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16th March, 1948

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(LEGISLATIVE DEBATES)

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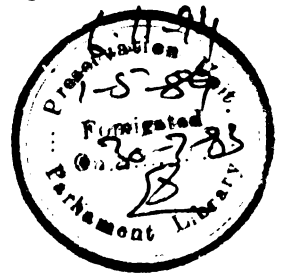
(5th March to 18th March, 1948)

SECOND SESSION

of the

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

1948



**TUESDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1948—**

**PAGES**

Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	2193—2216
Provincial Insolvency (Amendment) Bill— Presentation of report of Select Committee . . . . .	2216
General Budget—List of Demands . . . . .	2216—66
Demand No. 17.—Ministry of Agriculture . . . . .	2216—28
Demand No. 26.—Ministry of Food . . . . .	2216—28
Demand No. 7.—Forest . . . . .	2216—28
Demand No. 20.—Ministry of Finance . . . . .	2216, 2228—60
Demands Nos. 1—6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 21—49, 52—54, 56—72, 75, 76, 78—85, 88—104 . . . . .	2200—66

**WEDNESDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1948—**

Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	2267—68
Papers laid on the table—Authenticated Schedule of Authorized Expenditure— Railways . . . . .	2296—69
Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to refer to Select Committee— not concluded . . . . .	2300—30

**THURSDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1948—**

Declaration by Members . . . . .	2341
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	2341—61
Indian Finance Bill—Referred to Select Committee . . . . .	2362—263

# CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Tuesday, 16th March, 1948

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### ORAL ANSWERS

#### ARMED FORCES HEADQUARTERS PUBLICATIONS

768. \*Mr. B. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Armed Forces Headquarters have their own Printing Press?

(b) Do they publish any magazine or periodicals? If so, what are they?

(c) How many Editors and Sub-Editors are employed for publication of such periodicals?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** (a) No.

(b) Yes. The *Fauji Akhbar* and *Jawan*.

(c) The following is the editorial staff employed in connection with these publications:

Editor—1.

Assistant Editor—1.

News Editor—1.

Sub Editors—5.

**Mr. B. K. Sidhva:** May I know where these publications are printed, if they have no Press of their own?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** They are printed in a private Press called the Army Press. That is not an Army Press at all.

**Mr. B. K. Sidhva:** To whom are these journals circulated?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** They are circulated to the members of the Armed Forces.

**Mr. B. K. Sidhva:** What is the circulation of these journals?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** The circulation of *Fauji Akhbar* is 11,000 while the *Jawan* which is supplied free has a circulation of approximately 40,000.

**Mr. B. K. Sidhva:** What is the subscription of *Fauji Akhbar*?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I could not give it straightaway, but I shall supply the information to the Honourable Member later.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** May I know if the Honourable Minister is aware of the fact that these publications when they were started were designed to carry on a certain type of propaganda? Has there been a change in the policy of the publications and in the editorial staff due to the changed circumstances so that there may be the right type of propaganda done in the Army hereafter?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I think that is so.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** In how many languages is the *Fauji Akhbar* published?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** English, Hindi, Urdu, Gurmukhi and Tamil.

**Seth Govinddas:** Is it not a fact, Sir, that the editorial staff of these papers is the same which was appointed under the previous Government, and is there any proposal to change the editorial staff?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** There has been change in the editorial staff. I do not think the Honourable Member's information is correct. There have been a lot of changes and my information is that the staff which is employed now is quite different from the staff which used to be employed before the 15th of August.

**Seth Govinddas:** Has the Editor in Chief been changed?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I could not say off hand, but I shall give the information to the Honourable Member later.

**Shri K. Sathanam:** May I know, Sir, whether the matter has been recently considered as to whether it is worth while to continue these two papers?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** The matter was reconsidered and it was decided to continue these two publications.

**Shri B. Das:** In view of the bad antecedents and bad legacy of *Fauji Akhbar*, has the Honourable Minister considered the changing of the name of *Fauji Akhbar* to something else, so that it will command the respect of the Army and the public at large?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The question contains so many allegations and imputations. It is not proper.

**Shri B. Das:** May I put it in a different way?

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes.

**Shri B. Das:** Has Government thought it advisable to change the name of *Fauji Akhbar* into something that will satisfy the Indian soldier and public?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I have not seen any objection as far as the name is concerned, but the policy of these two papers has been suitably changed.

**Shri Ramnath Goenka:** What is the net loss which the Defence Ministry incur on the publication of these magazines?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I want notice of the question.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** The Honourable Minister stated that the policy has been changed. May I know what is the present policy?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** The policy the Honourable Member will find in the paper itself.

#### I. N. A. OFFICERS IN SERVICE OF INDIAN UNION

769. **Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what is the total number of I. N. A. officers and men now in the service of the Indian Union?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer to Starred Question No. 900, asked on the 12th March, 1947.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** I only want to refresh my memory, Sir. Will the Honourable Minister tell me what is the number of the I.N.A. men and officers in service?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I gave the answer on the 12th March. I will get the requisite information later and give it to the Honourable Member.

**Mr. Tajamul Hosain:** Will the Honourable Minister kindly inform the House what the total number of I.N.A. men who have not been employed is? The question was how many have been employed and what is the total number. I want to know how many have not so far been employed and the reason for their non-employment so far, and whether Government consider it desirable to employ the whole lot of them?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I want notice of that.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** Is there any bar to the employment of these men in the Indian Army?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** As the Honourable Member knows, this question is under consideration and when the decision is announced, he will know what the Government is going to do about it.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** May I know whether a larger number is employed or a larger number is unemployed?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** A larger number is unemployed.

**Shri K. Hanumanthaiya:** Has it come to the notice of the Honourable Minister that in Mysore I.N.A. men have been reinstated in the Army?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** That is what I have read in the paper.

**Shri K. Hanumanthaiya:** Will the same policy be adopted here?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** The Government policy will be announced within the next few days.

#### ELEMENTARY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN CANTONMENT AREAS

**770. \*Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what percentage of the total income of the Cantonment Boards of Ambala, Bareilly, Meerut, Jubbulpore and Poona is spent on elementary education?

(b) What steps do Government intend to take to spread elementary education among boys and girls living in Cantonment areas, under sections 116 and 117-A of the Cantonment Act?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** (a) 5.77 per cent., 2.8 per cent., 2.19 per cent., 3.38 per cent., and 3.34 per cent. respectively.

(b) Government have called for complete details with regard to educational facilities now existing in all Cantonments with a view to examining what improvements can be effected.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** Is the education now given compulsory in the primary stage?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I have not got that information, but I will get it for the Honourable Member.

**Seth Govinddas:** Is the Honourable Minister aware that as far as Jubbulpore cantonment is concerned, there has been no change in the facilities of education and does the Honourable Minister want to do something in that respect?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I have said, Sir, that we have called for details. When I get those details I will be able to inform the House.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** If primary education is not compulsory, may I know if Government would be prepared to consider the introduction of compulsory education in this area?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** That will be taken into consideration.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** What is the largest item of expenditure in the budgets of these Cantonment Boards?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I want notice of that question.

#### CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR IN DELHI AND AJMER-MERWARA

**771. \*Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the quantity of liquor consumed in the centrally administered provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara during the year 1933 and during the last three years?

(b) What is the amount of income from excise on liquor in these two provinces during the years referred to in part (a) above?

(c) Have Government taken any decision to introduce prohibition in the centrally administered provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara? If so, has any scheme been prepared? If not, why not?

(d) Do Government propose to impose a ban on the import of foreign liquor for ordinary consumption? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(c) The Government have accepted the principle of prohibition and the scheme to give effect to this policy is under their consideration.

(d) This will be considered at the appropriate time in connection with the policy of prohibition.

#### Statement

*Showing the quantity of liquor consumed in Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara during the year 1933 and during last three years and the amount of income from excise on liquor in the two provinces during those years.*

Year	Delhi		Ajmer-Merwara	
	Quantity of liquor Consumed	Income	Quantity of liquor Consumed	Income
	Gallon	Rs.	Gallons	Rs.
1933-34	1,17,284	5,42,390	81,346	5,45,647
1944-45	2,09,754	35,23,014	1,21,364	11,17,808
1945-46	3,52,929	37,81,450	1,35,730	13,46,166
1946-47	4,48,678	42,35,739	1,51,804	15,65,099

**Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** May I know by what time positive steps will be taken to implement this policy of prohibition?

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I am unable to indicate any definite date, Sir.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Is it a fact that the liquor shops are going to be auctioned in Delhi on the 21st of this month? Will the Honourable Minister direct the Local Government not to auction shops particularly situated in Chandni Chowk, Karol Bagh and other prominent streets? Is the Honourable Minister aware that in this respect the Advisory Council has also a resolution to that effect?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. The Honourable Member is both making suggestion for action and getting argumentative.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** No, Sir. I am only asking whether the Honourable Minister has issued instructions to the Local Government in this respect?

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I have stated that the Government have accepted the policy of prohibition and that the implementation of that policy is under consideration. I am not in a position to say anything beyond this.

**Mr. Tajamul Hosain:** How much money, Sir, will Government lose by the introduction of prohibition?

**Mr. Speaker:** In other words, what is the excise revenue at present?

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Do I understand that the Honourable Member wants the information in regard to Centrally Administered Areas?

**Mr. Tajamul Hosain:** Yes.

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I have got information regarding Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara here. The total income from liquor in 1946-47 in respect of Delhi is Rs. 42,35,739 and in respect of Ajmer-Merwara Rs. 15,65,099.

**Mr. Tajamul Hosain:** Is the Honourable Minister in a position to inform the House what will be the total loss if there is a total prohibition in India?

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I am not in a position to give the information.

**Shri B. Das:** Is it a fact that most of the foreign liquors consumed in Delhi are consumed by the Government officials?

**Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** May I know if the same policy will be applied to Coorg also?

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** When the Government of India take a decision, it will certainly apply to all the Centrally Administered Areas.

**Mr. Tajamul Hosain:** May I know if the Honourable Minister can point out a civilised country where prohibition is in force?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Have Government received complaints both from the Police and public against a liquor shop in Chaudni Chowk and have Government taken any action on these complaints?

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I want notice of that question.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** Pending the introduction of complete prohibition, do Government propose to enhance the import duties on foreign liquor to such an extent that the prices will become prohibitive?

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** The import duty on foreign liquor is already on a very high level.

#### RETRENCHMENT OF HINDU AND SIKH EMPLOYEES IN PAKISTAN ARMY HEAD QUARTERS

772. **\*Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Pakistan Army Headquarters (Pakistan Dominion Defence Services) have retrenched all civilian personnel who were Hindus and Sikhs and that they are now residing as refugees in India?

(b) What is the number of such refugees?

(c) Do Government propose to consider their cases for employment in the Indian Defence Services?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** (a) Most of the non-muslim civilian employees who have come over from Western Pakistan to India have come as a result of what happened to non-muslims in general in Western Pakistan and not because they were retrenched. They are also therefore, in a way, refugees in India.

(b) The number of civilian personnel who were employed before partition in Defence Installations situated in Pakistan and who have so far reported here for employment is 4,266.

(c) Yes. 2,047 have already been absorbed and efforts are being made to absorb the rest.

**NON-PAYMENT OF PRICE OF A PIECE OF LAND NEAR CHAH (WELL) WAZIRWALA, AMRITSAR.**

**773. \*Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India acquired in 1942 under the Defence of India Rules, a piece of land measuring 7.7 acres, situated near Chah (Well) Wazirwala, inside Municipal Committee limits, Amritsar (under Notification No. 1886/CR/1/42/DIR, dated the 2nd September, 1942);

(b) whether it is a fact that a Government factory for the manufacture of munitions was subsequently erected on the land thus acquired;

(c) whether it is a fact that the full price of land has not, so far, been paid to the owners, in spite of their repeated reminders to Government and if so, the reasons; and

(d) whether it is a fact that a number of memorials have been sent to Government by the owners of the land, praying for the immediate payment of their long-standing dues in view of the extremely heavy losses suffered by them in the recent Punjab tragedy, and if so, what action has been taken thereon, and if not, why not?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The price of the land has not so far been paid to the owner, as the matter is still *subjudice*.

(d) No reminders have been received in the Defence Ministry but it is possible that the local military authorities were addressed and enquiries are being made of them.

**AREAS STILL IN POSSESSION OF RAIDERS IN KASHMIR AND RE-CAPTURE OF GILGIT.**

**774. \*Shri Ram Sahai:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the names of districts or villages in Kashmir which are in the possession of the raiders?

(b) What are the names of the places in Gilgit upto which raiders have advanced, and what are the names of places where the Indian Union Troops have checked their advance?

(c) What arrangements have been made to recapture Gilgit?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** (a) to (c). It would not be in the public interest to give at present the detailed information which the Honourable Member wants. General information with regard to the progress of events



in the fighting in Kashmir is contained in the daily communiques issued by the Ministry of Defence.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** Is it a fact, Sir, that in some of the villages which have been captured by raiders, the residents of those villages welcomed the raiders or did they not?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I have no information.

#### ATOMIC RESEARCH IN INDIA.

**775. \*Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have so far taken towards the promotion of Atomic Research in India; and

(b) the progress achieved in that direction up-to-date, having regard to the constructive as well as destructive aspects of Atomic Energy?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: یہ سوال آنریبل منسٹر فوڈ اینڈ سٹری ایبلڈ سہائی سے کرنا چاہئے تھا۔ اب یہ انکے پاس بھیج دیا گیا ہے اور ۲۹ مارچ کے سوالوں کی لسٹ میں اسے جگہ مل گئی ہے اسدن آنریبل منسٹر فوڈ اینڈ سٹری اسکا جواب دیدینگے۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 29th March, 1948, when the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply will answer it.

#### PREVENTIVE AND CURATIVE MEASURES TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT AND TOLL TAKEN BY TUBERCULOSIS

**776. \*Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the toll that tuberculosis took in India in each year during the period between the years 1942 and 1947 inclusive; and

(b) the steps, preventive as well as curative, taken by Government to combat the menace?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** (a) There are no complete statistics but it has been estimated that the number of deaths from tuberculosis is about 500,000 a year.

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

#### *Statement by Government to combat tuberculosis.*

The matter is primarily the concern of the Provincial Governments. As regards the Centrally Administered Areas, the Government of India have taken over from the Delhi Municipal Committee the Silver Jubilee Tuberculosis Hospital and the question of its expansion is under consideration. It is proposed to start a T. B. Clinic in Ajmer and to make an annual grant to the Radar Union Sanatorium in Ajmer-Merwara.

2. The Central Government have on their staff an Adviser in Tuberculosis whose expert advice is made available to Provincial Governments in drawing up their schemes for combating tuberculosis.

3. In collaboration with the World Health Organisation, Government are taking steps to introduce B. G. G. vaccination for the prevention of tuberculosis in the country.

4. An annual grant of Rs. 13,500 is given to the Delhi University for a post-graduate diploma course in tuberculosis and the question of establishing an Institute of Tuberculosis under the Delhi University is under consideration. An annual grant is made to the Tuberculosis Association of India from Central revenues for the maintenance of the New Delhi Tuberculosis Clinic and for 30 beds at the Lady Liniithgow Sanatorium, Kasauli, for Government employees. The Government also made a capital grant to the Tuberculosis Association for the construction of the Sanction at Kasauli. An annual grant is also made to the Provincial Tuberculosis Association of Delhi for an organised home treatment scheme for tuberculosis in Delhi city. Under this scheme doctors and health visitors visit patients in their homes to give treatment and advice on preventive measures.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** Are the deaths on the increase or decrease in recent years?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** Tuberculosis is on the increase.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** In view of this do Government propose to undertake a vigorous propoganda drive for dietetic reform and improvement in conditions of living?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** Government propose to take all the action that it can.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** What is the action proposed to be taken?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** If the Honourable Member will read the statement, he will get information from that.

**Mr. Tajamul Hosain:** May I know, Sir, how many sanatoria there are in India?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** I would require notice of that question.

**Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** What is the nature of preventive measures that the Government has taken?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** The introduction of this B.C.G. vaccination is a very big step in the matter of prevention. For the rest, of course, malnutrition and bad housing play a very great part in the incidence of Tuberculosis.

**Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** Has Government taken any measures so far as food is concerned which is the cause of malnutrition?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** That question should be put to the Food Department.

**Mr. Tajamul Hosain:** In view of the fact that the number of T.B. cases are in the increase, as the Honourable Minister has just said, is it the policy of the Government to increase the number of sanatoria in India?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** Yes. It is.

**Mr. Tajamul Hosain:** May I know the number that is under contemplation for the increase?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** We are trying at the moment. I am making enquiries as to the possibility of starting new T.B. sanatoria in three different places.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** Among which classes of people is the incidence of T.B. highest?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** Naturally amongst the poor.

#### HELP TO VARIOUS SEMI-MILITARY ORGANISATIONS SET UP BY VARIOUS PROVINCES

777. \***Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what help and facilities, if any, Government are providing to the various semi-military organisations in the provinces started by their respective Governments like the Prantiya Raksha Dal in the United Provinces, the National Volunteer Corps in East Punjab and the Volunteer Corps in Orissa?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** Wherever possible, Government have provided such help and facilities to these organisations as Provincial Governments have asked for.

#### DEBARRING OF ASSISTANTS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FROM POSTS HIGHER THAN ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.

778. \***Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Assistants in the Government of India are debarred from being appointed to posts higher than those of Assistant Secretaries?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** No.

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

### QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERS OF FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

†779. \*Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that most of the members of the Federal Public Service Commission are retired members of the Provincial and Indian Civil Service?

(b) What are the qualifications necessary for being appointed as members of the Federal Public Service Commission?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) Of the four permanent members of the Federal Public Service Commission one (the Chairman) is a retired I.C.S. officer and another is a retired P.C.S. officer. One of the two Additional Members is also a retired member of the P.C.S.

(b) Under Section 265 (1) of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted, at least one half of the members of the Commission shall be persons who on the dates of their respective appointments have held office under the Crown for at least ten years.

### RELAXATION OF RULES OF SERVICE FOR STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN 1942 DISTURBANCES.

†780. \*Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether Government are aware that during the August, 1942 disturbances, several students who had taken part in the political struggle, had to discontinue their studies?

(b) Is any provision being made for recruiting them into Government service by relaxing the rules in their cases?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) Yes.

(b) Any relaxation of the rules in regard to educational qualifications which leads to a lowering of standards would not be desirable but Government would be prepared to consider any case where the maximum age limit has been exceeded owing to imprisonment in connection with national movement.

### PROVISION FOR STUDENTS FROM C. P. AND BERAR FOR STUDY OF RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

781. \*Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether Government are aware that in the overseas scholarship scheme of 1947-48 of the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar, there was a provision for a scholarship for the study of the Russian language?

(b) Did the Government of India express their inability to make the necessary teaching arrangements for the selected candidate in the Soviet Union or elsewhere?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to re-open the matter with the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar and to get the selected candidate admitted into a Russian University?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: (a) ہاں چنانچہ ۳۸-۳۷ء میں سنٹرل پروونس لینڈ پرلو گورنمنٹ نے ایک سکالرشپ اس غرض سے تجویز کیا تھا کہ روسی زبان کی سنگھتی کوچھے لیکن کسی خاص اسکالر کے نام کی شلارہی نہیں کی تھی۔

(b) اس وقت حالت ایسے تھے کہ گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے خیال کیا ایک ہلدوسنگھی ودیارتھی کو یو۔ ایس۔ ایس۔ آر میں بھجولے اور پوہائی کا انتظام کرنے کے لئے جن آسامیوں کی ضرورت ہے ان کا ہلدوسنگھی نہیں ہو سکے گا لیکن ساتھ ہی پروونسل گورنمنٹ کو یہ بات بتلائی گئی تھی کہ دلی یونیورسٹی میں روسی زبان کی تعلیم

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

کا انتظام ہو سکتا ہے اور ہر طرح کی آسائیاں ہیں اس کھلے موجود ہیں۔  
 (c) اس وقت کوئی چٹا ہوا سکالر ایسا موجود نہیں ہے جسکے لئے کسی روسی یونیورسٹی میں داخل ہونے کا سوال پیدا ہوتا ہو یا روسی زبان سیکھنے کھلے رہے روس چٹا چاہتا ہو اگر اس طرح کا سوال آتا تو گورنمنٹ ضرور اس پر توجہ دے دے گی۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** (a) Yes, Sir, There was a provision made by the Central Provinces and Berar Government for the award of a scholarship in 1947-48 for the study of the Russian language. No scholar was, however, actually recommended by the Provincial Government for this subject.

(b) Under the then existing circumstances the Government of India were not in a position to arrange necessary facilities in the U.S.S.R. It was, however, suggested to the Provincial Government that adequate facilities existed in the Delhi University for the purpose.

(c) There is at present no selected scholar whose admission is desired in any Russian University or for the study of the Russian language. If and when the question arises, the matter will be re-examined.

**سےٹ گوویندداس :** क्या माननीय सदस्य के पास नागपुर के मौरिस कॉलेज के एक प्रोफेसर का नाम सी० पी० गवर्नमेंट ने लिख कर नहीं भेजा था ?

**Seth Govinddas:** Did not the C.P. Government send up the name of a professor of Morris College, Nagpur to the Honourable Minister?

**آنرہبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد :** جہاں تک میں نے کاپیاں دیکھی اس طرح کا کوئی نام نہیں تھا۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** So far as I have gone through papers, I have not come across any such name.

**سےٹ گوویندداس :** अब यह मामला कहाँ तक जाया है। हालांकि जहाँ तक मेरी इन्फार्मेशन है, वह भेजा गया था, अब अगर वह नाम माननीय सदस्य के पास पक हो तो इस मामले में क्या किया जायेगा ?

**Seth Govinddas:** How does the matter stand at present? As far as my information goes, the name was sent. What will be done in the matter if the name is brought to the notice of the Honourable Minister?

**آنرہبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد :** گورنمنٹ اس پر ضرور توجہ کریگی۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** The Government will certainly consider it.

**مسٹر تاجمل حسین۔** کیا یہ حکومت کی پالیسی ہے کہ ہر ملک کی زبان کی تعلیم ہم کو دی جائے تاکہ کوئی نہ کوئی آدمی ایسا اسکورٹ ہو کر جائے جو وہاں اگر ایسڈمبٹر (Ambassadors) ہو کر جائے تو وہاں کی زبان بولے ؟

**Mr. Tajamul Hussain:** Is it the policy of the Government that we should be taught the language of every country so that persons going to those countries as Ambassadors may be experts in the language?

**آنرہبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد :** گورنمنٹ کی یہی پالیسی ہے۔ گورنمنٹ اس کا انتظام

کر رہی ہے اور ابھی آنریبل ممبر کے سامنے یہ بات آچکی ہے - کہ دہلی یونیورسٹی میں روسی زبان کی تعلیم کا انتظام موجود ہے۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** Yes, that is the policy of the Government. The Government are making arrangements. It has just been pointed out to the Honourable Member that the arrangements for teaching Russian exist in the Delhi University.

**سید گوویندداس:** दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी में रूसी ज़बान क सिवा और किस किस ज़बानों में तालीम का इन्तज़ाम हुआ है ?

**Seth Govinddas:** Arrangements for the teaching of what other languages besides Russian have been made in the University of Delhi?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: اسکے لئے نوٹس کی ضرورت ہے۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** This requires notice.

LEAVE RULES FOR GOVERNMENT SERVANTS PROCEEDING OUT OF INDIA

**782. \*Mr. E. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that under the Fundamental Rules, a Government servant has to proceed out of India to draw full average salary for periods of leave in excess of four months?

(b) If so, in view of the abolition of recruitment of foreigners into Government service, do Government propose to revise this rule?

(c) If not, what are the reasons for its retention?

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) to (c). The Honourable Member's impression is not quite correct. Officers under the Special Leave Rules of the Fundamental Rules are entitled to take eight month's leave on average pay at any one time while those subject to ordinary Leave Rules of the Fundamental Rules are entitled to take only four months' leave on average pay at any one time, but the limit may be raised to eight months at any one time when leave is taken on medical certificate or is spent outside India. The Special Leave Rules apply to all persons of non-Asiatic domicile and some officers of Indian domicile who joined certain superior services prior to 1924. The Fundamental Rules do not apply to 'new entrants', i.e., those who entered Government service after 15th July 1931. In regard to members of the Secretary of State's Services who were governed by the Fundamental Rules, Government have, on transfer of power, given an assurance for the continuance of the same conditions of service regarding Pay, Leave, Pension, etc. In view of this assurance it is also not proposed to deliberalise the rules in regard to other officers in service who are old entrants.

**Mr. E. K. Sidhva:** May I know if Indian officers who go to foreign countries are entitled to free passage and allowances as in the past?

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I shall require notice to answer that.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** Does it not mean that officers cannot have leave for eight months in India on full average pay?

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Yes, they can under medical certificate and not otherwise.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** Do Government propose to revise this rule so as to enable officers to spend eight months' leave in India on full pay without medical certificate?

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I have made it clear in my reply that this is a legacy from the past. We have given an assurance on the transfer of power on the 15th August, last that so far as the Secretary

of State's services are concerned, we will continue all these privileges. Having given this assurance to those men who are protected by the Secretary of State we did not think it proper to take away this privilege from officers of Asiatic domicile who also had the benefit of these leave rules; but we do not propose to extend this concession in our future rules.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Was this assurance given to the Secretary of State or to these people?

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I do not know whether the assurance was given to the Secretary of State or to these people, but it is a sort of contractual obligation that we have undertaken. On the transfer of power the Government of India gave an assurance that those who had the protection of the Secretary of State in the services would not be affected by any change in the rules relating to pay, leave or pension.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** How long will these hangovers from the past continue to plague us?

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Until all these gentlemen in service who have got this protection either resign or are removed by an act of God.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** As these same rules apply to Indian members of the services, has the Honourable Minister tried to ascertain their views as to whether they want to go to foreign countries and enjoy these privileges or whether they would like to give up these privileges in view of the changed circumstances?

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Does the Honourable Member want a plebiscite to be taken?

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** A circular may be sent round asking them whether they insist on those privileges and will go to foreign countries.

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Even without sending any circular the object can be achieved if the Indian members of the services who have got the protection of these rules make up their minds not to ask for this eight months' leave.

**Mr. Tajamal Hussain:** The assurance mentioned by the Honourable Minister was given to non-Asiatic officers. But the rules apply to Indian officers also, and if they want to take eight months' leave and spend it here instead of going to a foreign country, what harm is there in changing the rules to that extent?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the matter has been sufficiently discussed. Next question.

#### INCOME-TAX OF INDIAN NATIONALS IN INDO-CHINA

**783. \*Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have been made by the Indo-China Indian Association that on account of the war from 1941 to 1946 and the consequent Japanese occupation in French Indo-China, most of the Indian Nationals suffered great loss of life and property;

(b) whether the Government of India propose to waive all taxes and assessments on the income of the Indian Nationals as in the case of the Burma evacuees;

(c) whether Government are aware that the Income-tax authorities in India are often demanding taxes for the above periods though the parties have not received any money during the period;

(d) whether Government propose to place on the table of the House the instructions issued to the Provincial Heads of the Income-tax department relating to the collection of taxes from Indians owning properties and business interests in Indo-China;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India have forwarded to the Ministry of Finance, the proposal to give advance loans to the Indian Nationals owning properties and business interests in Indo-China, residing in India, against an equivalent amount in *piastres* in Indo-China; and

(f) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter and when?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not a fact that in the case of Burma evacuees all taxes have been waived. Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to certain instructions issued by the Central Board of Revenue in regard to the computation of the profits or losses of assesses arising in Burma during the period 1942-43 to 1946-47. These instructions, with minor modifications necessitated by the difference in circumstances (*e.g.*, the exchange position) have been extended to assesses who had income in Indo-China also.

(c) Instructions have already been issued that if the income arising in Indo-China has not been brought into India the tax due thereon should not be collected, and that the assessee should not be treated as in default.

(d) I lay on the table copies of the instructions issued in this matter.

(e) and (f). The Government of India is considering this matter.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is there a frequent demand from Indian nationals who have trade and business in Indo-China for releasing all the holdings of the Indo-China Government here as against their holdings in Indo-China? What steps have been taken in the matter?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Representations have been made to Government that Indians who have got their assets in Indo-China and who cannot have them removed to India should be paid by the Government of India against the security of their assets in Indo-China. Obviously it is not possible for the Government of India to undertake an obligation of such a wide character. But I am considering granting that request in a somewhat modified form if possible. I might also inform the Honourable Member that when our agreement with the Indo-China Government is signed, there will be a remittance of Rs. 200 per month per individual allowed by the Government of Indo-China subject to a certain maximum remittance every month.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is the Honourable Minister aware that a remittance of Rs. 200 is too small for those persons who have carried on business in Indo-China? And will he make attempts to give them some lump sums from the Indo-China holdings in this country?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** This monthly remittance of Rs. 200 is really intended to give some help to the middle class people who were depending upon remittances from Indo-China. I am sure the Honourable Member will agree with me that it is more necessary to give some sort of relief and assistance to these middle class people than to the richer sections who can afford to keep their money locked up in Indo-China for some time longer.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable Minister recall the reply that he gave yesterday on behalf of the Commerce Ministry and tell the House

†Not printed in these Debates. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.—  
Ed of D.

if he can link up the payment of the monies due to the Indo-China Government that is now with the Government of India and the claims of Indian nationals on the Indo-China Government?

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I have been told that we have got some amount belonging to Indo-China which is now frozen and which is in the custody of the Custodian of Enemy Property. I have also been told that it is not possible to unfreeze this for the benefit of Indians, and that under the agreement we have to give it back to the Bank of Indo-China. But I am prepared, as I said, to consider offering, in addition to this Rs. 200 monthly remittance, some further assistance to these people who have got their assets frozen in Indo-China.

**Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar:** Cannot something be done to adjust these two accounts—the amounts due to our nationals from Indo-China, and those due to the Indo-Chinese people from here?

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Well, Sir, I do not know the details of the negotiations that took place between the two Governments, but as I have stated evidently it has not been possible for our representatives to these negotiations to secure that arrangement.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is it a fact that our nationals have assets in Indo-China to the tune of about 10 crores of rupees, as against the frozen asset of 45 lakhs of rupees of Indo-Chinese nationals in this country.

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** That seems to be approximately correct.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** If so, would the Honourable Minister negotiate with the Indo-China Government to let at least half of these 45 lakhs of rupees to be utilised by the Indian nationals here who have business in Indo-China towards their corresponding assets in India?

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** The agreement with the Indo-China Government, as I mentioned yesterday on behalf of my Honourable Colleague, the Commerce Minister, has now reached the final stage and only the signature has to be affixed. I do not know whether it would be possible to bring about any material alterations in it. But I would certainly pass on the suggestion to the Honourable Minister for Commerce.

#### ADMINISTRATOR FOR JAISALMER BORDER AREA.

794. **\*Seth Govinddas:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an Administrator has been sent by the Government of India, to be on Jaisalmer border area lying adjacent to Pakistan?

(b) If so, what are the relations of this Administrator with the Government of the Jaisalmer State?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) and (b). Government have suggested to His Highness the Maharawal of Jaisalmer the appointment of a person of their choice to administer the State under the aegis of the Maharawal and His Highness has accepted the suggestion.

**Seth Govinddas:** What would be the relation of this official, Sir, with the Government of Jaisalmer? Will he be working under the Government of India or under the Maharawal?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** He is, technically, appointed by the Maharawal, as Dewan, or some such designation; but, naturally, he will be receiving general directions from the Government of India.



## RISE IN PRICE OF TEA AND COFFEE

**765. \*Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the price of tea and coffee has suddenly risen since the introduction of the Budget for the year 1948-49, in the Assembly on the 28th February, 1948?

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

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) The imposition of an excise duty must normally be expected to increase the price of the commodity on which the excise is imposed by an amount equivalent to the duty. Actually in the case of tea, there has, on the whole, been very little change in price. As regards coffee, such increase as has occurred is attributable partly to the decontrol of this commodity;

(b) Government find no reason to take any special steps in the matter.

**Mr. Hussain Imam:** Will the Honourable Minister please indicate the prices of coffee and tea before the budget and after the budget?

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I have got some information, Sir, regarding the price of tea and coffee which I got collected. Now, in Allahabad, for instance, the price of tea before the excise duty was Rs. 2/6/- and after the budget also the price is Rs. 2/6/-. The only place where the price has increased is in Ajmer where the price of tea was Rs. 2/5/6 before the budget and it is now Rs. 2/7/6, that is an increase of 2 annas which is the excise duty. In Bombay there has been no increase at all in the price of tea; it was Rs. 2/6/- before the budget, it continues to be Rs. 2/6/-.

With regard to coffee, the position is rather interesting. As I said in my answer, it so happened that on the 19th February, that is, just about a week before the budget, we decontrolled coffee. The result was that prices have gone up. Even here in the Allahabad collectorate there has not been any increase. The price of coffee there, before the budget day was Rs. 2/8/-. It is Rs. 2/8/- even today. In Cawnpore it was Rs. 2; now it is Rs. 2/4/-. In Ajmer it was Rs. 2/6; now it is Rs. 2/8. In Bombay there has been an increase in price by 2 annas per pound. But in Madras the price of one variety of coffee before the budget was Rs. 1/6 per pound, after the budget it is Rs. 2/3 per pound. That only shows what a great demand there is for coffee in Madras.

**Shri K. Hanumanthaya:** By what per cent. has the price of cigarettes gone up, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question does not relate to cigarettes.

**Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Are the prices quoted by the Honourable the Finance Minister wholesale prices or retail prices?

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** These are retail prices.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** What is the position in our capital city?

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I have not got the information for Delhi.

## ION OF UNITED RAJASTHAN PROVINCE OF RAJPUTANA

**786. \*Shri Damodar Swarup Seth:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether any representation has been received from the United Rajasthan Campaign Committee for convening a conference of the representatives of the people and the rulers to decide the formation of a United Rajasthan Province of Rajputana States?

(b) If so, what action, if any, have Government so far taken on that representation?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India have already explained their policy on the question of merger and integration of States on the floor of this House yesterday. In view of that policy no action was necessary on the proposal.

#### GRANT TO INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION.

**787. \*Shri Jaspal Roy Kapoor:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a resolution passed recently at the last session of the Indian Historical Records Commission held at Jaipur requesting Government to make an initial grant of Rs. 25,000 for the collection of material for preparing an authoritative history of the Indian National struggle for freedom; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the request?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: (a) اور (b) ہاں پریس رپورٹ گورنمنٹ کے جانے میں آچکی ہے مگر ابھی تک آنریبل رپورٹ گورنمنٹ کے پاس نہیں آئی کام کا تھلک جو پہلے سے چلا آتا ہے - یہ ہے کہ انڈین ہسٹاریکل ریکورڈ کمیشن کے جلسوں میں جتنی تجویزیں منظور کی جاتی ہیں وہ سب بلاشبہ گورنمنٹ کے پاس بھیج دی جاتی ہیں - میں آنریبل ممبر کو یقین دلادونگا کہ جونہی یہ تجویز گورنمنٹ کے سامنے آئی - گورنمنٹ پوری شدت سے اس پر فور کریگی۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** (a) and (b). Government have seen press reports but as yet have no official information on the subject. All resolutions of the Indian Historical Records Commission are forwarded to Government, and I can assure the Honourable Member that Government will examine sympathetically the resolution to which he has referred.

#### RAIDS ON BHARATPUR BORDER VILLAGES BY MEOS FROM GURGAON DISTRICT

**788. \*Ch. Ranbir Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Meos residing in the adjoining villages of Gurgaon district raided Bharatpur State border villages several times?

(b) Is it also a fact that they carried away a large number of cattle belonging to the villagers?

(c) Is it also a fact that the border villagers of Bharatpur State have been deprived of their licensed arms by the authorities?

(d) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to create confidence in the villagers living in the border area of Bharatpur State?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) Yes, but these raids took place last year.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

#### PEOPLES' GOVERNMENT IN JIND STATE.

**789. \*Ch. Ranbir Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a parallel Government has been set up in Jind State?

(b) Is it also a fact that the Peoples' Government have captured Badhara Police Station in Daderi District?

(c) Is it also a fact that the administration of 184 villages is being carried by the parallel Government and the State Government has failed to maintain peace and order in the state? If so, what steps do the Government of India propose to take to maintain peace and order in the State?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a), (b) and (c). There was an agitation in Dadri district of Jind against the State administration. On the advice of the States Minister the agitation in Jind has been suspended and the State authorities have released all the State Congress leaders who were arrested in connection with the agitation.

**Oh. Nihal Singh Taxak:** May I know whether it is a fact that since the 25th February, no cases are coming to the State courts, as there is a Pauchayat raj in each village?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not know. But I am very glad to learn that litigation is ending in the Jind State.

**Oh. Ranbir Singh:** Is it a fact, Sir, that some prajamandalists have been arrested by the State authorities and have not yet been released?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I have just stated that the persons who were arrested have been released. I do not know if anything has happened very recently. If the Honourable Member will draw our attention to it, we will certainly enquire into the matter.

#### UTILISATION OF FOREIGN CAPITAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN INDUSTRIES

790. \***Shri P. Kunhiraman** (on behalf of **Shri V. O. Kesava Rao**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the policy of Government in the matter of utilising foreign capital in developing our industries?

(b) Are any concessions being offered to firms in the United Kingdom and the United States of America to develop industries in India?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister for Industry and Supply. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for 29th March, 1949, when the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply will answer it.

#### STUDENTS SENT TO U.S.A. FOR STUDY OF CINEMATOGRAPHY

791. \***Shri P. Kunhiraman** (on behalf of **Shri V. O. Kesava Rao**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether any students were sent to the United States of America under the overseas scholarship scheme to study cinematography?

(b) What are the Universities in which these students are undergoing training?

(c) Have the film-industry been consulted regarding their requirements in technical development in the selection of these candidates?

آریہل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد (a): ہاں اس وقت تک جو سکالرز پوائنٹڈ سٹڈیز آف امریکہ میں اس فرض سے بھرتے جا چکے ہیں ان کے سلیب کی تصویریں بلانے کی کوششیں ہو رہی ہیں

(b) دکھلی کھلی فونڈا کی یونیورسٹی

(c) نہیں جی ہاں! یہ سکالرشپ اس لئے دیئے گئے تھے کہ گورنمنٹ کے کاموں کی باتوں

پوری ہوں

**The Honourable Maulana Abul-Kalam Azad:** (a) Yes. Six Government of India scholars have so far been sent to the United States of America under the Overseas Scholarships Scheme for advanced studies in cinematography.

(b) The University of Southern California.

(c) No, Sir. These scholarships have been awarded in order to meet the requirements of Government.

سری۔ اے۔ وی۔ کامات: امریکا کو بھیج کر کیا کسی اور ملک میں بھی سکالرز بھیجے گئے ہیں؟

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** Have scholars been sent to any other country also other than America?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: نہیں صرف امریکہ ہی بھیجے گئے ہیں۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** No. They have been sent to America only.

श्री एच वी कामत: क्या गवर्नमेंट और मुल्कों में भेजने पर भी गौर कर सकगो।

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will Government consider the question of sending scholars to other countries also?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: گورنمنٹ ضرور غور کریگی - غور کا حوالہ کہی بلد نہیں ہوتا۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** The Government will certainly consider it. Consideration is always possible.

#### COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

792. \***Shri P. Kunhiraman** (on behalf of **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether there is any proposal before Government to start a college of Pharmacy in India?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, has any decision been taken regarding the location of this college?

(c) What is the number of approved Pharmacies in India and what is the requirement on the population basis?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** (a) and (b). There is no proposal before Government to start a college of Pharmacy.

(c) Under the Drugs Rules premises where drugs are sold are licensed by authorities under the Provincial Governments. No information is available regarding the number of such licensed premises. It is not possible to estimate the number of pharmacies required in the country on the basis of population.

#### DETECTION OF ADULTERATION IN FOODSTUFFS AND MILK IN INDIA

793. \***Shri P. Kunhiraman** (on behalf of **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao**): (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether any staff is working in the Province of Delhi to detect adulteration of food-stuffs and milk?

(b) What is the number of prosecutions launched in the last financial year for such adulteration?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** (a) Six Medical Officers of Health and Assistant Medical Officers of Health and a staff of eleven Food Inspectors are employed in the urban area of Delhi Province to detect adulteration of food-stuffs and milk.

The Punjab Pure Food Act of 1929 has also been extended now to the rural area and a staff of two Medical Officers and eight Sanitary Inspectors are being given the necessary powers.

(b) The number of prosecutions launched during 1946 was 371.

**Mr. B. K. Sidha:** Are these Inspectors under the control of the Municipal Committee or the Government?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** The Committee.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** Do these Inspector<sub>s</sub> judge the adulteration by sight or are they armed with lactometers?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** They have all the necessary instruments for judging.

**Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala:** What was the result of the prosecutions launched?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** Do you mean the punishments? In that case I would have to be given notice.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** I shall be grateful if you will allow me to put my questions now. I regret I was not present at the time when they came up.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think I made the position clear last time that, except in exceptional circumstances I shall not feel inclined to grant such permission. Members ought to be careful to see that they are present at the time of their questions. I have also made that request in the case of Honourable Ministers and I do not see why I should make a distinction between Honourable Ministers and members. I am sorry that I cannot allow the Honourable Member to put his questions unless there are exceptional reasons for doing so.

#### REPRESENTATION AGAINST EXECUTIVE OFFICER, AMBALA CANTONMENT

**794. \*Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether a representation containing allegations of corruption, bribery and highhandedness against the Executive Officer of Ambala Cantonment was sent to the Government by the President of Anti-Corruption and Anti-Oppression Committee of Congress workers of Ambala District, duly signed by himself and some other public workers?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what action was taken by Government in this matter?

(c) Is it a fact that an open enquiry was demanded in the said representation but no enquiry of any sort has yet been made?

(d) Do Government propose to institute an open enquiry or take such other suitable action as the circumstances of the case require? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** (a) No such representation was received.

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

#### VALUABLES OF REFUGEES DEPOSITED WITH BRANCH OFFICE OF IMPERIAL BANK AT GUJRANWALA

**795. \*Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Gujranwala branch of the Imperial Bank of India has been closed? If so, since when and for what reasons?

(b) What is the position about the articles deposited with the said branch for safe custody?

(c) Can they be removed from Gujranwala to some station in East Punjab or to Delhi by the Bank? If not, why not?

(d) What is the impediment for the Branch Office of the Imperial Bank of India at Gujranwala to give delivery of articles deposited with them at some branch of the bank in East Punjab or Delhi, in case the depositor agrees to stand the expenses of safe transport from Gujranwala to some branch office of the said bank in East Punjab or Delhi where delivery can be given?

(e) Are Government aware that the Hindu and Sikh refugees, find it unsafe to go to Western Pakistan to take delivery of their valuables deposited with the different branches of the Imperial Bank of India in Western Pakistan and it would greatly help if the bank agrees to deliver the said articles at Delhi or some other branch in East Punjab?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) Yes, since the 6th November, 1947 due to communal disturbances and staff difficulties; except from the 5th December, 1947 to the 16th February, 1948 when it remained open for transferring constituents' accounts to branches in India.

(b) The Agent of the Sialkot Branch is arranging for the delivery of safe deposit articles at Gujranwala on Sundays, provided all the necessary formalities are completed and are in order.

(c) and (d). Normally, delivery of deposits should be taken at the place where articles were deposited; but in view of the difficulties pointed out by the Honourable Member, Government is taking up the matter with the Pakistan Government and the Imperial Bank.

(e) Yes.

#### IMPORT OF FOREIGN LIQUORS

796. **\*Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state the volume of different kinds of foreign liquors imported into India annually?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of banning the import of all kinds of foreign liquor?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) A statement giving the figures for the last five years is laid on the table.

(b) This will be considered at the appropriate time in connection with the policy of prohibition.

#### Statement

*Showing the quantity of foreign liquor imported into India*

Ale, Beer and Porter	Cider and other Fermented Liquor	Spirit (Brandy, Gin, Liqueurs, Rum, Whisky, etc.)	Wines
Gallons	Gallons	Gallons	Gallons
1942-43	638,532	2,389	688,676
1943-44	301,474	..	525,509
1944-45	420,381	1	502,657
1945-46	141,632	..	758,047
1946-47	788,269	441	896,817

Note: These figures relate to undivided India.

## PRODUCTION OF EDUCATIONAL FILMS IN INDIA

†797. \*Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether there are any film-producing companies in India which produce educational films exclusively? If so, how many and which are they?

(b) Are any other film-producers also producing educational films? If so, who are they?

(c) Are there any films on such subjects as communal harmony, removal of untouchability and equality of all citizens?

(d) Are Government making any special efforts to see that films on the above subjects are produced? If so, what are they?

(e) Are Government following any definite policy in the use of educational films? If so, what is it?

(f) Did the Education Conference held on 15th and 16th January, 1948 lay down any policy or give any direction in the matter? If so, what was it?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) No. The second part does not arise.

(b) Precise information is not available.

(c) The film organisation of the Government of India had produced and distributed a short film on communal harmony in 1945. No films were produced on removal of untouchability or equality of all citizens. Government are not aware of any such films produced by non-official agencies.

(d) and (e). Government are alive to the need for and importance of educational films. The Central Bureau of Education maintains a library of educational films and a few projectors and loans them to educational institutions and authorities. It has been decided to add to the stock by purchasing more films and also a few projectors. The whole scheme of visual education including the production of educational and cultural films with the co-operation of the film organisation of the Government of India is at present under their active consideration and it is hoped that early steps will be taken to give effect to it.

(f) The Education Conference held from the 16th to the 18th January, 1948 at New Delhi recommended that the Central Bureau of Education should extend its activities in the film Unit. It also recommended that the Central Government should assist in procuring films and other accessories of visual education by obtaining priorities and making available the services of the officers of the Government of India abroad.

## SCHEDULED CASTES SCHOLARSHIPS

798. \*Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the Scheduled Castes scholarships were started;

(b) what annual allotment was made for this;

(c) whether it is a fact that the whole amount has not been utilized in any year;

(d) whether Government accumulate the unspent balances for being made available to future scholars; and

(e) what the total expenditure so far incurred on this account is?

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

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: (a) ۱۹۴۴-۴۵ء میں

(b) تین لاکھ روپیہ

(c) پہلے دو برسوں میں یعنی ۱۹۴۴-۴۵ء اور ۱۹۴۵-۴۶ء میں پورا روپیہ خرچ نہیں کیا جاسکا۔ لیکن بعد کے برسوں میں یعنی ۱۹۴۶-۴۷ء اور ۱۹۴۷-۴۸ء میں جسٹری روپیہ خرچ ہوا ہے وہ تین لاکھ روپیہ سے بھی زیادہ پہنچ چکا ہے۔ ۱۹۴۶-۴۷ء میں چار لاکھ تیس ہزار روپیہ خرچ ہوا ہے اور ۱۹۴۷-۴۸ء میں چار لاکھ پینسٹھ ہزار۔  
(d) اس سکیم کے لئے یہ خاص بات دکھی گئی ہے کہ اگر ایک برس کی رقم پوری خرچ نہ ہو سکی تو جو روپیہ باقی رہ جائے وہ نئے برس کی رقم میں بوجھا دیا جائے اس طرح کوئی رقم لاپس نہیں ہوتی۔

(e) جو ٹوٹل رقم آج تک خرچ ہوئی ہے وہ ۱۱,۵۸,۰۰۰ ہے

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** (a) 1944-45.

(b) Rs. 8,00,000.

(c) In the first two years, 1944-45 and 1945-46, the whole amount was not utilized, but in the years 1946-47 and 1947-48 the expenditure incurred is much above the annual allotment of Rs. 8,00,000. The expenditure incurred in 1946-47 amounted to Rs. 4,08,000 and in 1947-48 it so far amounts to Rs. 4,05,000.

(d) The unspent balances are carried forward to the following year and are made available for scholarships for that year.

(e) The total expenditure incurred upto date is Rs. 11,58,000.

ڈاکٹر پی. اے. دیشمکھ: اگلے سال کے لیے کتنا روپيا بجٹ میں رکھا گیا ہے؟

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** How much money has been allotted for the next Budget?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: یہ سکیم پانچ برس کے لئے منظور کی گئی تھی۔ یہ اسکا آخری برس ہے۔ اس برس یہ سکیم ختم ہو جائیگی۔ اور آئندہ کے لئے اس پر سوچ بچار کیا جائیگا۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** This scheme was sanctioned for five years and this is the last year of the scheme. It will be completed during this year, and the matter will be considered again.

ڈاکٹر پی. اے. دیشمکھ: کیا یہ سمجھا جاتا ہے کہ اگلے سال کے لیے کوئی گرانٹ نہیں ہے اور کوئی رقم نہیں رکھی گئی ہے؟

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Does it mean that no provision has been made for the next year, and no amount of money has been allotted for it?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: یہ سکیم جو پانچ برس کے لئے منظور ہوئی تھی اس برس ختم ہو جائیگی۔ لیکن گورنمنٹ کی پالیسی اس بارے میں یہ ہے کہ اس طرح



کی امداد برابر جاری رہنی چاہئے۔ مجھے یقین ہے کہ جب آئندہ برس یہ معاملہ نئے سرے سے سامنے آئے گا۔ تو گورنمنٹ پوری ہمدردی کے ساتھ اس پر غور کریگی

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** The scheme was sanctioned for five years and will end this year. But the policy of the Government in this connection is that this kind of help should continue. I am sure that the Government will consider this matter with full sympathy when the question comes up next year.

**Shri T. A. Ramalingam Othttiar:** Is the Government aware that Provincial Governments are also giving scholarships like this and will they consider the possibility of having the scholarships given by one agency instead of two agencies and at different rates?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: مشکل ہے کہ اس وقت اس بارے میں کوئی فیصلہ کیا جائے۔ نئے سرے سے جب اس پر غور کیا جائیگا۔ تو اس وقت معاملہ کے اس پہلو پر بھی نظر ڈالی جائیگی

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** It is difficult to decide anything about it now. This aspect of the question will also be considered when the scheme is considered afresh next year.

#### GOVERNMENT AID OR SCHOLARSHIP FOR BACKWARD HINDU COMMUNITIES

799. \***Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether the Government of India have given any aid or scholarship to any backward Hindu communities other than the Scheduled Castes?

(b) What steps do Government propose to take to assist these communities, in matters of education?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: (a) گورنمنٹ آف انڈیا نے اس برس کے بجٹ میں پچاس ہزار روپیہ کی رقم اس کام کے لئے رکھی ہے کہ بیک وارفڈ ٹوائس کو سکالرشپ دیئے جائیں۔ (b) اس معاملہ پر گورنمنٹ سوچ وچار کر رہی ہے۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** (a) The Government of India have provided a sum of Rs. 50,000 for award of scholarships to students belonging to Backward Tribes (Aboriginals and Hill Tribes) during the financial year 1948-49.

(b) The question is under the consideration of Government.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** Is it the settled policy of Government to recognise certain communities as backward and others as forward?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد: اس میں ریگنیشن کا سوال پیدا نہیں ہوتا۔ اگر ہم چاہتے ہیں کہ پورا ملک آگے بڑھے تو جو کمیونٹیز بیک وارفڈ ہیں انکو آگے بڑھانے کے لئے مدد دیلی جائیگی۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** The question of recognition does not arise here. If we want that the whole country should make progress we should help the backward communities to advance.

**सेठ गोविन्ददास :** क्या वानरेबल मिनिस्टर साहिब को मालूम है कि जिस वक्त मनुस्वामी पिल्ले ने यहां रेजोल्यूशन पेश किया था तो उस वक्त गवर्नमेन्ट ने आशा दिलाई थी कि बकबर्ड क्लासों के लिये काफी रकम अगले बजट में दी जायेगी।

**Seth Govinddas:** Is the Honourable Minister aware that when the Honourable Munishwami Pillai moved his resolution in the House the Government held out a hope that sufficient money would be allotted for the backward classes in the next Budget?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس برس کورنٹس اس برس میں زیادہ دیوے گا انہماں نہیں کرسکی۔ لیکن یہ بات طے کر دی گئی ہے کہ سامنے برس کے بجٹ میں کئی رقم اس کام کے لئے رکھی جائےگی۔

**The Honourable Maniama Abul Kalam Asad:** The Government could not arrange for more money this year, but it has been decided that sufficient money will be provided for this purpose in the next year's Budget.

### PROVINCIAL INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

#### PRESSENTATION OF THE REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920.

### GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—contd.

#### SECOND STAGE—contd.

#### DEMAND No. 17—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,42,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Ministry of Agriculture'."

#### DEMAND No. 26—MINISTRY OF FOOD

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,81,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1949, in respect of 'Ministry of Food'."

#### DEMAND No. 7—FOREST

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,04,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1949, in respect of 'Forest'."

#### DEMAND No. 20—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 80,76,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Ministry of Finance'."

I take it that the cut motions are not going to be moved. Of course, it will be open to the members to speak on these cut motions and also on the general demand for grants. If that is so, I will proceed calling upon the various speakers

(1) DEMAND No. 17—MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE.

(2) DEMAND No. 26—MINISTRY OF FOOD

(3) DEMAND No. 7—FOREST

**Shri Satis Chandra Samanta (West Bengal: General):** Mr. Speaker, I am thankful that you have allowed me to discuss a subject in which I am greatly

interested. I come from the community of agriculturists and therefore I should like to put before the House what the agriculturists want. I am going to discuss the question of food self-sufficiency in India.

India is deficit in respect of food. It was deficit and is still deficit. During the pre-war period India had to import rice from Burma, because India was a deficit country in food. West Bengal, Bihar, U. P., Madras and Bombay are deficit in foodstuffs. The C. P., Berar, Orissa and Assam are surplus provinces. So if we want to make India self-sufficient as regards food we should find out the means. Our Government is going on trying various schemes and measures to make India self-sufficient as regards food. Various committees were appointed, agricultural research institutes have been established but to our surprise we see that we have to import more foodgrains from outside. The Grow More Food campaign was launched by the Central Government but to no effect. We could not find out the real difficulties. We must first of all support those who make themselves self-sufficient, those who are the producers of food. We are not looking after them. They produce the food but they cannot get sufficient food to eat. They want at least one pound of foodstuff per day but to our surprise we see that they cannot get it. How can they then produce the food for us? If we want to make India self-sufficient as regards food we must first of all look after these agriculturists, so that they may be well fed and well established. On the other hand, they are dying. In one word if I describe you will know what is their condition now. Their condition may be compared with that of a milch cow, which is milked every day twice or thrice but is not given sufficient food. This is the condition of the agriculturists in India. We are going to make India self-sufficient in food but their wretched condition is not being alleviated. They till their lands from morning to evening with the sweat of their brow for us, for the whole of India but in return they have to lead wretched lives. First of all their condition should be bettered. For that they should have sufficient food for themselves, sufficient nutritive food. I know they produce milk from their cows but they cannot consume it. They produce the crops but they cannot keep them for themselves or for buying their needs. First of all we should try to better their condition.

When I look at the whole of India I see that rice is the staple food, next comes wheat, barley, maize, millet etc. One third of the total cultivated area in India produces rice. Next to China India is the biggest producer in the world in rice. India is deficit in rice but not in wheat. Wheat is exported from India in some quantity. Nowadays it is impossible to export it. We should come to a stage when we want to export foodstuffs but not import them. If we depend on importing foodgrains from other countries, what is the use of being independent. We were better under the British regime. The British have gone. I know they have broken down our morale but it will take time for us to recover. I request the Ministry to be alert. They should see that the system of government as regards agriculture is not allowed to go in the old manner. Research institutes have been established. The Grow More Food Campaign has been launched. But what is the result? These institutes will be doing research work and their researches should be placed before the agriculturists in the interior villages. We are in towns, where the researches may be shelved. What is the necessity of such research in towns? Money is being spent for these researches and the result should go to the villages in the interior. I know the agriculturists are to some extent conservative. For that reason the educated men, the officers should reach them and do away with their conservatism. In this respect my experience is that these officers can do nothing. They should go through philanthropic organisations such as the Congress and the like. The Congress is in complete contact with the masses, the agriculturists and the producers. So anything which should be done for them in the interest of the whole of the Indian Union should be done through the medium of these philanthropic organisations, especially the

[Shri Satish Chandra Samanta]

Congress. When our officers go for the Grow More Food Campaign in the villages they take their abode in towns. Once or twice in a month they tour in the villages. In their town abode the officers give an exhibit of the grow more food campaign. I have seen with my own eyes, and perhaps many of my friends have also seen, what the result is. There in the handsome gardens where flowers are blossoming, some fruits and the like are grown, which is quite insignificant in comparison with what the agriculturists produce in the interior villages. I know that the agriculturists are experienced in the subjects. If they are to be more experienced, such experts who will be able to convince them should go there. Sir, the English have left us a few days back. But the methods and the ways to which we are accustomed are not yet over. The poor agriculturists fear the officers. Those fears should be removed. The officers should now truly love our Congress Government. By that way the country will improve both in the matter of foodgrains as also in all other matters.

Sir, I find many difficulties in the way of progress of agricultural improvement. Besides the lands which are cultivated there are nine crores of acres of land left in the Union of India which can be cultivated. With a view to grow more food in the cultivated and cultivable areas arrangements for irrigation should be made. The manuring system which the Government is trying to adopt by way of ammonia, etc. is not suitable as I have seen. Compost manure made of night soil, refuse, etc. should be used and that is very useful manure. The irrigation system is taken up by the Government in a large scale. I submit that small scale irrigation measures should be taken in hand so that the produce may come earlier. The Provincial Governments should be intimated in this respect. As I have just now mentioned, Bengal is a deficit Province. There are 1 million landless *bargadars*, 2 millions who have between 2 and 5 acres of land and 3 millions who have less than 2 acres of land. The landless labourers live mostly on agricultural wages. Bengal has been sanctioned 2 lakhs tons of foodgrains. But on account of the immigration from East Bengal, West Bengal is claiming 1 lakh tons more of foodgrains, as I have seen in the newspapers.

I hope the Agricultural Ministry will take steps and direct their utmost attention to the Madras Province where famine is at hand. Bengal experienced famine in 1942-43. So Bengal fears and urges that immediate steps should be taken in regard to Madras. With this request I resume my seat!

श्रीधर रणवीर मिह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने भी दो कटौती के प्रस्ताव भजे थे । एक का आशय यह था कि एग्रीकल्चरिस्ट्स (agriculturists) की प्राइडकटस (products) की प्राइसिज़ स्टेबिलाइज़ (prices stabilize) कर दी जायें । और दूसरे का आशय पैदावार ज्यादा करने का है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक देहाती हूँ और किसान हूँ । मैं जब देहात में जाता हूँ तो मेरे देहाती भाई और किसान भाई ख़ास तौर पर मेरे से पूछते हैं कि पहली सरकार एक सोतेली माँ की तरह से हमेशा हमारे साथ बर्ताव करती रही । क्या यह सरकार भी हमारे साथ सोतेली माँ जैसा बर्ताव रखेगी? मिसाल के तौर पर दह मुझसे एक सवाल पूछते हैं कि प्राइसेज़ (Prices) का जब कंट्रोल (control) किया जाता है तो वह शहरियों के फायदे के लिये किया जाता है । जब कभी एक किसान को अपने अनाज पर एक पैसा भी ज्यादा मिलने की उम्मीद होती है तो सरकार के फायदे और कानून उसके

रास्ते में आ जाने हैं, और उमकी प्राइस कंट्रोल (price control) कर दी जाती है और यह कानूनन जुर्म करार दे दिया जाता है कि इससे ज्यादा कीमत पर वह बेच न सके लेकिन जब उसका सवाल पैदा होता है तो कोई आदमी नहीं पृच्छता । इस में कोई शक नहीं कि मैं उन आदमियों में से नहीं जो अपने नेताओं पर किसी किस्म का अविश्वास रखता हो, मैं तो उन्हें यही विश्वास दिलाता रहता हूँ कि पं० जवाहर लाल के नेतृत्व में किसानों का फायदा है, वह किसानों के फायदे के लिये ही वजारत की कुर्सी पर बैठे हुए हैं और वह जब तक यहां मौजूद हैं तब तक उनको कोई नुकसान नहीं होगा । लेकिन फिर भी मैं इस बात को जानता हूँ कि उनके आस पास मोटरवाले फिरते रहते हैं और एक देहाती आदमी उसके पास न मोटर है न उसके पाम अखबार है, उसकी आवाज प्रेस (press) में आ नहीं सकती । मैं आज आपका ध्यान इस बात की तरफ आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ । एक दफा पहले भी मैंने मंत्री महोदय, का ध्यान आकर्षित कराया था, कि गुड़ की कीमत इस मौसम के अन्दर २४) से घट कर के ४) मन तक पहुंची । मैं यह दावे से कहता हूँ कि अगर किसी दूसरी वस्तु की कीमत में इतना घटाव-बढ़ाव आता तो अखबारात हिन्दुस्तान के कोने कोने में शोर मचाते और इस हुकूमत तक पहुंचाने के लिये उनकी जितनी शक्ति होती वह लगा देते । मिसाल के तौर पर मोटे का सवाल लीजिये । दूसरा मोटा गुड़ के अलावा चीनी है । चीनी का कंट्रोल (control) हटा और जितने चीनी पैदा करनेवाले बड़े बड़े अमीर थे उन्होंने एक कंट्रोल (control) बांध दिया, और इससे डीकंट्रोल (decontrol) होने के बाद कीमत घटी नहीं बल्कि बढ़ी । इसके मुक़ाबिले में गुड़ की कीमत ७) गनी कम हो गई । कहां २४ कहां ४ रुपया ? इस मौसम में भी, मिसाल के लिये उन्हें एक चर्बी या उसे कोलू कहिये, उसको किराये पर लेने के लिये कंट्रोल प्राइस (control price) देनी पड़ी और ब्लैक मारकेट प्राइस (black market price) भी देनी पड़ी । परसों १४ तारीख को मैं एक दिल्ली के देहांत में एक मीटिंग (meeting) थी, उसके अन्दर उन्होंने मुझे बुलाया । तो वहां उन्होंने बताया कि दिल्ली की सरकार ने एक कंट्रोल (control) मुकरर किया था और इस कंट्रोल प्राइस (control price) पर एक भी आदमी ने एक भी ऐसी चर्बी नहीं जिसे उठाया हो । उमकी कंट्रोल प्राइस, (control price) से फालतू लिया गया । और उनसे रसीद कंट्रोल प्राइस (control price) की ली गई । चूंकि समय भी, अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे बहुत थोड़ा ही मिलेगा इस लिये मैं अपने माननीय मंत्री का ध्यान प्राइस सब कमेटी (Price Sub-Committee) की रिपोर्ट की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ । एग्रीकल्चरिस्ट्स (agriculturists)

[श्री० रणवीर सिंह]

की प्राइवटस (products) की कीमत अच्छी रखनी चायनी तो उसमें सिर्फ एग्रीकल्चरिस्टस (agriculturists) का ही फायदा नहीं है बल्कि तमाम हिन्दु-स्तान का फायदा होगा। और एग्रीकल्चरल इकॉनमी (agricultural economy) ठीक होगी। हमारा देश देहाती और किसानों का देश है, अगर एग्रीकल्चरिस्टस (agriculturists) की और देहातियों की इकॉनमी (economy) खराब हो जाती है तो तमाम हिन्दुस्तान की इकॉनमी (economy) खराब समझनी चाहिये। जो हमारे दूसरे भाई यहाँ बैठे हुए हैं उनका भी ध्यान इस रिपोर्ट की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ। इस रिपोर्ट में भी साफ़ तौर पर यह वाजें किया गया है कि एग्रीकल्चरिस्ट (agriculturist) के इकॉनमी (economy) के साथ तमाम देश की इकॉनमी (economy) मबनी है।

"The effective guarantee of a minimum price will not only introduce an element of stability in agriculture, but will also promote stability in other spheres of economic life, and will assist in securing a general rise in national income. The maintenance of the income of the agriculturalist at a satisfactory level will provide a large home market for the products of Indian industries and encourage their development. It will maintain the revenues of the Provincial Governments, because of its direct effects on land revenue and water charges, and its indirect effects on the yield of other sources of revenue. It will increase the remunerativeness of public works in the sphere of agriculture. It will maintain the value of the only security that the agriculturist can offer, increase his credit and promote the development of marketing and credit organizations. The guarantee of a minimum price, which introduces an element of stability in agricultural incomes, is thus a measure of pivotal importance for general economic development."

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक और बात की तरफ़ मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। अभी (Budget Session) बजट सेशन के अन्दर जब (Finance) फाईनैस के मंत्री महोदय ने बजट पेश किया तो उस वक़्त बताया था कि शिकागो के अन्दर जो देश गेहूँ पैदा करते हैं उन देशों ने गेहूँ के पैदावार के फायदे के लिये गेहूँ की कीमत पर एक किस्म का control सा कर दिया है और उन देश से जो देश गेहूँ लेना चाहते हैं उससे यह कहते हैं कि उनकी कीमत पर उन्हें पांच सालों तक उसमें थोड़ी बहुत घटती बढ़ती होगी इस किस्म का कंट्रोल (control) कर दिया गया है। ऐसी ही चीज़ मैं अपने माननीय मंत्री से भारत देश के किसानों के लिये चाहता हूँ। वह यह कि पहली चीज़ जिसकी तरफ़ मैंने अभी उनका ध्यान आकर्षित कराया, गुड़ की कीमत को वह (control) कंट्रोल करें ताकि हिन्दुस्तान के उन गरीब किसानों को, इन मेहनत करने वालों का फायदा हो। एक चीज़ और मैं इस दौरान में कहना चाहता हूँ कि सब से ज्यादा मेहनत जिस में एक किसान को करनी पड़ती है वह ईंस की पैदावार है। तो माननीय मंत्री महोदय का मैं इस तरफ़ ध्यान आकर्षित करा रहा था कि गुड़ की कीमत जरूर control करें। इस control में शक नहीं कि शहरी भाइयों का फायदा नहीं होगा, उनका नुकसान होगा। लेकिन पहला

जो (control) कन्ट्रोल हुआ था वह शहरी भाइयों के लिये था तो अब की बफा किसानों के लाभ के लिये कम से कम आप (control) कन्ट्रोल करें।

अब चूंकि समय बहुत थोड़ा रह गया है। दूसरी चीज़ जिसकी तरफ मैं हाऊस का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ वह (Grow More Food) प्रो मोर फूड है। इस साल भी एकसौदस करोड़ रुपया बजट में रक्खा गया है जो बाहर से अनाज मंगाने के लिये खर्च किया गया है। मैं मन्त्री महोदय का इ बात की तरफ ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि इसमें से अगर चन्द करोड़ रुपया भी मन्त्री महोदय अगर कुएं बनवाने के लिये किसानों को दान कर दें। जिसाल के तौर पर एकसौदस करोड़ के मुकाबिले में चार करोड़ रुपया कोई बड़ी चीज़ नहीं है। चार करोड़ रुपया कुएं बनवाने की मद में सूबों को भेज दें और उसमें यह भी रख दें कि चार सौ रुपया हर कुएं बनाने वाले के लिये दान की शकल में या (grant) ग्रांट की तौर पर दे दिया जाय तो इस तरीके से इस देश के अन्दर एक लाख कुएं बन सकते हैं। और उन के पानी के द्वारा एक फसल में एक करोड़ बीस लाख मन अनाज पैदा किया जा सकता है। अब मैं हाऊस का ज्यादा समय न लेते हुए मन्त्री महोदय का और अपने नेता का ध्यान किसानों की हालत की तरफ विशेषतया दिलाना चाहता हूँ और मुझे पूर्ण आशा और उम्मीद है कि मन्त्री महोदय और हमारे नेता किसानों के लाभ के लिये हमेशा जो कुछ उनमें बन सकेगा, वह करते रहेंगे।

*(English translation of the above speech.)*

**Ch. Ranbir Singh** (East Punjab: General): Mr. Speaker, I had also given notice of two cut motions. The object of one was to stabilize prices of agricultural produce and of the second to increase production.

Sir, I am a villager and a farmer. When I visit the countryside, my countrymen and fellow farmers specially put me this question: "The old Government had always been meting out a step motherly treatment to us; will this Government also treat us in the same way?" As an illustration they say that when prices are controlled it is the interests of the urban people that are kept in view and whenever there is a chance for the peasant to make even the smallest profit, the Acts and ordinances of Government come in his way. Prices of his commodities are controlled and it becomes an offence to sell things at higher prices. But nobody takes care of his interests. I am certainly not one of those who entertain any distrust of our leaders. I have always been trying to convince the farmers that the leadership of Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru is to their advantage; that he has assumed the office of a Minister only for their good; and that no harm shall befall them so long as he is there. But then I know that he is surrounded by people in motor cars. A villager, who owns neither a car nor any newspaper, has too feeble a voice to make himself heard through the press. Today I want to draw your attention and to point out to the Honourable Minister once again that the price of 'Gur' in this season has fallen from Rs. 21 to Rs. 4 per maund. I am sure, had there been so much fluctuation in the prices of any other commodity, the press would have raised a hue and cry all over the country and would have spared no pain in bringing it to the notice of the Government.

[Ch. Ranbir Singh]

Take for example the case of sugar, which is the substitute of *Gur*. As soon as sugar was decontrolled all the sugar producers, who are rich men, joined hands in controlling its selling price. Its price, instead of coming down, has gone up after decontrol. In comparison to that the price of *Gur* has fallen to one sixth. Look at the difference between Rs. 24 a maund and Rs. 4 a maund. In this month farmers had also to pay 'black market price' along with the control price for hiring an expeller (*kohtu*). Only the other day on the 14th I was invited to attend a meeting in a suburb of Delhi. I was told there that the Delhi administration had fixed a controlled price for this machine, but not a single person could purchase it at the controlled price. They were charged more than the controlled price but were given receipts for the controlled price. The time at my disposal is short, I would therefore, Sir, like to invite the attention of the Honourable Minister to the report of the Price Sub-Committee. If fair prices are fixed for agricultural products, not only the agriculturists but also the whole of India will be benefitted. This will set right the agricultural economy. Ours is an agricultural country, a land of farmers. If the economy of agriculturists and villagers is adversely affected that would effect the economy of the whole of India. I also like to invite the attention of the Honourable Members to this Report. It is clear from this report also that on the 'Agriculturist Economy' the economy of the whole country is dependent.

"The effective guarantee of a minimum price will not only introduce an element of stability in agriculture, but will also promote stability in other spheres of economic life, and will assist in securing a general rise in national income. The maintenance of the income of the agriculturist at a satisfactory level will provide a large home market for the products of Indian industries and encourage their development. It will maintain the revenues of the Provincial Governments, because of its direct effects on land revenue and water charges, and its indirect effects on the yield of other sources of revenue. It will increase the remunerativeness of public works in the sphere of agriculture. It will maintain the value of the only security that the agriculturist can offer, increase his credit and promote the development of marketing and credit organizations. The guarantee of a minimum price, which introduces an element of stability in agricultural incomes, is thus a measure of pivotal importance for general economic development."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to another point. While presenting the Budget in the current session, the Honourable the Finance Minister stated that in Chicago, the wheat producing countries have imposed a sort of price-control for the benefit of wheat-growers. They warn the countries desiring to purchase wheat from them that the latter shall have to pay a stipulated price subject to slight fluctuations for a period of five years. This type of control has been enforced. I would like the Honourable Minister to take similar action for the benefit of agriculturists in India. The first thing to which I just now drew his attention is that he should control the price of *Gur* so that some profit might accrue to the poor agriculturists in India who have to toil hard. In this connection I may also mention that a farmer has to put in the greatest amount of labour in the cultivation of sugarcane. I was thus drawing the attention of the Honourable Minister to the necessity for controlling the price of *Gur*. There is no doubt that this control will not result in any gain to the urban people; it will rather harm them. The previous control benefitted them. Now you should at least enforce the control for the good of the agriculturists.

There is very little time left now. The other thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is "Grow More Food". This year also a sum of Rs. 110 crores was provided in the budget for importing foodgrains. I would like the Honourable the Finance Minister to set apart a few crores of rupees out of this amount for the construction of wells by the farmers. The sum of Rupees four crores is not much as compared with the figure of Rs. 110 crores. Rupees four crores may be allocated to the Provinces under the head "Construction of Wells"; and provision should also be made to the effect that a sum of Rs. 400 may be given in the form of a donation or grant for the construction of a well. In this way, about 1 lac of wells can be constructed in this country, and by utilizing



their water; 1.20 crore maunds of foodgrains can be produced from one crop.

Without taking any further time of the House, I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Minister and our Leader to the condition of the peasants particularly, and have every hope that they would always do whatever they can for their betterment.

**Mr. Hussain Imam (Bihar: Muslim):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to intervene in the debate because I have one or two points to mention which go against the generality of the opinion held by people in India. I refer to derationing and decontrol. Therefore I wish to clear my position as to why I favoured the continuation of rationing despite all the difficulties that we were encountering in meeting our requirements. The argument which I used in my note of dissent is there in Foodgrain Policy Committee and therefore I do not wish to take up the time of the House in repeating it. But I wish to point out that some of my fears have already proved to be facts. The failure of Madras to produce as much rice as it was estimated it would produce has brought about a situation which will materially alter the policy of the Central Government to accumulate a reserve, which is the basis of the policy of decontrol. This memorandum, which has been just issued and which we received only the day before, makes it quite apparent to us that the position as far as procurement inside the country is concerned is not up to the mark. The Government does not expect to collect as much as it had expected. A 25 per cent. reduction—from 4 lakh tons to 3 lakh tons—is envisaged at the moment. What would be the position when *rabi* is harvested, is still to be found out. I am rather doubtful that the wheat and jawar collection will not be up to the mark. In my own province of Bihar we have been very deficient as far as rice is concerned. Our estimates have very sadly failed. We have to realise that in the matter of food production India's estimates are only estimates; you cannot rely on them due to the fact that they are so much dependent on the vagaries of the monsoon—especially rice—and the irrigated area is so small that you cannot ever be definite of your ability to produce a given target.

It has been said that the "Grow More Food Campaign" has been a failure because there is no spectacular increase in production.

**An Honourable Member:** None at all!

**Mr. Hussain Imam:** That is what I am saying; people say the tit has been a failure. But if you regard it as a guarantee against failure of crop, it has done some good. If you are able even to be assured of a minimum production even that is something to go on.

Sir, the condition of India is such that since the separation of Burma we have always been deficit in rice. As long as Burma remained part of British India we did not know that we were deficit because the economy was a joint one and the imports from Burma were really a movement inside the country. With the separation of Sind and Punjab again our problems have increased; these two Provinces have been responsible for intensifying the food deficiency. It is not that India has all of a sudden become deficient in food, but its deficiency was missed formerly but has become apparent now.

The Indian Union as it is now constituted has been a deficit country and will continue to be a deficit country for years to come. I do not envisage, even after all your schemes are initiated, that we will become self-sufficient in the matter of food at least for five years. It will be a varying amount dependent on the vagaries of the monsoon and the shortage will continue as long as the population increase remains at the present rate. An increase of population of five million a year is something terrific; with the limited resources of land as well as with the greater limiting factor of the bullock power, it is an item which

[Mr. Hussain Imam]

has not been given proper consideration. With the failure of our motive power—because we have no mechanised motive power but animal power with which we work our agricultural lands—we cannot expand our agricultural production with as great a rapidity as we can expand industrial production.

I therefore appeal to the Government to start big Government farms—if possible collective farms—and that can only be done on a mechanised basis. Sir, in Assam we have got a reservoir which can eliminate all the deficit which India has in rice. The amount of cultivable rice lands which are not under the plough in Assam is more than double the land which is under the plough—I am not positive about the figure, but it is double the amount of land under cultivation. On account of the fact that rainfall is so great in Assam, utilization of this uncultivated land would not be difficult provided we have the motive power. The difficulty in Assam is that the cattle there is very deficient; it is a very small puny type of cattle that we have there and it is because of that, that we have not been able to cultivate those lands. But it would be possible to do it with light tractors which could work paddy lands. It is a tall order, I know, because tractors have to be used for wheat lands and wet cultivation has to be started in rice. But if you could arrange these tractors we could become self-sufficient, and without irrigation demands. In every other place you have to have a well or a canal or some other means of irrigation to put the lands under rice cultivation, but in Assam you can do it without any irrigation facilities provided you have a light tractor evolved. I therefore think that the Government should now concentrate, as a measure of short term policy, more and more on Assam and develop a new lighter type of mechanised units.

**Mr. B. K. Sridha** (C. P. and Bihar; General): Sir, I have given notice of a Cut Motion to discuss the forest policy. One of the havocs that have been caused upon this country by the recent war is the devastation of our forests. We were proud of our forests before the War, today they are in a most deplorable condition. In Sweden there is a rule that no man can cut a tree unless he plants seven trees, but here in India no effort has been made for protecting our forests. For building material, for fuel and for the manufacture of charcoal, our forests have been cut to such a large extent that today our forests are in a most denuded and deplorable condition.

We have a very big Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun and it is costing something like Rs. 20 lakhs. As far as the training of forest officers and rangers are concerned it may be a good institution, but as far as the research work is concerned I am sorry to state that no such valuable research has been done. Barring the pulp that is required for the manufacture of newsprint, which is even today made from bamboo, no effort has been made to see whether newsprint could be manufactured from hard teak wood.

Sir, "Forest" is a Provincial subject, "Agriculture" is a Provincial subject. Notwithstanding that, we are maintaining a very huge Department, a very costly Department, and with all that I do not think we are doing very useful work in spite of the heavy expense that we are incurring. Before the War we had one Inspector-General of Forests who was the President of the Forest Research Institute. Today, after the War, we have got an Inspector-General of Forests on Rs. 8,250 and the President of the F.R.I. again on the same salary. Then there is one Deputy I.G., one Director of Forests, another Director of Timber and a Liaison Officer, drawing something like Rs. 2,150. These are the additional officers recruited after the War. Then, Sir, if you turn to page 18 you will see under the Budget there is provision for Rs. 1,25,000 for 'Reorganisation Officers'; their number is not mentioned and no details are given as to what this amount is for and what kind of reorganisation is to be carried on with such a large amount.

I therefore feel that our Forest Department is really very expensive. We have no forests of our own. The Centrally-administered areas of Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Coorg also have their own Forest Officers and separate Forest Departments. We are merely supervising, and for that purpose we are maintaining this costly institution at Dehra Dun. I hope the Government will seriously consider this matter. Particularly when both 'Agriculture' and 'Forests' are Provincial subjects and all the Provinces have highly paid Forest Officers like the Conservator of Forests and a number of Deputy Conservators, I do not see why a large number of officers should be maintained at the Centre unless it is simply to provide some man here or there.

Well, Sir, that is the position about the Forest Department. I do not want to go into the expenditure on 'Agriculture' although it is also top-heavy—it has also considerably increased. I might mention that before the War expenditure on 'Agriculture' and 'Forests' was Rs. 55,48,000. Today, 'Agriculture' spends—I am not mixing up 'Food', 'Food' is quite separate, I am only mentioning "Agriculture"—"Agriculture" spends Rs. 2 crores today whereas it was only Rs. 55 lakhs in 1939. I fail to see why in the Agriculture and Forest Departments such a huge jump by three times must have taken place. I therefore not only draw the attention of the Economy Committee that has been appointed, which will of course go into this matter very minutely, but I would certainly request the Honourable Minister to look into this high cost which has gone up to an extraordinary extent, particularly when no specific work is required to be done as far as the Central Government is concerned. As I told you, Sir, we have no forests of our own for which we require a Conservator of Forests or anybody of that type.

Now Sir, having done that, I will pass on to the question of the contract given in the Andaman forests. The other day in reply to a question the Honourable Minister stated that the Andaman forests have been given away on a contract to a certain firm, wherein Government is going to invest 51 per cent. of the capital. The total capital was said to be about 2½ crores of rupees. Sir, the wonder of wonders after reading the Agreement is that although Government have got a share of 51 per cent. they have only a minority representation on the Directorate. 4 Directors represent the Companies, whereas Government have been given only 2. Of course, the Chairman will be a Government man, but he will be appointed from the nominated Directors. But I really fail to understand why in spite of having 51 per cent. of the shares, Government should not have a majority of the Directorate.

Apart from the representation in the Directorate, Sir, I dispute the very fact of this forest exploitation being given on a contract basis. The Forest Department has all along been run by the Government in the Provinces. Similarly, the Andaman forests should have been retained by Government and exploited by Government. We know, Sir,—although I have not gone there, at least I have heard and read of it—that these forests produce costly type of timber. I therefore ask, Sir, why not Government maintain these forests rather than given them away to contract.

And what is it, they have done? Rs. 35,000 will be paid as a minimum profit. Whether there is a loss or a profit they have guaranteed this amount. This huge amount will be assured to the Managing Agency. We are out to destroy the Managing Agency system under the Companies Act, but something like a Managing Agency is established in this new concern. I am really surprised, to find that Government without giving any proper thought to this matter have entered into this contract, which is really detrimental to our interests. The royalty that has been fixed, 12 annas and 6 annas, is really very low. I do not know why a proper sum of royalty has not been fixed and why all these assurances have been given. I cannot understand the Agreement which has been presented to us, of which you have been kind enough to supply us with a copy. That Agreement is certainly not in our favour.

[Mr. R. K. Sidhva.]

Then, Sir, the Honourable Minister stated in reply to a question that a survey was undertaken by the Government of India just before the war broke out and a working plan was nearing completion, when the records were destroyed by the Japanese invasion of the Andamans and that a new working plan of the area to be leased out was under contemplation. From this it will be observed that Government have not taken any steps to ascertain whether these forests would be profitable or not. Before doing that, they go on giving a contract. Does this not show that there is likelihood of huge profits? When the previous Government wanted to survey these forests and wanted to give a contract—I do not know whether they wanted to run it Departmentally or by a contract—supposing they wanted to give on contract, they would have given it to a white man. Now what have you done? You have given it to a brown man. That is all the difference we have seen. Government have not otherwise taken any steps to find out whether these forests, these valuable forests, these rich forests, will prove profitable or not, before entering into a contract. Now, Sir, I do not know if the Agreement has been signed. The Honourable Minister's reply was that the Draft Agreement was under preparation. So, if the contract has not been signed, I would suggest that this matter should be again gone into by the Honourable Minister and Government should take steps to safeguard their interests thoroughly.

(Of course, as regards dividend they have stipulated that they cannot pay more than 6 per cent. That is a different matter. To that extent I have nothing to say. But I again want to reiterate that the royalty for timber of various qualities, this minimum of 8 annas, 4 annas and 6 annas which has been fixed, is very low, and if it is possible,—of course, if the contract has been signed we are helpless—but if the contract has not been signed and the Agreement is still under contemplation, I would request the Honourable Minister to consult the various Departments in this matter who are experts and enquire whether the royalty which has been fixed is really sufficient. Personally, my information is that this royalty charge is very very low. It is low to the extent of 100 per cent. and to that extent Government will incur loss.

When a member asked what was the object of giving this on contract basis to a Managing Agency, the Honourable Minister stated in reply that he selected those persons because they had knowledge of manufacturing boats from plywood; therefore, they were given contract. If that is the only qualification upon which such huge forests are entrusted to them, then I say Sir that it is a bad policy which the Government have adopted. Really speaking, Government should run these forests. I want to know, Sir, whether they consulted the Inspector-General of Forests, whether they consulted the President of this Institute, and what their opinion was. If Provinces can run their own forests, I fail to see why we should not do the same. We have our Department here. In these circumstances particularly, I do not see the necessity for giving away these rich forests to a private owner.

I have many other things to say as regards Agriculture but the time at my disposal is short. So I would only like to say as far as the Forest Department is concerned, once again that the Honourable Minister should get the best possible out of the Institute at Dehra Dun and see that the money which belongs to the State is utilised in the best possible way.

**Maharaja K. O. Gajapati Narayan Deo of Parlakimedi (Orissa: General):** Sir, I rise to thank you for giving an opportunity for one who is interested in agriculture and interested also in the welfare of agriculturists in India. Today it is stated everywhere that in spite of the enterprise and perseverance of the agriculturists of India, India is on the verge of starvation and serious lack of food everywhere. With the practical experience that I possess,

Sir, I would like to submit to the Honourable Minister in charge and to you, Sir, and to the House, that there are practical obstacles in the way of the agriculturists today which thwart them from doing their utmost and produce the maximum quantity. The practical obstacles are these. When an agriculturist who is keen to expand his agricultural operations approaches the officials in charge of the place,—the district, the province—for the supply of seeds, manures, etc., it is most surprising and pathetic to state that hardly any response comes from the officials to the keen agriculturist. I say this, Sir, with first-hand experience and personal knowledge. Of course Agriculture is a provincial subject, but I say the Centre cannot separate itself or dissociate its interest from the important industry of India. Whatever is said and done, agriculture is a key industry of India today and it will continue to remain so for quite a long time. My remarks confine to the two Provinces, where I have interests in farming and those are Madras and Orissa. During the crop collection of 1946-47, the Government of Madras held out in broad headlines to the cultivators under their procurement scheme that if the producer could hand over a certain quantity of paddy to the Procurement Department he will be paid so much bonus, in cash so much and so much in the shape of manure. As it was believed then that the Government would fulfil their promise all the producers of that area did their very best and utmost even at slight sacrifice of their own interests to hand over the produce that was available to them and it is a very sad story, Sir, that upto-date, particularly in the Vizag District, where I am interested, neither cash nor manure is supplied to the cultivator. Manure would have been a great asset if Government only make it available at this time of the year. I do not mind synthetic manure; even manure that could be produced out of agricultural produce is not guaranteed or supplied to the producer. I mean particularly ground-nut cakes. Well, as a practical agriculturist I approached the Collector of Vizag; he turned me on to the District Officer and he in his turn said: "We are awaiting orders from the Minister in charge". I am sure there have been so many requests of that type and that is the reply to all. When that is the actual fact why should not Centre take some action when multitudes of people died out of starvation. You must, if you want to advance Indian agriculture, feed your people, you must first of all look to the needs and requirements of the agriculturist. Apart from the supply of manure, Sir, seeds supply also are treated with the same sort of apathy. Potato as a supplementary food crop is being grown in Vizag district and that was entirely out of private enterprise, not through the demonstration of the Department. There too, when there are facilities to grow potatoes on the plains and practical proof has been held out to the Department that here potatoes can be grown just as efficiently as on the hills, the same sort of step-motherly treatment is given to the producer and the seeds are not supplied in time or in sufficient quantities. As regards the power that is required to produce food in an area to the maximum quantity, who is looking into the dietary deficiency that is found in the different parts of India today among the agriculturists. Not long ago at a very heavy cost the Royal Commission on Indian Agriculture was instituted and that Commission went deep into the matter of different popular diets of each province and has devoted pages after pages recommending how in each provincial diet the ingredients necessary to make up the required nutrition could be complimented. Today Punjab has got the best man-power and everything including agriculture. That is so because it has got the best diet. Madras and Orissa have got the poorest man-power because of its deficiency in nutritive ingredients of the popular diet. Well, Sir, these diets defective in nutrition have been gone through very minutely, carefully and scientifically by the Royal Agricultural Commission and suggestions made to improve upon the defective in diets to improve the power behind Indian agriculture. It is a very sad story and I find that no move has been made any where in that direction. On the other hand, private

[Maharaja K. C. Gajapati Narayan Deo of Parlakimedi]  
enterprise is not lacking; through private enterprise scholarships to carry on necessary research work have been created.

Another point I would like to say is that if you want to advance agriculture and production you have also to make available marketing facilities with transport. There are immense opportunities and immense areas available today if only transport facilities could be made available and scientific agriculture demonstrated in these areas. I know even the foodstuffs that is produced in certain areas go to rot because there are no facilities of transport. The produce of those areas find their way to the market only by buffalo carts and bullock carts and even those buffalo carts and bullock carts are denied to these areas as soon as rains set in and how can there be any expansion? There is perennial supply of water; there are fertile areas which could double the production and double the actual surplus quantity of that province. Here I refer to Orissa. There again private enterprise is not lacking to come to the rescue of the agriculturist by creating miles of railway so that agricultural produce could be marketed. Why should not the Government undertake such an enterprise and even develop it further? If Provincial Governments lack in funds, which I am sure, is the case, well in the interests of India and the multitudes of India's population the Centre should come to the rescue of Provinces to meet this demand.

I am glad, Sir, to find in the proposed draft of India's Constitution on page 14, section 38 the following is stated:

"The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its peoples and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties."

I am glad that there is something in this draft constitution which comes, or aims to come, to the rescue of the practical agriculturist. Today we are faced with malnutrition, diseases, ill-supply of seeds, manures and transport facilities.

Sir, I thank you once again for giving me this opportunity to place before the Honourable Minister and the House the practical difficulties that today stand in the way of production of more food.

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram** (Minister for Food and Agriculture): Sir, I have welcomed this discussion because all discussion and comment on the administration of Government helps Government. But frankly speaking it has also been for me a matter of regret that there has not been sufficient time for a larger number of members to express themselves on the working of the departments with which I am concerned. It has been my effort, and it will be my effort, to give both inside and outside this House all opportunities as time would permit for discussion of matters relating to my department. We are having this evening after the session is over a meeting of the Food Advisory Committee, of the Legislature and also a few days hence a meeting of the Committee of the Legislature relating to Agriculture. I propose also, over and above these two occasions, to discuss with as large a number of members of this House as possible any other details they desire relating to my departments.

The other thought that has been passing in my mind as the discussion has gone on is that part of the remarks seem to relate not to the present Government but to the past Government. Let us realise that the present Government has taken charge of the destinies of the country, practically speaking, only a short while ago. The Government is confronted with many problems and many big problems and some of these big problems are also urgent problems. I have no doubt that, looking to the importance of the subject of food, which has been given in the Finance Minister's speech the first priority, it should have received also our first attention when we took charge of the affairs of the country. The House knows what events have transpired during the last few months. But still I must state that we should as early as possible, having taken charge of the affairs of the country after the termination of British rule, try to set about planning all round on a long-term basis for our

country. So far as agriculture is concerned, both under British rule and I admit also during the interval that the present Government has been in charge, there has been a kind of piecemeal attempt to deal with the problem. I take the responsibility for that and I wish the House also to share that responsibility. I am not satisfied that we are handling the question of food production in the country and of making our country self-sufficient in regard to the production of food as well as we ought to—And I do propose, with the collaboration of the House, to set up some kind of agricultural planning commission which will go to the bottom of the whole question, plan out a programme scientifically, and plan out what may be of practical achievement within a limited number of years. I do not know how far this planning commission will be able to achieve the purpose, but I can assure the House that it is the intention of Government to try to solve our fundamental problem of food in a fundamental manner. We are trying to deal with the question of defence, to deal with the question of industrial development; but agricultural development cannot also wait longer. There is no doubt that we have had a variety of schemes left to us by the British Government. I do not know how far they suit us; they will have to be examined. People talk of the self-sufficiency of India as a whole; people speak also of regional self-sufficiency; our country is vast in area, our soil is also varied and our water resources are manifold. It may be that it may be a wiser plan to have some kind of regional self-sufficiency on the whole; it might save a great deal of the strain on our transport system which may be available for other purposes. And so there are several considerations that I think would have to be taken into account if we want to plan for our country in a proper manner. But I also wish the legislature to realise that Government at the centre, as has been suggested by more than one speaker, is today without much scope for action. The field and power of action is with the provinces. We are in a position to advise, to make researches here and there and try to help financially.

**Shri Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General):** You may give them a lead.

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** That is what I said, we can give them advice. But the execution is to be with the provinces. And part of the criticism today and a good part of the criticism which we hear generally relates to work in the provinces. I do not know how far the legislature would support the suggestion that is being made that the centre ought to have more power with regard to production of food. After all it is our major problem. Food is the fundamental need of man. And if it is the fundamental need of man—that is, of India—I do wish that the centre should have more power. I do not know what our future constitution will provide; I do not know whether I personally would have any say in the matter, But the question of the future constitution is before the Constituent Assembly, and I do hope that the Constituent Assembly will go fully into this matter and give to the centre far greater power than it has today. With power must also come finances. There has been a complaint that the Central Government is spending so much on agriculture; it has increased its expenditure on agriculture, on forests, on food. I hope that I will not be misunderstood when I say that in my opinion the centre ought to spend much more on agriculture and much more on plans for production of food. I do not want to tire the House with many figures because I am afraid I may have to place some more figures in regard to some other points.

But I will take one minute only of yours to give you necessary figures on this point. There are other Federal or Central Governments, also in the world. Power with regard to agriculture and production of food in their case also lies largely with the provinces. But still with the Centre lies much more power and with the Centre are available far more funds than in our country. I will give you only three instances.

[Shri Jairamdas Doulatram.]

Here is U.S.A. The Federal Government spends Rs. 80 per head on Agriculture. We spend one anna per head.

The Central Government in Canada spends Rs. 21 per head on agriculture. We spend one anna.

The United Kingdom, a highly industrialised country, which should be expected to spend far less than India on agriculture, spends Rs. 2 per head on agriculture; we spend one anna per head.

It may be said that the income of those States is larger. I will therefore give you other figures:

The U.S.A. spends 3.3 per cent. of the Central Budget on agriculture. Canada spends 1.6 per cent. Even the U.K. spends .6 per cent. We fall below even that and with the inflated figures, as some might say, which are being criticised today in the House, we spend .75 per cent. I do not think it is possible with the funds at the disposal of the Central department we can make any greater progress in advising, guiding, helping and giving the lead to the provinces as it has been suggested. If the Central Government spends the money, it is the right of the Legislature to call it to book, because after all the Government is wholly responsible to the people and on their behalf to the Legislature. But I do believe that unless the Central department is given more powers and more funds, it will not be possible for us to handle the situation satisfactorily.

I wish now, the time being exceedingly limited, to confine myself only to two or three outstanding issues which have arisen in the course of the debate. But there are also one or two minor points which I cannot but refer to because they have been brought out a little more prominently in the debate.

One relates to the arrangements for the Andamans timber and wood exploitation. I think it will be fair to judge this matter only in the setting of its real background. As is known, the former Government wanted to hand this industry over to a European firm for exploitation. The option before our Government was, when we took charge either that Government itself should run it as its own concern, under its direct control and supervision, or that it should be handed over to Indian exploiters, or there should be another arrangement which may give us the advantages of both. I know the criticism in this House with regard to official management of things. We have heard of it often. We have heard of it today.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): You have not experienced it!

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: We have also heard of the criticism against private exploitation. It was quite possible for our Government in the midst of other heavy tasks, in the midst of other urgent tasks, in spite of the need for concentration on industrial and agricultural development within the country, also to take charge of a kind of a new venture, far away from the Centre of control and leave it to be administered by the official element. I do not know whether a year or two hence, there would not have been far greater criticism than there will, I expect, be now. We have tried to find a solution with this background before us. We have tried to provide, that, while attending to development in other sectors within the country, we should also be able to exploit this large source of wealth for the country. We have tried to take the maximum precautions in the agreement. It is true that the agreement is not one-sided because, as I have said, the arrangement is not one-sided. We have consulted our experts. We have consulted our forest experts. We have consulted our other departments. It is the decision of the Cabinet as a whole in which all the departments are concerned. We have gone into the question of the royalties that are being taken in other provinces. After getting all that information we have reached an agreement. In case



there is any loophole which goes against the public interest, we do propose to go into the terms carefully when they are being finalised.

**Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar** (Madras: General): Were not these forests exploited before?

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram**: They were very slightly exploited. It was nothing of the nature which is contemplated now. If I may say a little more with regard to the Forest Department, though I intend to say much more with regard to the food situation, we have in this Forest Institute probably the finest Research Institute in the world. It has been left to us by the foreign Government, let us make the fullest use of it. We are experimenting and contemplating making research in that Institute on ply-wood, composite wood, paper, cellulose, rayon. We want to develop all these lines. We want to intensify research. We want to make it possible for us to reserve steel and iron for industrial and agricultural purposes. Research is going on following the example of the U.S.A. and other countries to treat our timber, to make it available for telegraph and telephone poles; if possible to make it available for the construction of bridges and for a variety of other uses to which treated timber is being put in other countries. All this requires additional effort. All this requires further development of research. Surely all this requires a host of men to conduct that research. I would plead that the House should criticise most vigorously when mistakes are made but need not criticise in anticipation when plans are being made. The plans are being made after fullest discussion with all the departments. Plans are being made with all the experts that are available, and I have no hesitation in saying so far as agriculture, food and forests are concerned that any expert advice that is reasonably available and has not been consulted will be taken before the final schemes go through.

May 1, Sir, in the few minutes that are left to me refer first to the Madras situation and then to the food question generally, though I am sure it will remain my regret that I would not have a full opportunity to explain these matters fully at least today in this House. But I do hope to take the public and the press into confidence within a few days and deal more fully with regard to the food question than it may be possible in the course of the few minutes that remain.

May 1, Sir, with regard to the reference to the memorandum on food made by my friend opposite, say that it is out-dated because it is one month old? During this one month things have moved further. The state of things it mentions existed a month ago when all of us were feeling anxious with regard to the food situation. Since that month, we have put forth fresh effort. We have not allowed things to remain in a static condition. We have moved and used all the influence which we could command, and today, as I will explain presently, the position is definitely better and absolutely hopeful. May 1, Sir, take the House fully into confidence with regard to our food budget and tell them much more than has been known to them so far.

When we started our decontrol policy this was our proposed food budget. If the members of the House will bear with me for a few minutes I will give them a few uninteresting but possibly helpful figures.

The balance of what we had contracted to purchase in 1947 but were to receive in 1948 was 5.4 lakh tons of foodstuffs. This is what we started with. Our internal resources from various parts of the country, which were expected to give us some their surplus, was 4 lakh tons. That makes 9.4 lakh tons and the imports which we were . . . .

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru** (U. P.: General): Do you expect to receive that now?

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** Yes, and much more than that. The memorandum is one month old. I will take the House into confidence with regard to the latest details. The imports were to be 20 lakh tons. That makes in all 29.4 lakh tons. Against that we had to allocate to various deficit areas 22 lakh tons. That left a balance with the centre of 7.4 lakh tons of foodstuffs. Since then we have increased the allocation for Madras by 2 lakh tons, so that the total allocations for the provinces are 24 lakh tons, leaving a balance of 5.4 lakh tons with us.

About a month ago we began to receive reports from certain provinces and the official versions as well as other signs also seemed to indicate that we may possibly have difficulties. The position, as then understood was, that while the balance of the 1947 purchases, i.e., 5.4 lakh tons, would of course be there, the internal supplies may be reduced from 4 lakh to 3 lakh tons. For this there were two reasons. One main reason was that Assam which had promised 50 thousand tons was not able to send us anything, and there were some difficulties also with regard to Hyderabad State.

Then with regard to imports I will give you the details.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunara:** May I ask the Honourable Minister whether he has read the speech of the Minister of Civil Supplies for the Province of Bombay delivered by him recently at Surat, in which he has said that if the present situation in respect to prices and other factors continues, controls will have to be reimposed?

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** I know about that and I will deal with that also. With regard to the imports we had arranged and we are getting 7 lakh tons from Australia. For the first quarter of 1948 we will have from America one lakh tons. That makes 8 lakh tons. Then from Burma and Siam for the first half year of 1948 we will have another 4 lakh tons. That makes 12 lakh tons. About a month ago it was felt that out of the 20 lakh tons, these 12 lakh tons were assured, but we were not quite certain as to what would happen with regard to the rest. Since then things have moved. More facts have come to be known to us and the position today as I am speaking is that from Burma and Siam for the second half of the allotment three lakh tons more are to come. This makes 15 lakh tons. And from America as good as certain for the second half of the year will be received 3 lakh tons more. That makes in all 18 lakh tons.

Then may I refer back to those surpluses which we had budgetted as 4 lakh tons but which we thought a month ago might be reduced to 3 lakh tons. When we realised that this might be the state of things and we had to see Madras and possibly West Bengal also through, we took special efforts to improve the response from our own country. I say with pride that our provincial ministries are rising to the occasion and various provinces are putting forth their best efforts and giving us a most promising response. I will give you some details.

I had to use the influence of our own Prime Minister to see that certain provinces which were otherwise not so energetic put forth fresh efforts. I will give you the response that we have got from the provinces. I had to send a senior-most officer of my department to Assam to try to understand Assam's transport difficulty and find out the ways and means how it could be overcome. He contacted the Prime Minister, he contacted the Governor, he contacted the Minister in charge and the officials concerned and as a result of the discussions and the interest taken by those who are in charge of Assam, the situation now is entirely different. We are going to get from Assam 65,000 tons in monthly allocations of 9,000 tons and the first small allotment of 1,000 tons is starting by a roundabout route, while we are trying to negotiate a more direct route. So our internal surplus position with regard to Assam is going to improve by 65,000 tons.

East Punjab was a deficit province according to our plan and we felt that we should have to give something to East Punjab. Things have changed there also, the crops have been better. The position is that during the last few months the East Punjab have informed us that they could easily spare 37,000 tons for us. This is only up to the month of March and they say that they expect to help us hereafter also when the crop position becomes surer.

The U. P. was a deficit province and it was felt that they would require some help from us. We went into the matter more fully and the U. P. Government has responded and it has been possible for them to forego 35,000 tons, which we otherwise were to give them.

Egypt is a country with which we were negotiating for rice in exchange for maize. Egypt has recently entered into an agreement with Russia. That agreement is not on the basis of exchange of cereals but on the basis of exchange of rice for anything else. We are now negotiating with Egypt for the 25,000 tons of rice which we otherwise were to receive as against maize which we were to give them and we hope to get those 25,000 tons without having to give our foodstuffs in exchange. This increases our internal surplus.

Orissa and the Central Provinces are both surplus provinces. I had occasion to contact the premiers and ministers of both provinces and they assured me that larger surpluses than they were able to declare (on the basis of which we had framed our food budget) will be available from their provinces. As I said we had provided for only 4 lakh tons as the internal surplus and that is going to be exceeded. I therefore feel that instead of what we thought about a month ago, namely that our country will be able to raise internally only 3 lakh tons for Madras and other deficit areas, we would now be having 5½ lakh tons. And I have no doubt that as a result of further efforts the supply position in the country in regard to food is going to substantially improve. If this is the position then our originally budgeted figure of 5 lakh tons as central balance will remain.

May I draw the attention of the House to another important factor? We have just concluded, the Wheat Agreement through the International Emergency Food Council. This had not been done a month ago. Under this Wheat Agreement we will get, if we want, 7½ lakh tons of wheat for each of the next five years at very reasonable prices and also proportionately falling prices as time passes. Part of it we can get in the course of this year because the Wheat Agreement begins to apply from 1st August, that is four to five months hence. It means that for the remaining five months of the year we have other new sources to fall back upon and to build up our further supplies for Madras or for our own reserves.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General):** Is this the Australian Agreement?

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** This is a new Agreement. This comes into force from 1st August 1948. The Australian Agreement was made last year.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** That also continues for five years.

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** No. That was for only one year and was made because of emergency; and we entered into a contract only for 7 lakh tons. This is a new source of supply to the country if other internal sources fail us and it is with regard to wheat alone.

With regard to a period agreement for rice I cannot say anything definite now. A Rice Conference is also due to start at Washington on the 5th of April. Whether any arrangement on this matter will be negotiated there or

[Shri Jairamdas Doulatram.]

not it is not possible for me to say at present, gram and pulses in increasing quantities are also available over and above the original food budget.

Then, may I say that so far as our internal supply position is concerned, it is definitely far better than it was a month ago? Much that has been stated in the memorandum prepared a month ago would have to be re-written if we deal with the situation today. I do promise the House that the Food Ministry is not going to sit idle. We are having a Conference of all Premiers of the provinces and Premiers of some of the leading States and the Food Ministers of these areas, probably just before the Constituent Assembly sits. We propose to discuss with them further possibilities of help to all our deficit areas. I have no doubt that with the help of our Prime Minister, who is going to attend that Conference and who has been taking special and active interest in this matter and giving all aid despite so many burdens on his shoulders. We are going successfully to face the situation without dependence on outside help except to the barest minimum limit necessary.

May I say some specifically with regard to Madras. I do want Madras also to share the feeling that we are going to pull ourselves out of the difficulty. I am afraid that the greater the talk of famine and starvation the higher will the prices go, the greater will be the risks of hoarding and the greater will be our trouble—again a self-created and man-created trouble. I do wish that we should maintain our morale, maintain our self-confidence and face the difficult situation with courage, determination and energy. Madras in 1946 had cyclone difficulty in the north; at the same time it had failure of rains in the south; and though it demanded 15 lakh tons from the Centre it was able to tide over the difficulty with 6 lakh tons as help from the Centre. I do not say that this is an indication of the help they will now get. They will get the utmost assistance that is possible from the Centre and I have no doubt that the Provinces which are surplus also will be able to help much more than they can today. We have given to Madras 92,000 tons as its original quota for the present quarter. Over and above this original quota of 92,000 tons we have given to Madras 90,000 tons more for this quarter, just to help it to build up its stocks over and above its local procurement from surplus districts. Our Department is going to take steps from now onwards to divert to Madras such of the stocks as can be available and keep them there so that they may be handy at any time. Madras is going to be one of our reserve centres, and that deliberately, so that we may be able to handle the situation properly. I know that all these stocks may not be needed today. But because I see that the psychological factor is important, that the morale of the agriculturist, the consumer, the seller and the Government official has to be maintained, we want to follow this policy in accordance with a suggestion which was made by a friend from Madras a few days ago.

**Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar:** What is the reserve that is kept in Madras?

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** The exact figure I will be able to give the Honourable Member in due time at a later meeting of members.

May I say a few words now generally? We should not die before we are dead; we need not begin starving before we are starved. All talk of famine and starvation spoils the situation. I have no doubt that the time for starvation will not come if we maintain our morale and if the Provinces and the Centre act energetically in dealing with the situation. I will now, Sir, refer very briefly to . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the Honourable Minister likely to take a long time?

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** I will finish in five minutes, Sir.

**Mr. Speaker:** We must, in any case, adjourn at 1-15. If the Honourable Minister wants more time it can be given at 2-30 because this is a matter of importance to the House; or if he wants to finish now, he may do so.

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** I personally am prepared to discuss with the members of the House whether in the House or in a Committee or in any other way as fully as possible all matters relating to the Departments under my charge. If I may take up some time of the House I will do so; otherwise I will conclude in one minute.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not wish the Honourable Minister to finish his speech in a hurry on such an important matter like this. I was only suggesting an alternative. Either we sit longer now if he wants to continue his speech and we may re-assemble a little later, say, at 2-45; or if we adjourn now we may give him sometime, fifteen minutes or so, when the House re-assembles.

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** I regret, Sir, that I have fixed at 3 o'clock a meeting in connection with the development of agriculture in Delhi.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then the Honourable Minister may take his time now, and if he takes a much longer time we will adjust the time for re-assembling.

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** I will read out to you in just three or four minutes a few interesting figures which might explain to the House the difficulties with regard to the grow more food campaign. I am at one with the House that we have not made much progress with the grow more food campaign. I am at one with the House that many of the suggestions which they have made are worth being considered and implemented. But there are certain experiences which might be put before the House. We had, for instance, for the year 1947-48 a target of 9 lakh acres extra to be put under the plough. We planned a variety of methods: firstly minor irrigation works which meant wells, surface wells, tube wells, pumping plants etc. For these and for implements we asked the department concerned for only 3 lakh tons of steel and iron for agriculture generally. But all the Provinces of India could get only 2 lakh tons instead of 3 lakh tons—and not for agriculture only but for all uses. So that, when we started the grow more food campaign, we found that though for that campaign we had budgeted for 50,000 tons of steel and iron for all these implements, wells, and pipes, etc., we got only 4,500 tons which is one-seventh of the quantity on the basis of which the plans were made. Take again fertilisers. For 1947-48 we budgeted for 3 lakh tons for the country. But the International Council—which still governs the distribution—allocated only 50 per cent. of our demand to us. With regard to actual receipts they were even half of this. So that, the grow more food campaigns dependent on steel, iron and fertilisers had to face these difficulties.

Coming to technical staff, we wanted for the drilling machines which drill tube wells, five drilling engineers; we secured only one. We wanted thirty subordinate drilling staff. We secured 30 men from the ex-Army trained staff but after partition most of them went to Pakistan. Today we are hardly with any subordinate drilling staff. We wanted from America 29 rigs for drilling wells; we got only eight. We budgeted for 6,000 feet of pipes for these wells; we could not get any because the factory in Lahore was included into Pakistan. Today we are applying to the Indian Hume Pipe Company for these pipes. These are illustrations of the difficulties of not only 'Grow More Food' campaign but our planning for agriculture. Probably by the end of this month

[Shri Jairamdas Doulatram.]

we will have reclaimed 10,500 acres in the U.P., but they have no facilities for carrying on further agricultural operations. They have come to the Centre for help with regard to the preliminary cultivation of the land and we are going to do the best we can. We have a plan for reclaiming about 20 or 25 lakhs of acres of wooded land in Central India, and other parts of India where weeds grow and the land gives only 2 maunds per acre instead of 8. We have plans for reclaiming about 25 lakhs of acres which are not weeded but are otherwise lying waste. Now for these 45 lakhs to be reclaimed, we require oil, tractors, technically qualified staff. If we plan on a long range, possibly all these needs will be there for some time, but our immediate needs are not satisfied. It may be that if we so plan our programme that we depend entirely on mechanical cultivation, tractors and oil and such things, we may find that as in the case of the 'Grow More Food' Campaign 1948, at the end of the year or at the end of the period we fix we have not progressed as much as we should have done. I discussed with the Premier of Madras his plans for agricultural development and rejecting the bigger plans he proposed that if the Centre could give them Rs. 3 crores a year, he would insure Madras against famine permanently. Hundreds of years ago our ancestors who ruled that part of the country had built up tanks which stored water for irrigation. The population grew. The need of more land to maintain that population increased. More area began to be cultivated from that limited source of supply and the tank could not retain water for 3 to 4 years as it used to do formerly. Whatever water was there began to be consumed in a shorter period of time. He says 'I do not want iron and steel, I do not want tractors and diesel oil. I want money. My people are here; they are without food because they received no share of grain. This because there was no grain; and that because there was no rain. So they have neither grain nor cash; if prices rise, they have nothing to depend upon'. His plan is that the Centre should give Madras Rs. 3 crores a year. Within 5 years of this, 26 thousand tanks will have been enlarged by the labour of human hands and made famines a rarity in Madras.

**Mr. B. K. Sivas:** Are they permanent cement tanks?

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** No, earthenware tanks which have stood the test of all these hundreds of years. I am considering this plan; and I have asked for details. I have suggested to the Foodgrains Policy Committee that 'in the second part of your labours which deal with the question of making India self-sufficient, of making India produce as much as she needs, you must give us plans which are practicable. We may have mechanical reclamation to the extent that is absolutely necessary, but we must depend upon our other resources for agricultural development and build up plans which we can implement within a reasonable measure of time. I cannot say today what those plans will be. On that committee are men who have handled big undertakings. There are men who understand agriculture because they are also agriculturists. On that committee there are also others who have studied these matters for a number of years, and besides there are those who represent various schools of economic thought. I do expect that within a reasonable time that committee will give us something which we can implement and carry out. That report will be before the Assembly and before the public and all those who are interested in the subject; but I do suggest that unless the Centre has more powers, unless the Centre, subject to correct handling of funds, subject to correct handling of the plans, is helped to put and carry out the recommendation of that Committee, I do not think we will be able to deal with the country's food problem satisfactorily. I hope that if

I have not covered all the points that had to be covered, other opportunities will be available when I will explain to the members of the House in another place all that is being done and discuss all that has yet to be done by my departments.

**Mr. B. K. Sidhva:** May I know whether the recent rain has improved the kharif crop?

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** I received a telegram some time ago from the Madras Food Minister that the rains in January have somewhat improved the prospects of crops in Madras. I cannot today estimate to what extent. These are matters which will be known I suppose in due time, but I do not want simply to build on that. I am building on our arrangements to meet any contingencies.

श्री० राम सहाय : क्या मिनिस्टर साहब को यह इल्म है कि ट्रान्स्पॉर्ट की दिक्कत की वजह से मद्रास को अनाज नहीं पहुँच सकता है

**Shri Ram Sahai (Gwalior State):** Is the Honourable Minister aware of the fact that due to transport difficulties foodgrains cannot reach Madras?

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** With regard to the transport difficulties, anticipating that between May and October there will be greater need of movement of food towards Madras and so more transport facilities must be already provided for, the Transport Minister is going into the question fully. Our two departments are discussing these details, and already, a rough outline of what we have to do from May to October is being blue-printed. I do hope that there will be no serious difficulty, because all details are being worked out.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think I need not put the demands just now, but will adjourn the House for lunch recess to reassemble at 2-45 instead of at 2-30.

*The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter to Three of the Clock.*

*[The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter to Three of the Clock. Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.]*

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** Sir, before you put the Demand to the vote, may I ask the Food Minister, who said that the Memorandum on Food Policy was out of date, why he allowed such a Memorandum to be circulated without a note being attached to it showing the present position?

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** The Memorandum was drafted and finished about a month ago; no new instructions were issued, the instructions were one month old.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** Why was it allowed to be circulated by the Honourable Minister without seeing that a note was attached to it showing the present position?

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** I see that it was circulated probably yesterday; I thought it had been done a month ago. As I said the Memorandum dealt with matters one month old.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** It was circulated three days ago.

**Mr. Speaker:** He did not know it, he thought that it was circulated a month ago.

**Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru:** Was it circulated without his permission?

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** I did not say "without my permission". I say it is an out-dated, one month old matter.

**Shri B. Das:** That shows how the Department works!

**Mr. Speaker:** I will now put the Demands to the vote of the House.

The question is.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,42,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Ministry of Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 32,81,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Ministry of Food'."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Speaker:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,04,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Forest'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 20—MINISTRY OF FINANCE

**Shri K. Santhanam (Madras: General):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, throughout this Budget Session I have taken up the thankless task of pleading for economy. I would myself have preferred to have been able to urge expansion, more expansion and even reckless expansion in all Departments. But, Sir, our country is just recovering from its war-shattered economy. When a person is just out of his sickbed, no well-wisher will suggest to him that he should go about horse-riding or mountain climbing; we must have our economic health well restored before we go about for very rapid expansion.

But I wish to tell the House that I am not interested in mere reduction of expenditure. My conception of economy is quite different. By economy I mean maximum public work for minimum expenditure, and the rate of increase in public work should be greater than the rate of increase in expenditure. I am afraid, Sir, that today we are getting minimum work for maximum expenditure and that the rate of increase of work therefore is less than the rate of increase of expenditure. Any programme of expenditure at the present stage means that for every rupee we get only eight annas worth, and therefore expansion on the present level will mean a great and increasing loss to this country.

Therefore, the first aim of our policy should be the restoration of the pre-war level of efficiency, and then to plan our expansion so that there will be progressive increase in that level of efficiency. It is for that purpose that I am anxious there should be economy in present expenditure.

Sir, my friend Mr. Mohanlal Saksena pointed out the vast expansion that has occurred in the Secretariat. I have got some more figures compiled. The old Executive Council had only one officer, the present Cabinet has eight. The old Ministry of Home Affairs had 56 and the present Home Ministry has 65—that is one of the few Ministries which has had the least expansion and consequently done the greatest work. The old Department of Health, Education and Lands had only 16 officers and now we have the Ministry of Education with 61 officers, the Ministry of Agriculture 94, and the Ministry of Health 17 officers.

**Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar:** All Provincial subjects.

**Shri K. Santhanam:** Yes, but now they have become Central subjects.

The Ministry of Finance had 43 officers including those of the Central Board of Revenue and now there are 246 officers in this Department. The Ministry of Commerce has increased from 11 officers to 95 officers and the Ministry of Labour from 12 to 58.



Sir there may be many justifications for this expansion—I am not here to say that all this expansion is wrong or is a mere waste. But I have not the least doubt that a large part of this expansion is waste, that where one officer was there to do the work in 1938, there are three or four people doing the same work today. There is almost a jam of officers in the Secretariat, and as it usually happens this jam is preventing people from doing work rather than facilitating it. It is for this purpose that the Finance Minister appointed an Economy Committee. I want to know why the Committee has not begun its work. I have nothing to say on personal matters and so far as I know the Chairman is an able industrialist and a capable man; but obviously this economy in the Central Government is not the first charge on his time or interests—it is almost like a very minor wife in a big harem! I think this economy job should have been given to one who would have forsaken every other private interest and considered this as his sole and primary duty till it was finished. I suggest that hereafter when any Committee is appointed they should take a formal pledge that they will forget their private work and do the public work first. If any person is not ready to do this, however efficient he may be, however capable he may be, we should discard him. We should learn to subordinate our private work for public work. The way in which people subordinate public work to private work is something shameful in this country and we ought to set up a better tradition.

And then, that we should enforce economy in the present state of affairs is one thing. But that is not enough. There should be a continuous prevention of waste and economy should be exercised from the beginning. In economy also, the proverb "Prevention is better than cure" is eminently applicable. Now, what are the measures that we should take to ensure economy all along the line and from the very beginning? Sir, the Finance Department is considered to be the guardian and the watchdog of all the country's finances. I do not know how the transfer of power has affected the position of the Finance Department in the Government of India. I do not know whether it is contended that the Finance Department should relax its scrutiny over the other Departments or that it should be taken for granted when a responsible Minister sanctions any expenditure that that expenditure ought to be sanctioned automatically by the Finance Department. If that is the tradition set up, I would strongly protest against that tradition. The Finance Department should be able to scrutinise and should be able to put down its foot and say: "This is a wasteful expenditure. We cannot allow it." I do not suggest that the Finance Department should be a clog or a bar to progress by putting down its foot on really constructive and productive expenditure. It should have a wide and national outlook in all these matters. But when it comes to heavy or indiscriminate demand of staff or officers, it should say "This is too much. We cannot allow it."

For all these purposes there are Finance Officers in all Departments. There are some in the Postal Department, in the Commerce Department, in the Industries Department and in all the other Departments. I would like to know what exactly is the relation of the Finance Department to these Finance Officers. What is the work they do? I think there are two checks open to the Finance Minister. One is these Finance Officers in the Departments. The second is the Standing Committees of this House which we have set up for each Department. If the Finance Minister will only depend less on these Finance Officers and utilise the Standing Committees more, he will find in it a valuable check on the extravagance of every Department. Therefore, I suggest that he should adopt some such procedure as the following before every Budget. When once the first estimates come, the Finance Department should scrutinise them and send them on with remarks or instructions, the whole thing—the Budget as well as the remarks—to be placed before the Standing Committee of each Department. The Standing Committee should have plenty

[Shri K. Santhanam.]

of time to scrutinise each item of the proposed expenditure or increase in expenditure together with the remarks of the Finance Department. It is only when they have this full information that they will be able to sanction the expenditure. When the Standing Committee has sanctioned it, then it should come back to the Finance Department and it should go before the General Estimates Committee or the Finance Committee whatever you name it. If this procedure is adopted, I am sure that every Department will think twice or thrice before they put forward any demand before, first, the Finance Department and then before their own Standing Committee and when the sanction comes finally, they will know that only such expenditure as is necessary in the combined judgment of both the Finance Department and the representatives of this House will be sanctioned.

Sir, at present I am not satisfied with the composition of the Finance Committee. It has got a two-fold function, or rather, it ought to have a two-fold function. Now, it is supposed to look after the entire finances of the country, but there is no Committee to look into the finances of the Finance Department itself. The Finance Department has got not only its own Ministry but it has got the Income-Tax, it has got the Excise; it has got the Customs, all of them very big Departments spending crores and crores of rupees. There should be

a separate Standing Finance Committee for the Department of Finance and then we should have a Coordination Committee which, I suggest, should consist of representatives of every Standing Committee of each Department and should constitute something like an Estimates Committee. The function of this Estimates Committee should be not to go into particular items, which may be looked into by the Standing Committees, but to take an over-all picture and see if there is a demand for Rs. 50 crores what the Finance Department can afford, and if it can afford only Rs. 25 crores, how and in what Departments temporary cuts should be made, so that the country's general economy may be managed to the best advantage possible.

Sir, it is through these means, both from above and from below, that proper economy can be enforced. And if out of the present expenditure of Railways, Defence and other Central Departments which is of the order of nearly Rs. 450 or 500 crores, even about a fourth—which I think is quite a practical limit—can be economised then the whole country will have for its future expansion a recurring income of Rs. 100 crores, which will mean a great deal. Therefore, I suggest that in the year to come there should be a big drive, a nation-wide drive, for economy in all respects in all Departments and in all offices, and with this economy there should be also some proper estimate of the efficiency of each Department. Sir, in one of my weekly articles, I have suggested that there should be a time-audit of each Department. Time today is as valuable as money and if we should have a day in railway wagon movement saved, that means so much more goods taken. Similarly, if telegrams can be despatched within five minutes of their handing over at the Telegraph Office and if every other thing can be speeded up, the actual estimated value in terms of money will run into crores and crores of rupees. In all respects, there should be economy; there should be efficiency; there should be speed. I hope the House will consider all possible steps and decide at the end of the session after we have done with this Budget what procedure we should adopt to enforce economy in all respects and through these means exercise proper democratic control over this expenditure.

With these words, Sir, I commend my remarks to the attention of the House and the Honourable the Finance Minister.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I did not want to follow my friend Mr. Santhanam so soon lest my words shall fall flat on the House. He

has said most of the things which I wanted to say. Regarding the Department, I want that the Finance Department should exercise greater control over the expenditure. I find that there is a tendency on the part of some Departments or Ministers to go over the head of the Finance Department and the Standing Finance Committee. If that is the way in which allotments are sought to be made, that will greatly imperil the Administration and the check that the Finance Department can exercise over the expenditure. I hope the Ministers themselves will not put forward such claims and the Finance Department would not yield to such pressure. Above all, the Finance Minister can rest assured that whatever reasonable proposals he entertains, whatever reasonable decisions he takes in the economy of the country, in all those he will have the certain backing of this House, for after all he has to find the money for all the demands and therefore it is his ultimate responsibility which he cannot shirk. He need have absolutely no fear in that direction. The Standing Finance Committee is there. I only want that he should take the Committee more into his confidence and entrust them with the scrutiny of each item, so that when the proposals come up before the House it is not only the Finance Minister who has to stand up by the proposals but every one of the members of the Standing Committee who were a party to them who will have to stand up and support each item when it comes. Next, Sir, the Honourable Finance Minister said that he would bring a proposal here for enlarging the scope of the Standing Finance Committee. I would welcome the suggestion of my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam who said that the composition of the Standing Finance Committee may be altered this way. A member of each of the Standing Committees may be elected to the Standing Finance Committee, so that whatever decisions are taken there, may come out of first hand knowledge and the member can come and report to the Standing Finance Committee about the views and attitudes of his Standing Committee. He can convert others and he can also be converted. That is a matter which can be explored.

Then, Sir, the Public Accounts Committee has not been reconstituted. It is a statutory Committee; the last election took place a number of years ago and once in three years election has to take place. I am sure, the Honourable the Finance Minister will soon bring in a new Public Accounts Committee into existence.

I am sorry to say, Sir, and I agree with Mr. Santhanam that in the matter of appointing any Committee the Finance Minister or any other Minister ought not to yield to temptation and though it is a matter of patronage for him somehow there is a feeling in me that the choice of the members of the Economy Committee is not quite in the interests of the country. Persons who may not have the requisite time and according to me have not the inside knowledge of the administration are not the proper persons, whatever their capacities may be. In another place it was said: Is not a merchant fit to enter into this? A gold merchant is not useful to decide what the price of sheepskins ought to be. Therefore, however, great a man might be, I do not think it is competent for him and there is no good in calling the example of the President of the Incheape Committee. Our situation is different. I have been in this House for the last 13 years, but still what is the knowledge that I have gathered through opportunities here and there, but those opportunities are denied to those who will be elsewhere. Therefore a different method ought to be adopted in the matter of choice of members to sit in Committees and they must go into the matter of an all round economy wholeheartedly. Before the Committee was constituted, adequate terms of reference must have been placed before the Standing Finance Committee for its approval.

There has been of late a tendency on the part of institutions to ask for charity from the Central Government. If a man is a scientist he approaches

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]  
 the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and if he is an agriculturist he goes to the Council of Agricultural Research and allied Research Organisations for grants for all kinds of researches, but not one single research is found useful. We are yet to see all these researches and all these people have taken away crores and crores of money. If the Joint Secretary refuses to sanction, he goes to the Additional Secretary; if he refuses to sanction, then he goes to the Chief Secretary; if he refuses to sanction he catches hold of some one or other of us who are members in the Standing Finance Committee. Ultimately, there is the Finance Minister. I would ask and urge upon the Finance Minister to see to it, to whatever influences we may be liable, he must be above all influences. Let us assume that a grant of 50 lakhs of rupees is demanded for a university. The Finance Minister must stand as a rock and say: "Unless I send my auditor or my accountant to look into your accounts and satisfy myself that you have really incurred a deficit or expended money properly, I am not going to give one pie of the public money." The Honourable the Finance Minister is sufficiently rich and he can give a lakh of rupees by way of donation, but let him not waste public money. I fear he has not sufficient strength or courage to say he will not give. I want him to satisfy himself with respect to the administration reports of various Bodies—all the letters from A to Z have been exhausted in bringing into existence the various institutions of Research—there is the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and then there is the Scientific and Industrial Research etc. I do not know what other researches there are and they are spread all over the continent of India. I am not opposed to research, but research is not trying to get oil from sand. If a man tries to find out if there is really oil from Til or oil underground I think something of that kind may be done. A man starts on a mustard research and after seven years in that research is sent away to potato research; there is such a difference between the two researches as between a mosquito and an elephant. These are the various researches of which the Honourable Minister of Agriculture is so proud. For twenty long years there has been no research made and nothing useful done. I wish that the Honourable the Finance Minister and the Standing Finance Committee exercise sufficient financial control over such researches.

I do not want to spend more time over giving instructions as to what the Finance Minister should do. I am also a member of the Standing Finance Committee. When it meets he and I will measure our strength. If he yields, I will try to protest and if he does not yield I hope the members will stand by him.

Now, let me come to the sterling balances with respect to which I wanted to raise a debate today. I am sorry, Sir, the Honourable the Finance Minister has let down this country. I do not think he wanted to, but whenever he starts he has got too much softness for our friends on the other side of the Atlantic, on the other side of the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea and so on and so forth. He is more fond of his white brethren than of us of darker skins. Our one largest investment in the world is of the tune of 1,160 million pounds. That amount is in the form of sterling; it is all locked up in the United Kingdom. We know we are a free country and we won't stand before the United Kingdom with outstretched hands. What did we get last year? 35 million pounds. This year 10 million pounds. The 10 million pounds alone are to be convertible: Out of our sterling balances that are due to us 13 million pounds will be released this year and out of this 10 million pounds can be converted into any other currency. 9 millions plus 10 millions or 18 millions can be freely utilised in the sterling area countries. Now let us see. The agreement has been entered up to 30th of June. Thereafter let me not go into that. Now as regards the 10 millions this is made up as follows.

From the last years 35 millions some six or seven millions would have been the unspent portion and this year to make up the 10 millions, all the balances that are in other banks in foreign currency (which comes to 1 million) that is also taken into account. Then 2 millions is the balance of the Dollar Pool and that also is taken into account. So 7 plus 2 plus 1 is equal to 10 million pounds. What is it that Sir Jeremy Raisman gave to my friend the Honourable the Finance Minister. There is a proverb Panchapandavas are five; a man showed four fingers, drew 3, then corrected it into 2 and then showed it as a 0. What are these 10 millions? That is the present situation. I am sorry to have accused Mr. Narhari Rao, the other day. What can the poor man do. I was mistaken. He does not seem to be responsible. The Minister seems to have been indifferent in this matter, or at any rate, a little weak in this matter. Don't you know that Sir Stafford Cripps is going about setting the Thames on fire and the Atlantic Ocean on fire saying; "We are having a crisis almost everyday in our life". What is that crisis? Their crisis is that they have been accustomed to eat five times a day with all the meat, eggs, bacon, cheese and milk grown anywhere or produced anywhere in the continent under the Sun. They were enjoying a favourable trade balance figures and now the cry of Cripps is to make out a favourable budget and my Honourable friend the Finance Minister is here to help him, to resuscitate him on putting him on his legs. When Mahatma Gandhi went to England he was asked by the Lancashire millowners how being a humanitarian he could advocate the boycott of British goods, because the poor mill workers would suffer. In answer he contrasted the position of our poor men with theirs. He said, "You have got tea, you have got milk, only you are crying for a little more sugar. Our people do not have even some rice gruel, and they are dying for a pinch of salt." That is our position and that is their position. They want to put themselves once again into the same standard of living as they had before the war. Are we to subscribe to that? And should our Finance Minister go on weeping and wailing every day for these brothers in the west? I am really sorry that he has yielded too much to the impertunate eloquence of Sir Jeremy Raisman. But let us not weep for what has been spilt; the time has now come to settle it finally. £1,160 millions is due to us under the Reserve Bank of India Act we have to keep 40 per cent of our reserves in their currency. The Bank has not more than 40 million. Why should we have sterling currency after the establishment of the International monetary Fund? We should not have our reserves blocked up or centred in any one currency; our reserves must be in several currencies. We have to purchase things and so we want U.S. dollars and also sterling. As regards the rest where are we today? I am opposed to pensions being commuted. Every year the pension charge may come to 5 or 6 million. Let us pay from our balance of trade. There seems to be a move that the pensions must all be commuted and once for all 150 million should be given away to them. I am not in favour of that.

My suggestion is that we should take away all their coalfields, jute industries, their paper mills, in India and all these other things owned by Europeans in India.

**Shri Ramnath Goenka** (Madras: General): They do not own them; they are only managing agents.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: Then send them away; they have managed long enough. The coalfields are owned by them. Already the Coalfields Committee has said that we must nationalise all coal mines. The coal mines are with them, the tea estates are with them, the jute mills are with them, the paper mills are with them. You can follow the precedent of Argentina. Argentina purchased away many of the assets belonging to English nationals in their country. That is a fruitful source; it may be about 500 crores or so. My suggestion is that we are hard up for hard currencies. Our

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

balance of trade is no doubt very negligible on account of our heavy purchases of foodgrains. That is why for some years until we make ourselves fully self-sufficient we will have an adverse balance of trade, more so when we want to purchase capital goods from America. Where shall we find the dollars? They are not prepared to give us and we do not have a favourable balance of trade. When the British Government is not able to give us dollars from America let them guarantee a loan by us from the United Kingdom and pay interest of 10 or 15 million every year. It is easy for them to do that. Unfortunately in this country neither the Finance Ministry, nor the public nor even the host of journalists who make much of a small aeroplane crash in Argentina worry about these sterling balances. Why do you not cry about that? If the British Government does not pay we will not look at them. We are today the second largest importers from the United Kingdom; we get 8.1 per cent of the exports of the United Kingdom, and so they can ill afford to lose us. Let us tell them that they must either negotiate with us on our terms or get away. It is not as if they have not got the money; they have all the wealth of the South African gold mines, and they have not yet disclosed what gold they have. If they produce in the market even one ounce of gold some British economist cries out that all their resources are being sold away. They raise a huge cry but we are not prepared even to cry when we are so low. During the war the health and wealth of the English people improved, but in our country where there was no war five million men died in Bengal. What is it that we are doing? Therefore we must insist on the British Government guaranteeing a loan on a Governmental basis with the U.S.A. and giving us dollars. If they cannot give us dollars straightaway let it be spread over 10 years and pay the principal and interest in instalments; otherwise we will not treat with them. We can easily say that because they cannot afford to lose this market.

Then, Sir, they have got a number of ships along our coast and also aviation lines. Let us have an interest in coastal shipping and in aviation. Why should we not arrange that? We are not going to ply our ships along the coast of England; that will be quite useless. But so far as our coastal shipping is concerned, when British concerns are plying their ships in our coast let us take a dominant interest in them.

These are the ways in which we can negotiate these loans. I want to in press on the Finance Minister that he should not go alone; let him take strong people with him. After all this is an extraordinary affair. They owe us 1160 millions and they owe various other countries. They have settled with Egypt which got something and then went out of the sterling bloc. Let us also decide this early and not spread it over 50 or 60 years. We should decide it as early as possible; and let there be a bare 200 or 250 millions which are necessary for our export trade and for our normal needs. Let us not have anything more to do with them.

Another point is this. I want to know what has become of the dollar pool. I gather it has taken wings and vanished into the sky. We had 140 million, we were told recently it has come down to 8 or 10 million and then it was 2 million and now we are told by my Honourable friend and journalist Mr. Sarthanam that it has all dried up. Sir, it is a scandalous thing. Let us not be absolutely self-complacent and feel that we have done everything. On the other side also let not these people think they can deceive us; they must know they have strained every drop of blood in our country and made our country impoverished. They purchased our articles at enormously low prices. After 1949 when prices around mounted up by 200 and 300 per cent they paid only 25 per cent more than the pre-war prices. It is not just 1160 million; if we calculate it properly, they would have owed us if they paid the proper market prices not that amount but over 4,000 millions. And now we are starving

They embarked upon a trick. Before the war they took away a sovereign for Rs. 22 when its market price was Rs. 15. And thus they took away 300 crores worth of gold from our country which they said we had hoarded. And what did we hoard them in? Small trinkets and other things worn by our women. But all the gold in the world is in America today buried in the earth between two walls. And likewise in the United Kingdom. These people have a propaganda machine saying that we have all the ornaments and we are old aborigines and they civilised us and buried our gold in the ground. Sir, so far as that is concerned, I shall ask for an account of all the dollars that we acquired during the war to the last pie.

Then I say that the time has come for us to get out of the sterling area. Let the Honourable Minister make up his mind about that; there is nothing to be gained there. If we sell something to England they are bound to pay us and it is bound to be convertible multilaterally. If they are not able to pay, why stick to a horse which has got lame? That is not going to help us; it is not going to supply us the capital goods or machinery. It is itself sinking and there is no use trying to get hold of a sinking ship. It is like one blind man leading another; or, as the *shloka* says, one who is not learned in the Vedas trying to lead another man to *Parabrahma*. Likewise there is no good trying to become satellites round and round the United Kingdom.

Sir, I have said enough. I only wanted to give sufficient courage to my Honourable friend the Finance Minister. He is going to bargain about this huge sterling balance and let him not think that this is not proper for his Government. It is the property of the teeming millions who have suffered during the war. While the population of India was put on a 6 ounce unit ration the unit of ration in England went on improving. (*An Honourable Member*: "Not in England"). If not in England, in the rest of the world. In these circumstances, it should be remembered that the balances we have built up is the balance built out of blood of the toiling millions of this poor country. That is how they have looted this country.

Let the Honourable the Finance Minister, therefore, have the courage to say that what England owes us is not 1,500 millions, but 4,000 millions. Let him tell them that if they begin to bargain we will for ever shut our eyes against them; we will not have any of their imports. You go about saying that you are the premier nation of the world; if you cannot afford to repay us say so. Let him, therefore, not be weak. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Let us therefore wait for a couple of months and see how he is going to manage this affair. Sir, this is all I have to say.

**Shri B. Das:** Sir, I endorse the remarks of my Honourable Friends, Shri Santhanam and Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar about economy in the public finances of India. On future occasion during the debates on the Finance Bill, I will have an occasion to speak on the need for economy in expenditure. Today I shall confine my remarks to the sterling balances. Sir, it is very alarming to me that on the eve of England declaring bankruptcy and almost on the verge of declaring a moratorium, the signs are very clear that India is not alert. My Honourable Friend the Finance Minister laughs when I say that England would declare a moratorium. He and I were here in this House in 1930 or so when Germany declared moratorium and we know what a loss it meant to the countries of the world. If England cannot afford to pay the whole of the debt to India she can certainly be honest in her dealings. The actual debt that England owes us is not £1,000 millions, which the stooges and henchmen of British imperialism fixed, but it is £4,000 as was rightly pointed out by my Honourable Friend, Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

Sir, the other day I read an obviously inspired message in the Indian press that our Finance Minister is going to visit England in May for a permanent settlement of the sterling balances.

[Shri B. Das]

[At this stage, Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Hossain Imam (one of the Panel of Chairmen).]

I do not want my Finance Minister to go to England. I want Sir Stafford Cripps to creep into India. Let it be settled here. I came across an inspired Reuters message that England will pay £15, millions annually for a period of 25 years. That is the typical British approach to the huge debt. The £1,000 million was the amount fixed by the colonial stooges in India with their masters in England. The people of India and we the representatives of the nation are no party to that settlement and I do hope that the Finance Minister will appreciate the feeling on this matter both in this House and in the country at large. I would therefore suggest to the Honourable the Finance Minister to fix a meeting of this House *in camera* when this whole question can be thrashed out threadbare. If after a discussion, we feel that no useful purpose would be served by his going to the U.K. let us go to the Hague Tribunal. I have no faith in the U.N.O.; it has failed miserably. Let us, therefore, go to the Hague Tribunal and let that body decide what England actually owes us, because the allocation of military expenditure put America and the U. K. in a considerably advantageous position during the second War. Of course, we have benefited to some extent by the settlement relating to the American disposals. If the Hague Tribunal were to decide that we are entitled to only £1,000 million, then this House will endorse it. As my Honourable friend, Shri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar pointed out the purchases which led to the accumulation of sterling balances were made at pre-war prices. But what happened? While the cost of living index number went up by hardly 46 points in U. K. and about 96 points in the U.S.A., in India it rose up by 200 points. According to the British Government calculations about 50 lakhs of people died in Bengal, while according to the *Times of India* one million died every week; so many millions must have died. India faced famine, starvation and death, supplied U. K. and U.S.A. war materials and foodstuff at cost and not only prices got inflated but our currency got inflated too. Sir, I do hope the Finance Minister of the Free India Cabinet will have the courage to demand the revision of the military allocations of those fateful years, and to see that India has not paid more money than was India's share. India should not have paid anything because we were slaves and our masters were ruling. England had gone on saddling on India the cost of the Chinese wars, the cost of the Afghan wars, the cost of the acquisition of Burma, the cost of the conquest of Arabia, including the cost of Aden and even part of the Egyptian wars. England put nearly 40 to 50 per cent more of the war expenses on us than should rightly have been borne by India. There was no spokesman for India. Congressmen went to jail and Congressmen left this House and Congress Ministers in the Provinces went into wilderness. That was very unfortunate. They brought into operation section 126A of the Government of India Act and bled India white by it. If England declares a moratorium and becomes a fifth-rate power in Europe, as everyone supposes England to be, let it be so. But let the world know that England cannot have its own way and talk of paying India 15 millions a year for 25 years and liquidate her vast debts to India.

I would like my Honourable friend, the Finance Minister to give us a word of encouragement. Let us know if India has gained anything by attending the Bretton-Woods Conference or becoming a shareholder in that International Monetary bank. In the conference which he attended in 1944, he could not bring one point in favour of India *vis.* to gain certain monetary facilities against the war expenditure and war advances of India on U. K. But he could not get that conceded in the year 1945-46 and even America has forgotten her obligations to India. Today America possesses the greatest hunger



for power politics in the world. It wants to fight every one. It may keep England as a stooge or a hanger-on, but that is of no concern to me. But I do not want to see my Finance Minister or the delegates of the free India Cabinet going to England to negotiate an agreement. To what shall we agree? We must just decide first what money England owes to India and find out whether she has the capacity to pay. If we have to lose, let us fight it out and let us lose bravely. But let us know the amount that England owes to India and not say that out of the 1,000 millions 10 millions have been conceded this year. I have no faith in British promises. Britain has never fulfilled any of its promises unless it is to acquire more power. England had exploited us and had bled India white. But I do not want England to pretend that the U. K. is behaving like a gentleman and is trying to deal fairly and squarely with India.

**Shri H. V. Kamath** (C. P. and Berar: General): Perfidious Albion!

**Shri B. Das:** The United Kingdom is certainly perfidious! But she is also treacherous! Think of her doings in Pakistan and Hyderabad! I do hope the Finance Minister will take us into his confidence. If he does not want to do so now but only when the House sits *in camera*, the House will welcome such an occasion. But India's honour should not be sacrificed at British discretion for the paltry £1,000 millions.

**Pandit Thakar Das Bhargava** (East Punjab: General): After having heard the eloquent words that fell from Mr. Santhanam, Mr. Ayyangar and Mr. B. Das when they were talking of large economies and of the dollar pool of the 1,150 millions of sterling balances, I beg to bring the House to the humdrum realities of taxation routine and the taxation system of our poor India.

Sir, I wish to speak about a matter today, of which I have been speaking in this House for a very very long time. In the years 1928, 1929 and 1930, when the Honourable the Finance Minister adorned these benches from which I am speaking, we had discussions in the House about the taxation system in respect of the undivided Hindu family and I again have to repeat the very same arguments which I submitted then, as the arguments are so plain and unambiguous that they cannot be changed. The Honourable Finance Minister of that time had to acknowledge that the taxation system in regard to the Hindu joint family was intrinsically bad. He admitted it but he had not the courage to rectify it. But I will just quote before the House his words in which he submitted to the House that "there were frequent cases of injustice in regard to the Hindu joint family" so far as the incidence of taxation was concerned. But then he and other Finance Members always took the plea that at the time of the Finance Bill such a matter could not be gone into. In the time of Sir Archibald Rowlands, the question rose again and he also admitted the same thing. But again he said that this was not the proper opportunity. It was proposed to us that some taxation enquiry committee would be appointed and in course of time the Committee will go into the question and put the matter right, but no committee has so far been appointed and I do not know when it will be appointed.

To-day I do not expect the same reply from our present Finance Minister. I hope he will see the justice of the claim and will rectify it. Now, Sir, the proposition is very simple. On the face of it, it appears as if I was claiming some concession or privilege for the undivided Hindu family from the Honourable the Finance Minister. Nothing of the kind. I do not want any discrimination for the undivided Hindu family. I want that every Hindu should be taxed in the same manner as a Muhammadan, a Christian, as a member of any other faith and according to the law of the land.

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

My humble submission is that as a matter of fact, the undivided Hindu family has been discriminated against in this matter from the year 1860. I have been trying to find from the books in the library as to what the reason was that the undivided Hindu family was treated as a person. When you look at the definition of the word "person" in the Income-Tax Act, you will find that a person included an undivided Hindu family. I want to know why one of the first axioms of Euclid—that a collection of things is greater than its components—the whole is greater than the part has not been adhered to in practice in law! After all, a family must consist of individuals and how is it that a collection of individuals has been so to speak made equal to one individual? Sir, I have not been able to find the reason. I went through the Taxation Enquiry Committee report of 1928-24 and I found that when the Government wanted that the Hindu undivided family should pay a tax, which according to legal theory, it could not realise from it, it changed the entire law and held that for purposes of taking taxes from the Hindu undivided family it should be regarded as a divided family. I would refer to paragraphs 878 and 874 of the Taxation Enquiry Committee report, where the relevant statements I have referred to will be found. I do not want to read these portions to the House as I have done it many times before and such reading will take away some of my time. When the taxation department want that they should gather tax from the Hindu undivided family they accept one theory but when we pray that the undivided Hindu family should be treated with ordinary fairness they trump out other theories.

Take the Estate duties Bill which has been introduced and reintroduced in the House. A perusal of clauses 5, 6 and 12 would show that this Bill enunciates that for certain purposes, for gathering taxes from a Hindu undivided family, the family is treated as a divided family. If you go into the theory of Hindu law death does not make any difference in the status of a Hindu undivided family. It is partition alone which creates separation. Therefore on the occasion of death no duty can be collected. But the taxation department did want to collect taxes and therefore they treated as though the Hindu joint family did not exist as such. If you go into the merits of the question you will be pleased to see that there is no difference between a Hindu undivided family and a Muslim family so far as earning capacity is concerned or liability to taxation is concerned. I can understand joint trading partnerships, as being fit for taxation which are dealt with in Gour's book in Chapter 9. For certain characteristics if they are treated for purposes of taxation as partnerships, I have no objection. It so happens that the Brahmins and the Chamars form the biggest majority among the Hindus. The Brahmins are not a trading class, nor are the Chamars. Therefore I submit it is not the question of a Hindu undivided family being a trading concern or not which is the real basis. Hindus to whatever profession or whatever caste they belong are treated as Hindu undivided family. The taxable limit is ostensibly Rs. 2,500 today. It was changed from 2,000 to 2,500 only last year. If the family consists of a father and three sons, if the entire family earns 2,500, it is subject to taxation. If the father earns 1,000 and the 3 sons Rs. 800 per boy per year, the whole family will be taxed, even incomes which are not more than those of ordinary labourers will be taxed, so that in regard to undivided Hindu families the taxable minimum is not Rs. 2,500 but it may be only Rs. 500. This is to say the least unjust. A movement is afoot that this taxable minimum should be raised from 2,500 to 3,000. May I submit for the consideration of the Honourable Finance Minister, much as I would like that this taxable minimum is raised. I would rather prefer that justice be done before generosity is indulged in. It is just that you do not tax the labourers and poor people whose incomes are 2,500 or thereabout. But the family may consist of more than one person; it may consist of 9 or 10 or

3 or 4, or 4 or 5 persons. If that is so you must look into the matter rather carefully. You are taxing the very bread, I should not say milk, because they cannot afford milk, or rather the very salt of their life. It is unjust that you go on raising the taxable minimum and committing a fraud upon poor man belonging to the Hindu undivided family and showing to the world that you have raised the taxable minimum. I would therefore like that before you raise the taxable minimum you kindly go into the question as to how many are penalised by your present system.

I had occasion to put a question in this House on February 18, 1946, I gather the following facts from the reply. In 1942-43 there was something like 12,113 Hindu undivided families which were taxed and whose income was below 2,000, 34,573 families were taxed whose income was less than 3,500, 44,960 families whose income was below 5,000, 53,494 families whose income was below 7,500 and 57,813 families whose income was below Rs. 10,000. Other figures are also given for 1944 and 1945, which I do not propose to read to the House. If a family may be taken to consist of 4 persons then the income below 10,000 is not taxable in any other family except a Hindu undivided family. All these 57,000 families should not have been taxed according to the present taxable minimum. Therefore I submit that if you want to do justice to the Hindu undivided family you must enact that the Hindu undivided family will be taxed as an ordinary member of any other caste or religion.

If you refer to the legal theory on the question may I be permitted to say that it is entirely wrong to assess any of these families as an individual. Take the two systems of law which govern the Hindu undivided family. In the Dayabaga system the shares of each person are definite and ascertained. I ask the Honourable Finance Minister under what provision of law or theory does he want to tax the undivided Hindu family. Section 9 (3) of the Income Tax Act says where the rights are definite and ascertainable such property would not be taxed as joint property. If this principle is true in the case of the individual it is true in the case of the undivided Hindu family, where the rights are definite and ascertainable. My submission is that Dayabaga families cannot justly be assessed as such.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Did not the question with reference to Dayabaga families go up to the High Court?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** As regards Mitakshara families as far back as 1860 the High Court of Lahore held that no such families are to be found in the Punjab. This is true in the U.P. and Sind. I belong to these parts and I know the undivided Hindu families of these places. All I can say with certainty is that the Hindu joint family of the ancient shastras, with its theory of survivorship, in which all the treasures of the family were in the family chest, with jointness in worship, estate and property, does not exist in these parts of India. According to the present law it has been established that a son cannot obtain partition in the Punjab and similarly it is so I understand in Bombay, from which it follows that a man is not born with some rights inherent in himself according to the present system of Mitakshara as obtaining in these parts. Therefore I submit that according to legal theory it is not right to tax these families as such. My friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar put a question about taking the question to the High Court. What happened if a case could be taken there? The law, I should say, is the handmaid of the Taxation Department. When a law was enacted here in this House some years back they made another Section—Section 25A. Under the Hindu Law, according to Privy Council rulings, a Hindu has the remedy of separation in his own hands. He has to unequivocally declare that he stands separated and there he stands separated. It is a question of evidence. How is the declaration going to be proved? As soon as he declares unequivocally that he is separated, he stands separated. That is the present law according to the rulings of the Privy Council. But in this House, in Section 25A the rule was enacted that

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

when a member of a joint Hindu family appears before the Income-tax officer and tells him that he has partitioned, then the Income-tax officer shall inquire into the question. As if the mere declaration that he has separated is not enough, he shall inquire. And what shall he inquire? Not inquire whether legal separation has taken place but whether the partition has been made into definite portions—and it has been subsequently interpreted—whether the partition is made by meets and bounds. I submit this is going too far. You do not follow the principles of Hindu Law when he declares that he has been separated. You only follow them when you want to tax him, when you want to fleece him. My humble submission is that the state of the law is in such a hopeless condition that the Income-tax authorities have always seen to it that what they declare and what is best for them is the law and not the true Hindu Law.

I have submitted in brief some of the reasons why it is not fair to treat the Hindu undivided family in the manner in which we have been treating it for the last more than eighty years. I have put a question to the Honourable the Finance Minister and I hope that he will be pleased to give a reply to it. The question is coming on the 19th. The question is as to what the difference will be if the members of the Hindu joint family are treated as if they were divided—what it means to the exchequer. I hope he will be pleased to give a reply to it. In anticipation of the reply may I submit that the amount which will be mentioned by him will be the exact amount by which for these eighty years or more the Income-tax Department has been realizing illegally as dues from the Hindu joint family. It may be that originally the income-tax was imposed only upon those people of this land who were the trading *wahajans* and who could only afford to pay the taxes. In those days they were very rich, they could afford to pay. Among them it was a trading business partnership. That is my conjecture. I have not been able to find the exact reason. I have already asked the Honourable Minister to enlighten me on the point and if he can give me the reason why the Hindu joint family was treated as such. We know that the Hindu family is a social unit. It has been woven into an economic unit for taxation and for no other purpose. A firm or corporation has got a legal existence; it can sue and be sued. Can a joint family sue and be sued? Not according to law. Section 30 of the Civil Procedure Code applies only to firms and corporations. The Hindu joint family has no legal existence as a corporation or a firm. I think I am correct. I may be corrected if I am wrong.

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance):** Cannot the karta of a joint Hindu family sue on behalf of the family?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Every agent can sue on behalf of his principal. The question is not whether a karta can sue or not. The question is whether a Hindu joint family can sue. I am unable to say that the family can sue. It is only a firm or corporation which can sue—not a family. A Hindu joint family cannot sue or be sued. If my memory does not deceive me I can cite No. 60 of 1908 Punjab Record. Unless all the members of the family are parties to the suit the suit cannot proceed. The manager of the family can sue or be sued. He can sue or be sued as an agent on behalf of the family; but the family cannot sue as a plaintiff unless all the members are parties to the suit. Then all the members can sue, or the manager on behalf of the members can sue. As I said, the family as such has no legal existence. My submission is that for no other purpose except for taxation has the joint Hindu family been allowed to have separate existence. Under all these circumstances my humble

subversion is this. We have been fighting for removal of this injustice for 20 years or more. Every year the Finance Minister has said 'this is not the proper time'. In 1928 I sent in a Bill and wanted sanction from the Governor-General so that I might bring an amending Bill and so that the joint Hindu family might be taken off the list of Income-tax assesses. But I was not given sanction. I raised the question. The then Law Member Sir Brojendralal Mittal gave a definite promise in this House that if a Bill were brought he would appoint a Committee of the House to go into the question. Sir George Schuster and Sir Archibald Rowlands did not understand this undivided Hindu family law affair. Last year also Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan had to admit that logically I was correct, but he said that a Taxation Enquiry Committee was going to be appointed. This year I am not going to listen to any such plea. The Honourable Mr. Shanmukham Chetty is our own National Finance Minister. I am not going to believe that he is not able to remedy this injustice. For, it is an injustice and I have already quoted Sir George Schuster. He admitted it was unjust.

**Mr. B. K. Sidhva:** It is an old story.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Mr. Sidhva says it is an old story. It is too real to be merely a story. For eighty years we have been taxing the people unjustly, and my friend says it is an old story. This is not the way to look at the question. Today I beg on bended knees before the House and I want to submit to every section of the House that I am not asking for any special concession. Is it fair that you should tax the poor man? Ninety per cent. of the assesses are Hindus. It is not even a question of Hindus. It is a question of the rich Hindu and the poor Hindu. I want to submit that under Section 14 there is a compensatory advantage. What is that advantage: that in cases in which a Hindu has got two kinds of income, a joint family income and a separate income, the income from the joint Hindu family will not be tacked on to the separate income. That is the only concession which is given. I humbly submit take away this concession. That is a concession to those who are rich, who have two kinds of income. May I enquire if a rich man in Nainital gets this concession on what is it to a poor Brahman family in Amritsar or Simla? There is no concession at all. All the Hindu families are not integrated in such a manner that the detriment or advantage can apply to them as a whole. The fact that this is a long-standing grievance requires that it must be looked into and remedied at once. I will make a sporting offer to the Finance Minister, if he cannot do away with this altogether as he may say that he has not gone very deep into the question, let him adopt the alternative remedy. When the Business Profits Tax was here I raised this question and the Select Committee agreed that for the purpose of the business profits-tax the limit should be Rs. 1 lakh for the individual and Rs. 2 lakhs for the joint Hindu family and in the super-tax the taxable minimum for the undivided Hindu family was Rs. 75,000 and for the individual Rs. 50,000. It was admitted by Sir George Schuster that it was logical to claim that the limit should not be the same in the case of the joint Hindu family and the individual. If my Honourable friend is unable to do complete justice—let him confess that he is unable to do justice—let him try to do the second best. To start with let him raise the limit to twice the amount because no family consists of less than two individuals or he may halve the rate of the incidence of taxation for the Hindu undivided family. If he cannot do complete justice let him do this second best. The previous Finance Ministers, were evading the issue, they were setting a false trap, they were giving false promises all along. The matter is simple and it has been before the House and the country for the last twenty years. There is no reason why justice should not be done. I very humbly plead before the House that it may do justice to the poor undivided family.

**Maulana Rasrat Mohani (U.P.: Muslim):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have much to say about the proposition, but I reserve my right to speak at length on a subsequent occasion before the Constituent Assembly. For the present I have only to put a direct question to the Honourable the Finance Minister and that question is this: May I ask him to give us the reason why he wants any monetary help from foreign countries or for that matter any monetary help from the Indian capitalists in India also? I ask why the state itself cannot arrange to finance all new industrial proposals? Why should he wander about seeking the help of foreign countries or of industrialists in India? I ask why is he against state capitalism in preference to individual capitalism? Capitalist indeed as he is. I think that he wants to introduce a new fraud to which I can give only one name. He wants to introduce here and encourage capitalism, but I would call it national capitalism. It is nothing less and nothing more than this. This reminds me of another new phrase coined by imperialist England in connection with the question of Republican India. On that occasion our Prime Minister, the Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, wanted to silence me saying 'I have already passed it in our resolution about the Republic'. He said 'In our resolution we have expressly mentioned that we want a Republic'.

**Mr. Chairman:** May I draw the Honourable Member's attention that he is straying outside the scope of the present discussion?

**Maulana Rasrat Mohani:** I am only giving a similarity. The similarity is that the British Imperialists have coined a new word, and what was that new word? They wanted to create a new thing which I call a Republican Dominion, a dominion of the sort that Holland wants to impose on Indonesia, France wants to impose on Viet-Nam by accepting that dominion which they will afterwards call a Republican Dominion. I am sorry that from the various speeches of my Honourable friends there, they appear to have accepted this thing and they said 'All right, we will do that'. As in the case of the question of Republican Dominion, these people fooled us by coining a new word. I submit that our Finance Minister is imposing another fraud. He wants to encourage capitalism but in the name of national capitalism. I challenge him to come forward and reply to what I have said. Otherwise he is not a supporter of socialism and all those things. He is all for capitalism in the name of national capitalism only.

**Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General):** Mr. Chairman, I believe I have risen at a very unfortunate moment. The House is in a state of excitement and ire on account of the very passionate speeches which have been delivered by the two Honourable Members who have preceded me, but I am not going to take the time of the House for long. I want to ask a few straight questions of the Honourable the Finance Minister. Sir, I am no longer referring to dreams or anything of that kind because I have found to my cost that the English people are really very correct in what they say. There is the English expression 'Dreams go to the contrary', and that has proved very true in my case. Sir I want to ask the Honourable Minister if he is going to carry on his trade in opium. I find from a reference to the budget papers here that more than a crore of rupees is derived as income from this source. May I tell the Honourable Minister that Assam had the reputation of being very much addicted to opium? In fact Assam had derived a revenue of 40 lakhs from opium out of its total revenue of 3 crores, a very big amount, and all that was sacrificed in order to get the province rid of it. But what has been the result of that? The government revenue has gone, but the consumption of opium has not reduced. On the other hand it has increased in recent years on account of the free way in which the Government of India and other powers are manufacturing and distributing opium. There is no licence, there is no control in the rest of India, and the opium which is manufactured by the Government of India goes to the ruin of Assam and they are selling it at a very high price. Formerly government opium sold at Rs. 2 per tola, now smuggled opium sells

at Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per tola. The opium consumption is going on. People are getting it at a very high rate. At the same time government revenue has disappeared. But has the Government of India done anything to help the Government of Assam in getting more revenue? Times without number, representatives from the province of Assam have appealed to the previous government, and also to the present government, for a share in the excise duty on petrol. Petrol is simply getting dried up in our province but we have not received any share up to now. Times without number we have addressed appeals to the Finance Minister of the Government of India to give us a share of the export duty on tea. I find that as much as 412 million pounds of tea goes out of India to other countries, and a large portion of it, as the Honourable Minister knows, comes from Assam. A huge amount is collected as export duty. Why have you not allotted a single penny out of it? Sir, Bengal had jute, but then Bengal gets a large amount of money as they share of the excise duty on jute. It will be said that we are also entitled to get it. Quite true, but we have very little jute in our part of the country. Why not give us a share of the thing which we produce instead of giving us a share of the thing which we do not produce at all? If Bengal gets a share on jute, let us have on tea. Now, Sir, I find from the report of the expert committee that all these things have been ignored. Now to say that we may be getting a share of duty on tobacco means that we shall get nothing! We do not manufacture or produce tobacco very much.

So, why is this callous attitude of the Government of India towards Assam? I could have understood it when the other British Finance Minister was there—I cannot understand it now. Why should it be so? What is our fault? Sir, you will be surprised to learn that in the whole Secretariat of the Government of India there is not one man from Assam—not one. I put a Question last year to the Honourable the Home Minister and he said there were 14 members from Assam in the Secretariat. I questioned that the Honourable the Speaker who was in the Chair stated that I must accept the Honourable Minister's statement. Well, Sir, I accepted it. I went round the Secretariat. Going through the corridors I found on one side rows of Ayyangars and Ayyars and Swaminathans and Sundarams with a sprinkling of Chettiyars somewhere. But I did not see the 14 members from the Province of Assam—either they had not existed or they disappeared like the 14 points of President Wilson or even of Qaid-e-Azam Jinnah—there was absolutely not one from the 14. When I go to the Railway Department or the Postal Department and this Department and that Department of the Government of India they say, "How can we help? You must first try to get someone in Home Department". After all, charity begins at home.

Sir, I am not making a joke of it—I am asking very seriously. If the people of Assam are not fit to have any office under the Government of India in any of the Departments, if that unit is not competent enough to produce one to take up that position, why keep that unit in your Union? Let it separate from the rest of India; let it try its fate with Burma or somewhere else; let it remain independent. Why do you want such a disgraceful Province from whom you cannot get even a single officer to serve you? Why do you have this Province?—only in order to get some money out of it. Sir, I felt very much gratified when I heard the Honourable the Food Minister uttering the word "Assam" three times in this House today; no other Honourable Minister had condescended to do that ever. He uttered three times the word 'Assam'; and why did he do that? Was it to give something to the Province of Assam? No, Sir, to take something out of Assam. To take something out of Assam he repeated 'Assam' several times. He has brought rice out of Assam, but may I ask if he had been able to send anything to Assam?—things which Assam never produced, for instance wheat or sugar? No; it was not for that reason he thought of Assam or spoke of Assam.

[Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri]

So, whatever it is—whether you fear the people of Assam on account of the enchantment they might practise, or whether you hate them on account of their backwardness (cries of "No, no")—leave Assam alone. If you do not want to leave Assam alone, give something to Assam—give its proper share, I do not want anything extra.

But do not make them again addicted to opium. I think it is not known to many in India today that it was not Assam which really first started opium consumption. There is one theory that the Moghul Emperor, in order to please the Assam King, sent a present of opium. The correct history is that in 1795 the Assam King wanted some help from Bengal and some mercenaries—Rajput soldiers—were sent out who were addicted to opium. They were sent to Assam to keep peace there. And these people settled in Assam; and they cultivated opium for the first time. That is the history; I could read it from the Congress Enquiry Report; they started it. In those days even the soldiers used to take opium and that is the reason why in the 18th or 16th century India lost her independence. Soldiers took opium and soldiers cultivated opium in Assam, and for these long years we have lost even the opportunity of serving the Government of India because the general reputation is: we are opium addicts which we are not.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava (Ajmer-Merwara): Sir, during the course of discussion on the Budget, there has been reference several times to the Sterling Balances. I also want to add a few remarks in this connection. Now, Sir, the agreement that has been recently arrived at and concluded between the U.K. Delegation and the representatives of the Government of India, I must remark, is wholly of an unsatisfactory character and not at all in the commercial interests of the country. During the general discussion, when a point was raised we found that one of the Honourable Members of this House came to the rescue of the Honourable the Finance Minister saying that even the non-official Members of the House were taken into confidence. But, Sir, whether it is an achievement of the Department of Finance headed by the Honourable the Finance Minister, or whether it is an achievement of the Department in collaboration with the non-official members of the House, the fact remains that it is a transaction that has let us down in the international world. I would respectfully ask, why should we have surrendered ourselves to the U.K. Delegation? What have we gained by this transaction?

We have seen that similar agreements have recently been concluded by Great Britain with Egypt, with Argentina and with Ireland. After the War, India was the biggest creditor; the debts of Egypt, of Argentina or of Ireland, in comparison, pale into insignificance. Still we find that all these countries have arrived at comparatively more beneficial agreements with Britain and we have failed altogether therein. Take for example, the Agreement that has been concluded by the U.K. with Argentina. We find that there was sterling assets to the tune of £100 million only which the U.K. had to pay to Argentina, but look at the terms on which the Agreement has been concluded. It has been decided, Sir, that the whole of the sterling assets of Argentina must be liquidated by Great Britain before 31st March, 1949. Now, what is the agreement with India? Out of the £18 million to be transferred in our current account, only up to the ceiling limit of £10 million we can utilise for honouring our international obligation. According to the estimates furnished by the Honourable the Finance Minister himself, our deficit balance of payments in the next six months, i.e., from 1st January, to 30th June is to the extent of Rs. 32 crores. Out of these Rs. 32 crores, we find that as per this Agreement U.K. will be bound to honour only up to the extent of Rs. 7½ crores. The remaining amount we will have to pay by exhausting our borrowing capacity



from the International Monetary Fund. In these days when India is in the grip of a serious economic crisis, although our Finance Minister has no doubt assured us that the financial position of India is intrinsically sound, so far as our position in the international market is concerned, we are in deficit and we are bound to be in deficit for a number of years to come till we become self-sufficient in the matter of food. We have imported food to the value of Rs. 110 crores in the current year and it is estimated that in the six months from January to June we will have further to import grains to the extent of about Rs. 61 crores. Consequently, Sir, we cannot honour our obligations, rising as they are, without either decreasing our imports or increasing our exports, and this does not appear to be possible under the present circumstances of our country. Therefore, Sir, the conclusion is irresistible that the Agreement that has been arrived at by Mr. Narahari Rao and others is not at all in the best interests of the country.

It was argued that "Well, what we could do? The attitude of the U.K. Delegation was unbending." I would certainly like to ask what efforts were made by our representatives to persuade the U.K. Delegation to fall in line with our requirements? We do not know what passed behind the curtain, but we know something from the correspondence that has been placed on the Table, and that is in our hands. The correspondence does not disclose at all that our requirements or the urgency of the whole matter was stressed and pressed upon the U.K. Delegation and consequently it cannot be said that we did our best to secure the best terms.

Then, Sir, I would again invite the attention of the House to other terms obtained by Argentine. The debt of Argentine has been agreed to be liquidated by 31st March, 1940. It has been further agreed that the U.K. Railways in Argentine would be taken over by Argentine in liquidation of that debt. Why should not the British assets and British investments in this country, which at a moderate estimate are expected to be of the value of Rs. 600 crores, be taken in part liquidation of our sterling balances which represent the sacrifices of the teeming millions of this country? I know quite well that Great Britain will not agree to it so easily. Unless and until we and our representatives have the strength to press our claims it cannot be expected that some satisfactory solution of the liquidation of these sterling balances can be arrived at. At the pace we are proceeding and in the way we have agreed to in the last agreement, the liquidation of the sterling balances debt may take no less than 60 to 70 years exclusive of interest on these transactions. Therefore, Sir, I press upon the Government to take a bolder stand when any effort towards a permanent solution of this urgent problem is attempted and as it is said in the papers our Finance Minister will be going to London, Mr. B. Das has said it is not in keeping with the dignity of Free India that he should proceed to London for the purpose. After all it is not the creditor who seeks the debtor, but it should be the debtor who should seek the creditor." With these remarks, Sir, I resume my seat.

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Mr. Chairman, altogether 5 different topics were raised in the course of this debate, the question of financial control, the problem of the Sterling Balances, the difficulties of the joint Hindu family, the valient challenge of the Maulana and the woes of Assam. With regard to the challenge of the Maulana, I will straightaway confess my defeat and I would accept that I have no answer.

With regard to the complaint of my Honourable friend from Assam as to why there is not a single Assamese in the Secretariat here, I must honestly confess that just at the moment, I cannot find an explanation, but probably there is one. Assam is called 'Kamarupa' in Sanskrit. Probably the people of Assam are so much enchanted with their own surroundings that except for a few adventurers like my Honourable friend, Mr. Chaudhuri, they do not wish to leave their happy homes and their spots.

[Shri. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty]

With regard to opium, I may tell my Honourable friend that the Government of India does not make any profit on opium. In answer to a question, I explained the exact position. It has been the recognised policy of the Government of India for many years to keep down the production of opium to the minimum level possible and in any case the Government of India does not stand to gain financially by the cultivation of opium in this country. It is strictly confined for the supply of certain areas where this article is required. I shall now take up the other three points and first I shall take up the problem of economy and financial control.

**Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa: General):** May I ask whether the Government of India are not making a profit in the Centrally Administered Areas?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Dealing with the problem of economy I must at the very outset remove a misconception regarding the composition of the work of the Economy Committee that has recently been set up. It is not correct to say that the Economy Committee has not yet started work. The Economy Committee started its work last month. Honourable members must realize that a Committee of this kind cannot sit from day to day or continuously for any period until some very essential material has been prepared by the various Departments concerned. I understand that the Committee had certain preliminary meetings and the questionnaire has been sent out to the various Departments concerned and that it is the intention of the Chairman to sit almost continuously from about the middle of April. And talking about the Chairman, Sir, I must say that in inviting him to take up this position, I was not exercising any patronage that is bestowed in me. In fact if there was any patronage on anybody's side, it was on the side of Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai in having accepted my invitation. It is all well and good to say that the Government must follow this procedure and that procedure in selecting members for such posts, but my experience during the last 6 months in the Cabinet has convinced me that our great problem is to find the correct man for the various kinds of work that the Government have in hand. Sir, I was advised to leave alone those men who cannot devote their full time to any public task that has been entrusted to them. I think we are doing less than justice to ourselves when we insinuate that our people are not prepared to undertake the burdens of public work. There are very few countries in the world, Sir, where there is so much readiness and willingness to undertake public work honourably as there is in India. I think it is a factor about which we must be proud. I am perfectly satisfied that the work of the examination of the problem of economy has been entrusted to very competent hands and that we can confidently look forward to very concrete results flowing from the work of that Committee.

I am very glad to have noted here this afternoon that the House is very much interested in maintaining the rigidity of the financial control exercised by the Ministry of Finance. I welcome that spirit. The warning given by my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar that the Finance Minister should not yield to pressure on any side and relax in any manner the financial control is an advice which I welcome most. Such advice is particularly welcome in the present state of the Government. One of the great dangers of democratic forms of Government is the political influence that might be brought to bear on the Government to do things which may not be in the ultimate interest of the country. In fact even within the last few months considerable pressure was brought to bear upon me in certain cases from various quarters in the matter of giving grants to institutions or to bodies about which I was not satisfied, and I may assure my Honourable friend and this House that until now I have taken a firm stand on these demands and I propose to maintain that attitude. As I mentioned the other day in the course of a

define a concise the function of a Minister of Finance as that of one not conducting expenditure, but helping every Department of Government to plan wisely and to spend wisely and I shall to the best of my ability observe that principle during my tenure of office.

Honourable Members will be interested to get some idea of the kind of financial control that we exercise in the Ministry of Finance. All expenditure can be incurred only when there has been a Budget provision and when there has been a financial sanction by a competent authority. If these two conditions are not satisfied, no individual in this country, however, high he might be, can get even one rupee for spending as he likes. Provision in the Budget for various items of expenditure is generally made some time during November or December every year. By that time, the various Ministries would have sent for scrutiny of the Ministry of Finance the proposals that they have in view and which they wish to be included in the Budget for the coming year. We have a large accumulation of such requests and naturally we have to give priority to schemes, keeping in view the possible revenue and expenditure position for the coming year. At the time that the Budget provision is actually made for a scheme, it might have either undergone detailed financial scrutiny by my Ministry or it might be an item of expenditure which is the result of an accepted policy of the Government and in relation to which the actual details of financial expenditure might not have been scrutinised. In the latter case, the expenditure cannot be incurred until after the detailed scrutiny has been made. There is one other check. Over and above the scrutiny made by the Ministry of Finance, certain specified items are placed before the Standing Finance Committee for their examination. In this category comes all new items of expenditure involving either a recurring expenditure of one lakh of rupees and more or a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 5 lakhs and more. Now, these are the various stages that have to be undergone before expenditure is actually incurred and after the expenditure is incurred, the Auditor-General has to examine whether an expenditure has been properly accounted for, whether it has had the proper sanction and whether any fraud has been committed and he brings all these to the notice of the Government and the Legislature in his Audit and Appropriation Report, which Report is subject to the scrutiny of the Public Accounts Committee. That ultimately is a final examination and the last stage in the scrutiny of our public expenditure.

In this connection, I might perhaps answer a point raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. He asked me why the Public Accounts Committee has not yet been constituted. It is a statutory body and during the current session I would be making a motion for the constitution of that Committee. But I must warn the House of the limitations under which that Committee will have to work. Today we have got the Public Accounts Committee Report for the accounts relating to the year 1945-46, because that is the complete account year which has been finished. I would now suggest that the Public Accounts Committee will find very considerable difficulty in examining that account. For one thing, many of the officers who might have to be examined would have gone away to Pakistan. Therefore, the examination of the accounts for 1945-46 by the Public Accounts Committee might have only a theoretical value. But subject to that inevitable limitation I have not the slightest objection to the Public Accounts Committee that will be duly elected during this session undertaking this very task.

At every stage in the expenditure of public funds the Ministry of Finance exercises the most watchful care and scrutiny. In actually sanctioning the detailed expenditure the Finance Ministry sees among other things that the scheme is carried out in the most economical manner without impairing the objective set before the Government when formulating the scheme, that the staff requirements are not overestimated and that they conform to standards which have been stabilised by practice and convention, that the scales of pay

[Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty]

are in accordance with the sanctioned rates for comparable posts, that contingents expenditure, allowances, honoraria and other charges are estimated with prudence and care, that canons of financial propriety are duly observed and that there is no variation in the scheme as prepared from the sanction and sanctioned by the competent authority.

Sir, when you consider the work of the Ministry of Finance from the point of view of exercising effective control over public expenditure it will be realised that the task that devolves upon this Ministry is of a tremendous magnitude. It is therefore no matter for surprise that the number of high officers in the Ministry of Finance is very much greater than the number of corresponding officers in any other individual Ministry. Our own Ministry of Finance was modelled on the British Treasury, and I have been told by competent authorities that the system of treasury control which we have evolved in India is one of the finest in the world. It will probably interest Honourable Members to get some idea of the mechanism of the British Treasury and the corresponding mechanism of the Ministry of Finance in India. In the British Treasury there are in the first instance the Commissioners of Revenue who are responsible for the budget and the collection of all items of revenue.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Do they correspond to our Board of Revenue?

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Yes.

Leaving these alone the British Treasury is divided into a number of divisions, each under the charge of an Under-Secretary. These divisions again are grouped into four groups on a functional basis, each one under the charge of what they call a Third Secretary. Now four Third Secretaries are responsible to three Second Secretaries who correspond to the permanent Under-Secretaries of the other Ministries in the British Government. And over and above all these the Treasury is presided over by a permanent Secretary who is also the head of the civil service. And above all these is the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Now the Chancellor of the Exchequer there has directly to deal only with six officers, namely, the permanent Secretary, two Commissioners of Revenue and the three Under-Secretaries. He has not the departmental routine to attend to which normally falls to the lot of the Finance Minister in this country; and even these Under-Secretaries do not spend much time in the usual departmental routine. And so far as the permanent Secretary is concerned, he has absolutely nothing to do with the departmental routine at all; he is the principal adviser of the Chancellor of the Exchequer on broad questions of policy. As against this what have we got as the set-up of the Finance Ministry here? Under our Ministry we have got a Secretary,

one Additional Secretary, three members of the Central Board of

R. M. Revenue, one Financial Adviser for Defence, one Financial Commissioner for Railways,—making in all seven officers on the top.

In addition to this we have got seven Joint Secretaries and each of these is attached to a particular Ministry. One Joint Secretary deals with establishment who works with the Finance Ministry alone. But the other six are attached to various Ministries,—one Joint Secretary attached to the States, one for Relief and Rehabilitation, one for Industry and Commerce, one for Communications, one for External Finance and one generally including all the other departments, viz., Food, Agriculture, Works, Mines and Power, Education, Labour, etc. I have altogether got 14 officers including the Secretary. But unfortunately the set-up of the Ministry of Finance is not on scientific lines, with the result that I have to deal directly with many of these Joint Secretaries myself. In any case I have to deal with seven officers, namely, the Secretary, the Additional Secretary, the three Members of the Central Board of Revenue, the Financial Adviser for Defence and the Financial Commissioner for Railways. In addition to these seven officers who have got

direct access to me, under our set-up every one of the Joint Secretaries also has direct access to the Minister.

That is not all. The division of functions in the Ministry is such that even the Secretary is not available to me to advise me on all questions of policy without having to worry myself regarding departmental routine. I have been studying this problem ever since I came to the office and I have in mind a scheme of complete reorganisation more approximately on the British Treasury model. Take for example the Central Board of Revenue; it has got three officers, but they have still to deal with the Secretary. In fact I have broken the convention and for the purpose of expediting the work I have almost made it a practice that the members of the Central Board should have direct access to me keeping only the Secretary informed as to the orders that they have taken from me, so that the Secretary might know the trend of policy.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Therefore the Honourable Minister has increased direct approaches from 14 to 16.

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** No, altogether it is 14, inclusive of the members of the Central Board of Revenue, who have direct access to me. I am now hoping that we might, for instance, separate the Central Board as an independent revenue section dealing only with revenues and headed by an officer who will have direct access to me and who need not go to the Secretary at all. That will very considerably reduce the work of the Secretary and it will make the work of the Central Board of Revenue more satisfactory also. I have got a scheme of reorganisation in mind on these lines and I am hoping to place this matter before the Cabinet before long.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Minister place it before the Standing Finance Committee before going up to the Cabinet?

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Yes, it is my intention to consult the Standing Finance Committee.

*(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)*

Sir, I do not think I have anything more to say on the question of financial control. I think what I have said will give Honourable Members some idea of the set-up of the Ministry of Finance.

Regarding the sterling balances I am glad my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar on second thoughts came to the conclusion that he should not have blamed Mr. Narahari Rao and the officials who took part in the discussions. In fact I should like to take this opportunity to say that whatever decision was arrived at was entirely on my responsibility and I take full responsibility Mr. Narahari Rao and his colleagues have done a very good job of work, and I think the House should express its appreciation of the sincerity and earnestness with which they carried out that task. I have not made it a secret, Sir, that I am not very satisfied at all about the agreement that we concluded. My Honourable friend, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar accused me of having let down the country. I am sure it was not his intention to level any such accusation against me, but his intention has been to strengthen my hands when I have next to negotiate with the British Government. I shall then tell them: Look at the ferocious attack that Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar made against me! Do you want to throw me again to such wolves to be swallowed?

I hope that the very vigorous speech made by my Honourable friend and others about the sterling balance will strengthen the hands of the delegation that may go to England next. And I may give this assurance also, that if I am going to England to continue these negotiations, I shall see to it that I take with me men with stout hearts, if not stout physiques.

The position is indeed very difficult and almost intolerant. After all, when you come to think of it, it is the unfortunate position in which the creditor today in the modern world finds himself in relation to his debtor.

[Shri K. K. Shanmukham Chetty]

The days when the debtor went to the house of the creditor to repay his debt have gone. Now we ourselves, by some of the debt relief Acts that we have passed have demonstrated to the world how the creditor is at the mercy of the debtor today. And in international relationships, that position of the creditor is very much more pitiable than even the position of the private creditor. We must frankly face facts. Unless we are prepared to go to war with England, we have to bring about a settlement by peaceful and amicable means. The one method suggested by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, if he would ponder over it, he will himself find is not a very satisfactory method. He suggested that we might take over the British assets in this country. Well, surely that is not a very satisfactory way of getting back the value for all the sacrifices that we made during the war and about which he rightly emphasized. We are entitled to get from abroad, in return for these sacrifices, those capital goods, which by increasing the wealth of this country would offer some compensation for those sacrifices that we made. He asked again why should we not leave the sterling area. Certainly there is no reason why we should not. But unfortunately we are not in a position to do so yet: because before we decide to leave the sterling area we must see that we have sufficient dollar and other balances and that our balance of trade with the United States becomes more favourable. But in any case, my Honourable friend may rest assured that no one who will have a chance of negotiating these matters with the British Government would let down the country in any manner.

I must ask the pardon of my Honourable friend, Mr. Bhargava, if I am unable to give an answer to him because the time is up and the guillotine will come down.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I wish and hope that you will deal with the question in your usual sympathetic manner and realistic manner.

**The Honourable Shri K. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I will later on tell him what my own idea is of the taxes on the Hindu undivided joint family.

**Mr. Speaker:** I shall first put to the House the particular demand under discussion and then I shall take up the other demands.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 80,76,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Ministry of Finance'."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Speaker:** Demands Nos. 7, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 50, 51, 55, 74, 77 and 87 have been disposed of. I now take up the other demands and put them in a consolidated form.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper, except in case of Demands Nos. 7, 10, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 50, 51, 55, 74, 77 and 87, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of the corresponding heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof."

The motion was adopted.

[As directed by the Honourable the Speaker the Motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the Assembly are reproduced below—*Ed. of Debates.*]

#### DEMAND NO. 1.—CUSTOMS.

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,28,97,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949 in respect of 'Customs'."

**DEMAND NO. 2.—CENTRAL EXCISE DUTIES**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,97,17,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Central Excise Duties'."

**DEMAND NO. 3.—TAXES ON INCOME INCLUDING CORPORATION TAX**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,72,86,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

**DEMAND NO. 4.—OPIUM**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,81,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Opium'."

**DEMAND NO. 5.—PROVINCIAL EXCISE**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,22,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Provincial Excise'."

**DEMAND NO. 6.—STAMPS**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,08,36,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Stamps'."

**DEMAND NO. 8.—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES), NAVIGATION EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS MET FROM REVENUE**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,34,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses), Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works met from Revenue'."

**DEMAND NO. 9.—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES)**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,84,73,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

**DEMAND NO. 11.—CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,09,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Constituent Assembly'."

**DEMAND NO. 12.—CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,65,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative)'."

**DEMAND NO. 15.—MINISTRY OF LAW**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,41,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Ministry of Law'."

**DEMAND NO. 31.—MINISTRY WITHOUT PORTFOLIO**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,85,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Ministry Without Portfolio'."

**DEMAND NO. 32.—PAYMENTS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DEPARTMENTS, ETC., ON ACCOUNT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF TREASURIES**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,73,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of the Administration of Agency Subjects and Management of Treasuries'."

**DEMAND NO 33.—AUDIT.**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,88,92,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Audit'."

**DEMAND NO. 34.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,31,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

**DEMAND NO. 35.—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Jails and Convict Settlements'."

**DEMAND NO 36.—POLICE**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,96,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Police'."

**DEMAND NO. 37.—PORTS AND PILOTAGE**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,94,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

**DEMAND NO. 38.—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,49,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

**DEMAND NO. 39.—ECCLIASTICAL**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,53,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Ecclesiastical'."

**DEMAND NO. 40.—TRIBAL AREAS**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 62,57,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Tribal Areas'."

**DEMAND NO. 41.—EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,08,81,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'External Affairs'."

**DEMAND NO. 42.—SURVEY OF INDIA**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 60,67,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Survey of India'."

**DEMAND NO. 43.—BOTANICAL SURVEY**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,66,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Botanical Survey'."

**DEMAND NO. 44.—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,33,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Zoological Survey'."

**DEMAND NO. 45.—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,67,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

**DEMAND NO. 46.—MINES**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,65,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Mines'."

**DEMAND NO. 47.—ARCHAEOLOGY**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,83,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Archaeology'."



**DEMAND NO. 48.—METEOROLOGY**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 81,43,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

**DEMAND NO. 49.—OTHER SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,03,83,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Other Scientific Departments'."

**DEMAND NO. 52.—PUBLIC HEALTH**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 53,91,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Public Health'."

**DEMAND NO. 53.—AGRICULTURE**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,73,08,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

**DEMAND NO. 54.—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,47,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

**DEMAND NO. 56.—SALT**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,40,96,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Salt'."

**DEMAND NO. 57.—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATION SERVICE**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 66,05,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Overseas Communication Service'."

**DEMAND NO. 58.—AVIATION**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,13,98,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Aviation'."

**DEMAND NO. 59.—BROADCASTING**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,32,57,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

**DEMAND NO. 60.—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,10,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

**DEMAND NO. 61.—CENSUS**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,59,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Census'."

**DEMAND NO 62.—JOINT STOCK COMPANIES**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,30,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Joint-Stock Companies'."

**DEMAND NO. 63.—INDIAN DAIRY DEPARTMENT**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,56,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Indian Dairy Department'."

**DEMAND NO. 64.—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,43,73,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

**DEMAND No. 65.—CURRENCY**

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,03,50,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of ‘Currency’.”

**DEMAND No. 66.—MINT**

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,14,32,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of ‘Mint’.”

**DEMAND No. 67.—CIVIL WORKS**

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,88,07,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of ‘Civil Works’.”

**DEMAND No. 68.—CENTRAL ROAD FUND**

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,15,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of, ‘Central Road Fund.’”

**DEMAND No. 69.—TERRITORIAL AND POLITICAL PENSIONS**

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,40,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of ‘Territorial and Political Pensions’.”

**DEMAND No. 70.—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS**

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,41,24,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of ‘Superannuation Allowances and Pensions’.”

**DEMAND No. 71.—STATIONERY AND PRINTING**

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,65,46,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of ‘Stationery and Printing’.”

**DEMAND No. 72.—MISCELLANEOUS**

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,07,72,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of ‘Miscellaneous’.”

**DEMAND No. 73.—EXPENDITURE ON REFUGEES**

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,03,50,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of ‘Expenditure on Refugees’.”

**DEMAND No. 75.—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE—ROYAL INDIAN NAVY**

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,80,93,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of ‘Defence Services, Effective—Royal Indian Navy’.”

**DEMAND No. 76.—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE—ROYAL INDIAN AIR FORCES**

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,34,44,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of ‘Defence Services, Effective—Royal Indian Air Forces’.”

**DEMAND No. 78.—DEFENCE SERVICES, NON-EFFECTIVE CHARGES**

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,24,67,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of ‘Defence Services, Non-effective Charges’.”

**DEMAND No. 79.—GRANTS IN-AID TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS**

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,25,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of ‘Grants-in-Aid to Provincial Governments’.”

**DEMAND No 80.—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS**

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 82,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of ‘Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments’.”

## DEMAND No. 81.—RESETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,72,35,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Resettlement and Development'."

## DEMAND No. 82.—CIVIL DEFENCE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,20,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Civil Defence'."

## DEMAND No. 83.—DELHI

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,40,77,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Delhi'."

## DEMAND No. 84.—AJMER-MERWARA

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 62,71,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

## DEMAND No. 85.—PANTH PIPLODA

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Panth Piploa'."

## DEMAND No. 86.—ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 95,13,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Andaman and Nicobar Islands'."

## DEMAND No. 88.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON FORESTS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 29,26,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Forests'."

## DEMAND No. 89.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON THE INDIA SECURITY PRESS

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,09,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on the India Security Press'."

## DEMAND No. 90.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,60,96,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue)'."

## DEMAND No. 91.—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS—STORES SUSPENSE (NOT MET FROM REVENUE)

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (Not met from Revenue)'."

## DEMAND No. 92.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,87,60,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Industrial Development'."

## DEMAND No. 93.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATION

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,08,84,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation'."

## DEMAND No. 94.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON BROADCASTING

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 69,71,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Broadcasting'."

**DEMAND NO. 95.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CURRENCY**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,50,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Currency'."

**DEMAND NO. 96.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON MINTS**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 65,45,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Mints'."

**DEMAND NO. 97.—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,23,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

**DEMAND NO. 98.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL WORKS**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,75,12,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Works'."

**DEMAND NO. 99.—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Commuted Value of Pensions'."

**DEMAND NO. 100.—PAYMENTS TO RETRENCHED PERSONNEL**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Payments to Retrenched Personnel'."

**DEMAND NO. 101.—DEFENCE CAPITAL OUTLAY**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,98,75,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Defence Capital Outlay'."

**DEMAND NO. 102.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF STATE TRADING**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,97,88,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading'."

**DEMAND NO. 103.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON DEVELOPMENT**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 39,33,07,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Development'."

**DEMAND NO. 104.—INTEREST-FREE AND INTEREST-BEARING ADVANCES**

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,82,04,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1949, in respect of 'Interest-free and Interest-bearing Advances'."

"The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 17th March, 1948."