

Wednesday,
17th March, 1948

THE
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE DEBATES)

Official Report

60

VOLUME III, 1948

(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—38 |
| Demand No. 26.—Ministry of Food | 2216—38 |
| Demand No. 7.—Forest | 2216—38 |
| Demand No. 30.—Ministry of Finance | 2216, 2238—60 |
| Demands Nos. 1—6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 31—49, 52—54, 56—73, 75, 76, 78—86, 88—104 | 2260—66 |

WEDNESDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1948—

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Starred Questions and Answers | 2267—98 |
| Papers laid on the table—Authenticated Schedules of Authorised Expenditures— Railways | 2298—99 |
| Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to refer to Select Committee— not concluded | 2300—39 |

THURSDAY, 18TH MARCH, 1948—

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Declaration by Members | 2341 |
| Starred Questions and Answers | 2341—61 |
| Indian Finance Bill—Referred to Select Committee | 2362—2409 |

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)
 Wednesday, 17th 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

ASSEMBLY PLANTS OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN INDIA

800. *Mr. B. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the names of Assembly plants of Motor vehicles in India and the retail prices of cars and trucks fixed by them in March 1947 and in January 1948?

(b) Is it a fact that Hindustan Motors Limited have increased the price of Hindustan Ten (original Morris) cars considerably, as compared with other Assembly Plants Companies in India?

(c) Are Government aware of the reasons for the increase in this particular company?

(d) What was the total output of each of the Assembly Plants in India in the year 1947?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (d). Two statements are laid on the table of the House.

(b) The relevant statement gives full information in this respect.

(c) Government are not aware of the reasons as they do not exercise any control over the distribution and sale of motor vehicles.

Statement I

| Name of Assembler | No. of cars Assembled | No. of Trucks Assembled | Total number of Cars and Trucks Assembled |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. General Motors India Ltd., Bombay . | 4,547 | 4,807 | 9,354 |
| 2. Ford Motor Co. of India Ltd., Bombay . | 3,233 | 1,955 | 5,188 |
| 3. Premier Automobiles Ltd., Bombay . | 1,265 | 1,798 | 3,063 |
| 4. Motor House (Gujrat) Ltd., Bombay . | Nil | 349 | 349 |
| 5. Mckenzies, Calcutta . | 438 | 509 | 947 |
| 6. Hindustan Motors Ltd., Calcutta . | 2,418 | 448 | 2,866 |
| Total | 11,051 | 9,866 | 21,917 |

Statement II

Retail prices of

| Description 1 | Cars | | Trucks | |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | March 1947 2 | January 1948 3 | March 1947 4 | January 1948 5 |

1. M/S GENERAL MOTORS INDIA LIMITED, BOMBAY

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|--|--|
| Chevrolet Sedan | 8,750 | 9,100 | | |
| Daimler 51 Sedan | 13,700 | 13,000 | | |
| Daimler 71 Sedan | 15,150 | 15,450 | | |
| Oldsmobile "75" Series Sedan | 10,900 | 11,350 | | |
| Pontiac "36" Series Sedan | 10,350 | 10,920 | | |
| Cadillac 6200 Sedan | 16,800 | 17,700 | | |

U. S. Commercial and Trucks.

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|--|--|-------|-------|
| 3112 114" WB Station Wagon | | | 8,250 | 8,520 |
| 3612 125½" WB Station Wagon | | | 9,250 | 9,565 |
| 3104 115" WB Com. Chassis with Cab & Pick-up Box. | | | 5,750 | 4,400 |
| 3112 115" WB Com. Chassis with Cowl and W/B. | | | 4,650 | 4,120 |
| 3601 125½" WB Truck Chassis with Cab & pick-up. | | | 6,450 | 7,225 |
| 3612 125½" WB Truck Chassis with Cowl & W/B. | | | 5,450 | 5,845 |
| 4112 124½" WB Truck Chassis with Cowl & W/B. | | | 6,225 | 6,565 |
| 4412 140" WB Truck Chassis with Cowl & W/B Light. | | | 7,225 | 7,425 |
| 4412 140" WB Truck Chassis with Cab—Heavy. | | | 8,200 | 8,625 |
| 4412 140" WB Truck Chassis with Cowl & W/B—Heavy. | | | 7,550 | 7,750 |
| 6102 124½" WB Truck Chassis with Cab. | | | 8,550 | 9,015 |
| 6112 124½" WB Truck Chassis with Cowl & W/B. | | | 7,900 | 8,140 |
| 6402 140" WB Truck Chassis with Cab. | | | 9,175 | 9,655 |
| 6412 140" WB Truck Chassis with Cowl & W/B. | | | 8,525 | 8,760 |
| 6712 136" WB Bus Chassis with Cowl & W/B. | | | 9,475 | 9,790 |

G. M. C.

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|--|--|-------|-------|
| RCR-101 115" WB Com. Chassis with Cowl & W/B. | | | 5,060 | 5,210 |
| RCR-302 140" WB Truck Chassis with Cab. | | | 8,600 | 9,085 |
| RCR-303 140" WB Truck Chassis with Cowl & W/B. | | | 7,950 | 8,190 |

U. K. Passenger—Fouchall

| | | | | |
|------------------|-------|-------|--|--|
| HIX 12 HP Saloon | 4,745 | 7,225 | | |
| JIB 14 HP Saloon | 5,000 | 8,125 | | |

1 2 3 4 5

Bedford Vans and Trucks

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|--|--|-------|-------|
| HC 6 Cwt. Van (In Prime) | | | 5,745 | 6,286 |
| JC 10-12 Cwt. Van (In Prime) | | | 6,440 | 7,100 |
| KZ 120" WB Truck Chassis | | | 58,2 | 6,450 |
| MLZ 143" WB Truck Chassis | | | 7,550 | 7,750 |
| OLAZ 157" WB Truck Chassis | | | 8,010 | 8,250 |
| OLBE 157" WB Truck Chassis | | | 8,500 | 8,840 |
| OB 174" WB Bus Chassis | | | 9,300 | 9,600 |

2. MEMBERS. FORD MOTOR COMPANY OF INDIA LTD. BOMBAY.

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| Super DeLuxe Fordor | 9,275 | 9,900 | | |
| Mercury Town Sedan | 10,350 | 11,375 | | |
| Lincoln Sedan | 16,500 | 18,500 | | |
| 8 h. p. "Anglia" Saloon | 6,450 | 5,610 | | |
| 10 h. p. "Prefect" Saloon P | 6,240 | 6,405 | | |
| Super DeLuxe Station Wagon | | | 9,515 | 9,515 |
| Light delivery | | | 6,635 | 6,700 |
| 114" w.b. Chassis | | | 5,805 | 5,700 |
| 122" w.b. Chassis | | | 6,375 | 6,375 |
| 134" w.b. Heavy Duty Chassis | | | 7,500 | 7,500 |
| 158" w.b. Heavy Duty Chassis | | | 7,770 | 7,770 |
| 176" w.b. Heavy Duty Chassis | | | 8,555 | 8,555 |
| 194" w.b. Bus Chassis | | | 9,445 | 9,445 |
| 8 h.p. 5-Cwt. Van | | | 4,550 | 4,695 |
| 10 h.p. 10 Cwt. Van | | | 6,085 | 6,085 |

3. THE PREMIER AUTOMOBILES LTD. BOMBAY.

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------|--------|--|--|
| Chrysler Newyorker C39N | 14,350 | 16,785 | | |
| Chrysler Windsor C38W | 12,620 | 14,365 | | |
| Deoto Custom S11C | 12,470 | 14,000 | | |
| Deoto Diplomat SP15C | 10,430 | 11,115 | | |
| Dodge Custom D24C | 11,425 | 12,946 | | |
| Dodge Kingway D25C | 10,365 | 11,400 | | |
| Plymouth Special DeLuxe P100 | 10,190 | 11,365 | | |

Dodge Trucks

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|--|--|-------|-------|
| WF-36 200" w.b. (6) 34 x 7 | | | | 9,571 |
| WF-32 160" w.b. (6) 32 x 6 | | | 7,330 | 7,555 |
| WF-31 135" w.b. (4) 32 x 6 | | | 5,815 | 7,165 |
| WC-116 146" w.b. (4) 6-00 x 16 | | | 5,255 | 5,620 |

Fargo Trucks

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|--|--|-------|--------|
| FK4-60 200" w.b. (6) 32 x 6 | | | | 8,370 |
| FK4-60 160" w.b. (6) 32 x 6 | | | 7,850 | 7,800 |
| FK4-35 135" w.b. (4) 32 x 6 | | | 6,590 | 7,935 |
| FK1-16 116" w.b. (4) 6-00 x 16 | | | 5,295 | 5,705† |

Datsun Trucks

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|-------|
| DE4-00 200" w.b. (6) 34 x 7 | | | | 9,370 |
| DE4-60 160" w.b. (6) 32 x 6 | | | | 7,850 |
| DE4-36 135" w.b. (2) 32 x 6 & (1) 34 x 7 | | | | 7,970 |
| DE1-16 116" (4) 6-50 x 16 | | | | 5,715 |

† (2) 32 x 6 & (4) 34 x 7 †(4) 6-50 x 16

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|---------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|
| 4. THE MOTOR HOUSE (GUJARAT LTD., BOMBAY) | | | | | |
| Kaiser Special | | 15,100 | 14,900 | | |
| Fraser | | 15,750 | 16,500 | | |
| Fraser Manhattan | | Not Avail- able. | 18,300 | | |
| Millman Minx Saloon | | 7,200 | 8,615 | | |
| Reo 19C Model Truck Chass Low Cowl 165" w.b. | | | | 12,000 | 12,000 |
| Bradford Van | | | | 7,150 | 7,300 |
| Bradford Chassis | | | | 5,300 | 5,300 |
| Bradford Six Seater Utility | | | | 7,975 | 8,050 |
| Bradford Deluxe Utility | | | | Not Avail- able. | 9,350 |
| 5. MCKENZIE, CALCUTTA. | | | | | |
| <i>Morris</i> | | | | | |
| 8 h.p. 2-dr. F. H. Saloon | | | 6,225 | | |
| 8 h. p. 2-dr. S. H. Saloon | | | 6,350 | | |
| 8 h. p. 4-dr. F. H. Saloon | | | 6,600 | | |
| 8 h. p. 4-dr. S. H. Saloon | | 6,675 | 6,700 | | |
| 10 h. p. 4-dr. F. H. Saloon | | | .. | | |
| 10 h. p. 4-dr. S. H. Saloon | | | .. | | |
| <i>Webb</i> | | | | | |
| 8 h. p. Saloon | | 7,560 | 7,595 | | |
| 10 h. p. Saloon | | 8,720 | 8,775 | | |
| 12 h. p. Saloon | | 10,580 | 10,650 | | |
| 14 h. p. Saloon | | 11,420 | 11,440 | | |
| 16 h. p. Saloon | | 12,220 | 12,220 | | |
| <i>Edison</i> | | | | | |
| Supper Six Sedan | | 10,700 | 12,585 | | |
| Commodore 6 | | 11,400 | 12,265 | | |
| <i>M. G.</i> | | | | | |
| 'TC' 3-Seater Tourer | | .. | 7,780 | | |
| 1½ Litre Saloon | | .. | 11,160 | | |
| <i>Riley</i> | | | | | |
| 1½ Litre 12 h.p. Saloon | | .. | 14,480 | | |
| 2½ Litre 16 h.p. Saloon | | .. | 17,780 | | |
| <i>Morris Commercial</i> | | | | | |
| CV11/30 model 125" WB Chassis | | | 7,500 | .. | |
| CV11/40 model 125" WB Chassis | | | 7,825 | 7,825 | |
| ECV13/3 model 162" WB Chassis | | | 8,300 | .. | |
| ECV11/40 model 125" WB Chassis | | | .. | .. | |
| 10 Cwt. Van (unpainted) | | | .. | .. | 8,000 |
| <i>Internacional</i> | | | | | |
| K-1 model 112" w.b. chassis | | | 8,125 | 6,175 | |
| K-2 model 125" w.b. chassis | | | 8,225 | 6,500 | |
| K-3 model 130" w.b. chassis | | | 8,625 | .. | |
| K-5 model 135" w.b. chassis | | | 7,175 | .. | |
| K-8 model 159" w.b. chassis | | | 7,375 | 8,275 | |
| KBS 8" 125" w.b. chassis | | | .. | 9,500 | |
| KBS 6" 125" w.b. chassis | | | .. | 12,320 | |
| K-3 model 166" w.b. chassis | | | 7,825 | .. | |

S. M/S HINDUSTAN MOTORS LTD., CALCUTTA

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Hindustan 10 Fixed Head | 8,195 | 9,350 | |
| Hindustan 10 Sliding Head | 8,345 | 9,500 | |
| Studebaker 4 Door Champion Deluxe | 10,125 | 12,500 | |
| Studebaker 4 Door Champion Regal Deluxe | 10,500 | 12,900 | |
| Studebaker Commander Regal Deluxe | | 14,950 | |
| Studebaker Commander Deluxe | | 14,500 | |
| Studebaker Truck M-16-128" | | | 8,975 |
| Studebaker Truck M-16-152" | | | 9,375 |
| Studebaker Truck M-16-195" | | | 8,950 |

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Subsequently, however, I have been informed that with effect from the 1st April, 1948 the Hindustan Ten will be sold at prices varying from Rs. 7,895 to 8,145 in place of Rs. 9,850 to 9,500.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know if Government have inquired into the reasons that were responsible for this sudden fall in the price of the Hindustan Ten?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I said just now, there is no price control and Government cannot interfere with the prices fixed by the company.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government satisfied that the earlier price was really reasonable?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Government did not make any enquiry.

Mr. R. K. Sidhu: What is the factory price in America?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: We have no information as regards the factory price. I tried to obtain the information but could not get it.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know if the fall was due to the removal of price control and the previous higher price was the result of price control?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The price control was withdrawn in December 1946. The fall could not be due to that.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: May I know if the Honourable Minister is aware that the price of Studebaker cars (which are also imported by the Hindustan Motors) is now proportionately very very high?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I am told the prices have gone down.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Is it true in regard to Studebaker cars also?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have no definite information regarding previous prices.

Mr. Hussain Imam: What were the controlled prices of these two motor cars when the controls were removed?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not think in 1946 there was any Hindustan Ten.

Mr. Hussain Imam: What about Studebaker cars?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I have not got the figures here.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Does the Honourable Minister's Ministry exercise any interest in regard to the importation of component parts of Motor vehicles for the Assembly plants for motor car manufacture in this country? If so, to what extent do they help in securing the import licenses?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Government does take an interest in this respect and in fact this view point was taken into consideration in fixing the import licenses this year.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Are these applications for import licenses sponsored by the Industries Department?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: They are dealt with by the Commerce Ministry, not the Industries Ministry.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any parts or motor accessories are manufactured in these assembly plants in India?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: At present a very small proportion but it is expected to increase in the course of 1948.

Shri Ramnarain Singh: Is it not the duty of the Government to keep themselves informed of prices of such articles as cars?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Mr. Kamath.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does the statement laid on the table show the prices of Studebaker and Ford cars on these dates respectively?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I think the Ford car figures are included in the statement.

Shri H. V. Kamath: The factory list prices of these two cars in America are Ford Super deluxe V.8 1,279 dollars and Studebaker Champion 1,275 dollars. In India the Studebaker costs about Rs. 3,000 more than the Ford Super deluxe V.8.

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That is quite possible, because the duty is about 40 per cent. on American cars.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the difference of Rs. 3,000 due to us between the Ford V.8 and Studebaker?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not know what exactly is the reason.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that the difference in price of about Rs. 3,000 goes to swell the unconscionable profits of some bloated capitalist?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: May I know whether any exemption from price control was given by the Government of India to anyone of the importers of cars or assembly manufacturers of cars in this country?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: That relates to the period when price control was in existence. I cannot say.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: I am talking of the period after 1946 when price control was not in existence. Is there any order passed by the Government of India to the effect that certain firms are exempted from price control in other words can fix any price for motor cars?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: If the price control is withdrawn I do not see how Government can say that particular companies will not be allowed to fix their own prices.

Shri Ramnath Goenka: Do Government fix a particular percentage of profit on the import price of each commodity and if so, if a particular merchant who imported motor cars was exempted from that order?

Mr. Speaker: Is the question clear to the Honourable Minister?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Let me try to explain the point. It seems that profits of merchants were controlled by allowing them only a certain percentage over their original price. Was there any exemption in respect of restricting such profits with regard to motor cars only?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: I do not think that any such exemption was given.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know if the Honourable Minister is aware that the provinces have their own Essential Articles Control Act through which the sale of motor cars is regulated? Is there any uniformity in regard to this?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: So far as provinces are concerned, Madras, U.P., Assam, C.P. and Berar are the provinces which continue the control but that related only to control over distribution and not prices.

REBUILDING OF BAIDYANATHDHAM (DEOGHAR) STATION ON E. I. RAILWAY

301. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that Baidyanathdham (Deoghar) station on the East Indian Railway is important as a centre of pilgrimage?

(b) How many passengers travel to this place per year?

(c) Are Government aware that it is also an important health station?

(d) Are Government aware that several refugees from Noakhali, Comilla, Pabna, and other places have found asylum in this place?

(e) Is it a fact that the transshipment station Jasidih on the main line is only 4 miles from Baidyanathdham?

(f) Do Government, in view of its importance, propose to rebuild this station and bring it on the main line?

(g) Are Government aware that on account of the low platform at this station passengers are put to great inconvenience?

(h) Is it a fact that the representatives of the World Peace Arunachal Mission saw the Railway authorities in this connection?

(i) Do Government propose to reconsider their representations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) During the year 1947, 4,81,190 passengers arrived by rail at this station.

(c) This station is considered by some persons to be a health resort.

(d) No statistics in regard to refugees from Noakhali, Comilla, Pabna and other places are maintained by the Railway Administration.

(e) Yes.

(f) There is no such proposal at present.

(g) No such complaints have so far been received from the travelling public.

(h) The Railway Administration have had no such representation.

(i) Does not arise.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Is it a fact that the World Peace Mission has written a letter to the Honourable Minister on the 10th February in this respect, to which the Honourable Minister says that they have received no such representation?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If the Honourable Member will be good enough to pass on that to me I will enquire whether it has reached us.

STEEL PRODUCTION IN INDIA IN THE YEARS 1943-44 AND 1947-48

802. *Mr. B. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the total steel production in India in the years 1943-44 and 1947-48?

(b) What was the total import of foreign steel into India in the year 1938?

(c) What was the highest production in India and in what year was it so?

(d) What are the causes for the fall in production now?

(e) Is it a fact that Government have placed orders with foreign countries for the import of steel and if so what is the quantity, what is the price per ton and when is it due to arrive in India?

(f) For what purposes will this imported steel be used?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Production in 1943 and 1947 was 1,166,204 and 868,680 tons respectively. Figures according to financial years are not available.

(b) 280,400 tons in 1938-39.

(c) 1,166,204 tons in 1948.

(d) The main reason for the fall in production is labour unrest; transport difficulties are a contributing factor.

(e) and (f). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to his Starred Question No. 548 on 2nd March 1948.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Arising out of the answer to part (b) may I know from which foreign countries the steel was imported?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Mainly from U.S.A. and U.K.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Was any attempt made to get steel from Russia?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No.

Mr. B. K. Sidhva: By what percentage are the prices of the foreign products higher than those of our Indian products?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The foreign price is about Rs. 425 as compared to the Indian price of Rs. 225 per ton.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do we manufacture stainless steel in India at present?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do we manufacture high tensioned steel?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Yes.

Mr. B. K. Sidhva: I have got nine questions in my name today and I can put only five questions. If you will permit me, Sir, I would like to treat this question (No. 803) as unstarred. If you give me the right to exercise my discretion I will treat this and three other questions as unstarred, or you may guide me in this respect.

Mr. Speaker: The practice so long has been that all the first five questions have to be put.

Mr. B. K. Sidhva: In that case I put the question (No. 803).

CASES DETECTED BY RAILWAY ANTI-CORRUPTION AND WATCH AND WARD DEPARTMENTS

803. *Mr. B. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many cases relating to Railway matters have been detected or reported by the Anti-Corruption department during the period from 15th August, 1947 to 31st January, 1948?

(b) What is the function of the Watch and Ward department of the Railways?

(c) How many cases have been reported or detected through this department from 15th August, 1947 to 31st January, 1948?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The required information is given below:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Cases registered | 55 |
| Cases into which preliminary enquiries were held. | 100 |

(b) The primary duty of the Watch and Ward Department is to guard property belonging to and also in the custody of the railway from thefts, damage etc. and to prevent trespass into railway premises.

(c) 2974 cases of theft and 1683 cases of trespass were detected by the Watch and Ward Department on the Indian Government Railways during the period referred to. This excludes the figures to be furnished by the Superintendent of Special Police Establishment (Upper) Calcutta in respect of part of the East Indian Railway which have been called for.

Mr. E. K. Sidhva: To what articles did these thefts relate, may I know?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am afraid I am not in a position to give the details straightway.

Mr. Frank E. Anthony: Have any cases been started against senior railway officials?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: A few cases have been started.

Seth Govinddas: Is there any machinery set up to hear any complaints against this watch and ward staff?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Complaints regarding the watch and ward staff as well as other branches of the Railway are received by the Complaints organisation. There is a Central Complaints organisation in the railway administrations.

Seth Govinddas: Is it a fact that in the East Indian Railway there have been complaints regarding the watch and ward staff?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There have been complaints all over regarding the watch and ward staff.

Seth Govinddas: I was especially asking about the East Indian Railway because, as far as my information goes, there have been a lot of complaints on this Railway about the watch and ward staff.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: More than in respect of other Railways?

Seth Govinddas: Yes.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not aware of that.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: Is it true that the scheme of contracts for loading and unloading is responsible for most of the loss?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I should not say it was responsible for most of that.

MANAGEMENT OF GANGA-DARJEELING ROAD IN PURNIA DISTRICT (BIHAR)

804. **Mr. Mohd. Tahir:** Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the Ganga-Darjeeling Road in the district of Purnea in Bihar is managed by the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sections of the Ganga—Darjeeling road in the Purnea District fall within the proposed National Highway system for the

maintenance of which the Government of India have provisionally accepted financial responsibility from the 1st of April 1947 subject to ratification of the National Highway scheme. The Provincial Government is acting as the Executive agent in accordance with the general policy of the Government of India with respect to National Highways.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Is this connected with any other National Highways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As a matter of fact, the National Highways system as a whole is inter-connected. From that point of view my answer to the Honourable Member's question is in the affirmative.

Mr. Hussain Imam: May I point out that there is no road connecting this from the Bengal end?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That probably is correct. But I may point out that the devising of an alternative route to connect this national Highway from the Purnea district is now under contemplation and it is very likely that in the near future we should be able to come to a settlement on that point.

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF VEGETABLE GHEE

805. *Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable Minister of Food be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that nickel formate is used in the process of manufacture of vegetable ghee or vanaspati;

(b) whether it is a fact that nickel formate is a deadly poison highly deleterious to the human organism; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what action Government propose to take against the production and consumption of vegetable ghee in India?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) Governments present information is that nickel formate is not directly used in the process of manufacture of Vanaspati. It is first reduced to metallic nickel in colloidal form that is, powdered form before being used as a catalyst. The nickel does not itself take part in the chemical reaction which occurs in hydrogenation, but only affects the pace of chemical reaction and is on completion of the process entirely removed by filtration.

(b) Nickel formate has some poisonous effect. Whether it is highly deleterious to the human organism or not depends upon the quantity assimilated by the human system. But metallic nickel which is the chemical used in the process of manufacture, is, however, not poisonous as it passes out through the human system without being assimilated.

(c) As explained above, nickel is used only as a catalytic agent in the process of hydrogenation. It does not itself take part in the reaction and is completely removed from the product by filtration. In all the samples of Vanaspati analysed by the Principal of the Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Cawnpore, no traces of nickel were found.

The doubts which have arisen in the public mind about the nutritive value of vanaspati do not in any way relate to the use of colloidal metallic nickel as a catalyst. These were in respect of chemical changes which occur in oil due to heating and hydrogenation. A Panel of Scientists was appointed last year to carry on further investigations into the value of vanaspati as food. These investigations are being carried on under the auspices of the Vanaspati Research Planning Committee appointed by the Technical Panel of the Ministry of Food at the following centres:

(1) The All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta.

(2) The Haffkine Institute, Bombay.

(3) The Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor.

The Committee has already met twice and final results of the investigations being carried on at the above named centres are expected to be available by the end of 1948. The question of prohibition of hydrogenation or taking other steps in the interests of the public and the agriculturists is under the consideration of Government.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Am I to understand that nickel formate is not used as such but is reduced to colloidal nickel before being used to hydrogenate oils in the manufacture of vanaspathi?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That is the answer I gave.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have any attempts been made by scientists by precise weighing before and after the process of hydrogenation to ascertain whether this colloidal nickel is entirely used as a catalyst only or if any part of it is absorbed in the product in the course of the process?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It is used only as a catalyst and I have said that it is not absorbed in the product.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that so far as the results of these experiments on rats are concerned, most of the scientists have already come to the conclusion that even if the deleterious effects of vanaspathi are not so very noticeable on the first generation of rats, on the second generation of rats they are very noticeable and they have therefore come to the conclusion that it is a very bad item of food?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: One of the research institutes had come to that conclusion.

Shri B. Shiva Rao: Is 'catalyst' a parliamentary expression?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Catalyst is a scientific expression. It means an element which affects the rate at which chemical changes take place.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the scientists themselves have come to that view and the so called difference of opinion is only being publicized by the manufacturer concerned, have Government considered the advisability of not allowing any more of these Vanaspathi factories to be started until the scientists have come to a definite view and have given their final advice to the Government?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government will consider the suggestion.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Government aware that a very finely printed pamphlet has been issued by concerns which are engaged in the manufacture of Vanaspathi?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware of it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will Government publish a detailed report about the researches carried on by our scientists as regards Vanaspathi or vegetable ghee?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: As I have said this matter is being investigated at three institutes. The results will be made known to the Assembly.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that some of our scientists are in the pay of the industrialists and capitalists, and.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The Honourable Member is making suggestions which ought not to be made. Such questions are not permissible in the House.

I would request Honourable Members not to derive pleasure in attributing motives and drawing inferences. It does not add to the dignity of the House.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I was only asking whether the suspicion was correct, and it was hardly for pleasure that I put the question.

Mr. Speaker: I may point out to the Honourable Member the rules. The rules strictly prohibit the making of statements which are defamatory or to make allegations, especially when the parties concerned are not here to defend themselves. The dignity of the House requires that information should be called for, in an absolutely judicial and moderate manner, and not in the manner in which the Honourable Member has been putting his questions.

I am going to the next question.

HARIJAN EMPLOYEES IN B. N. RAILWAY WORKSHOPS, KHARAGPUR

806. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total number of employees in the Bengal Nagpur Railway workshops, Kharagpur and the number of Harijans therein?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The total number of employees in the Bengal Nagpur Railway Workshops at Kharagpur is 10,780. Government have no information regarding the number of Harijans employed, as no record has so far been maintained to show separately the number of Harijans.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any ban or any discrimination being shown against Harijans being employed there?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Certainly not.

REGISTRATION OF PUBLISHERS UNDER PAPER CONTROL ECONOMY ORDER 1944

807. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state how publishers were registered under the Paper Control Economy Order of 1944?

(b) Are Government aware that during the last war, many writers and publishers did not register their names and consequently are unable to get the paper quota?

(c) Do Government propose to revise the registration of publishers afresh?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take in order to grant paper quotas to individual writers who want to publish their works?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Any person who at the commencement of the Paper Control (Economy) Order 1944, was carrying on business as a publisher, was eligible for registration under the order, and was required to apply before the 15th July 1944 to the Paper Controller. The Paper Control (Economy) Order 1944 was superseded by the Paper Control (Economy) Order 1945. The basic date, namely, the 12th June 1944 on which a person was required to be a publisher in order to become eligible for paper quota remained unchanged.

(b) There may be cases in which persons eligible to be registered may have failed to apply for registration. In such cases no paper quota is admissible.

(c) and (d). Under the Paper Control (Economy) Order of 1944 and also of 1945 the Central Government can issue and have been issuing special orders in special cases authorising individuals to consume paper. These powers of the Central Government have also been delegated to the Provincial Governments. Government are, however, considering the question of removing control on paper.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact that in the year 1943-44 some of the writers were in prison and therefore they could not get their names registered? In those cases will Government consider getting their names registered for getting paper?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: As I have said, special permits are being issued in special cases and if such cases are brought to our notice, we shall consider them.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know how long it will take for Government to come to a decision as regards the removal of control?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: Very soon.

CENTRES FOR SELECTION OF STAFF TO JUNIOR ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS IN RAILWAYS

808. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state the number and location of centres for selection of staff to the junior administrative posts in the Railways?

(b) Is there any such centre in Orissa?

(c) If not, what steps do Government propose to take to have such a centre in Orissa?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) By 'junior administrative posts', I presume, the Honourable Member is referring to selection posts in the non-gazetted cadre of Administrative Offices. Selection of non-gazetted staff for promotion to such posts is usually done by duly constituted Selection Boards set up by individual Railway Administrations, and these Selection Boards usually assemble where the Administrative Offices are located.

(b) There is no such centre in Orissa, as there is no Administrative Office in that province.

(c) Government have no intention at present to set up such a centre for any province exclusively.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Do these Selection Boards advertise the vacancies at any time?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This is not initial recruitment. The Selection Boards function with regard to promotions for which no advertisement is called for.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Who makes the initial appointments?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The initial appointments are made in respect of superior appointments by the Federal Public Service Commission, in respect of subordinate appointments by Joint Railway Commissions, and in regard to menials, it is done by the administration.

PROMOTION OF SUBORDINATES TO OFFICERS' CADRE IN B. N. RLY. DURING THE WAR

809. *Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many upper subordinates were promoted to the officers' cadre in the Bengal Nagpore Railway during the war and are continuing as such now?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Government are informed that on the B. N. Railway 70 upper subordinates were promoted to the Officers' cadre during the war and are continuing as such.

ELECTRIFICATION OF RAILWAY QUARTERS IN MINTO ROAD AREA ALLOTTED TO I. R. C. A.

810. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 52 Railway quarters in the Minto Road area allotted to the I.R.C.A. staff are not electrified and that on that account the colony is not supplied even with street lights;

(b) whether it is a fact that similar types of railway quarters situated in Delhi-Kishanganj are electrified; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what the reasons for not electrifying this area are and whether Government propose to consider the advisability of supplying this colony with electricity?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes, it is a fact that the 52 railway quarters for Class III Staff in the Minto Road area are not electrified. An electric street light has, however, been provided.

(b) Yes. Similar types of railway quarters in Delhi-Kishanganj area were electrified as a special case.

(c) The policy is not to electrify quarters of lower grade staff in order to keep down the capital cost and the rent charged for these quarters. The question whether electrification of these quarters in Minto Road Area should be treated as an exception, is now being considered.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Minister what the increase in rent will be if these quarters are electrified?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I cannot give an answer off hand.

Mr. B. K. Sidhva: May I know whether Government think that these low salaried people are not entitled to electricity?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There is no such consideration at all. The idea is simply to keep down the capital cost and consequently the rent charged is as low as possible.

Mr. B. K. Sidhva: Arising out of the answer to question (b) where it is stated electricity is provided as a special case, may I know what are the special reasons?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We felt there was a very strong demand in that area. The surrounding houses were electrified and we thought we should give these railway quarters also electric connection.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not the case that similar conditions exist in Minto Road area also?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that 10 per cent. of their pay is recovered irrespective of the cost of the bungalow or the quarters that they occupy?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Electricity charges are separately calculated.

INSTALLATION OF MORE TELEPHONES AT RAILWAY ENQUIRY OFFICE, DELHI STATION

Shri Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the telephone line to the Railway enquiry office at Delhi station is engaged for most of the time?

(b) Do Government propose to have more telephones installed at the enquiry office to facilitate work?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). Government are aware of the trouble referred to. This is not necessarily due to the telephone being actually engaged. In some cases it may be due to the line being faulty. A review of the present arrangements is being made in consultation with the Ministry of Communications.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact generally, Sir, that people in charge of the Enquiry Office remove the receiver and put it aside so that they may not have the trouble of hearing and replying to enquiries?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: What I said in my answer was that partly it may be due to causes of that kind, but partly also I think it is quite possibly due to the line being faulty; but I am having the matter enquired into.

Seth Govinddas: Is the Honourable Minister aware that it is sometimes quite all right and sometimes it gives the sound that it is engaged. In this case the line cannot be out of order. It is sometimes else which is responsible for it.

Mr. Speaker: It is argument.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Minister aware that very often altogether false information is given by the Enquiry Office?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If the Honourable Member will give me specific cases of that kind, I will have it certainly investigated.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the Honourable Minister considered the advisability of posting somebody or other so as to pay a sort of surprise visit and to keep a watch over the way in which this office is working in Delhi?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am organizing surprise visits as far as the Delhi area is concerned on such a vast scale that it is difficult to extend it. We are having that particular line of action very seriously in view in all matters that we are considering.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: In view of the numerous complaints, will the Honourable Minister consider the desirability of having the telephones at the Delhi Railway station connected with different exchanges, for instance, one from old Delhi and the other from New Delhi?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As the Honourable Member is aware there are enquiry offices in four places in Delhi apart from the one at the Old Delhi station, and at present we have a scheme under active consideration for converting the Enquiry Office in Connaught Place into a combined Enquiry, Reservation and Complaints Office.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: The Honourable Minister has not followed my question, Sir. May I know whether he will consider the desirability of having the telephones at the Delhi station connected with different exchanges, so that at one time even if one line fails the other may work?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I will take that matter up with my Honourable Colleague.

ESTABLISHMENT OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH DEPARTMENT FOR THE INDIAN RAILWAYS

812. *Shri R. B. Diwakar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Metallurgists and Chemists Committee of the Indian Railway Conference Association submitted recently a comprehensive development scheme to Government as regards scientific and technical research in the running of railways? If so, when was it submitted and is it available to the public?

(b) Have Government taken any action on it and if so, what? If not, why not?

(c) Is it a fact that the above-mentioned Committee has pointed out that as a result of research, there is a possibility of economising the use of coal, ferrous and non-ferrous metal and oils in this country?

(d) Are Government aware that as a result of such research the British Railways have economised the use of coal by six per cent.?

(e) Are Government further aware that up-to-date American Railways also have research and scientific departments attached to them?

(f) If so, are Government contemplating the establishment of similar research department for the Indian Railways and if so, what is the progress made so far in this matter? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) A preliminary and tentative proposal for the establishment of a Central Railway Chemical and Metallurgical Laboratory was put forward by the Metallurgists' and Chemists' Sub-Committee of the Indian Railway Conference Association at their 7th meeting in 1944. These proposals however, deal with only two of the eight main branches envisaged in Government's own proposals for the establishment of a Central Railway Research Organization covering all branches of Railway activities.

The reports of this Sub-Committee as well as other sections of the Indian Railway Conference Association are departmental publications which are not normally published. A copy of it will however be placed in the Library of the House for the information of Honourable Members interested in the subject.

(b) and (f). There has been in existence since 1935 a nucleus research organization as a part of the Central Standards Office for Railways. At present it consists of Civil, Mechanical, Metallurgical and Electrical Research Officers. It primarily deals with railway problems in the field of Civil and Mechanical Engineering and connected Metallurgical and Electrical matters. The Research Officer (Metallurgical and Chemical) was appointed in 1946.

The expansion of the Railway Research Organization into a comprehensive research institute, so as to cover every aspect of railway activity, is being pressed forward as fast as the shortage of technical personnel will permit.

(c) The research so far carried out by and under the direction of the Central Standards Office for Railways has already indicated means for obtaining economies in the use of fuel, ferrous and non-ferrous metals and oils, and steps to effect these economies are being taken.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes.

CAPITAL COST AND ANNUAL RECURRING EXPENDITURE OF FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, DEHRA DUN

813. *Mr. B. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state when the posts of the Inspector-General of Forests and the President of the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun were bifurcated?

(b) What is the pay of each post?

(c) What is the total capital cost on buildings, estates, apparatus and other equipments of the Forest Institute at Dehra Dun and what is the annual recurring expenditure?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) On the 1st February, 1945.

(b) Inspector General of Forests Rs. 3,250 p. m.

President, Forest Research Institute and Colleges: Rs. 2,500 in the scale of Rs. 2,500—125—2,750.

(c) A statement showing the particulars required by the Honourable Member is laid on the table of the House.

FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE & COLLEGES, DEHRA DUN

Total Capital Cost of buildings, Estate, Apparatus and other equipment; Annual Recurring Expenditure

| | Research Rs | Colleges Rs |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. Capital cost of buildings | 67,64,107 | 11,94,72 |
| 2. Capital cost of Estate | 36,43,988 | ... |
| 3. Capital cost of apparatus, equipment, etc. | 18,15,376 | 3,67,919 |
| 4. Annual recurring expenditure on equipment etc. (based on figures for 1946-47). | 3,21,500* | 1,36,300* |
| 5. Annual recurring expenditure on buildings (1946-47) | 1,00,510 | 16,088 |
| *This expenditure excludes establishment charges (pay, allowances, etc.) which are as follows:— | | |
| Research | Rs 8,21,927 | |
| Colleges | Rs 2,83,128 | |

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: What was the reason for the bifurcation of these posts in 1945?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I think I might as well give a brief history of this matter. Up to 1926 there were two separate posts, one of Inspector-General of Forests and the other of the President of the Forest Research Institute and Colleges. In 1926 as a measure of economy the two posts were combined. The provinces and the States then found that the Inspector-General of Forests could not go round the country and do his work of inspection as well as carry on the research work at the Institute. At a Conference convened in 1937, the representatives of the States and Provinces suggested that the posts should be bifurcated. The work of the Research Institute increased considerably after 1942 so much so that it was felt that unless the posts were bifurcated the work of neither would be done properly. It was impossible for one officer to go round the country on inspection and at the same time be in charge of the Research Institute. It was, therefore, decided in 1945 to bifurcate the posts.

Shri Khurshed Lal: Sir, in view of the fact that the President of the Forest Research Institute is no more the Inspector-General of Forests, has Government any proposal under consideration to combine his post with that of the Principal of the College at Dehra Dun?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware of any such proposal.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, is this College conducting any degree courses and has its capacity for training students been increased in the past?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That does not arise out of the question.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether in view of the separation of the posts, the President of the Research Institute cannot also be made the Principal of the Training College? Why should there be two separate posts?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I will go into that question.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether the Institute at Dehra Dun issues any pamphlets or other administration reports showing what researches have been made and how the results of such researches have been implemented?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I would like to have notice of that question.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact, Sir, that for the past 20 long years one of the researches which is being carried on is, whether bamboo pulp can be used for manufacture of paper, while everybody knows that bamboo pulp is actually used widely for the manufacture of paper,

Mr. Speaker: That is an expression of opinion.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What I mean to ask is whether the Institute cannot do any research with a view to finding out whether paper can be manufactured from leaves, or some such source?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government will certainly consider that suggestion.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Is 'Forests' not a Provincial subject, Sir?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes, it is a Provincial subject, but the Central Government have some inspectorial powers.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Why should the Inspector-General of Forests go about inspecting when it is a provincial subject?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: It has been found necessary and useful; as a matter of fact, the provinces themselves have asked for this.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know, Sir, whether the Inspector-General of Forests is an Adviser or, whether he is a kind of an inspector who goes about checking up?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: He is available for help and guidance.

NUMBER AND LOCATION OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATORIES IN INDIA

†814. **Mr. B. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total number of Meteorological Observatories in India and the places where they are located?

(b) What is the total capacity of students in the School of Meteorology in Poona?

(c) How many students are refused admission for want of accommodation every year?

(d) Are all the students, who pass out from the school, employed?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) There are different types of observatories maintained by the India Meteorological Department. I lay on the table of the House a statement giving the details of these observatories and the places at which they are located.

(b), (c) and (d). The Training School in the Meteorological Office in Poona is wholly intended for (i) training persons recruited for service in the India Meteorological Department and (ii) giving periodical refresher courses to the regular meteorological staff. The School is equipped to give training to 25 persons at a time.

DISCONTINUANCE OF SUPPLY OF RATION FROM RAILWAY STAFF (DEPT) STAFF OF RAILWAY BOARD'S OFFICE

†815. **Mr. B. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that permanent and temporary staff of the Railway Board's office are, with effect from 1st March 1948 debarred from taking their rations from the Railway grainshops?

(b) Is it a fact that the staff on deputation to the Board's office have been allowed to draw their rations from the Railway grainshops?

(c) If so, what are the reasons for this distinction?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The conditions relating to the permanent and temporary staff in the Railway Board's office and staff from Railways on deputation in the Board's office are different; the staff of the Railway Board's office draw dearness allowance at the higher rates admissible to other Secretariat staff, and staff on deputation from Railways to the Board's office continue to draw the dearness allowance admissible at present to Railway staff plus rations from Railway Grainshops.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

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

PREVENTION OF PERIODICAL ATTACKS OF PESTS ON COFFEE PLANTS

816. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state whether any research work is being carried on to prevent periodical attacks of pests on coffee plants especially of the 'Arabica' and 'Robusta' varieties?

(b) Has any attempt been made to study the question first-hand from Brazil?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the question of deputing a senior officer to Brazil for this purpose?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Intensive research on control, eradication and checking of some coffee pests and diseases is being effectively carried out at the Coffee Experiment Station, Balehonnur, Mysore State. The station has been taken over by the Indian Coffee Board, Bangalore, and more staff has recently been appointed as a result of which these and other pests and diseases of both 'Arabica' and 'Robusta' Coffee will be studied more intensively.

(b) The most serious pest of Coffee in Brazil is the coffee berry borer which got introduced into Mysore from Java but has been completely eradicated here. Other important pests and diseases of coffee in India are of minor or no importance in Brazil. Coffee leaf rust and black rot do not occur in that country.

(c) In view of (a) and (b), the question does not arise.

AMOUNT PAID TO PRIVATE COMPANIES FOR PLANES CHARTERED TO CARRY TROOPS AND GOODS TO SRINAGAR

817. *Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the rate at which planes belonging to private companies were engaged to carry troops and goods to Srinagar;

(b) the total air transport charges for Srinagar during October, November and December 1947;

(c) the all-up weight which the Dakotas engaged for the Srinagar trips carried; and

(d) the corresponding all-up weight for Dakotas in England?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Operating Companies were paid at the following rates for their Dakota aircraft employed on Kashmir operations:

Rs. 5 per mile flown and a detention charge of Rs. 800 per day for the period for which no flying was done due to bad weather, etc.;

(b) The total air transport charges payable for October, November and December, 1947, are Rs. 7,20,800, Rs. 81,42,200 and Rs. 11,00,000, respectively.

(c) As a special case, in view of the nature of the operations, the Dakotas engaged on Kashmir operations were permitted to fly with a maximum all-up weight of 26,000 lbs. instead of the normal 25,000 lbs. permitted by their Certificates of Airworthiness.

(d) The all-up weight permitted for Dakotas in England is 28,000 lbs.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: While the all-up weight permitted for Dakotas in England is 28,000 lbs. why is it fixed at 25,000 lbs. in India, and even in an emergency it is not permitted to exceed 26,000 lbs.?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Well, Sir, that is the limit fixed by the Manufacturers of Dakotas, because in a hot country like India the

engines are liable to become warm; even if one engine fails the plane will be able to carry the stipulated weight. The Honourable Member will appreciate that while accidents are frequent in England, in India they are few and far between.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is Government aware, Sir, that while Dakota No. 2, which has only a seating capacity of only 14, were permitted to carry as many as 85 during the Burma operations, these planes were not allowed to carry more than the prescribed number while we were attacked by raiders on the one side?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Sir, these rules are not applicable to military operations and it was suggested to the Defence Department that they can carry as many men as they liked.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact, Sir, that these Dakota planes were refused permission to carry petrol tins, while it is a usual practice during military operations to carry such tins?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I think the Honourable Member is not correct. Of course, petrol was being carried during the war and it is carried even now. Whether it was carried in tins or in some other containers, I am not aware.

Shri K. Santhanam: May I know, Sir, the proportion of the cost of the Dakotas which has been paid as rent?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I am not in a position to supply that information.

Mr. Frank E. Anthony: Were the pilots and the crews given special allowances by the Government?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Not by Government, but some of the companies paid special allowances, I think.

Mr. Frank E. Anthony: What were the rates of these allowances?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I am not aware of it, because they were paid by the companies.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Arising out of the reply given by the Honourable Minister, may I know, how do the climatic conditions of India affect the engines of the Dakotas during the winter season?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether the capacity of 21 of these planes was fixed by the same officer who arranged for the disposal of 18 serviceable Dakotas as scrap?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I am not aware of it; but I know that this specification is in accordance with international rules.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: What is the total cost incurred, Sir, by way of rent?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: About Rs. 50 lakhs.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Instead of hiring these planes, what attempt was made by the Honourable Minister's Department to get right or fit properly these 80 Dakotas which have been found to be air-worthy?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Well, Sir, I hope the Honourable Member is aware that the Civil Aviation Department does not own or possess any Dakotas. They simply license the private Companies. These 80 Dakotas were taken over by the Defence Department, and if any were left over then they were to be handed over to the private Companies if required.

Mr. Hussain Imam: May I know the name of the Technical Adviser who fixed this weight?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: As I said just now, this weight was originally fixed by the manufacturing Company and then adopted by the International Air Board.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But that is only for ordinary purposes, not for emergency purposes?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That is for the Defence Department to decide. If they take over these planes then they can load them with any weight.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Officer in charge of testing or saying that a plane is air-worthy, a European—a Britisher?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: Yes, he is a Britisher, and I think everyone will acknowledge that his licensing has been so effective that there have been very few accidents in this country.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If there is no flying there will be no accidents.

AMBICA AIR LINES PLANES FOR MINISTERS

818. *Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have engaged any plane of the Ambica Airlines on a contract basis for the convenience of Ministers;

(b) if so, what are the terms of the contract; and

(c) the total number of trips made by the plane on official business in January, 1948 with their destinations?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (b). An arrangement has been made with Ambica Airlines under which the company are to maintain at New Delhi 2 Expeditor twin-engaged aircrafts for the use of the Honourable Ministers and senior officers of the Government of India. The company are guaranteed a minimum of 90 hours flying every month in respect of each aircraft. Payment for flying is to be made at the rate of Rs. 8 per mile.

(c) 14 return trips from Delhi—two to Allahabad, three to Lucknow, five to Lahore, two to Loharu, one to Rupa and one to Calcutta.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Instead of hiring planes from time to time from the Ambica Airlines or from other lines, why should not the Government purchase some planes for the use of the Ministers and keep them here for use of Government?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That is being arranged.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Therefore this contract with Ambica Airlines has been given up or terminated?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: No; as soon as we get our own planes it will be terminated.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government propose to purchase one plane for each Minister just like a car?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That is not the scheme.

CONCESSIONS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES ON STATE RAILWAYS

†619. *R. B. Lala Raj Karwar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state what privileges and concessions are enjoyed by railway employees while travelling in trains?

(b) Are these privileges and concessions uniform on all State Railways?

(c) If not, do Government propose to consider the advisability of making such privileges and concessions uniform on all State Railways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The privileges and concessions are:

(i) A limited number of free passes and of Privilege Ticket Orders enabling tickets being purchased at 1/8rd of the ordinary rate, (ii) Meals at concessional rates.

(b) and (c). Passes and P.T.Os. allowed to railway employees are already on a uniform scale. Concessions in regard to cost of meals vary. The Government do not consider it necessary to enforce uniformity in this matter.

ABOLITION OF TRAVELLING CONCESSIONS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

†620. *R. B. Lala Raj Karwar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a note entitled "A Railway Anomaly" published on page 4 of the *Free Press Journal of Bombay*, dated the 1st March, 1948, regarding the abolition of privileges and concessions enjoyed by State railway employees while travelling by rail?

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

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) A reduction in pass concessions to gasetted staff has very recently been effected. The Government are averse to an entire abolition of these concessions.

PLYING OF FERRY STEAMERS BY SCINDIA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY ON WESTERN COAST

†621. *Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether the Scindia Steam Navigation Company ply ferry steamers from Bombay to Goa on the Western Coast?

(b) Do the said Steam Navigation Company send ferry steamers to Shrivardhan, Harnai, Dabhol and Ratnagiri?

(c) What is the distance of Harnai, Dabhol and Ratnagiri from Bombay?

(d) What is the steamer-fare to Shrivardhan, Harnai, Dabhol and Ratnagiri from Bombay?

(e) What is the principle on which the said Steam Navigation Company have fixed these fares?

(f) Is it a fact that there is a special Steamer service for Harnai and Dabhol only?

(g) Are Government aware that passengers for Harnai have to pay almost the same fare, as the passengers for Ratnagiri?

(h) If so, do Government propose to make inquiries into the matter and have the steamer-fares fixed according to the distance that passengers have to travel?

(i) Is the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, the only Steamer Company that ply ferry service between Bombay and Ratnagiri?

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

(j) How many Steamer Companies were plying such services between these ports prior to 1938?

(k) What were the fares for these ports when there were steamers of other Steam Navigation Companies?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Commerce. I understand the question has been put down on the list of business for 22nd March 1948 when the Honourable Minister of Commerce will reply to it.

EXPORT OF HAND-WOVEN GOODS SPECIALLY USED BY MUSLIMS IN PAKISTAN

822. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) what facilities and arrangements are being provided to enable handloom weavers and merchants and co-operative societies dealing in hand-woven goods, specially used by Moslems and of special designs for which there used to be customary demand in places now situated in Pakistan:

(b) whether Government are issuing any licences to enable such exports to customary places of demand and if so, on what basis:

(c) whether Government are aware that the weaving industry is suffering from the accumulating stocks of cloth, produced for such exports; and

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to help the handloom weavers in this regard?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) to (d). Government have received several representations stating that there are accumulations of handloom cloth for which in the past the customary market has been in areas now included in Pakistan, and asking for permission to move such cloth. Government will consider allowing reasonable quantities of such cloth to move to Pakistan.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Will it be in addition to the quotas?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: No, Sir.

FUNCTIONS, SET-UP AND ANNUAL EXPENDITURE OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

823. *Shri P. Kunhiraman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state the purpose, the functions and the present set-up of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research?

(b) What is the annual expenditure incurred by Government on account of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research since its inception?

(c) What are the amounts paid during the above period to the Provinces and States through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research by way of grants and subventions for the implementation of various schemes?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulstram: (a) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research was constituted as the result of a recommendation of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. Its primary function was to promote, guide and co-ordinate agricultural research throughout India.

The Council is a Registered Society and consists of two parts, viz. executive and advisory. The Governing Body is the executive side and is vested with the management of all the affairs and funds of the Council. The other part is the Advisory Board. This Board is responsible for examining all proposals in connection with the scientific objects of the Council and it advises the Governing Body in regard to them. The Advisory Board is assisted in the work of scrutinising the schemes by various scientific and commodity committees. There is also a Standing Finance Committee of the Council to examine financial aspects of the schemes. *Ad hoc* committees are also

appointed from time to time for considering specific problems relating to agricultural research.

(b) and (c). The following statements are laid on the table:

(i) Statement showing the annual expenditure incurred by Government on the maintenance of the Secretariat of the Council from its inception:

(ii) Statement showing grants made to the Council by the Government of India for carrying out specific research work.

(iii) Statement showing the proceeds from Agricultural Produce Cess so far received by the Council.

(iv) Statement showing amounts paid so far to the Provinces and States by the Council by way of grants and subventions for the implementation of various research schemes.

Statement showing the annual expenditure incurred by Government on the maintenance of the Secretariat of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, since its inception.

| Year | Amount |
|------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1929-30 (1st June 29 to 31st March 1930) | 1,40,500 |
| 1930-31 | 2,54,600 |
| 1931-32 | 2,25,400 |
| 1932-33 | 1,95,000 |
| 1933-34 | 2,21,400 |
| 1934-35 | 2,27,400 |
| 1935-36 | 2,75,700 |
| 1936-37 | 3,11,200 |
| 1937-38 | 3,44,100 |
| 1938-39 | 3,44,900 |
| 1939-40 | 3,29,100 |
| 1940-41 | 2,41,300 |
| 1941-42 | 3,18,800 |
| 1942-43 | 3,18,500 |
| 1943-44 | 2,70,700 |
| 1944-45 | 3,37,000 |
| 1945-46 | 3,91,700 |
| 1946-47 | 4,51,800 |
| 1947-48 | 3,76,900 |

Statement showing Grants made by Government of India for carrying out specific research work on behalf of the Council

| Year | Total Amount. |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1929-30 | 14,99,996 0 0 |
| 1930-31 | 15,00,000 0 0 |
| 1931-32 | 5,00,000 0 0 |
| 1932-33 | 5,00,000 0 0 |
| 1933-34 | 6,50,000 0 0 |
| 1934-35 | 8,26,000 0 0 |
| 1935-36 | 9,50,000 0 0 |
| 1936-37 | 30,11,476 0 0 |
| 1937-38 | 12,29,000 0 0 |
| 1938-39 | 10,51,194 10 3 |
| 1939-40 | 8,95,407 10 0 |
| 1940-41 | 4,80,000 0 0 |
| 1941-42 | 4,50,000 0 0 |
| 1942-43 | 6,32,790 14 11 |
| 1943-44 | 14,91,600 0 0 |
| 1944-45 | 17,47,446 0 0 |
| 1945-46 | 16,06,590 0 0 |
| 1946-47 | 8,76,750 0 0 |
| 1947-48 (upto date 24th March 1948) | 3,26,819 0 0 |

Grand Total 201,26,070 3 2

Statement showing the proceeds from Agricultural Produce Cess so far received year by year.

| Year | Amount |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1940-41 | 8,28,274 0 0 |
| 1941-42 | 14,47,965 10 0 |
| 1942-43 | 13,19,559 4 4 |
| 1943-44 | 11,71,574 0 9 |
| 1944-45 | 16,02,320 3 10 |
| 1945-46 | 20,41,182 3 8 |
| 1946-47 | 19,06,760 0 0 |
| 1947-48 | *4,98,476 1 0 |
| Grand Total | 108,16,111 7 7 |

* Receipt upto the quarter ending 31st March, 1947. Payment for the remaining 3 Quarters ending 30th June, 1947, 30th September, 1947 and 31st December, 1947 not received till now.

Statement showing amounts paid from June 1929 to date, to the Provinces and States by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research by way of grants and subvention for the implementation of various schemes

| Year | Amount |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1929-30 | 1,440 0 4 |
| 1930-31 | 3,04,968 7 4 |
| 1931-32 | 3,62,661 2 4 |
| 1932-33 | 5,81,178 3 1 |
| 1933-34 | 8,29,558 13 2 |
| 1934-35 | 11,14,547 13 1 |
| 1935-36 | 14,92,008 10 6 |
| 1936-37 | 14,37,003 13 10 |
| 1937-38 | 14,62,813 9 5 |
| 1938-39 | 14,38,099 8 10 |
| 1939-40 | 13,14,413 12 3 |
| 1940-41 | 12,93,698 4 2 |
| 1941-42 | 14,37,657 15 1 |
| 1942-43 | 11,86,677 12 4 |
| 1943-44 | 15,82,259 8 4 |
| 1944-45 | 18,18,609 0 0 |
| 1945-46 | 17,70,720 10 9 |
| 1946-47 | 11,96,304 3 6 |
| 1947-48* (upto date) | 37,363 2 6 |
| Grand Total | 206,61,039 2 6 |

* The bulk of the grants for the current financial year have still to be paid. In several cases demands for grants have not yet been received; those received are under scrutiny.

Seth Govinddas: Is there any proposal for the appointment of some Provincial Committees under this Committee to go into the questions of Provincial agriculture?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There is no proposal at present. But this suggestion was made on an earlier occasion and will be considered.

Prof. H. G. Ranga: Have Government any sort of a scheme for appointing two or three scientists in India to enquire into the working of this I.C.A.R. once in every two or three years, with a view to improve its efficiency and its work and also to make further suggestions for improvement?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Government have no such proposal, but Government will welcome from any source proposals for making the institution still more useful; but the suggestion that every two or three years there should be an examination into its working is not a proper way of doing these things.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact Sir, that the I.C.A.B., has complained rightly that its annual income of Rs. 5 lakhs is not adequate?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That is true.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government any proposal to increase its sources of income so that it can have better resources to finance these schemes?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: These matters are under the consideration of Government.

STRENGTH OF TECHNICAL STAFF-OFFICERS AND OTHERS EMPLOYED IN INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

824. *Shri P. Kanhiraman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what the strength of the technical staff-officers and others separately—employed in the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is?

(b) What are their qualifications and how much experience in research work has each one of them?

(c) What branches or subjects in agriculture have they specialised in?

(d) What portion of the staff is permanent and what portion temporary?

(e) Do Government propose to make the temporary Research staff permanent and if not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) to (c). A statement giving the information required is laid on the table.

(d) and (e). According to its constitution, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research is precluded from having any permanent posts under it on its Research (non-Government) side. The posts have therefore to be continued on a temporary basis, in view of the constitution.

PERIODICAL TOURING BY MEMBERS OF TECHNICAL STAFF OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

825. *Shri P. Kanhiraman: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state whether any members of the technical staff of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research are making periodical tours to examine the site, the working, or implementation of the various schemes in the Provinces and States for which grants have been given through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research? If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Yes. Members of the technical staff of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research undertook in all 19 tours in 1945, 39 in 1946, 17 in 1947 and 2 upto February, 1948. Government propose to consider steps to intensify the tour programme of the technical staff in the present and coming years.

AMALGAMATION OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, PUSA

826. *Shri P. Kanhiraman: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state what is the relation between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa?

(b) Is there any proposal to amalgamate the two?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of re-organising the Indian Council of Agricultural Research on the model of the Bureau of Plant Industry in the United States of America or the Imperial Agricultural Bureau in the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The relation between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Indian Agricultural Research

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

Institute is that the technical programme of research work undertaken by the latter and its annual report are scrutinised by the Council which is responsible for the co-ordination of agricultural research activities at the Centre as well as in the provinces and the States. The administrative control of the Institute is vested in the Ministry of Agriculture. The Director of the Institute is a member of the Council and its Advisory Board and generally the Heads of the various Divisions of the Institute take an active part in the Scientific Committees of the Council and help to scrutinize schemes financed by the Council, their programmes and reports.

(b) No.

(c) The reorganisation of the Ministry of Agriculture is now under consideration. Government do propose to consider the possibilities of further improvements based on the experience of agricultural research organisations of United States of America and United Kingdom being introduced in connection with the functioning of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I ask the Honourable Minister what need there is any longer for a separate Indian Agricultural Research Institute when there is already an Indian Council of Agricultural Research directly under the Government of India and maintained by it?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: The functions of the two are entirely different. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is to guide, promote and co-ordinate research work in agriculture all over the country, in the Provinces and the States. It is a kind of advising, guiding and co-ordinating body. The Agricultural Research Institute located in Delhi is one of the many centres of research work in the country, and therefore the functions of the two organisations are entirely different.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that in the Indian Agricultural Institute or Pusa Institute as we call it research is being carried on in various matters, and if that is so, is there not duplication in having another Indian Council of Agricultural Research?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: There is no duplication. As I have explained, the functions and activities of the two are entirely different. One is a co-ordinating body, organising research at numerous centres of the country, at Universities, at the Provincial agricultural farms and so many centres. This particular Institute which is located in Delhi is one of those numerous centres and therefore the functions of the two cannot be combined.

Prof. H. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that many of the Provincial Governments have complained that the capacity of the Pusa Institute is not large enough to take all the research scholars whom the Provincial Governments wish to send there?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: I am not aware of any such specific complaint, but I can thoroughly understand that with the expanding need of trained staff and more research work there is bound to be need for expanding the present Institute.

Prof. H. G. Ranga: And is it not a fact that even with the present equipment, staff and laboratories and so on there is still some possibility for the increase in the number of scholars who can be trained here?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: Quite possibly so. As I have said, the condition of things in India is far behind many other countries and there is need for more and more expansion of this type of activity.

ALLOTMENT OF LAND TO POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES AT PATNA FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES

827. *Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many Government quarters are there in Bihar circle for different grades of Government servants of the Posts and Telegraphs Department at the Headquarters at Patna?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India had acquired a plot of land from the Government of Bihar for the construction of quarters more than ten years ago?

(c) Is it a fact that about 10 years ago, Government had a scheme to allot the lands acquired for quarters to the employees on equitable basis and advance loans also to them for the construction of buildings?

(d) Is it a fact that the Government of India dropped this scheme and surrendered the lands so acquired to the Government of Bihar?

(e) Do Government propose to re-acquire these lands and allot them to their employees and advance loans for construction of houses?

(f) Is there any other scheme with the Government for providing quarters to the clerical staff at Patna and if so, what is the reason for the delay in the execution of such schemes?

(g) Is it a fact that the existing clerical quarters are not electrified?

(h) If the reply to part (g) above be in the affirmative, what steps do Government propose to take to expedite the electrification of these quarters?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) (i) For gazetted officers entitled to rent-free quarters as condition of service—5.

(ii) For non-gazetted staff entitled to rent-free quarters as condition of service—31.

(iii) For gazetted officers not entitled to rent-free quarters—7.

(iv) For non-gazetted staff not entitled to rent-free quarters—71.

(b), (c), (d) and (e). Information is not readily available. Enquiries are being made and the Honourable Member will be given the details in due course.

(f) Yes, the Postmaster-General has been negotiating with the Provincial Government for allotment of a suitable plot of land but that Government have not yet been able to find any. At the instance of the Standing Finance Committee, it has been decided to curtail the programme for the construction of residential quarters.

(g) Some are electrified while others are not.

(h) An estimate for electrification of the unelectrified quarters has already been sanctioned by the Postmaster-General and the work is expected to be taken in hand soon. The Electric Supply Company are finding difficulty in getting stores for their portion of the work.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Arising out of the answer that some quarters are electrified and some are not, may I know if this is due to want of electricity, or due to the inability of the Company to supply electricity, or due to what other difficulties?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: I have just said that the electrification of those quarters has already been sanctioned and work is to be taken in hand soon. The difficulty is that the Company is encountering difficulty in obtaining the stores required, but every attempt is being made to expedite it.

COMPENSATION TO GOVERNMENT OF EASTERN PAKISTAN FOR USE AND MAINTENANCE OF TELEGRAPH WIRES AND CABLES

626. *Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Indian Dominion has to pay to the Government of Eastern Pakistan a huge sum of money per diem as compensation for the use and maintenance of telegraph wires and cables now under the jurisdiction of Eastern Pakistan?

(b) Is it a fact that the Indian Dominion decided to construct a telegraph line of its own between Gauhati and Patna to avoid this recurring expenditure?

(c) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what is the actual amount of compensation per day agreed upon?

(d) Is it a fact that the construction of the said line has been completed and is fit for operation? If so, why has it not been brought under operation?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) and (c). The Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department has rented upto 31st March, 1948, circuits between Calcutta and Gauhati from Pakistan for carrying telegraph and telephone traffic. For traffic sent by other routes transit charges are paid for each telegram and trunk call according to international practice. Information about total amounts due has not yet become available. A statement is laid on the table of the House showing the details of the payments that are required to be made

(b) Yes, Sir.

(d) The line has been brought into operation and it is now carrying most of the traffic. Additional carrier circuits are being provided between Patna and Calcutta to carry the remaining traffic. This work is expected to be completed by the end of March, 1948.

Statement

Showing payment that have to be made by India to Pakistan for the transmission of Telegrams and Telephone trunk calls by circuits owned by the latter.

1. Approximate rent for telegraph and telephone circuits on the Calcutta-Gauhati Route for the period 1-12-47 to 31-3-48. Rs. 52,000

2. Transit charges in telegrams transmitted by other routes :—
Other than Press—

| | EXPRESS | | | ORDINARY | | |
|-----------------------|---------|----|----|----------|----|----|
| | Rs. | A. | P. | Rs. | A. | P. |
| For the first 8 words | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Each Additional word | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

Press—

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| For the first 40 words | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 0 |
| Each additional 5 words | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |

Trains charges on ordinary telephone trunk calls for a unit period of 3 minutes transmitted by other routes,—

| | | | | Rs. | A. | P. |
|--------------|-------------|---|-------------|-----|----|----|
| By the route | Daršana | — | Lalmoharhat | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| Do. | .. | — | Karimganj | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Do. | .. | — | Agartala | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Do. | .. | — | Haldibari | 2 | 8 | 0 |
| Do. | Lalmoharhat | — | Haldibari | 0 | 12 | 0 |

| | | | Rs. | A. | P. |
|--------------|-------------|------------|-----|----|----|
| By the route | Bholaganj | —Karimgane | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| Do. | Lalmoharhat | —Agartala | 2 | 6 | 0 |
| Do. | Haldibari | —Karimganj | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Do. | — | —,Agartala | 2 | 14 | 0 |
| Do. | Karimganj | —Agartala | 1 | 8 | 0 |
| Do. | Lalmoharhat | —Saidpur | 1 | 2 | 0 |

These charges are correspondingly increased or decreased according as the call is at a full rate or one-third rate. A surcharge of 40 per cent is levied in addition.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do Government, Sir, demand a similar payment from the Pakistan Government for their use of our telegraph wires between East and West Pakistan?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: That is true.

OPENING OF PUBLIC TELEPHONE CALL OFFICE AT SONEPUR RAILWAY STATION

829. *Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is a cable junction near the Sonapur Railway Junction on the Oudh Tirhut Railway on the other side of the Ganga?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to open a Government public Telephone Call Office on the Sonapur Railway Station premises, to avoid inconvenience to the public?

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai: (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is being examined.

REBATE BY PETROL COMPANIES FOR PETROL PURCHASES ON GOVERNMENT ACCOUNT

830. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to refer to the answer given to my starred question No. 151 asked on 7th February, 1948, and state whether it is a fact that a rebate of annas two per gallon, is allowed to petrol dealers by the petrol companies?

(b) What rebate, allowance or commission is allowed by the company to Government for petrol purchased on Government account?

(c) What is the period of long term agreement with the B.O.C. or other Oil Companies?

(d) Is there any concession in price in the long term agreement?

(e) What is the price per gallon of petrol purchased by Government?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The amount of annas two per gallon represents the commission paid by oil companies to their dealers for their services. It is not a rebate.

(b) In the case of petrol supplied to Government from pumps the companies charge the same price as to the public. In regard to petrol supplied to Government F.O.R. Main Ports and ex-upcountry depots a rebate is allowed by the companies to allow for economy secured by bulk purchase.

(c) The agreements with the B.O.C. and other oil companies are for an indefinite period.

(d) As stated in reply to (b) above, Government receive a certain rebate in price for supplies F.O.R. Main Ports and ex-upcountry depots.

(e) The prices are less than the market prices; publication of the actual prices may prejudice future contracts.

*Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

ACCEPTANCE OF LOWEST TENDERS FOR SUPPLY OF PAINTS

1831. *Mr. R. K. Sidhva: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to refer to the answer to the supplementary question raised on my starred question No. 546 asked on the 2nd March, 1948, and state if the prices quoted by Messrs. Murarka Paint and Varnish Works Ltd., and Messrs. East India Paint & Chemical Works Ltd., both of Calcutta, were not the lowest, why the lowest tender was not accepted?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The prices quoted by Messrs. Murarka Paint and Varnish Works Limited, and Messrs. East India Paint and Chemical Works Limited, both of Calcutta, were not the lowest. The lowest tender was not accepted on account of an adverse confidential report. The matter is now under investigation.

CONSTRUCTION OF AN OVERBRIDGE AT LEVEL CROSSING NEAR CUDDALORE NEW TOWN RAILWAY STATION ON S. I. RAILWAY

1832. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government propose to construct an overbridge at the level crossing near the Cuddalore New Town Railway Station on the South Indian Railway?

(b) Are Government aware that vehicles have often to stop for more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of an hour between 10-30 A. M. and 11-30 A. M. at this railway crossing owing to the lack of an alternate route?

(c) Have any representations been made by the public of Cuddalore New Town regarding this?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No.

(b) No, the maximum period of closure of level crossing against road traffic for train operation is only about ten minutes at a time.

(c) Yes, representations have been received. An overbridge at the site of the level crossing is not considered essential; at any rate, its provision at the cost of Railway is not justified.

REDUCTION IN PRICES OF LEAD AND TIN

1833. *Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state the present prices of lead and tin per ton in India?

(b) Wherefrom do Government buy these commodities and why are the prices 60 per cent. above the world level?

(c) Are Government aware that many small industries are unable to compete with the foreign manufacturers in our own markets due to the high prices of these commodities?

(d) Have there been any negotiations with the countries which supply these commodities to get the prices reduced?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) The current Indian market quotation for lead is Rs. 1,820 per ton. Government issue rate for tin is Rs. 8,840 per ton.

(b) Government buys lead from the local Indian Market and from foreign suppliers, and tin from Malaya, Belgium, Siam and China. Indian prices are comparable with world prices and are not 60 per cent. above the world price level.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) of the question.

(d) No, Sir. India buys these commodities at international rates.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

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

PROGRESS MADE IN THE FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION

834. *Shri Damodar Swarup Seth: Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what progress, if any, has so far been made in the Five Year plan to increase the food production laid down by the then Minister of Food in the month of January, 1947; and

(b) whether the whole or any part of the cerea deficit of 4.5 million tons has been made up?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: (a) The Five years plan to increase food production aimed at an additional annual production of about 82 lakh tons. A target of nine lakh tons of additional foodgrains had been planned for 1947-48 for all provinces except East Punjab and West Bengal. The agricultural year commenced in June, 1947 and will not be completed till June, 1948 whereafter the provincial reports on the various schemes to be executed may give an accurate idea as to the extent of progress achieved. It can, however, be stated generally that considering the difficult position of supplies required for carrying out most of the schemes, namely steel, iron, coal, machinery, manures the results for the current year are not likely to be upto original expectations.

(b) What proportion of the cereal deficit is wiped off as a result of the various schemes taken up in the provinces will be known when the provincial governments' reports are received after June, 1948. The cereal deficit of 4.5 million tons has been calculated on the theoretic basis of 16 ounces per head for producers and 12 ounces per head for the rest of the population.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that this plan was prepared without any relation to the price level that is to be maintained to induce peasants to grow more and more food crops?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the policy or the programme of the Government Sir, to develop their food production plan without assuring the peasants remunerative price level?

The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram: That matter would require very careful consideration.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

AUTHENTICATED SCHEDULES OF AUTHORISED EXPENDITURES—RAILWAYS

- (i) *Supplementary Expenditure from 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948.*
- (ii) *Expenditure for 1948-49.*

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai (Minister for Railways and Transport): I beg to lay on the table, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 85 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947—

(i) an authenticated schedule of authorised supplementary expenditure for the period from 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948 in respect of the Indian Government Railways;

(ii) an authenticated schedule of authorised expenditure for the year 1948-49 in respect of the Indian Government Railways.

In pursuance of the provisions of Section 28 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947 read with Sub-Section (1) of Section 35 thereof I, Louis Francis Albert Victor Nicholas Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Governor General of India do hereby authenticate by my signature the following schedule of authorized supplementary expenditure for the period from the 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948 namely:—

SCHEDULE

(Amount in thousands of rupees)

| Heads of Expenditure | Supplementary sum required to meet the expenditure charged on the revenue | Supplementary grant made by the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) | Total |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Interest charges | 16,58 | ... | 16,58 |
| 14-A.—Withdrawal from Reserve | ... | 2,53,67 | 2,53,67 |

MOUNTBATTEN OF BURMA,

Governor General of India

NEW DELHI;

The 29th February, 1948

In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (1) of Section 35 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947, I, Louis Francis Albert Victor Nicholas Earl Mountbatten of Burma, Governor-General of India, do hereby authenticate by my signature the following schedule of expenditure from the revenues of the Dominion in respect of the Indian Government Railways for the year 1948-49, namely:—

SCHEDULE

| Heads of expenditure | Amount (in thousands of Rupees) | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|----------|
| | Voted | Charged | Total |
| 1. Railway Board—Revenue. | 32,25 | .. | 32,25 |
| 2. Audit—Revenue | 17,84 | .. | 17,84 |
| 3. Miscellaneous Expenditure Revenue | 42,00 | .. | 42,00 |
| 4. Working Expenses—Administration—Revenue | 18,98,43 | .. | 18,98,43 |
| 5. Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance—Revenue. | 41,94,44 | .. | 41,94,44 |
| 6. Working Expenses—Operating Staff—Revenue | 25,20,13 | .. | 25,20,13 |
| 7. Working Expenses—Operation (Fuel)—Revenue | 20,77,78 | .. | 20,77,78 |
| 8. Working Expenses—Operation other than Staff and Fuel—Revenue.} | 7,93,87 | .. | 7,93,87 |
| 9. Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses—Revenue. | 32,30,37 | .. | 32,30,37 |
| 10. Payments to Indian States and Companies—Revenue. | 1,52,99 | .. | 1,52,99 |
| 11. Working Expenses—Appropriation to Depreciation Fund—Revenue. | 11,18,41 | .. | 11,18,41 |
| 13. Appropriation to Betterment Fund—Revenue | 83,62 | .. | 83,62 |
| 14. Appropriation to Reserve—Revenue | 4,50,00 | .. | 4,50,00 |
| 15. Construction of New Lines—Capital and Depreciation Fund.} | 3,32,00 | .. | 3,32,00 |
| 16. Open Line Works—Additions—Capital and Betterment Fund. | 19,12,00 | .. | 19,12,00 |
| 17. Open Line Works—Replacements—Capital Betterment Fund and Depreciation Fund. | 30,65,80 | .. | 30,65,80 |
| 18. Capital Outlay on Visagapatam Port ^a | 19,30 | .. | 19,30 |
| Interest Charges | .. | 22,52,81 | 22,52,81 |

NEW DELHI;

The 29th February, 1948.

MOUNTBATTEN OF BURMA,

Governor General of India.

INDIAN FINANCE BILL.

The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance):
Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the first day of April, 1948, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri K. Santhanam, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, Mr. Hussain Imam, Shri Bikramlal Sondhi, Shri Khurshed Lal, Shri Biswanath Das, Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, Mr. R. K. Sidhva, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before the 22nd March, 1948, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr Speaker: Motion moved.

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the first day of April, 1948, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Shri K. Santhanam, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Shri Surendra Mohan Ghosh, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, Mr. Hussain Imam, Shri Bikramlal Sondhi, Shri Khurshed Lal, Shri Biswanath Das, Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, Mr. R. K. Sidhva, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena and the Mover, with instructions to report on or before the 22nd March, 1948, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

With reference to this motion, I must state to the House that I am allotting two days, today and tomorrow; and at 5 P.M. tomorrow, I shall put the motion to the vote of the House. I propose to call upon the Finance Minister to reply at 4 O'clock tomorrow. Will that suit him, or will he require more time?

The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty: That will depend upon the nature of the discussion. Probably I will not require the whole of the one-hour, but I will let you know tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker: As regards the time limit on speeches, I find that there is a very formidable list that has been handed over to me. So I propose to allot ten minutes to each speaker. In exceptional cases I may extend it to 15 minutes, but under no circumstances for a period of time beyond 15 minutes.

Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena (U. P.: General): Ten minutes is no use.

Mr. Speaker: Then members should not have a desire to speak so much.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras: General): I want this to be an exception to the general rule that in general discussions on Bills there ought to be no time limit. I do not want this to be a precedent with respect to any other Bill inasmuch as a large number of members are here, because whatever you say, Sir, becomes a precedent.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U. P.: General): May I say that I entirely concur with Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. I think the discussion should not be limited. We may be sure that members will be reasonable in speaking on the motion, but it is quite possible that a large number of speakers may not be able to take part in the debate. That is one of the ordinary incidents of a debate. I think it is better to allow a member to speak at some length on such a motion if he has anything to say rather than try to increase the number of speakers by limiting the time allotted to each member.

Mr. Hussain Imam (Bihar: Muslim): The task is much more easy. There are two occasions on which Honourable Members can speak on the Finance Bill, one at the time when it is being referred to the Select Committee and the other when it comes back from the Select Committee. This is a self-denying ordinance, so that those who will speak now will not speak at the latter stage. Thus we have ample time and ample number of speakers too. It is for the House to exercise either of the two choices.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (Madras: Muslim): The practice in this House has been that on this Bill Members are allowed to speak on any matter which touches the Departments under the control of the Government of India. The question of relevancy did not arise so far as the Finance Bill is concerned because the whole Government was under review. There was no time limit. I do not know whether you, Sir, or the House want to set a new procedure

under the new set-up. I find that the rules have been amended and you have taken power to put a time-limit on speeches. Generally in this House so far there has been no time limit set on Bills. Apart from the general rule, I am confining my remarks only to the discussion on the Finance Bill. Here we had the greatest latitude so far as speaking on this Bill is concerned, under the well known principle that grievances have to come before supplies. This is a supply Bill and we should be allowed to ventilate all our grievances.

I do not know at what stage you are going to allow free discussion, at this stage or at the next stage, but here you have already set a time-limit of two days. Therefore, the old practice is not being followed. I should very much urge that the old practice should continue in spite of the fact that we have our own Government now; today the Congress is in office, tomorrow some other party may be there. This opportunity that we enjoyed of discussing the whole administration should be allowed to continue; that is my submission.

Mr. Speaker: I see two different points, but practically covering the same ground, have been raised. I entirely concur that so far as legislation goes, there should be absolutely no time-limit: the restriction on debate should only be avoidance of irrelevancy and repetition. I entirely concur in that view. But I prescribed the time limit from another point of view. Even in this Bill, I would not insist upon what I have said and would leave it entirely to the Honourable Members to take their own time. I have always, as the Honourable Members know, insisted that speeches should be thorough, studied and the debate should be judged not from the number of speeches, but from the quality of speeches made. I have always, so far as I am concerned, tried to set myself against the idea of limiting speeches to ten minutes and 15 minutes, but I have found that the House itself desires that a large number of their members should be permitted to speak, and the only alternative is therefore to accept the time-limit. Even when time-limit was placed—I do not know whether Honourable Members noticed it—during discussions on demands for grants, 10 and 15 minutes were prescribed, I have allowed the Honourable Members to go to the length of 25 minutes, when I found that a particular good point was being made by a member. So, that explains my attitude towards the character of the debate which I would like to encourage. I do not wish to set any precedent which will mean that Honourable Members will not get any opportunity of fully stating before the House, what they feel.

Then, under the new rule referred to by Mr. Ishaq Seth, the President is given the power to prescribe a time limit throughout the various stages of the financial proposals. This time, we tried to introduce a new experiment and what I am saying today is also a part of the experiment; it need not necessarily be treated as a final and fixed precedent for future guidance. Up to now, Honourable Members know that we used to discuss demands for grants and the cut motions, not in respect of each of the departments of Government; but some concrete cut motions in respect of certain departments used to be taken up. That aspect is also important to remember because, in place of the usual five or six days, eight days have been allotted this time to enable the House to cover all the departments. As to whether that experiment has been satisfactory or otherwise is a different matter; personally I should be inclined to think that it has not been very satisfactory. But that is a matter of individual opinion. Honourable Members are now getting two days and they will be getting two days more. That means that, for the whole of the budget there have been two days for general discussion, eight days for demands for grants and cut motions, two days for this stage of the Bill and two further days when the Bill comes back from the Select Committee. That, in all, makes 14 days which is a sufficiently long time. During all these 14 days the administration has been under examination and criticism in one form or another. I can still imagine that there may be some points left out which have not been covered by discussion during the last ten days. Considered from this point of view, the

[Mr. Speaker]

question of relevancy' in the scope of discussion raised by Mr. Ishaq Seth also requires some little consideration by the House. We have criticised each and every department and if we do not wish to have a repetition of the points urged or of what has been stated, naturally the scope of the discussion here will have to be restricted and the discussion will be more on the particular issues raised by the Bill rather than on the general administration. I am not going to rule that any criticism on the general administration will be irrelevant, but I am afraid it is more likely to be repetition of what has been stated during the last eight days. I myself cannot claim to remember all that the Honourable Members have said in the last eight days; it will be very difficult for me to say that

12 Noon something is a repetition though I may remember certain points. But that limitation has to be placed and therefore I said that Honourable Members will do well to focus attention on the specific proposals made in this Bill rather than go on the other principle, that members have a right to criticise everything because they have a right to refuse supplies. I am merely mentioning a point of view which Honourable Members should take into consideration if the debate is to be an effective one and has to carry about it a reality. Remembering these things in mind, Honourable Members may address themselves, and if it is the desire that there should be no time limit, I have no objection.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: We may say that generally all members who speak should not exceed ten minutes, but I do not want it to be a rule from the Chair.

Mr. Speaker: As I said, nothing is a precedent, because we are in a new set-up. We are trying an experiment in discussing financial proposals and budgets and it will be readjusted next year, and we shall change it as occasion demands. So, instead of saying that the time limit will be ten minutes which may be extended to fifteen minutes, I shall say that Honourable Members should take good care to see that they finish their speeches in about ten minutes and may, if necessary, extend them to 15 minutes, but the Chair will not necessarily call upon them to stop, unless they are repeating something or going into irrelevant matters. I have also stated my views about relevancy, that although Honourable Members have liberty to discuss the entire administration—it was said that even the Moon can be discussed here—still they should not go to that extent of relevancy and discuss matters beyond the scope of the Bill which is before the House.

Shri Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam: General): Sir, I will request you to clear up a few points for me. The first is whether the rule prohibiting members whose names have been proposed for the Select Committee from taking part in the debate will apply to the present case also. Secondly, I submit that in the new set-up when we are a Union Dominion, every part of that Union, i.e. every province, should have an opportunity of ventilating its grievances. Thirdly, if you go only by the quality of the speeches many members like myself will have no opportunity of speaking. Fourthly, if you object to repetition, I will submit that hammering is in many cases necessary and it is one of the parliamentary methods of achieving success.

Mr. Speaker: With regard to repetitions I made it clear that I do not remember everything that has been said, and some repetitions are inevitable. I do not agree about hammering, but that is a different matter. As regards the convention—I will not call it rule—which I wish Honourable Members to set up that members whose names are proposed for the Select Committee should not ordinarily take the time of the House by expressing their views—the word 'ordinarily' is to be noted—so far as this Bill is concerned, I can see the force of the view that they may have something to say, not with a view to give their own views but with a view to invite criticisms on the views which they hold. But that also should be as much restricted as possible and

members should leave time for other people to give their views, which can be discussed better in the Select Committee. The Select Committee members are already there, but their abstaining from participation in the debate is not a hard and fast rule. Honourable Members will remember that, the other day in certain circumstances, I permitted Shrimati Durgabai to speak, in spite of her name being, on the Select Committee. So there is no hard and fast rule; but I would not try to encourage the "hammering".

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Is not the Honourable the Finance Minister going to make a speech?

The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty: My speech was made when I presented the budget.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Then again, the Bill is before the House.

Mr. Speaker: He has made the proposals and the Bill is before the House.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): I consider it a rare privilege and good fortune that I should be able to participate in the debate of the first Swaraj Finance Bill. Twenty-four years ago, the Finance Minister and myself, and had a dozen of our friends who are still in this House, entered this House with the dream of Swaraj. I feel the benevolent presence of the late Vitthalbhai Patel, who smiles at us from that painting of his. Pandit Motilal Nehru is not here. He is no more in this world. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya is not here. Quaid-e-Azam Jinnah, who fought with us for Swaraj on the floor of this House has forsaken India and gone to another country under another nationality. But still my Honourable friend, the Finance Minister, with whom I took the oath in 1924 on the same day, is here to represent the spirit of the past 24 years and to take us into the new spirit of free India, where public finances will be so controlled that it is worked not with a capitalistic structure but with the idea of benefiting the teeming millions in this country.

Sir, I would characterise the Budget and the Finance Bill as to be based on a benevolent capitalistic structure. I do not say this to blame my Honourable friend, the Finance Minister. He has taken charge only six months ago and he has to face the problems and legacies of past regimes over which he had no control, nor did we, the people of India, have had any control. Under those circumstances he has brought forward a Finance Bill which carries on and provides some Rs. 150 crores of capital for heavy industries, based on a capitalistic structure of national economy. He has had no time so far to adjust the national economy, that the basis of the Finance Bill, the basis of the demands for grants, should be for the benefit of the teeming millions and not for the benefit of a few servicemen of the Government of India or the towns-people of this country.

Sir, in a few months we will pass the Sovereign Democratic Constitution, and I do hope that the second Finance Budget which my Honourable friend, the Finance Minister will introduce, will conform to the needs of the teeming millions and will be framed with an idea of social security to all, and not to preserve and continue the old traditional capitalistic structure of the public finances of India.

Sir, I missed in his budget speech and in the discussions so far carried on in this House any enlightenment as to how that national economy should be attained. There was the capitalist suggestion that rupees ten thousand crores should be spent on heavy industrialization, so that the country will manufacture and produce more of its needs and the working classes, which number some 68 lakhs to-day, may be doubled or tripled. That is not the Gandhian economy, the principles of which were enunciated from Wardha,—from Sevagram. The Congress Ministries in the provinces and at the Centre have not had time to read and study them and to give effect to them. That great man

[Shri B. Das]

is no more with us. We, his followers and his faithful lieutenants of Sevagram are here and it is a matter of congratulation that they have decided to form this "Sarvodaya Samaj" through which all the elements of the activities that were carried out by the followers of Gandhiji, will be carried out under theegis of the "Sarvodaya Samaj".

The Provincial Ministries have not done much for the cottage industries. I find the new constitution that we are framing is a centralized constitution. All power is concentrated in the President of India. Why not centralize cottage industries development and mass beneficial development in the Centre also? It is no use our Ministers saying that the provinces are doing it. The provinces have done very little. In the provinces, the Congress Ministries came into power in 1936. But they have done nothing to raise the economic standard of the people, whose earning capacity though it has gone up from two annas to four annas or more is due mainly to the abnormal conditions of the second war whereby the cost of living has gone up and the standard of wages has also gone up. So that aspect should be looked upon by my friends, and I do hope that I will be alive at the next budget discussion and I do hope that my Honourable friend, the Finance Minister, will bring his comprehensive proposals, so that the budget is framed not to benefit the town dwellers but the teeming millions of the country and that the Government will fully back the activities of the "Sarvodaya Samaj".

I will leave this subject, but I must add that nothing pleased me more this morning than the press news that the Gandhi Seva Sangh will be revived. It was with the greatest sorrow that I learnt in 1936 that Gandhiji had then decided to dissolve the Gandhi Seva Sangh, as he had no faith in his disciples. The last meeting was held in Delang, District Puri in Orissa, in my province. We never thought it would be the end of the Gandhi Seva Sangh. The ideals of Gandhiji were tested during the last great war and in the end Gandhiji has triumphed and today he has passed into the Avatar. He is the eleventh Avatar of the Hindu incarnation and his ideology today is reflected and revered all over the world. I am thankful that the old faithful followers of Mahatmaji have revived the Gandhi Seva Sangh.

I wish to say one word to every member of the Ministry. I find that they have been a little impatient at the criticisms that have been made. I will quote a sentence from one great English writer, and I do hope that any criticism that may be levelled at the Finance Minister or any other Minister, they will take it that it is done with a desire to help and with a desire to lift them up from the old standard of administration to the new standard of administration which we are dreaming, feeling and sensing that India must carry on to exist as a free and great country.

The quotation is from J. B. Priestley

"We should behave towards our country as women behave towards men they love. A loving wife will do anything for her husband except stop criticising and trying to improve him. We should cast the same affectionate but sharp glance at our country. We should love it, but also insist upon telling it all its faults. The noisy, empty 'Patriot' not the critic, is the dangerous citizen."

If we pass any criticism on our Government it is because of that love, that watchful attention and that proud love which we have for our country.

What will be the taxation structure of India? Will it be so based as to maintain the bureaucratic establishment and structure that we are having at present. I congratulate my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam for his excellent speech yesterday on Economy. Will the structure have some purpose or objective? My Honourable friend the Finance Minister has inherited the

taxation structure from his predecessor Sir George Schuster. The latter had to maintain the British rule and to that end was the taxation structure based. Though parts of the taxation structure have been softened and indirect taxation reduced, my Honourable friend has fallen into the error again and has introduced the excise duty on tea, which is nothing but an indirect tax. Milk is not available. The food of the poor man has very little nutrition in it. I take this occasion to congratulate my Honourable friend the Maharaja of Parlakimedi for the very thoughtful speech he made on this subject. Today the Finance Minister by raising the excise duty by two annas a pound on tea is taking away the poor man's little comfort. Today the poor man does not get his opium which in my childhood was selling at eight annas a tola but now it sells at rupees four a tola. A pice worth of opium is very helpful to the hard-worked tired peasant and labourer. The Englishman in his benign way used to say that Indians were opium addicts but it was the Englishman that taught this country to drink more and more liquor, so that the Bombay mill worker spends all his hard-earned money from the mills on drink and starves his wife and children at home. I do hope that the select committee will abolish the excise duty on tea. I suggest an alternative proposal. Enhance the export duty on tea.

As to coffee it is not a poor man's drink. It is comparatively a middle class drink and it is so in Madras (Interruption). My friend Mr. Ayyangar knows his Madras well. I know in Travancore and Cochin they do not drink coffee, at any rate the poor man does not. My friend can enlighten the select committee when it meets.

I was very happy when I found that my Honourable friend has raised the excise duty on cigarettes and cigars. From 1932 to 1934 on every occasion I went on hammering for the levy of excise duty on cigarettes. Unfortunately Governor-Generals controlled tobacco factories in those days. Executive Councillors' sons and Viceroy's sons became the salaried employees of Crerars, Wills, etc. How can a British Governor-General levy an excise duty on cigarettes manufactured by Britishers in India! In congratulate my Honourable friend and I am glad I have lived to see the day when excise duty is levied on cigarettes and cigars. If the excise duty on tea is abolished whatever deficit there may be can be made up by the additional export duty on tea and an additional excise duty on cigarettes and cigars.

Luxury goods also should be taxed. My Honourable friend has not touched them. Through the Hydari Mission in 1945 we imported 60 crores worth of luxury goods and the Government of India was committed to the import of 200 crores worth of luxury goods from the U. K. It is high time that my Honourable friend stops the infiltration of luxury goods into India and doubles the import duty that there is at present.

I welcome the reference of the Finance Bill to Select Committee. I wish my Honourable friend the Finance Minister had accepted my suggestion in the November session that the House should have an Estimates Committee. If not, let the whole House go into select committee when the demands for grants are presented. Now nobody discussed the demands for grants, we discussed only the policy. There are many items of expenditure which if closely examined, item by item and sub-head by sub-head, will never have been allowed by members of this House. I hope the Finance Minister and the Select Committee will examine the question whether when the next Budget is presented, as soon as the general discussion is over the House should go into a Committee, if an Estimates Committee cannot be appointed in line with the

[Shri B. Das]

British practice. Thereby the demands for grants will be better controlled as also the general finance will be better controlled.

I congratulate the Finance Minister for what he said last evening on stricter control of finances. He is trying to revise the method of work of the Finance Department for stricter financial control. Our criticism or observations are not directed against any Minister but are meant with the object of assisting them with our limited knowledge and understanding. Let my Honourable friend take his own time and consider whether the next year's budget including the railway budget cannot be examined by an estimates committee. If it cannot be done, then the House should resolve itself into a committee and examine the demands for grants just as the House sits in select committee on the Finance Bill.

I again congratulate my Honourable friend that it has been his rare good fortune today to introduce the first Finance Bill of Free India. I hope he will bring his next Finance Bill and Budget more into line with the spirit of what the teeming millions of India require and not continue the old capitalistic structure of the Government.

Prof. K. T. Shah (Bihar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I regret I was unable to be present in this House on the occasion of the general debate of the Budget, owing to a sudden mishap to my eyes which are none too strong even ordinarily. Even now I am not allowed by doctor's orders to read or write though I fear I cannot describe myself as a model patient who will be strictly obedient to the doctor's orders. I would also crave your indulgence for submitting that I have not claimed the indulgence of the House or inflicted myself upon it too often; so that if, today, in availing myself of this opportunity I do trespass, ever so slightly, on the time-limit you have been pleased to indicate, I trust I shall have your indulgence and that of the House extended to me.

Sir, without further preamble I would like to assure the House that I mean to take up only what seem to me to be the three most important issues that are involved in the Budget and the Finance Bill based upon it—I mean the constitutional aspect of budgetting, the problem of public economy, and the prospects of social reconstruction that I hope will be evolved out of the Budget provisions we are making now and may make hereafter.

As regards the constitutional procedure, Sir, a good deal was said in the discussion that preceded the opening of this debate a few minutes ago. I do not wish to go over the same ground as far as I can help it. But I would like the attention of your good self and the House to be drawn to certain facts regarding the conditions under which we have to work, the procedure by which we work, and the objectives we wish to attain by means of the discussion of the Budget and of the Finance Bill based thereon.

Sir, as regards the conditions under which we work, I would like to point out that though we are now in Free India with the elimination of foreign rule and the Imperialist exploitation, we do not seem yet to have changed the outlook or opinion or mould of thought of those who have the administrative reins of our country in their hands. The other day, Sir, a strong complaint was made by my Honourable friend Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena regarding the utterly unchanged attitude of the secretariat and particularly the most distinguished members of it like the old stalwarts of the Indian Civil Service. In the past they were neither Indian, nor civil, nor had service. Also, it is said they are now Indian and they are generally civil. But I wonder whether they have still acquired the outlook of a public servant that should be expected in a free country governed for the people, by the people and through the people.

Sir, even if one does not underline and endorse every statement made by my Honourable friend Mr. Saksena I do feel that the conditions, the general traditions, which have prevailed in the past when this country was governed for the benefit of another, still seem to continue, as is illustrated by the present discussion. May I point out that though we are technically supposed to have received, and are in exercise of, full responsibility—that is to say, it is this House which now passes the entire Budget; there are no non-voted items—we still have the same restriction and the same difficulty of time-limit that was prescribed in the past. Our numbers have increased; our responsibilities have increased; and yet the period—may I say the opportunity—allowed for putting forward the views and the outlook of the people for whom this Government is functioning, is denied. We may not be all as competent, all as well-informed, all as efficient as the officers of the Finance Department. I admit that we may not have their insight, their detailed knowledge, and may not possess the data on which the figures or the proposals are based. But I think that even the Finance Department with all its wisdom and with all its information needs to have a new outlook which is the outlook of the people, that the Finance Minister with all his consummate capacity may not be able alone to provide.

It is said that the main difference between the products of the Cambridge and the Oxford Universities is that while the Oxford man goes about believing that the entire world belongs to himself, the Cambridge man does not care a hang as to whom the world belongs. Here we have, if I am not mistaken, two brilliant and illustrious specimens of those two ancient foundations—the Honourable Minister for Railways and the Honourable Minister for Finance. I hope I am not exactly saying it in a respective order but I am saying it in the most respectful sense. Certainly the Honourable the Finance Minister appears to me the most consummate and the most illustrious example of the alumnus of that home, the obstinate home, of lost causes which is represented in individualistic economy and capitalistic enterprise. As such I fear I would not perhaps be able to fully appreciate, and congratulate him on, all the proposals that are embodied in this Bill.

The procedure also that the Finance Minister was pleased to lay yesterday with regard to the discussion, preparation and presentation of this Budget was, if I may say so in all respect, more designed from the point of view of the Minister's convenience and the Minister's control rather than of the association of this House, the association of the chosen representatives of the people, in the consideration and passing of the Budget. I repeat we may not have all the cleverness, all the information and all the knowledge that the Finance Minister may have, but we would like most respectfully to bring it to his notice that after all the guardian of public economy and the trustee of public purse is this House and it is this House and the representatives of the people here who should have a fuller say, I submit a greater opportunity, for discussing, for analysing the proposals and for bringing their own sentiments—even if they are not quite relevant or quite well-informed as those of others. As such may I appeal to you, Sir, to pass it on to the powers that be that the procedure for the time allotted—I am not talking of the time allotted to us but to the whole House—for discussing the Budget running into Rs. 250 crores and more, should be much more than is vouchsafed to us. I do not see why this House should not imitate, under the most imitative guidance of the Finance Minister, the practice of the House of Commons in this regard which, I think, is allowed a much longer time for discussing the Budget than the present conditions in this House permit. I have already said that I have no desire to repeat myself on an issue like this. It has been placed before you by other Members and you yourself, Sir, have been pleased to show your own appreciation of the points submitted to you. I trust therefore that this appeal will not be utterly unattended to.

(Prof. K. T. Shah)

I pass on to the second point on which I wish to address my remarks to the House hereafter. That relates to the problem of public economy. Will you bear with me, Sir, if I say that economy does not consist merely in *ad hoc* retrenchment or *ad hoc* cuts in expenditure? I regret I have not been able to read the Budget carefully. I believe that the Finance Minister has been pleased to include an *ad hoc* cut of Rs. 2½ crores which I think amounts to one per cent of the total expenditure included. Such *ad hoc* cuts, I submit in all respect, are not really what we mean by public economy, what we mean by real economy in the public expenditure or the revenues collected to meet that expenditure. Economy if it is to be real must be, as the Honourable the Finance Minister himself was pleased to state, in encouraging wise expenditure and not in curtailing or reducing it just blindly or indiscriminately as such an *ad hoc* cut would suggest. In fact, if it was not improper to say so, it seems to be a bridle to the House to silence criticism and just to earn bouquets for himself by saying 'I have also made some economy in public expenditure'.

The economy which I would ask for is not confined to mere retrenchment by cutting out the posts of a few poor clerks here and there and at the same time recruiting some much more highly paid officers whose hours of work and terms of duty and other conditions of service are almost unknown to us. Sir, I also am aware that a Retrenchment Committee has been appointed and the Honourable the Finance Minister was yesterday pleased to say that he has found the best available people to staff such a committee. I agree with him. I have no quarrel with the personnel; but here again I would point out in all humility that the true purpose of such a committee as a mark of public economy is to associate this House rather than outside official experts or advisers. A committee of this House may not be possessed of all the knowledge and information that is necessary for wisely retrenching and efficiently carrying on public administration; but even then, in view of the constitutional position that we occupy, in view of the responsibility as guardians of the public purse and trustees of public expenditure that we carry, we should have prior rights to be associated with such a body rather than these official experts who should be assessors, should be our guides, and supply to us all data and information, and not dictate to us the economies that they think it proper to make. I submit, Sir, that the view point of the ordinary official is not the same as the view point which ought to commend itself to this House, and as such we should not be handicapped as I am afraid we would be by being presented with a report of the so called experts which Government will first consider and, if they so please, place before this House or indirectly include in their budget proposals next year. I submit in all respect that the true purpose of retrenchment would mean that this country should have not merely nominal theoretical freedom from foreign exploitation, but true government of the people, for the people and through the people, as has been the ideal of true democracy all over the world. If this country is to be governed by a brown bureaucracy in place of the white bureaucracy which governed us so far, then I would have no quarrel with this kind of attitude, but if this country is to be truly governed in the real democratic spirit, then I submit that however expensive it may be, its chosen representatives are the first, and I submit the only people who should be in a position to say where and how and why cuts in expenditure or increases in expenditure shall be made, and no one else. These others may advise, may guide and may help, but they are not the people who should dictate to us what economy and what retrenchment shall be made.

Lastly, Sir, I would offer a few observations on what I consider to be the prospects of social reconstruction as apparent with great difficulty in the proposals of the present budget and the Finance Bill. I have been hoping

for a new age, I have been hoping for a new order once the incubus of foreign domination and imperialist exploitation had been removed from this country. I am afraid those of us who joined in such a hope must feel a sad disappointment. We are aware, Sir, that there have been great difficulties, unexpected emergencies, and all the energies and enthusiasm of the governing authority have been taxed to the fullest to meet those emergencies. But while one makes full allowance for this, while one is fully sensible of the difficulties of government, one seeks in vain in this budget—at least I speak for myself in this instance—for any symptom or sign of a new outlook, of a new intention, to rebuild, from the very foundation if necessary, the social system and the public order in this country. I suggest that it is high time that we shed traditional views and old-fashioned ideas, and begin to have some more trust and confidence, some more faith in the future of our people.

I have not much time to refer to many items which were mentioned yesterday and are included also in the budget, with regard, for instance, to our membership of the sterling area, with regard, for instance, to our problem of the sterling balances on which some observations were made by the Honourable the Finance Minister yesterday and with which I very much regret to say I cannot find myself in full agreement. Our membership of the sterling area, our problem of the sterling balances, is suggested by him to be necessary at least for the time being, if not otherwise, at least in our own interests. I regret I am not able to see that the interest of this country lies in being continually tied down to the apron strings of a foreign authority which has been removed, I am glad, from this country, at least in name. What is the threat that is held out to us? What is the idea that is suggested, for example, in opposition to the suggestion made in this House that we might freeze or take over the capital assets of the British? The House was told yesterday that we want to import capital goods. Of course we do, but do we want to import that against these sterling balances? Are we allowed anything from these sterling balances of the size that we require for the import of capital goods received to reconstruct our national economy and expand industrial enterprise in this country? I cannot see any sign of that. If we are to take over and nationalize so and so, and utilise them for the payment of the imports that we need, then I could have understood, but by simply saying that we need capital goods and imply as though we cannot take over British goods, I cannot understand the logic of it unless it be that we must not take any step that would alienate the goodwill and sympathy of the British.

Well, Sir, we have had sufficient experience of the nature and character of this goodwill. I for one have had the misfortune of studying the past perhaps over a century and a half of the British connection with this country, especially in its financial aspect, in some detail, with some minuteness. Some members of this House perhaps will remember the occasion when the Congress appointed a Select Committee on the foreign delegation of this country in 1931. I had the honour to be one of the members of that committee and I recall the report that we had made, which obtained so much importance that I am free now to say that the English authorities were themselves willing to say (I am speaking of 1931) that if only the Indian people did not insist upon going to an international tribunal for settling these dues, the British Government of that time would take over the sterling debt then owed to India and leave India to meet her rupee debt. The British Government had taken the hint from the growing consciousness of the injustice done to the Indian people those days and they have therefore taken every precaution to say that all the sterling debt of the Government of India has been either paid off or repatriated, as they call it, and now we the creditors are told, and by our own Finance Minister, that the conditions in the world are so changed that the creditor must go to the debtor and that the debtor must not come to the creditor.

[Prof. K. T. Shah]

If that is the condition, then I would rather wipe off those credits than agree to making a settlement, which is a clear and dead loss to this country, even without self-respect being secured or safeguarded in our interests. It is much better to face this dead loss, and call it a loss, also call it the bankruptcy of the British Government, than to say we shall agree to any compromise which is indistinguishable from rank national insolvency on the part of the British Government. There can be no suggestion therefore of any financial settlement with the British Government on any basis other than either full payment or complete acknowledgment of absolute insolvency so that from the other markets of the world also the British should be excluded so long as they do not pay their dues. Unless I see it is founded on some such basis, I for one would not be a willing party to any such settlement.

I know that the British are unable to pay; I know it fully well. But is that a reason why we should shut our eyes and agree to any settlement that would be foisted upon us after having robbed and looted us for 150 years? Is it any reason why we should forget that even for suppressing the so-called Mutiny they charged us for the troops they sent to this country, and made a beginning of the Public Debt of this country for getting this country enslaved for 90 and odd years thereafter? Is it any reason that we should forget that in all the wars outside the Empire that we fought for them—wars in Africa, wars in China, wars inside Europe and outside Europe—we carried our own burden, and yet we should now be told, for the hard goods and services which we sold to them in their hour of need, at controlled prices, at specially low prices which a Parliamentary Committee itself said was low as compared to the prices which we ourselves paid, that "Because our condition being what it is, you should agree to a scaling down or reduction"?

I do not think it is the intention of the Honourable the Finance Minister to agree to any such arrangement which may be proposed on such lines as these. Even if we are deferring payment, we should accept postponement rather than an agreement which would amount to a scaling down. But lest I should be misunderstood in any way, I would repeat that rather than any such humiliating and injurious agreement we would face straightaway a complete loss of this and assume in fact, as we have got in name, a true independence and begin to test our own credit in foreign markets rather than be tied down to the apronstrings for all eternity of the British Empire. Our credit in foreign markets is still high. We have never approached directly the world market to see what strength we have, what belief we have in the potentiality of the enormous resources we claim to possess. Sir, in this connection let me also add a note of warning that our going to the foreign market for demanding credit from abroad would also be very much conditioned according to the faith which we have in our own potentialities. When you pass such Bills as the Industrial Finance Corporation Bill and offer to your own investors a guarantee not only of the repayment of principal and interest but also a premium on being acquired, then the world would be justified in demanding whether you have any faith in your own credit, in your own country, with your own investor, sufficient to demand from the world reasonable terms for advancing to you the wherewithal with which to rebuild your national economy. I say, Sir, these are conditions which give me no hope of reasonable prospects of social reconstruction and I trust the advent of the free, independent India, of which we have all been so proud, will not be marred by a period, short or long, of a new tyranny, a new oppression, new unemployment, new distress which I fear is threatening in many quarters if we do not take heed in time.

I have done, Sir and once more I express to you my thanks for your indulgence.

Shrimati Benuka Ray (West Bengal: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to certain matters which I think are essential for the development and progress of Free India. Before doing so, I should like to say that the country and the House are fully aware and fully appreciate the tremendous ordeal that our national leaders have had to face ever since they have taken over the reins of office. I do not think that there is any desire to minimise or to belittle the difficulties they have had to face. Even if power had come, in what would have been normal times or normal circumstances, we would have had to build almost from scratch and the implementation of schemes of nation-building to banish poverty, want, ignorance and ill-health would have been a task in itself of a herculean nature. Therefore, Sir, when I make a few remarks it is with a full understanding and realisation of the difficulties that the Government have to face.

I should, first of all, like to call attention to one factor which I think we should all recognize today: a balanced Budget does not necessarily mean a good Budget. I think those days are over when economists considered it to be so. Some of the orthodox financial theories have been exploded due to the trend of world events. Studying the 1st budget of Free India we see on the one side the tremendous emergency expenditure on Defence and on the refugee rehabilitation, and then find that in spite of this, Expenditure over Income is not so disproportionate, I do not think that this in itself is a matter for congratulation. If we analyse the matter more fully, we find that it is done at the cost of the most basic of nation-building services—at the cost of education, of health, of rural and agricultural development. It may be said that Health and Education are Provincial subjects, but I do not think that we can dismiss these matters so very easily and so very lightly. The other day the Honourable the Education Minister pointed out in this House how low was the proportion of expenditure on Education provided for in the Budget and he said it was .04 per cent. It is the same in the case of Health and I am sure the Honourable the Minister of Health would bear me out, when I say that amount provided in the budget in health is totally inadequate to the needs. Yesterday the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture gave us very telling figures in regard to agricultural development, how apart from agricultural countries even countries which were not mainly agricultural spent far more in proportion on this item than did India even now. I would like to illustrate from Education, about which I have greater knowledge. The Sargent Scheme of Education which has, in its essentialities been accepted by the last Education Conference in January did envisage that half at least of the money expended should be met from the Centre. That Scheme was drawn up by its authors under different circumstances and we naturally thought at that time that it might take 40 years to implement it in its entirety. But now we have a National State and there is no reason why we should not cut down that period to a considerable degree. But how can we even start doing so if in this first Budget adequate provision is not made towards this service?

Even if we take any one aspect, say basic education, adult education or technical education, it all hinges during the first five years on the training of teachers and having an adequate number of training centres for teachers and the pay and status of teachers. I know that Provincial Governments are making some efforts towards this, but unless they get considerably more help from the Centre I do not think they can deal adequately with the matter.

I do feel that in the long run the money that is expended on these essential services—even if it means a Budget which is to a large extent uncovered—will in the long run more than pay itself not only in terms of human welfare but even in the narrower connotation of money itself. The other day the Honourable the Prime Minister in this House stated that today production must be our main

[Shrimati Benuka Ray]

concern. We also have development schemes before us; how can we really implement them successfully until we have the trained personnel? And where are we to get the trained personnel if we do not make a proper move towards the expansion of health and education on a widespread basis.

Sir, I have not very much more time at my disposal. So I shall turn to another aspect, namely, the question of the economic policy of the Government. I welcome the statement made a month or so ago by the Honourable the Prime Minister that Government would soon announce their industrial policy. We do believe that we have to be practical realists and that we cannot have full speed nationalisation at the moment and that the question of production is by far the most important one to consider. Even if we want to have an equitable distribution so that a minimum of welfare is given to every man we have to first increase the national dividend. I feel and there are many in this country who feel that the lack of a well defined and clear-cut economic policy has led to what, in common parlance, may be called "a swing over to the right" in recent months. I will be more specific, Sir. I shall give a few examples both in regard to legislation and other more intangible things.

First of all, Sir, we have passed the Industrial Finance Corporation Bill. This corporation subsidises industrial development through private enterprise. At the present stage of our development, that is necessary enough, but I can see no reason why the Government should have had to share the most effective power—financial power—with the capitalists in this matter. This point has been discussed in the past at great length in the House; so I shall not dilate on it but I think it is wholly undesirable. Then, Sir, what is a new venture, or almost tantamount to one, is the question of compulsory third-party insurance. I do not see, Sir, why the profits of this should have been left for the Insurance Magnates to reap and why it should not have been taken up as venture by the State so that the profits might have accrued to the benefit of the country. Again, the question of the Shipping Corporation which is going to be set up is exercising the minds of many. I hope, Sir, in regard to that the Government will keep complete control and will not share this power with the business interests concerned.

Sir, to turn to a different aspect, a more intangible thing, a good deal of emphasis has been laid on the deflections of labour which has been held as the cause of the falling standards of production. Sir, I will not deny that there are disruptive influences at work, whose interests are not in this country and who do not really care for the welfare of the labourer or the common man but only for their own ideology. Granted this, Sir, in spite of it, when we look around are we not aware that the conditions of labour are still so bad that it is really not possible to expect that the working class should be a responsible and responsive one, that it is not possible for them even to understand what their duties are, unless we give them much greater amenities? When we turn to the other side, we find that equal emphasis is not laid on the duties of the employer or the capitalist. Here, the question of profit comes uppermost. Why should it be, Sir, that this element of the population who have—at least, I should think, they have—a modicum of education, who have not to think of their daily bread, why should they merely think in terms of profits? Why should they not co-operate in the joint endeavour to increase production in this country from a national point of view? Sir, I have spoken on this point before in the House and I do not wish to elaborate it, but I do think that it is time that the capitalists or certain elements of them, should be made to realise that they too have a duty and a responsibility in the interests of the country.

Then, Sir, the Honourable the Finance Minister has considerably reduced the business profits tax, so that capital may not be shy and business enterprises may come forward to help in increasing production. Even so we find that there are complaints. There are some who want the whole pound of flesh. I do hope, Sir, that the Honourable the Finance Minister having brought in this relief in taxation, will get the result that he anticipated or which he announced as a reason for this measure.

Sir, before I end, there is one more point that I would like to make. In the provisions of the Finance Bill, as one of the Honourable Members has pointed out, there is the new excise duty on tea and coffee the incidence of which of course falls on the consumer. One Honourable Member suggested that tea was a poor man's drink and should be exempted but not Coffee. But I think this tea and coffee equally are consumed, these days, by the poor middle classes and the villagers also, who will feel the burden of this Tax. I think, Sir, it would have been much better if the duty had been put on alcoholic beverages instead, at least until such time as prohibition is brought in as an excise duty and also by raising the import duty on foreign liquor.

Then, Sir, in regard to foodstuffs, the import duties on all foodstuffs should, I think, be taken off, because even if there are foodstuffs such as tinned goods, chocolates and so on which meet the demands of the richer elements, it does to that extent take away the pressure on the essential foodstuffs of the common man.

I should like to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Minister for having removed the duty on betel nuts and raised the duty on motor cars and cigarettes, but I do wish that he had included other luxury articles such as cosmetics and many other items. Now, Sir, I am quite aware that the law of diminishing returns does operate in regard to taxes and that you cannot tax goods over a certain level without that leading to lesser returns or at least not increasing the returns. I think that this matter should be thoroughly investigated. I think the Honourable the Finance Minister should have a body of men to look into it properly, so that all luxury articles imported, with the exception of foodstuffs should be taxed to the highest capacity, so as to bring in a return that will be commensurate with the tax.

I have tried, Sir, to take as little time as possible and so the House will forgive me if I have not been able to develop my points more fully. Let me and by expressing the hope that the Honourable the Finance Minister will take these suggestions into serious consideration when the Select Committee meets, and before the Bill comes back to this House.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I must tender an apology to you for having projected myself into your notice this morning. Well, my name was not in the list, a fact which I learnt later. Being rather new to the ways.....

Mr. Speaker: I might make the position clear. The list is given just by way of suggestions; it is not binding on me.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: I know the Speaker is resourceful enough to get over all troubles; otherwise he would not be the Speaker.

[Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya]

At this the first debate under the new system of Government, self-Government, I may call it one is rather nervous like the crew of a ship which is launched anew into the waters as to what the fate will be of this Ship of State which has been launched on the high seas of time and circumstances. We all remember the fateful destiny of Titanic which in its very first voyage was ship-wrecked by impact with an ice-berg. Even so we have our shoals and storms ahead and one does not know whether one is destined to strike on a rock here or an ice-berg there. But this is no wild apprehension or conscious exaggeration because in the very first six months or even earlier of our assuming power we were subjected to great trials, I had almost said, tribulations. The design of the Pakistan Government obviously to bring to trouble this country from Kashmir in the north and Hyderabad in the south, Junagadh in the West and Tripura in the east was in time frustrated. But we have not got over our difficulties. The time is not yet when we can say that we can declare a bill of health, but no ship can sail upon the high seas unless its prow and keel are well balanced, the keel ballast is adequate and the crew is sound and obedient and the machinery is also perfect.

Shri T. T. Krishnaswami (Madras: General): Like the Jala Usha.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: The Jala Usha has neither a boiler nor an engine. It is an empty barrel that has been thrown into the sea. Even so it was a spectacular occurrence. I shall have occasion to describe it later, because it gave us an opportunity to witness and examine and study one of the beauty spots of nature, a first-class strategic centre, a naval base, a ship-building yard and a great trade centre of the future which will command the South East Asia area.

Then, Sir, we know we have discussed the crew last time when we discussed the Cabinet. We tried to understand what difficulties there were in the organization. If I may revert to it for a moment without repeating what I said last time let me say a word as to what is the position of the budget debate on this occasion. Among those who listened to the debate this morning there were two minister one gentleman and one lady, representing the Cabinet and this evening there is only one gentleman.

An Honourable Member: What about Mr. Jairamdas Doulatram?

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: I am still not reconciled to Mr. Jairamdas having become a Minister. He is an old comrade and colleague of ours and that he is even now.

But I wonder whether the Cabinet has understood the present position. In former years when the Budget was being debated with great interest all the members of the Executive Council were either present or were represented by their subordinates namely, the Secretaries of the Departments. But to-day the Secretariat block is empty, the Cabinet block is almost empty and we depend only upon the shorthand-writers to take notice of our grievances and they may not be published for months. I really cannot understand things. We have not got the first report of the first day of the Legislative Assembly's proceedings up till now and it is four months since we began and if at this rate the publication of the report of today's Legislative proceedings were to be delayed, what will happen four months hence? Nobody will know what has been said on the budget day. This reminds me of the Local Fund Audit accounts which were always placed before the Municipal Council two and half years after they had been presented to the Government and then we had to answer the faults, the drawbacks and the shortcomings of those who had left the Council and perhaps some of whom who were responsible for the faults and follies enumerated therein. I

want to tell the Government straightaway that they are not thinking of the changes that have taken place in this Government. They must be represented here either in person or by their deputy ministers or at least by their Secretaries or in the last resort, by their chowkidars. This is an insult to this House and this Government which affects to be a popular Government does not seem to be aware of the elementary duties and responsibilities that have devolved upon them. They have become bureaucrats; we will not tolerate it. I do not know whether our remarks will reach these gentlemen. It is no use wasting our energy, foregoing all our tastes and tendencies. Why should we waste our time and energy here if we have any in addressing empty benches of the cabinet.

Then, Sir, with this preliminary remark, I would proceed to examine the machinery of Government. What is this machinery? It is full of toothed wheels, belts, prime movers, bearings and what not. Is all this machinery sound? We had occasion to examine last time when we were examining the position of the Cabinet, whether after all the machinery was sound and we had occasion to scrutinize the position of the Secretariat and of the relation of the Secretariat to the Cabinet. If the Cabinet is the prime mover of the engine, then the Secretariat becomes the whole machinery of the ship. This Secretariat has to be overhauled. I was telling a Madras Minister the other day at Vizagapatam that each paper had to pass through three ministers, at any rate and each Ministry had to put in, its six office notes before it could go up to the top level and when I pleaded for the curtailment of these six notes, he said: "No matter. In our province there are 21 notes." This kind of thing must be completely reorganized. Office work must be quickened and efficiency must be ensured and we must get out of the rut all the wheels which have stuck in the mud.

Then the country is divided into states and provinces. In these states there was nobody to look after public ideal till recently, but fortunately through the dash and dynamic energy of the Minister of States a miracle has been achieved which would not have been possible at other times.

In my younger days in the study of Roman History in the Intermediate class, 52 years ago, I remember that something was said about Julius Caesar: *Vini Vidi Vici*. Even so, Sardar Patel went, saw and he conquered. In this very conquest there is something surprising and exhilarating. It would have been much happier to recite if it had been possible to consult the representatives of the people at some stage or other, but it is good that even without such consultations, things have been done and done fairly well, almost very well, I should say, except for small shortcomings and drawbacks here and there. For instance I have a telegram here from Sitamau which says that Kushalganj people are anxious to join the Malwa Union and not to be drawn into Rajasthan. Again when this threat of merger or union is flourished before these States the States rulers are simply rushing to promise responsible government. Bikaner has advanced it from two years to one year and from one year to the 1st April, thanks to the dangers ahead. Patiala has not moved at all and the Maharaja of Patiala has not even sent an elected representative to this House although he had promised in the Negotiating Committee that both his members should be elected representatives. But both his members were nominated and when an election petition was filed he quietly withdrew both and sent only his nominee and left in the lurch the rights of the people who have not been able to send a representative to this House as yet. Today he is in a hurry to give responsible government lest he should be united or merged in some larger body. Mandi has been keeping quiet all these years; suddenly he has awakened himself to a sense of responsibility and has offered responsible government. Rampur where the Muslim and Hindu population is fifty-fifty has not been either backward or forward; he has been standing still and is now coming forward with an offer of responsible government. In Datia a funny thing has happened. Fourteen days ago he promised an interim government with four Praja Mandal

(Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya)

ministers. Today I have got a copy of his order in which he has gone back to one Praja Mandal Minister and four reactionary Ministers. He had attended a conference at Nowgong at which the Princes had met. Mayurbhanj suddenly offered responsible government six days before Sardar Patel's arrival at Cuttack and having failed to attend the Conference he simply said, "I have given responsible government, I need not bother about the Orissa Union." Kapurthala is now hard put to it, to know what to do. He does not want to mix with the Punjab States or any other States. He is surrounded by the districts of the Punjab and he has to merge with Jullunder and two or three other districts. He lives 120 miles away from Nabha, Sungrur and Patiala; he is now hurrying up in order to give responsible government which the people are not willing to take. What a wonderful change has taken place! The Princes are keen on giving responsible government but the people do not want it. (An Honourable Member: "Why"). The reason is that responsible government is like a tall man who is six feet and four inches high and wants to swim in a tub; he cannot even get a dip in the tub of his feet, much less get a bath. Therefore the people now realise that responsible government for small States with inadequate revenues cannot answer the demands of modern democracy and it will be only a mockery.

Sir, I leave the States there; I am not going to trouble you with Hyderabad which must have been dealt with in detail by my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil. I am sorry I was not present here to sponsor the cut motion which stood in my name, because when I went to Vizagapatam the plane in which the Prime Minister went broke down and therefore he took our plane and we were left behind. And with great difficulty we managed to carry ourselves here last night.

Now speaking of Vizagapatam, I am glad I went there, though I am sorry I have missed two days' debates. It is a magnificent place; it is a beauty-spot of nature. It is a place brimful of resources. One begins to wonder why it is that this British Government, unimaginative as it has been all these years, did not have the vision to see that they could develop the most magnificent naval base and shipbuilding yard there. It was left to Scindia's to organise their shipbuilding yard in 1921 and they have made rapid progress; and yet it is only the first ship that has been launched and that also without a boiler or engine. I went up to the top of the hill 1,200 ft. high in a jeep and from there the view is magnificent. There are two rocks (with a smaller rock in between) on either side of which there is a creek and these creeks are the harbours and about 80 ships can be accommodated there at present. They are protected by the rocks and there are 15 square miles of area part of which can be dug up; and the low level spaces around can be filled up with the sand and they can be made into the most fertile soil or a whole city can be built there. I want the Central Government to take charge of that as a scheme under its direct control instead of leaving it to the municipality which is half starved for funds for even protecting the town against the onrush of the sea. What is happening is that in order to prevent the backwaters which form the harbour from being covered up with sand they sank two big ships and so the breakwaters have caused the sea to rush into this angle and the town is being invaded and eroded and a wall is being built with cement and sea sand. I have never known an engineer using sea sand for construction work. Sea sand will not stand the weather; only river sand must be used. However, that also is a matter which must be looked into by the Central Government.

An amazing piece of information came to me as to what is happening there. The Government of India had taken some hundreds of acres of land for the harbour. They used up a certain portion of the land for the harbour and let

out the remaining land to the cultivators. I am told they have taken two thousand acres. This land has become zamindari land under the proprietorship of the Government of India, and whereas the ryots had been charged by the landowners hitherto only Rs. 5-8 to 10-8 according as the land was dry or wet, now the Government of India having stepped into the position of zamindars are charging Rs. 36 per acre. What a shame and what a scandal; Who is responsible for this folly in the Government of India? Who on earth can demand Rs. 36 per acre where the former revenue was only Rs. 5-8 to Rs. 10-8? I cannot understand it; they have lost their sense of justice or it may be their heads. This must be looked into at once. All these 200 or 300 ryots came to me and said "look this is the performance of the Government of India!" While the Zamindari Abolition Bill is being enacted in the province and the zamindars are being disestablished the Government of India is enacting a Bill into a zamindari and perpetrating this kind of proprietary right.

Sir, while thinking of the ships there, one point occurred to me, whether it would not be possible to construct wooden ships on a larger scale and give up these iron ships. The longevity of the iron ship is only one-third or one-fourth of the longevity of the wooden ship. The wooden ships of old went over to London harbour and Liverpool harbour; and when in 1853, the first wooden ship visited the London harbour, the London merchants began to wonder what would happen to their shipbuilding industry and their commerce and shipping trade if the Indian native ships were there in their harbour safe and sound with their luggage and passengers. Today, I wonder whether it would not be possible to put up machinery into wooden ships. It is a point that I presented to Mr. Bhabha for his consideration and he said he would consider it but I now see that he has resigned. The moment a Cabinet Minister starts to gain experience he resigns; that is one other way in which responsible government works. What happens is that the longevity of an iron ship is 10 or 20 years at the most; ten years is the average; the longevity of a wooden ship is fifty years. A gun-shot in the wooden ship is simply lodged there; in an iron ship it simply splits it in two. However, I should not pretend to be an engineer, but I just mention these things for the sake of drawing the attention of Government. Mr. Bhabha in the course of his reply on the 10th instant said that in buying ships they will exercise all possible survey and inspection. Perhaps he does not know that when a fishing trawler was ordered by the Madras Government, they addressed the Central Government who again addressed the Secretary of State. He wrote to the Naval Ministry who sent an old cruiser which came here and it was found that there was no fishing rig upon it. She was put to sea and it was found that the tubes of the boilers were rotten and rusted. They had to repair them but could not get substitutes in India nor were there repairers here. So they had to send it to Colombo but the ship was not able to go there and they wanted another ship to transport it. So in buying ships from England we must be very careful about what we do.

Sir, your bell tells me that I must finish soon. So I will just read the notes of what I wanted to say.

Railways:—The railway budget should not be separate. There is necessity for it to be amalgamated with the General Budget.

Guide-ways: There is such a thing as Guide-ways which have been recently discovered in which there is an earth-way. On that there is a central platform running all along which is cemented. The motor car which runs upon it has two clamps projecting on to either side of the platform so that it cannot deviate to the right or left. You can put up the guideways anywhere and you can multiply your traffic by this.

The bugs have to be expelled from the railway carriages. Cocanada Station must be brought on the main line. Masulipatam must be given a double line to serve the metre gauge as well as the broad gauge. The food arrangements for

[Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya]
 railwa, third class passengers must be improved by means of a corridor arrangement in the train itself. The railway quarters at Kharagpur are not fit for pigs to live in. They must be demolished at once and reconstructed.

There are 24 railway tourist company contractors and twenty one out of them are Europeans.

Mr. B. K. Sridhva (C. P. and Berar: General): On a point of order. Are we discussing the railway budget?

Mr. Speaker: No, not the Railway Budget but the railway administration, in so far as it affects the general administration.

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: There are only three Indian Companies: one in Bombay, one in Madras and one operating in Delhi. With regard to the railway goods which should be recovered from Pakistan, I may say that goods worth 8½ crores are to be recovered, out of which only 10½ lakhs of goods have been recovered, and this after the Engineer in charge had gone to Pakistan seven times. Every time he was told: "My dear fellow, do not stay here any longer. If you want to save your life, you had better go back."

There are five Paicroes cameras each costing Rs. 1½ lakhs. Three of them are at the Headquarters and two are on the N. W. F. railway and they have to be accounted for.

Food: On the question of food it is necessary to work out a balanced diet. But even a balanced diet cannot be secured unless you have a balanced cultivation. In my part of the country lots of land have been brought under Virginia tobacco cultivation, and unless you pass a rule that no man can cultivate tobacco on more than one-tenth of his land and grows on the rest maize and millet, you cannot improve your food position. The food problem will be simple to solve if only you stop the cultivation of tobacco.

Communication: I am very glad to hear that Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai has already told us that he is arranging to have post offices in every village. With regard to the delivery of telegrams, I sometimes get the telegraph man coming to me with a packet of 10 to 20 telegrams with pencil written numbers on the receipt slip. It takes me more than ten minutes to look for my number and at the end often times my number is not there. Please attach a receipt to each telegraphic envelope and then we are done with it in a moment.

With regard to the telephone, you know all about the love talks one hears. Often when I wanted to talk to Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai I heard a love talk going on.

Relief and Rehabilitation: The Minister has stated in his speech the other day that if people wanted more from the Ministry they must look to a magician and not to a Minister. Now we know the difference between the two. We know that the Ministers are magicians because a man plus imagination, sound commonsense, quick wit, comprehensive vision, firm decision makes the magician. That is all. If you want to plead that you are not a magician, it means that I must deprive you of these qualities.

Law: The system of asking the Law Minister to preside over all the Committees is harassing to him. It is very troublesome. You must have a substitute for him.

I understand that the Hindu Law of Inheritance is in the offing. I want you to remember that the Hindu law is a composite law. A Hindu's property is inherited by all the sons, including the son in the womb according to the Mithakhaara School. This is pure socialism which goes into the very fabric of Hindu society. Therefore, please remember, when you upset this law of inheritance you are upsetting the laws of a society which have been in existence all these times.

I understand, Sir, that certain papers were destroyed by the British Government before they left this country. I want the ministry to consider what papers were destroyed. At least the subordinate offices know and these people must be compelled to state what papers have been destroyed. I would have given you a nice story of how a District Superintendent of Police of Balasore destroyed all the papers and ran away 24 miles on hearing some loud explosions nearby. He was an Englishman. The Indian Collector came later and asked what was the matter. He was told that the D. S. P. feared that the Japanese were coming and landing near Balasore. He then sent a cyclist to explore the situation. There was a zamindari nearby performing his daughter's marriage with éclat. The collector said "We wonder where is this fellow?" This fellow was sitting crouching in a corner of a hut with a *dhotis* on at a distance of 24 miles! Poor man! That was the fear in the European of the Japanese.

Defence: I want to bring it to the notice of the Minister that no oath of loyalty to the Government was administered in the Ordnance Department throughout the country. This may be enquired into.

Commerce: This is a country whose Commerce consists of fraud developed into a fine art. If I could tell you how fraud has been interwoven into each department of trade—from the milk supply to the hospital, to the paddy sale in the market—it would take me a long time but it would be interesting and instructive.

Then there is the question of the 7½ per cent rebate to England which I have read about in the Budget speech. This reminds us of the Chamberlain days. We must efface all traces of connection with Britain by dropping all thoughts of Imperial preference.

You cannot simply think of nurturing those things any longer. After all when you want to train people in a new psychology, remember that everything counts and nothing can be overlooked. That crown over there and this rebate here must go.

Regarding export and import, I was glad to hear from Honourable Mr. Bhabha that he had drawn up a scheme. As he is not here I am not going to waste my time and yours.

As regards foreign trade, all this must be bottlenecked in the Central Government and there must be no such private trade.

Yarn control seems to be still there. I remember Honourable Mr. Bhabha said: "at a none too distant a date there will be no controls." I will say that there should be no controls even now and here. Yarn control should be abolished.

Industries: I would like the Industries Member to spend Rs. 5 crores upon hand spun yarn production.

With regard to Salt, the exceedingly fine orders recently communicated to me have not been communicated to the people at whose instance I had addressed the Industries Ministry.

Education: As regards education, it is the same thing. You must give up your old ways. I want you to terminate Sunday as a holiday. This is a legacy of the British. Sunday was declared a holiday on March 7th, 321 A.D. by Constantine and we should not go back to those days. Let us have Friday or some other day.

The art treasures in London must be got back. These are the Kohinoor, the gates of Somnath, Baji Row's elephant and the Peacock throne. The Kohinoor diamond though cut to pieces must be brought back to India from the diadem of the British sovereign.

[Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya]

We must also get back the Gates of Somnath spoliated by Mohd. Ghazni. I am told however that the Gates taken by him were false ones and not the real Gates. If so the real ones must now be secured.

The other day I made a reference and the speaker pulled me up when I spoke of Baji Rao's elephant. It was alive in 1916 in the London Zoo. An elephant usually lives for 150 to 200 years. That is its longevity. So it may still be there. Its period of gestation is two years and not nine months like ours. Then there is also the Peacock throne.

With regard to spinning I want Government to make each officer spin for half an hour before commencing work. Then you would have mountains of cloth.

I want the Education Minister to go to Daurala a place nine miles from Meerut which is 37 miles from here where through the munificence of a Punjab benefactor, and Lala Shri Ram, who gave four lacs of rupees a scientific school has been started where the best kind of Chemical analysis is done by boys not beyond 14 and who know not a word of English. I was there, Dr. P. C. Ghosh was there and also Mr. Shankar Rao Deo was with me. We went about inspecting and found that these boys were able to analyse complex organic and inorganic salts and explain the process. That is the way in which you must manufacture the manufacturers—not merely manufacture goods. You must bring into existence a number of manufacturers by giving them scientific S. P. M. education and instilling into them a passion for creating or producing new things.

There is one Social Service college in Bombay, the Tata Institute. I am prepared to make a present of ten lakhs worth of buildings and estate fetching an annual income of 10 to 15,000 at Masulipatam, which is called the Andhra Kalasala, either to the Central Government or any other government provided you started a social service college. When I offered it to the Andhra university they said that our income was not sufficient for one month's salaries of the staff. That is the scale upon which they are drawing salaries.

The other day H. E. Sri Rajagopalachari spoke of conscription for education and wanted that every young man should be told off to do one year's teaching work. I was saying something like that for ten years. No student should be admitted into the intermediate class unless it is certified that he has converted 250 illiterates into literates, no student should be admitted to the B.A. class unless he has produced 500 literates, and no student to the B.L. class unless he has produced 1,000 literates. Ultimately when the degree is to be conferred he has to fulfil a certain quota.

In the field of Archaeology much has to be done. Officers posted to each circle must be those whose mother tongue is the regional language. I am glad that Music colleges are being started. I hope the Maulana Sahab will be pleased to start Painting colleges in order to revive the Rajput, Moghul and various other schools of painting, as also revivify the Bengali and the South Indian schools of painting. Above all, crafts are the need of the country and they are the surest index of a country's civilisation, not its machinery, nor its mills. It is through the crafts and arts that a country's living artistic knowledge and skill survive. Railway bridges are the same all over, the iron girders are the same but the shawl that is printed by you is quite different from the Shawl that is printed elsewhere.

With regard to adult education it is very necessary to prevent people from idling their time under the trees in the villages. Dr. Shacht, who was the Financial head of the Reich Bank, when he came to India in 1939 and left it shows said that if he had any power over this country he would shoot every idle man under a tree. Sir, I must leave the rest of my speech to a newspaper article.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Sir, I would be the last person to break the convention which you wish to establish, *vis.*, that members of the select committee should not participate in the first discussion, and the only reason why I am standing up today is that I would be unable to serve on that select committee as I will be out of Delhi on those days.

Mr. Speaker, I would not take up the time of the House in a sort of roving commission. I would concentrate on one or two points. By the way I would like to mention the fact on which comment was made by the previous speaker **Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya** about the Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation. The work which he has just put in at Lahore calls for thankfulness on the part of both the Governments. If all the Ministers would work in the same spirit in which he has been working, the friction between India and Pakistan would be much less and I welcome this action of his and I hope it will succeed.

In the first place I would invite the attention of the House to the fact that the bulk of our budget papers is much smaller than the bulk of the provincial papers. All of us who are habituated to look at the provincial budget would realise how much more information is given in the provinces, and how little is given here at the Centre. Now that responsible government is established it is only fair that the bulk of the papers should increase. Information much greater than is at present available should be made available. But that is an improvement which can only take place gradually. I am not condemning the Finance Department but I am only drawing the attention of Government to what should be the order of things.

I should like to know the Government's opinion on a subject which is very pertinent. What is to be the position of Indian states as far as the incidence of Income Tax is concerned? As far as the customs revenue from Indian State-owned ports are concerned are they to remain the private property of those States or are they going to be pooled in the resources of the Indian Union? I submit that it should be pooled. There is no reason why they should remain the private property of the States. They are being placed in a position much higher than that of our units, the provinces. The provinces cannot make their own people exempt from these things—incometax, corporation tax and excise duty. There is no reason why the States should not be brought under all these duties and taxes. I mean all the acceding States. As far as the states which have merged with the Indian provinces are concerned, the question does not arise. They become part and parcel of the province but I am against the system which has been started in some places of merging the states and creating a unit which is to all intents and purposes only a glorified and a bigger state. As **Dr. Pattabhi** said it is not a very healthy improvement. The improvement as it should be is the Orissa and the Southern Bombay provincial model.

The Food Minister referred to decontrols and said that the policy of the Government has been towards progressive increase in decontrol and remove all controls. In spite of that in the U.P. salt is still controlled, an article of necessity in food, which is not controlled in other places is being controlled in the U.P. I am told that that is a fact. I would invite the attention of the Minister to inquire into it and if possible to remove it.

There is a small item of information which I solicit from the Honourable the Finance Minister. Looking at the financial papers of this week I found that in the week ending the 5th March the expenditure of the Government of the Union has been of the order of 39 crores. This came to me somewhat as a surprise and the basis on which I came to this conclusion is the statement of accounts of the Reserve Bank, which shows that in the week ending the 5th March 1948 the Government balances have fallen from 266 crores to 249 crores,

{Mr. Hussain Imam}

a reduction of 17.48 crores in the government balances. In the Issue department the Treasury bills which have been renewed have been of the order of 22 crores. Is this some printing mistake or something else? I have looked into the figures of the past 14 months and in none of them have I found an issue of treasury bills of that order in any one week. The security which matured *i.e.* issued on the 5th December amounted to 5.79 crores, which means that 16 crores new money came in by means of issue of treasury bills. The ordinary income of the Government is of the order of 4 to 5 crores a week. So I come to the conclusion that some 89 crores have been spent. No doubt about 12 to 15 crores is covered by the grant to the provinces, which is usually made early in March or late in February. This still leaves some 28 crores to be accounted for.

As far as the Finance Department is concerned we have been told by the Finance Minister that after making all adjustments, giving relief to different people and different kinds of concessions, the deficit was of the order of 28.81 crores. It is to meet that deficit that he has proposed the additional taxation which forms part of the Finance Bill. My own contention is that he has been too cautious, that his deficit is not of that order and that he is trying either to cover up some expenses which are not mentioned or is working for a surplus budget for the next year. My own position is that the nine crores of the deficit could safely be charged to the capital head representing the interest on the loans which would be owned by Pakistan. There is no justification for us to pay interest from revenue on an item which is not owned by the Government of India. It is altogether wrong budgeting to charge to the revenue this nine crores. This should have been transferred to the capital budget and thereby your deficit will be reduced by that amount.

Secondly, we were making a provision of five crores for reduction and avoidance of debts on the unified India. Now that Pakistan is separated and a part of our indebtedness is being transferred to that country, that provision could also be reduced by, say, a crore of rupees.

Shri B. Das: Our unproductive debt is four times what it was before the war. It is 700 or 800 crores.

Mr. Hussain Imam: Then I worked up whether the statement which the Honourable the Food Minister made to us yesterday—and I think the Honourable the Finance Minister also stated about it—that is, about the reduction in the prices of foreign food, has been taken into account when the budget papers were prepared. I doubt if the full extent of the reduction in this food subsidy has been taken into account. That also means some reduction in our deficit.

Another very big item which he has left as a safety valve is the tax income from inter-Dominion trade. I mean in the trade between Pakistan and India. That means that really his deficit is not more than a third of what he has stated it to be. I therefore ask that this reduction in our net deficits should be shared by the rich and the poor alike. In the first place I want that the increase of the tobacco duty—the hookah tobacco duty—should not be featured in the budget. When you have removed the bigger tax on salt which was giving us Rs. 9 crores, there is no justification even for continuing the old duty on tobacco, let alone for increasing it by 50 per cent. The former duty was 6 annas per lb and it has been increased to 9 annas per lb.

There is another item though the benefit will go to the rich. I am very sorry to suggest it because I do not want to benefit the capitalist if I can avoid it. But the needs require that the devil must be given its due. The present position is that even after the Finance Minister has introduced his

budget the share markets have not looked up; they are stagnant and lifeless. You want investment for industry and you are not prepared to take it up on the lines of nationalisation; so you have to pamper to the capitalists. There are only two ways open. Either you must please the capitalists and give them satisfaction according to their desire, or you must take it up on the lines of nationalisation. If you are going to leave it to private capital to expand and increase industry you should give them the concession which will satisfy them.

Sir, I refer to the Business Profits Tax. It was condemned so much last year and even after the close of the year it has been condemned so much by the business community that nothing will satisfy them except its abolition, lock, stock and barrel. I know it will mean a loss of Rs. 10 crores. But that is necessary and that is the price which you have to pay if you want industrial expansion to take place in this country. I am not advocating it, but I am only giving two alternatives. If you want their help you must satisfy them; without satisfying them you will not be able to achieve your object. But if you don't want to satisfy them the other alternative is to start the things on a nationalised basis. In the end I should like to ask the Honourable the Finance Minister whether he is prepared to consult the industrialists before he brings forward his final proposals and do something to satisfy them. Sir, I am not wedded to any particular method. I want that there should be an increase in capital investment. And for that purpose it is necessary, being a National Government, that we should work in consultation with them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General): Why not give away the Government to the business people?

Mr. Hussain Imam: Last year when the budget was introduced the industrialists were consulted and it was in consultation with them that the Business Profits Tax was fixed at 16 2/3 per cent. It was only to satisfy them that all the changes in the provisions were brought in. I know that the Congress is strong enough. It can ride rough shod, you take an unwilling horse to the water but you cannot make him drink. As you know, I am not an advocate of the capitalists. I am only saying that if you wish to have industrial prosperity and capital investment, these people must be satisfied. And if they are prepared to do something on that line I for one would not grudge giving them this thing because it is necessary in the ultimate interests of India that we must have industrial expansion. Expansion and greater production are our keynotes and in that connection the Honourable the Transport Minister is greatly responsible because he is concerned with the movement of every thing. Now, the accumulation of coal at the pit-heads is much greater than has been the case in the last 20 years, I should think. There has never been such an accumulation in the pit-heads as there is today. Pakistan is trying to get coal from England. Cannot it get the coal which is lying at the pit-heads even from the Calcutta port? The Honourable Minister once stated that he was considering the question of increasing the railway freights in order to relieve the congestion. At the moment it is cheaper to bring coal from the collieries to Bombay by rail than by sea. That is primarily responsible for the congestion that exists today. Our railway rates are lower than the sea rates. Unless there is an equilibrium between the two there will be a congestion and the carrying of coal to long distances dislocates much of the traffic. The ordinary procedure, as it used to be before the war was, for all this coal, to be transported by ships. Today we are reversing the process. We have a greater demand for food movement and other movements. Nevertheless because of its cheapness the railway draws more custom. We do not want more custom. The customs are available in other sources, in more profitable and more paying sources which at the same time will relieve our difficulties to a greater extent. I therefore request the Transport Minister to reconsider the position and do something tangible which will make it possible for the movements to take place, because without movement no production can take place.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan (Madras: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I must first of all thank you for giving me an opportunity to take part in this debate today. This morning you told the House that it was better that members of the Select Committee do not speak on this particular Bill. But I know your indulgence is perhaps due to the fact that I have not taken part in any of the debates in this House this time. Once more I thank you for your indulgence and I appreciate it very much.

Our country has been passing through great and troubled times and this Budget has come in after the country had gone through distressing and—what one might really call—colossally difficult times. All the same the people expected that the first Budget of Free India would give a little more relief to the masses of people in this country.

I know that during the budget discussion, every speaker started by congratulating the Honourable Finance Minister and the congratulation always was because, they said, it was a balanced budget. I do not know if that alone was a reason for the congratulations. I would like the Finance Minister first of all to understand that the criticism that I am making today is not merely for the sake of fault-finding and it is not also for the sake of saying something in criticism. The criticisms that I have to make are due to the fact that I feel certain measures have been included in the budget which are bound to react against the interests of the poor people of this country. For so many years the leaders who are today holding the reins of the government have been working for the independence of this country, and what exactly did they mean by independence? They meant that they were going to give a fair deal to the millions in this country. Independence did not mean that a few rich people will be more comfortable than they were before, that they will have a little more than they had before. Independence meant independence for the poor, down-trodden people of our country. We thought there would be more security for them. We thought there would be less poverty, we thought they would be given better education, and we thought they would be given better health facilities. I do not see in this particular budget that these principles have been quite adhered to. I know the difficulties that the Finance Minister was faced with, and I also know—for which I do congratulate him—that he certainly has brought a certain amount of feeling of security as far as financial matters are concerned in the minds of people. I know a great number of people were thinking that India must be absolutely on the brink of bankruptcy and I think he has made them feel more comforted and less disturbed over that particular thing and they do feel today that there is security as far as finances are concerned.

ent

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are just one or two matters with regard to taxes that I would like to speak about today. First and foremost I would like to say a word about the increased tax on vegetable oil. I need not tell the Finance Minister that every Indian household uses oil for cooking. There is not a single person in this country who does not use oil as a medium of cooking, and if that is going to be taxed, and fairly heavily from Rs. 100 to Rs. 150, I think that is going to hit the poor people very much indeed—more than that, I should say that it would hit the middle classes and the lower middle classes much more seriously perhaps than the working classes. I say this because generally in the middle class and lower middle class families, there is only one earning member in the family and he usually has to keep a very large family going, and one can imagine how much such a commodity as vegetable-oil would be used in such a large household. And today the price of ghee has gone simply sky-rocketing, and it is not possible for anyone who is not really very well-to-do to buy ghee at all. So many people who used to use ghee before have had to change over to vegetable oil. Vegetable oil today is used

not only as vegetable oil for cooking, but the ghee we buy from the bazaar, has got a large quantity of vegetable oil in it. There is one thing I would refuse to call vegetable oil and that is vegetable ghee, which gives it a wrong meaning altogether. But I do feel that if the existing tax on vegetable oil is raised, so many other commodities also will go up in price. Now coconut oil, gingelly oil and groundnut oil also are being sold at prohibitive rates. So it is not possible to change over to any of those other oils, and the Finance Minister, I am sure, knows that those people who are used only to ghee cannot take to cocoanut oil and those who are used to using cocoanut oil cannot take to gingelly oil; but they all find satisfaction and it is also to their taste when they use vegetable oil.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Vanaspati?

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: Yes. I do not quite agree with the criticisms that were made this morning about the vegetable produce called Vanaspati and Dalda. I feel from personal experience as well as from the research that has been made in this vegetable produce, there has been enough evidence to show there are no harmful effects from this vegetable oil at all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Question.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: I feel that if such a very useful commodity which is being used in every household today is highly taxed, it is going to react very hardly on the middle and lower middle class families.

Then the other excise duty is that imposed on coffee and tea. I will take up coffee first because I think those people who drink coffee will suffer much more than those who have the tea habit. There are many reasons. One is that one lb of coffee powder makes only about 40 cups of coffee while one lb of tea makes 140 cups, and besides that, coffee means more milk and more sugar. Tea can be taken with a drop of milk and with very little sugar; and the result of such an excise duty will be that the price of milk and the price of sugar and the price of other commodities will also go up; and I find that in every way with regard to these particular needs, the poor middle class and lower middle class people are very heavily taxed. The Finance Minister has seen that coffee has already gone up in price, and especially in Madras, where most of the coffee is drunk. Today in the South, on account of the introduction of prohibition, I find that many more people are going in for coffee than they used to do before. They should have something which is a stimulant as well as something that is pleasant to drink, and I feel that the Tamil people of the Madras Presidency will never take to tea as they had taken to coffee. It is quite true that in Travancore and Malabar they take less coffee than tea, and the only reason for that is that it is not because they do not like coffee but it is because they do not have the necessary amount of milk as in the east coast of South India, and also they find it difficult to buy milk and sugar. That is the real reason for them not drinking so much coffee. When our Government is committed to look after the interests of the poor people, are these taxes to be imposed on them, which is going to make life very difficult for the middle class families?

These are only a few things in the budget which will tax them very heavily. They have so many other things to buy and every commodity will go up in price in the same way as coffee and tea—matches, oil and kerosene oil, and everything else. The Finance Minister surely knows well enough that he should try and tax luxury articles that come from abroad. Cigarettes—yes, by all means you can tax, because I feel that a cigarette smoker will smoke whether cigarettes are expensive or not, because I have seen that with my own eyes. A box of cigarettes which used to cost Rs. 2/8/0, I saw a friend of mine buying in Connaught Place for Rs. 4/12/0. He knew that he wanted cigarettes and he had to get it. There is also this question of higher taxation

[Srimati Ammu Swaminadhan]

being imposed on foreign liquor. The Finance Minister yesterday told us that it is already highly taxed; but that does not matter. It can be taxed still higher. Surely we need money and we can get this money out of the articles used mainly by the rich. During the war I do know of many people who used to buy a bottle of whisky—I think it is called Scotch Whisky—at Rs. 75 or Rs. 100 a bottle. This I know for a fact. It only shows that the rich people do not mind paying exorbitant prices so long as they can get the article. I, therefore, feel that even if we tax foreign liquor still more heavily, the Finance Minister will get a good income from that source, because people who are habituated to these costly and luxurious drinks will continue to buy them, cost what it may.

Then there are lots of foodstuffs of different varieties which come from foreign countries. Surely, they can also be taxed. My Honourable friend, Mrs. Renuka Ray, this morning mentioned the instance of chocolates. I would also like to mention chocolates, English biscuits and English sweets, which can be taxed more than they are done today. Besides these articles of food there are also textiles. I am sure foreign textiles can be taxed still more. I am not a financial pundit by any means and I do not know anything about high finance, but I do know that there are things that can be taxed without touching the poor man's pocket. Of course, India needs more money today. But for what purpose? For nation-building purposes. But for nation-building you must have the personnel and you cannot have people with empty stomach who will be capable of doing anything towards nation-building. I am sure the Finance Minister will appreciate the fact that I am saying this not in a spirit of fault-finding, but as constructive criticism, and that he will look into this matter before the Finance Bill is put through, so that he can give more relief to the under-privileged person. The money that he will get by taxing the rich can be spent on education, health and such other matters which will improve the condition of this country.

Dr. P. K. Sen (Bihar General): Sir, the subject on which I wish to offer some criticism of the budget before this House suffers from no risk of being a repetition. In fact, in all these days of debate, there has been not a whisper on that subject and even in the torrential eloquence of my Honourable friend Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya it found no place. The subject, Sir, on which I wish to criticise the budget is that of prison reform and penal reform as a whole.

There is no indication whatsoever under the head 'Jails and Convict Settlements', which come under the Minister of Home Affairs, of any reform or any constructive measure contemplated. In these days when every fundamental principle that underlies social conduct is under going thorough examination and is being re-oriented we have the right to expect in the budget some indication of measures of prison reform. Now, it may be said that this is a Provincial subject, and, therefore, it can find no place here. But the same can be said, as it has been said, of 'Health' of 'Education' and of various other subjects which really pertain to the provinces. Here as in those subjects there are certain measures that can only be properly initiated and maintained by the Centre. It would be waste of money and waste of resources and beyond the competence (I mean financially) of the Provincial Governments to maintain institutions of that kind all over India. I shall presently refer to those institutions and those reformatory measures which have been long over-due.

So far as the average man is concerned, he has absolutely no conception whatsoever of what goes on inside a prison, except that there are a number of people there who have transgressed social laws and for their anti-social conduct they have been imprisoned and segregated from the rest of humanity to expiate their offence. But that is not so in regard to this House. There never

was an opportunity for any man, I believe, to plead for penal and prison reform before an august Assembly such as this where about 80 per cent. of the Honourable Members know the prison inside out. They know everything that goes on inside a prison and there is nothing that will come as new to them. I should like to rely upon their sympathy, their active sympathy, in regard to the reforms that I indicate as being possible only from the Centre.

First of all the question arises whether this segregation or separation in the prison is at all successful for the purpose for which it is resorted to. The social organism is a living organism. As soon as the social organism finds that there is a germ which spells death or disaster to the system, like every other living organism, it has the faculty of expelling it from the system or controlling it. Now, in the case of imprisonment, it is thought that these people have been segregated from society and therefore the contamination that was apprehended has been prevented for ever. But that is not so. As a matter of fact, there are thousands that go in every day as new offenders and there are thousands who come out every day having served their term. Therefore, there is a constant 'commerce' going on between the prison and the society outside. It is this 'commerce' that is constantly going on that must necessarily contaminate society in the long run. If, therefore, the person has changed his mentality by reason of the intelligent, kind and sympathetic treatment, or, if I may say so, psychological treatment that he has received inside the prison, then he comes back to society as a worthy citizen who can contribute his share to the social welfare. But if inside the prison he has suffered from unkindness, from harsh treatment, from apathy, and also the evil associations there, and if he has all the time been harbouring ill-feeling against all social institutions, all social laws, and he feels that he himself is being victimised by them, then on his return from prison he is a menace to society and there is no end of expenditure because he may have to be kept as the guest of the State in the prison over and over again.

For this reason in all civilized countries there are measures that are being taken expressly with the purpose of reforming the man, of making a citizen of him, before he can be released from the prison. But what is the state of affairs in our own country? If I may say so, it is out-dated, mediaeval and barbarous. In India there is absolutely none of those measures that have been adopted in other civilized countries. We find that there is no classification of a scientific character, no psychological classification. Everywhere we find there are child offenders, adolescent offenders, women offenders, mentally deficient offenders, habituals or casuals or occasionals and also under-trials—all kept separately under different treatment, according to their respective requirements. As a matter of fact, at the present moment the psychological classification of prisoners is the very first item. I have been to all the prisons, practically all the main prisons of this country and of various other countries and to my great regret I find that this country is conspicuous by its lack of any scientific psychological classification of prisoners.

Then, again, the question arises as to how these people are to be treated, first of all before conviction, then after conviction in the prison, and then, again, after release. There are these three separate stages and for the treatment of these separate stages the probation system has now become a well-established institution. The Probation Officers are cultured men from the Universities, they get a decent pay, they are men marked by public-spirit and the desire for social welfare and, in number, they form a host by themselves. These people are distributed under a particular organisation to different fields of activity—some to prisoners who have not as yet been convicted but are in detention prior to conviction, some to those who are already in incarceration, some to those who are already released but who yet want guidance and help, constructive friendship as it is called, for the purpose of leading them through the trials and temptations of life. This probation system must be introduced and Probation Officers have got to be trained.

[Dr. P. K. Sen]

Then let us consider the jailors, the warders, the wordresses. It is not their fault, they have been trained under a different system altogether; they have been trained under the system which regards punishment as a retribution for the crime; or, if the retribution theory is dead as it should be at least on the basis of the deterrent theory, that punishment is meant for deterring a man from committing the offence again and his neighbour from committing the offence also. The warder or the jailor, indeed the whole staff of the prison have been so trained from a long time past that they cannot be blamed for the manner in which they conduct their own work. That is why I submit that the only way in which prison reforms can come about in this country is for the Centre to take the initiative and to start a Central Institute of Training for training of Probation Officers, Parole Officers, Warders, Jailors, Wardresses and all those people who are concerned in the administration of jails, and also in the looking after of released prisoners.

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

Sir, I may be allowed a few more minutes for the purpose of showing how legislation also comes into the picture. It is not only these institutional measures which must be started from the Centre, but there are certain legislative measures which are indispensable and which can only be started from the Centre. Take for instance the idea of indeterminate sentence which has been acted upon, which is now law in America and upon which the whole structure of the Elmira Reformatory stands. The idea is this, that if a man is convicted and sentenced the sentence will not be for a particular, specific period. The manner in which this law is carried out is that the convicted person knows only that he has been found guilty and convicted and he is then sent on straight to the Elmira Reformatory or some other of the reformatories which have been started on the same principle. There, as soon as he takes admission, he is told by the head of the Reformatory that his destiny is in his own hands, that if he really can change his mentality, then—and then at once—he will be released; but if he does not change his mentality then he will have to be there for the specified term which is indicated in the code as the punishment for that particular offence. It often happens, that the staff and the persons who are in charge, by their sympathy, their constructive friendship and by the aid which they always give psychologically to the forlorn man, help him so substantially that in the course of twelve or fourteen months he shows definite signs of a change of mentality and then he is released under conditions of modified freedom not absolutely unconditionally. There are people about him who watch him and give him all the necessary help in order that he may steer his way through the world. In this way, this indeterminate sentence as a piece of legislation has turned out a wonderful success in America. In 1910 at the Washington International Congress of Prisons, this received the sanction of the Congress which laid down a Resolution that indeterminate sentence must be adopted at least in certain classes of offenders. In 1925, as great an authority as Lord Cave expressed himself strongly in favour of adopting indeterminate sentence as a method for prison reform and penal reform. The time therefore, I submit, has come when this country should without more delay start measures of reform, whether institutional or legislative, which tend to give the prisoner a chance to become a citizen again and thereby give the State an opportunity of really welcoming the man from the prison as a worthy citizen. If there is absolutely nothing in the Budget which can even overshadow any reform of this character, I think it is the right of this House to declare that it shall be done before the supplies can be voted.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity you have given me to take part in the discussion today. I support the motion brought forward by my old friend the Honourable Mr. Chetty and I congratulate him on the great honour and opportunity he has got

to submit the first Finance Bill of free India to this House for the consideration of the representatives of this country.

Today, Sir, at the outset when some discussion was going on as to how that nobody should be allowed to talk of the moon. Well, I entirely agree much time should be allowed to every speaker, the Speaker was right to say with the remark "Nobody should be allowed to talk of the moon", but the Governments of today throughout the world are so covetous of power that they may extend their influence to the moon and may try to control the moonlight. In that very case, Sir, I think the whole House will agree with me and you also, Sir, will agree with me that the moon has to be talked about in this House.

Sir, I am not going to repeat what Dr. Pattabhi has said about the attitude of the Cabinet members towards the business of this House, but I tell you, Sir, that I entirely agree with every word that has fallen from his lips. Besides, I am glad that several members of this House have given out their minds on the way in which the Administration is being conducted these days. I congratulate them, Sir, and my heartiest congratulation goes to my friend Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena, who has given a very good picture of the unchanged and unchanging and unchangeable attitude of the Imperial Secretariat in Delhi.

Sir, three things have begun to trouble very much the minds of every one of us.—the principle of taxation, the expenditure and the method of Administration. My friend Mr. Chetty might have spoken a number of times when the Budget was brought forward by the British member of the Cabinet here. He must have spoken against the principle of indirect taxation. Sir, everybody must be informed, he must know what he has to pay to the Government for his protection or otherwise. This indirect taxation, Sir, is the method of a pickpocket and a thief. I do not know if the House realises that a friend like Mr. Chetty is behaving towards the tax-payer like a pickpocket.

The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmad Kidwai (Minister for Communications): And he is a friend of yours!

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: People do not know what they are paying. They do not know that they are being taxed in a roundabout manner.

Next, Sir, as regards expenditure, as I have said before, I am glad that people are giving out their mind. It may be taken here and there that Congress members themselves criticise the Government. Well, this is not criticising the Government. We are old Congress workers. We are the persons who have brought about the very existence of this Government. We cannot criticise the Government. We have to support the Government and support it in every case. But with what, Sir? We can support the Government with what we have. We can support the Government with what is best in us, and that best is the Truth. Sir, we must bring home to our Ministers what we know of the Administration, what we understand of the Government, what we feel about the administration of the Government and also what we hear of the Government, and that in a serious and sincere manner and for the good of the Government and all concerned. We cannot do otherwise, Sir.

As regards expenditure, everybody knows—I think the whole world knows—that the people of India are very generous. Sir, when we go to any merchant or any businessman for subscription and donation we can realise lakhs and lakhs and even crores. They give us without any hesitation, without any unwillingness on their part but they do not pay anything to the Government in the same way. My Honourable friend Mr. Chetty has brought this Bill for authority to realise the money. Before this he has brought another enactment into his armoury to pursue tax evaders. Now, Sir, I would call upon my Honourable friend Mr. Chetty and the whole Cabinet of the country to go

[Shri Ramnarayan Singh]

into the psychological background of this matter. Why do the people give lakhs and lakhs in donation and yet why do they evade payment of the taxes to the Government? The background is this. They think that what they give in donation to the Congress leaders and others is money well spent. And why they are unwilling to pay anything to the Government is because they know that money given to the Government is ill spent. It is not properly spent. What has my friend Mr. Chetty done? He has distributed the money among so many Departments, and what will be done in the Departments? The Departmental people will sit together and distribute the money among themselves. Why, Sir, is money paid to the Government? Money is paid to the Government to be returned to the people by way of service and for nothing else.

The salary of public servants in the country must be in keeping with the average income and standard of the people of the country. Sir, the people of the country are so very poor that their average annual income is sixty-four rupees per head in the country—there are different views on this point but we know that the country is poor and we know that these salaries have been established by a foreign Government, whose purpose was to loot the country and to share the booty with their supporters. Sir, we have said times without number in this very House and outside it that the salary settled in this country for the public servants is not a salary but a share in the loot. Sir, I am extremely sorry that the Britishers have gone but what they have established is still being pursued in this country when we have got our own Government. I know, Sir, that those friends of ours who are in the Government they have sacrificed all for the good of the country; they are not avaricious and they do not want money, but I do not understand why they are allowing that old system to continue. This high salary must go. It was right that the Congress people decided at Karachi that the highest salary in the country must not be above Rs. 500.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Karachi has become Pakistan.

Shri Ramnarayan Singh: My Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar says that Karachi has gone to Pakistan. My other Economist friend will say that prices have gone very high. All right, make it double, make it treble, but what is this Rs. 4,000, 6,000 a month? What is this? Is it proper? Sir, even Rs. 500 is enough and is quite enough for a family in a poor country like India. I do not think even one per cent. of the people in this country get as a monthly income more than Rs. 500. In my part of the country, Sir, I know there are people who do not know what corn is for nine months in the year. In this country I think there are more than 90 per cent. of the people who do not know what two meals a day are, and in this very country the public servants be paid Rs. 5,000 or 6,000 a month is scandalous and this thing should be stopped as soon as possible.

As regards the method of administration, my Honourable friend, Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena, has given a very good picture. I say now 16 members of our party have formed the Government. They want to help and serve the country, but with what? They must have a machinery to help the people, but, Sir, I am a cultivator and I grow sugar-cane. In the process of growing sugar-cane, we have one kind of implement and when we crush the sugar-cane, we have another kind of implement. The crushing machine cannot be used in the place of the producing machine. Sir, we know the machinery which has been established in this country was established here to suppress the people, to crush the people and at the best to govern the people. This governing machinery cannot be used as a serving machine. I ask my countrymen, I ask those people who have formed the Government that if they want to serve the people, they have to create a machine to serve the people. This

machinery cannot be used. I have said several times and I say it now that this machinery has gone beyond the stage of repair; like a dilapidated house it cannot be repaired. Sir, the condition of the country and the position of my friends, the ministers, reminds me of a story. There was a king and the king was approached by a beggar.

Mr. Chairman: The honourable member has taken too much time.

Shri Ramaswamy Singh: One minute more and I will have done.

The beggar approached the king for alms. The king in goodness and out of generosity gave the beggar a huge mad elephant. The moment the beggar heard of this, he was beside himself with joy that he got an elephant, but when he got possession of it, the poor fellow did not know what to do with the elephant, how to feed it, how to utilize it and how to protect himself from it. Sir, I tell you, this is exactly the position of my ministers. They are in the position of poor beggars, and here the machinery of the Government they have got is the huge mad elephant of the story. They have to know, they have to realize this position and if they do not realize, then I think they will fail. It pains me and I think it must be paining a lot of my friends here that ministers come forward and have the courage to give certificates to their Secretaries and Under Secretaries that so and so is a good fellow; he is honest, etc. I want in future at least these friends will save us from this painful duty to hear them talking of their secretariat staff in such terms. I tell them, Sir, that when I hear a word of praise from them about their secretaries and their staff, I feel that they are lost to the country.

Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava (Ajmer-Merwara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the budget and the budgetary proposals incorporated in the Finance Bill have been under fire on the floor of this House and throughout the country during the last fortnight. So far as the merits of the proposals are concerned, Sir, so much has been said on the floor of this House and outside that it is rather difficult to make any remarks without risk of repetition. The speech delivered by the Honourable the Finance Minister is remarkable for its lucidity of expression and clarity of thought and for one reason at least, Sir, the Honourable the Finance Minister deserves our congratulations and that is that he has given a masterly and analytical survey of the financial position of this country, after it had undergone a great strain due to its partition.

Now, Sir, we have to judge the merits of these proposals in the background of the events that had taken place and those events are undoubtedly of an extraordinary character. Keeping these things in view it must be admitted that the budget proposals are on the whole fair. Still they have left an impression upon my mind and I should like to summarise it in one sentence. These budget proposals give substantial relief to industrialists and capitalists; they place a very heavy burden on the lower middle classes and give no relief to the poor. During the course of discussion here and in the press outside many suggestions have been made for revision of these proposals, and I am sure the Select Committee which is going to scrutinise this measure threadbare will make appropriate changes so as to amend them in such a way as to relieve the lower middle classes who have been most hard-hit. Coffee, tea, cigarettes, tobacco, vegetable oil.—excise duties on all these articles naturally place a heavy burden upon the lower middle classes, and I am sure the Honourable the Finance Minister will see his way to give substantial relief to them.

Then there is another burden on the lower middle classes and that is the lowest exemption limit on income tax *viz.*, Rs. 2,500. I submit that in view of the fact that prices have gone up by 300 per cent. it is only reasonable that the exemption limit should be raised to at least Rs. 3,500.

[Pandit Mukat Bihari Lal Bhargava]

Then, Sir, I will draw the attention of the House to a very important criticism that has been levelled against the budgetary proposals, for which I feel there is simple justification; and that is that there is no principle and policy and planned economy underlying these proposals. They at first sight present a stereotyped repetition of what we have been seeing during the British regime. There is not the slightest effort to fit these proposals with the changed condition of the country and the Congress which is represented in the Government today stands by certain pledges which it made to the electorate, and any budget sponsored by the Congress Government must be judged by the one test, *vis.*, as to how far it satisfies the promises made to the electorate. There is no attempt in these budget proposals to tackle the problem of illiteracy, and of poverty and disease which have confronted this country for centuries. Is there any attempt made in this budget to free the teeming millions from the oppression and exploitation to which they have been subjected at the hands of zamindars, landlords and moneylenders and the princely order? Judge by these criteria the conclusion is irresistible that no such attempts have been made. Of course it may be said that this budget makes a provision of no less than 89 crores of rupees towards development programme in the country; it provides for 80 crores as grants to provinces, 34 crores as loans to provincial Governments and 25 crores for central development schemes. But the question is, where is the guarantee? Has the Finance Minister taken precautions to see that every pie of this money will be spent for improving and ameliorating the lot of the people who are the real sufferers? I submit there is none. And it is not possible also because until and unless a country-wide programme is devised for improving and ameliorating the lot of the suffering masses there cannot be the least guarantee as to the utilisation of whatever little money we may be able to spare in the name of such improvement. At present there is no such programme before the country. I would humbly request Government to call a conference of all the Ministers at the centre and of the provinces and they should draw up a programme for 5 or 10 years with a definite target that illiteracy, poverty and disease should be wiped out from the face of this country in this period. After such a programme has been devised, it is then to be decided what money has to be allotted to each province for carrying on with this programme. The revenue sources of each province are different. There are certain small provinces like Assam and Orissa or centrally administered provinces like Ajmer which have very slender resources; and because they have not enough resources there is no reason why the people there should remain uneducated and disease-ridden and should not be pulled up to the level of other better placed people in this country.

Then after this programme is framed and the money needed by each province determined, we have to see to what extent this can be met from the provincial revenues and to what extent it can be done by the central revenues. After the programme is made and carefully examined and scrutinised by experts, there should be a country-wide drive to wipe out illiteracy, poverty, disease and such other things. It is only such a planned programme that can take us in a definite period to the attainment of our goal, and without the realisation of this goal of wiping out illiteracy and poverty the Congress cannot be true to the masses whom it claims to represent.

My further suggestion is that after such programme has been devised the practice of putting forward a yearly budget either at the centre or in the provinces should be given up; there should be a five-yearly budget in both the centre as well as the provinces. At the end of each financial year we

should review the work done in the light of the proposals that had been approved, and after taking the accounts of the past year we should read just our figures and programmes accordingly. After the lapse of five years we should see how far we have succeeded in reaching the ideal we set before us in the first year. Therefore my submission is that there must be imagination, vision, drive, and determination to tackle these problems and by tackling these problems we will be able to pull up that down trodden man to the level we desire and for which we have given our pledge to the people.

Then, Sir, I would with your permission, within the couple of minutes available to me, cursorily refer to certain problems of my province. During the session, on several occasions questions have been put to the Honourable the Minister of Finance as to what step this Government does contemplate to take to introduce prohibition in centrally administered areas of Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Coorg, etc. I do not want the usual answer, which I submit is quite vague and indefinite. This Government has accepted the policy of prohibition. This reiteration from the floor of the House was not necessary. The Congress Government cannot say that it is not committed to the policy of prohibition. Prohibition has been in the forefront of the Congress programme from 1919. A big province like Madras is going to be made dry within a very short time. How can the centre say that this programme of prohibition can wait for some time here when the Congress Government is in power. I therefore respectfully draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Minister to implement this programme of prohibition in the centrally administered areas as early as possible, because then alone can they be a model for other provinces to follow, and if the Central Government fails there is no hope as to what will happen in the future in the other provinces.

I will again draw attention to a very important matter which concerns my province of Ajmer-Merwara. There, Sir, what is called the Istimrardari system is the worst form of Zamindari existing in any part of the country. The masses and peasants have been subject to an age-long exploitation of various kinds at the hands of their feudal chiefs, who not only enjoy economic rights but are also enjoying super-legal rights under the law, under the archaic piece of regulation known as Regulation 11 of 1877. The peasants there have not the slightest security over tenure. They can be ejected at the sweet will of the feudal landlords, though for generations they might have cultivated and improved the lands by the sweat of their brow.

Now, Sir, there was a serious agitation in 1932-33 for the non-payment of rent and it was suppressed with ruthless might of the Government then existing, because the Government as represented in my province by the Chief Commissioner has always been hand in gloves with the Istimrardars. From 1935 a lukewarm effort was made to improve the lot of these people by making changes in the enactment. The De la Fogue Committee was appointed. One Mr. Irwin, an experienced civilian from the Central Provinces was sent to make an enquiry into the lot of these people. He submitted a report and also gave a draft legislation for enactment. It was in the year 1937. That draft legislation was kept as a secret and was thrown into cold storage and with great effort it could be got produced on the table of this House during the last session of the Legislature.

Now, Sir, a special officer was sent by the Government of India who enquired into the system and submitted a draft legislation. The draft was received by the Government about a year back. But still it has not been found possible to enact that tenancy law. I submit that the Congress Government stands committed to the liquidation of the Zamindari or Istimrardari systems which is the worst form of zamindari and even if this liquidation

[P'andit Mukat Bihari Lal Bhargava]

does not take place forthwith, at least some relief must be awarded in whatever way possible to the masses. The Advisory Council of the Chief Commissioner has passed a resolution that if no regular law is passed, at least by the enactment of an ordinance some relief may be given. The agrarian trouble is brewing and yet there is no sign of any relief. I submit that this is in a nutshell the condition of this neglected centrally administered province of Ajmer-Merwara.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bihar: General): Sir, when the Britishers were ruling here, every year that the Budget was introduced there used to be cut motions and speeches on supply and demand. When in 1946 the last British Finance Member, on introducing the budget said that he was the last British Finance Member and his was the first and last speech upon the finance Budget, indicated thereby that the British were preparing to transfer power to us. While introducing the budget at the threshold of transfer of power to us, he left behind, in his words, the following legacies: poverty, squalor, ill-health, illiteracy, under-nourishment and under-employment. Of all these, he said the most formidable was poverty.

Further on he said that all the means of production had been worked to their limit and there was no means of producing more in the country and thereby increasing the wealth of the country, without the capital goods which we can get only from foreign countries. This is the legacy which in the words of the last Finance Minister, the British Government has transferred to us and with this legacy we had started our administration. The administrative machinery is the same which was administering under the British rule. We do not know with what approach they were administering then which has brought about this result. The same process of allotting money to a particular department and then taking account of it at the end of the year was in process and there used to be criticism over each and every expenditure and also the taxes which were being imposed. But the result, as the last British Finance Member said, was as I stated before. Now we are administering with the same machinery and the same process is in vogue. We have taken power in our hands for the last seven months. Let us see whether there is any sign of any improvement on any score, so that after a year and a half when we transfer this power to the people who will come through proper elections according to the constitution prepared by us, they will see as to what improvement we have made during the course of two years or whatever may be the period during which we administer this country.

In the last eight days there have been discussions on the working of the various departments and the Ministers replies are there. From what we have heard from the Ministers in reply to all the criticisms which have been made I do not find any improvement in the method of administration. There is a great talk of planning and policy and appointing of committees as was before. It is not very difficult to make out a policy or draw up a plan. Give it to Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya and he will give us a plan within a week which will be very beneficial to the development of our country in all its aspects. . . .

Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya: Bachelors' wives and maid's children are well brought up!

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: But the main thing is how that policy or plan is administered. Some plan or policy is already there. We should see whether these have been administered properly or not. I shall take in short each department.

First of all I shall take agriculture. There was a campaign called the Grow More Food Campaign and it appears from the speech of the Minister for Agriculture that this has not been successful, rather it has been a failure

and the reasons for this that have been placed before us are that sufficient iron, cement and tractors were not available. I beg to enquire from the Honourable Minister in charge of Agriculture whether it was not possible to bring about more production of food without these things. I submit that it was possible. Our Finance Minister while introducing the Budget said that the two great bottlenecks in producing more and increasing the wealth of our country were want of capital goods and transport facilities. But to me it appears that there is a greater bottleneck, which is the present machinery of administration. We should enquire from the present machinery as to what has been the causes of their failure under the British Government? They will find that it is the system of administration which was meant for different purposes. If the present machinery would have taken into its head to produce more food, at least I can say of Bihar that even without these tractors, full supply of cement, iron and other things, there would have been at least 20 per cent. more production of food, if only the persons who are in charge of it had been alert and had supplied the ordinary needs of the cultivators. When I went to Bihar I learnt that people could not cultivate their land, because they had no seeds. When they approached the Director of Agriculture he referred them to his Assistant Director and so on the process went and they did not get anything. I have nothing to say so far as the long term programme is concerned but if we confine ourselves to the present and see to the immediate needs of the cultivators such as of supplying them the necessary ploughs, even of the old type, proper seeds, slight diversion of River and Bandh here and there for irrigation and preservation of manures and such other things as are available here, there will be an increase of at least 20 per cent. more food grains. If you will enquire most of the lands have given poor yield because of wants of these things. If the landlords and the Director of Agriculture take the slightest interest, I am saying so from my personal knowledge of the cultivators if they enquired of their demands and just supplied them with whatever they required I am sure there will be at least 20 per cent. increase in the production of foodgrains in most parts of Bihar.

The other day when the discussion was going on food policy my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam suggested that we should declare prizes for the cultivators, so that they can have some incentive and some temptation for producing more in the same acreage all over and show better results. I have myself got such things done i.e. by distributing proper seeds and arranging for some irrigation here and there on a very small scale. The production went up by 20 to 25 per cent., to whomsoever among the cultivators the facilities were given. We gave some prizes to these people. This was a great incentive to them to produce more. But, as I said, the machinery is such that it does not try to meet the demands and requirements of the people. They move only on files and that too slowly. Even if you go to the Ministers they think that it is too small a matter. We are expecting tractors; we are expecting big canals; we are expecting big dams; and then there will be more and more production. In this hope we remain. We do not utilise the little resources which we have actually got in our hand. Similarly I wanted to speak on all the items, of all the Departments—Industry, Commerce, Health, Communications, Defence, Works, Mines and Power, which are concerned with the building problem etc., but there has already been a warning bell and I have no time. If we just confine ourselves to the materials which we have got at our disposal and if we only take it into our head to utilise them, much can be done. In regard to Commerce there was the discussion as to how they have mis-managed it. During the last six months it has been our own Government. I want to know from the Government as

[Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala]

to why we could not do this thing, why we could not give proper licences to the proper persons and for proper things. This too has not been done properly. I want to know from the Government as to why we are not utilising the resources at our command and why we are not taking steps to drive away corruption, nepotism and other evils and the habit of the administration to work in the old-fashioned way, the object of which was not to attain any particular object but simply to pass the days without caring as to what comes out of it.

I shall just read out to you, Sir, the reply given by my Honourable friend the Finance Minister in reply to a question regarding the realisation of super-tax etc., from shareholders of sterling and dollar companies:

"Sir, as I explained in my budget speech, this provision in our Income-tax Act of asking for the list of shareholders from foreign companies operating in India has proved to be absolutely ineffective. It is with a view to protect our revenue that I have now proposed that such companies will have to pay an extra one anna corporation tax."

In reply to another question he stated:

"In the light of the new procedure that I am adopting, I propose to move an amendment to delete the old provisions relating to the calling of those returns".

I do not know how the Honourable the Minister for Finance says that the present law is ineffective in realizing the taxes from dollar and sterling companies. I am not a lawyer, but from what I have read of the Income-tax law as it exists today, if this thing has been supplied to him by his Secretaries, I think they are making a mistake. The present law is quite effective and we can realize under it all our taxes from the shareholders as well as from the companies, as has been provided in the law. This law was introduced when the British Government was ruling and I do not know why our Secretaries have now come with a proposal to do away with it. I propose to move an amendment on this point and then I shall try to explain to the House that this is quite effective and the Secretaries have made a mistake in saying that it is absolutely ineffective. The reason why I brought in this matter now is to show that the Secretaries are working in a red-tapism and irresponsible way and not going into the facts. Sir, with these words I conclude.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Sidhva. I hope the Honourable Member is aware of the convention and he will make a useful contribution.

Mr. R. K. Sidhva: Sir, we have won our freedom. But the man in the street asks where is the freedom for him and he rightly asks so. Why does he say so? Because his economic condition is the same as it was before. The Honourable the Finance Minister while replying to the debate stated that if we want to improve the condition of the masses we ought to look upon to the Provinces. He is quite right. If we want to ameliorate the condition of the masses it is the Provinces which have to look to it. On the one hand we say that the Centre should be a strong Government and on the other we cannot shirk our responsibility by merely stating that the Centre should be strong and leaving it to the Provinces to do what they think is best. The Finance Minister also said that he would like to call a Conference of the Ministers of the Provinces to look into this matter. I was very glad to hear about that. But I want to make a suggestion in regard to this matter. What is the cause of the condition of the masses in the villages? Unless you improve the condition of the villagers you are not going to bring prosperity and happiness to the villagers. How will you bring it about? Today the system of local bodies is most wretched. The relations between the local

bodies and the Provincial Governments are not very happy. Everybody wants power and centralisation, but they do not want to give the local bodies the power to function themselves for the betterment of the people. What has come about today, Sir? We are so sorry to learn this morning that the Calcutta Corporation has been suspended. The matter has reached that stage when one of the biggest Corporations has been suspended. Why is it? It is because the relations between the local bodies and the Provincial Governments have never been cordial. Their financial adjustments have been very, very bad. The electricity tax which should go to the local bodies the Provincial Government takes upon itself. The entertainment tax which should go to the local body the Provincial Government takes. The luxury tax which must go to the local bodies the Provincial Government takes. Not a share of it is given to the local bodies. Even now in regard to street lighting the Provincial Government taxes the local bodies. It is with great fight that the Madras Government exempted the local bodies from the street lighting. All other governments did not exempt. They levied their taxes. The taxes are not equitably distributed by provinces. Similarly is the case with Sanitary Committees and Notified Committees. If they have no money, how will they function? How can they ameliorate the condition of the villagers? The Honourable the Finance Minister may not be in charge of them, but you cannot state that you want to be strong at the Centre and at the same time ignore the villagers, the condition of the villagers. The villagers look to you at the Centre as to how they are going to be prosperous. You have to set aside some money directly for them, or you should call upon the provinces that they must set aside. In the constitution-making, Sir, in the Concurrent List I made a suggestion. Nobody looks to it. We are preaching outside that we want to ameliorate the condition of the villagers, but when we come to brass tacks, nobody looks to it. I am glad the Honourable the Finance Minister says he is going to call a conference of Ministers, but what are the proposals? What is he going to do? That is worrying the villages. That is worrying the average man in the street. He must find the money, he must set aside a certain amount of money. Even the previous bureaucratic government set aside one crore of rupees for the uplift of the villages, doubtless a very small sum, but I am only just giving an example. But today that condition does not exist. There is no question of one crore of rupees. The Honourable the Finance Minister is giving relief to industrialists for greater production. I agree with him that we must have larger production; but I do not know whether the industrialists will really produce more and benefit the state, or whether they will pocket to themselves the benefit. That is my experience in the past. In the sugar industry, no sooner the sugar control was lifted the benefit went to them. That is our experience. While I am entirely with him for larger production, he has not taken any precautions for seeing that the benefit goes to the people. While we are out for encouraging production to the utmost extent, I am not in favour of giving relief to industrialists. That is the main point on which I am harping about. As far as finances are concerned, on control matters, Sir, I am a firm believer in controls, at least as far as the food control is concerned. But when I saw that nobody could control, our national government was ridiculed. I felt that the best course was for the control on cloth should go, and the Honourable the Finance Minister at the last session said that if we could not improve control, control must go; and the Honourable Minister for Industries and Supplies made another statement in his reply to me that if the efficacy of control is lacking, we must make an effort to improve control. The Ministry are of two views—One Honourable Minister says that control must go, another says it must be improved. Whatever that may be, the control on cloth has gone and we are glad that cloth has come in the market. Sugar also has come in the market,

[Mr. B. K. Sidhva]

I am glad about it, although the prices have not gone down to the control rate, but sugar is available: and one good thing is that 25 per cent. levy has been made on cloth. Now, Sir, why should steel be controlled, I cannot understand. It is not going to affect the poor man, and today in replying the Honourable the Minister for Industries stated that the price of the foreign steel and iron he is going to import is costing Rs. 200 more than the price of our steel. I am making a suggestion to the Honourable the Finance Minister. Let him make a levy of the same amount to equalize the price to the foreign price of our Indian article. It will bring in 10 crores of rupees. It is not going to affect the poor man. Then 10 crores of rupees be set aside for the uplift of the masses, directly giving the amount to sanitary committees, to local bodies, to the Notified Area Committees and small industries.

Shri Bikramlal Sondhi (East Punjab: General): How will it affect industries?

Mr. B. K. Sidhva: It will not affect in any way industries.

Shri Bikramlal Sondhi: Building?

Mr. B. K. Sidhva: Building is not going to be affected. Only ten per cent. of the rods are going to be utilised for building material. Let me tell you 80 per cent. of the steel which is manufactured goes for fabricated goods. These fabricated articles are uncontrolled and advantage of same goes mostly to European firms. In the past only Europeans wanted control and 80 per cent. of the quotas went to Europeans. Only 10 per cent. goes for building materials. I may tell my friend that it is not going to affect building materials at all. Therefore, Sir, if the Finance Minister seriously considers this matter, I would say 'Here is an offer to him of 10 crores of rupees'. I would ask him to think and ponder over this matter, that the relations of the local bodies and the provincial governments as far as finances are concerned, must be made very very sound if you are out to improve the condition of the villages. If you are out to improve the conditions of the industrialists only, if you are out to look to the interests of the upper class people, very well, then there is nothing to be said about it. If you are here to decrease customs duties here and there, if you are here to decrease the excise duties here and there, give relief in income-tax here and there, that is a different matter. That matters very little to the average man in the street who asks today "Where is his freedom". "He asks where is the freedom that you have won for me and for which you have been advocating?" That is the thing, Sir, that is really worrying us and that ought to worry the Honourable the Finance Minister. Finance is the key for everything, and I am sure if he were to apply his mind to these matters, he will really bring about real happiness, real prosperity in the country. The Congress, while preaching from thousands of platforms stated "When we achieve freedom, we shall bring happiness and prosperity to every villager". I know, Sir, that the conditions under which we are working, the Government is working, are not very smooth. I really appreciate under what conditions the Government are working. I do not dismiss that from my mind. I am not merely criticizing them for the purpose of criticism. I do realise all this, but at the same time some beginning has to be made. I do not share the view of my friend Professor K. T. Shah on the question of the sterling balances. I agree with him on many matters. But when he said "The British Government are not prepared to pay today, you be firm, and if they are not going to pay, forego them." I entirely disagree with him. Why forego? What for should we forego, I cannot understand. The money is ours. We must get every pie of it. I do not want to forego one pie of that money.

Prof. K. T. Shah: On a point of personal explanation. I did not say 'forego unconditionally'. I wanted the British Government to proclaim itself as thankless, faithless, shameless, bankrupt, and insolvent all over the world with whom none should trade.

Mr. E. K. Sidhva: Whatever that may be, Sir, I remember his saying so.

You may proclaim them shameless. With all that, I want my money; P. M. that is my point. Proclaim them shameless people, but I will not leave my money, I want my money back. It is my earned money, we will see that they pay. Why should not they pay? We will make them pay through the nose; we will pull them by the nose and say, "Give us our money". Why do you take them as shameless?—they are already shameless people.

Therefore, Sir, in the name of the poor people, my humble submission to the Honourable the Finance Minister is this: I am not only speaking for myself, we here all feel that we have to do something for these people, and I have stated you cannot do anything good to the villagers unless you improve their financial position. That is my point. If you leave it to Provinces, they won't do anything. Somebody has to do something; if you leave it to Provinces, if you say they will do it, nobody will do it. The Centre wants to be strong—we have stated we want to be strong; I am for the Centre to be strengthened. Then, be strong, provide money, set aside money, and make the villages happy.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 18th March, 1948.