

Wednesday  
7th April, 1948

THE  
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA  
(LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

Official Report

---

VOLUME V, 1948

(6th April to 9th April, 1948)

---

SECOND SESSION

of the

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

1948



# CONTENTS

Volume V—6th April to 9th April, 1948

	Pages
<b>TUESDAY, 6TH APRIL, 1948—</b>	
Declaration by Members . . . . .	3239
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	3239—91
Short Notice Question and Answer . . . . .	3291—92
Statement on the Industrial Policy of the Government of India—Laid on the Table . . . . .	3293—97
Election to Standing Committee for Ministry of Communications . . . . .	3297
Election to Standing Committee for Ministry of Works, Mines and Power . . . . .	3297
Election to Standing Committee for Ministry of Transport . . . . .	3297
Election to Standing Committees for Ministries of Health and Defence . . . . .	3298
Bombay, Calcutta and Madras Port Trust (Constitution) (Amendment) Bill.—Introduced . . . . .	3298
Central Silk Board Bill—Introduced . . . . .	3299
Estate Duty Bill—Referred to Select Committee . . . . .	3299—3315
Atomic Energy Bill—Passed as amended . . . . .	3315—34
✓National Cadet Corps Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider—Not concluded . . . . .	3334—41
<b>WEDNESDAY, 7TH APRIL, 1948—</b>	
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	3343—86
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Hunger Strike of Political and Trade Union Workers in Delhi District Jail—Not moved . . . . .	3386—87
Election to Standing Finance Committee and Committee on Public Accounts . . . . .	3387
Elections to Standing Committees for Ministries of Commerce and External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations . . . . .	3388
Motion <i>re</i> Industrial Policy of Government of India . . . . .	3388—3428
<b>THURSDAY, 8TH APRIL, 1948—</b>	
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	3429—
Unstarred Question and Answer . . . . .	3464
Short Notice Questions and Answers . . . . .	3464—
Statement <i>re</i> Formation of Territorial Army, Restoration of Forfeited Pensions and Appointment of an Indian as Commander-in-Chief . . . . .	3470—73
Election to Standing Committee for Ministry for Food . . . . .	3473—74
Election to Standing Committee for Ministry of Industry and Supply . . . . .	3474
Estate Duty Bill—Appointment of a member to Select Committee . . . . .	3474
Indian Lac Ceas (Amendment) Bill—Passed . . . . .	3474—82
✓National Cadet Corps Bill—Passed as amended . . . . .	3482—3506
Road Transport Corporations Bill—Motion to consider—Adopted . . . . .	3506—19
<b>FRIDAY, 9TH APRIL, 1948—</b>	
Starred Questions and Answers . . . . .	3521—78
Statements laid on the Table . . . . .	3579—90
Short Notice Questions and Answers . . . . .	3591—98
Motion for Adjournment <i>re</i> Failure of Government to check Incitement to Violence by Kasim Razvi, leader of Razakars of Hyderabad—Not moved . . . . .	3598—3600
Elections to Standing Committees for Ministries of (i) Communications, (ii) Works, Mines and Power, (iii) Transport and (iv) Food . . . . .	3600
Papers laid on the table—Authenticated Schedule of Authorised Supplementary Expenditure—other than Railways for 15th August, 1947 to 31st March 1948 . . . . .	3600—01
Indian Railways (Second Amendment) Bill—Introduced . . . . .	3601—02
Road Transport Corporation Bill—Passed as amended . . . . .	3602—09
Election to Standing Committee for Ministry of Industry and Supply . . . . .	3610
Calcutta Port (Pilotage) Bill—Passed as amended . . . . .	3620—25
Legal Practitioners and Bar Councils (Amendment) Bill—Withdrawn . . . . .	3625—28
Hindu Code—Referred to Select Committee . . . . .	3628—53

# CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Wednesday, 7th April, 1948

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

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### (a) ORAL ANSWERS

#### PRODUCTION OF BIRTH CERTIFICATES BY INDIANS IN FIJI UNDER NEW IMMIGRATION ORDINANCE

1279. \*Seth Govinddas: (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that according to the new Immigration Ordinance in Fiji, the Indians who are there have to produce birth certificates?

(b) Are Government aware that it is not possible for everybody to obtain a birth certificate?

(c) Do Government propose to take up this matter with the Fiji Government so that this condition of producing birth certificates is removed from the Immigration Ordinance of Fiji?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Government of India have been informed by the Government of Fiji that Indians in Fiji do not have to produce birth certificates.

Seth Govinddas: Is it not a fact that in Fiji, Indians are not allowed to engage their own teachers who belong to the Ramakrishna Mission to teach them in their own local languages as well as give religious instruction?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I should be very surprised if any such thing happened. Does the Honourable Member mean any official engagement by the Government or private engagement?

Seth Govinddas: Private engagement.

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I should be very surprised if that is so.

Mr. Speaker: I am afraid the question really does not arise.

Seth Govinddas: Has the Association of Indians in Fiji sent any new Immigration Act of Fiji in which something has been suggested with respect to birth certificates?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what representations they have sent, but when the Honourable Member put his question we sent a cable and the answer we got from the Fiji Government was that there is no such thing as requirements of birth certificates from India.

Seth Govinddas: Has Government received any new Immigration Act of Fiji from Fiji or only a reply in the form of a cable has come?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am afraid I cannot answer that question without an enquiry.

Seth Govinddas: Will Government just send for the new Immigration Act of Fiji which some associations interested in Indians overseas have received here?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** Perhaps some further information might help.

Till 1930 there were no restrictions on the admission of Indians in Fiji. Certain amendments to the Immigration Ordinance of 1911 were made in 1945. They, however, did not seriously affect the position regarding the entry of immigrants into Fiji.

The United Kingdom Government forwarded to us in September, 1947, a copy of the proposed Immigration Ordinance, 1947, and invited our comments which were conveyed to them on the 10th October, 1947, especially regarding clauses 3 and 8. On the 5th November, 1947, Indian members of the Fiji Legislative Council informed us that Fiji Government had introduced a new Immigration Bill more stringent than the one previously published whereby all Indians, except Fiji-borns, would lose domiciliary rights if absent from Fiji for more than 12 months. We were not aware of this amendment until we received from the Fiji Governor on the 11th November, 47, further amendments to clauses 3 and 8. On 21st November, 1947, we requested him to clarify the import of the amendments proposed and pointed out that, owing to there being only one direct sailing between India and Fiji, it would be impossible for an Indian leaving Fiji to return to the Colony within 12 months. The Fiji Governor on 24th November, 1947, informed us that:

- (a) persons, who are domiciled in Fiji, can leave the Colony as long as they like without losing their right to return so long as they retain their Fiji domicile;
- (b) persons not domiciled but resident in Fiji for a period of 5 years are exempted from the Bill but lose their right of exemption as resident if absent for more than 12 months;
- (c) the Government of Fiji are keeping an open mind upon the question as to whether this period should be extended, if so, whether for 2 or 3 years until the view of all unofficial members have been obtained in the debate on the second reading of the Bill on the 24th November 1947.

On 26th November 1947 we asked the Fiji Government for information as to the tests of domicile in Fiji. The Secretary Fiji Government, informed us on 28th November, 1947, that the domicile in Fiji is governed by the common law of England and that under new Immigration Ordinance, the fact of domicile is a matter for decision by the Immigration Officer with an appeal to a Magistrate's Court and a further appeal to a Superior Court. Moreover, it was observed that under Clause 3 of the Ordinance read with the Fiji Governor's telegram of 24th November, 1947 an Indian born in the Colony of parents who at the time of his birth were ordinarily resident in the Colony will be exempt from the provisions of the ordinance.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Government of India have no direct representative of their own in this particular Island and that their High Commissioner in Australia is expected to look after the interests of our Indians also here and we have not had any one to act as High Commissioner because Mr. Paranjpye has given up his post and in his place nobody has been appointed?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** It is a fact that we have no representative in Fiji. I do not think the Government of India is at fault in that matter, because we proposed to send a representative about a year and a quarter ago and there was considerable delay in our getting the response from the Colonial office in London, because we had to deal through the Colonial Office in London in regard to Fiji. But their consent came eventually and I hope we shall be able to send someone there. As for the High Commissioner



in Australia, he had nothing official to do with Fiji. We suggested to him once that he might occasionally go to Fiji and Dr. Paranjpye did go once; I do not think his visit was welcomed very much; anyhow he went once. So the High Commissioner in Australia really cannot do very much except keep an occasional touch with the Fiji Government.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF A FEDERATION OF WEST INDIES AND INDIANS INTERESTS**

**1280. \*Seth Govinddas:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a move has been made in the countries of the West Indies, such as Trinidad and Jamaica, for establishing a Federation of the West Indies?

(b) Was any conference held there in this connection last year?

(c) Is it a fact that no representative from India was sent to the above conference and if so, why?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to assure that the interests of the Indians are not jeopardized, if such a Federation comes into existence?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes. It was a conference of delegates from the British West Indian Colonies and the question of sending a representative from India did not arise. We, however, asked His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to furnish us with a copy of the proceedings of the conference so that we could offer our comments on the proposals resulting therefrom. Accordingly we were supplied with a copy of the resolution adopted at the conference.

(d) We have made suitable representations to the Government of the United Kingdom with a view to securing proper representation of the Indian community in West Indies on the Standing Closer Association Committee which will be constituted in accordance with a resolution adopted by the conference to submit, *inter alia* detailed proposals for a federation.

**Seth Govinddas:** With respect to clause (c) of the question, Sir, is it not a fact that the Fiji Indians had written to the Government of India for sending some representative of theirs in that Conference?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I cannot say straight off, but it is not clear to me how the Government of India can send representatives to a Conference to which only local people are asked to come.

**Seth Govinddas:** Is it not a fact that the Fiji Indians had written to the Government of India in this respect to approach the Fiji Government so that the representatives to that Conference may be sent from the Government of India?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not think it will be proper for the Government of India to do any such thing.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are Government aware of the fact that in recent years the relations between the Indians in Trinidad, Jamaica and all these islands and the local Negro masses have come to be very much improved?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I believe that is so.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not a fact, Sir, that our Indian leaders have expressed themselves in favour of union with these people and not to demand for any separate electorates or for any separate interests?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I cannot precisely say what they have asked for, but there is no doubt that the relations between the Indians and the others in these islands have been becoming progressively more co-operative and cordial.

**Seth Govinddas:** Are Government contemplating to send any Indian representative or a High Commissioner from India to the West Indies countries?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** Yes. I said just that in answer to a previous question. We are thinking of sending a representative—he won't be a High Commissioner—to these islands.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** So, at present, all our relations with these Islands, trade or otherwise, are through the United Kingdom and not directly?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** Yes, through the Colonial Office in London.

#### IMPORT OF CONTRACEPTIVES INTO INDIA

**1281. \*Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether any restrictions are placed on the import of contraceptives into India, and if so, what; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to restrict or ban the import of such goods into our country?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji:** (a) Yes, the import of contraceptives from abroad is prohibited.

(b) Does not arise.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** Are Government aware that there are lots of contraceptives coming from abroad into this country?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** I have nothing to add to what I have said.

#### CEILING PRICES FOR IMPORT OF CARS AND TRUCKS FROM DOLLAR AREA

**1282. \*Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state on what basis Government have fixed the ceiling prices for imports of cars and trucks from the dollar area?

(b) Is it a fact that the decision of Government to restrict imports of cars and trucks from the Dollar area, to knocked down units with a price ceiling of Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 4,000 respectively, was notified either in a Press Communication or in the Gazette Extraordinary dated the 12th December, 1947, in which Government announced their general import policy for the shipping period January-June 1948?

(c) Is it a fact that Government did not consult all the importers about their policy before adopting the same?

(d) Is it a fact that several importers of long standing, were not consulted as to their competence to import cars and trucks in accordance with the new policy?

(e) If the answer to part (e) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to take steps to redress the grievances of such importers?

(f) Is it a fact that Government allocated the entire Dollar quota to a certain number of importers even before the publication of the Gazette Extraordinary dated the 12th December 1947, in which they enunciated their general import policy for the period January-June 1948?

(g) Did Government take any steps to verify if each one of the said importers was able to utilise the allocations, for the purpose of importing the particular makes of vehicles represented by them? If not, why not?

(h) Are Government aware that a certain number of importers with facilities for the assembly of C.K.D. units have not been allocated any quota at all? If so, do Government propose to offer any relief to such importers?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** (a) The ceiling prices were based on the F. O. B. prices of cars and trucks in the U. S. A. and were fixed with a view to permitting imports of a maximum number of cars with a limited amount of dollars.

(b) The decision in question was not notified either in a Press Communique or in the Gazette Extraordinary dated the 12th December 1947.

(c), (d) and (e). Importers were not consulted before the decision was adopted by the Government. But the position was duly brought to the notice of all the assembly workshops who were known to assemble cars and trucks and who were, therefore, eligible for quotas.

(f) Yes, Sir. This step was necessary to ensure that the production capacity of the assembly workshops is kept uninterrupted.

(g) Firstly, the licensees themselves have stated that they would be able to utilise their allocations in full. Secondly, the importers have been asked to furnish the Chief Controller of Imports with a monthly statement of the actual shipment of cars and trucks imported by them.

(h) Government are not aware of any other firm who has the necessary facilities to assemble cars and lorries, i.e. workshops, equipped with necessary plant and machinery, organisation and trade agreements with makers of component parts for their supply.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** With reference to part (f) of the question, may I know whether there was any information available to Government that there have been several other firms—some of them being the biggest importers of motor cars—who had assembling arrangements even before the war broke out?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** Government had information as supplied by the provincial Transport Officers and also by the parties concerned.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Are Government satisfied that the information supplied to them was correct?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** If it is found that there has been any mistake Government will surely stand corrected.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Is it not a fact that one of the firms which was given a quota has not got the assembling plant even to this day?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** Some such report has reached Government and inquiries are being made.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Is it not a fact that one firm named Gujrat Motor House Ltd, Bombay, was given a quota without steps being taken to find out that the makes of the cars for which quota was granted, viz. Fraser and Kaiser, did not fall within the ceiling limit fixed by Government?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** The list was really obtained by the Transport Ministry and forwarded to the Commerce Ministry, and it was on the basis of the information supplied by the parties concerned. But the Honourable Member will see that every licensee has to submit a monthly account, and if it is found that any information was supplied which was not correct, the licence will be immediately cancelled and proper steps will be taken.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Was any such information received by Government subsequently that the price of Kaiser and Fraser cars was in the neighbourhood of Rs. 15,000 whereas the ceiling fixed was Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000, and has the licence of this firm been cancelled since?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** I shall look into that matter; I cannot answer off-hand.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** With reference to part (f) of the question, namely, that the entire dollar quota was given to a few importers even before the policy was enunciated, may I know on what basis the dollar quota was allotted to these importers?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** I can find out and let the Honourable Member know.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** May I know the names of these firms who were allotted these quotas?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** I think in answer to a previous question Government said that it was not desirable that the names should be disclosed.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Why is it undesirable? Is it against public interest to disclose them?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** I shall look into that matter and if it is found necessary that the names should be disclosed I shall be prepared to do so. But that is the answer which is now available before me.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** May I know if this firm to which I have referred before was allowed subsequently to change the quota in favour of Nash cars which were to be imported from America from Fraser and Kaiser, to bring them to the price level?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** I have no information to that effect.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Is it a fact that this firm is being allowed again to go back to Fraser and Kaiser and they are now trying to manipulate in a manner so that their price may fall within the fixed level?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** I may assure the Honourable Member that if the licence was granted on information which is now found to be incorrect the licence will be cancelled.

**Shri Ramnath Goenka:** Is it a fact that there was a gentleman's agreement between the motor car importers and the Government of India and that only those firms who made a breach of that agreement were given the largest quotas?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** I am not in a position to answer that question but if more details are given I shall get. In fact the Honourable Minister had a discussion with several Honourable Members of this House, and I was under the impression that the position had been sufficiently clarified. But if there are some further doubts to be clarified I shall be prepared to meet any Honourable Member who may wish to obtain further information.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** May I know whether the Transport Ministry took any steps to find out the assembling capacity of the various firms who have been granted import quotas?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** Apart from the information given by the applicants themselves, information was also obtained from the provincial Transport Controllers.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** May I know whether these firms which were given these quotas have been able to avail of the imported cars and have got sufficient arrangements to assemble them?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** That is due to be checked every month. I cannot say what exactly the latest report is.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Honourable Minister give a definition of C. K. D.?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** That is, completely knocked-down condition and S. K. D. is semi knocked-down condition.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** But what is the really completely knocked down car as taken by Government? Is it a car which has got certain parts, as certain makes are trying to manipulate the prices of certain highly priced cars in such a manner that they fall within this price and they are called C. K. D. although they are not so. What is the Government's definition?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** In the books of Government the definition I believe, is,—completely knocked down condition.

**REDISTRIBUTION OF DOLLAR EXCHANGE TO FACILITATE IMPORT OF VEHICLES OF VARIOUS MAKES**

**1283. \*Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is permissible to utilise the quota granted to an importer for a particular make or makes of vehicles to be utilised for the importation of other makes of vehicles?

(b) If not, do Government propose to equitably re-distribute the Dollar quota which cannot be utilised by some importers for the importation of particular makes of vehicles for which the allocation was originally granted?

(c) Do Government propose to give separately the figures of Dollar and Sterling allocations given to the various importers of cars and trucks?

(d) Have Government reserved any Dollar or Sterling Exchange for the importation of cars and trucks from the Continent of Europe?

(e) If so, do Government propose to state the amount held in reserve for this purpose and the manner in which it is intended to be allocated to the various importers?

(f) Do Government propose to assure the House that in future, Government will define and circularise their proposed policy to all the importers, well in advance, so as to enable them to formulate their plans and adjust them to the policy of Government?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** (a) Yes, Sir, except in the case of licences for complete cars from the United Kingdom, where particular makes have been specified. In the latter case the licences are granted to accredited distributors of specific makes.

(b) Does not arise, in view of the fact that no licensee has so far stated that he is unable to utilise the licence for the importation of the specific make..

(c) I may invite the attention of the honourable member to the answer given to Starred Question Nos. 916 and 1026 on the 22nd and 30th March 1948 respectively.

(d) A balance of non-dollar exchange (amounting to Rs. 68 lakhs) earmarked for import of motor vehicles is yet to be allocated for the imports of cars from the continent of Europe and for further imports of cars from the United Kingdom.

(e) In making allocations of this amount to various importers, it is proposed to adhere to the maximum c.i.f. value of Rs. 6,250 per unit and to issue licences mainly to the authorised agents in India of the various makers of cars which conform to this limit.

(f) Owing to frequent changes in the exchange position, it may not always be possible to follow such a course.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** With regard to the reply to part (a), may I know whether Government has itself taken any steps to enquire whether the quotas allotted to these firms have been utilised or not? Or are Government relying on the statements supplied by these importers?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** As I said, Government usually rely on the statements given by the applicants and also the provincial transport authorities.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** In view of the fact that information has been given by certain members, will Government make enquiries and in case it is found that some of these firms have not used their quotas, those quotas will be allotted to those not consulted in the beginning?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** We shall check up.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is there any correlation between this Ministry and the Finance Ministry in the matter of allocation of dollar exchange? Or is it that independently of his Ministry, the Finance Ministry goes on giving dollar exchange quotas to various individuals?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** Obviously there is a correlation. The Finance Ministry has to tell us how much can be spared, after taking into consideration all the demands of the various ministries, and then the allotment is made by the Ministry concerned.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Then may I ask whether, in the matter of allocation of dollar exchange quotas to some of these firms even before his Department came out with this particular policy, there was a policy of giving away advance quotas to others?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** I have not here any material to answer that question. But I can check that up and see at what stage that was so.

**Shri K. Santhanam:** Is there a department of the Reserve Bank which watches over the manner in which these dollar quotas are utilised and supplies information to the Finance Department or the Industry Department?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** So far as my Ministry is concerned this is not the case. Whether it is so in the case of the Finance Ministry, I cannot say.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is there any advisory council or standing committee, whose business it is to scrutinise how these allotments are being made and also to advise these three or four departments interested in this matter?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** There is no advisory committee consisting of outsiders, but mutual consultations among the Ministries concerned are held.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Is there any Cabinet sub-committee to scrutinise all these things?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** I believe it is not possible for a Cabinet sub-committee to go into the question of individual licences.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are any steps taken at any stage—if possible at the ministerial level—to see that no undue or invidious discrimination is made between one firm and another and also that dollar exchanges are not being frittered away or wasted?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** In some cases allotments were made with the approval of the Honourable Minister himself, but I can tell the House that Government contemplate the setting up of a suitable machinery so that anyone who has any grievance regarding the working of the control system or the operation of any of these restriction systems, may come and put his grievances before such an authority.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saxena:** May I know whether there was any gentleman's agreement regarding the fixation of ceiling prices of cars?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** There was some agreement with the Transport Ministry and with the manufacturers concerned.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** May I know whether any firms committed a breach of agreement thereof?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** There have been allegations that some firms have sold at a rate higher than what was agreed upon.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** May I know whether the fact that they had committed a breach of the agreement was taken into consideration in making allocations of these quotas for imports?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** The Honourable Member should bear in mind that there is no control price fixed now and whatever is done is done as a result of a mutual agreement. But what is now being done is this—and already a decision has been reached. In future when licences are granted, it will have to be stated whether the price structure follows the directions which may be issued by the Government from time to time. What has been done and in future there will be no possibility of the sort of case which has happened being repeated.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will it not be desirable in the public interest to find out whether the firms allotted these quotas will be able to utilise them fully and whether they have assembly plants as has been reported?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** As I have said, the licence provides that every month information on the essential points has to be given. If it is found that they are not acting according to the conditions laid down, the licence shall be cancelled.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** My question is whether Government will take steps to verify whether the information supplied by the allocation authorities is correct? Is not it desirable in the public interest for the Government to take steps to verify that the information given by the allocation authorities is correct and, if not, to cancel the quotas at once?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** When the monthly returns come in this will certainly be done.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** I wanted information about the particulars supplied of the assembly capacity of various firms. Have they the capacity that they said they have? Perhaps one firm does not possess any assembly plant. Will Government take steps to verify whether this particular firm or firms that have been allotted these quotas have the necessary assembly capacity which they have said they have?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** Government will go further than that. What Government has said is this: If it is found that the number of cars which have to be assembled according to the conditions prescribed is not assembled, then whether there is capacity or not, the licence will be cancelled.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will the Government take steps to see that under K. C. D. even those cars which cost more than Rs. 5,000 are not brought in two portions—one costing Rs. 5,000 and the other also costing Rs. 5,000—in order to defeat the restriction laid down by the Government?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** We shall see that nothing is done to evade the policy of Government.

**Shri Ramnath Goenka:** May I know if it is within the knowledge of the Government that the gentleman's agreement for the fixation of prices has been broken by certain firms?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** Information has reached Government that prices were charged at a higher rate. But as I answered a few days ago, the prices have now been revised.

**Shri Ramnath Goenka:** Since it has been brought to the notice of Government that the gentleman's agreement has been broken, will they consider the advisability of straightaway canceling the licences already granted?

**Mr. Speaker:** This is all by way of suggestions and arguments!

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is there any agency in his department to check up from time to time if the conditions in the licence and the understanding have been carried out?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** There is no agency under the Central Government. Obviously we can proceed through the Provincial Government or the provincial Transport Authorities.

**Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena:** Is there any penalty attached to those who violated the conditions?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** Withdrawal of the licence is sufficient penalty!

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** With regard to the reply to part (d) the Honourable Minister said that Rs. 83 lakhs had been earmarked for importing cars from the Continent of Europe and the United Kingdom. Will Government consider the desirability of allocating these quotas to firms which were unfairly treated in the beginning?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** Well, we shall see that the licences are granted to persons who fulfil the conditions, but whether we shall make a special selection within a particular category it is difficult to say.

1284. \*[WITHDRAWN]

#### RATES FOR BOARDERS IN VARIOUS VEGETARIAN AND NON-VEGETARIAN HOSTELS IN DELHI, AND NEW DELHI

1285. \***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether Government allow the committees of boarders in their hostels like the Eastern House, Pataudi and Kota houses to appoint their own caterers or to change their menus within the prescribed financial limits?

(b) Have Government fixed any rates to be charged from the boarders in the various vegetarian and non-vegetarian hostels in New Delhi and Delhi?

(c) If so, what are the rates for boarding and lodging in different hostels?

(d) Are Government aware that the hostel-keepers are not charging uniformly?

(e) If the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to take steps in the interests of the boarders?

**Shri Satyanarayan Sinha:** (a) House Committees have been formed only in three out of the five Government hostels in New Delhi. Caterers for hostels where House Committee exist are selected by the Estate Officer in consultation with the Committee after inviting tenders.

Changes in day to day menus within the prescribed standard menu are permissible subject to the restrictions under the existing rationing orders.

(b) Yes. There are, however, no Government hostels in old Delhi.

(c) A statement showing the rates in hostels in New Delhi is laid on the table of the House.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.



*Statement  
Of Rents and Catering Charges in Government Hostels*

Name of Hostel.	Rents of rooms per day.						For adults	Catering Charges per day			
	Single room hutments	Married room hutment	Family room hutment	Single room main Bldg.	Married room Main Bldg.	Family room Main Bldg.		Under 3 yrs.	Between 3 & 6	Between 6 & 9	Between 9 & 12
Western Court	—	—	—	*3-7-0 to 3-14-0	6-3-0	—	6-0-0	2-0-0	2-8-0	3-0-0	4-0-0
Pataudi House	2-0-0	3-0-0	5-0-0	—	3-0-0	5-0-0	6-0-0	2-0-0	2-8-0	3-0-0	4-0-0
Kota House	2-0-0	*3-0-0 & 5-0-0	6-0-0	*1-4-0 1-8-0 2-8-0 & 3-0-0	5-0-0	7-0-0 & 3-0-0	6-0-0	2-0-0	2-8-0	3-0-0	4-0-0
Anrangzeb Road	2-0-0	3-0-0	—	2-0-0	3-0-0	6-0-0	6-0-0	2-0-0	2-8-0	3-0-0	4-0-0
Constitution House	3-0-0	6-0-0	—	—	—	—	(1) 4-14-0 (2) 5-8-0	1-8-0 1-8-0	2-0-0 2-0-0	2-8-0 2-8-0	3-0-0 3-0-0

\* According to sizes of rooms.

(1) This rate is for Members of Assembly.

(2) This rate is for all others.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** Which are the two of the five hostels that are without House Committees?

**Shri Satyanarayan Sinha:** I am afraid, Sir, I cannot answer that question without notice.

**Shri B. Das:** Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Western House which accommodates a large number of refugee girls has no House Committee, but is under a Lady Superintendent?

**Shri Satyanarayan Sinha:** That may be correct. I would like to make enquiries about it.

**RECRUITMENT FOR THE POST OF CONTROLLER OF PRINTING AND STATIONERY  
THROUGH THE FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

1286. **\*Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the post of Controller of Printing and Stationery was advertised through the Federal Public Service Commission and if so, what were the qualifications stipulated for the post;

(b) whether the selection for the post has so far been made;

(c) whether the selected candidate possessed the qualifications, general and technical, as stipulated by the Federal Public Service Commission;

(d) whether any departmental officer competent to advise the Federal Public Service Commission regarding technical qualifications was present at the interview;

(e) if the answer to part (d) above be in the negative, the reasons for not deputing such a competent adviser;

(f) whether there were any trained officers in the Printing and Stationery Department who possessed the qualifications—general and technical—prescribed for the post of Controller;

(g) whether it is a fact that the post of Controller falls in the category of those to be filled through the Federal Public Service Commission;

(h) whether it was deposed before the Royal Commission on Labour in India (Whitley 1929) that the apprentices who were selected in the Printing and Stationery Department in 1922 for supervisory posts would in due course be appointed to the post of Controller of Printing and Stationery; and

(i) if the answer to part (h) above be in the affirmative, why such a course has not been adopted in the appointment to the post of Controller?

**Shri Satyanarayan Sinha:** (a) Yes. A statement showing the qualifications prescribed for the post is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Yes.

(c) The selected candidate complied with all the prescribed qualifications except educational qualification which the Commission was empowered to relax in the case of candidates who satisfied other conditions.

(d) The Secretary to Government in the Ministry of Works, Mines and Power was present at the interview.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Yes.

(g) Yes, except when the post is filled by some class I officer or an officer of Provincial Service or by promotion from Class II in an officiating capacity for less than one year.

(h) No.

(i) Does not arise.

*Statement*

Containing the qualifications prescribed for the post of the Controller of Printing and Stationery, India.

(a) Candidate should be a graduate of a recognised University in Arts or Science or should hold a degree in the Art of Printing and allied trades from a recognised institution in India or abroad. (b) Should possess wide experience to run big offices. An officer with strong personality and initiative will be preferred. (c) Considerable experience of purchasing stores (preferably stationery stores which include paper and paper products) or intimate knowledge of modern printing presses and their working. Experience of handling independently big concerns employing large labour force will be additional qualification.

*N.B.*—Qualification No. (a) may be relaxed in the case of candidates who satisfy other conditions.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Why is it, Sir, that the educational qualifications were not insisted upon?

**Shri Satyanarayan Sinha:** I shall, for the information of the Honourable Members read out the qualifications which were prescribed for the post of Controller of Printing and Stationery.

“(a) Candidate should be a graduate of a recognised University in Arts or Science or should hold a degree in the Art of Printing and allied trades from a recognised institution in India or abroad. (b) Should possess wide experience to run big offices. An officer with strong personality and initiative will be preferred. (c) Considerable experience of purchasing stores (preferably stationery stores which include paper and paper products) or intimate knowledge of modern printing presses and their working. Experience of handling independently big concerns employing large labour force will be additional qualification.

*N.B.*—Qualification No. (a) may be relaxed in the case of candidates who satisfy other conditions.”

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** What is the name of the new incumbent?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order, I cannot permit that question.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** What are the educational qualifications of the person who has been selected?

**Mr. Speaker:** I will not encourage questions regarding individual appointments.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** We want to know the qualifications of the new incumbent, because it was said that in this case the educational qualifications were not considered.

**Mr. Speaker:** He never said that they were not considered.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** I mean there was a relaxation in this particular case.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes, in view of the candidate's other qualifications.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Sir, on a point of order. May I ask you, Sir, if Government lays down certain conditions and qualifications for an appointment, but appoint a man who does not fulfil those qualifications. how are we to ascertain his qualifications without putting questions. I certainly bow to your ruling. But if a man who is absolutely unsuited to a particular job is appointed, is it not the duty of we members to bring it to the notice of the House?

**Mr. Speaker:** Well, I might as well make the position clear as to what is passing in my mind. I think this House would do well in not entering into the merits or grievances regarding individual appointments that are made. In all such cases, the best course would be for members of the House to approach

the Minister concerned. For one instance of that kind, I can well appreciate and imagine hundreds of instances in which allegations may be made by interested parties against the person appointed, through questions by members in this House. Looking to the balance of convenience and inconvenience, I do feel that, the less we discuss about the personalities of officers of the executive, the better it will be for the administration. Otherwise, the tone of the administration will go down. I am saying this with what little experience I have of the administration of the municipalities. Allegations come in, even against the best men for one reason or another. I do not mean to suggest that all these allegations are always false; some may not be. But the best course, to my mind, would be, to approach the Government, approach the Ministers and I am sure the Ministers are bound to satisfy the members. In case there is any injustice, even after representation to the Minister, it may be open to members to bring the question before the House. That should be the general policy. Otherwise, if every Honourable Member is going to interfere in the administration in respect of every appointment, I think there will be no tone at all left. The function of the House should be to lay down policy and watch the general working of the administration, rather than interfere in the day to day work. That is what is passing at the back of my mind and in dealing with questions from Members, I am guided by these general principles.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Sir, I hope this will not be treated as a ruling, but as a kind of advice coming from the Chair, because, there is also the other danger of the Honourable Members of this House being turned into petitioners to get justice for this individual or that individual. And when we bring to the notice of the House any injustice done to a particular individual, it is something like a test audit. It is by the way in which Government deals with such complaints, that it stands or falls.

**Mr. Speaker:** I may tell Honourable Members, whether you call it a ruling or you do not call it a ruling, the allowance or disallowance of questions will have to rest with me and I cannot claim that I shall be exercising my judgment always correctly, though I can assert that, it will be always *bona fide* and in the best interests of the House. The lines which I lay down are the lines usually followed in the House of Commons. And, therefore, Honourable Members would do well in all such cases to approach the Ministers and in case they are not able to get satisfaction, or they feel that the injustice has not been redressed, it is perfectly open to them to come to me and explain the position, so that I may be in possession of the facts and may be in a better position to judge as to whether a particular question should be allowed or not.

Honourable Members will agree that many times even 'fishing' questions are put, based upon unreliable information. In short, the executive must be safe; provided they are acting properly, there should be no unwarranted charges or slings against them in the House.

**Shri Mohan Lal Saxena:** May I point out, Sir, that in this case the selection was made by the Public Service Commission and, therefore, the Minister does not come into the picture. The only information which the question seeks is whether any relaxation was made in the educational qualifications prescribed for the selection of candidates.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is exactly what I have pointed out—that we should not go into individual appointments. I have laid down the general policy and Members will do well to be guided by it.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** With due respect to your ruling, Sir, does this post fall under the category of posts to be filled through the Federal Public Service Commission?

**Shri Satyanarayan, Sinha:** Certainly.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** Is it not a fact, Sir, that there were many other candidates who appeared before the Commission and who were educationally and technically better qualified?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think we had better go to the next question.

**Shri H. J. Khandekar:** May I know, Sir, whether the qualifications of candidates were relaxed in the case of Harijan candidates for this particular post?

**Shri Satyanarayan Sinha:** I cannot say; I will have to look into it.

#### EVICTON BY GOVERNMENT OF TIBBIA COLLEGE HOSTEL

**1287. \*Shri Damodar Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state why the Government of India have so far not been able to vacate the Hostel of the Tibbia College?

**Shri Satyanarayan Sinha:** The Tibbia College Hostel building was vacated and returned to the College authorities in November, 1946.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** May I know whether the Honourable Minister is aware of the fact that since this building was vacated it is being misused and let out to a hotel and some other shops? Will Government now take steps to see that this college with which the name of a very big patriot is associated is not misused for the benefit of certain individuals?

**Shri Satyanarayan Sinha:** Government might consider the suggestion made by the Honourable Member.

#### REPORTS OF INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONERS ABROAD FOR 1945-47.

**1288. \*Seth Govinddas:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether reports for the years 1945, 1946 and 1947 from Indian Trade Commissioners stationed abroad have all been received;

(b) if not, reports in respect of which years and countries are still due;

(c) what method is adopted by Government to make these reports known to the public in general, and trade and industry in particular in India;

(d) whether it is a fact that only extracts from these trade reports are published;

(e) whether it is a fact that these reports are printed but are not available to the public on payment; and

(f) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of making the reports a priced publication and if not, why not?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** (a) and (b). Annual reports for the year 1945-46 have been received only from the Trade Commissioners in Canada, Australia and East Africa. Reports for 1946-47 have not yet been received. Monthly reports are, however, being regularly received and published.

(c) Summaries of these reports are published in the Foreign Market Review and the Indian Trade Journal. The former circulates to trade and industry mainly through Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations and the latter which is a periodical priced publication, has a fairly wide circulation among the commercial public. Summaries of such reports are also released to the press for publication by the Bureau of Public Information.

(d) Fairly full extracts of monthly reports are reproduced in the I.T.J. As for annual reports, the Honourable Member is referred to the answers furnished to parts (e) and (f) of his question.

(e) and (f). Annual reports were printed in this part and made available for sale to the public by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. This practice was

however, discontinued during war-time due to shortage of paper and printing facilities but is now being resumed.

**Seth Govinddas:** Will the Honourable Minister please state which are the countries from which no reports have been received since 1945?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** All those countries other than Canada, Australia and East Africa.

**Seth Govinddas:** Why was it that these reports had not been received from those other countries?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** Apparently the system of sending reports was discontinued during the war and the officers themselves were not sometimes prompt.

**Seth Govinddas:** Will the Government now intimate to these Trade Commissioners that they should send these reports?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** That has been done already.

**Seth Govinddas:** Why is it that from these countries monthly reports are being received but the annual report for 1946-47 has not so far been received?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** As I said, only a few months ago Government had circularised that annual reports should be sent. It has been felt that monthly reports now in the present conditions are more helpful than annual reports and monthly reports are being continued.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government consider the desirability of revising the price of these annual reports? They are very high at present.

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** I shall look into that.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will Government consider the desirability of supplying these reports to the members of this House?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** We shall certainly consider the desirability of supplying them to members either free or at a specially cheap rate.

#### POLICY *Re* TRADE BETWEEN EAST PUNJAB AND WEST PUNJAB.

1289. **\*Seth Govinddas:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state the policy of Government with respect to the trade between the East and West Punjab?

(b) Is it a fact that the trade between East Punjab and West Punjab is possible through the ports of Bombay and Karachi and not through the border towns of the East Punjab?

(c) Do Government propose to allow trade between the East and the West Punjab through the border towns of the East Punjab?

(d) Is it a fact that traders have often been arrested and detained under the Punjab Safety Act for trading through the East Punjab border towns?

(e) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House the export and import figures, if any, in respect of trade with the West Punjab through the Amritsar border since 15th August, 1947?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** (a) Since the termination of the Standstill Agreement on 29th February 1948 trade between East and West Punjab is technically foreign trade and as such is subject to the import, export and other control regulations regulating such trade. In view however of the close economic bonds subsisting between the territories it has been agreed that the maximum assistance should be given to the free movement of goods from East Punjab to West Punjab. I would add for the Honourable Member's information that no restrictions have at present been placed on import of any

class of goods in East Punjab from West Punjab. Measures for further facilitating movement of goods between the two areas are also proposed to be discussed at an inter-Dominion Conference which it is proposed to convene shortly.

(b) The answer is in the negative. So far as the Government of India are concerned, there is no ban as such, on trade between East and West Punjab across the land customs frontier. Such trade would, however, be subject to import, export and other control regulations, and can pass through only certain specified routes and land Customs stations.

(c) Does not arise in view of the answer to (b) above.

(d) I have no information on this point.

(e) No, Sir, as the statistics of exports and imports requested are not available.

**Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** May I know if it is a fact that whereas custom has been imposed on imports from Pakistan arrangements have not so far been made by Government to set up a machinery to guide the traders in respect of the duties levied on these imports and a good deal of commodities is lying in Delhi which could not be taken delivery of on account of arrangements not having been made by the Government so far?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** I should be prepared to look into that. As a matter of fact so far as customs stations are concerned there are already 32 customs stations opened in the area concerned. But as regards the particular class of cases which the Honourable Member has referred to, if I get the details I shall certainly look into them.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** How many more places are there where such arrangements have not yet been made or yet to be made?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** So far as East Punjab is concerned customs stations have been opened in the Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Ferozepore districts and the total number comes to 32.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** The Honourable Minister has said that from East Punjab to West Punjab every effort is being made to facilitate the movement of goods. What is the Government's experience in regard to the movement from the other side, from West Punjab to East Punjab? Are they getting proper co-operation from the other Government?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** That is one of the matters which is proposed to be discussed at the Inter-Dominion Conference which will be held shortly. It will be to mutual advantage if these barriers can be reduced, but they must be of a reciprocal kind.

1290—1291. \*[WITHDRAWN].

ALLEGED GOVERNMENT PLEDGES TO MAHATMA GANDHI'S REHABILITATION AND RE-SETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES.

1292. \***Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government gave any pledges to Mahatma Gandhi, ere he met a martyr's death, in regard to the rehabilitation and resettlement of refugees in general, and of refugees returning from Pakistan to India in particular; if so, what the pledges are; and

(b) whether Government's policy in respect of the refugee problem is moulded by those pledges?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the pledges given by members of the Central Peace Committee to Mahatma Gandhi. These pledges related mainly to the treatment of Muslims in Delhi and were published in all the newspapers on 19th

January 1948. These pledges given by the Peace Committee were endorsed on behalf of Government.

(b) Government are naturally anxious that any pledges given to the Father of the Nation and to the public generally should be favoured.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** May I draw the attention of the Honourable the Prime Minister to the answer which he gave to my supplementary question a few days ago to the effect that Government gave pledges to Mahatma Gandhi and that the policy of the Government in respect of this problem is moulded by these pledges: may I know whether the pledges were given by the Government or by the Peace Committee?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** Both.

**Shri B. Das:** May I know how many Muslim refugees from Delhi have signified their intention to return to Delhi so far?

**Mr. Speaker:** That question had better be addressed to the Relief and Rehabilitation Minister. In any case how does it arise out of this?

**Shri B. Das:** It arises out of the pledge given to the Muslims so that they can come back to Delhi.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the policy of the Government always continue to be moulded by these pledges irrespective of the circumstances that may arise?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** The pledges are based on a principle. If the principle is good it should be valid irrespective of circumstances. But every policy is moulded by circumstances and by changing conditions. So when a question has to be considered it has to be considered in its fundamental aspect and in its varying aspect: both have to be taken into consideration. No policy can be said to be a permanent policy, because conditions change but the outlook or the principle governing it might continue to be the same, although other conditions changing it has to be applied differently.

**Shri H. V. Kamath:** Considering the fact that non-Muslim refugees returning from India to Pakistan are not treated as generously as Muslim refugees returning to India, do Government propose to secure justice to our nationals first before they show generosity to others?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I have not wholly understood the question but it would rather involve a lengthy argument if I attempt to answer the question. There is no question of generosity involved in it. It is a question of the outlook of the State. We have declared that ours is a secular state. The other state so far as I know is not a secular state. Now are we to fall in line with the other state and not see that our State is a secular state? I do beg the House to consider this matter not from the point of view, as has become rather usual, of Hindu or Muslim or something else. I know for a fact that quite a large number of Muslims are very loyal to the State here, and I know for a fact that a very large number of Hindus are disloyal to the State. It is not a question of Hindu or Muslim. It is a question, if you like, of persons who are loyal to the State. That I can understand. But the mere fact of a person's religion does not make a person loyal or disloyal to a State; and it is a very wrong way of describing a person or considering a question on those lines. At the present moment we have said that we would welcome people who had gone away from the city of Delhi to come back. Naturally, while we welcome them, the fact of their coming back, their numbers and their accommodation are governed by all manner of difficult factors. All these factors cannot be overlooked. Nevertheless, the fact is that because a person is a Muslim he is not kept out and is welcome to come back.



**Shri H. V. Kamath:** Am I to understand that the non-Muslim refugees returning from India to Pakistan are less loyal to Pakistan than Muslim refugees coming from Pakistan to India are loyal to India?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think this is entering into an argument.

# REORGANISATION OF LEGAL SYSTEM OF INDIA

**1293. \*Shri V. O. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Law be pleased to state what action Government propose to take to re-organise the legal system of the country?

(b) Are Government aware that the system of law in the country is costly and beyond the reach of the common man?

(c) If so when do Government propose to consider the question of making legal remedies accessible to the poorest of citizens?

(d) Do Government propose to take up the question of delay in the administration of law which is a major problem for the litigant public?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) No such question is under consideration at present.

(b) Government is aware that this view is held by many people.

(c) and (d). Government consider that the proper way of tackling the question would be to set up a Committee on the lines of the Civil Justice Committee of 1924. They however think that the present moment is hardly opportune for the appointment of such a committee and the country will have to settle down to more normal conditions before extensive legal reforms of this nature could be undertaken.

# LETTER IN *Blitz* re MISERIES OF INDIAN SAILORS SUFFERED IN BRITISH OWNED SHIPS

**1294. \*Shri V. O. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a letter that appeared in the *Blitz*, dated the 20th March, 1948 from an Indian seaman describing the miseries suffered by 700 of our sailors in British owned ships?

(b) Is the report that three of our seamen were frozen to death correct?

(c) Have Government taken any steps to improve the working conditions of these people?

(d) Do Government propose to take action to see that compensation is paid to the dependants of the deceased?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee** (a) yes, Sir.

(b) I am making enquiries.

(c) Yes, Sir. Provision exists in the Indian Merchant Shipping Act and in the terms of agreement regarding engagement of seamen prescribed under the Act to secure that reasonable conditions of service are given to the seamen. Government see that conditions are acted upto and also take any opportunity that occurs to effect any improvements that are possible.

(d) Yes, Sir; if enquiries indicate that such action is necessary.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** How long ago were enquiries made into the conditions of these seamen?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** We shall expedite the enquiries; we shall see that no unnecessary delay takes place.

**Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** Are Government in a position to say that the ship by which these sailors were sent was found fit or not?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** As I have said, we have no information in the Government. We saw the press report and we have started making enquires.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** May I know if the Ministry has at its disposal adequate machinery to look after the comforts of the Indian Seamen in the various places in which they are employed?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** I cannot say exactly whether any specific machinery exists in Delhi for that purpose.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will he make enquires and see that adequate machinery is created for the purpose?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** There may be necessary machinery already available.

**Shri K. Santhanam:** May I know from the Honourable Minister whether a complete list of Indian Seamen is maintained?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** The list is there; but whether it is complete and up-to-date I cannot say because a lot of persons have gone away to Pakistan.

**Shri K. Santhanam:** May I know whether Government will take steps to see that the list is brought up-to-date?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** Yes, we shall do it.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is it not a fact that there are what are known as Seamen Welfare officers in every port?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** Welfare Officers there are, but I cannot say off-hand whether there is any special organisation under the Government of India.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know what is the answer to part (b) of the question whether three of our seamen were frozen to death?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** I have already said that the matter is being enquired into. We saw the press report and immediately the enquiry was started.

#### REFUSAL OF IMPORT LICENCES FOR TRACTORS

1295. **\*Shri Baldeo Swarup:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether Government are aware that people are being refused imports of items like tractors that are imperatively needed and if so, do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the names of firms who were allowed or disallowed imports of tractors during 1947-48, with reasons for allowing or disallowing and also the facility proposed to be given to new comers?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** Licences for importation of tractors are granted having regard to (a) the availability of foreign exchange; (b) availability of fuels required for operating the machines; (c) suitability of types proposed to be imported and (d) availability of workshop facilities and trained staff to service the machinery at the disposal of the importer. I lay on the table of the House two statements showing the names of firms who were granted and those who were refused licences for importation of tractors during 1947-48. While granting licences, no discrimination is shown against new-comers.

*Statement*

showing the names of the firms whose location for the import of Agricultural Tractors were refused in the year 1947-48 on the advice of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Serial No.	Particulars of firms
1.	M/S. Sepulcher & Co., Ltd., New Delhi.
2.	" Rajkissen Radhakissen Mitter & Co., Calcutta.
3.	" Mata Lachmi Co., Bombay.
4.	" Amzel Ltd., Bombay.
5.	" Bhatnagar & Co., Delhi.
6.	" Bachhraj Factories Ltd., Bombay.
7.	" Gopal & Co., Madras.
8.	" Milkhiram (India) Ltd., Bombay.
9.	" Associated Industrial Promoters Ltd., Bombay.
10.	" B. L. Anantbhat, Bombay.
11.	" Associated Industrial Promoters Ltd., Bombay.
12.	" M. V. Raghvarao Naidu, Parlakimedi, Orissa.
13.	" K. Ramson & Co., (1916), Madras.
14.	" Ranjit Singh & Sons Ltd., Lucknow.
15.	" Ramson & Co., (1916), Madras.
16.	" Rustom K. Rustom, Bombay.
17.	" Spence Ltd., Calcutta.
18.	" Simpson & Co., Ltd., Madras.
19.	" S. C. Surdivall Gola Gakaram Nath, District Kheri.
20.	" India Collective Farms Ltd., Calcutta.
21.	" Vulcan Trading Co., Ltd., Bombay.
22.	" Bhatia Corporation, Jubbulpore.
23.	" Currimbhoy Lalljee Sajun & Co., Bombay.
24.	" The Industrial and Agricultural Engineering Co., (Mysore), Ltd., Bangalore City.
25.	" Primera Corporation, Bombay.
26.	" G. P. Shukal, Ahmedabad.
27.	" T. E. Thompson & Co., Ltd., Calcutta.
28.	" T. M. Thakore & Co., Bombay.
29.	" A. V. Thomas & Co., Ltd., Alleppey.
30.	" United Machine Co., Calcutta.
31.	" Vasantrao & Co., Bombay.
32.	" Vithal Dattaram Desai, Bombay.
33.	" Jacob George & Co., Bombay.
34.	" Somani & Co., Bombay.
35.	" Shree Hind Vijay Co., Ltd., Bombay.
36.	" Garlick & Co., Bombay.
37.	" Inimex Agency Ltd., Calcutta.
38.	" Impex (India) Ltd., Bombay.
39.	" Bengal Engineering Co., Ltd., Calcutta.
40.	" Reliance Engineering Co., Indore City.
41.	" Ralli Bros., Ltd., Calcutta.
42.	" The General Commercial Corporation Ltd., Madras.
43.	" Dandhi Bros., Bombay.
44.	" Govind Ram Bros., Ltd., Bombay.
45.	" Rahalal Makanjee Zaveri, Bombay.
46.	" Dharamaveer & Co., Madras.
47.	" Doshi Bros. (Bombay), Bombay.
48.	" Hindustan Industrial Corporation, New Delhi.
49.	" Fazalbhoy Foreign Agencies, Bombay.
50.	" National Garage Ltd., Bombay.
51.	" National Trading Co., Calcutta.

*Statement*

showing the names of the firms to whom licences were granted for imports of Agricultural Tractors during 1947-48 on the recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Serial No.	Name of firms
1.	M/S. Tractors (India) Ltd., Calcutta.
2.	" Volkart Brothers, Bombay.
3.	" William Jacks & Co., Ltd., Calcutta.
4.	" Buckwell & Co., Ltd., Lahore.

Serial No.	Name of firms
5.	M/S Punjab Hardware Stores, Lahore.
6.	" T. E. Thomson & Co., Ltd., Calcutta.
7.	" American Seed & Machinery Co., Lahore.
8.	" The New Engineering Co., Calcutta.
9.	" Francis Klien & Co., Calcutta.
10.	" Dinanath Balmukand, Lyallpur.
11.	" A. S. Ahluwalia & Co., Delhi.
12.	" Hindusthan Tractor Co., Bombay.
13.	" Indian Mildura Fruit Farms Ltd., Montgomery.
14.	" M. A. Malim & Co., Bombay.
15.	" Narayan Das & Co., Karachi.
16.	" Irvch D. Engineer & Co., Bombay.
17.	" Dharmvir & Co., Madras.
18.	" Currimbhoy Laljee & Co., Bombay.
19.	" The United Provinces Commercial Corporation, Calcutta.
20.	" Empire Intdia & Ceylon Tea Co., Ltd., Bombay.
21.	" Gillanders Arbuthnot Co., Calcutta
22.	" United Machine Co., Calcutta.
23.	" John Fleming & Co., Ltd., Calcutta.
24.	" Supulchre & Co., Ltd., New Delhi.
25.	" The General Manager, Assam Railway Trading Co., Limited, Assam.
26.	" The British Trading Corporation, Lahore.
27.	" Impex (India) Ltd., Bombay.
28.	" Sone Valley Portland Cement Co., Ltd., Calcutta.
29.	" Pashabhai Patel & Co., Bombay.
30.	" Construction Equipment Co., Bombay.
31.	" Jhalani Bros., Delhi.
32.	" Anilesh & Co., Bombay.
33.	" Sanghi Bros., Jodhpur.
34.	" Venkateswar Motor & Radio Co., Nundal, Madras.
35.	" Industries Service Corporation, Bombay.
36.	" Ford Motor Co., (India) Ltd., Bombay.
37.	" Bhatnagar & Co., Ltd., Delhi.
38.	" Choudhry Akhtar Hyder Hussain, Ummédpur (U.P.).
39.	" Issac Penhas (India) Ltd., Bombay.
40.	" Comptroller of the Household of H. E. the Gaekwar of Baroda.
41.	" Larsen & Toulro Ltd., Bombay.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Was any effort made, Sir, to consult the Government of India's own Agricultural Engineer here in order to settle whether he is satisfied with the suitability of the types proposed to be imported?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** We always act in consultation with the officers of the Agriculture Ministry.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not a fact that this particular officer who really is expected to discharge this function was never consulted at all but on the other hand it was, I think, the Agricultural Commissioner who has no technical qualifications for this that was consulted?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** The Agriculture Ministry is asked to send its representative. Whether the particular representative sent by them is an expert or not is more than what I can say.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government enquire into this?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** We cannot go into the *bona fides* of an expert sent by a particular Ministry unless the allegation is made that the officer knows nothing about the subject.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** That is the point.

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** I am not prepared to agree that the expert who attended the meeting on behalf of the Agriculture Ministry knew nothing of the subject.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Government at least enquire whether the so-called Government expert who advises them that is the Agricultural Commissioner, has got the necessary technical qualifications or experience in order to give them advice as to the suitability of the types of tractors proposed to be imported into this country?

**Mr. Speaker:** Rather than asking one Ministry to enquire about another Ministry's Officer is it not better to put a question straight to the Agriculture Ministry as to whether the representative they sent was qualified on the subject or not?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** The difficulty is it came up only yesterday and we could not put supplementary questions. Today the Minister is not here.

**Mr. Speaker:** It can be done in the future.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know if these tractors are purchased through the Supply Mission in America or directly through the importers to whom import licences are granted?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** Through the supply Mission. What I did say was that Dr. Rajendra Prasad asked me that we might make some exception in the case of parties who might be able to bring us some useful information and we were prepared to relax the rule. Ordinarily it is got through the Supply Mission.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** In that case does it mean that all the orders for the import of the tractors have been given only to private agencies and none through the Supply Mission?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** It is through the Supply Mission of course.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Was any exception made in favour of particular importers on the advice of Dr. Rajendra Prasad?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** I do not think so. What I described was the policy and I said that the Industries Ministry was prepared to make an exception in order to meet the wishes of the then Agriculture Minister.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** May I know how many tractors have actually been imported in 1947-48?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** So far as I remember, we have placed orders for about 220.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** How many have been received till now?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** They are due to arrive from April onwards. At least 80 per cent. of the lot is to be completed by June. The whole idea was that the ensuing season must not be lost.

**Prof. Shibban Lal Saxena:** Is the Government aware that many tractors are already lying idle in the country because they do not get fuel for working them; and if so will they take steps to make the fuel available?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** There has been difficulty with regard to the supply of diesel oil. But the very acute position which was in existence a few weeks ago has been altered now and we expect to get larger supplies of diesel oil.

**Seth Govinddas:** Are these tractors going to be distributed to various Provinces according to their needs or are they to be centralised in a certain place.

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** They are going to be supplied to the different Provinces and a programme has been drawn up in consultation with the Provincial Governments by the Agriculture Ministry.

## (b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

## IMPORT OF TRACTORS ON PERMISSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

1296. \*Shri Baldeo Swarup: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that imports of tractors (Agricultural) are permitted only on the recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and if so, what is the estimate of the number of farmers who can afford to purchase and keep engaged big tractors; and

(b) whether it is necessary that all tractors should undergo Nebraska Test before they are landed in India and whether this question was raised in any case?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Yes, Sir; licences for importation of tractors are granted on the advice of the Ministry of Agriculture. Government have on information regarding the estimate of the number of farmers who can afford to purchase and keep engaged big tractors only those who possess large farms varying in size from 30 acres upwards will, however be able to use big tractors.

(b) It is desirable, but not essential, that tractors imported from the United States of America should have undergone this test.

Answer to second part of this question is in the affirmative.

## DELAY IN DISPOSAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR IMPORT OF TRACTORS

1297. \*Shri Baldeo Swarup: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several months are taken for disposal of applications for imports of tractors by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Chief Controller of Imports and if so, what action Government propose to take to avoid the delay and to minimise the difficulty of importers; and

(b) whether Government propose to fix certain specifications and horsepower for tractors which may not need import licence at all?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Due to the influx of applications for revalidation of licences and the general congestion resulting from partition, there was some delay in the final disposal of applications for imports of tractors during the July-December 1947 shipping period. I may assure the Honourable Member that all possible steps are now being taken to ensure prompt disposal of current applications.

(b) No, Sir, The need for regulating the foreign exchange commitments, makes it necessary to continue the present system of control over the importation of all types of tractors.

## ABOLITION OF CONTRACT SYSTEM IN COAL-FIELDS.

1298. \*Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the decision of the Conciliation Board appointed by the Government of Ind'n in March, 1947 regarding the abolition of the contract system in the coal-fields have been given effect to, and if not, what are the practical difficulties in the way of Government to do it?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The recommendation of the Board of Conciliation (Colliery Dispute) is being given effect to as speedily as possible and the contract system is being gradually abolished. The present position as regards state collieries is that the system has been abolished in all except the Bhurkunda, Bokaro, Kargali and Kurasia collieries. The Bhurkunda colliery is in its initial stages of development and a changeover to departmental working may be possible in the near future. The other collieries are among the very few big collieries in the country employing large numbers.

of workers. Kargali and Bokaro collieries alone give an annual output of 2½ million tons. In their case it would be hazardous to replace the contract system by departmental working without first making adequate administrative and supervisory arrangements after obtaining an assessment of the financial effects of these measures. This preparatory work will take some time.

#### CONCILIATION BOARD'S DECISION *re* DEARNESS ALLOWANCE FOR COALFIELD WORKERS

1299. \*Shri Ramnarayan Singh: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) what were the decisions of the Conciliation Board regarding the dearness allowance to be paid to coalfield workers;

(b) whether it is a fact that the strikes at Bokaro coalfield in the months of October and December, 1947 and January, 1948 were due to the non-compliance of the decision of the Conciliation Board by the contractor, Sir Lindsay Parkin (India) Limited head office, Bermo; and

(c) whether the conciliation award has been fully implemented by the contractors and the other employers in the coalfields?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** (a) The Board of Conciliation recommended that all workers with a basic wage of Rs. 80 per mensem and under should be paid a dearness allowance equal to 150 per cent. of the basic wage and that the dearness allowance rates for those with a basic wage above Rs. 80 should be revised suitably. Though the Board did not specify the rates of increase for these groups, it was ascertained that its intention was to give the following increases:

Basic wage per mensem	Scale of dearness allowance : percentage of basic pay
Rs. 81 to Rs. 100	100 per cent. with a minimum of Rs. 45.
Rs. 101 to Rs. 150	66 2/3 per cent. with a minimum of Rs. 50.
Rs. 151 to Rs. 300	40 per cent. with a minimum of Rs. 67.

(b) The strike in October 1947 was not due mainly to the non-implementation of the recommendations of the Conciliation Board. The second strike arose out of the demand of the workers' union that the whole of the consolidated rates of wages prevalent in the colliery, which included an element of dearness allowance, should be deemed to be the basic wage for the purpose of calculating dearness allowance on the scale recommended by the Board. The dispute was referred to an Industrial Tribunal under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, and its award which has just been received is under consideration.

(c) The recommendations of the Conciliation Board have been implemented to a large extent in all collieries including State collieries. Officers of the Industrial Relations Machinery of the Central Government have been ensuring implementation of the recommendations through periodic inspections of the records of the collieries.

**CONSUMPTION OF COAL IN 1946-47 AND LABOUR WELFARE COMMITTEE AT BOKARO Bermo COALFIELDS**

**1300. \*Shri Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the total consumption of coal in the whole of the country in the year 1946-47;

(b) the amount of coal raised from the Bokaro Bermo coalfields during the same period;

(c) the total amount of money hitherto raised for the Labour Welfare Fund from the Bokaro Bermo coalfields;

(d) the total amount spent for the welfare of the workers of those coalfields;

(e) the present activities of the Labour Welfare Committee in the coalfields mentioned above; and

(f) what are the names of the labour representatives to the Labour Welfare Committee from those coalfields?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** (a) 27,886,974 tons.

(b) 4,369,780 tons.

(c), (d) and (e). The details required are not maintained separately for different groups of collieries. So far as all the coalfields are concerned, a total sum of about Rs. 1,42,00,000 was collected for the Coal Mines Labour welfare Fund from the beginning of the Scheme up to the 31st December 1947. The total amount spent on all the coalfields up to the same date is about Rs. 55,00,000. On the basis of the output of coal the collections of cess from the Bokaro and Bermo coalfields may be assumed to be one-sixth of the total realisation. With regard to the activities of the Fund, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my replies to his starred question Nos. 724 and 240 answered on the 9th December 1947 and the 11th February 1948 respectively.

(f) Bokaro and Bermo coalfields are represented on the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Advisory Committee by Mr. Chapal Bhattacharya and the Superintendent, State Railway Collieries, Kargali, and on the Housing Board by Mr. Chapal Bhattacharya.

**ALLOTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS TO REFUGEES IN DELHI PROVINCE**

**1301. \*Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state—

(a) whether agricultural land has become available for allotment in Delhi Province owing to the Muslim owners of such lands having migrated to Pakistan; and, if so, what is the total area of such land;

(b) to whom and in what manner it is proposed to allot this land; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of allotting such land to Government employees also who have been deprived of their land in the West Punjab due to partition? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy:** (a) Yes. 13,184 acres of land have become available for allotment.

(b) About 4,000 acres will be acquired by Government for new townships. The balance available will be allotted to refugees, special consideration being given to those who had been displaced when New Delhi was built and had gone to Western Punjab. Some land will also be allotted to local Harijans.

(c) Government employees who have been deprived of their land in West Punjab will be treated on the same basis as other refugees.



### RESERVATION OF REFUGEE TOWNSHIP IN DELHI FOR REFUGEE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

**1302. \*Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to build four new townships near Delhi with a view to settling Refugees from the West Punjab and other areas of Pakistan; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reserve one of the townships exclusively for allotment to the employees of the Government of India, who have been deprived of their houses and landed property in Pakistan; and if not, why not?

**The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy:** (a) Government propose to build three new townships near Delhi.

(b) The question is under consideration.

### INCONVENIENCE TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES DUE TO CLOSURE OF MARKETS AND BAZAARS ON SUNDAY

**1303. \*Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the inconvenience caused to the staffs of Government and other public offices owing to the fact that most shops, bazaars and markets remain closed on Sundays; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to arrange for the closure of Government and other public offices on any day of the week other than Sunday, or in the alternative, to see that markets, shops and bazaars remain open on Sundays?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** (a) Yes. A few shops, however, remain open on Sundays and a limited extent of shopping and marketing is possible on these days.

(b) It is doubtful whether the closure of Government and other public offices on a day other than Sunday will result in greater shopping and marketing facilities to the staff. As Government have constantly to transact business with the Reserve Bank and the Imperial Bank, those Banks will have to remain open on the day on which Government offices remain open and close on the day they are closed. Other banks and the more important commercial and similar establishments will follow suit. Consequently shopkeepers are also likely to close their shops, with the result that the facilities available to the staff for shopping and marketing on the new day set apart for the weekly holiday may be no greater than what they are on Sundays at present. Government do not, therefore, think that any useful purpose will be served by changing the weekly holiday from Sunday to some other day.

As regards the alternative suggestion, shopkeepers are entitled, under section 3(1) of the Weekly Holidays Act, 1942, to specify the day of the week on which their shops will remain closed. Government have, therefore, no power at present to order that shops should remain open on Sundays and close on some other day. It must be left to the business instincts of shopkeepers to decide, subject to the requirements of the law, on which day their shops should be closed.

### ANXIETY AMONG DELHI AGRICULTURISTS RE ACQUISITION OF LANDS FOR PROPOSED REFUGEE TOWNSHIPS

**1304. \*Ch. Ranbir Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the lands owned by agriculturists resident in Delhi will also be taken over by the authorities for building the four proposed suburban towns of Delhi?

(b) Are Government aware of the anxieties of the local agriculturists and the agitation which is going on against the acquisition of the lands owned by them?

(c) If so, do Government propose to announce that the lands belonging to the local agriculturists will not be acquired? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy:** (a) Some of the lands owned by agriculturists resident in the Delhi Province will be acquired for the building of the three satellite townships proposed to be built near Delhi.

(b) and (c). No. The selection of sites for townships has been made on various considerations like the availability of water, easy drainage, adequate communications and favourable nature of the soil, etc. Land owned by persons other than evacuees could not, therefore, be entirely excluded from the scheme.

**APPOINTMENTS OF SUPERINTENDENT AND ASSISTANTS-IN-CHARGE IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY AND IN EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES**

**1305. \*Ch. Ranbir Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the appointments of Superintendents and Assistants-in-charge in his Ministry and in the Embassies and Consulates etc. are made by his Secretariat officers, without reference being made to him?

(b) What is the total number of vacancies that fell vacant since 1947 in the above cadres?

(c) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the names of the persons promoted to such posts, with their substantive pay prior to their promotion and the pay which they will be entitled to receive after promotion to the above mentioned posts, specially in the foreign countries?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to do away with nepotism and favouritism in the selection of personnel?

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

(b) 53 vacancies,

Superintendents—45.

Assistants-in-Charge—8.

(c) A statement is laid on the table.

(d) Does not arise as in filling the vacancies the regulations prescribed by Government are strictly observed.

Serial No.	Name	Post held at present	Present pay	Substantive post held prior to promotion	Permanent pay	From where taken	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		<i>External Affairs Wing—Embassies and Consulates</i>					
1	Mr. Mangli Parahad	Superintendent, Embassy of India at Kabul.	Rs. A. P. 530 0 0	Assistant-in-charge	Rs. A. P. 220 0 0 40 0 0 (Special Pay)	Ministry of External Affairs & Commonwealth Relations.	
2	M. H. Zinjani	Registrar, Embassy of India at Cairo.	560 0 0	Superintendent (Sub. temporary).	560 0 0	Do.	
3	P. N. Sharma	Cypher Superintendent, Embassy of India at Cairo.	530 0 0	Assistant (Central Cypher Bureau).	230 0 0	Do.	
4	C. C. Everard	Cypher Superintendent, Embassy of India at Paris.	800 0 0	Superintendent	800 0 0	Do.	
5	S. C. Mukerjee	Registrar, Embassy of India at Paris.	600 0 0	Officiating Assistant Director (Accounts), Director General of Industries & Supplies.	520 0 0	Director General of Industries & Supplies.	
6	P. S. Krishnaswamy	Superintendent and Treasury Officer of the Embassy of India at Kathmandu (Nepal).	600 0 0 50 0 0 (Special pay)	S. A. S. Accountant, Posts and Telegraphs.	300 0 0 50 0 0 (Special pay)	Ministry of Finance.	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	M. P. N. Saroon	Cypher Superintendent, Embassy of India in the U. S. S. R.	Rs. A. P. 600 0 0	Assistant Cypher Bureau). (Central	Rs. A. P. 295 0 0	Ministry of External Affairs & Commonwealth Relations.	
8	" Inder Sein	Superintendent, Indian Liaison Mission, Tokyo.	600 0 0	II Division Clerk.	40 0 0 (Key men Special pay)		
9	" K. D. Bhasin	Superintendent, Embassy of India in Iran (Tehran).	600 0 0	Registrar and Treasury Officer, Bahrain.	300 0 0	Director General of Industries & Supplies.	
10	" W. E. Eling	Cypher Superintendent, Embassy of India in Iran (Tehran).	600 0 0	Assistant Cypher Bureau).	200 0 0	Persian Gulf Residency.	
11	Rai Sahib K. G. Nair	Superintendent, Embassy of India in China, Nanking.	600 0 0 150 0 0 (Special Pay)	Assistant	295 0 0	Ministry of External Affairs & Commonwealth Relations.	
12	" Vajinder Singh	Superintendent, Embassy of India in China, Nanking.	530 0 0	S. A. S. Accountant	375 0 0	Ministry of Agriculture (late Education Health and Land Department).	
13	" R. Subramanian	Superintendent, Indian Legation in Siam (Bangkok).	530 0 0	Assistant	235 0 0	Military Accounts Department.	
14	" G. D. Seth	Superintendent, Indian Consulate General, Batavia.	660 0 0	Superintendent (Sub. temporary).	220 0 0	Director General of Posts & Telegraphs.	
					660 0 0	Ministry of Labour.	

15	Mr. K. B. Krishnaswamy	Assistant - in - charge, Indian Consulate at Jogjakarta.	200 0 0	Assistant (Temporary).	200 0 0	Ministry of External Affairs & Common- wealth Relations.
			40 0 0 (Special Pay)			
16	" Dharma	Superintendent, India Delegation Office, New York.	560 0 0	Superintendent	560 0 0	Ministry of Finance.
			40 0 0 (Special Pay)			
17	" Balkishan	Superintendent, Indian Legation, Berne (Switzerland).	800 0 0	Do.	800 0 0	Ministry of External Affairs & Common- wealth Relations.
18	" S. Krishnaswamy	Superintendent, Embassy of India in the U. S. S. R., Moscow.	530 0 0	Do.	530 0 0	Do.
19	" S. N. Basu	Superintendent, Embassy of India in Turkey.	680 0 0	Do.	680 0 0	Ministry of Labour.
20	" M. M. Gandotra	Superintendent, Embassy of India in Brazil.	530 0 0	Officiating Administrative Officer, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting - Publicity Branch.	Not readily available	Ministry of External Affairs & Common- wealth Relations.
<i>External Affairs Wing (Secretariat).</i>						
21	" Babu Ram	Superintendent	600 0 0	Assistant	220 0 0	Do.
22	" J. L. Malhotra	Do.	620 0 0	Do.	200 0 0	Do.
23	" Dewan Chand	Do.	600 0 0	Do.	365 0 0	Do.
24	" Kesar Singh	Do.	600 0 0	Do.	305 0 0	Do.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25	Mr. Mohan Lal Basu	Superintendent	Rs. A. P. 600 0 0	Stenographer	Rs. A. P. 362 8 0 100 0 0 (Special pay)	Ministry of External Affairs & Common- wealth Relations.	
26	" K. G. Mathur	Do.	530 0 0	Assistant-in-charge	210 0 0 40 0 0 (Special pay)	Do.	
27	" P. L. Bhalla	Do.	600 0 0	Assistant-in-charge	290 0 0 40 0 0 (Special pay)	Do.	
28	" Sardari Lal Jais	Assistant-in-charge	275 0 0 40 0 0 (Special pay)	Assistant	275 0 0	Do.	
29	" Farhat Ali	Assistant-in-charge	275 0 0 40 0 0 (Special pay)	Assistant	275 0 0	Do.	Opted for Pakis- tan
30	" G. P. Mathur	Superintendent	530 0 0	Assistant-in-charge	220 0 0 40 0 0 (Special pay)	Do.	
31	" K. A. Extross	Do.	600 0 0	Assistant-in-charge	310 0 0 (Special pay) 40 0 0	Do.	
32	" V. G. Srinivasan	Do.	600 0 0	Assistant-in-charge	295 0 0 40 0 0 (Special pay)	Do.	

33	" Kumer Singh	Do.	600 0 0	Superintendent .	600 0 0	Ministry of Home Affairs (Intelligence Bureau).	
34	" S. A. Abdul Rahim	Do.	530 0 0	Assistant .	210 0 0	...	Opted for Pakis- tan.
35	" Ramadorai	Do.	530 0 0	Superintendent .	305 0 0	Ministry of States	
36	" B. B. Benjamin	Assistant-in-charge (Special pay)	305 0 0 40 0 0	} Assistant .	305 0 0	Ministry of External Affairs & Common- wealth Relations.	
37	" Ali Mustafa	Do.	...	...	...	...	Opted for Pakis- tan.
38	" S. J. Wilfred	Superintendent	550 0 0	Subordinate Accounts . Service. Accountant in the Ministry of Food.	260 0 0 *45 0 0	Ministry of Food	* Special pay.

**Commonwealth Relations Wing (Secretariat)**

	B. S. K. S. Venkataram.	Do.	600	0	0	Stenographer	500	0	0	Ministry of Affairs & Common- wealth Relations.	* Special pay.
39											
40	Mr. P. S. L. Sarna	Do.	530	0	0	Assistant	190	0	0	Do.	
41	" K. S. Seshan	Do.	600	0	0	Do.	230	0	0	Do.	
42	" T. N. Gupta	Do.	600	0	0	Stenographer	300	0	0	Do.	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
43	Mr. S. D. Chatterjee	Superintendent	Ra. A. P. 530 0 0	Assistant	Ra. A. P. 200 0 0	Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.	
44	" Harbans Lal	Do.	600 0 0	Do.	275 0 0	Do.	
45	" V. P. Lal	Do.	530 0 0	Do.	180 0 0	Do.	
46	" Shree Bhagwan	Do.	530 0 0	Do.	210 0 0	Do.	
47	" N. Subramaniam	Do.	530 0 0	Do.	220 0 0	Do.	
48	" P. L. Gupta	Do.	530 0 0	Do.	210 0 0	Do.	
49	" N. S. Kain	Assistant-in-charge (Special pay)	210 0 0	Do.	210 0 0	Do.	
50	" R. S. Chavan	Assistant-in-charge (Special pay)	210 0 0	Do.	210 0 0	Do.	
Commonwealth Relations Wing—Posts Abroad							
51	" S. K. Reddi	Superintendent, Office of the Representative of the Government of India in Malaya.	525 0 0	...	350 0 0	...	
52	" N. S. Sehni	Superintendent, Office of the High Commissioner for India in Canada.	600 0 0	...	290 0 0	...	
53	" S. V. Swami	Assistant-in-charge in the India Embassy in Burma.	Under consideration.	...	360 0 0	Was employed under the Burma Government.	



## INDIA'S SHARE IN GERMAN REPARATIONS

1306. \*Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Inter-Allied Reparations Agency at its last session in Brussels allocated German reparations to the various member States; and

(b) if so, what India's share was?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) and (b). Industrial equipment worth about 8,414,000 Reichs Marks was allocated among 15 member countries of the Inter Allied Reparations Agency during its last session held on the 19th March 1948. The value of India's allotment is about 184, Reichs Marks.

## ACCUMULATION OF STOCKS AND IMPORT QUOTA OF BETELNUTS

1307. \*Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) the import quota of betelnut sanctioned for the current year;

(b) whether Government are aware that stocks of Indian betelnut have accumulated in wholesale centres; and

(c) whether Government propose to stop further imports this year so as to facilitate disposal of the accumulated stocks of Indian betelnut?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: (a) Imports during the current half year will be allowed from non-dollar areas at 25 per cent. by value of imports made during the year 1946-47. Import from dollar areas is not allowed.

(b) Stocks in South Indian markets are slightly above normal; whereas those in Calcutta market are low and price are tending to rise. Information about Bombay market is not available

(c) Does not arise.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUNG PLAN AND CONCILIATION BOARD AWARDED BY COLLIERY OWNERS, HAZARIBAGH AND MANBHUM COAL SYNDICATE

1308. \*Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the colliery owners belonging to the Hazaribagh and Manbhum Coal Syndicate have implemented the Young Plan of 1943 and the Conciliation Board Award of 1947; if not, who have and who have not;

(b) what steps Government propose to take against the colliery owners who have not done so, so as to secure implementation by them of the aforementioned Plan and the Award;

(c) how much money by way of Target Bonus was disbursed by Government to the owners for distribution among colliery labour during the years 1943-45; and

(d) whether Government have ascertained that bonus reached the workers for whom it was intended?

The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: The information asked for by the Honourable Member is not readily available. It is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

## REFUSAL OF DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, MONTGOMERY TO RESTORE AN ABDUCTED HINDU GIRL IN POSSESSION OF A MUSLIM ZAMINDAR

1309. \*Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 6th March, 1948, stating that the District Magistrate of Montgomery refused to restore a Hindu girl to the Deputy Liaison Officer

of the Indian Dominion on the ground that he could not displease the Muslim Zamindar of the *ilaga* from whose custody the girl had been recovered, and that the girl was sent back to the Zamindar?

(b) If so, has any representation been made to the Government of Pakistan in the matter?

(c) What have been the results of such representation if made?

(d) Are Government aware that large numbers of young abducted Hindu and Sikh women are in the possession of Zamindars and other rich and influential men of Pakistan, and the Government of Pakistan are not taking action to restore them?

(e) Is it a fact that most of the abducted women who have been restored are old women?

(f) What steps do Government propose to take to get the release of these unfortunate women from the clutches of these rich and influential Zamindars and highly placed persons of Pakistan?

(g) Are Government aware of the intensity of feeling in the Indian Dominion on this question and do Government propose to give an assurance to the House that they will not hesitate to take any risk howsoever great, if necessary, to get every single abducted woman from Pakistan?

**The Honourable Shri K. O. Neogy:** (a) to (d). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to parts (a) to (c) and (e) of Short Notice Question No. 46 on the 2nd April, 1948.

(e) In some batches, the number of old women predominated, but figures for the months of January and February 1948 show that the different age groups have been spread out satisfactorily.

(f) There have been further inter-Dominion discussions on the subject and it is hoped that the machinery for the rescue of abducted women from Western Pakistan will be strengthened as a result of these discussions.

(g) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to part (f) of Short Notice Question No. 46 on 2nd April, 1948.

#### ATOMIC RESEARCH IN INDIA

**1310. \*Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

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

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

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the statement laid on the table of the House by the Honourable Minister for Education on the 25th November, 1947, in reply to starred question No. 288 by Dr. P. S. Deshmukh. As the Honourable Member is aware, a Bill for the control of atomic energy has been introduced in the Assembly recently. This Bill will facilitate pooling of knowledge and protection of our mineral wealth, which is useful for this work, as well as ensure secrecy wherever required.

Some progress has been achieved both towards the acquirement of the necessary knowledge and technique.

#### EXPORT OF COIR MATTING TO SOUTH AFRICA BY INDIAN FIRMS

**1311. \*Seth Govinddas:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether Government have received any complaint with respect to some Indian firm exporting coir matting to South Africa?

(b) In view of the fact that we have applied economic sanctions against that country, what steps do Government propose to take to stop this export and to prosecute such Indian firms who have acted against Government orders?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** (a) It has been brought to the notice of Government that an Indian firm has offered coir goods for sale to a South African firm.

(b) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member in this connection to the Notification dated the 17th July 1946 issued by the Ministry of Commerce, a copy of which has been placed on the table of the House and which prohibits the export of goods to South Africa. In view of these instructions no special steps in the direction indicated by the Honourable Member are considered necessary.

**PREPARATION OF ELECTORAL ROLLS FOR ELECTIONS UNDER NEW CONSTITUTION**

**1312. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Law be pleased to state how soon Government will take steps to prepare the electoral rolls in time for the holding of elections under the new constitution?

(b) Is it a fact that some provinces have already begun this work?

(c) Do Government propose to see that other provinces also take up this work?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar:** (a) In anticipation of the passing of the Constitution, preliminary steps have already been taken and the Constituent Assembly of India have addressed the various Provincial Governments and all member States.

(b) and (c). Yes.

**INDIA'S IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE WITH U. S. S. R. DURING 1938—47**

**1313. \*Seth Govinddas:** Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to give the over-all figures of India's exports and imports to and from the U.S.S.R. during the years 1938-39, 1939-40, 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45, 1945-46 and 1946-47, and indicate the value in rupees of each of the commodities exported and imported?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** Three statements giving the required information are placed on the table of the House.

*Statement I*

Showing the total value of trade of British India with the U. S. S. R. by sea on private account during the years 1938-39 to 1946-47.

Years.	Total value of imports into British India from U.S.S.R. Rs.	Total value of exports from British India to U.S.S.R. Rs.	Total value of re-exports from British India to U.S.S.R. Rs.
1938-39 . .	20,03,719	37,70,718	...
1939-40 . .	19,22,453	2,09,911	...
1940-41 . .	8,079	...	...
1941-42 . .	...	71,12,065	...
1942-43 . .	28	86,18,376	3,95,193
1943-44 . .	3,45,689	1,66,428	18,400
1944-45 . .	1,43,487	61,60,748	1,40,40,068
1945-46 . .	20,14,067	33,07,186	1,88,37,263
1946-47 . .	1,51,000	3,47,89,584	...

*Annex III*

Showing the Value of Imports from U.S.S.R. into British India.  
(Based on Sea-borne Trade Accounts)

(Value in '000 rupees)

	1939-40 Value	1940-41 Value	1941-42 Value	1942-43 Value	1943-44 Value	1944-45 Value	1945-46 Value	1946-47 Value
1. Chemical & Chemical Preparations—Sodium compounds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Dyeing and Tanning substances . . .	69	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Manures . . . . .	777	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. Mineral Oils . . . . .	963	...	...	...	...	...	12,93	...
5. Provisions & Oilman's stores canned and bottled provisions.	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Oilseeds, essential . . . . .	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7. Tea Chests, wooden . . . . .	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. Wood & Timber—Logs and Timber for match making.	103	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

	1938-39 Value	1939-40 Value	1940-41 Value	1941-42 Value	1942-43 Value	1943-44 Value	1944-45 Value	1945-46 Value	1946-47 Value
9. Instruments, Apparatus, Appliances, and parts thereof, Talking machines & accessories—Records	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
10. Cinema Talkie—Apparatus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	...
11. Cinematograph films—Raw films	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...
Exposed films	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	77	49
12. Precious stones and pearls, unset—									
Diamonds	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	290	...
Other precious stones	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	196	31
Pearls ( real or cutler )	...	...	...	...	...	337	54	125	54
13. All other articles of merchandise	56	3	...	...	...	8	...	4	4
TOTAL	2,004	1,923	8	...	...	345	144	20,14	1,51

*Statement III*  
 Showing the value of exports from British India to U.S.S.R.  
 (Based on Sea-borne Trade Accounts).

(Value in '000 rupees)									
	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47
1. Hides & skins, raw	...	...			36			...	...
2. Lac, Shell	142	44		1,548	1,597		...	2,10	35,40
3. Tea, Black	49	17	...		629		9,37	44	40,70
4. Textiles—									
Cotton, Waste	18	...	...		...	...	...	...	...
Manufactures, Canvas	...	...	...		214		1,872	...	...
Piecegoods	...	...	...		22			...	...
5. Jute, raw	3,561	148	...	4,096	1,883		894	30,40	68,88
Gunny bags, soaking	...	...	...	1,468	1,803		893	...	32,89
Hessian	...	...	...		...	...	447	...	248
Gunny cloths, hessian	...	...	...	...	233			12	262
"     "     Sacking	...	...	...		...		...	...	313
6. Hemp, raw	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	46
7. Jute, rope & twine	...	...	...	...	...	...	94	...	...

	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47
8. Cordage & rope of vegetable fibre (excluding jute & cotton)									322
9. Spices & pepper			...						11,63
10. Tobacco, unmanufactured					311		1005	...	1,45,47
11. Drugs & Medicines					32				...
12. Grain Pulse.					28				
13. Vegetable Oils, Linseed						66		...	
14. Provisions & Oilman's stores					620	48			...
15. Rubber, raw			...		443				
16. Oilseeds, groundnuts					637	...			...
17. Sugar					24	1			...
18. Wool, manufactures					84	...	...	...	...
19. All other articles of merchandise	1	1			22	51	19	1	2
TOTAL	3,771	210		7,112	8,618	166	6,161	3,307	34,790

## POLITICAL PENSIONS TO FOREIGNERS

**1314. \*Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the amount paid to foreigners by way of political pensions?

(b) Have Government examined each individual case and satisfied themselves that these pensions are justifiable?

(c) For how many years more are these pensions likely to continue and on an actuarial evaluation what would be the total amount which is likely to be paid out?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** The matter is under investigation and the requisite information will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

## IMPORT OF MOTOR CARS AND MOTOR CYCLES INTO INDIA DURING 1938-39 AND 1946-48

**1315. \*Shri Ram Sahai:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state how many motor cars and motor cycles were imported into India during the year 1938-39?

(b) What are the names of the companies from whom they were imported and what number was imported from each?

(c) How many motor cars and motor cycles were imported during the years 1946-47 and 1947-48?

(d) What are the names of the companies from whom they were imported and what was the number imported from each?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** (a) and (c). A statement is placed on the table of the House giving information upto July 1947. Later figures are not yet available.

(b) and (d). This information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

## STATEMENT

Showing the number of (1) motor cars (including taxi cabs) and (2) Motor Cycles (including scooters) imported into British India, by sea, from abroad during the years 1938-39 1946-47 and the four months ending July, 1947.

	Articles	1938-39	1946-47	Four months ending July, 1947
		No.	No.	No.
1	Motor cars (including taxi cabs)	11,058	10,887	7,710
2	Motor cycles (including scooters)	1,371	3,070	2,331

## REPORT OF TRIPARTITE INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE ON TEXTILES.

**1316. \*Shri C. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the Tripartite Industrial Committee on Textiles has submitted its report?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken by Government to implement the recommendations of the committee?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** (a) The Industrial Committee on Cotton Textile which met in January 1948 discussed various



matters but no resolutions were adopted by it. There was no question of the Committee submitting any report.

(b) Government have taken note of the viewpoints advanced by the Employers' and Workers' representatives and will consider what legislative action or administrative measures should be taken on the basis of the discussions held.

**POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SIND JAILS CONVICTED DURING 'QUIT INDIA' STRUGGLE OF 1942**

1317. \***Shri H. V. Kamath**: Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the number of political prisoners who, as the result of conviction for offences committed during the "Quit India" struggle of 1942, are still serving their sentences in Sind Jails;

(b) whether Government will take up their cases with the Government of Pakistan;

(c) whether Government are aware that arrest warrants issued by the Government of Sind in 1942 against some persons who absconded from Sind have not yet been withdrawn; and

(d) whether Government will consider the question of giving such persons immunity from arrest or extradition in the event of their discovering themselves within the territory of the Indian Union?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**: (a) and (c). Enquiries are being made from the Pakistan Government through the Indian High Commissioner in Karachi, and the information will be placed on the table of the House when available.

(b) and (d). On receipt of the information, Government will decide what action, if any, they should take. It should be remembered, however, that Government can only deal with the cases of those persons who are Indian nationals or who may be presumed to be such.

**ECONOMIC POLICY OF GOVERNMENT AND SETTING UP OF CENTRAL STATISTICAL AND ECONOMIC ADVISORY ORGANISATIONS.**

1317-A. \***Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru**: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether any machinery exists under the Government of India for the formation of an overall economic policy for Government as a whole?

(b) Are Government aware of the growth of an Economic and Statistics Division in every Department?

(c) Are Government further aware that this development hampers the formation of a single comprehensive and common economic policy for Government as a whole?

(d) Are steps being taken to put an end to this state of things and to set up a common Central Statistical Organisation and a Central Economic Advisory Organisation for Government as a whole to secure overall economic guidance and to formulate an overall economic policy?

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee**: (a) Government regret that there has been delay in the formulation of an overall economic policy for the country. In so far as Industrial policy is concerned, the Government resolution has just been placed before the House and will be debated upon today. In this resolution it is further stated that a Central Planning Commission will be appointed. The function of this Commission will be to consider this overall policy.

[Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerjee]

The post of an Economic Adviser to Government has been in abeyance for some time. This question will also be considered at the same time as the formulation of the Planning Commission.

An Economic Sub-Committee of the Cabinet has been functioning for some time and the Economic Adviser located in the Finance Ministry functions as the Secretary of this Sub-Committee. A Consultative Committee of Economists is also in existence and important questions of economic policy are referred to this body before final decisions are taken by Government.

(b), (c) and (d). The Government attach great importance to the proper organisation of a statistical department. A proposal has already been made and is being considered for the creation of a Central Statistical Office. This was supported by the Advisory Planning Board. This Central Statistical Office will, no doubt, be in close touch with the proposed Planning Commission and with departmental statistical organisations.

### MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

#### HUNGER STRIKE OF POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION WORKERS IN DELHI DISTRICT JAIL

**Mr. Speaker:** I have received notice of an Adjournment Motion. Before I read the text of the motion, I find from the report referred to by the Honourable Member in the press that there are two distinct matters in the report which the Honourable Member is putting together in the adjournment motion. As the report says, a meeting of some representatives of trade unions "condemned the wholesale arrest of trade union leaders in the city and the ill-treatment of the arrested persons in jail." That is one part of the report. The second part deals with "communists who are reported to have gone on hunger-strike as a protest against their being put in class "C" and not being treated as political prisoners." So the ill-treatment obviously is restricted only to the trade-union workers. That is one part of it. The hunger-strike is the result of a dispute as to the classification of prisoners. The adjournment motion seeks to combine the two. It runs thus:

"That this Assembly do adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the ill-treatment in Delhi District Jail of political and trade union workers (by political I believe the honourable member means communists) recently arrested and detained and consequent hunger-strike undertaken by them for the last seven days as a protest against the said ill-treatment as reported in the *Evening National Call* of 6th April and in the *Statesman* and *Indian News Chronicle* of 7th April, 1948."

Obviously, there has been a confusion of the two. As it appears, from the Press report, there is no hunger-strike because of ill-treatment. It is entirely on a different issue; and the ill-treatment is restricted only to trade union workers and does not extend to political workers, as the report goes. I should like to have clarification of what the Honourable Member means by that, because, otherwise his motion will not be in order. He is mixing up two things. He must take up one definite issue.

**Shri Yudhishthir Mira** (Eastern States: Group I): In today's *Statesman*, the news runs as follows:

"Tuesday was the seventh day of the hunger strike of 22 detenus arrested in the recent round-up of communists in Delhi. They are on hunger-strike as a protest against their being treated as "C" class prisoners."

**Mr. Speaker:** It means there is no separate allegation of ill-treatment. Ill-treatment appears to be there because they are put in Class "C". That seems to be the point of the report.

What is the ill-treatment he is complaining of?

**Shri Yudhisthir Misra:** These political prisoners have been supplied bad food inside the jail and they are not treated as detenus but as ordinary criminals, and have been put in "C" class.

**Mr. Speaker:** May I know from the Honourable the Prime Minister what the position is?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** (Prime Minister and Leader of the House): As you, Sir, have pointed out, this motion contains a number of rather separate things. So far personally I was not aware of the fact that any person was undergoing a hunger-strike or there were any complaints about food. As soon as I heard of it this morning, I have immediately taken steps to enquire about what the complaints are about food or other ill-treatment, why there is hunger-strike apart from any political reasons, and I can give no further information to the House now except to say that I am enquiring into it and taking such steps as I can to remove any legitimate causes in regard to ill-treatment or food.

About the other matter, if you would like me to deal with that matter, that is a general question of arrests etc. I would submit, Sir, that a motion for adjournment on this question is not called for. It relates ultimately to a number of arrests that have been made in the city of Delhi. The arrests have been made, it so happens, of a particular group or party, and for, I hope, a relatively temporary period because it was considered a little dangerous by Government from the point of view of security services and such like services not to take such action at this stage. So that action was taken here and in some other places too, and I do not think it would be desirable or suitable for this House to consider it in the form of an adjournment motion.

**Shri Yudhisthir Misra:** In view of the assurance given by the Honourable the Prime Minister that he would look into this thing, I do not want to press the adjournment motion.

**Mr. Speaker:** The matter need not be considered any further.

#### ELECTION TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to inform the Assembly that the following members have been elected to serve on the Standing Finance Committee and the Committee on Public Accounts.

*Standing Finance Committee:* (1) Shri Surendra Mohan Ghose, (2) Prof. N. G. Ranga, (3) Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, (4) Begum Aizaz Rasul, (5) Shri B. Shiva Rao, (6) Shri Khurshed Lal, (7) Shrimati Renuka Ray, (8) Shri U. Srinivasa Malleyya, (9) Shri Bikramlal Sondhi, (10) Prof. K. T. Shah, (11) Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, (12) Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, (13) Shri Biswanath Das, and (14) Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth.

*Committee on Public Accounts:* (1) Shri B. Das, (2) Kazi Syed Karimuddin, (3) Shri Mohanlal Saksena, (4) Shri Krishna Chandra Sharma, (5) Dr. Bakhshi Tek Chand, (6) Shri Deshbandhu Gupta, (7) Shri Upendranath Barman, (8) Shri K. Santhanam, (9) Mr. R. K. Sidhva, (10) Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, and (11) Shri R. R. Diwakar.

## ELECTIONS TO STANDING COMMITTEES FOR MINISTRIES OF COMMERCE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

**Mr. Speaker:** I have also to inform the Assembly that upto the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committees for the Ministries of Commerce and External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, one nomination in each case was received. As there is only one candidate for a vacancy in each case, I declare the following members to be duly elected:

*Standing Committee for the Ministry of Commerce:* Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala.

*Standing Committee for the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations:* Shri B. Shiva Rao.

## MOTION RE INDUSTRIAL POLICY OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now proceed with the motion tabled by the Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee.

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee** (Minister for Industry and Supply): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move:

"That the industrial policy of the Government of India be taken into consideration."

Sir, yesterday I presented to the House a statement on the industrial policy of Government, and it is not my intention now to cover all the points in detail which are mentioned therein. It is but natural that the demand should have been made from all quarters that Government should announce its industrial policy with the least possible delay. After the attainment of our political freedom, very grave responsibilities have to be shouldered by Government. Independence is not an end in itself. It is but a means to an end: and that end obviously must include the creation of a society in this great land of ours where equal opportunities shall prevail, where justice, social and economic, shall prevail, and where it will be possible for us, by taking practical and effective measures, to put an end to the era of exploitation. For 200 years our country had remained a subject nation. It is not my intention, Sir, to make any survey of the sufferings which were meted out to us when we were tied to the apron strings of an imperialistic policy which was intended to take the fullest advantage of the enormous raw materials obtaining in this country not for the benefit of the children of the soil, but for entirely other purposes. Today we have to lay down our policy. Not only shall we have to lay down our policy, but we have to take effective steps to see that the new order comes with as little delay as possible. As has been pointed out in the report of the Economic Committee appointed by the All-India Congress Committee, democracy must now extend from the political field to social and economic field.

I would ask the House to consider for a moment the enormity of the task that confronts us. It is not my intention to go into details, but it is useful for us to recall that our backwardness is of a staggering character. It is said that the resources of our country are great; no doubt potentially our resources are enormous, but what is the present position which faces the country today? Our population is great and is growing; we are still dependent for so many things on foreign support—things which are of a vital character, be they weapons for defence or means of transport, food, plants, machinery and some times even technical skill and advice.

As the House is aware, Sir, the standard of living in India is one of the lowest in the world, higher perhaps only than China. In 1946-47 wages of our unskilled labour varied from Rs. 8 to 12 per week for 48 hours, while in England it was £5/10/- and in U.S.A. it was over £10. Our yield per acre of rice is

one of the lowest in the world; the yield of countries like China, Formosa, Korea and Egypt is double than that of India; even in Japan it is three times in Italy it is four times. In wheat our yield is less than 25 to 40 per cent of countries like Australia, Canada, Turkey and Argentine. Regarding our clothing standard, per head we allot 11 yards; in Canada they give four times that, in Egypt it is at least twice. We consume salt about 12 lbs per head, which is the lowest in the whole world. Our *per capita* consumption of steel is 5 lbs per head; in U.K. it is 600 lbs., in U.S.A. 1,100 lbs. In cement our *per capita* consumption is 11 lbs; taking some other countries at random, in Turkey it is 29 lbs, Hungary 42 lbs, France 162 lbs, Great Britain 260 lbs. For coal ours is :07 tons against U.S.A.'s 4:7 tons. Railways—we have 40,000 miles running here; in U.S.A. it comes to 400,000 miles. I am not referring to petroleum or diesel oil or aviation fuel, where our position is almost hopeless. In literacy our record is 12 per cent. The death rate is 25 per thousand, higher than most countries in the world.

I am giving these figures, Sir, not for the purpose of sounding a note of alarm but for the purpose of calling upon every section of the people that all the resources that are available within the country must be pooled together and there must be a combined national effort for the purpose of translating our political freedom into some thing real and tangible which is going to touch the hearth and home of every son and daughter of this great country.

It is obvious, therefore, that any plan which is going to raise the standard of living of the common man must affect the activities of Ministries such as Health, Education, Agriculture, Works, Mines and Power, Transport and Communications. You will, therefore, find, Sir, that we have announced that Government will shortly appoint a National Planning Commission for the purpose of taking an all-round view of the paramount needs of the country and for going ahead with big schemes of expansion and development. In fact, vast materials have already been collected; pioneer work has been done under the aegis of the National Planning Committee; many of the publications of that Committee have seen the light of the day; a vast number of workers—experts in various fields of activity—have toiled for many months and years under the wise leadership of two of India's most patriotic sons, Netaji Subash Chandra Bose and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We have, Sir, in addition to the vast materials collected under the aegis of the National Planning Committee, the reports of nearly about thirty Panels, which were appointed by Government, dealing with expansion of almost every sphere of the industrial life of the country. We have also before us the recommendations of a large number of Commissions and Conferences, several Provincial plans, several big non-official plans—all these were referred to at the Industrial Conference held Delhi in December last. It is, therefore, not necessary for us to waste any further time in collecting materials. Materials are there, we have now got to set up a machinery which must act under a wisely directed policy of a National Government for the purpose of carrying out plans into execution.

The scheme, Sir, which I have presented to the House on behalf of Government deals with industrial policy alone. But I have given this background in order to impress upon the House and the country outside that our planning for industrial development must be correlated with the bigger planning which is going to affect various other important activities of the State essential for the purpose of an all-round development of the country's resources and of its national wealth.

Sir, this statement is not very spectacular in character. We have put it in a definite way as far as we could; nothing can be final, it is not intended that whatever we have said we shall have to stick to at any cost. India is passing through changing circumstances and times and the world is also passing through

[Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee]

rapid changes, but we have indicated the broad lines of policy affecting the Legislature as also administration which it is the intention of the Government to push through in the course of the next few years. We hope, Sir—and this is one of our objectives—that this will not only harness all available energies, but will also succeed in removing uncertainties and misgivings, particularly with regard to private enterprise and also the position of labour in this country.

Our immediate problem, Sir, will be to see that production reaches to its maximum capacity in accordance with the present potentialities of the industry. It is a matter of deep regret that for some reason or other we are not producing all that we can, and if some bottlenecks are removed in the course of a year or so, it is possible to increase India's production by nearly 20 to 30 per cent., Government must obviously apply their mind to see that these bottlenecks are removed and we can get the maximum according to our existing capacity.

Obviously, Sir, the policy of the Government cannot be merely to advocate increased production unrelated to better distribution. It cannot be anybody's case that the wealth that is now being produced in India should be distributed amongst all, for then it will really mean distribution of poverty. It cannot mean either that we shall follow a policy which will lead to increased production but we shall not ensure that the benefit of that increased production goes to the common man. While, therefore, we shall earnestly strive for increased production, Government's policy must be so regulated as to ensure that there is better distribution, and whatever is available will not lead towards the accumulation of wealth in the hands of a handful of persons or create monopolies which are against the best interests of the State.

Sir, this scheme, which we have placed before the House, envisages a mixed economy. I am not here to discuss the values of *isms*. It is hardly necessary in the present context of things. But I would just ask the House to consider the general aspects of the scheme, particularly the portion which relates to the role of the State and private enterprise. We have divided this matter roughly into four parts. The first part relates to industries or activities which will be completely under the monopoly of the State. They include Railways, Posts and Telegraphs, Industries relating to Defence, production and control of Atomic Energy. The next class relates to those industries, the future development of which will be under State control and ownership. We have included six items there—Coal, Iron and Steel, Aircraft Manufacture, Shipbuilding, Manufacture of telephones, telegraph and wireless apparatus excluding radio-receiving sets and Mineral Oils. Now, here, Sir, we have stated that it is not the policy of the Government to take over existing units of industry, but that the further development of these industries will be the function of the State. We have mentioned, of course, that even in future, in case of national emergency it will be open to Government to have any of these industries developed in the country with the help of private enterprise under such control and regulation as the Central Government may prescribe.

One question, Sir, which was of a very difficult nature and which Government have had to decide was as to the period of time which we should assure to those authorities who are controlling these industries during which they will be allowed to function undisturbed. Now, here, it is the inherent right of the State to acquire any industry that it chooses for national purposes. We have stated, however, that we do not propose to interfere with the existing units of these industries for a period of ten years. During this period, we shall expect that these industries will be efficiently run—not only efficiently run, but that they will be properly developed in accordance with our scheme of Central Planning. I hope, Sir, that the representatives of the industries concerned, some of whom are extremely powerful in this land, will properly reciprocate this gesture of the Government, which is made entirely in national interests. If it appears that any particular industry is not being run in accordance with

the plans and policy of the Government, then, of course, none will blame the Government if Government thinks it fit to acquire such industry and run it in national interests, but we have no desire to interfere with existing units, provided everything goes on well and there is a spirit of mutual co-operation. We have stated also, Sir, that when such acquisition will take place, the fundamental rights guaranteed under the constitution will be observed and compensation will be awarded on a fair and equitable basis. Obviously, we cannot go further than that at this stage.

Now, so far as the future development of these industries is concerned, I would pause here and say that Government are taking upon themselves a very great responsibility. Let the House analyse and see what are the undertakings, what are the big projects which Government propose to carry on their own shoulders during the next few years to come. Apart from big schemes of expansion, so far as the Railways and Communications are concerned, there will be the question of re-organising the Ordnance Factories which are entirely under the control of the State; the question of developing some of the essential industries with which are connected vital problems of Defence. We have the aircraft factory at Bangalore, which also requires development if we are going to achieve progress worth its name. We have taken up the big scheme for the Fertilizer Factory and more progress has to be achieved if production is to come by the end of 1949-50. We have schemes for the manufacture of telephones and that project is now under active consideration. We have taken upon ourselves the responsibility for undertaking big multi-purpose river project schemes, which I consider to be of a fundamental character. In fact unless this aspect of our activity makes rapid progress, other development in the industrial side will practically remain on paper. We have a scheme for establishing two steel factories; enquiries are also being made for the manufacture of synthetic oil, which, if successful, will lead to a venture which will be of a colossal character. We are also negotiating for the starting of factories for manufacture of Penicillin and su pha drugs and also for machines and tools.

Now, Sir, as I pass on to the next category of industries, you will find that we have included in the list at page 3, eighteen industries in all. This list cannot obviously be of an exhaustive character, but what is the exact significance of this part of our policy? These will be Centrally regulated industries, industries which we would like to see developed according to a well-planned policy and programme by which regional interests will be properly looked after and an all round development of the country's resources obtained. Now, so far as these industries are concerned, it is open to private enterprise to come and play its part in respect of any one of them, but these will be industries which will be Centrally regulated. In other words, if any private enterprise comes forward, it must properly correlate its activities with the policy and programme of the Government of India. We have not referred to the other list, the fourth category, namely industries not covered by these three which are open to private enterprise altogether, but there again Sir, it is not intended that Government will have no say in respect of vital matters concerning industries which are not mentioned in our statement at all. But, of course, private enterprise will be given full opportunity for developing such industries in accordance with the general industrial policy of the Government of India.

Now, Sir, comes the question of definition of the word 'State'. When we say that the 'State' will undertake certain industries—and here let me emphasize that nothing will debar the State from coming forward and starting any industry, if it is considered essential to do so, the State will not act through the existing machinery of the Government. The policy of the Government is to set up a statutory Corporation and it will be the business of that Corporation to manage a particular unit of industry just as a business

[Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookerji]

concern. In fact, it will be unfair for the State to suggest that the State will claim for itself privileges and facilities which will be denied to ordinary industries which are controlled by private enterprise. It is not intended, either, Sir, that only the Government of India will undertake the big ventures. When we say 'State', we include Provincial Governments also; we also include other statutory Corporations which may come forward and with the approval of the Government of India may like to start industrial ventures in accordance with the Government policy. Just as I have analysed that there will be a demarcation of line between State ventures and private ventures, similarly, there must be also clear and complete understanding between the activities of the Central Government and the Provincial Governments. Obviously, the Provincial Governments in many matters will act as agents of the Central Government. Industries which will be under a system of Central regulation will operate in Provinces in accordance with the All-India policy which the Government of India may lay down. As you know, Sir, Industry is principally a Provincial subject, but under our Constitution, the Federal Legislature has the authority to declare the development of any particular industry as essential in the public interest and if that declaration is made by the Federal Legislature, then the power for developing such industry vests in the Central Government. I take it, Sir, that the Central Government will consult the Provincial Governments in very near future and lay down a policy and programme which will enable the Provinces to function and flourish without any let or hindrance to the best interests of the country as a whole.

In fact, Sir, it is intended that legislation will have to be passed by the Federal Legislature to give effect to many of the recommendations contained in the statement of policy, and I am hoping that Government will be in a position to come before the House during the next session of the Legislature and place the entire scheme before them for approval.

So much, Sir, for the development of large-scale industries. I now pass on to cottage and small scale industries. This, Sir, Government considers, is a vital matter. We have laid down our policy and programme for large-scale industrial development. There is no doubt that there is a vast collection of raw materials in this country, which if properly utilised may enormously add to the national wealth of the country, but there are difficulties also. One of our chief difficulties today relates to the absence of capital goods. Government will endeavour to obtain capital goods, plants and machinery from any part of the globe that it can. But there will be handicaps,—handicaps sometimes deliberately put in our way and sometimes inevitable. Now, are we going to sit and wait in the meanwhile and not do anything? We have put forward this scheme for the development of cottage and small scale industries, both for their intrinsic value as also for the possibility which they open up for adding to our national wealth during the period of emergency through which the entire world is passing today. When the Industries Conference met in Delhi in December last I was agreeably surprised to find that although this was a matter which fell within the purview of the provincial Governments, everyone including representatives of the provincial Governments suggested that there should be an all-India directive policy regarding the future development of cottage and small-scale industries specially working through co-operative Societies. The recent exhibition held in New Delhi has given us some idea of the vast potentialities of well-regulated and properly developed cottage industries in this country. It is therefore the policy of Government to give full support to a scheme of well-coordinated activities which will be operated through an all-India Board which we are soon going to establish and to which—I am hoping—will also be attached an all-India Institute where every possible facility for research will be given so that we can go on increasing the standard of our productions.



Now, Sir, apart from the industrial aspect of the matter it will be realised that the development of our country has gone on during the last so many years mainly circling round our towns and cities. India with 95 per cent. of her population depending on agriculture with nearly about a million villages has grievously neglected the interests of the common man and has created social and economic problems which are almost of a baffling character. If therefore the problem of unemployment is to be solved, if a new social economy is to arise in this country, I am confident that we can secure both these objectives not entirely by depending on development of cottage industries but by correlating the activities of this section to the big industrial planning of the country which will lead to the progressive prosperity of the villages and rural areas.

Next I come to another vital part of our planning and that relates to the relationship between capital and labour. It has been recognised that things are not moving very satisfactorily in this direction. Sometimes the blame is thrown entirely on capital and sometimes entirely on labour. Government have to play a very important part in this matter. Obviously if there is lack of co-operation between capital and labour whatever schemes and whatever policy we may enunciate, that will not lead to anything solid or substantial. This matter was discussed in detail at the Industries Conference held in Delhi in December last, and we arrived at certain unanimous conclusions which indeed was almost a phenomenon. We had representatives coming from all parts of India holding divergent viewpoints, but I found that all were actuated by one big motive power and that was that they must act courageously and unitedly after the attainment of political freedom and take positive steps which might ease the present tension and lead to national prosperity. I am not suggesting that by merely passing that Resolution we have been able to achieve any miracle, but we have found a way towards much better relationship between capital and labour. In the Statement we have indicated that so far as Government are concerned they accept the principle that the system of remuneration of capital and labour must be devised in a more satisfactory way. Excessive profits should be prevented by methods of taxation and otherwise and Government should appoint some machinery for the purpose of settling what amounts to fair wages to labour, a fair return on capital employed in industry and reasonable reserves for the maintenance and expansion of undertakings. We have further declared that the profit that remains after meeting all these items should be shared between capital and labour and that the share of profit which labour will have will naturally be on a sliding scale and allied to production. That, Sir, is also an important factor. If labour feels that it will have an increasing share in the profits of the concern depending on the total production, that will act as a great incentive, an incentive which may be absent from the circumstances existing today. Here Government will take steps for the purpose of setting up the necessary machinery and when that machinery is working Government will obviously consult representatives of industry and labour and try to come, if possible, to an agreed solution, failing which Government will have to decide the matter themselves which will be binding on all parties concerned. We have also laid down that labour must be more and more associated with the activities of industry. We want that the feeling of mere relationship between master and servant or employer and employee should not be the ruling factor. Both capital and labour must regard themselves as joint partners in carrying forward the undertaking which after all is going to benefit the people at large. I have no doubt that my honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar who was held as a typical representative of consumers at the Industries Conference will give the fullest support to this point of view when he speaks on the Resolution.

Government have also adopted a scheme for better housing arrangements, and the Honourable Finance Minister has already declared that this scheme

[Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji]

will not be a paper scheme. We are going to evolve a system by which Government, industry and labour will make their contributions, and I have no doubt that in the course of 1948 the Labour Minister will be able to initiate a housing scheme which will ultimately go to benefit more than million workers in India.

Then comes the question about the employment of foreign capital. Here again I would submit that the policy enunciated by the Government of India is entirely realistic in character. My honourable friend Mr. Kamath need not open his eyes too wide when he reads paragraph 10 dealing with foreign capital. Obviously this matter will be decided by the Central Government. We will welcome the use of foreign capital in India in a manner which will redound to our interest. Now, Sir, we want capital goods. We want technical help and advice. It may not be possible for us easily to secure both in view of the existing circumstances obtaining in this country. We must evolve a scheme whereby when a company is functioning in India with foreign capital, the major interest in ownership and effective control remain in Indian hands. If in any case an exception is to be made, for which provision has been made, that will be done by the Government of India after taking into consideration the full circumstances of the case. We need not be afraid of foreign investment as such. If foreign investment comes to play its part in India it cannot and it will not be allowed to do so for political purposes. History will not repeat itself and the people of India are wide awake enough to see that history does not repeat itself. At the same time we cannot live in complete isolation. That is a factor which we have to bear in mind at every stage. The over-riding consideration should be the welfare of the country as a whole, and if that is secured we should not allow ourselves to be guided by mere emotion.

One point which we have emphasized here, and rightly so, relates to the training of technical experts. That is necessary. We are feeling this need almost every moment. I do not intend to take the time of the House, but I can mention several big units of industry which we wish to take over but which we cannot because circumstanced as we are, we are unable to produce the necessary trained Indian personnel able to take charge of it. It is not our fault. I know that for the last 100 years or so we were not allowed to develop in the manner which was suited to our national needs. But it is no use crying over things which are a matter of past history. We must plan out in a way best suited for our future national interests.

Sir, I shall not refer in detail to other points dealing with the import and export policy of Government, finance and the taxation structure. All these are matters of grave import. It is obvious that the import policy of Government has to be so regulated that we can get the fullest advantage of whatever we can get from abroad. It is intended to make a survey of the import policy of Government and we shall welcome any constructive criticism from industry, or from any other sources, so that we may act according to the best economic interests of the country. Obviously, the question of taxation structure will have to be considered, and it will be considered and reconsidered as circumstances may require, all aiming at one direction, and one alone, that we should like to take the fullest advantage of the country's resources and utilise them for the best advancement of our economic prosperity. There will be one question as to wherefrom all this finance will come, if India is going to embark upon big national ventures. That also is a matter which is now being considered by Government, and I have no doubt that at the proper time the Finance Minister will be in a position to announce the policy of Government which will make it possible for us to translate the Industrial policy of Government into as quick an action as is possible.

Sir, It is undoubtedly true that whatever we have outlined here can be brought into effect if there is general peace and security in the country. It is

undoubtedly true that we shall\* succeed in implementing our policy and programme if all interests concerned combine and give Government their helping hand. For sometime past there has been a lot of apprehension and unsteadiness in many spheres affecting capital and labour. It is the earnest hope of Government that the policy which Government have announced today, which Government claim is not dependent on any particular "ism" but is entirely related to the needs and welfare of the vast masses of the Indian people, will inspire greater confidence in the minds of those who have got to play their part in the rebuilding of new India.

I hope, Sir, that in the course of the next few weeks we shall be able to set up the necessary machinery which will bring the Central Government into close and direct contact with the Provincial Governments, with the representatives of the industries concerned, and also labour and others who are interested in economic expansion, so that we can plan out as regards our future lines of action.

As I said, Sir, this scheme which we have placed before the House is not of an undue spectacular character. But I claim that it gives the necessary directive policy which will be followed by the Central Government in the months and years to come.

It has been asked how far this policy which we have enunciated is at variance with the policy enunciated by the Economic Committee of the Congress. We have examined the scheme in relation to the Committee's programme also and Government maintain that there is nothing here affecting policy which is substantially inconsistent with what the All-India Congress Committee has laid down. There may be some matters which are not dealt with. Those matters also will have to be taken up. If necessary, further consultations may be necessary. But in any case, the policy which we have put forward is one which, if given effect to with the full and wholehearted co-operation—of all interests concerned, will usher in a new era of peace, progress and economic freedom, which will benefit the common man of this country and strengthen the social and economic structure of our society. With these words, Sir, I move.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That the industrial policy of the Government of India be taken into consideration."

I find that two different amendments are tabled.

**Shri B. Das (Orissa: General):** I will not be moving it as there is a party amendment.

**Mr. Speaker:** So the other amendment may be moved at this stage and then the discussion may begin.

I may point out that I have got a long list of names of 30 Honourable Members who wish to speak: besides there are also about half a dozen names which are not included.

**Kazi Syed Karimuddin (C. P. and Berar: Muslim):** Will you be guided by the list?

**Mr. Speaker:** The lists are there. But it is left to my discretion as to who shall be permitted, or called upon, to speak. But it is impossible to satisfy all the 36 and judging from the chits that are coming to me, the number may swell to 40. A time-limit has therefore, to be fixed and I propose to fix a time-limit of 15 minutes. As I have very often said, I believe in speeches which make real points rather than short speeches, in which no point can be made out. Therefore I am fixing the time limit at 15 minutes but it is perfectly competent for Honourable Members to limit themselves to ten minutes. I will not insist that any member should speak for 15 minutes!

**Maulana Hasrat Mohani (U. P.: Muslim):** Sir, I want to oppose the motion.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member can do so if and when I call upon

him. Meanwhile Mr. Santhanam will move his amendment.

**Shri K. Santhanam** (Madras: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That for the original motion, the following be substituted:

"That the industrial policy of the Government of India as set out in the statement of policy laid on the table on the 6th April, 1948, be approved."

Sir, I have invited the House to approve the policy. At the same time, I am under no illusions as to the character of the statement which has been laid before us. The Honourable the Minister for Industries has himself admitted that the document is not specially spectacular. It is certainly not an inspiring document and it has not set the Jumna on fire. But I believe it was not the purpose of the Government to place before us something spectacular or exciting. I believe their object was more to give something in the nature of a sedative, in view of the many apprehensions under which the various agencies engaged in production all over the country were suffering. In certain respects, it may even act as a bucket of cold water on many heated imaginations.

During the recent months and perhaps during recent years there has been the most confused thinking regarding Socialism, Nationalisation and such matters. I wish to make my point quite clear. I am a convinced believer in freedom through democracy and social welfare through public control of production and distribution of wealth. But a mere desire to have public ownership or public control of industry does not enable us to have that ownership or control. It is not through slogans and stunts that the economic reconstruction of this great country can be achieved. It has to be attained through laborious thinking and through laborious effort. I have therefore decided to lend my support to the plan by which the State will now take up a limited field and exploit it effectively and go on expanding the field instead of putting forward a general vague programme of nationalisation over the entire field of industry.

If the House will look into the 6 items and reflect on the possibilities which the Government of India have to develop them, they will be convinced that though the number is small, the field is really vast. If the Government of India, for instance, can nationalise all the coalfields in this country and increase coal production to say 50 million tons a year, if it can produce, besides the nearly one million tons of steel and iron by the Tatas two more million tons in the next ten years by state enterprise, if it can produce 200 aircraft a year, 100 ships a year and enough telephones for equipping 1 million telephones in the country (which is less than the number of telephones in a single city like New York) and if it can produce 1 million tons of petrol either from underground or by synthetic production, then I say that in the next ten years the Government would have taken this country over a really remarkable field. Therefore there is no reason to be disappointed at the small number of items. I believe that the pressure of necessity will force the Government, both Central and Provincial, to take up other items included in the third list.\* For instance, machine tools, Prime movers, and certain chemicals will have to be produced under State enterprise. Therefore I think the classification given in the statement is as much as we can attempt.

But there is no point in which I am not quite satisfied with the explanation of the Minister for Industries. He has rightly said that State includes the Central Government, the Provincial Governments and even municipal and other local bodies. But there is a strong suggestion throughout the statement that the State will in practice ultimately mean the Central Government. I would have liked the Minister for Industries to indicate what are the industries which he expects the Provincial Governments to take up. All those industries given here in the list on page 2 of the statement are such that they have to be developed only by the Central Government. Of course there is mention of electricity

which I believe will largely be produced by the provincial government but I do think that that is not enough. The statement should have indicated other items which will be specially earmarked for provincial enterprise.

Sir, I see a tendency during recent months, both in the matter of the constitution and in other respects, an attempt on the part of the Centre to concentrate all power in their hands and to minimise the initiative of all others, provincial governments and other bodies. They want centralisation and coordination even in the matter of cottage industries and there are people who cry out, "We want centralisation of cottage industries". I wish to enter a word of protest against this tendency. To the extent that initiative in the field of public enterprise is distributed to that extent progress can be made faster. We know what the Central Government is. Even a single decision on a minor matter takes months and months and a small minor Bill takes 2, 3 and even six months and when it comes before the House we find that it was hastily improvised, badly drafted and people do not know what the policy of the Government is. After all the Central Government means only, 7, 8 or 10 persons, and even they are old and tired men who have got innumerable other activities and it is wrong that the whole economic activity of the country should be concentrated in their hands. There should be the widest possible distribution of initiative, control and management.

Then, Sir, in para. 7 it is said that the eighteen industries listed therein will be the subject of Central regulation and control. So far as the principle is concerned it is unexceptionable. But I wish some more light had been shed upon it. I would like to know whether, subject to statutory provisions, private enterprise will be allowed freedom to exploit the field allotted to it or whether all kinds of fancy administrative machinery will be foisted upon it and our experience of the recent war-time controls will be repeated again in the field of industry. I do approve of the State taking any industry and developing it, but when once the field is given to private enterprise I would suggest that the maximum initiative and freedom should be given to it subject to statutory regulation. We must not put upon it officials with a large amount of personal discretion. It is no fault of the individual people, but so long as you give wide discretion in matters like industry, commerce and trade, that discretion is bound to be misused and it is bound to lead, if not to actual corruption, to a general atmosphere of corruption and a general allegation of corruption. We cannot allow people discretion to distribute favours worth crores of rupees and then say that these people are under a temptation. Let us see that no temptation is given to particular individuals. Therefore, whatever regulation is needed, it should be purely statutory. It should be open to the ordinary citizen to go to a court and say this particular capitalist or particular firm has infringed the statute and that there should be redress against it. But let there be no administrative controls by which individual officials have a great deal of discretion. I wish that the Honourable Minister had announced simultaneously with the statement the Planning machinery because it is the Planning machinery that can give some kind of body and substance to the policy. I do not know what exigencies have prevented him from taking that course, but I hope it will not be long before he announces the Planning machinery. But there is one handicap. The House will be adjourning at the end of this week. If the Planning machinery is announced after the adjournment, the House will not be in a position to scrutinize whether the functions allotted to it, its composition and terms of reference are quite satisfactory. I do not know whether the Honourable Minister will find some way of consulting the members of this House before he finally announces the Planning machinery. It may be done either through circulars asking for opinions, giving tentative views, or in some other manner; but this House should be consulted, the opinions

[Sri K. Santhanam]

of the members should be ascertained before the Planning machinery, its composition and functions are announced to the public.

Sir, the Industries Minister has touched lightly upon financing which I consider to be a crucial factor. As things are, the Government are not going to get the money they want for industrialisation if they believe in conventional methods of financing. If you want private enterprise also to expand in its field, if you want to develop state industries, if you want to finance the various corporations which you have set up through legislation, the Government are not going to get the money they want through private saving. They should adopt boldly new and unconventional methods of financing. There is a great deal of confusion and misapprehension regarding what is called created money, and it is feared that any attempt to finance industries through created money will mean inflation. Inflation is harmful only when it is used to finance unproductive expenditure. Any expansion of currency or bank credit to finance productive expenditure is always beneficial. In fact, if productive expenditure is financed only from savings then there is the deflationary element and it acts as a bottleneck to further increase of production. Therefore I suggest that the Finance Department and the Reserve Bank should elaborate a scheme by which the financing of productive enterprise should be done through what is called created money or bank credit, and strict regulations should be followed by which any capital advanced to productive enterprise will be automatically liquidated in 15 or 20 years' time. We may leave the private savings to private enterprise which will also require hundreds of crores of rupees every year. Public enterprise should be mainly financed through created money. After all, created money is only the credit of the whole country projected into the future; and if the country has got confidence in the government and if it has confidence that the government will see to it that the new state enterprises will be managed properly, economically and efficiently there is nothing objectionable in it. In fact there is everything to be said for the free and generous use of public credit for the financing of public enterprise.

Finally, one word about cottage industries and I shall finish. I do not believe that the Central Government has a great part to play in the development of cottage industries except in one respect. I think the Central Government can foster cottage industries by sending experts to other countries and introducing new cottage industries with new tools. So far as ancient cottage industries are concerned they may well be left to the Provincial Governments. The Provincial Governments have got sufficient funds and ability to foster existing cottage industries like handlooms, metalware and such things. But there are many cottage industries like watch-making for instance which are not current here which can be introduced. There are many machine tools which can be produced on a cottage scale. For these purposes there should be a Central institute which will not bother itself with things like basket-making and rattan-work. It should confine itself to modern cottage industries, to cottage industries which will have to be operated with electrical tools, with very highly precise scientific tools. To the extent that cottage industries can be produced and spread in middle-class homes and educated homes a great deal of unemployment, especially middle-class unemployment, can be solved and the wealth of the country can be increased to a great extent.

Sir, with these few remarks I invite the House to give its seal of approval to the policy adumbrated in the Statement and give a clear line signal to the Government to proceed to implement it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Amendment moved:

"That for the original motion, the following be substituted:

"That the industrial policy of the Government of India as set out in the statement of policy laid on the table on the 6th April, 1948, be approved."

*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.*

**Shri M. K. Masani** (Bombay: General): Mr. Speaker, I would like in the few minutes that you have placed at my disposal, to view this resolution from two aspects: one, the aspect of increased production, and the other of equitable distribution; and as the Honourable Minister has himself put it, increased production comes first both in point of time and in priority in the conditions in which we are placed.

From this angle, Sir, I welcome the very active part that the Indian State proposes to play in the industrial sphere. It is the first time that the general statement of policy has laid down such a positive and active role for the State in certain spheres of our industrial life. In case anyone feels that the sphere is rather limited, I think he would be making a mistake because, while these industries might number six, the nature of the industries is such that the State can make or unmake progress in the remaining sphere of our industrial life, and therefore, as the Honourable Minister has recognized, the State has taken on itself a very heavy and serious responsibility of making good that development which it has reserved exclusively to itself and from which it has kept other parties from participating. I, Sir, believe that the State should play such an active part, and I am confident that, given the co-operation it deserves, the Indian Government will be able to rise to its responsibilities and fill up that large void in our industrial structure which is at present gaping wide for all to see.

So far as capital and labour are concerned, I think this statement of policy gives to both of them the assurance and the reassurance that they deserve. To capital has been given the assurance that even in the field reserved for what may be called state enterprises or state industries, there is a period of ten years during which they will get facilities for effective working and also for expansion. That, Sir, is a feature that I welcome, because even the most optimistic of believers in the State will realise that the State today would be doing a disservice to itself and the country if it tried to stop expansion of industrial enterprises that are already in the field. And at the end of ten years there is the assurance of equitable compensation. I think, Sir, these are assurances, call for a response from those who are at the helm of industry in our country today. The statement goes on to say that after ten years there will be a review of the position in the light of the then prevailing circumstances. I would venture to suggest, Sir, that such a review should take the form not only of a mere administrative decision by the departments concerned, but of an enquiry of an open and quasi-judicial nature. I suggest that no industry should be taken over completely or nationalized in that sense of the word unless a Royal Commission, or whatever takes the place of a Royal Commission in a possible Republic which may then exist, investigates openly the desirability of the State establishing a monopoly in a particular field. In fact, that practice has been followed in the case of the Coalfields Committee Report. It was after this report that coal has been put on this particular list. A judicial attitude as to the merits of the case will be called for at the end of ten years, and not an automatic change of policy.

So far as labour is concerned, there is a very important part of the statement which envisages a partnership of capital and labour, both in the profits of industry and in its control and management. That, Sir, I think, is a more revolutionary concept than mere nationalization with a state bureaucracy at the top. Workers' participation in control, workers' partnership in industry is a sounder path towards economic democracy compared with stateownership and management, and I think labour, if it knows its interests and realises the opportunities it offers, should grasp it with both hands.

[Shri M. R. Masani]

The situation then, Sir, is really a challenge to both capital and labour, and I cannot help feeling that on both sides, so far, the proper spirit has not been forthcoming. The capitalists of our country, the industrialists, have been blamed for wanting too high a return. I think that is rather a pointless criticism. I would rather criticize some of them for wanting a safe and steady return and for not being prepared to take risks which Free Enterprise demands of them.

Similarly, labour leadership is not frightfully imaginative in our country. We have in this country a fine body of men who have shown that they are not inferior to workers in any other part of the world—given proper training and leadership. It is on record that Indian steel, and Indian hydro-electric power in my part of this country, are made available to this country at cheaper rates than those prevalent in the most advanced industrial countries of the West, and if additional testimony were wanted, I am glad to see that Mr. William Pawley, who had a hand in the construction of the Hindustan Aircraft Works at Bangalore, has testified that at the end of three years of training, production per man per hour was ahead of corresponding United States plants by no less than 28 per cent. That shows what, under proper handling and training, Indian labour can do. We have therefore not only a country of great potential resources, but a very intelligent population, a population which can use its hands and brains to great advantage and which given proper leadership, should be able to make up much of the leeway that exists. But the leadership on this side too is not all it should be. There is a constant clamour for a rise in money wages. Trade Union leaders ought to realise that an addition to money wages, with a corresponding measure of inflation does not really give the worker anything more than what he was receiving before. What a contrast it makes when we see Mr. Walter Reuther, the newly elected President of the United Automobile Workers of the U.S.A., making a demand not for a rise in wages but a demand on the United States Government to investigate why the United States steel industry is not producing more steel than it is producing today! There we have an awareness of the real benefit that labour would get if industry were to develop and if production were to increase. The position in this country was aptly summed up by an American industrialist who recently visited the country. He said that we in this country suffered from too much Henry Wallace and too little Henry Ford.

From the point of view of equitable distribution, I approach this resolution from the standpoint of a Democratic Socialist. It is often said that the choice before us in this country, and in the world, generally, is a choice between capitalism and socialism. I think that is an entirely false understanding of the position. The choice is not between capitalism and anything else that may take its place. The choice is between those systems which aspire to replace Capitalism, and there are two distinct aspirants to the succession to the dying economic order. One is Totalitarian Communism and the other is Democratic Socialism, and it is in the light of that choice that I would judge this resolution. Now, Sir, I will not give any personal view of what the first alternative is. I shall read out a few sentences from the Statement of Policy of the Socialist Party in this country itself. This is what it says:

"The main choice today is between Democratic Socialism and Totalitarian Communism. In totalitarian communism, to which it is wrong to apply the name of socialism, every other but the ruling party is suppressed; there is no opposition permitted to the bureaucracy in power; the trade unions are not independent organizations of the workers but subordinate limbs of the all-powerful State with no right to strike or to take any other action independent of the State and the ruling party. Under such 'socialism', as totalitarian communism is sometimes called, the individual is not free and enjoys no protection against arbitrary loss of his already restricted freedom,—his job or even his life. The State in such a system acquires an unchallenged control over the life, liberty and happiness of its subject. On the other hand, thanks to the single-party system, the State passes entirely out of the democratic control of the community of workers and becomes a tool in the hands



of the ruling clique of the only party in existence. Party leaders and leaders of industry, agriculture and the armed forces become a class, apart from the mass of workers, perpetuating themselves through a system of special privilege, drawing incomes far in excess of ordinary wages and ruling in the name of the workers but wholly beyond their control."

Sir, a book that has recently come to this country, called *Forced Labour in Soviet Russia* by Dallin and Nicolaesky, gives most alarming and conclusive evidence that in that country now you have a standing slave labour force of 10 to 15 million people who are forced by the secret police to work in concentration camps and who get no wages at all. That is the first alternative before us.

I welcome this statement of policy because I consider it and understand it to be a categorical rejection of communism. I consider it, on the other hand, to be an advance towards Democratic Socialism as tried out in countries like Sweden or Australia or New Zealand or Britain in our own time. Both in our new Constitution and now in this economic policy that we have framed, we have adopted the democratic way of life, and I join with Mr. Santhanam, who also is a believer in that way of life, in welcoming this Resolution from that aspect.

This Resolution lays down the foundations of democratic socialism in this country. It aspires to equality of opportunity. It avoids monopoly, whether private or public—and monopoly under both forms is anti-national, reactionary and anti-social. It is, as the Honourable Minister called it, a Mixed Economy where Free Enterprise and State Enterprise rub shoulders on equal terms. I was very happy that the Honourable Minister rubbed this point in and said that state enterprise would not be worth its salt if it were not able to survive on fair and equal terms the competition that would come from the free enterprise sector. The recent taxation policy of the Government of India, of taxing commercial enterprises even where they are run by the State or municipal organisations, is an extremely sound policy in that light.

Another socialistic aspect of this statement is its effort to equalize incomes and to avoid concentration of wealth by means of taxation and of social services. Most important of all, there is the offer to implement the partnership of labour and capital in the control and profits of industry. I, Sir, feel that not only the Government but the industrialists in this country can go a long way further in that direction than they have done so far. I see no reason why a representative of the workers should not, as far as possible, form a member of the Board of Directors of every major industry in this country.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madras: General): Certainly, hear, hear.

**Shri M. R. Masani**: Labour along with capital has a moral right to such partnership, and I believe it is along that path and not along the path of state regimentation or centralization that we can get economic democracy in this country. There may be differences as to tempo, but on this, the dispersal of economic power and a peaceful and democratic transition, all major parties hold like views. If you read the Report of Jai Prakash Narain, India's Socialist leader, to the recent Nasik Conference, you will find that he also stresses the importance of following Gandhiji's idea of the dispersal of economic power—forced control in a variety of hands as compared with the concentration of power that all-round nationalization by the State would bring.

Sir, if I may be given two minutes more, I would like to touch on the point of foreign capital before I conclude. I think while the statement welcomes the need for foreign capital, as I understand it not enough stress has been given to the very vital need for foreign capital that we feel in this country. Our Government recently invited a distinguished economist, Mr. Collin Clark, to this country to investigate our position, and what, Sir, are his findings? He is one

[Shri M. B. Masani]

of the most distinguished and detached economists that are available to us today. According to him, our present rate of savings is six to seven per cent of our national income per year. He says that if we do not admit a large amount of foreign capital, we can only increase our national income by five or six per cent. in ten years; that is an increase that not even the most pessimistic or modest of us would be content with. On the other hand, he points out that to get an increase of two per cent. in our income every year, which would be a satisfactory and rapid rise, we would need to import into our country every year foreign capital of the order of our total sterling balances today—not just once, but every year you will have to import the equivalent of our sterling balances in the form of capital equipment to be able to increase our national income by two per cent. in that period.

That shows our desperate and crying need, and I think we should adopt a more positive and a more welcoming attitude towards foreign capital. To be over-suspicious, to be over-frightened, is to show an inferiority complex. We have got our own Government, our own State; we can afford to allow foreign capital on stated terms. Of course we should have safeguards, as stated in the Resolution. But let us approach foreign capital in a more positive and a more welcoming way. Once we decide to give and take from the rest of the world, once we decide that we can face it on terms of equality, we can shed our past sense of inferiority under foreign rule and not be frightened of what foreign capital can do. I would therefore welcome large credits from a country like the United States, a democratic country, which can afford to give us capital and we with equal self-respect and in a spirit of equality can accept it, not only for our own good but for the common benefit of humanity.

To conclude, I feel that this statement of policy, sound as it is, can only be judged in the light that it is interpreted and worked in the months and years to come. If it is worked in a spirit of pioneering, a spirit of expansiveness, a spirit of taking risks, and not in a spirit of restriction or of stopping people from doing things, but rather of encouraging them to do them because this country is big enough and because this country is powerful enough to do with all the enterprise—state and private—that it can possibly have, then I believe this Resolution will take India many a milestone along its road to prosperity and greatness.

**Prof. K. T. Shah** (Bihar: General): Sir, I am thankful for the opportunity to offer a few remarks on this Resolution before another chorus of congratulations breaks out and it becomes epidemic in the House. I feel, Sir, that I at least will have to raise my voice of utter disappointment with everything that is contained in this Resolution. As such, I hope that some indulgence would be shown to me so that the salient features and only the salient features, can be reviewed in the light they deserve to be reviewed, and not merely in the light of expansiveness or liberalism, that is, the necessity for what is called a mixed economy.

Sir, to start with, I have had occasion to complain before, to submit to you, that on matters of this description sufficient time is not given to this House to thrash out properly such great and complex issues of national policy. The fate of perhaps 400 millions is to be determined by an Industrial Policy, which, according to the terms of this Resolution, is to be guaranteed for ten years, or is supposed to remain in force for ten years. And a policy which is to affect the life and material welfare of 400 millions of people during that ten years is to be disposed of by this House in less than 8½ hours, with perhaps twenty-five speakers speaking, and the replying Minister probably saying that much is good in what has been said, that something is objectionable, some people have changed, something is destructive, but on the whole we will go along the way we have chalked out.

The charge has been made that I have changed. I, Sir, am only a Bachelor of Arts and not that Master of quick-change artistry which can, with equal facility lead an Imperial Preference Delegation one day and move a Congress Independent Resolution on another. I prefer to adhere to my views which have been expressed in more than one form perhaps over a period of thirty years. And I am afraid I remain sufficiently fossilised, sufficiently old-fashioned, sufficiently unchanging, not to have altered my views, notwithstanding all the opprobrium on -isms that is now being shown on them. I am not ashamed of these particular -isms. (Interruptions.) Gold remains gold whether in Pilani or in this House.

Sir, let me not be unnecessarily lighthearted. I feel seriously disappointed in this Resolution not only because of its sins of commission but also because of its sins of omission. Take the latter. There is nothing stated here which could, to my eyes, throw even a single ray of hope for the ages or years to come. We, Sir, have heard some glowing words about the material collected by the National Planning Committee. But the National Planning Committee's lists of industries which ought to be exclusively under State management have been grievously curtailed. The six or seven things that were put forward by that body in regard to what are called "Defence industries" have also been curtailed and that too in a manner and with a hesitation and reservation which it seems to me is a matter of great regret that the head of our Government, who was also the Chairman of that Planning Committee, should have subscribed to. Sir, the three items and only three, which in this Resolution are left exclusively to State enterprise are stated there with a note of apology, with a tone of humility, which seem to me to be utterly insufficient to give even a distant indication as it were to the progress this country intends to make in the direction of socialisation on a democratic basis. Take three items seriatim, analyse their nature and profit earning possibilities; and see how "advanced" this Resolution is. First comes the manufacture of arms and ammunition. Sir, in this age of a world State being foreshadowed, in this age of the United Nations Security Council with all the organisation against war that we are thinking of, obviously, the manufacture of arms and ammunition will have no profit left in it. It is therefore highly obliging of the capitalists to leave it so patronisingly to the State to own and manage it exclusively. Then we are told that we shall produce and control Atomic Energy. I do not know whether they will produce any atomic energy soon in India; and even if they did whether that energy will be harnessed to the production and forwarding of social and economic welfare of the people. Today, at any rate, it is in the popular mind—and I confess in my mind also—associated with destructive force, and not as a socially productive factor. But even supposing it is, within our lifetime or within the lifetime of the younger generation in this House, made a force for the production of new wealth and general good of mankind, then I am perfectly certain that if this mentality prevails, even that will be cornered by the capitalists, after the State has spent untold wealth in preliminary research.

The last come the Railways. The Railways today are on the verge of again beginning a losing cycle of years. And the Resolution speaks of the Railways only, mind you—there is no mention of road transport, sea transport, air transport or any other linked forms of transport which are left to the sweet mercy of the capitalists seeking profit, profit and profit only. On this basis, obviously, the Railways cannot make profit or any surplus. In fact I should be the first myself to claim that the public utility services should not be worked for profit, and should be worked for the purpose of rendering the greatest service possible and not earn the greatest surplus possible. On that basis, obviously, that which is left to the State exclusively in this very elaborate Resolution on

[Prof. K. T. Shah]

the Industrial Policy of the Government is selected; and it could not have been selected with greater care to make State enterprise the most objectionable, meddlesome, losing inefficient concern that could ever be imagined, because the worst examples are left to the State and the best examples are selected to be reserved for the capitalist profit-seeker. The six classes of industries, again which are taken over, subject to the exclusive responsibility—I hope I am correct in using the word—of the State—and the State in this context represents the Central, Provincial and State Governments and the municipal and other local bodies plus the Statutory Corporation. Even there, the policy is not to take over the entire category of those industries. The policy is “new undertakings, new units”; so that, when the better or the more productive or the more profitable fields have been taken up, explored, exploited and protected by the State, then what is left by the capitalists, what cannot be taken up by them—that is to say, all the coal that is coarse, or all the electric power already used up and so on—these will be, with the greatest indulgence on the part of the capitalists, left to the State to develop—again, for the benefit of the total industry, which is of course left in the hands of the capitalists.

We are told, Sir, that the State reserves to itself the right to take over any time it thinks it proper any of the industries. Was it necessary to state this? Was it necessary to rub this in? It is the inherent right of a sovereign State at any time to do anything it deems right and proper for the welfare of its people. I think Government should not have insulted the intelligence of the House by stating such obvious truth and saying two and two make four, unless of course they think that two and two make twenty-two if put together properly. If that is the idea, then such an obvious statement as this would not be made, except with a purpose, perhaps, to misrepresent or misinterpret the intentions of this House.

It has been said mine has been a destructive criticism. I do not know whether that was a correct representation, but this I would say, that if the terror of the Whip was not applied, if this House was left free to express its opinion on a matter of this kind, and if the House also gets the proper response from the country itself, then I would make this sporting offer to those who regard such matters as destructive: Let them not be borne away. Let them not insist. Let them ask anybody to vote according to his conscience here and in all the country, and I venture to think this Resolution will not stand approved but condemned. (*Shri Satyanarayan Sinha*: Question.) It is not the policy that a State desiring to be progressive, a State desiring to advance the wealth of the country and well-being of the people should adopt in my opinion.

Sir, we are told that this is a policy intended to provide equality of opportunity. What equality of opportunity can there be, I ask, between one man in a race—in a mile race for example—with a handicap of 1,600 yards in his favour, and his competitor who has to start from the starting post? What is the “equality” available in a country between people, the vast majority of whom have not even one single square meal of the coarsest kind per day, without thought of clothing nor education, nor provision for health—what equality is there between such people and the multimillionaire? The Honourable the Finance Minister stated the other day that there are 415 people in this country who between them have an income of 20 crores. That works out on the average to 5 lakhs per head, and the average income of an Indian peasant is less than Rs. 50 a year. What equality, I ask, can there be between a man who gets an income of Rs. 50 a year and a man who gets an income of Rs. 5 lakhs a year? And those who prate of such equality, Sir, what should we think of them? Sir, if you will permit me to use the phrase without offence, those who are talking in this strain are talking with their tongue in

their cheeks. They cannot possibly mean it sincerely or in real earnestness. Take next the problem of ways and means. Sir, how are you going to establish equality of opportunity? How are you going to bring about increase in production? Increase in production is all very well but to whom will go the benefit of this increase? Re-distribution of existing wealth, we are told, will only mean re-distribution of poverty. In spite of the risk of being regarded as ridiculous and being treated as an object of laughter, I am prepared to say that it is much better to share equally our poverty than to have in the country one per cent. of one per cent. rolling in wealth and not knowing what to do with it, and the rest not having even enough food, enough cloth and even the primary necessities of life.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Prof. K. T. Shah:** I am very sorry. I would only name just three points of commission and omission that I started with. There is no limit on profits. In spite of all the tall talk about equality—no mention has been made of any limitation of profit. There is a very small list of enterprises reserved for the State. There is no definite period given within which the State should come into its own. Yes, there is a time-limit of ten years, after which it is going to be reviewed; and if the capitalists think it so proper we may have the chance of getting a few more crumbs from their over-laden table; but not otherwise. May I ask, Sir, who are we, who is the present Government, who is even this House—I say with all respect—to bind posterity down for ten years? The country if it chooses, at the very next election it could change the whole of this policy. What is the use of saying that this policy is for ten years; that this will be a charter of exploitation for the vested interests who will take the kernel and leave the husk to posterity. I am very sorry, Sir, a subject like this cannot be discussed within ten minutes, particularly by a man who has spent thirty years, to expound this matter, and so with deep regret I sit down saying the last word that I totally disapprove of this Resolution.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Madras: General): Sir, I am glad you have given me this opportunity of rising so soon after my Professor of Professors has just sat down. I wish to say that although I would like to find myself on his side, I am not able to be on his side so far as this particular Resolution is concerned. My friend seems to forget certain realities, and I shall probably give rise to another occasion when my friend will again start banging me just as he has been banging the Industries Minister for having stated that his earlier suggestions were rather destructive. But I am prepared to take that risk. I wish to assure my friend that this is not a socialist House, that we have not come into this House after having defeated capitalism. We have not got the mandate from the people. First of all, we have to dispose of all these capitalists, then establish socialism. If that is the position, or if that had been the position, then certainly I would have found myself on the side of my friend Professor Shah in condemning this Government.

But unfortunately, the present position is we have just got rid of imperialism and that is why we find ourselves in this House. We have got to settle

3 P.M. terms with the imperialism that is growing in this country. What is it? We have today these people. Let the House also understand that today what is known as the State is an infant one and it is not stronger than all the capitalists and all the budding capitalists all put together. It flatters our vanity to go on thinking that we are stronger. If you look at it, to the very reality of it, it is not so. The police is there. What has happened to our police and the armed forces? Only the other day when the masses went mad, the State really was not in action. Similarly if these people, the capitalists were to go on a strike, what will be the position of this particular Government? What is the mandate that this Government has got and what is the constitution of this Government? Is this Government today a socialist Government? It is not. It is a nationalist Government. That is true, everybody

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

admits it. It is a nationalist Government and then it is placed there in its place by the Indian National Congress which has achieved freedom by defeating imperialism and now the Indian National Congress is committed to the socialistic nationalism. It wants to go the way of socialism. It wants to achieve Gandhian socialism, but it has not yet been able to definitely defeat the capitalists. It must first get the mandate and then say: "I am going to get rid of all the industrialists of this country."

**An Honourable Member:** Are you asking the capitalists to give to you the mandate?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Now, Sir, that question is very relevant and I am glad that my Honourable friend is putting it. I cannot remove the capitalists altogether. Today there is a conflict between this Government and the capitalists; there is a conflict between the capitalists and the Gandhian socialists and in this conflict I take this resolution as a definite triumph to the Gandhian socialists as well as socialists in this country. We are today faced with these capitalists who, as I said the other day, are terribly greedy, who wish to follow the dog in the manger policy, and who do not want to allow the State to enter any sector which has been their monopoly. In these circumstances here is a resolution by which this Government is able to assert itself, thanks to the leadership provided for it by the Indian National Congress, and says: "Here are the industries further development of which is going to be completely reserved for the State. Here are the industries which we are not going to hand over to private capitalists." My Honourable friend Mr. Shah will remember that it was not long ago that the Indian merchants as well as the British merchants made a suggestion that the Indian Railways should also be handed over to certain public corporations which would be under the control of Indian capital. Therefore it is certainly all for the good that the Government stated quite clearly that the Indian Railways are going to be in the possession of the State. Secondly, there are the armaments industry. He simply said 2 and 2 make 4 but 2 and 2 have come to be 4 only a few years ago, less than 10 years ago. In France when Leon Blum's Ministry had nationalised the armaments industry, it created a big furore in the whole of Europe. In England even today it is not completely nationalised; in America it is not completely nationalised and all these armament manufacturers in these various countries were only creating this world force. Under these circumstances is it not certainly an advance step on the part of our own National Government that we should come forward and state we are not going to allow this Indian capitalism to pounce into this particular field? So I consider that policy as a step in advance. Then in regard to the 18 items of these various industries, the State says: You are free; you capitalists use your powerful influence—it is true—but nevertheless we keep to ourselves the right to come in there, compete with you to start bigger and bigger concerns with all our ability to draw money from our own people as well as from abroad and compete in other world markets and that is one of the reasons why this Finance Minister has come to be appointed; otherwise we could have any other Finance Minister. That is why I congratulated him the other day for having sold our Government freely in the International market and the credit of our Government has been enhanced by this Budget, because we want to borrow money from abroad; conditions have been started here so that it will be possible for Indians to safeguard themselves and as against themselves; foreign capitalists' money will be flowing here. Now the Indian capitalists like Birla and Bajaj and all these people will have to compete with our own Indian Government in the foreign markets for capital goods, for steel and for technical equipment and all the rest of it. But who will be able to start all these industries? Now, let my Honourable friend, Mr. Shah co-operate with our own Government in trying to compete successfully with the private capitalists and exploit the 18 items to such an extent that it will be impossible for India

capitalism to grow to their full stature in this country. My fear is not that the Indian capitalism is strong as it is. My fear and my regret is that Indian capitalism is growing stronger and stronger every day. I want to arrest their growth and here is a Magna Charta for me and my colleagues in this Indian Government to prevent the further growth of the political and economic power of Indian capitalism. To that extent, Sir, I take it also as a step in advance.

So many people are fascinated by large-scale industries. I am prepared to make a sort of concession to the extent that I cannot help having these large-scale industries. I would like to have the State coming in as a major partner, if not the only partner. But as far as it is possible, I would like to decentralise our industries and diffuse them. It is not going to help. Therefore decentralization of industries is much better and what are the advantages of decentralization of industries? One is that you prevent the concentration of power and to that extent you prevent the growth of the capitalist and also the power of their own opponent, but an ally on the other side with them as against us there is the organized proletariat who are today and every day threatening us with strikes, going slow and sit in strikes and all the rest of it. Therefore, I would like to have decentralization of industries and that can be added under this chapter here on cottage industries. Is that not a good thing? Of course, my Honourable friend, Mr Shah does not like cottage industries. We have always been at loggerheads over this particular matter; he regards that as a sort of fossil. I believe in the authority of Mahatma Gandhi; he believes in centralization; I believe in decentralization; he believes in congregation of power; I believe in decentralization of power and democratization of power.

**Prof. K. T. Shah:** I have never said that I believe in over-centralization of power.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What else is the meaning when he develops his bias for large-scale industry? I only paraphrase it and nothing more, not exactly the word that I have taken from his mouth, but I can claim to be a very good student of his books.

Then, Sir, leaving Mr. Shah aside, there is the other point. These cottage industries are going to be developed. I am glad, Sir, at long last, the Government as well as the workers have to realize the importance of the cottage industries. Through cottage industries we can make the fullest possible use of what is known as man capital or labour capital. India is too full of it and rich in labour capital. It has great resources and these untapped mines of resources have not been utilised today. They have got to be organised and they can be organized better through co-operative organization. That is where I sounded a note of caution to the Finance Minister that he should not give any scope for these capitalists to give their help. On the other hand they should develop what is known as the National Cottage Industries Finance Corporation and help these people to develop their own co-operative organisation and provide us with all the consumer goods. One point more, Sir, I agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Santhanam when he said that there should be created money, but I am particularly anxious that this created money should never be allowed to be utilised by any private industry at all.

It ought to be utilised only for public and productive purposes by public corporations or State enterprises. But that does not mean that State enterprise should confine itself to created money alone. There is, however, one danger of created money and that is that it puts too much money in the hands of the people while consumer goods are not being created; to that extent there will be an inflationary tendency. For that reason I suggest that Government also should be willing to go into the loan market, borrow as much money as

[Prof. N. G. Ranga].

possible and bring about this deflationary tendency so as to enable Government to develop its own industries.

Lastly, to return to my Honourable friend Prof. Shah, my difficulty is only this. I am prepared to nationalise everything today if I can be assured that it will be efficient, that the people who will be running it are trained, that they have got the public spirit and can be honest, can be trusted and can be controlled. What has happened in the recent past? Before the war I was myself a very great enthusiast of all these controls and all the rest of it. During the war we have had our bitter experiences and I have been one of the first advocates in asking for a decontrol policy. But that does not mean that I do not want the State to come in our way in controlling this and that industry. But let the State also be sufficiently armed and developed and civilised. In our State today, so far as our own services are concerned, they are not sufficiently civilised; they are barbaric—in Shri Ramnarayan Singh's sense of taking bribes—corrupt, fond of too much power and looking down upon the masses and keeping them down and suppressing them also. All that has to be changed and our services have to become social services. And when will they become so? The Honourable Minister said he is going to take steps; that is also a great step in advance. Till today America has not any such service. England has not developed very much yet. She has nationalised her coal mines and nationalised various other industries; but how is she running these industries? She is obliged to run them with the very same managers and managing directors who used to run them as capitalistic enterprises. And that is why production in England has not been looking up just as well as was expected by our own friends the Labour Ministers in that country. I do admit that nationalisation in that country has been a great boon; but in our country also it will be an equally great boon if only we were to come to a decision with regard to not only the necessary funds but also the necessary skill and the reliable administrative staff.

The other thing is this. There are our own masses; are they sufficiently organised? My Honourable friend lives in Bombay. Once I asked him, "Why don't you go into the villages like myself and help me in the kisan movement?" He said, "Ranga, I will be dead if I go there." That is the difficulty; it is the duty of all of us and all the rest of us in the country to go to the people, organise them and help them, so that it will be possible for them to control the civil services. Today our masses are not able to control the civil services. If on the top of it we are going to increase their number twice or three or four times and give them all this power and so much of concentration of power, does anybody think that it will be possible for our masses to save themselves from this growing octopus in the civil services on the administrative side and on the economic side?

**An Honourable Member :** Establish village Soviets.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga :** That is why there should be cottage industries; that is why there should be diffusion of industries; that is why there should be decentralisation of power; and that is why I say that this Government has to be strengthened in every possible manner so that it will be possible for us, when we go back to the electorate next time, to tell them, "Here is the Government of India policy for the next two years. We have been obliged to come to this compromise with Indian capitalism, rejuvenated capitalism or anyhow resurgent capitalism in this country. We are not satisfied with this compromise; we want to get much more power for our own State and for our own administration. Therefore give us the necessary strength. Also organise yourself, so that when we go back to the Government, when we form a Ministry again and when we launch this new scheme for new enterprises and co-operative enterprises, it will be possible to control these people; help us and co-operate with us in controlling the civil services."



Sir, that is my view with regard to this Resolution and I want the House to support this Resolution.

**Shri Khandubhai K. Desai** (Bombay: General): Sir, I have no hesitation in giving my support to the industrial policy that has been laid before this House by Honourable the Minister for the Industry. I am going to discuss this subject from a realistic and matter-of-fact point of view. We know that the standard of living in this country is very low. It has been stated that our resources are inexhaustible but they have not been manned or canalised to improve the standard of living. We have to judge this policy from the point of view of whether the policy that has been laid down in general terms will help us in achieving our objective. As a hard trade unionist who has worked among labour during the past generation, I have no hesitation in saying that this policy is calculated, if properly translated into action, to expand our production, both industrial and agricultural. But I should like to sound a note of warning that the manoeuvring and technique of the capitalist class will move heaven and earth in order to see that the policy that Government has laid before us may not be put into concrete form. Therefore I would judge this policy, as far as the general aspect of it is concerned when it will be concretised. Even though sound, the proper time for judging it will come when during the next ten years Government will bring before this House statutory legislation as far as these particular 18 industries kept for private enterprise are concerned. We have to see whether the next ten years, which is the period of transition, are being utilised to support and to strengthen the present capitalistic order which is certainly an order of exploitation, or whether steps are being taken gradually to take away the power which they at present enjoy in this country. If during the next year or two this House is called upon to consider the regulation and control of these 18 industries with a view to see that every increased unit of production will go either to ameliorate the condition of labour in industry or the common man in the country, and not even an iota of share in that increased production shall go to the already fat rich class. In this connection I will suggest to Government that the maximum earning should be as laid down in the economic policy of the Congress, Rs. 2,000 and not more, in the case of any individual. And while regulating and controlling these 18 industries it must be laid down that the income of an individual should be brought down to Rs. 2,000. At the same time the earning and income of the lowest man should be raised to Rs. 100. It may be asked how that money is going to come and how these Commodities and services are to be made available to the common man in the country. As I have stated, for any increase in production which this policy is expected to bring about it must be laid down very clearly that the present profits, dividends and commissions which are being given to the rich people should be drastically curtailed by law. If the policy as laid down by the Government is to be translated into action, no time is to be lost, and as early as possible the Government must give to the nation really an indication of the concrete steps that it is going to take. I assure this House on behalf of organized labour—and I do represent here, Sir, the largest national organization of labour, the Indian National Trade Union Congress—that it does give, and it will give its full support to the policy which has just now been laid down in general terms. But the amount of enthusiasm, the amount of impetus will be proportional to the concrete steps that will be taken in the near future. It has been stated that it is a great move and a phenomenal move to make a worker a partner in industry. I do not attach much importance to partnership as far as the sharing of profits is concerned in the general national interests. The worker does not require only a material inducement to put in his best for the country. He requires a psychological impetus. He must be made to feel that he works for the interest of his

[Shri Khandubhai K. Desai]

country: that he works for the interest of his neighbour who is not employed in the industry: that he works for himself also, but that whatever more work is expected from him is not expected only for the capitalists. And if he is made to feel that any increased work that he has to put in will go to raise the general standard of living in the country, he will willingly give that share. And let me say it very frankly, that up till now that psychology does not exist. In order to create that psychology, the dividends, the profits, the commissions and any underhand gains that a manufacturer is taking require to be severely checked and curtailed. I do not say that immediately to-morrow morning you will bring about this condition. What I feel is that every step taken during the next few years should go towards that end. It is true, Sir, that the country is not going to get its economic freedom or economic liberty and create a society which is free of exploitation, political or social, tomorrow. We must realize, Sir, and every trade unionist who works with labour from day to day does realize, that we are not building a State here in this country only, nor are we building a State entirely on vacuum. We have to take into consideration the practical aspects which are before the country.

About nine months back we came out of a jungle of theoretical "isms" that had been preached to this country. We are here face to face with the concrete problems. How are those concrete problems going to be solved: the problems of production, the problems of the standard of living, the problem of education and the problems of creating a psychology in the common man that the country belongs to him and not to the few rich people?

Therefore, Sir, I have suggested that, while giving my wholehearted support in general terms to the policy that has been laid down, the time certainly will come when this policy will be translated into legislative measures before this House, and according to me that should be done during the next six months. We cannot afford to wait. Steps should be taken to bring down the high incomes that individuals in this country are earning by exploiting people, and the goal should be, as I have said, to bring down during the next ten years the earnings of those who are earning lakhs and lakhs of rupees to a monthly income of Rs. 2,000, and at the same time raising up the standard of the worker, whether he works in the field or factory, to Rs. 100. There should not be this wide gap between the income of the lowest paid man and the highest paid individual in the country.

One very important part in the policy is in regard to the industrial relations that should exist between capital and labour. The industrial relations are not happy today. They are not conducive to better production. As a matter of fact this brings about a curtailment of production, whether intentional or unintentional. Therefore, Sir, the Work committees, the production committees and other committees that are envisaged under this policy require to be immediately put into effect, and the worker, as I have stated earlier, should be made to feel that he is not only a co-sharer in the profits, but that he is really a co-owner in industry: he is a co-servant of the community along with the manufacturer, and it is for the community to see that these servants of the community are looked after by it.

What have we got in society? In the society which we envisage we have master-servants by turns. The peasant in a way is a master as the consumer of the industrial production, and he is also a servant in his own turn as a producer and in the same manner a worker is also a master-servant. As a matter of fact that is the best way to look at this problem as this conception is calculated to lead us quickly to co-operative commonwealth.

With these words, I commend the resolution to the acceptance of the House.

**Shrimati Renuka Ray** (West Bengal: General): Mr. Speaker, different sections of the community, who view from different angles, the problems of nation-building, will I think all agree in welcoming on the part of Government an outline of its industrial policy, the lack of which has already had some bad repercussions. This morning the Honourable the Industries Minister made a very eloquent speech and rightly gave a warning by calling attention to our backward condition and the fundamental need for unity among all sections and classes of the community, for a Joint production drive if India is to take her place amongst other countries, and also if economic freedom is to be realized, which alone can give political liberty any significance.

*[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Shri K. Santhanam (one of the Panel of Chairmen)]*

Sir, I fully endorse the Government's policy of emphasising the need for increasing the national dividend first, of increasing production in industry and agriculture so that measures for equitable distribution, can bring about a minimum of welfare and a minimum of standard of living for the common man in this country. Much as some of us would like nationalisation, I do think that at the present stage of our economic development, we can have a wholesale nationalisation of industry. But after saying this, Sir, I have also this to say that Government, probably due to some real difficulties like falling standards of production and lack of proper and adequate administrative machinery, have been far too cautious. I have some suggestions to offer which I hope the Honourable Minister for Industry and Supply will take into consideration. It is only by taking risks that we can eventually emerge triumphant.

In the first place, Sir, I think that aircraft manufacture and shipbuilding which are so very vital and so much allied to the problem of defence should be the exclusive monopoly of the State and should not be left, even for a short period, in the hands of private enterprise. It is a well known fact, not only here, but throughout the world, that those who control the basic and key industries sway the destinies of nations. If we allow these industries which are so closely allied to defence to be left, even for a short period of time, in the hands of private enterprise. I am afraid it will be dangerous and fraught with very serious consequences, which we may not be able to rectify later.

Then, Sir, turning to coal, it is basic to all other industries. I would personally like that it should be completely nationalised. Apart from that, I do not think that the history of the coal industry in India has shown that private enterprise has been very successful in regard to production. It is a well known fact that there have been uneconomic running of many coal-fields with the result that there has been a good deal of wastage. Particularly in regard to first grade coal, of which we possess a limited quantity, there is very great need for strict control. This resolution says that the Coal Fields Committee's recommendation will be taken into consideration in a general way. I hope that the Honourable Minister will clarify the point as to whether this means that an autonomous coal board will be set up. If Government feel that they cannot possibly nationalise coal production immediately, then there should at least be no delay in setting up an autonomous Coal Board, with a view to complete nationalisation of the industry after, say, about ten years.

Turning then to some of the industries in the next category, like Air and Sea Transport, Heavy chemicals, Minerals and Industries related to defence, I do feel that if they cannot be put in category one they should certainly be placed at least in category two. For the time being, such industries as do exist may be allowed to continue in private hands, but new ventures should be taken over by the State. This will help an all out production drive.

[Shrimati Renuka Ray]

Sir, as I have stated before, I am fully alive to the difficulties that face Government and however idealistic we may be, we have got to be practical and it is not possible, under the present circumstances to bring into force all the things that we would like.

I am glad, Sir, that the State has decided that new ventures will become a state monopoly and only the existing industries in category two will continue for some time in private hands. I also welcome the Government's policy regarding the management of State enterprise through public corporations. This I think will counteract against the factor that the Government administrative machinery is not suitable or adequate for the task.

Then, Sir, the Honourable Minister mentioned today the question of trained personnel. It is of course one of the greatest difficulties with which we are faced—one which has exercised the minds of every type of Conference related to nation building, that is held in this country. But I want to make one small point about this. The other day when the Education Conference was held in New Delhi the Education Minister of Madras pointed out—and I think with some justification—that very often trained personnel, either trained in this country, or trained abroad, cannot find suitable employment. It is hardly necessary for me to say that Government, both in the Centre and in the provinces should be vigilant to see that trained human material of this nature is not wasted and its services are utilised by the State to the utmost advantage, for state enterprises.

The Resolution says that Government will keep its inherent right to acquire undertakings in the public interest. Now, this is rather vague. In the first place, this statement occurs after the category two industries. Does it apply only to categories one and two industries, or to all industries? I for myself feel that it is the inherent right of the State to take over any industry for the matter of that in the public interest. Then, Sir, there is another point which I have to make. In case an undertaking fails to carry out regulations and fails deliberately and continuously to carry out the provisions of labour legislation, then the State should have the right to take over such an undertaking belonging to all the categories. Such a provision, I think, will have a salutary effect on industries as a whole.

Sir, I am very glad that the resolution has emphasised the need for the development of cottage and small scale industries through the method of co-operatives. I hope this will be implemented with the help of the Provincial Governments as early as possible. Apart from other considerations, this is the only way out at present for increasing production, when we have so many difficulties in getting the requisite machinery and the trained personnel required for large scale industries. The resolution also endorses the Industries Conference resolution regarding a fair share of wages to labour and a fair share of profits to industry reserve for expansion etc.—and the equal division of profits between capital and labour. I would like to endorse what my Honourable friend Mr. Khandubhai Desai said about the psychological effect to be created amongst labour and capital and not only amongst labour and capital but in the country as a whole, that it is not merely a question of profits for one section of the community or the other that is of fundamental importance. Labour, I think would be willing to help in raising the general standards for the common man, and the capitalist must be made to realise the urgent need for the same outlook if private enterprise is to continue. However I fully endorse that profits of industry should be shared between labour and capital equally. But the sliding scale for instance should be made in such a way that profits for labour do not fall below a certain standard. I hope that it means that basic wages will not be in any way affected.

Then there is the question of dividend control. I think that the former arrangement by which control of dividends was effected by taxation was much better from the point of view of equitable distribution than the idea of having legislative control. I hope that the Honourable Minister will consider this.

In regard to foreign capital I agree with what has been said in the report but I do hope that a percentage will be fixed in regard to foreign interests in the country, because this will help the Government itself, if difficulties arise later.

The falling rates of production have naturally been a cause of alarm for the Government, as I have said before, I hope that the outline of the industrial policy will make a great change in this regard.

A great deal of emphasis has been laid in regard to the responsibility of labour. I am glad that the Honourable Minister also mentioned the responsibility of capital. I think that at the present there has been a good deal of manipulation of share markets in this country. I think the Honourable Finance Minister also did say something to this effect sometime ago during the budget that there seems to be a sort of black-mail in regard to this. For instance, the industrial policy is being discussed today and so a few days ago the share markets went down. It seems too spectacular to be true. I do feel that it is high time that the capitalists realise that the days of 19th century capitalism are over, that the days of huge profits are over and they will not succeed in this way to force the hands of Government. I think that if there is firm and effective handling in this matter we shall soon find that capital is not so shy and that there need be no alarm about falling standards of production. It is quite true that labour too must realise its responsibility but I claim the rights and responsibilities go together and it is only if we give to labour minimum standards and give them education, that we can really expect from labour an adequate realisation of its responsibilities.

I have said already that I endorse the report in its outline, provided the changes I have mentioned are included. I hope the Honourable Minister and the Government will take these matters which I have placed before them into consideration and alter their policy accordingly. I hope that we shall have a new era in which production will go up and we shall be able to have equitable distribution in India, so that economic freedom becomes a reality for every citizen.

**Dr. B. V. Keskar (U. P.: General):** Sir, today we have heard the industrial policy outlined by the Honourable Minister. But it is no use denying the fact that the declaration as outlined yesterday has not had a very enthusiastic reception at the hands of the public. No doubt that the industrial and capitalist world has given a kind of reserved welcome but the public does not appear to have welcomed it very much. So much so that I would not be far wrong in saying that the public is a little disquieted about certain aspects of the policy declared by the Honourable Minister. Personally I confess that I accept the declaration though with a certain amount of reluctance. I do not agree with the Minister about the reasons that he has given for this policy. The reason why I consider myself forced to some extent to accept this policy is a confession of failure on our part and I mean to say on the part of the Government and the national movement which has brought about this Government into being to create an organisation for taking over or for nationalising or socialising our industry. I find that with the best will in the world we are not able at this moment to take over all the major industries that we would like to. I personally believe that nationalisation or socialisation, as my friend Prof. Shah says, must be our aim. But we do not have the technical competence, neither the economic organisation necessary for taking it over and as such I am practically obliged to confess that there is no other way but to allow private industry to continue but under very great vigilance on the part of the Government. But as I said I accept this policy with

[Dr. B. V. Keskar]

reluctance and that brings me to give emphasis on this aspect, that is the training of a competent personnel and the creation of a committee or an organisation for taking over these industries as soon as possible. Though the Government is doing what is possible in trying to get the technical personnel, I feel there is no overall planning and unless we take it up in a planned way we are not likely to attain competence in sufficiently short time to take over all our major industries.

I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister for Industries that it is necessary to try to dispel the impression that appears to be present in the public mind that many of the concessions given in the declaration of industrial policy to industrialists and to capital are due to a kind of pressure or what might be called by some people, a kind of blackmail. Probably this impression is wrong but it is there. It is there because notwithstanding the fact that we have declared always that industries must be controlled, that they must be regulated—and yesterday the Honourable Minister declared that a category of industries are going to be directed under strict Government regulation—uptill now the Government has not done anything. I am talking of the Government that was before and the Government that has come into being and they have done nothing to try to regulate and control what I would call the anti-national activities of some of our major industries. I would ask the Honourable Minister to tell me what has been done to control the anti-national activities of the textile industry during and after the war and even now. The industry as a whole has refused to co-operate in a sincere and honest way with our national needs and with what I would call even the requests of Government. This has certainly created in the public mind a feeling that Government is more than kind in regard to the egoistic needs or the selfish interests of the industrialists. I think it is necessary for the Government to try to take away this impression from the public mind as soon as possible. I do not agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Masani when he said that both capital and labour are on trial: I consider that by stating this policy and trying to bring it into action it is the Government which is going to be on trial. It is going to be on trial insofar as the public will watch with vigilance whether the Government is going to take strong action against those elements, more especially the capitalists who will try to evade whatever regulations might be put on paper and thereby confirm the feeling of the public that what went on before when all sorts of regulations were on paper but were never carried out, will continue today also. Therefore I would submit to the Honourable Minister that it is necessary that Government should more than ever have very great strictness in dealing with those elements which will try to nullify in practice whatever policy the Government wants to follow. I would ask the Honourable Minister that this legitimate complaint of the public and this impression which is prevailing has to be dispelled.

I would not try to go into the details or into the various aspects of the question that have been raised here. Many of the speakers who have spoken before me have drawn the attention of the Honourable Minister and the House to these. I would request the Honourable Minister to see that whatever plans Government puts into practice, the forces of nationalisation and the forces of socialisation shall soon come into such shape that very soon, in a few years, we can realize our dream of having all our major industries nationalised.

**Shri Jwala Prasad Srivastava (U.P.: General):** Sir, I rise to place before the House the point of view of the much maligned and much abused class of capitalists and industrialists. I owe no apology for doing so as I feel that the industrialist and the capitalist have made no mean contribution towards the advancement of this country. (*An Honourable Member*). 'Question'. Sir imagine what the country would have been if we did not have a Tata in the

country. It was Tata who started the first cotton mill in India and he brought the cotton mill industry to this country. I do not wish to say that the plan which has just been placed before the House is one-sided, but I will say that it is unduly biased against the capitalist. And judging from the speeches which have been made here this afternoon I feel that the capitalist is in the dock. I was talking to an American friend of mine who asked me as to why in India the capitalist was regarded as a criminal while in America they regarded capitalists as patriots—bigger patriots, Sir, than the politicians.

The main question is that in the interest of the country we have got to step up production. We can have no peace in the country unless we produce more. 'Produce or perish' should be our slogan. The question then is how this is to be done. We have got to examine carefully the bottlenecks which are impeding production. This matter was gone into at some length by the Industries Conference which was called by my Honourable friend the Minister for Industries; and I am largely in agreement with the decisions reached at that Conference.

First of all, the main difficulty these days is transport. I see my Honourable friend the Railway Minister smiling at me. But production these days is greatly impeded by the lack of transport facilities. I am sure that my Honourable friend the Railway Minister is alive to the need of improving the railways, because unless we have facilities of transport no industry in the country can thrive.

The next bottleneck is the labour unrest. A great deal has been said as to how to improve matters in that direction. So far as the capitalists are concerned they have loyally carried out all the labour laws. (An Honourable Member. 'No'.) I say it with all the emphasis at my command. There is not one case in which they have flouted the decisions of the Labour Tribunals or the labour conciliation machinery. But I can give you several cases in which labour has just ignored the decisions if they did not suit it. The main difficulty about labour is that it is not organised in the trade union sense. There is too much of politics in labour matters, and labour does not realize its responsibilities. No Government can deal with labour unless labour itself submits to discipline; and this discipline, I say, can only be brought about if we have strong trade unions which can control labour. In that case the Government can deal with those Unions and any decisions reached will be accepted and implemented by those Unions. During the war, I do not know the reason, but labour appeared to be doing extraordinarily well. There was no discontent amongst them; their production was much more than what it is today; and there were no disputes. They earned more although the rates of wages are more now. What is the reason, Sir? The reason is that they do not do the work. They have got a feeling that they should get money for doing no work, that they can take the law into their own hands and defy the authorities. This is a serious matter and I beg of the House not to treat it lightly.

Turning to the question of sharing of profits I do not understand what the implications of that are. Will the labour share the losses also? If they are to be partners, as it has been stated they would be, then they must also share the losses. (Interruption).

**Mr. Chairman:** The Honourable Member should be allowed to say what he likes.

**Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** It would be very unjust, Sir, if in one year there are profits, labour gets away with 50 per cent. of the profits, and next year when there are losses labour does not come in to share the burden.

**An Honourable Member:** Who pays?

**Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** Sir, the question to my mind is that labour must be paid adequately, treated well and housed well, but they cannot become partners in business, whether the business is run by Government or by private enterprise.

Sir, the next difficulty about production is shortage of raw materials and the difficulty of procuring them. This too has been dealt with in the Industries Conference and I am sure Government is aware of it.

Then, Sir, another serious difficulty is the shortage of technical personnel. We have a paucity of them in the country, and at the moment at least, we cannot import foreign experts.

Sir, the other point which is affecting production is the absence of law and order in many places. This is no fault of the Industries Minister. This is a thing which I hope would improve in due course. ~

Then, Sir, the biggest bottle-neck of all is the taxation structure of the country. Sir, I am not exaggerating matters when I say that it is not possible to secure capital these days for any industry. You cannot these days float a company of even Rs. 5 lakhs. Shares never stood so low as they do today for a number of years, and even gilt-edged government loan stands at 97. Sir, if the money market is like that, it is, I say, a portent of which we ought to take heed, and Sir, only two years back industries here were booming, the money market was easy, the country was over-flowing with capital, a number of schemes had been conceived and were in process of being executed. Most of them have been dropped now, and we are just now at a stand-still.

Sir, in regard to taxation I would like to make a suggestion. It is no use Government assuming that this or that scale of taxation is suitable. I suggest that a committee of experts should be set up which can examine and report on the taxation which should be imposed on industry, due regard being had to the capital requirements of industry.

Then, Sir, the next bottle-neck is that we have lost many of our markets and some of the other markets we cannot get to because of railway and other transport difficulties. Sir, I refer particularly to the Pakistan markets. They were very useful to industry in these parts. Take the case of sugar. We sent about 30 per cent. of our sugar to Pakistan, that export has stopped, and Pakistan is importing sugar from outside. I feel that at the end of this year there will be surplus sugar in the Indian Union factories.

Sir, in regard to the long-term plan, the main difficulty is that of securing capital goods. I am sure the Government is aware that neither the U.S.A. nor U.K. nor any other country is anxious to give us capital goods. While we are bargaining about the sterling balances, we are losing the prospect of getting capital goods, and I would suggest, Sir, that strong efforts should be made to make sure of certain quantities of capital goods required for the development of the country.

Then I would like that as soon as it may be, the Government should come out with its detailed plan which will be worked out as promised in this resolution. Sir, at one time we thought very well of the Tata-Birla Plan, and we thought that was best fitted for the requirements of the country.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Who is that 'we'?

**Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** We all, the country.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** No.



**Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** We would like to know what has happened to that plan and whether the present Government approves of it in some details or not.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** We do not.

**Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava:** Sir, I am glad the Industries Minister has catalogued industries to be run by Government and those to be run by private enterprise, but, Sir, I feel that it is very difficult to make a hard and fast classification because it may be that a textile mill in one part of the country may require to be started by the Government itself, because there are no private parties ready to take it up. I think, Sir, that the case of each industry will require to be decided on its own merits.

With regard to foreign capital, I entirely agree with the policy laid down by the Government. But, Sir, in case we are not able to raise the capital in India, we should not be shy of securing it from abroad. The good that will result to the country will be far greater than the sentimental objections to which the Government have referred. There is no doubt about it that we need large amounts of money and no Finance Minister can find that money. I will not take up more of your time. I hope the Government will very soon come out with the details of their scheme so that public confidence may be restored.

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Prime Minister and Leader of the House):** Sir, I must apologise to the House for not having been present here throughout this debate, but some times the claims of other work are heavy. I would have liked to have been here throughout because I am vastly interested in this subject and I should have liked to hear what members have said. I understand that many of the members have commended this Resolution and spoken in praise of it or in satisfaction of it at least, that some have not liked it and that some have disliked it intensely. I am glad of that difference of opinion, and I am sorry if any of the Honourable Members should feel that he should suppress his own opinion on such a vital matter because of some Whip or some other direction of the Party executive.

I have myself been concerned with the theoretical aspects of planning for a fairly considerable time. I realise that there is a great deal of difference between the theory of it and the practice of it; as in almost everything in life, the theory is full of poetry as, if I may say so, was the speech of my Honourable colleague, the Mover of the Resolution, but when we come down to applying that poetry all manner of difficulties crop up. Normally there would be those difficulties but as we are situated today, with the peculiar situation of India after all that has happened in the course of the last seven or eight months, one has to be very careful of what step one might take which might not injure the existing structure too much. There has been destruction and injury enough, and certainly I confess to this House that I am not brave and gallant enough to go about destroying much more. I think there is room for destruction in India still of many things—they will no doubt have to be removed; nevertheless, there is a way of approach. Are we going to adopt the course of having a clean slate or sweeping away almost everything so that we might have the pleasure of writing anew, without anything else being written on that slate? That seems to be an easy way of doing things, though perhaps there never has been a clean slate even when people imagined that there was going to be a clean slate.

Nevertheless, there can be more or less a clean slate; I will not say that one should never try for that clean slate. But one has to think of each country and its condition at the time and see which is the preferable course, which involves lesser dangers. It seems to me that in the state of affairs in the world today

[Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru]

and in India, any attempt to have what might be called a clean slate, that is to say a sweeping away of all that we have got, would certainly not bring progress nearer but might delay it tremendously, which far from bringing economic progress may put us politically so far back that the economic aspect itself may be delayed tremendously. We cannot separate these two things. We have gone through big political upheavals and cataclysms and if in our attempt to get something that we liked, to go forward one step in one direction we lose a few steps in another, then in the balance we have lost, not gained. Therefore, the alternative to that clean slate is to try to rub out here and there to write on it, gradually to replace the writing on the whole slate—not very gradually, I hope, but nevertheless not with a great measure of destruction and strain. May be I have been affected by recent events, but more and more I have felt that it is wrong to destroy something that is producing or doing good. It takes a long time to build and it does not take very long to destroy, so that if this House and this country thinks that we should proceed ahead in a constructive spirit much more than in a destructive spirit, then that approach necessarily has to be different. What your ideals may be is another matter, but even in the realization of those ideals do you think that the easiest way of approach will be a clean sweep and then starting anew, or to replace as rapidly as possible and as fast as you can with your available resources and material, the existing structure with a new one? I have no doubt in my mind that we have to change this existing structure and as rapidly as possible.

I was listening to the Honourable Member who just spoke before me; I was listening to his laments of the burdens that are put on industry, of taxation and of this and that. The fact of the matter is that that lament is based on a certain view of the world which I fear cannot possibly come back. I am not thinking in idealistic terms but just practical terms; you cannot have it back. There are going to be greater burdens on industry because the State itself is burdened so much with its social problems; it has to solve them or cease to be a social State, and if it just becomes a police State then it ceases to be and some other State takes its place. It has to face its problems, and if it is to do that it must necessarily get the wherewithal to face those problems, and the burden on industry or the like becomes greater and greater. In fact, not because you think or I think or anybody thinks, but inevitably the trend of events is to make the State more and more the organiser of constructive industry etc. and not the private capitalist or any other person. That is just quite inevitable so far as I can see objectively. I do not rule out entirely the profit motive; I do not know how long it will last in a smaller sense, but in the larger sense of the term it will come more and more into conflict with the new sense of the social state. That conflict will go on and one must survive, and it is clear that the State will survive, not that group which represents in its pure essence the profit motive in industry. That is an inevitable development. How are you to face that development? Are you then again to try to accelerate it as many of us would like to do, because quite apart from the economic aspect, the expert aspect, we have arrived at another stage which I trust every sensitive man feels somewhat, a psychological view of looking at things. That is that sensitive people cannot put up easily today with the vast gap between human beings, the distance between them, the difference between them, the lack of opportunities on the one side and the waste on the other.

It seems so vulgar, and vulgarity is the worst thing that a country or individual should support. We are arriving at a stage which is beyond it. It was not, if I may say so, vulgar 50 or 100 years ago. Although the profit motive was functioning very strongly and although there was probably greater suffering then, nevertheless, the approach was different. Perhaps the sense of social

values was different. But, in the context of the world today, it is becoming increasingly not only a wrong thing from the economic point of view but a vulgar thing from any sensitive point of view. So, those changes are bound to come.

How then, are you going to bring about those changes? As I said, I would much rather bring them about without deliberate destruction and obstruction, because the destruction and obstruction, whatever the future may bring after them, they undoubtedly lead to a stoppage of growth at present. They stop production. They stop wealth-producing activities. One has the satisfaction of being able to do something afterwards more rapidly, no doubt, but it is not such a certain thing that afterwards you will be able to do it so rapidly. One has to compromise, therefore, much. Although I hate the word compromise in this context or in any context, one has simply to do it, if one does not run away with some kind of notion in one's head without thinking about it.

That brings us to a transitional stage of economy. Call it what you like—"mixed economy" or anything else. It brings us to doing things in such a way as continually to add to the wealth of the country and to add not only to the wealth of the country as a whole but to the distribution of that wealth in the country and gradually arrive at a stage when the centre of gravity of the whole economy has shifted the other way. Now, I rather doubt myself whether it is possible, without a conflict or without repeated conflicts, to bring about these changes quite peacefully, because people, who are used to possessing certain vested interests or certain ideas do not easily accept new ideas and nobody likes to give up what he has got; at least no groups like it; individuals sometimes do. These conflicts are continually arising, but the point is that even those conflicts are rather foolish conflicts, if I may say so, because those conflicts cannot stop the trend of events. They may delay and in delaying the result is probably that those who hold on to those vested interests get even a worse bargain at the end.

Now, there is another aspect which I should like the House to consider and that is this. It is an odd thing that many of our most ardent revolutionaries who think in terms of an idealistic world are quite extraordinarily conservative in their scientific approach to the world's problems. If I may explain myself, I have used the word "scientific" in its narrow sense. Most of our friends—Socialists or the Communists—continually think in terms of production remaining as it is in the technique of production, in the methods of production. Of course, they will not admit that. They will say: "No. It is changing." But nevertheless, they base their programmes more or less on a static world and not on a continually changing world with new methods of production, new technique of production etc. They think in terms, for instance, of changing the land system. Perfectly right, because the fundamental thing is the feudal land system should go before you build another society. So far quite right; change the land system. They think in terms of acquiring industries, because a socialist economy means that big industries or even all of them should be owned by the State. Well, quite good. But they do not think so much in terms of the vast changes in productive methods that are coming about, which may render the present industrial apparatus or even the methods adopted in the cultivation of the land completely obsolescent and obsolete. They say: "Why don't you acquire this or that" spend vast sums of money over acquiring things which are 90 per cent obsolete. In fact, from the point of view of technological advance, it may well be a complete waste of money to acquire obsolete machinery, factories and other things that may be there. It is true that they are useful so long as new factories and new technological methods are not introduced, and if you have a vast quantity of money and resources, certainly acquire them and go.

[Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru]

ahead with other things. But if you have limited resources, then the main thing to do is not to go about thinking in terms of the static technology, but of changing technology; thinking in terms of the State acquiring the new processes, the new changes, and not so much of the old, except from the point of view of the old coming in the way, when the old obstructs, when the old hampers your planning and progress.

Now, obviously, constituted as we are in India, we have not got unlimited resources. We have to think hard where to get the money; how to get the money; how to get the other resources—technical and other—. If so, there has to be a certain kind of priority about what work we do. Even if you start acquiring things,—suppose we decide to acquire a large number of industries—and you pass this Resolution; I am quite sure when we work it out, actually in practice, it will take a good deal of time to take them one by one. However rapidly you may do it, it takes a little time, unless of course it is by the process of the "clean slate" where you sweep the old thing away and build a new one on it. Therefore, even if you think of doing that, you have to think in terms of priorities: which industry first, which service first, etc.; one after the other; provide the money; provide the organisation; provide the technical personnel etc. etc. So it takes time. Much more so when you have to think in terms of additional industry and new industry, new schemes plus old schemes. You have to think in terms of priorities: which must come first. I have no doubt in my mind that priority for the State enterprises must be in terms of new things as far as possible unless the old thing comes in the way.

I attach the greatest importance today to, let us say, the great river valley projects and schemes that have been framed, the first one of which, the Damodar Valley scheme, has passed through this Legislature and others are coming soon. I think they are far more important than almost all your existing industries. Here is something new that you are building out of nothing; new land brought into cultivation, many new things, which you are creating out of the enormous power produced out of the river valley project. Now, I want that to be completely State-controlled, but run, as is stated in this Resolution, on the model of a Public Corporation. I do hope that that Public Corporation that is going to be established is not going to be a Departmentally run organisation, but either wholly or more or less as an independent organisation. I do hope that it is not going to be run by people who have worked in the ruts of the Departments, but by persons of vision, push and drive; not people who write on files but who do the work. Now, regarding these vast river valley schemes, of which you have got enormous ones, all the resources of India are not enough to push them through quickly. Am I going to allow those to remain undone and delay them and think in terms of acquiring a tramway system or something else here and there? Let the tramway system be acquired, if you like; but I do not want to give first priority to the tramway system or some such thing.

Now, in this Resolution which has been placed before you, various lists are given—list No. 1, No. 2 etc.—as to what Government proposes to do and has done. There these river valley projects are mentioned rather casually. But remember what that casual mention means.

It means that the State is undertaking vast enterprises all over the country which will govern the industry of this country and all your acquisition and the rest will be secondary and minor. These river valley systems are controlled by the State and they will control the economy and industry of the country completely. If you get a grip of all these things, then the process becomes swifter, but if we simply lay down rather fancy schemes then we never come to grips with any particular part of it, then really we are not advancing at all except on paper and in theory. Therefore from the poetry of rather vague planning in the

air, we have to come down to the prose of the statement. Because it is a prosaic statement, there is very little poetry in it except the poetry of my Honourable friend who made the speech at the beginning. It is definitely a prosaic statement; it is meant to be a prosaic statement; the House knows it is not difficult to put in fine flourishes of language in a resolution of this kind which would have sounded so nice for the public and which would without conveying any commitment have pleased the ear and the eye and produced a general impression how fine we are. Well, we have very deliberately not done so, because we wanted to make it a prosaic statement of what we think we ought to do and we can do in the relatively near future and how far we can do it. How much we cannot do depends upon this House and a multitude of factors, but at any rate this is a thing which is meant to be done, not a thing which is meant to be flourished about as a kind of election programme before the public.

The tempo will depend on so many factors. I mentioned these river valley schemes, because I attach the greatest importance to them. Now suppose the Damodar Valley scheme is a thundering success, that is a bigger thing from the State's point of view, the industrialization point of view and others than the fact that this House has passed half a dozen other schemes which are not functioning. So it is the first steps that count, the first things, if we start an industry under State auspices; let us make it a thorough success instead of going to acquire this and that and making a mess of many things. Of course, once you have laid a good foundation, it will be easy for you to go ahead.

Now it is obvious that this Government or this House may pass this resolution, may lay down the periods of time as to what will happen 5 or 10 or 15 years hence, but the fact of the matter is that we are living in an age of very swift change and transition and nobody can guarantee what will happen and when it will happen; nobody can guarantee whether there will be war or peace and nobody can guarantee what will happen even if there is peace because things change rapidly in India. We have lived during the last eight months on the verge of rapid change and very undesirable and unhealthy change in many respects. Nevertheless when we say 10 years, we mean it, that is as we see things at present,—and we say 10 years because so far as we can see, the State's hands will be completely full. It is not merely to give an assurance, although we wish to give an assurance to all working industries so that they may be able to function properly, but fundamentally we have got enough to do and we want to do it thoroughly; but whether I give an assurance or the House gives it, ultimately events will determine the pace. Events may go faster or slower; events may break up our economy or something may happen, not only that, but a hundred and one things may happen.

When we are told—and I suppose it is a fact—that capital is shy and it does not come in, that we cannot get capital for private industry or public loans, etc., it is a fact. Well, that too I imagine is due more to these changing conditions than to anything that we might do or anybody else might not do. For this the industrialist or capitalist himself will have to choose whether he is too wary and too afraid of putting his capital or whether if he is then well and good. If not others will put in other ways. It is obvious that the country cannot stand by. Either we give a fair field and a fair chance to the industrialist to go ahead with a certain domain and if he does not, we go ahead and we cannot see things mismanaged or not managed because he is afraid that he won't get enough profit or something that might happen. The people cannot wait. We give a fair chance, a fair field and a fair profit and if he does not do all that, somebody else has to do it; there cannot be a vacuum. Also if any industries are mismanaged, not managed properly, slowed down or stopped, etc., again we have to consider

[Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru]

what to do with that industry, because the day of industry, simply stopping, not functioning, because somebody misbehaves, either an employer or labour and the whole community suffering, is gradually passing. The community cannot afford to do that; the community must see that it gives a fair deal to labour, that is a different matter. Therefore in this resolution a great deal has been said about it and that is perhaps one of the most important parts of the Resolution i.e. regarding councils and committees, because unless you give a completely fair deal you cannot come down with a heavy hand in case of misbehaviour. After that you may have people still misbehaving, so that I would like this House to consider this Resolution in this context. I have not touched on the various subjects which might be added or subtracted. I have no doubt if the House sat down, it could perhaps here and there make some changes in it, but I do submit that the fundamental approach of this statement is the only right approach and the only practical approach at the present time and therefore I hope the House will adopt it.

**Mr. Hussain Imam** (Bihar: Muslim): Mr. Chairman, I am very glad to follow after the Prime Minister. The old revolutionary spirit which guided him is still alive, and although the cares of office has dimmed it down, at times it burst out with the same fire as it used to do in the old days. The industrial policy of a country is really meant for achieving certain ends. The end as described in this Resolution is to increase the productive capacity as well as the national dividend. We have to see whether the methods which have been adopted do fulfil these desirable ends. I am sorry to find that the desiderata is not any nearer than it was before this announcement. The capital has a ready fired its thunder bolt and we have heard Sir J. P. Srivastava explaining the industrialist's point of view on this policy. The labour has also had its say, but the poor consumer who has to bear all the burdens is mostly absent from the general discussions.

Labour is out to have as much money as it can get, capital wants as much profit as it can gather, and the Finance Minister wants to have as much taxation as he can. But where is all this to come from? It is after all the consumer who pays, and the consumer's income increases as the national income increases. The consumer cannot remain a consumer without earning some thing. He is a consumer in one sense and he is also an earning member or worker or a person engaged in the acquisition of wealth. I therefore urge that we must regard this thing from that point of view, whether the scheme as propounded by Government will increase the national wealth or not. I regret to find that many necessary items have been left out of this Statement; for instance, among the controlled industries there is no mention of what Government propose to do with the managing agency system. It is an innovation which was established in India by the British concerns in order to perpetuate their hold on the country. That system has to go if any scheme for direction of capital or for increasing production is to succeed. What happens today is that shareholder may not get anything in profits, the company may register losses, but the managing agency firm never loses. The managing agency used to be formerly composed persons, then it developed into firms, and now it has developed into private limited liability companies; and we have the example of Jardine Henderson and Martin Burns, public limited liability companies. What is the sense in having a thing like this? Some of my Honourable friends cast aspersions on our officials and said that because of the inefficiency of Government officials and their corruptions and bribe-taking propensities, we cannot work these industries. I resent that charge. If the Indian nation cannot produce men of ability and honesty to run this business we have no business to be free. What is the good of having a Government which is so glavish to the existing bureaucracy, when that bureaucracy is so bad that it cannot be replaced? Or, if it is not so bad as it is painted,

there should be some one to stand up for it. It is wrong that people who are not able to defend themselves should be attacked here every day in season and out of season, and no concrete steps should be taken to stop this rot if there is a rot. I do not say there is no rot, but I say that it is not beyond our capacity to stop it.

Then again every industry that has been taken up by Government has been taken along with its executive. There is the Bombay Telephone Company and there is also the Calcutta Telephone Company. These were taken up by Government, but it did not mean that all the officials employed there were turned out and new officers from the Secretariat sent in to take charge. What happened in the case of the B. N. Railway, the latest railway that we acquired? What happened in the case of the B. B. & C. I. Railway? These two railways were acquired only three or four years ago. When you take up any industry you take it up along with all its permanent officials. Therefore to say that taking up these industries is impossible because we have not got the trained personnel has no meaning. But I concede the greater point which the Prime Minister made out that our resources being limited we should conserve and invest our money to the best advantage of the country. Necessarily it follows that if we wish to preserve the present system we must mend it. There are two things; either you end it or you mend it. We have decided not to end it and so we must mend it; and it is in this sense that I appeal to Government that when they next issue their scheme for the 18 industries enumerated here they will do something concrete, drastic and effective.

Another thing I will say before I conclude. I consider that labour in India has not behaved well towards Government. The hands of Government for nationalisation would have been strengthened if labour had behaved properly in the nationalised concerns. We had the example of the South Indian Railway; even today we have the example of the Government employees in Calcutta. If Government employees behave towards the State in the same rough manner as they do towards private capitalists, the case for nationalisation becomes very weak. Government is a national concern; it is India which is concerned and it is not this or that particular Government with which we are dealing. If in the interest of the prosperity of India every one is not willing to contribute his own mite,—whether it is capital, labour or Government,—India will not rise; and it is for the rise of India that we must all work.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Sir, the Honourable Minister referred to me as a consumer, otherwise I would not have stood up at almost the fag-end of the day and tried to encroach upon your time when I know as a consumer myself that I would be anxious to take not one cup but two cups of tea. Sir, both capital and labour forget that there is an employer or employers and that is the community; unless he purchases the goods that are produced or minted out from the factories both the employers on the one side, however rich they may be, and labour on the other side, would have to go starving. I have with great pleasure listened to all the criticisms that have been made on the Statement of Policy enunciated by Government. There was the previous Government which was avowedly for absolute capitalism as such. Even they started in 1945 enunciating a plan. Either following that or in anticipation of that the capitalists of this country started with a plan, a 15,000 crore plan. Many other plans have come in. After this Government took charge it was necessary to state what policy they are going to adopt, what plan they are going to have and what programme they are going to enunciate so that the plan may be effective the policy may be given due force and due weight. Sir, I claim for this Statement of Policy that it is a landmark in the history of the economic life of this country. I do not agree with my socialist friends here; I am in my heart of hearts as good

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

a socialist as any of my socialist friends here. I myself come from a very poor family and I still stand for the poorest of the poor in this country. My Honourable friend Prof. Shah and others are still doubting whether this does not contain the essential seeds of a socialist economy; with the cooperation of all sections of this House it will grow into a huge banyan tree and cover the entire economic structure of this country. Till now we started with private enterprise as the *summum bonum* of existence. Any one who thought of cooperative or collective enterprise was pooh-poohed. The age of capitalism in western countries has gone but it still continues to exist in this country. This is the first time that we have definitely enunciated that defence industries and key industries shall be both owned and managed by the State. The field for private enterprise is narrowed down and limited. That demarcation has been laid down; *prima facie* all these industries must belong to the State and be managed by the State. In regard to the others some field has been left for private enterprise. Now and then my friends are a little too impatient. Are we in a position to take up all these industries straightaway? I also like that they should be taken up now but which is the more important of the two? We are technically taking away those industries that are State concerns and producing in those factories those goods which we are short of. We cannot get them from foreign countries and therefore we have to produce. That is the consideration which weighed with Government in demarcating certain items. The field is there, both category No. 1 and category No. 2 although both belong to category No. 2. These industries must be taken by the State and owned and managed by the State; and out of them three industries straightaway belong to the State. The railways are a State concern, the armament factories are State concerns.

So far as the others are concerned, it has been laid down that steel, ship-building, iron, aeroplanes, etc., etc., must be the concern of the State. It is only the other day that the Honourable the Prime Minister went to Vizagapatam and launched the first ship made in India, called the "Jala Usha". In other countries which have improved their industries, and which are ranking as the top-most industrialised countries in the world, it is easy to switch over from one work to another, as in the case of the United Kingdom. Even there they have not done so much. So we will take time. We do not want to disturb the economy of this country. We stand for a socialist economy in this country. Gradually the field for private enterprise will be narrower and narrower. Isn't it that this statement of policy has made the worker, who was considered a servant elsewhere, a partner with the capitalist? The Industries Conference in December was well attended and all parties took part in it and evolved an agreed decision. I had the pleasure of hearing the speech of G. D. Birla. He said that he had consulted his Counsel at Bombay with regard to all the Acts relating to factories and labour and he summed up to the effect that falling short of making the labourer claim the hand of the daughter of the capitalist, every other privilege had been conferred on him. Unfortunately I was not there. I had no opportunity of replying. It is true that the object of labour legislation is to make the labourer the son of the capitalist. He is really the son-in-law, if by law the labourer becomes the son of the capitalist. Hitherto, it is because he and his son-in-law have been fighting over it that the son has gone to the wall and the country has suffered. It is unfortunate but I have found various writings of these great men who are all captains of industry. It was somewhat annoying and rather unpleasant.

On the other hand I read an article in the *Hindustan Times* by Birla. He said that profit is the only motive for industrial production. I find from his writings about Mahatma Gandhi that he is one of our good and pious men. I am surprised at the statement. The old adage is "*Tyāgāy Sambhritānāṁ*". I am sure he would have read this and learnt from it that whatever property is



acquired is for the purpose of giving to others. It is not for hoarding a man should acquire. A man is not counted as the topman in this country by the wealth of the possessions in his hands, nor by the amount of income-tax that he pays nor the land-rent that he collects. He is put in the third rank in this country. But the man who gives is the best man. If he makes up his mind, he can be a captain of industry in this country. It is wrong to say that a father has some profit motive if he rears his children or that a wife has some profit motive if she looks to the welfare of the husband.

The huge temples that were built were not built for profit. It is a disgrace to human intelligence to say that all things are done for profit. On the other hand, I assure my friends that the greatest inventions in this country, the greatest contributions to knowledge have not been made for motives of profit. All the poets have been poor. The greatest scientists have been poor. It is because they were born poor that they contributed so much to knowledge. I do find that these industrialists are mere financiers in this country. But there is a large field in industry for every one. There is no need for scrambling. It is not as if every opportunity has been taken away by the industrialists. Let us not fight. Our culture, our religion is essentially one of peace. We have heard the statement of policy laid down by Government. Labour has been satisfied, or if not, they must be satisfied because they have been made partners of industry. All that is expected is that for Heaven's sake for a short period do not enter into a quarrel. Let there be no bi-lateral or triangular fight. So far as the industries are concerned, ten years have been given for most of them and unlike the Economic Committee you must fix a ceiling date. That has not been done. A uniform scale for all industries will not be conducive to the growth of industry, and the Industry Minister has laid down that an *ad hoc* committee will be appointed to say what ought to be normally returned to capital.

I find that this statement of policy is reasonable both to the capitalist and to labour and there is an invitation not to fight hereafter and to carry out that truce, and they entered into the *bona fides* of this truce last December. Unfortunately, after December, some of our own Ministers went about saying that such and such is not intended. I am appealing to our Ministers and persons in charge, not to give by their words or actions any kind of suspicion to labour or capital, or to say that they do not stand by this or to water down the policy that has been enunciated. One result is that the market goes down, not that the market merely goes down on account of this.

I will state one thing more and I will close. I find Sir, after making enquiries, that some of these capitalists themselves are responsible for the strikes. One capitalist tries to cut the throat of another capitalist. The strike in the Binny Mills in Madras were due to the activities of some merchants in Lucknow. Of course I do not attribute this to Sir J. P. Srivastava. The fact is that one textile mill is anxious to bring about a strike in another textile mill. What is the use of quarrelling with labour?

Lastly, I appeal to the members here. We have found two eminent men speaking on the floor of this House, one a capitalist, Sir J. P. Srivastava and the other a socialist, Mr. Masani. They can both put their views before the public and then they can live as the father-in-law and the son-in-law in the same family. Now Prof. Shah can say that there ought to be absolute socialism in this country. I agree with him. But Srivastava may say that there ought to be no socialism. It is all idle talk. Let us go back to capitalism. But still, all of us can live as members of a family, as the father-in-law and the son-in-law—Srivastava and Masani. That is the object of this resolution.

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

I hope in the U. K. they have done so. In the U. K. they may write books, but when it comes to a question of preserving the national economy, labour and capital come together and agree with the Government that they would produce so much, though they may not agree on the question of more wages. They come to a truce.

So let us in the name of everything grand and great in this country try to put this young State on a solid economic footing. We do want democracy in economics and in politics also. It is quite easy to quote the example of Russia. In Russia there is dictatorship. It is people like Sir J. P. Srivastava and others who condemn management by the State of railways and other such enterprises and if they go on persisting that such managements are not efficient, I will say that they are driving democracy into the background and they shall have another dictatorship. A dictator can be a slave-driver.

Under these circumstances, let us accept this as a truce. It may not satisfy all views completely and entirely. All the same this is the best solution to the question. Let us work together and let all sections contribute to the growth and prosperity of this country. I wholeheartedly recommend the statement of policy to the approval of the House.

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** Sir, I do not propose to make a long speech in reply. The Prime Minister had dealt with some of the general questions which were raised in the course of the debate. I am 5 P.M. grateful for the general support which the House has extended to the resolution which I had the honour to move this morning. The only member who wholeheartedly disapproved of the resolution and expressed his utter disapproval was the learned Prof. K. T. Shah. But I would remove one misapprehension from his mind at once. Government have not issued any whip calling upon the members of the Government party to support this resolution. In fact during the last one month this resolution has been the subject matter of discussion within the Government party in a manner which is almost unprecedented, and I can say this without contradiction that the resolution which Government have brought forward has the willing and spontaneous support of the vast majority of the members constituting the Government party.

Various Honourable Members who have spoken have dealt with some questions of detail. I would classify one type of criticisms dealing with the scheme which it is proposed by Government to incorporate in the legislative measures which will be brought forward before this House sometime later. Obviously this resolution could not go into details. All those industries which will be centrally regulated and also the principles on which Government will undertake big industrial undertakings will have to be considered very carefully. The suggestions which have been made today will be taken into full consideration and when draft proposals are submitted to the House I have no doubt that they will be subjected to searching criticism and many of the points of view which have been expressed will be found automatically incorporated in the Acts which we shall ultimately pass.

Another class of criticism related to the speed with which industries will be nationalised. There may be honest difference of opinion as to whether a particular industry which has been included under one category should be transferred to another category. Here again, as I explained and as has been stated in the resolution itself, the list cannot be deemed to be final or exhaustive in character. But Government are satisfied that the industries which for the present are of an essential character are included under one or other of the three

Prof. Shah has also misunderstood the outline of the scheme: he seemed to think that the best industries have been kept as the close preserve of the capitalists. Those were his exact words. It is nothing of the kind. As I explained this morning, it will be open to Government to start any industry without any restriction whatsoever and if it appears that certain industries for some reasons should be started by Government, Government will not hesitate to go into the field but it is true that Government will have to stand in competition with private enterprise in those particular spheres. The spheres exclusively kept for Government enterprise are also very large indeed.

The other question which was raised related to the position of labour. Here again it is not possible for Government now to go into details but I do claim that the changes which have been recommended are of a revolutionary character. A definite programme has been laid down to ensure that labour will not be allowed to be exploited and will not only get a fair deal but will be treated as partners in a common endeavour. Obviously it will require the goodwill both of capital and labour to give full effect to this scheme which we have outlined.

We heard only one speech on behalf of the capitalists. I am sorry my Honourable friend Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava could not find the time to stay on till the end of the proceedings which incidentally is evidence of the great interest which he has in the industrial development of the country. In any case, he referred to several bottle-necks. In fact he exhausted the list of bottle-necks and the only bottle the neck of which he did not break was the capitalist himself. The picture which he painted was that every one else was a devil and the only angel was himself. It would have been better for him to have apportioned some blame at least for the present impasse to the attitude which a certain section of industrialists has taken. Here the position has been amply made clear by the Prime Minister. We want that the country should develop industrially as speedily as possible. We want that the increased production which will thus be made available should be equitably distributed for the benefit of the common man. We are prepared to give industrialists a fair field. We want that labour, without whose cooperation production is impossible, must get a square deal and must occupy an honourable position. That is the sum total of the scheme. Government will keep to itself the powers of regulation and direction with regard to a number of industries. That also is a new approach altogether. Hitherto every thing was left to free enterprise but now for the first time Government direction will play its part. There, as I said, Government take upon themselves considerable responsibility. The success of the scheme will depend as much on the cooperation of labour and capital as on the efficiency with which Government also discharge their responsibilities.....

**Maulana Hasrat Mohani:** The whole thing is a farce.

**The Honourable Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee:** I believe the Honourable Member himself represents that epithet more than anything else.

The whole position therefore is that unless all sections of people cooperate, we cannot attain the desired end. Here, as the Prime Minister emphasised, if it appears that later on labour does not play the game, after we have done every thing possible that any State was expected to do, naturally the Government must see to it that labour does not become the real obstacle which acts against the attainment of our cherished goal. Similarly with capital. If after the announcement of this policy there is no response coming from the industrialists or the capitalists, if they continue to find some excuse or other and thereby create obstruction, as the Prime Minister so categorically declared,

[Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee]

neither the Government nor the country will wait for the capitalists or the industrialists to wake up. Then another machinery will be found out. But we are offering to the people and to the interests involved a scheme which is a well regulated and well coordinated one and we are calling upon every section of the people, whatever may be the differences in respect of political or economic ideologies, to come forward at this most critical time in the history of our country and put all our shoulders to the wheel for the purpose of introducing those important changes in the economic structure of our society which will lead to the desired goal.

Of course we are only making a beginning. It will take some time, before final results are achieved and everyone, including members of the House, will be entitled to watch with critical eyes the development that takes place in the months to come.

With these words, Sir, I hope the motion will be adopted by the House.

**Mr. Chairman:** The question is:

"That for the original motion, the following be substituted :

"That the industrial policy of the Government of India as set out in the statement of policy laid on the table on the 6th April, 1948, be approved'."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Chairman:** Before we adjourn I would like to mention that there is a proposal that the Question Hour be dispensed with tomorrow.

**Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General):** I oppose that.

**Mr. Chairman:** As there is opposition to the proposal I shall make no announcement on the subject. The House is adjourned till 10-45 A.M. tomorrow.

*The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 8th April, 1948.*