of their economy. Unfortunately Asia is faltering in her steps in that direction. I want to ask one question from the hon. Minister for Industry and Supply. Even after giving full protection, complete facilities and assurances about their security, our industrialists are not able to increase production, bring their commodities to the market and distribute them at a fair price then what the Government proposes to do? We have seen the case of the textile industry. Several mills have been closed down due to accumulation of stock. While in 1941 and 1942 our people were getting 16 yards of cloth *per capita* in 1949-50 they are getting only 14 yards *per capita*.

Take again the case of the sugar industry. The industry has been enjoying State protection for the past 18 years, but the result has been a complete scandal. The price of many of our indigenous products are so high that they are beyond the reach of the poor people.

Mr. Chairman: I would appeal to hon. Members to be as brief as they can, so that more Members who are anxious to speak may be accommodated. There is a long list of waiting members.

Thakur Krishna Singh (Uttar Pradesh): It has been officially announced to-day that a Planning Commission has been set up by the Government of India. The terms of reference for the Commission have been given in the said announcement. It is a very happy sign for the future of this country which has experienced confusion, confusion and confusion from top to bottom, from province to province, in the matter of planning. All sorts of ideals, ideologies, patriotism without experience, experience without patriotism, pulling and unpulling of strings by interests conflicting with each other have been responsible for this utter confusion.

India got independence on the 15th of August 1947 and suddenly within a year or two we found all sorts of projects without planning on all-India basis, works without skilled workers wrecklessly unmindful of future being started by us. The masses were preached day in and day out through press and propaganda the advent of golden days for them, the days when they shall find honey and milk flowing from these works, from these projects so dexterously put into operation by us. The masses felt the heaven was near and that *Ramrajya* has come

[Thakur Krishna Singh]

One day sitting on the bank of Jumuna near a village I was surrounded by a group of villagers who asked me whether it is a fact that Jumuna Hydro-Electric Project started by the U. P. Government has been abandoned. The foundation stone of the said project was laid by our beloved Prime Minister and these villages would not like to forget the thrill they got on that day from his presence. I felt awkward and went directly to the engineers and employees on the work to get first hand information about it and I was informed that it has been slowed down. I felt a sense of relief, but then suddenly a thought came whether the buildings already constructed, the works left incomplete, will exist there till the day of our financial rejuvenation. They will not. What will happen to the money that has been thrown into these works so far. Such works were started by almost all provinces and I hear many of these projects have the same fate. The Ministry of Works, Mines and Power have a number of projects which are under consideration or under investigation or under construction for the utilisation of water wealth of the nation. Some of them have been undertaken with the prospect of their being slowed down. The Ministry of Industry and Supply have also schemes and some of them have been started. We are very happy to learn that rapid progress has been made in regard to the Fertiliser Project of Sindri. I had the pleasure of going through its details and I have every hope it will start functioning in 1950. It is a magnificent scheme, well-planned and well executed so far. Let us make a law that officers in charge should be severely punished if they do not execute the works according to plans. But this is only possible if the plans are well thought of and all possible circumstances are foreseen when making plans. It is no planning at all if after a few months you begin to talk of this and that difficulty.

The Central Government had made allocation of several crores of rupees for development in the Budget for the year 1949-50 and the Provincial Governments had done the same. With those figures before them they started their projects. Why did they not foresee things which should have been apparent to expert financiers and administrators? Who should be held responsible for this callous waste of money on projects which have been abandoned, slowed down and suspended? These schemes and allocations have been unrealistic and wide of the mark as will be seen from the slow progress made so far and the orders of abandonment, suspension or of slowing down.

The Planning Commission will soon be at work, but may I know whether the country has been surveyed thoroughly for raw materials? Will the Commission have correct and thorough statistics of raw materials and other resources for the development of industries? Many parts of India are unexplored so far. For example, we have lead, silver, zinc, copper, gypsum, iron and several other deposits in Kumaun Division, especially Tehri Garhwal. There electricity can be generated cheaply and dams can be constructed at cheaper cost than at other places down in the plains. Only motor roads or electric mono railway trains are required to be taken to these deposits. We have huge raw materials for artificial silk, paper, newsprint, turpentine, matches, cement, etc. and all these projects can be taken up in one locality at less cost. Other parts of India may also have such deposits. All these areas have not been surveyed so far. The Planning Commission will be in a better position to make plans of economical projects if the country is surveyed thoroughly and estimates are made available to the said Commission of all possible industrial projects.

The report of the Ministry of Industry and Supply gives some idea of the industries that the Government intend starting. I do not know much about many of them, but the report does not give a bright picture of many of those industries in view of our meagre finances. The policy of nationalisation of

key industries and defence industry is quite sound, but as we do not have enough finances it is not possible to socialise all sources of production immediately. It is, therefore, better to invite private enterprise to run these industries as well.

I am informed that there is a factory at Raipur near Dehra Dun for manufacturing binoculars, dry batteries and other instruments for defence purposes. The complaint is that the experts there have not been getting sufficient encouragement in the manufacture of the new designs of batteries and other instruments they have invented. May I request the hon. Minister to look into this.

Regarding the shipyard at Vizagapatam constructed by the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, I had the pleasure of going to that place and seeing it myself. It is not big enough for operation on a large scale. The 4 P. M. company has financial difficulties and it cannot carry on its business without perpetual assistance from the Government. The Government will have to take it over and run it by a Government sponsored Corporation. I am glad that the Government is considering that. The sooner this is decided upon, the better it is in the interests of this industry of national importance.

I do not know much about the Hindustan Aircraft Factory. The note on page 17 of the Report of the Ministry about this Factory is very promising. The month of August seems to be very auspicious for us. We got our independence in August. Our Fertiliser Factory at Sindri will be completed by August 1950. The first prototype of trainer aircraft will be ready for air testing by August 1950 in the Hindustan Aircraft Factory.

Before I finish, I may say something about the woollen industry in Kumaon Division. It is a big cottage industry in the hills. This industry is starving for lack of encouragement from the Government. We require badly new types of spinning wheels as have been imported from Japan. Wool is brought from Tibet and no steps have been taken by the Government to improve the breed of wool sheep. We have beautiful pasture land and plenty of sheep, but the wool from local sheep is of inferior quality. May I request the hon. Minister to develop this industry in these hills on scientific lines and pay some attention to these hills where he will find unlimited wealth for making India prosperous and happy. India's prosperity depends on production and more production, and let us hope that all our production will be well-planned and well-executed in future.

Shri Lakshmanan (Travancore-Cochin): What I propose today is to offer a few remarks with regard to the inadequacy of the support extended by the Ministry to cottage industries, with special reference to the handloom weaving industry. The serious danger to a country entirely dependent on centralised large-scale industry was amply demonstrated by the last War. We in India are really fortunate in having a decentralised cottage industry, side by side with centralised large-scale industry concentrated at certain points. Looking at it either from a social or an economic point of view, cottage industries have got a very vital roll to play in any national reconstruction scheme. Therefore any amount of emphasis on that aspect, I believe, will not be too much. Sir, for the present, at any rate, I will confine my remarks to cottage industries, as I said earlier. The handloom weaving industry is the largest single cottage industry in India, employing more than ten million hands scattered over the entire country, mostly in South India. Coming as I do from Travancore-Cochin, where there are about 5,000 looms over about one thousand sq. miles which, I believe, is the highest density in the whole country, I am entitled to speak with some authority on the factual aspect of the proposition. Sir, it is highly gratifying to note that the Government are making an all-out effort

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to increase textile output in the country, both mill-made and handloom, so that a high level of export could be reached this year itself. The prompt arrangements to import raw cotton to supplement our cotton resources are highly encouraging. Now that we cannot look forward to Pakistan for our raw cotton, this attempt to get more raw cotton from foreign countries is all the more welcome. Sir, the contribution which the handloom weaving industry can make in this field of more production is very great. The handloom weaving industry had produced in the pre-War period about 1,950 million yards of cloth, consuming more than 425 million lbs. of yarn per year. What is the present position of the industry? The export trade with Pakistan which consumed the large bulk of our handloom products being cut off and the mills dumping into the country cheap varieties of mill cloth, it is no wonder that the industry has been crippled. Huge stocks of handloom cloth are today lying accumulated, and hundreds of thousands of weavers are being thrown out of employment. Sir, it is in this background that we have to look at the schemes which the Ministry has placed before us with regard to the handloom industry. I should not be taken to suggest that the Government are not doing anything for the betterment of this industry. In fact, the Government have done a great deal. The Government have lifted all export restrictions on handloom cloth; they have reserved certain varieties of production exclusively for the handloom industry and have prevented the mills and power looms from producing those varieties. Government have also given certain freight concessions, and finally Government have offered to purchase one-third of their requirements in textiles from the handloom weaving industry. These are really measures that will normally give relief to this industry. But along with this we find that the excise duty on superfine mill cloth is being reduced from 25 per cent. to 20 per cent. and on fine cloth from 6½ per cent. to 5 per cent. We also see that a subsidy of 1½ crores of rupees is being granted on the imported cotton. These measures will surely bring down the soaring prices of mill commodities. The position of the mills will thereby be strengthened and they will now be in a better position to strike a decisive blow at the handloom weaving industry.

It may be that as a result of the concessions given to the handloom industry, the industry may be able to produce more, but production alone, as has been rightly pointed out in the report of the Fact Finding Committee appointed by the Government of India in 1941, is not a sure test of the growth of the industry. It is stated in the report:

"We have to remember in this connection that production is not a safe criterion in the case of an industry like hand-weaving pursued hereditarily by certain classes or castes. A mill will close down if it does not earn a profit, but the handloom will go on even if it brings no profit, because the weavers depend on it helplessly for their livelihood. It is even said that the weaver works longer and produces more where wages go down in order that he might make up by quantity what he loses in prices per piece."

Therefore an increase in production is not a safe criterion for judging the growth of this industry.

There is one other aspect which I would like to touch upon and that is, in previous years Government used to give a grant of 10 lakhs of rupees to the industry for its expansion schemes. From last year we find that these ten lakhs have not been given. I do not make a complaint of this, because I know that ten lakhs will make no difference to the situation, but I mention this only to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister the fact that the treatment that this industry receives at the hands of the Ministry is not very encouraging.

I have only to offer a few suggestions and I will have done. Instead of subsidising the imported cotton I would suggest the subsidising of the yarn

supplied to the Handloom Industry so that they may derive a direct benefit by way of increased wages.

I would also suggest that the mills should be made to distribute yarn among the weavers and they should take back cloth from the weavers and sell them after finishing them.

Thus the Government should bring about an alignment between the Spinning Mills and the weavers so that the different fields of activities of the two institutions may be complementary rather than conflicting with each other. With these suggestions I place before the hon. Minister the necessity of giving better treatment to the Handloom Industry.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Maheshwar Naik. The hon. Member must conclude by 4-20 so that the hon. Minister may reply.

Shri Naik (Orissa): In the limited time at my disposal I should like to confine my remarks only to two Industries.

First of all I will take the Iron and Steel Industry. I should like to congratulate the Minister of Industry and Supply in respect of the increased production which his unflinching efforts have been able to bring about in the field of iron and steel. Though the production seems to have increased, still it is not yet sufficient for our own local consumption. It is rather strange that in a country where abundant raw materials, iron ore, are available, the production is not up to the quantity required even for indigenous consumption. The hon. Minister assured us further increased production not only in the existing steel works but he also envisaged the opening of two new works, one in Madhya Pradesh and another in Orissa. But here again the same old tale of lack of finance is cropping up. I do not know when we are going to have some better days. Still it is high time that the hon. the Finance Minister finds out some means for starting these key industries.

We are told that greater allocation is being made for our agricultural industry but we find in the rural areas that even for 5,000 people there is only one or two pairs of cart rims being supplied. I would like to see that the assurance given by the Industry and Supply Ministry in respect of supply of agricultural implements is fulfilled.

I will now come to the Textile Industry which is one of the most important industries. According to the brochure supplied to us, we find that this industry has recorded a heavy drop in production both of yarn and cloth. In respect of yarn the production in 1949 has reduced from 1948 by 189 million lbs. whereas in respect of cloth it has reduced from 1948 by 419 million yards. One of the reasons given in the brochure is the inability of State Government nominees to purchase in full the quantities allotted to them. Another reason given is weakening of demand in certain parts of the country due to fall in purchasing power. I would like to point out that the fall in purchasing power is mainly due to fall in prices of agricultural commodities. The hon. the Finance Minister has given in the White Paper the index figures. It shows a heavy fall in respect of food articles by 28 points whereas the semi-manufactured articles show a rise by 7 points and manufactured articles, a fall of 8 points. Here I am constrained to say that all the anti-inflationary measures seem to have been directed against the agriculturists alone. There is a feeling among the consumers that Government is allowing itself to play into the hands of the wily industrialists. Protection after protection is being given to industries one after another at the cost of the general consumer and yet the price level remains not only not at par which it was during the last time when control was imposed but it has gone up several times higher and over and above there are excise and other duties which go to swell the price of the cotton textiles. If we take into consideration the food index figures, we will find that it is really a difficult job for the agriculturists to have access to

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this level of prices. Proposal of any price reduction is not there and in my opinion, there must be adequate price reduction to bring about any amelioration in the condition of our agriculturists. Sir, I have done.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I do not propose in my reply to deal with each and every one of the points which have been raised by hon. Members, because the time at my disposal will not permit me to do so. I propose, Sir, in the first instance, to give a general picture of the industrial activities of the country and particularly of Government, and then I shall deal with some of the major questions which have been raised in the course of the debate today.

In no country can a survey be made of the industrial activities of its Government without reference to the general economic and political situation obtaining in such a country. Obviously, no Industrial Ministry can act in a vacuum. Its activities are closely linked up with things which are happening, which are changing from day to day and from month to month and which have a very severe reaction on the policy and programme of any Government. But, I would certainly claim that the Government of India has a definite industrial policy and that policy is more or less based on the announcement which it was my privilege to make on behalf of Government nearly two years ago. But, in the implementation of that policy certain changes have had to be made. It would have been futile for the Government to ignore the great changes which came to pass in this country during the last two years and simply to stick to the formalities of the policy that we had announced.

Obviously, the policy of any Government, particularly of the Government now in office here must be related to increasing production to the maximum possible capacity and also to secure the proper distribution of the goods so produced. I need not repeat here the arguments which are very often mentioned on the floor of this House as regards the difficulties which came in the way of the Government in carrying forward its policy. There stand the uncertain Indo-Pakistan relations. Devaluation came in the course of last year which no one did ever contemplate; it has produced good results and bad results so far as India's economy is concerned. The money market has remained considerably shy. 1947 was a particularly bad year for the country, not only on account of partition, but also on account of the general drop in industrial production and we had to make a beginning in order to have a complete recovery. If we take 1946 as the base year and have 100 as the production in 1946, it appears that in 1947, it dropped to 98.8; in 1948, there was a recovery and production was 111; in 1949, production has dropped to 107.7. From that point of view I cannot claim that we had a very satisfactory performance in 1949. At the same time, the House will remember that the main reason why production fell in 1949, was the drop in the production of jute and textiles mainly and certain other commodities which have been mentioned in the book that I have placed in the hands of the Members of the House. So far as jute and textiles are concerned,—I shall deal with textiles separately a little later—there are very special reasons why production could not be kept at the level at which Government wanted it to be kept. Hon. Members are aware of the reasons why this happened to be the case. But, if you take the other industries.—I am not talking of the minor industries—if you take coal, cement, paper, lamps, bulbs, electric motors, certain important chemicals, and bicycles, you will find that there has been a definite improvement in production in 1949. I cannot claim that the credit for this increased production goes 100 per cent. to the Government of India; but, I do claim that in respect of each one of

these industries and others which I have not mentioned, it has been the endeavour on the part of my Ministry to keep in the closest possible touch with the producers and help them in such a way as to render it possible to increase their production. In some instances, we have failed; but in many instances, we have succeeded. There are several industries where production has remained at the same level; there are some where production has gone down to some extent. In December last, I called a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Central Council of Industries and Sardar Patel himself came and opened the proceedings of that Committee. There, he called upon the industrialists to put all their efforts in the task of increasing production in the coming year. We appointed Target Committees. It was the intention of Government that the responsibility for increasing production should mainly rest on the industries themselves, that they should be able to present before us their needs and their demands and that it should be the endeavour of the Government to fulfil such needs and demands to the best possible extent. I need not go in detail into the targets that we have fixed for 1950 with regard to a number of important and basic industries. But, I wish to state that during the last three months it has been our endeavour constantly to remain in touch with the representatives of the producers so that we can see from period to period that the target is being maintained. There are difficulties in the way of our maintaining the targets. For instance, regarding the textile industry itself, which as hon. Members have rightly pointed out, is one of the basic industries, the difficulty is mainly due to cotton. I shall not deal with the textile industry now; when I deal with the private industries, I shall come to textiles. Let me continue my narration for the time being.

So far as Government's activities are concerned, several hon. Members rightly asked what has the Government done during 1949 to implement its programme with regard to the industries which Government said that it would bring into existence. That is a very pertinent question. I do not say that our performance has been of a spectacular character. The main trouble has been want of finance. As one of the hon. Members pointed out, without proper provision of finance, you cannot bring industries into existence. We have not got Alladdin's Lamp at our disposal which would make it possible for a Government backed even by so powerful a Parliament as this one to bring industrial undertakings into existence, without finance.

But I would like you to look at the steps that we have taken. I would first refer to the Sindri factory. Now, there has been a lot of misunderstanding due to misinformation about the progress which has been made in respect of the Sindri factory. I would like the House to remember that it was practically after we came into office in August, 1947 that the main task of building this factory commenced; and during the last two and a half years.....

Pandit Kunzru (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, may I know what my hon. friend means by the words "the main task of building this factory?"

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: By "main task" I mean the principal task of constructing the factory.

Pandit Kunzru: But the principle was accepted long ago.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I said "principal" and not "principle". I shall give all the information to the hon. Member. In fact I would request him to visit Sindri and see exactly what progress has been made there. So far as the construction was concerned all that was done was the acquisition of land, and orders had been placed. But the real construction had not commenced. That is why I said the main task of construction commenced practically about September or October, 1947. In any case, by August 1950, the factory is expected to be completed. Now it should be borne in mind that this is going to be the biggest fertilizer factory in Asia, producing 850,000 tons every year.

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One of our chief difficulties was with regard to gypsum. As the House is aware, this gypsum was to have come from an area which has now fallen in Pakistan. But we have completed our arrangements for obtaining gypsum from within India, from Rajputana, and in fact, from 18th March—and today is the 16th. From 18th March onwards every day, 500 tons of gypsum will start moving from Rajputana to Sindri. We have arranged for 100,000 tons now. It also meant a good deal of special arrangement with the State concerned and with the Railway Ministry, and all that arrangement has now been completed. Every day 2,000 tons of gypsum will be required after the factory is completed and it starts functioning, and it is our intention that at least six to nine months' stocks should be kept ready before the factory starts functioning. Therefore that is one bottle-neck that we have been able to remove satisfactorily.

The question was raised with regard to the increase in the cost of this factory. It is true that this increase amounts to nearly about 100 per cent. While Rs. 10 to 11 crores was the original estimate, now the estimate is likely to come to about Rs. 21 to 22 crores. Now, I gave the information to the House some months ago in answer to a question why there was this increase, and today also this very question has been raised by some hon. Members. The chief reason is in connection with the plants and machinery for which we have had to pay Rs. 6 crores more. That explains Rs. 6 crores out of the Rs. 10 crores extra, that we have been compelled to spend. In addition there have been additional expenses in respect of building operations, acquisition of land and also about power and boiler. These in all would come to nearly Rs. 10 crores.

So far as the technical personnel for running the factory goes, it has been our aim to secure the services of qualified Indians many of whom we have sent abroad. Nearly about thirty young Indians who have been selected are about to complete their training in U.K. and in America. We have not been able to secure the services of Indians for three important offices. We have not filled up the posts, but we may have to appoint for a short period some foreigners. But it will be our endeavour to man that factory with Indian technical personnel as soon as possible.

Now, so far as the machine tools factory is concerned, it is another project with which we are going ahead. The total expenses will come to about Rs. 13 to 15 crores, and it will produce machine tools every year worth nearly about Rs. 8 crores. These machine tools are now being imported. Some misgivings were expressed by some Members today that we will be producing machine tools that are already being produced by other factories. That is not the case at all. We have seen to this—and it is our policy—that we do not duplicate. As hon. Members are aware, machine tools industry is one of the basic industries and if you want to develop industries in this country, obviously the machine tool industry should be there.

Now, there is another thing which we are doing today. The reparation stocks that we have contain a large stock of used machine tools, the experts who came from abroad have seen this stock and they have told us that if these stocks are properly utilised, after repair and reconditioning, they will give us machine tools worth at least Rs. 15 crores which means that if we do not repair and recondition them they will have to be sold as junk and perhaps some specimens of them will then be brought to this House for display by Mr. Tyagi or some other friends!

The next is about the Penicillin Factory. We are going ahead with the plan. The project report has been completed. The total cost we thought would come to Rs. 2 crores, but from the revised estimate, we find that it is likely to go up

to Rs. 3½ crores. But that also we have not abandoned, we are going ahead with it.

Shri Sidha: We were told that it has been dropped?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: No, we have not dropped it.

Then, one concern with which the Government of India is participating with a British firm is the Indian Mining and Construction Company which deals with special technical operations in respect of mining. Now, that company also has been functioning for the last nine months. We have selected about 20 young students from all parts of India whom we are sending out to England for the purpose of receiving special training in mining engineering so that after their return they will be able to serve the factory and also utilise their knowledge for the purpose of developing such undertakings in other parts of India.

We are also going ahead with the dry core cable factory. That will be producing goods worth about Rs. 80 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore—all that we are importing now. It will not cost us much. It will cost about Rs. 1 crore or a little more. It will be located near Chitranjan where the Railway Locomotive factory has been located. The experts have arrived from England and our officers are there and work will be started very soon, in the course of the next month or so.

So far as the Mathematical Instruments Office is concerned, the House will remember that last year I expressed my dissatisfaction that production had gone down considerably in this factory. This factory manufactures scientific instruments and similar other things. We have brought two German experts during last year and the latest report indicates that the production has gone up by 27 per cent, and it is expected that in the course of the next year or two that factory also will become completely self-supporting. Along with that, and in cooperation with the glass and ceramic institute, it is proposed to have a factory for the purpose of manufacturing certain special types of glasses, optical glasses, which are not manufactured in the country today and we have sanctioned a scheme for that purpose.

I have not referred to the activities of other Ministries, for instance the Communications Ministry has certain factories under it, the Defence Ministry has certain factories under it, the Railway Ministry has certain factories under it. I have not referred to them at all. These also will represent part of the industrial activities of Government which we have kept going during the last year.

The question was asked by some Members, "What sort of organisation we should set up for these factories and units?" It is my definite opinion that these factories cannot and should not be run departmentally. We must run them through corporations or through companies and we must be able to run them in such a way that they are as efficient as any private industry. Very often we are criticised by our industrial friends who laugh at us and say, "We would like to know how the Government run their institutions". We should be prepared to accept that challenge. In fact I have appealed to many industrialists that they should, after they have established their industries, be able to come forward and assist Government to run its industrial undertakings whose only object is to increase the output of the country for the national good.

Our next factory is the Hindustan Aircraft Factory at Bangalore. There, apart from the valuable work which it is doing for repairing and reconditioning aircraft, its programme for building its own aircraft through its own designing section has been going ahead. I share the disappointment of many of my friends who feel that the progress has been somewhat slow. Foreign experts who visited that place and watched the activities of the designing section which is completely manned by Indians have expressed admiration of the way in which that section has been going on. That means that our Indian

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boys, under proper supervision are learning the technique of designing aircraft and manufacturing them on Indian soil. But simultaneously the policy of building aircraft on licence basis must continue. That will be partly through assembling and partly through manufacture. Now here our activities are limited to defence requirements for the present. The House will not expect me to give more details for obvious reasons. But I can assure you that so far as design of our own aircraft is concerned and so far as the assembling and manufacture of aircrafts which may be necessary for the defence of the country are concerned, that institution is being fully utilised and its services are at the disposal of the Defence Ministry. Our two Ministries are working in full co-operation for this purpose.

Here there is this other activity also where we are working in co-operation with the Railway Ministry, that is building of railway coaches. Some Members have seen this at Bangalore. We have already supplied.....

Shri Sidhva: About 50 in a year.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: About 60 we have supplied and we have to supply 250. A new and special design has also been suggested to us through a Swiss firm. Some Member today spoke of the undesirability of allowing a Swiss firm to start a factory in Bangalore. That is not proposed at all. A new design of Swiss origin will be put into operation by us at the Bangalore factory and not by the Swiss firm at all. It will be done in our factory, but the Swiss engineers will come and give us every possible assistance to get these new designs built.

This is about the work that we have been able to do in spite of financial difficulties in 1949. So far as the other projects are concerned, project reports have reached us and four are already before us. First and foremost is the steel factory. I need not dilate upon the importance of having a steel factory. But the difficulty of bringing into existence a steel factory immediately will be obvious to the House. The difficulty is mainly one of finance. It will cost us 85 crores of rupees for one factory producing 5,00,000 tons of steel. We have a project report for heavy electrical equipment. If you want to put that into operation you should invest some 20 crores of rupees. Only last week I got a report for Radio equipment and Radar equipment. That will also cost Rs. 8 crores. I shall not refer to the Project Report we have received on synthetic petrol. I am not minimising the difficulties which stand in the way of our carrying these projects into execution. But I should not minimise also the importance of the work which has been done. All the reports are there and if at any time the Government decides either by itself or in co-operation with some private enterprises or through some means with the help of foreign capital to go ahead with any of these Projects, each one of which is of national importance, the materials are there and Government can go ahead with their plans.

I next come to the help which we have been able to give to private industries. It should be remembered here that, after all, the industrial structure of India as it stands is mainly controlled by private enterprises. There may be people who do not like private enterprises or industries very much. But it is not a question of our likes and dislikes. It is a question of the paramount need of the country. What is it that we want? We want that the maximum production should be made available for the people of the country and that those goods should be of a standard quality and made available for sale at a certain economic and reasonable price. If this has to be done in collaboration with private industries, it is no use our denouncing private industries and asking that they should be uprooted. For achieving our object the first thing necessary is that you have to allow these industries to develop and later on frame a certain policy with regard to them. It would not take much time for

the Government or for the Parliament to frame and carry out that policy. But to carry on an unnecessary controversy now at this stage when the paramount need is to increase production is certainly suicidal and should never be done.

What have we done? We have given help to private industries. With regard to steel, we cannot obviously have our own factories immediately. We have given a loan to SCOB for the purpose of increasing their production by about 2,00,000 tons. We have given a loan to TELCO for their scheme for railway locomotives. Although not much, we have offered help to the Fertilizer factory at Alwaye. So far as Tatas are concerned, there has been no proposal before us for financial assistance to them for increasing steel production. There are certain difficulties which stand in their way for expansion. But if any such proposal is offered to us, we will be prepared to examine it on its merits. The House will recognise that it is not possible for me to make any commitment straightaway now.

Now, so far as ship-building is concerned, that also is a sector which came under Government control. It has not been possible for us to acquire the Vizag. Ship-yard and run it ourselves. There was financial difficulty. We could not possibly allow that Ship-yard to close down. We have therefore placed orders for three ships to be built there and the total subsidy which we may have to pay may come to about Rs. 70 lakhs. I know there are some Members in this House who felt shocked that this sort of assistance should have been given. But I may assure them and the House that in not one single instance in any part of the world has any ship-building industry prospered without subsidy or assistance from the State. Millions of pounds have been offered in one way or other, for years together by all the countries of the world, America, Australia and so on for the purpose of encouraging their nationals to build ships. Up till now we have not given any assistance to the Vizag Ship-building yard. Whether the Scindias run their affairs properly or not is not our concern. But so far as the Vizag. Yard is concerned, it is a national concern and it is our duty to see to it that it does not close down.

Apart from this, the Industrial Finance Corporation has in the course of 1949 granted 6 crores of rupees to industries to help them to carry on. I know that it has not been possible for the Government to make an equal grant for the development of cottage industries. About that I shall say a few words a few minutes later. Now, what I would like to say is that it has been the constant endeavour of the Government in 1949 to see that in spite of the foreign exchange difficulties, the essential capital goods required by industries, the essential raw materials required by industries, are made available to them. The House will be interested to know that in 1948-49, 80 crores of rupees worth of capital goods were imported from foreign countries. In 1949-50, between April and October, 65 crores worth of capital goods have been allowed to be imported including machinery. So far as raw materials are concerned, in 1948-49, 130 crores worth of industrial raw materials have been imported by us.

Pandit Matra: Does this include locomotives?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: No. So far as 1949-50 is concerned, 90 crores worth of raw materials have come between April and October.

Now, I have given you the figures. But behind these figures remain a lot of planning, consultation with industries concerned, allotment within the funds available and also keeping a target in view so that the essential industries may not suffer and may not be compelled to reduce their production. So far as the organisation is concerned within my Ministry which keeps itself in touch with industries, as the House is aware we have a main Advisory Council and we have Standing Committees. We have in addition a number of advisory committees dealing with important industries. We have at least 25 development committees in the office of the Director-General, each one of which deals

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with a particular industry. We have on these committees the representatives of the industry concerned. We have now put representatives of labour also and our official representatives also sit together periodically and after mutual consultation decide how the assistance or help should be continued from period to period. The House should not forget that the Government of India alone cannot be responsible for the industrial progress or industrial development of the country. Much of the burden is shared by the State Governments and there is need for coordination undoubtedly. If you want to take a sum total view of the industrial activities of India you will have to take into consideration what is done in the States and the Provinces as well.

I shall now say a few words with regard to Disposals. A lot has been said with regard to the Disposals organisation. One important question of policy I would like the House to remember. I had occasion to refer to it last year. What is the policy that you wish the Government to follow? Do you like to dispose of the stocks as quickly and as speedily as possible without any concern whatsoever as to how it will react on the national economy? Or do you want that these valuable stocks and goods which are available should be equitably and fairly distributed, so that the maximum good can be obtained out of them? Our predecessor Government had a different idea of the matter. They wanted to sell the goods as speedily as possible. Many of the valuable goods were deliberately destroyed, so that India could not get any advantage out of them. But our policy since we came into office has been entirely different. Our policy today is that we offer our disposal goods according to a priority schedule. We ask the Central Government departments, we ask the State Governments, we ask the Universities, we ask the research institutions and also other institutions of national importance to take these goods. We offer them at reduced rates for the purpose of their own use. After that we offer them to industries for their own use. Goods which are not capable of being so used we allow them to be sold to dealers or middlemen, so that they may resell them and make some profit by distributing them among the consumers. That is the policy which we have pursued in the last two and a half years and I claim that that policy is perfectly sound and in the national interest.

I have got the total figures here for the period that we have been in office. We have been able to distribute goods from disposals stocks alone to the extent of nearly 40 crores to the different provincial governments and departments of the Central Government and other institutions. Many of our national laboratories have been equipped with the goods that we have been able to give from this Disposals organisation.

If I may refer to aircraft machinery, a large number of aircrafts were lying in India which were left behind by our predecessor Government. They were declared to be completely unusable. I need not mention what types they were but nearly about 100 aircrafts have been found usable, through the activities of my Ministry and also with the co-operation of our people in the Hindustan Aircraft Factory; many of those aircrafts which were otherwise going to be sold as scrap are today flying and serving the highest interests of India.....

Shri Shiva Rao (Madras): What has happened to the thousands of motor vehicles, most of them practically new.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Those motor cars which were usable have been sold and then resold. Many of those that are still here, are not usable at all. If the hon. Member can point to me a motor vehicle which is practically new, I shall make a present of it to him with the permission of the Government.

So far as the total expenditure of the Disposals organisation is concerned, hon. Members asked me whether we have been able to reduce the expenditure. When we came to office in 1947-48 we were spending Rs. 326 lakhs. Now that has been reduced in 1948-49 to 181 lakhs and in 1949-50 it was further reduced to 160 lakhs. In 1950-51, in the next year's budget it will be about 120 lakhs. From this you will see that we have reduced the expenditure by nearly 50 per cent. since the time we assumed office.

If you take the total strength of the staff, so far as gazetted staff is concerned the total number was 286, when we came into office and the reduction has been to the extent of 135. We have dispensed with the services of 135 gazetted officers. As regards non-gazetted establishment the total strength was 7,709 and we have retrenched it to the tune of 4,066. And still hon. Members of the House would say that we have not made any retrenchment or any saving and are going on recklessly. I may humbly say that it is certainly contrary to truth.

Now let me say a few words about brushes and knives. The hon. Member who presented those interesting specimens before the House, I think, did it with a certain sense of public duty. I would make this appeal to every Member of this House. If any one of them feels that there is an officer either in my Ministry or any other Ministry who has been guilty of any improper conduct and if he wants that that person should be detected, the best course, I would suggest is to confidently convey the information to the Minister concerned. By that means alone it is possible for Government or any Minister to detect whether any offence has been committed or not. By displaying certain things on the floor of the House some sensation might be created but I do not think any useful purpose will be served.

Now I looked into this matter. So far as brushes are concerned I could get this information very hurriedly. All these brushes came from the U.P. (Kanpur). Many of the troubles emerge from that Province, unfortunately. It appears that two lakhs of hair brushes were supplied. A sample of them was presented by the hon. Member today and here are two other samples which I may present for the use of the hon. Member himself, these brushes show no bristles whatsoever. Inspection revealed that 80 per cent. of these brushes had no bristles whatsoever like the ones I have here. Considering the condition of the stores the officer insisted that the entire stock should be purchased. So the entire stock, including the good ones of which one specimen my friend has and some bad, a specimen or two of which I have, was purchased by some person, whom I do not know. The price was not 2-8 pice per dozen but per piece. So it was not two pice per dozen but it was two pice per piece.

As regards knives we sold 150,000 at eight annas per knife. Regarding stretchers the frames were sold not at Rs. 2 each as the hon. Member said but at Rs. 22 per stretcher. The book value of the A.R.P. stretcher was Rs. 10-8-0. They were put up in auction on three different occasions and on the last occasion it came to be sold for Rs. 2-14-0. The stretchers were circulated to priority indentors but none was prepared to take them. In no case of the instances mentioned were the stores sold except in open auction. The story about new typewriters is a complete myth. I need not go into the details of these but if there are any further details which the hon. Member may give to me I shall be happy to inquire into them. However, the hon. Member should appreciate the procedure which is adopted. A reserve price is fixed and when that is done it is not open to a subordinate officer to alter it. Or a price is suggested where the officer on the spot is given some latitude of varying not more than ten per cent. But even where the latitude is exercised his report is to be sent to the higher officer.

Shri A. P. Jain (Uttar Pradesh): Who fixes the reserve price?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: The Director General of Disposals.

Shri Sidhva: Were all these articles sold by public auction?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Yes, every one of them. I have tried to get the information as far as possible. I knew that the effect of the demonstration today would not be quite favourable to the reputation of my department and I therefore wanted to use a different kind of brush in order to remove that impression.

I shall just say a few words about textiles and cottage industries and then I shall wind up. As far as control is concerned I quite appreciate that it is not a thing which any Government should continue for all time to come. I have repeatedly said that Government is not anxious to continue control in respect of any commodity, as soon as it finds that conditions allow the withdrawal of such control. I could mention distinguished Members of this House who are generally against control. They have been coming to me during the last few weeks asking me to reimpose control in respect of certain commodities because they honestly feel that such reimposition is necessitated by circumstances. One important consideration the House must remember. Suppose you withdraw control and prices immediately start shooting up. Will you take the full responsibility for such consequences?

Several Hon. Members: Oh, yes.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: The hon. Members will say "Oh, yes" now. I am quite prepared to exchange places with them immediately and request them to make an experiment. Somebody has got to take responsibility. I know when profiteering goes on, Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya condemns profiteers, and rightly so. When control is imposed and black-marketing goes on, the same Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya condemns black-marketing, and rightly so. But he cannot control either: he cannot control either black-marketing or profiteering. (*Interruption*). Profiteering can be controlled if the industries themselves are prepared to take the responsibility. We have repeatedly made offers to industry and to trade with respect to commodities which are now under control. Let them come forward and give us a scheme whereby production and distribution of those essential commodities will be entirely in their hands and Government will not hesitate to withdraw from the field. But Government cannot abdicate. It is a question of choice between two evils.

So far as the examination of each case is concerned, we are examining each and every case. As we have seen in the course of the last year, we have relaxed control in respect of some items and I can assure the House that I shall remain in close touch with my Standing Committee. With respect to each one of the commodities I shall place the facts before them and ask for their advice whether in view of the circumstances now obtaining, control should be withdrawn or relaxed and in respect of what commodity.

Shri Jajoo: What about improving the control machinery?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: That is true. Let us by all means improve the machinery. We are trying to do it—not that we have succeeded to the extent we like.....

Shri Jajoo: There must be centralisation.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: My hon. friend comes from a State which was very reluctant to give away the small powers that it enjoys. If you take away all the powers of the States and concentrate them in some totalitarian Minister of Industry and Supply in Delhi I do not think such a Minister will be able to function for twentyfour hours. After all, you must function with the co-operation of your Provincial Governments. You cannot create a parallel government throughout India for the purpose of control. You must trust your

Provincial Administrations and make them responsible for the operation of controls. Otherwise you cannot function as a government.

So far as textile is concerned, the main difficulty has been with regard to cotton. Here I quite realize that we have passed through a very difficult period during the last one year. But just consider for a moment what the Government has done. The main difficulty is want of cotton. If you can give cotton sufficient in quantity to the industry I am prepared to withdraw control tomorrow. That cotton used to come from Pakistan. For whatever reason it may be, we used to get about 10 lakh bales from areas which have now fallen in Pakistan. What did we get in the last two years? Last year we got 3½ lakh bales. This year we have got nothing. What did the Government do? Government immediately decided to import cotton from other countries. Thereby we have been able to have sufficient cotton so that the industry had not yet to face a collapse.

With regard to the price of Indian cotton, several hon. Members mentioned that the price control had failed. Now, there again, I could not impose control on *kapas* because there were some Provincial Governments responsible for the administration of the areas where *kapas* was being produced who were not prepared to accept that responsibility. Also, it is difficult to impose control on *kapas* as it affects lakhs and lakhs of people. Therefore we imposed control on cotton and we requested the mills that they should not purchase cotton except at the price we have fixed. Now, here, if there had been full co-operation from the mills and if none of them had run to the market and started purchasing of *kapas* at higher prices, obviously cotton would have been available to the mills at control price. In Bombay, when Sardar was there, I suggested that I was prepared to give a slight increase in the price of cotton provided I was assured that that was the last increase in price that the industry would expect from me, but that if again after a few weeks they come and said that they could not get cotton even at that price and wanted a further increase in the price, then obviously the administration could not go on. No one was prepared to give me that assurance. By Government remaining firm on this issue what we have been able to do is that today the prices are just getting stabilised.

But I am not suggesting that the position is free from difficulty. The only solution of this problem is to increase cotton production. There is no other long-term solution. India must be completely free from Pakistan so far as our economy goes and we must be able to produce that quantity of cotton and that quantity of jute which two of our biggest industries require. That means a little long-term programme. We are going ahead with that long-term programme. Meanwhile Government has assured the industry that it will secure cotton from foreign countries and see to it that the industry does not meet with a state of collapse.

Some hon. Member spoke about the export of cloth, as to why we are allowing export of cloth. The hon. Member did not realise the position. Where shall I get foreign exchange from if I did not allow cloth to be exported? Because I am allowing 800 million yards of cloth to be exported I get Rs. 80 crores of foreign exchange which I can utilise for importing cotton from cotton countries. Apart from that aspect, India had a big export market in textiles. We lost that market. But after devaluation our textile prices have become considerably economic in character, with the result that we are capturing now foreign markets. The only remedy for us is to increase our cotton production, to manufacture the necessary textiles that consumers want and at the same time to allow full export of cotton textiles to different parts of the world. Meanwhile, if some economy has to be exercised by consumers,

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I am afraid that has to be done. We must put the issue before the public. Here the help of Members of Parliament will be very useful. Members must go out and explain to the masses—if I may, with due respect, use that hackneyed expression, to the "man in the street"—that it is only by following such a course during this critical period that we may be able to save the future of the industry as also serve the best interest of the country.

Lastly, Sir, about cottage industries. Here I am quite prepared to admit that we have not been able to achieve that result which at any rate, I wanted to achieve. I would ask the House to believe me that I honestly feel that if the future of our economy has to be rebuilt, it must be through a proper integration of development of small industries and large-scale industries. At the same time, the difficulties for the development of cottage industries are enormous in character. We can make speeches either here or outside. But when the economics of it is studied and when you consider the organisation that you need for the purpose of developing cottage industries, you are surmounted with considerable difficulties. But difficulties should not frighten us. This is a problem whose solution will go to the root of our economy and which will solve our economic ills. We have to tackle it, and we have to tackle it from the bottom. You cannot have a centralised department of cottage industries and issue orders from Delhi just as you like and allow cottage industries to develop in all parts of the country. They must be developed on a co-operative basis. There must be efficient provincial organisations and those organisations should be able to tell the Central Government what sort of assistance they want for the purpose of developing cottage industries which are functioning within their jurisdiction. The Central Government has a role to play. The Cottage Industries Emporium—I know it has its defects—has come to serve a very useful purpose. For the first time it has collected together specimens of cottage industries from all parts of India. The importance of this Emporium lies not in the sales effected—that is a matter of minor importance—but in attracting the attention of people in India and outside to the availability of cottage industries goods throughout the country. Once we receive information that certain types of cottage industries are favoured by certain people or by certain countries we immediately pass on that information to the producers, and throughout the producers are encouraged to produce more of the varieties which are wanted. That process has started. We have already started such contacts—not that we have achieved spectacular results—but the process of drawing attention of foreign countries to the important cottage industries available in the country has already commenced. At our last meeting in Jaipur, when there was a proposal to disband the Cottage Industries Board because it has not produced much results, opposition came from State Governments and they pointed out in unmistakable language that this Cottage Industries Emporium and this organisation have really served a very useful purpose. We are also having a Central Institute near Aligarh—again in U.P.—and the machines which we have brought from Japan are going to be taken there. We propose to locate there other machines which we shall get from other countries and also from within India. We are going to engage qualified technicians. It will be an all-India Institute. Its main functions will be to advise private individuals as also State Governments regarding the use of small machines for the purpose of developing particular cottage industries for which there is ample scope for expansion in India. We have to find out an organisation for proper marketing and for the distribution of raw materials. So far as the cottage industries are concerned, I hope on the basis of the recommendations which the Cottage Industries Board has made at its meeting in Jaipur, it will be possible for us to give effect to most of its recommendations so that we may have something better to report, after six months or so, before the House.

Sir, I have already taken more time.....

Shri N. S. Jain: What about salt? You have increased its price recently.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Insignificant rise.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: What about the Industries Control Bill?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: So far as salt is concerned, we gave this assurance that India will be self-sufficient in salt by 1951, and the report which we have got from the Advisory Committee and also from the Technical Experts Committee emboldens me to say that that assurance which I have given will be fulfilled. Unfortunately, in 1949 due to circumstances over which we had no control, due to natural causes, there was a drop in production in some areas, but the overall scheme that we have prepared on the basis of the technical report justifies my asserting that we shall be able to make ourselves self-sufficient in salt by 1951. So far as imports are concerned, we have reduced them from 80,000 tons to about 40,000 tons this year—we have deliberately reduced the imports.

So far as the removal of the offices is concerned, well, there unfortunately I am in the hands of my hon. friend, Mr. Gadgil. He is asking me to remove several of my offices from Delhi. Perhaps the next thing will be to ask me to remove the Industry and Supply Ministry from Delhi to some other place. In any case, we have to co-operate in vacating some of the offices from Delhi and are going to other parts of India. Some places were offered to us. Hyderabad is one place where, it was suggested, we would get ample accommodation both for office and for residential purposes and that is why I said that if Hyderabad is available from that point of view, I have no objection.

Shri N. S. Jain: You have increased the price of salt from March 15 from nine annas and nine pies to eleven annas and nine pies.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: I think we have increased the price by a few annas per maund. It will not make any difference so far as the consumer is concerned. I have got full figures here which will indicate that prices of salt are stabilised. There is plenty of salt in the country and there need be no fear of scarcity at all.

So far as the other industries are concerned, I do not think it is necessary for me to refer to them in detail.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Glass.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: The hon. Member was living in a glass house when he threw brushes at me. Well, so far as glass is concerned, I think the future of the glass industry is quite safe. I myself opened the last All-India Glass Manufacturers' Conference three days ago. The imports have gone down. We have fixed the target at 115,000 tons of glass other than sheet-glass. The industry has been assured of all support from Government and it expects that it will produce the total quantity. So far as sheet-glass is concerned, the factories have started production again and there also I have been assured that production will go up in the course of the next few months.

An Hon. Member: What about technical assistance?

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Well, technical assistance also will be given.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Sir, I want an assurance from the hon. Minister in regard to the Industries Control Bill.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee: Sir, my hon. friend spoke about the Industries Bill. As I explained on the last occasion, the Industries Bill was referred to a Select Committee of the House. The Select Committee has reported and the Bill is

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now before Parliament. It is not for me to give any assurance or direction as to how Parliament will behave. The Bill is before the House and if the House is in a mood to accept it or to modify it in any way it likes, we are entirely at the mercy of Parliament.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: We want to know whether Government is going to bring it forward.

Mr. S. P. Mookerjee: Yes, I am going to bring it forward.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,16,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of 'Ministry of Industry and Supply'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,33,15,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of 'Industries and Supplies'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,28,94,000 be granted to the President to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1951, in respect of 'Salt'."

The motion was adopted.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 17th March, 1950.