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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA  
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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)  
1948



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# CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE)

Wednesday, 31st March, 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

#### OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS OF OCCUPANTS OF OLD GRANT LANDS IN CANTONMENTS

1064. \***Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what are the rights of the occupants of old grant lands in Cantonments and the obligations attached to such grants?

(b) Has the position of old grantees been examined by Government? If so, with what result?

(c) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a copy of the standing instructions given to the Deputy Director of Cantonments regarding these old grants?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** (a) Grants of lands under the old Regulations are subject to the following conditions:

(i) No proprietary rights are conferred on the grantee and the land is the property of the Government. The land is however held rent free.

(ii) The Government retains the power of resumption at any time on giving one month's notice. If they give that notice they are required to pay the value of such buildings as may have been authorised to be erected. The land remains the property of the Government but the houses built thereon may be transferred with the prior sanction of Government. The property can be inherited.

(b) The question is not clear. The position of old grantees has been fully clarified by various High Courts in India and by the Privy Council.

(c) A copy of the †Standing Instructions contained in the Military Lands Manual (pages 253-257) is laid on the table of the House.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** Are there any grant lands which are due for 25 and 50 years' leases? Under those circumstances can Government take possession by one month's notice as stated by the Honourable Minister?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I am not sure about that. If the Honourable Member will read the instructions, I think he will find out the true position.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** Is it a fact that there are certain leases for 25 years?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** May be. I cannot say off-hand.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** How can then Government take possession with one month's notice?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** All these instructions are contained in the statement that I am laying on the table.

†Not printed in the day's Debate. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.—*Ed. of D.*

**MILITARY ESTATES DEPARTMENT'S CONTROL OVER CAMPING GROUNDS ON MAIN ROADS IN INDIA.**

**1065. \*Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether the Military Estates Department is having control over certain camping grounds on the main roads in India?

(b) How many of such grounds have been handed over to the Public Works Department in areas in the East Punjab and the United Provinces and how many remain with the Military authorities?

(c) Are these camping grounds used for their original purposes?

(d) How many of them have been leased out for agricultural purposes?

(e) If any have been leased out what are the terms and conditions of the lease?

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

(b) 14 Camping grounds have been placed under the control of the C.P.W.D. and 109 have been retained by the Military Authorities.

(c) Such Camping Grounds as are not in the active use of the Army, but may be required for such use, have been leased out for cultivation in pursuance of the "Grow More Food" policy.

(d) Approximately 50.

(e) Leases are for agricultural purposes and their term does not exceed 4 years. Suitable rent is charged for each lease.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** What is the minimum suitable rent charged for each lease?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** The rent varies and if the Honourable Member is anxious to know the rents charged in different cases, I will get this information for him.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** Arising out of (c) of the question, may I know whether land leased out for agricultural purposes are put to *bona fide* uses for such purposes, or are they again let out by the people to some others for the purpose of earning rents?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** As I have stated, they are leased out for agricultural purposes and to the best of information available I think that is the procedure that has been followed. But if the Honourable Member has information to the contrary, I will be prepared to look into it.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** Have they not passed hands from one to the other?

**Mr. Speaker:** For which, I think notice will be necessary. It is not possible to say off-hand.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** I want to know whether Government is aware of this because it has systematically changed hands.

**Mr. Speaker:** He says he will enquire into it.

**Shri Biswanath Das:** In view of the fact that neither the Central Government nor the Defence Department have any experience in matters relating to land will the Honourable the Minister be pleased to consider the need of handing over the administration as long as is necessary to Provincial Governments and request them to look after these and credit the amounts?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** No, Sir.

**Shri Biswanath Das:** May I know the reason?



**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** The reason is that the lands are required for military purposes.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** For how long are they required? Are they to be kept indefinitely at the disposal of the Defence Department or cannot they be handed over to the Provincial Governments on condition that they may be returned to the Central Government whenever the military want them.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is a misunderstanding about the question. It does not relate to requisitioned lands but to lands which are camping grounds in the occupation of the military.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Even then my suggestion is that instead of giving these lands to some so-called agriculturist on their own initiative, will the Defence Department consider the advisability of handing over these lands to the Provincial Governments on condition that they should be returned to them whenever wanted for defence purposes.

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** This is exactly the condition on which these lands are leased out. They remain the property of the Defence Department and they are leased out to certain people for agricultural purposes. I do not see any definite advantage in handing them over to Provincial Governments.

**Shri Biswanath Das:** May I know the establishment required for the purpose of maintaining these activities?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I could not say off-hand?

#### TECHNICIANS AND OTHER OFFICERS IN SERVICE OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DRAWING HIGH SALARIES

1066. **\*Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the total number of officers in the service of the Government of India, (Civil and Military) (i) drawing Rs. 2,500 and under Rs. 3,000; (ii) Rs. 3,001 and under Rs. 3,500; (iii) above Rs. 3,500 and under Rs. 4,000; and (iv) above Rs. 4,000 each separately?

(b) How many out of them are technicians?

(c) Are any of the above officers above the age limit of retirement?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) (i) 217 including those drawing Rs. 3,000.

(ii) 52 including those drawing Rs. 3,500.

(iii) 31 including those drawing Rs. 4,000.

(iv) 9.

(b) 121, including 65 officers of the Defence Services.

(c) Yes; 26.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** May I know whether Government intend to dispense with the services of these 26 to enable the youngsters to get appointments so as not to mar their promotion?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** No, Sir. These 26 were taken for technical reasons. They will be dispensed with of course as soon as any other technically qualified persons come in. They are not merely taken because of long experience but because they were considered technically qualified and obviously there were no other suitable persons in view.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is any effort being made to get another set of people trained to dispense with these over-aged people, and at the same time not suffer in technical efficiency?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** Of course! All our training courses are for that purpose—technical and otherwise, unless one goes into particular matters.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** At the senior level!

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** We are talking about technicians and efforts are of course being made to train technical personnel.

**Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** Are there any non-Indians among these officers?

**Mr. Speaker:** Which officers? All the officers or the 26?

**Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** All the officers.

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I really could not say. Of course there are a few, but I could not say straight off.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** Are all these 26 technicians?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** My information is that they are experienced and technical personnel. I cannot guarantee about every one.

**DISAPPEARANCE OF IMPORTANT C. I. D. FILES *re* MAHATMA GANDHI'S ASSASSINATION.**

1067. **\*Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether it is a fact that certain important C.I.D. files relating to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi have disappeared while they were being carried by a Police Head Constable.

(b) If so, what are the circumstances under which they were lost?

(c) What efforts have been made to recover these files?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) No.

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

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** Is the Honourable Minister personally satisfied that no file was lost?

**Mr. Speaker:** That is not a question asking for information.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** Does he rely upon the information supplied by his officers, or is he satisfied?

**Mr. Speaker:** The answer to the question is obvious.

**SERVICE BOOKS OF CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES FROM PAKISTAN NOW SERVING IN INDIA.**

1068. **\*Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the service books of various employees of the Customs Department who have opted out from Pakistan and are now employed in India, have been received from the Government of Pakistan?

(b) If not, have Government written to the Government of Pakistan to accelerate their despatch?

(c) Is it a fact that due to the non-availability of Service Books, several employees have not received their increments and have also suffered regarding their promotions?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) No, Sir. Service Books have not been received in a large number of cases.

(b) Yes.

(c) Increments, promotions etc. are at present regulated on the basis of certified statements or other available evidence and every attempt is made to avoid hardship to the staff.

POST-WAR SCHEME OF EDUCATION ON ALL-INDIA BASIS.

1069. \*Shri Kishori Mohan Tripathi: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether any post-war scheme of education on an all-India basis has been drawn up either by the Government of India or by the Government of India and the Governments of the different Provinces jointly?

(b) If so, what are the salient features of the scheme?

(c) If not, do Government propose to draw up such a scheme?

آئرپبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : (a) ہاں سنٹرل ایڈوائزری بورڈ آف ایجوکیشن نے سنہ ۱۹۴۴ء میں ایک اسکیم پوسٹ وار ایجوکیشن کے لئے آل انڈیا بیسیس پر تیار کی تھی۔ اسکی بلحاظی سفارشیوں اس کی رپورٹ میں دیکھی جا سکتی ہیں، جو عام طور پر سارجنٹ رپورٹ کے نام سے پکاری جاتی ہے اس سفارشیوں کو سنٹرل گورنمنٹ اور پراونشل گورنمنٹیں عام طور پر منظور کر چکی ہیں۔

(b) آئرپبل ممبر مہربانی کر کے اس رپورٹ پر ایک نظر ثانی ڈالیں اسمبلی

کی لائبریری میں موجود ہے۔

(c) یہ سوال پیدا ہی نہیں ہوتا۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Yes. A scheme on post-war education on an all-India basis was drawn up by the Central Advisory Board of Education in January, 1944, main recommendations of which are contained in their Report on Post-war Educational Development in India, popularly known as Sargent Report. These recommendations have been generally accepted by the Government of India and the Provincial Governments.

(b) The Honourable Member may please refer to a copy of the Sargent Report which is available in the 'Library' of the Assembly.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Kishori Mohan Tripathi: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state what steps Government have taken by now to implement that scheme?

آئرپبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : پیچھلی جنوری میں سنٹرل ایڈوائزری بورڈ کی میٹنگ ہوئی۔ اور ایک آل انڈیا ایجوکیشنل کانفرنس بھی اسی فرض سے بلائی گئی۔ بہت سی تجویزیں اس بارے میں سوچی گئی ہیں۔ کمیٹیاں بتھائی گئی ہیں۔ اور گورنمنٹ بہت تیزی کے ساتھ معاملے کو آگے بڑھانے کی کوشش کر رہی ہے۔

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: A meeting of the Central Advisory Board was held in January last, and an all India Conference was also convened for this very purpose. Many schemes were considered in this connection and committees have been set up. The Government is trying to push forward the matter with great speed.

مولانا حسرت موہانی : کیا منسٹر صاحب تعلیم اس بات سے آگاہ ہیں کہ اکثر صوبجاتی گورنمنٹیں ایڈوائزری بورڈ نے جو قواعد مقرر کئے ہیں ان کے بالکل خلاف عمل کر رہی ہیں۔ مثلاً یو۔ پی گورنمنٹ اس بات کا لحاظ نہیں کرتی کہ ہر شخص کو حق حاصل ہے کہ وہ اپنی مادری زبان میں تعلیم حاصل کرے۔

**Maulana Hasrat Mohani:** Is the Honourable Minister for Education aware of the fact that most of the Provincial Governments are acting quite contrary to the rules framed by the Central Advisory Board? For example, the U.P. Government are not respecting the right of every person to obtain his education in his mother tongue.

**Mr. Speaker:** What is it that the Honourable Member wants to know?

**Maulana Hasrat Mohani:** I want to know whether it is a fact that some of the Provincial Governments altogether ignore the directions given by the Advisory Council.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : اس سوال سے اسکا کوئی تعلق نہیں -

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** The question does not arise.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is not necessary to answer this question. It is only the opinion of the Honourable Member.

**Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao:** May I know whether these films will be prepared and supplied to the principal linguistic areas in India?

**Mr. Speaker:** This question does not relate to films. It refers to the Sargent Report.

**An Honourable Member:** That question comes later on.

**Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao:** I am sorry, Sir.

#### HELP TO REFUGEE STUDENTS IN RESPECT OF EXAMINATIONS.

1070. **\*Shri Kishori Mohan Tripathi:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state as to how Government propose to help the refugee students in regard to their examinations in view of the fact that those who have come over to India from Pakistan area may not be in a position to appear at their prescribed examinations ensuing shortly?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ . آف انڈیا تمام پرائنٹوں کی گورنمنٹوں سے اور یونیورسٹیوں سے درخواست کرچکی ہے کہ ویسٹرن پاکستان سے آئے ہوئے وڈیارتھوں کو ان کے امتحان کے بارے میں ہر طرح کی آسانیاں اور رعایتیں دی جائیں اس بارے میں جو کارروائی کی جا چکی ہے اور جو رعایتیں دی گئی ہیں ان کا اندازہ اس اسٹیٹمنٹ سے کیا جا سکتا جو میں ہاؤس کی ٹیبل پر رکھ دیتا ہوں -

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** The Government of India requested all the Provincial Governments and the Indian Universities to afford all facilities to students migrating from the Western Pakistan in connection with their examinations. Statements indicating the concessions given by the Universities of the East Punjab and Bombay, which are the main Universities concerned, are laid on the table of the House.

#### Statement I

*Indicating the concessions given by the East Punjab University to students migrating from the Western Pakistan.*

The following concessions were extended to refugee students who had to appear in various University examinations to be held in 1947, but who could not take their examinations as a whole or in part owing to the communal disturbances

(1) They were given the option to put in ten weeks' approved social service at the completion of which they would be eligible for the certificates or degree for which they were studying.

(2) In case any student could not or did not put in social service, he could join the next higher class by taking a qualifying test held by every college in the East Punjab including the Camp College in New Delhi.

*Note.*—While concession 1 above applied to Matriculation, Intermediate (Arts and Science), Degree (Arts and Science) students, concessions 2 applied to Matriculation, Intermediate (Arts and Science) students only. Failing 1 and 2 above, students could take the East Punjab University Emergency Examination which was held according to the following schedule :

Matriculation				February, 1948.
Intermediate				January, 1948.
Degree	...	...	...	February, 1948.
M.A.	...	...	...	Commencing on 5th April.
M.L.	...	...	...	19th March, 1948.
B.T.	...	...	...	29th March, 1948.
O.T.	...	...	...	1st April, 1948.

(These examinations in normal course would have been held during the period August to September, 1947 by the Old Punjab University). The East Punjab University came into existence on the 1st October, 1947 by an Ordinance and this University announced that the above examinations would be held in December, 1947, but later on changed its decision in view of the difficulties of students.

(4) Concessions to students appearing in examination scheduled to be held in September-October, 1948 :

Matriculation, F.A. and B.A. students were given the option to put in ten weeks' approved social service and thus secure exemption in any one subject only. Besides, on production of evidence that a candidate had passed in one or more papers in any examination held by the Punjab University in Lahore in 1947, he was exempted from appearing in those papers and was allowed to complete the examination by appearing in the remaining papers.

#### Statement II

*Indicating the concessions given by the Bombay University to students migrating from the Western Pakistan.*

Copy of University of Bombay Circular No. MI of 1948.

With a view to clarifying the position arising out of the decision of the University (*vide* Circular No. M-13315/1947) to grant facilities to students who have migrated from Sind (the Punjab and other provinces) on account of disturbances, panic or fear and who are eligible to appear at the Matriculation Examination in the ordinary course, it is hereby brought to the notice of the Heads of recognised schools and the general public that the procedure for admission to the examination will be as under :

- (i) Students or ex-students who have migrated from Sind to the Province of Bombay, and have joined a recognised school will be treated as regular students of the school concerned, and will be admitted as such to the examination.
- (ii) Students or ex-students who have migrated from Sind to the Province of Bombay, but have not joined any school, will be required to forward their applications, with the accompaniments mentioned in (iii) below, for admission to the examination through the Head of a recognised school. The Head of the recognised school whom the student approaches with a request to forward the application shall be entitled to charge the fee of Re. 1.
- (iii) Students or ex-students who have migrated from Sind to other places outside the territorial jurisdiction of the University, will be admitted to the examination direct, if found eligible, on production of the Leaving Certificate of the last recognised school attended by them or in its absence an affidavit made by the student, if major, i.e., over 18 years, the guardian of the student (if below 18) or before a magistrate or a J.P. giving particulars regarding the name of the school last attended, the number of days of attendance in the Matriculation class and the date of birth. The Leaving Certificate or the

affidavit shall be attached to the application. It will not be returned under any circumstances. The form of application for admission to the examination and also the fee receipt should preferably be signed in the presence of the person before whom the affidavit is made.

- (iv) Ex-students who have joined a school in Sind subsequent to their failure at the last Matriculation Examination and have migrated subsequently will also be admitted to the examination as ex-students falling under categories (ii) or (iii) above, despite the fact that they have lost all the rights of an ex-student since joining a recognised school after their failure under O-156H. Similarly, students who were not sent up last year, but were otherwise eligible, will be admitted to the examination as specified above whether they have joined or not joined a school in Sind during the current academic year.
- (v) Students migrating from places other than Sind on account of disturbances, panic or fear will be admitted to the examination as regular students only; such students will not be admitted direct to the examination, though in their cases also the condition regarding minimum attendance for a period of 100 days as laid down in S-202 will be waived, and they will be admitted if they keep an attendance of 50 days in a school recognised by this University.
- (vi) Students studying in schools recognised by the University of Sind will not be generally considered eligible for admission to the Matriculation examination of this University, except that those who had left the schools in Sind and have not been able to migrate will be admitted to the examination as laid down in (iii) above.

2. All students who are not eligible for admission to the examination as regular students or ex-students, will be classified as Private candidates. Further, the cases of those regular students who have not been able to keep the attendance prescribed by S-202 will be governed by the foot-note to S-202 in the matter of the condonation of deficiency in attendance and Headmasters are requested to forward cases, if any, to the University for consideration without delay. Headmasters of recognised schools are further requested to insist on a student producing the Leaving Certificate of the recognised school last attended by him or in its absence an affidavit as indicated in clause (iii) above and satisfy themselves that the student is eligible for admission to the examination as laid down and that he has (i) attended a recognised school in Sind for at least 50 days prior to migration; and (ii) has migrated owing to disturbances, panic or fear.

3. Students who apply direct are advised to send the application forms duly filled in with accompaniments as in (iii) above by Registered Post (with acknowledgement due if a receipt is desired). The amount of the fee of Rs. 15 should be sent by Money Order and the necessary particulars regarding the name, the address and the name of the examination, the languages offered under O-158 and the centre must be supplied in the Money Order coupon. Otherwise the Money Order is likely to be refused. The Money Orders and the letters must be addressed to the Registrar, University Bombay, Matriculation Department, Bombay 1, to avoid delay. Applications in person will not be accepted, nor will any correspondence in the matter of receipt of applications be attended to.

4. In every case where the admission is granted on the strength of evidence other than the Leaving Certificate of the recognised school last attended, the admission will be deemed provisional and is liable to be cancelled unless confirmed later on by the production of the requisite Leaving Certificate of the recognised school last attended. In all such cases no claim for refund of fees will be admissible, and the candidate concerned will not be entitled to receive the pass certificate if he passes the examination or to any right to appear after failure at any subsequent examination of the University on the mere strength of his name being included in the list of candidates appearing at the examination till the confirmation of his admission to the examination.

5. The last date of receipt of applications is Monday, the 19th January, 1948 and the examination is due to commence on Monday, the 15th March, 1948 according to the programme that will be notified in the Bombay Government Gazette in due course. The Seat Numbers of candidates appearing at the examination will be exhibited at the centres concerned one week before the commencement of the examination and candidates are advised to make their own arrangements for ascertaining their seat numbers and the detailed programme of the examination. Queries on these subjects from candidates will not be attended to.

6. Those candidates who offer Sindhi as one of the languages under O-158 as also those who require the passage in Sindhi for translation into English in the paper in General English will be required to appear at Bombay or Dadar centres only, as it is not possible to offer them these facilities at other centres. Candidates at any centre will be at liberty to answer questions in Sindhi in papers where the option to answer in the candidate's mother-language is allowed.

7. The examination will be held at the centres shown in Circular No. M-29, dated 16th December 1947. Students offering a particular language will be allowed to appear only at the centres mentioned against that language in Appendix F (Blue Booklet) and at no other centre.

(Sd.) S. R. DONGERKERY,

University Registrar.

Bombay, 7th January, 1948.

**श्री किशोरी मोहन त्रिपाठी :** क्या यह रियायतें सिर्फ वेस्टर्न पाकिस्तान तक के लोगों के लिए सीमित हैं या ईस्टर्न पाकिस्तान के लोग भी इस से फायदा उठा सकते हैं ?

**Shri Kishori Mohan Tripathi:** Is it that the scope of these concessions is limited to people coming from Western Pakistan only or those coming from Eastern Pakistan can also avail themselves of these concessions?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : یہ سوال زیادہ تر ویسٹرن پاکستان سے آئے ہوئے طالب علموں کے لئے پیدا ہوا ہے۔ اور اس کے لئے ایسٹ پنجاب گورنمنٹ اور بمبئی گورنمنٹ نے انتظام کیا ہے۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** This question arose mainly in connection with students coming from Western Pakistan. The Governments of the East Punjab and Bombay have made arrangements in this connection.

**सेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या माननीय मन्त्री जी को यह यह मालूम है कि वेस्टर्न पाकिस्तान के अलावा ईस्टर्न पाकिस्तान से भी कुछ विद्यार्थी आये हैं तो उनका इम्तहान के निस्वत क्या किया जा रहा है ?

**Seth Govinddas:** Is it within the knowledge of the Honourable Minister that students have not only come from Western Pakistan but from Eastern Pakistan also? What is being done about their examinations?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جہانتک میرے علم میں آیا ہے ویسٹ بنگال گورنمنٹ اس سلسلے میں کچھ ضروری کارروائیاں کر چکی ہے۔ اور کر رہی ہے۔

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** So far as I know West Bengal Government have made necessary arrangements in this connection, and they are still doing so.

SECRETARIES, JOINT SECRETARIES, ASSISTANT SECRETARIES ETC., AND OTHER OFFICERS IN VARIOUS MINISTRIES.

1071. \***Shri Kishori Mohan Tripathi:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

- (i) the number of Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Deputy and Under Secretaries who are now serving in the various Ministries of the Government of India; and
- (ii) the number of officers and officials (other than Secretaries) in the various Ministries who are drawing a monthly salary of Rs. 200 or above, exclusive of allowances?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of adopting a policy of giving representation in the above services to the different provinces either

in proportion to their population or in proportion to their contribution to Central revenues, whichever be more just?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) (i) Secretaries, 21.

Additional Secretaries, 7.

Joint Secretaries, 36.

Deputy Secretaries, 98.

Under Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries, 248.

(ii) The information is not readily available and its collection would involve time and labour incommensurate with the results obtained.

(b) Government consider that merit should be the primary consideration in recruiting candidates to Government service; except where they have already agreed to reservations in favour of particular communities. They regret they do not consider it desirable to introduce any other factors such as have been mentioned by the Honourable Member as that would lower the standard of candidates and efficiency of the services.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not a fact that till now it has been the policy of the Government not to make the Central Secretariat too predominantly representative of any one or two Provinces?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I ask the Honourable the Prime Minister whether there is a proposal to reconsider the allocation according to communities with a view to bring about harmony among the communities and do away with these communal considerations?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** That certainly is a matter for consideration. I informed the House of the practice that has been going on thus far.

#### PRISONERS CONVICTED DURING "QUIT INDIA" STRUGGLE STILL IN SIND JAILS

†1072. **\*Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs 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:** Inquiry is being made by the External Affairs Ministry and the question will be answered on 7th April.

#### COMMISSION FOR INVESTIGATION OF INCOME-TAX EVASIONS

†1073. **\*Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state if any commission was appointed by Government for investigation of Income-Tax evasions?

(b) If so, who were the members thereof?

(c) Has any amount of money been recovered as a result of the labours of the Commission?

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



(d) How many cases are pending for investigation before the Commission and at what stage are they?

(e) Has the Commission sent any reports so far regarding tax evasion cases?

(f) How much money has so far been spent by Government on the Commission?

(g) How many officers were deputed by the Commission to see documents and examine books of account etc., and what were the pay and other emoluments of these officers?

(h) Has the Commission made any reports in respect of improving the law and the methods of detection of evasions of tax; and

(i) If so, do Government propose to lay a copy of the report on the table of the House and state what action has been taken by Government on these reports?

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

(b) Sir S. Varadachariar, Chairman, Mr. Justice G. S. Rajadhayaksha and Rai Bahadur V. D. Mazumdar, members.

(c) No. The labours of the Commission have not yet proceeded far. The Bill more fully to define the powers of the Commission has only been passed recently in the Legislature.

(d) It is not in public interest either to disclose the number of cases or the stages at which they are.

(e) No.

(f) Rs. 53,964.

(g) None.

(h) A preliminary report recommending changes in two or three sections of the Income-tax Act which seemed to the Commission to be urgently called for has been made.

(i) A copy of the report† is placed on the table. The necessary legislation to effect the changes suggested by the commission was introduced in the House on the 29th March 1948.

#### PERSONS CRIMINALLY PROCEEDED AGAINST UNDER INCOME-TAX ACT.

†1074. \***Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons were criminally proceeded against during the last three years under Section 51 of the Income Tax Act and in how many cases conviction took place;

(b) in how many cases assesseees were penalised for infraction of provisions of the Income Tax Act, during the last three years; and

(c) how many of these cases were compounded?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I lay on the table a statement showing the required information.

#### Statement

Part (a)—	1944—45	1945—	
Number of prosecutions instituted Under section 51 of the Income Tax Act.	6	2	7
Number disposed of.	1	—	6
Number in which conviction took place.	1	—	1

†Not printed in the day's Debate. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.—  
Ed. of D.

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

Part (b)—	1944-45	1945-46	1946-47
Number penalised for infraction of Provisions of the Income-tax Act.	6,389	6,751	8,328
Part (c)—			
Number of cases compounded	127	107	78

\*Figures for Assam and Coorg are not available.

**PERSONS BELONGING TO RASHTRIYA SWAYAM SEWAK SANGH AND HINDU MAHASABHA UNDER DETENTION IN DELHI**

†1075. \***Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of persons belonging to Rashtriya Swayan Sewak Sangh and Hindu Mahasabha arrested and detained in Delhi since the Sangh was declared an unlawful association?

(b) How many of them have expressed regret and given an assurance in writing that they will have nothing to do with the Rashtriya Swayan Sewak Sangh or any other similar organisation in future?

(c) How many of these have been released on giving such undertakings?

(d) How many of the remaining ones are given special Class treatment and how many are placed in "C" class?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) 512.

(b) About 200.

(c) 150.

(d) 20 persons have been treated as class I prisoners and the remainder as class II. The previous category of A, B and C does not exist in Delhi—Class II corresponds to C but without labour.

**GROWING PRACTICE BY JOINT STOCK COMPANIES OF ISSUING BONUS SHARES**

1076. \* { **Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable Minister of  
**Shri K. Santhanam:** Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the growing practice of Joint Stock Companies issuing Bonus Shares;

(b) whether Government have examined this new tendency from the point of view of its being a method of overcoming the provisions of the Income Tax Act which tend to limit the rate of dividends paid to shareholders; and

(c) whether Government propose to treat the issue of Bonus Shares as deferred payments of dividends and tax the persons to whom such bonus shares have been issued by including the value of such shares in their total income?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) Government are aware that certain Joint Stock Companies have issued bonus shares.

(b) and (c). When a company issues bonus shares from its undistributed profits such profits continue to remain in the hands of the company, as capital, and what the shareholder gets is only a paper certificate as evidence of his interest in the additional capital of the Company. The transaction takes nothing out of the company's coffers and puts nothing in the pockets of the shareholders. The question of the avoidance of tax on any income does not therefore arise in such a case. It may be added that just as the value of bonus shares is not treated as income for purposes of Super tax it is not treated as income for purposes of refund either. Government do not propose to legislate for the value of bonus shares being treated as income for either purpose.

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

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** In view of the fact that the capital structure gets widened, the rate of dividend will automatically get less. May I know whether this does not defeat the purpose of the provisions of the Income Tax Act which tend to limit the rate of dividends?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** The Honourable Member may remember that we have done away with the provision regarding limitation of dividends. If it is found necessary to reintroduce a provision of that kind in future we will take care to relate the dividend to the capital employed and not merely to the nominal paid up capital.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is the bonus share issued only to a section of the shareholders or to all shareholders?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** It is issued *pro rata* among all the shareholders.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** The Honourable the Finance Minister in his Finance Bill wanted to give a rebate; will he take care to see that the ploughed-back profits, instead of building up reserves, are not given away in the form of bonuses resulting in loss of income to the Government by these people walking away with all the money.

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** It won't in any instance result in loss of income, whether the company treats it as a separate reserve fund or transfers it to the paid up capital. If my Honourable friend would look at the left-hand side of a balance sheet he will find that the amount shown as reserve fund is shifted to the column above shown as paid out of the paid up capital. It does not make any difference so far as our taxation is concerned.

#### ENQUIRIES AGAINST OFFICIALS UNDER ANTI CORRUPTION IN CENTRAL SERVICES.

**1077. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) in how many cases, since the Act against corruption in the central services was passed, were enquiries ordered against officials against whom complaints and reports were received, and

(b) against how many officers were proceedings taken and with what results?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) and (b). Since the passing of the Prevention of Corruption Act on the 11th March 1947 and upto the 10th March 1948, 198 cases involving officials of the Central Services were registered by the Delhi Special Police Establishment. Of these, 13 cases involving 19 Government Servants fell to the jurisdiction of the Pakistan Government and their results are not known. In the remaining cases, 63 officials have been prosecuted in courts and the prosecution of another twenty is under consideration. In the cases so far put in courts, 2 Government Servants have been convicted and two acquitted and the remaining cases are pending trial. Cases of 200 officials are still under investigation.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** This applies to the Central Government servants. What happens to the Provinces? Does not this Act extend its operations to all the government servants all over India?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I suppose so. But presumably the Provincial Governments will take action. So far as the special organisation is concerned, it extends throughout India. It has staff in various Provincial centres also.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Besides prosecuting certain individual officers for corruption wherever facts come to light, have Government taken steps to collect information from these officers regarding the property they had before 1939 and what they have today? Every government servant is bound

to give that information. I want to know whether any attempts have since been made to find out what accumulations have been made by them since 1939 which will give enormous clue in the matter of detection of these things.

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** This seems to be a very relevant course of enquiry, but I cannot say what questions have been put to them.

**Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** Is the fact that there has been comparatively few enquiries concerning senior officials due to their greater immunity because of their seniority?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not think I have mentioned any senior officials. Where did the Honourable Member get hold of senior officials?

**Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** Is there not a general feeling that these senior officials do not enjoy any greater degree of honesty and there are comparatively very few prosecutions against them?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not know how many senior officials are concerned in this matter.

**Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** May I know whether there is any non-official committee appointed to detect cases of corruption?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** Not that I am aware of. Non-officials can always draw the attention of officials to such cases.

**Shri Ramnarayan Singh:** What are the special and active measures that Government are taking to root out corruption from the public services in the country?

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

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** The first measure is to have a vigilant House here which can draw attention to these cases.

**Shri Ramnarayan Singh:** I could not follow the answer.

**Mr. Speaker:** A vigilant House is the first measure.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Have Government, Sir, any Complaints Section either in the Home Department or under the Prime Minister himself, or if they have not got it, will they consider the advisability of establishing a thing like that in order to enable the public to send their complaints with the proper assurance of immunity from all consequences of making such complaints?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not know if there is a regular Complaints Section, but even if there is no such thing, the complaints that come in are in large numbers. No Government, I take it, can give immunity to every person who brings in a complaint. That would simply mean that all manner of irresponsible complaints can be made under the protection of that immunity and that would be very unfair to the people concerned.

**Dr. B. V. Keskar:** Will Government consider the desirability of establishing a tribunal for dealing with cases of corruption which will enable cases to be disposed of expeditiously? Sometimes cases are such that in courts it would be very difficult to get convictions?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I suppose each province would have to consider the matter for its own area; the Central Government for its own particular areas as well as Central Government employees. It is a matter which can be considered, but I am not quite sure whether that would make it more feasible or more easy to get things done than the present course.

**Shri Ramnarayan Singh:** Is the Honourable the Prime Minister aware that corruptions have increased in the public services after the Britishers have left the land since the 15th of August last?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I am not aware of the fact that it has increased, but there is no doubt about it that during the last war more especially, corruption increased at a tremendous pace and we are suffering from the effects of that even now.

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** Have Government any proposal under consideration for the appointment of an administrative tribunal as has been done in the United Provinces?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** You mean to say a tribunal for the administrative services?

**Shri Khurshed Lal:** For enquiry into the cases of officials. The United Provinces Government have appointed one.

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** That is exactly the question that Dr. Keskar put to me and I have just answered it.

#### PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE OF CAPITAL OF INDIA FROM DELHI TO BETUL OR AMLA

1078. \***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any consideration to the suggestion made by Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar in his speeches in the last and present sessions of the Assembly that the capital of India should be changed from Delhi to a more central place like Betul or Amla; and

(b) whether Government propose to stop creating any more central institutes, research stations, museums or laboratories in Delhi?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) The position still is as stated in Sardar Patel's reply to Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar's question on the 2nd February 1948.

(b) Each proposal to locate a new office in Delhi or to transfer an existing office from any outlying place to Delhi is carefully considered by the Accommodation Advisory Committee and ultimately by Government, bearing in mind the paucity of accommodation in Delhi and other relevant considerations.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it not a fact that Government is deciding to locate more and more offices in Delhi even now more and more scientific institutes, even educational institutions and various mushrooms—in spite of the obvious housing shortage in Delhi?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** Personally I entirely agree with the Honourable Member that we should avoid locating any more institutes in Delhi. In fact I have been trying my best, not with too great a success, to prevent this. Of course this is done by each individual department. It is not a matter for Government as a whole to consider. Till the scheme is finalized. I think it is very undesirable to locate these in Delhi. There is obvious advantage of course in having these Central institutions in places where there are other Central institutions. You get certain co-operation with other institutions, delay is avoided, and a certain scientific or research atmosphere is created. Nevertheless I do agree that this tendency to bring these institutes here should be resisted in future.

**Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya:** I did not hear the earlier portion of the answer, nor have several members around me.

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** About the change of capital? The answer simply was that I referred to Sardar Patel's reply previously. If the House wants me to add to it, Government is not paying the slightest attention to this matter.

**Mr. Tajamul Hosain:** In view of the fact that many empires have had their downfall in Delhi and in view of the fact that Delhi is very near another foreign country and there is the danger of invasion at any time, and in view also of the fact that the climate of this place is very extreme both in the summer and in the winter, do Government propose to change the Capital of Delhi to a central place such as in Bihar or U. P.? I am talking of a central place without suggesting any particular place.

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** That was, Sir, the main question which I have answered, that is at the present moment Government do not think it necessary or desirable to devote any time or energy to thinking over this question.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Apart from the question of shortage of accommodation which may necessitate certain of these Central institutions being shifted to another place, may I know whether, in view of Delhi being so near the border, Government has considered the possibility of establishing a central place so that in case of emergency these central institutions can be shifted?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** If the Honourable Member is referring to scientific and technical institutes, as I have said we should like them spread out all over the country and not to be located in one place at all, or if you like, to have numerous central places.

#### PRODUCTION OF EDUCATION FILMS IN INDIA.

1079. \***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

- (a) how many education films were produced during the last year;
- (b) how many are proposed to be produced during this year;
- (c) whether these are produced in consultation with the Ministry of Education;
- (d) whether any efforts will be made to present some of the historical events in contemporary and ancient Indian history; and
- (e) whether the lives of our great religious, social, and political leaders are proposed to be presented in a dramatised manner?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) to (e). So far no educational film in the strict sense of the term has been produced and the existing units of production are not adequate for the purpose but the subject is deserving of further investigation which will be made.

The object of the revived Film organisation of the Government of India, which will begin to function within the next 2-3 months, is to produce films of general and cultural interest.

The activities of the new organisation will be two-fold, viz., the production of News reels of topical events of general and national interest and the production of documentary films. The purpose of the documentaries will be to film the various cultural activities of the country including great historical events in contemporary as well as ancient History.

Purely biographical films fall generally within the purview of commercial organisations.

**Seth Govinddas:** Have the Government received any applications from private parties who are willing to produce these educational films with the help of the Government?

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

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Have the Government considered the desirability of asking film producers who get licences from the Central Government for the production of three or four films that every one of the three or four films must be an educational film?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** That might be done, but the type of educational film that these film producers might produce may give a wrong type of education.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** But could not the theme or the thesis be set by the Central Government and the manufacturers asked to produce the films in accordance with that?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** It is not a question of setting out a particular theme or thesis; a great deal in this matter depends on the mentality of the producers. Of course, what the Honourable Member suggests may be done. The producers may be asked to make films in accordance with a particular theme, but it is just possible that these films may or may not be of the kind we require.

**Begum Aizaz Rasul:** Have Government considered the desirability of making arrangements for more educational films to be shown in rural areas?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** For the moment we are considering the feasibility of producing films; once they are produced we will send them out to rural areas.

**Begum Aizaz Rasul:** But there are quite a number of existing educational films which would serve a useful purpose if they are shown in rural areas.

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I have no doubt that it is a very good policy to adopt.

**Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao:** Will arrangements be made to make sufficient number of copies and distribute them in different linguistic areas?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not know how many copies are at present made, but an endeavour will be made to have enough copies for distribution.

**Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao:** My question is are sufficient number of copies made to cover all the principal linguistic areas so that they may reach every nook and corner of the country?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** As I said an attempt is being made to cover the principal linguistic areas. It is always a question of balancing—whether it is worthwhile spending a lot of money over a particular area at a particular time.

**Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao:** What I mean to say is, Sir, that even copies in Hindi and English can be distributed to different linguistic areas and they may be exhibited in those areas.

#### DECISION re TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF EXTERNAL PUBLICITY TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY.

1080. \***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been reached upon the recent discussions between his Ministry and the Ministry of External Affairs, regarding the question of placing external publicity under the latter's control and direction; and

(b) how many of their officers of this section are Indians and how many are non-Indians?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) No; not yet.

(b) Non-Indians, Nil, Indians, sixteen.

**MILITARY TRAINING FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND UNIVERSITY CORPS.**

**1081. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to provide military training for University students and in how many Universities such steps are being taken.

(b) whether any new University Corps has been opened since the advent of National Government; and

(c) what are the Universities in which such Corps are not yet organised?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** (a) and (c). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Report of the National Cadet Corps Committee and to my statement on this subject made in this House on the 13th March 1948. The senior division of the National Cadet Corps which it is proposed to form will cater for all universities and colleges, including Intermediate colleges and Technical Institutions of collegiate status.

(b) No.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the colleges be free to organise or not to organise the Cadet Corps?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** All the Colleges will be expected to organise Corps.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will any financial grants be made to them, Sir?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** That is clear from the statement I made on the 13th—everything is contained in that statement.

**Seth Govinddas:** Are Government aware of the fact that there are many universities which want a greater number than has been provided for those universities by the Honourable Minister?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** As I pointed out in my statement, this is only a beginning. As soon as this quota is completed by the universities this matter will be given further consideration.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Is the Honourable Minister aware that in most of the university training corps there is a shortage of armaments and the armaments that are available are outmoded and out of date?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** It will be the duty of the Government of India to provide armaments and we have taken the responsibility. If the Honourable Member will refer to my statement, he will see that I have made the position clear there.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** I have, of course, read his statement. What I want to know is whether the Honourable the Defence Minister, is aware of the fact that the armaments at present in the possession of U. T. C.'s are entirely out of date and outmoded?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** The only equipment of the U.T.C.'s is the rifle.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** But they are mostly broken.

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** The broken ones are replaced periodically.



**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I ask the Honourable Minister whether with a view to increase the number of trained men, he will introduce an element of compulsion among the college students to undergo military training?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** It is not the intention of Government to introduce compulsion at this stage, but if the response is not satisfactory, this matter will be reconsidered later.

**Begum Aizaz Rasul:** May I know what will happen to the women students of the universities?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** They are also provided for.

**ABOLITION OF CAMBRIDGE CERTIFICATE OF EXAMINATION FOR STUDENTS IN INDIAN SCHOOLS**

**1982. \*Seth Govinddas:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the examination of certain schools in this country is held under foreign Universities, such as Cambridge University?

(b) If so, do Government propose to abolish such examinations and how much time will it take to do so?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : (a) ہاں -

(b) آنریبل ممبر نے کہہ کر سارٹیفکیٹ اگزامینیشن کا جو حوالہ دیا ہے - اس

سے زیادہ تر ایسکولوں میں اسکو فائدہ اٹھاتے تھے - اب اٹلڈہ کیا ہونا چاہئے اس پر گورنمنٹ فور کو می ہے -

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** (a) Yes.

(b) The Cambridge Certificate Examinations referred to by the Honourable Member are mostly taken advantage of by Anglo-Indian Schools. Their future is at present under consideration.

**سٹھ گووینڈ داس :** کیا گورنمنٹ اس بات کو جانتی ہے کہ ان سکولوں میں جو تالیف دی جاتی ہے وہ تالیف ویدیشی भाषा में दी जाती है और हम एंग्लो इन्डियन विद्यार्थी जो यहां की भाषा है उसे नहीं जानते । ऐसी हालत में गवर्नमेंट इस मामले में क्या कर रही है कि यहाँ कि भाषा सिखाई जाए ?

**Seth Govinddas:** Are the Government aware that the medium of instruction in our schools is English in these days, and that the Anglo-Indian students do not know Indian languages. What are the steps the Government propose to take to impart education to the Anglo-Indians in the Indian languages?

آنریبل مولانا ابولکلام آزاد : گورنمنٹ اس بارے میں فہلہ کر چکی ہے - اٹلڈہ

ایمان کے بارے میں جو قسٹک اختیار کیا جائیگا - فروری ہوگا کہ تمام سکولوں کے اسکول اس پر عمل کریں -

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** In this connection, Government have decided that the line of policy to be adopted in future will have to be followed by the schools of all communities.

## GLIDING CLUBS FOR PREMIER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN INDIA

1083. \*Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state what steps are being taken to make the younger generation of students Air-minded?

(b) Have Government considered the possibilities of instituting Gliding Clubs in the premier educational institutions of the country?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Communications. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for 6th April, 1948, when the Honourable Minister of Communications will answer it.

## PERSONS NOMINATED TO I. C. S. OR INDIAN ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE FROM CERTAIN SERVICES AND PROFESSIONS

1084. \*Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of persons who have been nominated to the Indian Civil Service or to the Indian Administrative Service after the war from the following categories: (i) War service, (ii) Provincial service, (iii) Merchantile community, and (iv) Bar?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (i) 60.

(ii) Information has been called for from the Provincial Governments and will be placed on the table when available.

(iii) and (iv). Nil.

## ELIGIBILITY OF TEMPORARY GOVERNMENT SERVANTS FOR PROVIDENT FUND, POSTAL INSURANCE ETC.

1085. \*Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether temporary Government servants are eligible for leave under the rules which are applicable to permanent Government servants?

(b) Is it a fact that the Central Pay Commission had recommended the same privileges that are given to permanent servants to temporary servants also?

(c) Are the temporary Government servants eligible to contribute to General Provident Fund and Postal Insurance?

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) The leave rules applicable to temporary Government servants are not identical with those applicable to permanent employees under the Government.

(b) The Commission have recommended that temporary Government servants employed for indefinite periods should be allowed after one year's service earned leave as admissible to permanent Government servants.

(c) Temporary Government servants are eligible to join the General Provident Fund if the Head of the Office concerned can certify that they are likely to be made permanent. They can also cover their lives by Postal Insurance if they have been entertained to supplement regular establishments and the duration of their appointment is likely to be continuous.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know, Sir, if Government has accepted the recommendation of the Central Pay Commission that after one year's service earned leave as admissible to permanent Government servants should be allowed to temporary servants?

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** That is what I have stated—that the Commission have recommended it.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** The Honourable Minister, I understood, said that the Pay Commission has recommended that. What is the attitude of Government and what is their decision? Has the Government accepted the recommendation that temporary servants after a period of one year should also be entitled to the same privileges as are given to permanent servants?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** No decision has yet been taken by Government. The matter is under examination and I am not in a position to say exactly what will be the ultimate decision of Government.

TAKE-OVER OF ADMINISTRATION OF LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE BY GOVERNMENT

†1086. \***Shri B. N. Munavalli:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government propose to take over the administration of the Lady Hardinge Medical College? If so, when?

(b) Among the staff of the Lady Hardinge College, how many are British?

(c) Do Government propose to Indianise the whole staff and if so, when?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** (a) The question is under consideration.

(b) and (c). There are two British officers, on the staff of the College, both of whom have tendered their resignation which will take effect from the 14th April, 1948.

INDIAN ARMY LABORATORY UNDER DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

1087. \***Shri Biswanath Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Army has its own laboratory with its necessary scientific personnel under the Director of Technical Developments;

(b) the number of scientists employed under him;

(c) the sort of co-ordination that is being maintained between these scientists and those working under scientific, technical or technological institutions under the various universities and institutions in India;

(d) whether Government have considered the question of seeking the advice and co-operation of eminent Indian Scientists in the field of Research of Scientific and Chemical Warfare and co-ordinating their activities with those of the Scientists attached to the Defence departments;

(e) whether it is a fact that a few Scientists were recruited between now and August 1947; and

(f) the number and academic qualifications of each of these gentlemen referred to in part (e) above without giving names?

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

(b) 29 (Gazetted rank).

(c) and (d). Close contact is maintained with outside institutions engaged on similar work by means of liaison visits by senior officers of the Establishment, in addition to direct correspondence on various scientific, technical and technological problems. To secure more effective and efficient co-ordination, it is proposed to appoint a distinguished Indian Scientist as Scientific Adviser to the Ministry of Defence and to associate with him a body of Advisers composed of eminent scientists.

(e) No person was recruited to any gazetted scientist's post after August 1947.

(f) Does not arise in view of the answer to (e) above.

**Shri Biswanath Das:** May I know, Sir, whether any research work is undertaken in these laboratories, and if so with what result?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I could not say off-hand, but if the Honourable Member is interested to know the details, I will be able to get them for him.

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

**Shri Biswanath Das:** Sir, I am exceedingly interested; not only I but the whole House will be anxious to know whether it is a fact that these Laboratories and the Scientists there were only carrying out the directions and instructions that emanated from England and from the British War Office or doing research work themselves?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** Obviously, Sir, researches are carried on in the Laboratories but I could not give the details; and it is not possible for me to give also details as to the results of the different researches that have been carried on in these Laboratories.

**Shri Biswanath Das:** May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Mission that had been to England has studied the research organisations in England and whether they propose to follow anything in that direction in reforming our organisation?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** Which Mission is the Honourable Member referring to? The recent one?

**Shri Biswanath Das:** Repeat, Sir.

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** The recent one had nothing to do with these Research Laboratories.

**Shri Biswanath Das:** May I know whether they have studied the organisation of such institutions in different States like England, America and France?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** Not the Mission which recently visited the U. K.

**Shri Biswanath Das:** May I know whether Government have taken any steps to ascertain from such Foreign State organisations that are in existence the work that is being carried on in such organisations in those States to have our Laboratories of the Defence Department modernized and re-shaped in the said same manner?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** Yes, Sir. As far as our Mission was concerned it was not entrusted with this job, but we have taken advantage of the visit of a prominent Scientist to this country and he has suggested methods of improvement.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I ask the Honourable Minister if it is a fact that in some of the Laboratories and research institutions, Indians who are M.Sc.'s and D.Sc.'s are placed under European non-matriculates merely because they are Captains and Majors?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** As I have stated, we have decided to appoint eminent Scientists to be in charge of this scientific organisation.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Minister consider the desirability of removing these superimposed Army personnel who are not scientific men, who are now in charge of administration?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** Our intention is to employ the best possible men.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** What about the existing men?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** That is what I have stated; we do not desire to keep any useless persons in these Laboratories.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I know, Sir, whether the Honourable Minister has considered the desirability of shifting the Laboratories like the Optical Research Laboratory at Dehra Dun, to so locate them that there may be collaboration between scientific research on one side and research carried on for war?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I could not say, but that will depend on the Scientist who is going to be appointed shortly.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** May I know, Sir, if he is aware that towards the close of the War, a very vast body of up-to-date scientific machinery was imported into the Ordnance Factories and that they have not yet been unpacked and for want of technical personnel they have not been handled and opened?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** It is not possible for me to say what happened with those unpacked boxes.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Is the Honourable Minister aware that even now in Calcutta—in Cossipore and Ishapore—huge boxes full of up-to-date machinery are lying idle and nobody knows how to use them or open them?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I will take advantage of the information supplied by the Honourable Member and pass it on to the Scientific Adviser.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** I am prepared to give him full information.

**Mr. Speaker:** Let him give the information.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** I am not talking in a lighter vein; it is an important matter and I am prepared to furnish him with full information.

**Mr. Speaker:** He may do so, but it is not permissible in Question Hour.

**Shri Biswanath Das:** In view of the facts revealed in the course of this interpellation, will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state whether he would think of re-organising and re-modelling the Defence Department Laboratory and its work and the Research Section?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** That is the intention; I have already stated so.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the fact that in England as well as in Canada, Scientists have begun to take sides because of their political ideologies, will Government take care to see that those Scientists who will be put on this Advisory Committee and also who will be placed in charge of this very important and strategic work, will be completely loyal to the national and democratic and secular ideals of the State?

**Mr. Speaker:** I think this is a suggestion for consideration.

**Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao:** May I ask, Sir, if any research is being carried on to utilise atomic energy for military or industrial purposes?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** The Honourable Member knows that it is quite a separate subject.

#### UTILISATION OF INDIA MY DURING PEACE TIMES

**1088. \*Shri Biswanath Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the programme of utilising the Army during peace times; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the need of training them as skilled technicians, agriculturists or horticulturists or in dairy work and also in laying down roads and similar other village reconstruction work?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** (a) The role of the Army during peace-time is, firstly to train for war and, secondly, to render such aid as may be necessary to the civil power in maintaining law and order.

(b) No, Sir. If the Army were to be trained *mostly* in the vocations suggested by the Honourable Member, then it will not be in a position to fulfil its primary role which is to be ready at all times to defend the country against any possible foreign aggression.

**Shri Biswanath Das:** May I know, Sir, whether the Honourable Minister is aware of the fact that during the war in Germany the Army personnel were also attending to repairs of vehicles and other necessities and armaments of a lighter type, in the field, because they were given technical training before as soldiers?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** That technical training is a part of this Army's training, but what the Honourable Member refers to is training in agriculture and horticulture.

**Shri Biswanath Das:** Does the Honourable Minister know also that armies in other countries produce their own foodstuffs, say vegetables? So, could he take a lesson from such a course of action and think of utilising the Army for producing vegetables and the like?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid this cannot be allowed.

**PHYSICAL TRAINING FOR OFFICERS OF INDIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS OR ROYAL INDIAN ARMY SERVICE CORPS**

**1089. \*Shri Biswanath Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers employed in staff service, administration work and in such services as the Indian Army Ordnance Corps, or the Royal Indian Army Service Corps;

(b) whether compulsory physical training for all such officers is being insisted upon;

(c) whether there is any rule regarding such insistence and to what extent it is enforced; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of giving a month's refresher course each year to all officers referred to in part (a) above in the interest of an efficient army?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** (a) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(b), (c) and (d). It is not considered necessary to insist on compulsory physical training for all officers employed on the staff or in administrative appointments. Officers are responsible for keeping themselves physically fit but, where there is any doubt regarding officers doing so, it is within the powers of Commanders at all levels to order the officers under their command to attend and take part in physical training parades. Such action is, in fact, taken from time to time. Officers are medically examined each year and, in some cases, more often. The general standard of health is high and Government do not consider it necessary to institute yearly refresher courses in physical training for them.

*Statement*

The authorised numbers for the services in question, as on the 1st January, 1948 are as follows:

(i) Staffs at Army Headquarters	Command, Division, Brigade, Area and Sub-Area, etc., Headquarters	...	...	...	1,504
(ii) Indian Army Ordnance Corps	...	...	...	...	865
(iii) Royal Indian Army Service Corps—					
Supply Branch	...	314			
A.T. Branch	...	61			
M.T. Branch	...	323			698
(iv) I.E.M.E.	...	...			497
(v) I.A.M.C.	...	...			659
(vi) I.R.V. & F.	...	...			46

**Shri Biswanath Das:** May I know, Sir, how long officers are kept in Ordnance work or how long in administrative work? Are they kept for short terms or for long terms like two years, three years, five years and the like?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I am afraid, Sir, I have not got this information; but the officers work according to the duties assigned to them and the number of hours they have to work every day.

**Mr. Speaker:** The point is whether work is allotted to them by rotation.

**Shri Biswanath Das:** Rotation in the sense of a period of time—say, one or two years.

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** I have not got that information.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** May I enquire of the Honourable Minister what has happened to the Committee which he proposed to appoint to go into the whole question of the working of the Ordnance Factories?

**Mr. Speaker:** This question does not refer to Ordnance Factories.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** It refers to Ordnance Corps. But I think it includes both.

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** Which Committee is the Honourable Member referring to?

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** The Honourable Minister in a previous speech of his said that he had already appointed a Committee to go into the question of Ordnance Factories and that that Committee was examining the question of these personnel.

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** As far as I remember, I referred to the Committee which was appointed to go into the working of these Ordnance Factories.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** And also dealing with the technical personnel.

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** No. Not dealing with this particular question.

#### HYDERABAD GOVERNMENT'S PROTEST TO INDIA AGAINST NEW MADRAS-NAGPUR AIR SERVICE.

1090. \***Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** Will the Honourable the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nizam's Government has protested to the Indian Union authorities against the operation of a new air service from Madras to Nagpur via Bangalore and Hyderabad without previous consultation with and the consent of the Hyderabad Government; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government of India propose to take in this matter?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) and (b). A communication on this matter has been received from His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government and is now under examination.

#### OLD GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICIALS' ANXIETY TO RETURN TO INDIA FROM PAKISTAN.

1091. \***Shri Biswanath Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eight thousand officials of different Ministries of the Government of India have expressed their anxiety to return to India from Pakistan;

(b) if so, which are the different Ministries to which such officials belong and what is the status of such officials;

(c) the reasons for their leaving Pakistan service, for which they had originally opted:

(d) the manner in which this anxiety to return to India was conveyed to Government as also the procedure followed; and

(e) what is the decision of the Government of India on this issue?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) to (d). Information regarding the exact numbers and other particulars required have been called for from the Ministries concerned and will be placed on the table of the House when complete.

(e) Government will consider the matter after the necessary information has been collected. Honourable Members will doubtless appreciate that it would be unfair to decide this issue without full knowledge of the nature and dimensions of the problem.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I ask the Honourable Minister if he would associate a Committee of this House to consider the desirability of taking back such of those persons who are anxious to return, to enquire into the grounds for their coming back here; whether they are really *bona-fide* people and whether they are not likely to commit sabotage in the safety of India?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** Government is always glad to have the co-operation of members and Committees of the House. But it is not quite clear to me how a Committee of the House will go into this question. The present position, so far as the Government is concerned, is this, that all Central Government employees who opted for service in India finally in the first instance are given preference over other employees who opted for India later. Employees of the Central Government nominated by the Transfer Bureau of the Ministry of Home Affairs will have to be absorbed before any employee who first provisionally opted for Pakistan and later changed his option is taken in service. The employee's character and antecedents have to be verified before re-employment so that we may ensure that he is a safe person from the security point of view. Thus far, as a matter of fact, most of the cases dealt with have been cases of non-Muslim employees who had provisionally opted for Pakistan and subsequently changed their option.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I ask the Honourable Minister if, for the elucidation of the House, he would place one or two of the standard Agreements on the table to enable the House to find out if these people who are trying to come back, if they are suitable to come back under all conditions or only under particular conditions?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not know whether there is any "Standard Agreement". As the Honourable Member must be aware, the Partition Committee and Council used to meet and pass numerous Resolutions. One of the Resolutions was to the effect that Government employees could provisionally opt for six months and then change their option. There is nothing much more to be said about it.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Is there any machinery established by this Government which scrutinises every single case of the optees to the Indian Union or are the Government taking them *en mass* simply because they have opted to the Indian Union?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** No, Sir. Each case is judged on the merits, normally by the respective Department, after various enquiries have been made. Thus far, the cases that have come up mostly are the cases of non-Muslims who opted provisionally to Pakistan and owing to various developments could not continue to remain or did not like to remain there. In fact, cases have also occurred where some non-Muslims had finally opted for Pakistan



who left Pakistan and came here. They do not, of course, come under any Agreement at all. But in view of the fact that conditions arose in Pakistan which they found difficult for them, they came here and we do not rule them out entirely, although, naturally, they have to take their turn at the bottom of the list, subject to security measures and enquiry.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** But do Government propose to establish an *ad hoc* machinery to go into all these questions?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** In respect of which questions?

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** I want to know from the Government whether they have got a settled policy in this respect; whether they are going to establish an *ad hoc* Committee or machinery which will go into all these cases, instead of their being left to the individual caprices of a particular heads of Departments in the different Ministries?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I have just read out to the House the settled policy of Government in regard to this matter. The question has not arisen in the way, possibly, Honourable Members seem to imagine by reading newspaper reports. Newspaper reports, may I add, are useful in their own way, but sometimes extraordinarily misinformed and they lead one to all manner of conclusions. The question has not arisen in this way. The cases that have arisen are yet largely of non-Muslims who have come here and also of a few individual Muslims, whom we have enquired into. I do not know how many have been taken back. The most that happens is that after enquiry the names are put at the tag end of a long list and nobody knows when that tag end will be reached in the list. But in view of the great interest that the House has taken in the matter, special care will be taken. As far as I know, it is not merely a question of each Department dealing with it; to some extent it is so; but the Home Ministry exercises a general supervision.

**Shri Biswanath Das:** May I know whether in coming to a decision on this question the Government have considered the question of promotions of the incumbents who are working in the places vacated by the people who opted for Pakistan in those difficult times, either Hindus, Muslims, Christians, or whoever they may be. That is number one. Secondly, this House has appointed a Retrenchment Committee. Whether the officers and the subordinates who will be retrenched, whether these people would have prior claims or those who opted from Pakistan to India. These are two questions which I want to know whether the Government have considered.

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I do not quite follow the Honourable Member when he refers to "promotion". I do not quite see where promotion comes in.

**Shri Biswanath Das:** It does.

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** The whole point is that if a person opts for India, it does not necessarily follow that he must inevitably get some kind of employment here. If found suitable, he is put on the list from which employment will be given and if retrenchment takes place, naturally, if there is no room, the question of giving him employment does not arise.

**Shri Biswanath Das:** Sir, the question of promotion comes in in this way, namely, . . . . .

**Mr. Speaker:** That will be going into an argument, and explanation.

**Shri Biswanath Das:** I have to explain my question, so that I will be able to obtain a satisfactory answer.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is hardly any time.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** May I ask the Honourable Minister if it is not a rule that within six months people who want to come back should exercise their option and if so, is the Honourable Minister not in a position to

say how many of them are Muslims and how many are non-Muslims and whether they come for Transport service or any other key Service?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I cannot give that exact information now, because the option may have been exercised within that period and the information would have been with our High Commissioners and the figures might not have been collected.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Do Government propose to take a decision at the Cabinet level in regard to this problem?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** We have taken a decision. That I have already read out.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** I am asking the Honourable Minister for a different thing. We have been hearing from the Honourable Minister for Railways with respect to employees returning back to India that some decision has been taken by the Home Ministry. I want to know whether the Government would take up this matter at the Cabinet level and come to a decision on it one way or the other.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Decision as to whether they may be allowed to come here or not.

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** When the Cabinet is in agreement with the Home Ministry's circular, that question does not arise.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Not tacit agreement. I want to know whether Government is going to discuss this matter at the Cabinet level and come to a decision.

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** Government have no intention at present of doing so: when occasion arises, they will do it.

#### (b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

##### COMPLAINTS AGAINST BOARD OF FILM CENSORS.

**1092. \*Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether there are any complaints against the present Film Censorship?

(b) Are Government aware that there is a demand for change in the personnel of the Board of Film Censors?

(c) Is so, have Government considered the question? If so, what is the result?

(d) Do Government propose to appoint a non-official as President of the Board of Film Censors?

(e) If so, when is the decision likely to be taken?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) to (e). The Honourable Member is probably aware that there is no Central Censorship of films and that under Section 7 of the Cinematograph Act, 1918, the authority for certification of films rests with the Boards of Censors constituted by the Provincial Governments. There are at present three such Boards, one each at Bombay, Madras and Calcutta, with an official Chairman. A certificate given by a Board of Film Censors in any of the Provinces is valid throughout India.

There have been several representations about the need for uniformity and improved standard of censorship and the Government of India have now under consideration a proposal for Central Censorship of films, imported or indigenous, through a Central Board of Censors, which has been approved by the Standing Advisory Committee.

## SCHOOL OF MILITARY ENGINEERING AT ROORKEE.

**1093. \*Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government started a school of Military Engineering at Roorkee in the year 1943 to train Overseers etc?

(b) If so, what was the expenditure incurred to train the first batch in the said institution?

(c) How many students were admitted in that batch?

(d) How many students of that batch completed their course successfully?

(e) Have Government recognised or do they propose to recognise the diploma of this institution as equivalent to the Diploma in Civil Engineering?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** (a) Yes, Sir. The School was started for training Engineer Officers and other ranks of the Army, and personnel of the Military Engineering Services, including overseers, in military methods and procedure.

(b) It is difficult to separate the expenditure incurred on any particular batch from the total cost of running the school. On a rough estimate, however, the expenditure on the first batch was approximately Rs. 10,000.

(c) 25.

(d) Students were at the end of the course graded into different categories; 19 secured grade fair and above, while 6 were graded poor.

(e) No, Sir, for the reason that the course at the school is not considered equivalent to a Diploma course in Civil Engineering.

## ACCOMMODATION FOR LABORATORIES AND STAFF OF INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FRUIT TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERRED FROM LYALLPUR.

**1094. \*Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be please to state whether the Indian Institute of Fruit Technology was shifted from Lyallpur (West Punjab) during August, 1947?

(b) Have any arrangements for accommodating the laboratories and the staff of the institute been made so far? If not why not?

(c) Do Government propose to close down the institute now?

(d) If the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, how do Government intend to make good this deficiency to the fruit growing and preservation industry?

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** (a) to (d). The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for 6th April 1948, when the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture will answer it.

## SALE OF ADULTERATED GHEE AS PURE GHEE IN DELHI MARKETS.

**1095. \*Dr. V. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the fact that ghee in Delhi markets is adulterated and sold as pure ghee?

(b) Are the health authorities taking note of this fact?

(c) Will any restrictions be made that no commodity other than pure ghee must be called by the producers and merchants as ghee so that vegetable products will not be called as vegetable ghee?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** (a) Yes. A proportion of samples of ghee has been found to be adulterated on examination.

(b) Yes.

(c) Presumably what the Honourable Member has in mind is the question of preventing Vanaspati being sold as ghee. The Government of India have already brought it to the notice of Provincial Governments and Local Administrations that the use of word 'Vegetable Ghee' should be discouraged and the article should be called 'Vegetable Product' or 'Vegetable Oil Product' or simply, 'Vanaspati'. In order to minimise adulteration and to make Vanaspati clearly distinguishable from ghee the Government of India have for the last three years taken wide powers to control Vanaspati. It is necessary, under the Vegetable Oil Products Control Order, 1947, to manufacture Vanaspati only to certain approved specifications. It is also incumbent on the producer to mark Vanaspati containers clearly to indicate the nature of the contents. It is an offence for the stockists of Vanaspati to stock or sell pure ghee on the same premises. It has been made obligatory on all Vanaspati manufacturers to incorporate a prescribed percentage of Sesame Oil in Vanaspati to render practicable the detection of ghee adulterated with Vanaspati by a simple chemical test.

STATISTICAL ORGANISATION OR BRANCH ATTACHED TO MINISTRY OF DEFENCE.

1096. \*Dr. V. Subramaniam: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether there is any statistical organisation or branch attached to the Ministry of Defence?

(b) If so, when was this constituted and what are its functions?

(c) What is the strength of the officers of the organisation?

(d) Are all officers specially qualified in statistics?

(e) If not, what is the number of officers so qualified and what is the number of Ministerial personnel who hold posts in the branch requiring knowledge of statistics, but not possessing such knowledge?

(f) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of manning the branch wholly by persons who have acquired statistical qualifications?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** (a) There is a Statistical Section in each of the three Service Headquarters.

(b) and (c). I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(d) No, not all.

(e) Six officers are specially qualified in statistics. It is not normally necessary for the Ministerial staff employed in these Sections to be so qualified.

(f) No, Sir. Both professional statisticians and military officers are employed on these duties in order to provide a combination of statistical and military knowledge. These statistics have to be studied and considered against the particular background applicable to the Service concerned and it is necessary therefore that in addition to officers with purely statistical qualifications there should be others with military experience.

Statement

Section	When Constituted	Officer Strength
NAVAL Statistical Section	1942	2
INDIAN ARMY Statistical Section	1944	11
ROYAL INDIAN AIR FORCE Statistical Section	1946	2

Functions—

The functions of these Sections are similar. Broadly speaking they are:

(a) Collection, co-ordination, compilation and presentation of Statistical information of interest to the Service concerned.

- (b) Analyse, deduce and interpret statistical data in order to work out rates and trends for future guidance.
- (c) Supervise all statistical returns received by various Sections of the Service Headquarters to ensure that they contain no duplication and that they are mutually consistent and interlocking.
- (d) Authorise the introduction, cancellation or modification of the returns.
- (e) Provide guidance and advice to all Sections of the Service H.Q. on statistical technique and methods.
- (f) Supply of such information in response to special enquiries as is readily available, or can reasonably be abstracted from the records kept.
- (g) Act as a channel to the issue of statistical information to Government Departments.
- (h) Maintain a library of statistical information.

#### DISCONTINUATION OF BROADCASTING OF CERTAIN RUSTIC SONGS FROM A. I. R., DELHI

1097. \*Ch. Ranbir Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether Government are aware that the Dehati Political Conference was held on the 14th March, 1948 in Liva Garhi village of Delhi Province?

(b) Are Government aware that the Conference passed a resolution, requesting the Honourable Minister to issue an order to discontinue the broadcasting of certain rustic songs, from Delhi Radio Station during Dehati programme?

(c) If so, do Government propose to consider the matter?

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

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

#### INCLUSION OF BHOPAL BANK AS SCHEDULED BANK BY PAKISTAN RESERVE BANK

1098. \*Shri S. V. Krishnamurthy Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to news appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 14th March, 1948, that the Pakistan Reserve Bank has included the Bhopal Bank as one of its Scheduled Banks?

(b) Have the Bhopal Government joined the Pakistan Reserve Bank with the consent of the Government of India?

(c) If not, is it not a breach of the terms of the Instrument of Accession?

(d) If so, what action do Government propose to take in this connection?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) The Bhopal Bank has been declared a Pakistan Scheduled Bank by the Pakistan Government (not by the Reserve Bank of India) under Section 12(7) of the Pakistan (Monetary System and Reserve Bank) Order, 1947. There is no such institution as the Pakistan Reserve Bank; the Reserve Bank of India functions as Banker for the Pakistan Government.

(b) The Bank of Bhopal is not a State Bank but a shareholders' Bank.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### PAKISTAN SOCIALIST PARTY SUPPORTING SO-CALLED AZAD KASHMIR GOVERNMENT AGAINST INDIA

1099. \*Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafar: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an editorial note in the *Daily Hindī Milap*, New Delhi, dated the 5th March, 1948, inviting the attention of Government to a resolution recently passed by the Pakistan Socialist Party supporting the so-called Azad Kashmir

Government and opposing the Government of India's action in sending troops to Kashmir calling it an act of aggression, with a view to suppress the liberation movement of Kashmir?

(b) If so, what action did Government take, or propose to take now, against the persons in India supporting the so-called Azad Kashmir Government?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) and (b). Government have seen the editorial comment in the *Hindi Milap* of the 5th March and also a summary of the resolution which is said to have been passed by the Pakistan Socialist Party at Karachi.

If any person indulges in activities which are illegal in India he will be dealt with according to the law.

#### ATTACK ON WAZIR-I-WAZARAT AND OTHER STATE OFFICIALS OF LADAKH AT SKARDU

1100. **\*Dr. Bakshi Tek Chand:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in February, 1948 the Wazir-i-Wazarat (District Magistrate) of Ladakh (in Kashmir State) and a number of other high State officials were attacked at Skardu, the headquarters of the Wazarat, and were killed;

(b) if so, what were the circumstances under which the attack was made and by whom;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Treasury was also attacked and looted; and

(d) whether the culprits have been traced and arrested?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) to (d). An enquiry has been made and the information obtained will be laid on the table of the House when received.

#### LATEST POSITION IN HYDERABAD NEGOTIATIONS

1101. **\*Seth Govinddas:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to make a statement with respect to the latest position in the Hyderabad negotiations?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** For the present I have nothing to add to the statement made in the House by the Honourable Mr. Gadgil on the 15th March 1948 in reply to a cut motion to discuss the relationship with Hyderabad. Discussions between the Hyderabad Government and ourselves are still proceeding.

#### LOSS OF PAY TO THE 1931 ENTRANTS IN FINANCE MINISTRY UNDER 1947 PAY SCALE

1102. **\*Shri Damodar Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is proposed to issue orders to save the pre-1931 entrants to Government service of the departments under his Ministry from loss of pay under the 1947 scales of pay, as has been done by the Ministries of Railways and Communications?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the Ministry of Finance Press Communique dated the 4th February, 1948. Formal orders on the subject have issued.

#### GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AND COMMUNAL ORGANISATIONS AND USE OF 'SHRI' BEFORE NAMES IN GOVERNMENT RECORDS

1103. **\*Shri Damodar Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, under the orders now in force, Government servants are permitted to join communal organisations?

(b) if so, whether Government propose to amend these orders suitably;

(c) whether it is forbidden to use "Shri" or other Indian equivalent before names in Government records; and

(d) whether the Grade IV Government servants are debarred from "Mr.", "Shri" or other Indian equivalents being used before their names in Government records?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) Under the orders now in force Government servants are prohibited from joining any communal or for that matter any other organisation which has any political objective or programme or which indulges in any political activity whatsoever, or which tends directly or indirectly to promote feelings of hatred and enmity between different classes or to disturb public peace.

(b) Government consider that the Rules are quite adequate for the purpose.

(c) and (d). No, Sir.

#### CANTONMENT AREAS UNDER ARMY AUTHORITIES AND ABOLITION OF CANTONMENTS.

**1104. \*Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the Cantonment areas under the administration of the army authorities (Ministry of Defence)?

(b) What is the nature of the administration in these areas and what steps are being taken to associate the people with the administration?

(c) Is there any proposal before Government to abolish these Cantonments?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** (a) A list of Cantonments is placed on the table of the House.

(b) The administration of Cantonments is governed by the provisions of the Cantonments Act, 1924. Under this Act the Boards consist of an equal number of elected members and official members. The President of the Board is the Officer Commanding the Station and the Vice-President is elected by the elected members only from among their number. Except in the smallest Cantonments the civilian area is notified under Section 43A of the Cantonments Act and a committee consisting of elected members of the Board, the Health Officer and the Executive Engineer is set up for its administration and exercises powers delegated by the Board.

(c) There is no proposal before the Government to abolish Cantonments but it is possible that when the post-war numbers and locations of the Army have been settled some Cantonments may no longer be required.

#### *List of Cantonments in India*

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Ambala.    | 6. Ahmedabad.  |
| 2. Amritsar.  | 7. Ahmednagar. |
| 3. Agra.      | 8. Aurangabad. |
| 4. Allahabad. | 9. Bareilly.   |
| 5. Almora.    | 10. Benares.   |

11. Barrackpore.	33. Kamptee.
12. Baroda.	34. Kirkee.
13. Belgaum.	35. Landour.
14. Cawnpore.	36. Lansdowne.
15. Clement Town.	37. Leborg.
16. Chakrata.	38. Lucknow.
17. Cannanore.	39. Meerut.
18. Dagshai.	40. Muttra.
19. Dehra Dun.	41. Mhow.
20. Delhi.	42. Nasirabad.
21. Dinapore.	43. Nainital.
22. Deolali.	44. Pachmahi.
23. Ferozepore.	45. Poona.
24. Fatehgarh.	46. Ramgarh.
25. Fyzabad.	47. Ranikhet.
26. Jullundur.	48. Roorkee.
27. Jutogh.	49. Subathu.
28. Jhansi.	50. Shahjahanpur.
29. Jalapahar.	51. Shillong.
30. Jubbu'pore.	52. Saugor.
31. Kasauli.	53. St. Thomas Mount cum Palavaram.
32. Khas Yol.	54. Wellington.

#### FACILITIES AND AMENITIES FOR INDIAN STUDENTS IN U. K. AND U. S. A.

1105. \*Shri V. C. Kesava Rao: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state the welfare facilities and amenities provided for Indian students in the United Kingdom and the United States of America?

(b) Is it a fact that it has not been possible to provide suitable accommodation for a large number of students?

(c) Are Indians admitted in the hostels attached to the major universities?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) The Educational Liaison Officer in the Embassy at Washington looks after the general welfare of Indian students in the United States of America and Canada.

There are two special officers attached to the Indian High Commissioner's office, London to look after the welfare of the students. The Education Department of that office is being reorganised and it is proposed to set up a separate Welfare Branch of the Department.

(b) As far as Government are aware, Indian students in the United States of America have not experienced any serious difficulty in regard to accommodation. Conditions in the United Kingdom have, however, been extremely difficult since the end of the war and are likely to remain so for a considerable time. In view of these abnormal circumstances, Government set up in 1946 two



hostels for Indian students, one in London and the other at Edinburgh and another hostel has now been started in London to serve as a Reception and Transit Camp. The High Commissioner's office also maintains a list of suitable private houses where Indian students can secure accommodation and every possible assistance is given by that office to Indian students to find suitable accommodation.

(c) Indian students are admitted to University hostels on the same basis as other students, and Government have received no reports to the contrary.

PERIODICALS PUBLISHED BY PUBLICATIONS DIVISION

1106. \*Shri B. Shiva Rao: Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement giving;

- (i) a list of periodicals published by the Publications Division;
- (ii) the total cost of such publications; and
- (iii) the circulation of each periodical?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (i), (ii) and (iii). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

S. No.	Name of Publication	Periodicity	Circulation	Cost of printing & paper	
				Per issue	Annual
				Rs.	Rs.
1.	Ajkal (Urdu)	Fortnightly	6,400	2,300	55,200
2.	Ajkal (Hindi)	Monthly	10,000	5,700	68,400
3.	Al Nafir (Arabic)	Two-Monthly	12,500	15,405	92,970
4.	Foreign Review (English)	Monthly	2,500	1,854	16,248
5.	Nau Nihal (Urdu)	Monthly	4,820	855	10,260
6.	New India (English and Chinese)	Quarterly	4,500	3,680	14,720
7.	March of India (English)	Quarterly	3,000	7,477	29,908
8.	Soviet Central Asian Republics Bulletin (English)	Two-Monthly	300	275	1,650
				Total Cost: Rs.	2,89,356

- Notes.—1. It is proposed to bring out Hindi and Urdu editions of "Foreign Review" and Hindi edition of "Nau Nihal" from June, 1948.
2. It has been decided to publish "New India" and "March of India" (Nos. 6 and 7 above) once every two months instead of once a quarter from April 1948.
3. No. 3 is for official use only.

**1107. \*Shri B. Shiva Rao:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) the number of copies of the air mail edition of the *London Times* subscribed for by the different Ministries of the Government of India; and

(b) the cost per issue of the paper, and the total cost incurred during the year?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) 29.

(b) 49 pence per copy; total cost during 1947-48, £1,275 equivalent to Rs. 17,000.

PUBLICATION OF REPORT OF HEALTH MINISTRY

**1108. \*Shri B. Shiva Rao:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) when the last annual report of the Ministry of Health of the Government of India was published; and

(b) whether it is proposed to bring it out as an annual publication?

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** (a) No annual report of the Ministry of Health is published. The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the annual report of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India. This report for 1945 was published in 1947. The report for 1946 is being printed.

(b) Yes. Consequent on the abolition of the post of Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, the report from 1947 onwards will be called the annual report of the Director General of Health Services.

AGENCIES IN BIHAR MAKING RECRUITMENT TO INDIAN ARMY

**1109. \*Shri Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) what are the agencies in each province, chiefly in Bihar, for making recruitment to the Indian Army; and

(b) how the decisions of the Military authorities are conveyed to the masses of the country for their information and guidance?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** (a) The whole of the Indian Dominion is divided into five recruiting areas. The province of Bihar comes in the recruiting area of the Recruiting Officer, Calcutta. There is an Assistant Recruiting Officer for Bihar stationed at Patna who has under him a number of Extra Assistant Recruiting Officers and paid Recruiters.

(b) The decisions are conveyed to the masses through the agency of the recruiting organisation, and the Press and over the All-India Radio.

RAIDS FROM EAST PAKISTAN ON VILLAGE RISHYAMUKH IN TRIPURA STATE

**1110. \*Shri S. M. Ghosh:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been any raids on the village Rishyamukh within the State of Tripura by armed gangs from East Pakistan;

(b) if so, the nature of the damage done and the action the Government of India intend to take in the matter; and

(c) whether Government are aware of any other raids within the territory of the Tripura State?

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

(b) The exact details of damage done are not available but are being ascertained. On receipt of a detailed report the question of action to be taken will be examined.

(c) No Sir.

INTRODUCTION OF 'VISUAL EDUCATION' IN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF INDIA

**1111. \*Prof. Yashwant Rai:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about "Visual education";

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of introducing "Visual education" into our educational system;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the students sent abroad have come back to India after specializing themselves in "Visual education";

(d) if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of taking advantage of their knowledge; and

(e) whether Government propose to open a centre at New Delhi for "Visual education"?

**The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad:** (a), (b) and (e). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to Shri R. R. Diwakar's starred question No. 797 on the 16th March, 1948.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

MERGER OF NIMRANA CHIEF-SHIP, RAJPUTANA WITH EAST PUNJAB PROVINCE

**1112. \*Ch. Ranbir Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Chief of Nimrana Chief-ship (Rajputana) has declared his willingness to merge the chief-ship with East Punjab?

(b) Is it also a fact that the Praja Panchayat, the elected body of the chief-ship, has also declared its willingness to merge into East Punjab?

(c) Is it also a fact that the whole of the population of the chief-ship desire its merger with the East Punjab?

(d) Is it also a fact that the area of the chief-ship is contiguous to Gurgaon district?

(e) If the replies to parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) above are in the affirmative, are Government prepared to allow the chief-ship to be merged with the East Punjab? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) to (c). The Government of India have no information.

(d) Yes.

(e) No Sir. The Chiefship of Nimrana forms an integral part of Alwar State which has joined the Matsya Union.

## RENAMING OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

1113. \*Shri H. V. Kamath: Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) how long the islands called Andaman and Nicobar have borne these names; and

(b) whether any change in their names is under consideration?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) So far as can be ascertained from available records the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have borne these names since the 15th century.

(b) No Sir.

## ARTICLES TO BE LEVIED UPON CUSTOMS DUTIES

1114. \*Shri Basanta Kumar Das: Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) on what articles customs duties will be levied for movement to and from Pakistan;

(b) whether articles of food such as milk, fish, vegetables, fruits and ghee will be exempted from the customs duty;

(c) in what cases permits only will be necessary but no customs duty will have to be paid;

(d) whether any agreement has been reached between the two Dominion Governments in the matter of levying customs duty and if so, on what terms; and

(e) what arrangements have been made in the borders for the realisation of customs duty?

**The Honourable Shri E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** (a) All the customs duties leviable under the Indian Customs Tariff (import as well as export) are applicable to goods imported from or exported to Pakistan, except where specially exempted.

(b) Certain perishable articles of food such as fish, eggs, milk and fresh milk products, fresh vegetables and fruits have already been exempted from customs duty when imported from Pakistan across the Land Customs Lines. The question of exempting from Customs duty other articles likely to be imported from Pakistan is under consideration.

(c) So far as the payment of Customs duty is concerned, the position is explained in the reply to parts (a) and (b) above. As regards permits, the Honourable Member is presumably referring to licences under the Import and Export Control regulations. No such licences are required in respect of imports from Pakistan, but they are required in respect of exports.

(d) No such agreement has so far been reached.

(e) Land Customs Stations, staffed by officers working under the respective Collectors of Central Excise who have been appointed as Collectors of Land Customs in the areas adjoining the frontiers of Pakistan, have been established. and routes have been prescribed through which alone goods can pass between India and Pakistan.

## AGREEMENT WITH RULERS OF ORISSA STATES re CEDING OF RIGHTS TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1115. \*Shri Yudhisthir Misra: Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the agreement entered into

by the Rulers of the Orissa States on the 14th and 15th of December, 1947 ceding their rights and jurisdiction over those States to the Government of India?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the documents placed on the table of the House in reply to Diwan Chaman Lall's starred question No. 18, dated January 29, 1948.

**PAYMENTS TO EX-RULERS OF ORISSA STATES.**

**1116. \*Yudhisthir Misra:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the amount to be paid to each of the Rulers of various Orissa States per year as allowances;

(b) the total amount to be paid to all the Rulers per year as allowances;

(c) whether the money on account of these allowances will be paid to the Rulers by the Government of Orissa or by the Government of India; and

(d) the rights and privileges which the Rulers have been allowed to enjoy after 1st January, 1948?

**The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru:** (a) A statement containing the information is placed on the table of the House.

(b) Rupees sixteen lakhs, twenty nine thousand and three hundred (Rs. 16,29,300).

(c) By the Government of Orissa.

(d) All the personal rights and privileges which they enjoyed immediately before the fifteenth day of August 1947.

*Statement*

*Amount of privy purse fixed*

<i>State</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
1. Athgarh.	36,100/-
2. Athmallik.	48,500/-
3. Bamra.	95,800/-
4. Baramba.	22,700/-
5. Baudh.	69,300/-
6. Bonai.	52,800/-
7. Daspalla.	23,500/-
8. Dhenkanal.	89,700/-
9. Gangpur.	1,35,100/-
10. Hindol.	32,000
11. Kalahandi.	1,14,000/-
12. Keonjhar.	1,49,500/-
13. Khandpara.	33,600/-
14. Kharsawan	33,000/-
15. Narsinghpur.	28,100/-
16. Nayagarh.	62,800/-
17. Nilgiri.	40,000/-
18. Pal-Lahara.	25,000/-

State	Amount of privy purses fixed	
	Rs.	
19. Patna.	2,40,800/-	
20. Bairakhol.	29,700/-	
21. Ranpur.	25,000/-	
22. Seraikella.	88,900/-	
23. Sonapur.	76,700/-	
24. Talcher.	62,500/-	
25. Tigiria.	11,200/-	
	TOTAL	16,27,800/-

#### AMOUNT OF ASSETS OR LIABILITIES HANDED OVER BY ORISSA STATES TO GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA

1117. \*Shri Yudhisthir Misra: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state the amount of assets or liabilities handed over by the Governments of Orissa States to the Government of Orissa when the charge of the administration of these States was handed over on the 1st of January, 1948?

(b) Do Government propose to ask the Provincial Government to spend the amount of cash balances and reserves, handed over by Orissa States to the Province for the welfare of the people of the respective States?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Information has been called for from the Government of Orissa and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) As far as possible the accumulated reserves taken over from the States will be spent on the welfare of the people of the States concerned.

#### BRITISHERS RETURNING TO INDIA DUE TO HARDSHIP OF LIFE IN ENGLAND

1118. \*Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of non-Indians who have come into India since 15th August, 1947 according to nationality?

(b) Are Government aware that a large number of Britishers are returning to India owing to hardships of life in the British Isles?

(c) Do Government maintain any register showing the names of all entrants into India?

(d) How many of the Britishers who have come to India since 15th August, 1947 were former residents of India?

(e) What are the purposes for which they have returned?

(f) How are these non-Indians employed?

(g) Are Government aware of the period for which each is going to stay?

(h) Have Government any agency to supervise their activities and know their whereabouts on any particular date?

(i) Are they required to make any reports to Government regarding extension of their stay, change of employment etc.?

(j) Do Government insist that they should secure employment only through the Government Employment Exchange?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Under the Registration of Foreigners Rules all persons including British subjects entering India are required to give their names and nationalities to the Registration Officers. Foreigners are required to give *inter alia* the following additional particulars:

(a) Date and place of birth,

- (b) Occupation or profession and purpose of visit to India,
- (c) Proposed duration of stay in India, and
- (d) Address or intended address in India.

Foreigners are also required to report their movements when they are absent from the District in which they are registered and also any change in the particulars contained in their registration certificates. This information is maintained in the local registration offices. There are no regulations restricting the employment of non-Indians in India except that in certain essential services (e.g. undertakings engaged on the supply to Government or to the public of light, petroleum, power or water) under the Foreigner's Order they have to take permission before they can be employed.

Foreigners are also required to take the previous permission of Government in case they wish to extend their stay beyond the period once authorised. Under the Visa Policy laid down by Government, though there is no control on the number of persons entering India, from any country, generally speaking adequate precaution is taken to satisfy ourselves about the *bona fides* of a Foreigner visiting India and as far as possible, care is taken that no foreigner comes to India to the replacement or exclusion of any Indian employee. I hope the Honourable Member will, in the light of this information, appreciate that Government are doing what they can, within the limits of international propriety and friendly relations with foreign countries, to safeguard India's interests.

Government regret they have no information readily available as regards clauses (a), (b), (d), (e), (f) and (g), either in respect of British subjects or of foreigners. The time and labour involved in collecting this information would not be commensurate with their utility. I might add that in regard to British subjects it would be impossible to collect the relevant information except by individual inquiries from all European British Subjects as no particulars are obtained from them except in regard to their names and nationalities when they enter India and there is no provision for their registration or report of their movements.

AUTHENTICATED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORISED EXPENDITURE  
(OTHER THAN RAILWAYS) FOR 1948-49—LAID ON THE TABLE

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance):  
Sir I lay on the table in pursuance of section 35 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted, an authenticated schedule of authorised expenditure for the year 1948-49 in respect of expenditure other than Railways.

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

SCHEDULE

Service, Administration or Area to which Demand relates.	Amount (in thousands of rupees)		
	Voted	Charged	Total
<b>A. Expenditure met from Revenue</b>			
1. Customs.	1,28,97	..	1,28,97
2. Central Excise Duties	2,97,17	..	2,97,17
3. Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax.	1,72,86		1,72,86
4. Opium.	1,00,81	-	1,00,81

[Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty].

*Service, Administration or Area to which Demand relates.*

Amount (in thousands of rupees)

	Voted.	Charged.	Total.
5. Provincial Excise.	4,32	..	4,32
6. Stamps.	1,08,36	1,79	1,10,15
7. Forest.	26,04		26,04
8. Irrigation (including working expenses), Navigation, Embankment and drainage Works met from Revenue.	13,34	95	14,29
9. Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)	24,84,73	97,31	5,82,04
10. Cabinet	30,8	9,72	12,80
11. Constituent Assembly.	12,09		12,09
12. Constituent Assembly of India. (Legislative)	8,65		18,65
13. Ministry of Home Affairs.	34,75		34,75
14. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.	1,02,69		1,02,69
15. Ministry of Law.	9,41		9,41
16. Ministry of Education.	29,33		29,33
Ministry of Agriculture.	29,42		29,42
18. Ministry of Health.	7,23		7,23
19. Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.	36,04		36,04
20. Ministry of Finance.	80,76		80,76
21. Ministry of Commerce.	45,82		45,82
22. Ministry of Labour.	22,19		22,19
23. Ministry of Works, Mines and Power.	17,95		17,95
24. Ministry of Communications.	5,29		5,29
25. Ministry of Transport.	21,06		21,06
26. Ministry of Food.	32,81		32,81
27. Ministry of States.	7,23		7,23
28. Ministry of Defence.	32,65		32,65
29. Ministry of Industry and Supply.	21,96		21,96
30. Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation.	13,00		13,00
31. Ministry without Portfolio.	2,85		2,85
32. Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc. on account of the administration of Agency Subjects and management of Treasuries.	10,73		10,73
33. Audit.	1,88,92	66	1,89,58
34. Administration of Justice.	4,31	4,39	8,70
35. Jails and Convict Settlements.	2		2
36. Police.	22,96		22,96



**AUTHENTICATED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORISED EXPENDITURE FOR 1948-49 2827**

<i>Service, Administration or Area to which Demand relates.</i>	<i>Amount (in thousands of rupees)</i>		
	<i>Voted</i>	<i>Charged</i>	<i>Total</i>
37. Ports and Pilotage	35,94	..	35,94
38. Lighthouses and Lightships	8,49	..	8,49
39. Ecclesiastical	2,53	..	2,53
40. Tribal Areas	62,57	..	62,57
41. External Affairs	2,08,81	..	2,08,81
42. Survey of India	60,67	..	60,67
43. Botanical Survey	1,66	..	1,66
44. Zoological Survey	3,33	..	3,33
45. Geological Survey	36,67	..	36,67
46. Mines	18,65	..	18,65
47. Archaeology	20,83	..	20,83
48. Meteorology	81,43	..	81,43
49. Other Scientific Departments	1,03,83	..	1,03,83
50. Education	86,31	..	86,31
51. Medical Services	40,15	..	40,15
52. Public Health	53,91	..	53,91
53. Agriculture	173,08	..	1,73,08
54. Civil Veterinary Services	25,47	..	25,47
55. Industries and Supplies	3,93,71	..	3,93,71
56. Salt	1,40,96	2,10	1,43,06
57. Overseas Communications Service	66,05	2, 0	68,35
58. Aviation	2,13,98	..	2,13,98
59. Broadcasting	1,32,57	..	1,32,57
60. Commercial Intelligence and Statistics	42,10	..	42,10
61. Census	3,59	..	3,59
62. Joint Stock Companies	4,30	..	4,30
63. Indian Dairy Department.	6,56	..	6,56
64. Miscellaneous Departments	1,43,73	..	1,43,73
65. Currency	1,03,50	2,00	1,05,50
66. Mint	1,14,32	..	1,14,32
67. Civil Works	4,88,07	18,24	5,06,31
68. Central Road Fund	2,15,09	..	2,15,09
69. Territorial and Political Pensions	23,40	..	23,40
70. Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	24	5,56	2,46,80
71. Stationery and Printing	1,65,46	..	1,65,46
72. Miscellaneous	21,07,72	..	21,07,72
73. Expenditure on Refugees	10,03,50	..	10,03,50
74. Defence Services Effective.—Army	66,42,30	..	66,42,30
75. Defence Services Effective—Royal Indian Navy	5,80,93	..	5,80,93
76. Defence Services Effective—Royal Indian Air Forces.	13,34,44	..	13,34,44
77. Defence Services Effective—Supplies and Stores.	32,75,77	..	32,75,77
78. Defence Services Non-effective Charges	11,24,67	..	11,24,67
79. Grants-in-aid to Provincial Governments	2,25,00	70,00	2,95,00
80. Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments	82	..	82
81. Resettlement and Development	4,72,35	..	4,72,35
82. Civil Defence	1,20	..	1,20
83. Delhi	1,40	..	1,41,19

[Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty]

<i>Service, Administration or Area to which Demand relates.</i>	Amount (in thousands of rupees)		
	<i>Voted</i>	<i>Charged</i>	<i>Total</i>
84. Ajmer-Merwara . . . . .	62,71	34	63,059
85. Panth Piploda . . . . .	24	..	24
86. Andaman and Nicobar Islands . . . . .	95,13	40	95,53
87. Relation with Indian States . . . . .	71,48		71,48
Charged.—Interest on Debt and other obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt . . . . .		41,16,28	41,16,28
Staff, Household and Allowances of the Governor-General . . . . .		16,00	16,00
Federal Public Service Commission . . . . .		9,94	9,94
<b>B.—Expenditure met from capital.</b>			
88. Capital Outlay on Forests . . . . .	29,26	..	29,26
89. Capital Outlay on India Security Press . . . . .	42,09	..	42,09
90. Capital Outlay on Indian Posts and Telegraphs (Not met from Revenue) . . . . .	3,60,96		3,60,96
91. Indian Posts and Telegraphs—Stores Suspense (Not met from Revenue) . . . . .	1		1
92. Capital Outlay on Industrial Development . . . . .	7,87,60		7,87,60
93. Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation . . . . .	4,08,84		4,08,84
94. Capital Outlay on Broadcasting . . . . .	69,71		69,71
95. Capital Outlay on Currency . . . . .	7,50	..	7,50
96. Capital Outlay on Mints . . . . .	65,45	..	65,45
97. Delhi Capital Outlay . . . . .	3,23,12	1,16	3,24,28
98. Capital Outlay on Civil Works . . . . .	2,75,12	..	2,75,12
99. Commuted value of Pensions . . . . .	1		1
100. Payments to Retrenched Personnel . . . . .	1		1
101. Defence Capital Outlay . . . . .	14,98,76		14,98,76
102. Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading . . . . .	25,97,88		25,97,88
103. Capital Outlay on Development . . . . .	39,33,07		39,33,07
<b>C.—Disbursements of Loans and advances</b>			
104. Interest-free and Interest bearing advances . . . . .	21,82,04	38,00,00	59,82,04

New DELHI;

The 21st March 1948.

Sd. MOUNTBATTEN OF BURMA,

Governor General of India.

## ELECTION TO COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Minister for Finance):

Sir, I move:

"That the members of the Assembly do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (2) of rule 51 of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Rules, eleven members from among their number to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts."

In making this motion, I have to give an explanation to the House about the actual position relating to the functions of this Committee if the House decides to accept my motion and proceed to elect a Committee. Ordinarily a Public Accounts Committee elected now will examine the Audit and Appropriation Accounts of the year 1946-47. On a previous occasion when I was speaking about this matter, I said that the Committee will deal with the accounts of 1945-46. That was an error; really it ought to be 1946-47.

Now with regard to the Audit and Appropriation accounts of the year 1946-47, it was decided.....

**An Honourable Member:** Were the accounts for 1945-46 subjected to the scrutiny of the Public Accounts Committee?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Sir, I take it that the accounts for 1945-46 must have been subjected to the scrutiny of the Public Accounts Committee; that has probably ceased to exist now. But so far as the accounts for 1946-47 are concerned, a decision was taken in view of the partition of the country that only the accounts relating to the Defence Services expenditure for this year should be the subject matter of these Audit and appropriation reports, as the accounts have to be transmitted to the United Kingdom also for the purpose of sharing the Military expenditure, and it was decided that the Audit and Appropriation reports for the Civil Departments need not be compiled. Therefore if a Committee is elected, they will not have the report of the year 1946-47 dealing with the Civil Departments.

I have further been told by the Law Department, Sir, that constitutionally this House or any Committee elected by this House will not be competent to examine the accounts of 1946-47.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General):** Then who will be in charge?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I am explaining the position. I am bound to move the motion under the statutory rules. That is why I am explaining to the House the implications of my motion.

From a practical point of view a number of officers connected with the accounts of 1946-47 would not be available today in the Indian Dominion and any examination by an Accounts Committee of the accounts of that year cannot, therefore, be very useful.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Were they audited at all?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** The Auditor General takes the responsibility for auditing them, but the whole question is whether there is an audit and appropriation report on which the Public Accounts Committee constituted by this House can scrutinise the accounts and the position is as I have stated and probably my honourable friend, the Minister for Law will explain the legal position further. In view of this statement, it is entirely for the House to decide whether they will proceed with the election of that Committee.

**Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (West Bengal: General):** Are there going to be attached a key statement as used to be done in the case of the appropriation accounts?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** It was decided that in respect of the Defence Services expenditure there would not be an audit report at all.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** This is a most extraordinary position!

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That the members of the Assembly do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (2) of rule 51 of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Rules, eleven members from among their number to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts."

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** May I hear the Law Minister, Sir, first?

**The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Minister for Law):** I am afraid I have not had time to apply my mind to this subject. I got notice of this just as I came here, but it would seem really that apart from dealing with the question whether this House is legally entitled to examine the accounts of the year 1946-47 when the House came into existence on the 15th of August 1947, I

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar]

think it is a question which has to be dealt with purely from the point of view of expediency. The Honourable the Finance Minister has said that under some decision taken by the Government of the day the report on the Civil Accounts has not been prepared. As Honourable Members will see that under rule 45 of the Assembly Rules, it is the report of the Auditor General which forms the basis of the consideration when the Committee devotes itself to the examination of the accounts. If the reports are not there, I fail to see what function the Committee can usefully perform when the basic material is not there. I therefore submit that as the Finance Minister has said, apart from being a question of law, it is merely a question of expediency whether any useful purpose would be served by forming this Committee.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether any useful purpose will be served or not, one useful purpose has been served and that is to bring to light this particular fact that for that one year anyhow there was no Government. So far as these accounts were concerned, so far as this Auditor General was concerned, so far as the report was concerned, this is an extraordinary position. There were the accounts I suppose; there was an Accountant General, the whole of his office was maintained and was paid for from the Indian revenues. There was also the Auditor General. What he was doing, we do not know; We are told that his report would not be available. Even if his report is not available, are we to understand, Sir, that the Auditor General was not called in for assistance at all in order to audit the Government accounts? We would like to have some information about it if his assistance had been called in and if he had already submitted any report. It is wrong to say that all the officers have left for England and there was the responsibility of England in regard to the expenditure incurred in this country and also in respect of those employees and in respect of the administration which the Pakistan side has taken charge of. In any case we should have been presented with some accounts, at least some information. No information and no accounts have been submitted at all and in addition to that, I speak subject to correction—I remember having seen one of the Members of the Public Accounts Committee that sat in 1946 and we were then looking into the accounts of 1944-45. I think. As far as I can remember the accounts for 1945-46 had not been presented before the Public Accounts Committee. The Public Accounts Committee had never met last year.

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Was not a Public Accounts Committee elected last year corresponding to this?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** It was appointed, but it never met.

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I am not responsible for it.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** My point is only this. My Honourable friend has come in only now, but he is now the successor of the past members of this Finance Department. He is the Finance Minister here. It is his duty to render an account to this House and the whole of his Department cannot very well be absolved from its responsibility. Surely it cannot be maintained that these people have not been paid by the State, that they are not responsible to this House; they have been there and yet they have not discharged their responsibilities towards this House. What were the other two dignitaries doing, the Accountant General and the Auditor-General? They had also gone to sleep and they had been drawing their salaries from the Government of India and my Honourable friend comes here with all his sense of responsibility and says "I was not then present and, therefore, do not call me into question." The least I can possibly say is that this is a very unsatisfactory state of things for which certainly the Finance Minister cannot be very proud.

Then, Sir, we are told that according to the rules we are expected to appoint a committee but we are warned that the committee is not going to have any work at all; and so we are asked to decide whether we should have a committee or not. Sir, let me tell the Honourable the Finance Minister that at least this House should be scrupulous about its own rules and about its responsibilities as well as its duties. Even if the committee is not able to have this report from the Auditor-General it is the duty of this House to appoint this committee. Then there is one other thing. There is what is known as a running account to be rendered to the Public Accounts Committee, as and when any of the recommendations made previously come to be implemented by these various departments including the Finance Department which is expected to be the watch-dog. And even those accounts have not been submitted to the Public Accounts Committee throughout the last one year. It may be that there were constitutional upsets. Of course these upsets have taken place, but nevertheless the departments were there; they simply thought that they would become a law unto themselves, and they were going their own way. If all other departments had been misbehaving in this manner it would be excusable; but if the Finance Department behaves in that way it would be absolutely inexcusable. And the first duty of any Finance Minister who comes to be in charge of this department is to look into this and see whether his department is really performing its duty as the watch-dog of the finances of this Government.

Then we are told that so far as the Defence Services are concerned there will be a report.

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Yes, the report is to be sent to the United Kingdom Government on account of their share in the Defence expenditure.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Very well. The report would have to be sent to England and so it comes to this. The Crown in England is much more powerful and more fortunate than this sovereign body. The Crown in England which has no longer any sort of sway over this House at all is entitled to have a report from the Auditor-General.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras: General):** That is in regard to past transactions.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Yes, about past transactions there will be a report before the Public Accounts Committee which is the body to hold a *post-mortem* examination of these accounts. Anyhow I insist that so far as the Defence services are concerned a report must be rendered to this House and also to this Committee.

Secondly, even in regard to the civil accounts I suggest to the Finance Minister in all seriousness that whatever possible accounts he may get at, whatever possible reports he can have from the Accountant-General, he should strain all his nerves and energies in order to see that these reports and these accounts are got, so that we may be able to get some sort of idea as to how our public finances have been spent during that one year. Let it not be another scandal like that scorched earth policy and its complements in Bengal. There also crores and crores of rupees were spent and that was all wasted. When we asked for a report that report was not available. When we asked that the Bengal Government's representatives should come over here before the Public Accounts Committee and explain their conduct they were not prepared to come. At that time the House took a very strong view of the misbehaviour of the Bengal Government. Now the Finance Minister wishes to be absolved because he was not there; but anyhow the Central Government had a Minister and I find that the Central Government seems to be a much greater wrongdoer than the Bengal Government.

**Mr. B. K. Sidhva** (C.P. and Berar: General): Sir, it is rather a startling statement that has been made by the two Honourable Ministers that no useful purpose will be served.....

**Mr. Speaker:** I think it is no use introducing any heat into the argument. I do not know whether I would be strictly in order if I say anything or make a suggestion. What I felt was that the position as explained by the Finance Minister is really a very serious one, and it is the right of every member of this House to look into all accounts. I was wondering whether the question really is, whether a committee should or should not be appointed because accounts are not available; but the question is, as to how the accounts are to be made available to members after the appointment of the committee. I think the Honourable the Finance Minister's point of view was to explain to the House, how the accounts stood, and it will be for the Committee and for this House to decide how to get those accounts. If from that point of view, any further strengthening of the powers of the Committee is necessary, the House may do it. That seems to be the only point of view of the Honourable the Finance Minister. I do not think he intended to say that the accounts will not be coming to the committee; perhaps there is a misunderstanding on that point. The Committee may understand the position, arm itself with the necessary powers for having the accounts made up or reports drawn up. If certain officers are absent the thing can be done by the employment of other officers. That seems to be the only point. So, let us not sidetrack this discussion about the real or supposed failure of the present Finance Ministry or the previous Ministry, but see how best the accounts can be put before the Committee. I am making these remarks with a view to curtail the discussion, and I am supported in my view by the remarks of the Law Minister who said that it is not so much a question of law as of expediency. A sovereign House can make its own laws, as it likes for the purpose of transacting business in the best interests of the country. Let us not, therefore, go into a further discussion as to whether the accounts are or are not available and who it was that was at fault, etc. That discussion, I feel, will be of no avail. Therefore I have intervened at this stage so that members may see what steps they want to take for the purpose of having the accounts.

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Sir, if you will permit me to say a few words in continuation of what you have just said it may save a discussion in the House. I share the indignation of my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga regarding this state of affairs. Surely I am not proud of it; I am equally indignant about it. I only wanted to explain the position as I found it, so that the House may know what exactly is before it. Now I suggest that the House may proceed with the election of this Committee; and if it is found that the Appropriation Report for 1946-47 has not been prepared, let the Committee go into this question as to why it was not prepared and who was responsible for it. I would certainly support the Committee in an inquiry of that kind. Probably there may be this unfortunate complication that so far as the accounts for 1946-47 are concerned it is the Auditor-General of the old undivided India who is responsible for it, and that person does not exist today; and today we have got only the Auditor-General of the Indian Dominion. These are all hard facts which the Committee would take into consideration. According to my information, until very recently we have not received any Appropriation Report for the year 1946-47, and I was told that in consultation with the Ministry of Law and the then Auditor-General a decision was taken by my predecessor or by the previous Government that no Appropriation Report need be prepared for 1946-47. I would therefore suggest, Sir, that without our discussing this matter in any greater detail, the House may proceed to the election of the Committee and the Committee may go into the whole question including the validity or the wisdom of this decision of Government.

**Diwan Chaman Lall** (East Punjab: General): The Appropriation Report may not be there, but may I know whether there is a report of the Auditor-General?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty**: I think there should be.

**Diwan Chaman Lall**: If that is so, that forms part and parcel of the discussion that the Public Accounts Committee can have in regard to the material before it. There are other matters also which can come before the Public Accounts Committee. Apart from the fact that it is statutory for this House to have this Committee, we shall according to rule 51 proceed to appoint the Public Accounts Committee.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madras: General): Sir, I find that the Auditor-General's report is not the only thing that is to be taken into consideration; that is only a minor matter. He puts us on our guard in respect of certain items, but this Committee which we appoint is entitled to call for all the Appropriation Accounts. We can even dispense with the Auditor-General's report.

I only draw your attention to this. I am afraid it has failed to attract the eagle's eye even of the Law Minister. Rule 51 (1) says:

"As soon as may be after the commencement of the first session of the Assembly, a Committee on Public Accounts shall, subject to the provisions of this rule, be constituted, for the purpose of dealing with the appropriation accounts of the Government of India and the report of the Auditor-General . . . . ."

It is not as if it is the appropriation account and the Auditor-General's report alone. We have to start with his report and without this basic function we cannot do anything. It is from the Appropriation Accounts that he draws his conclusions. So can we. Some other person might be asked to help us on these accounts. Without or with the report, we are entitled to go forward, for the latter part of Rule 51(1) says:

" . . . . and such other matters as the Ministry of Finance may refer to the Committee."

My friend, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari has said this is old. While these things are going on, there is a Standing Finance Committee that brings to bear its decisions on such questions as arise from time to time. That is for the future. As regards the past year, this is the only way we can check the abuses. Supplementary demands will soon be brought up. As a matter of fact, they are tabled for consideration today. Without the Auditor-General's report we may not know how many loop-holes there had been and under what considerations the appropriations have been made. This is practically the eye of the Assembly and without it we will be absolutely groping in the darkness. I might say that you have given a particular gloss to the motion that has been made. But the Honourable the Finance Minister did not want this Committee to be appointed.

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty**: I refute the allegation of my Honourable friend. This is not the first time that he has imputed motives to me.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar**: I wish my friend does not talk in that strain. I have always supported him.

**Mr. Speaker**: Let us not challenge the motives of the Honourable the Finance Minister and I do not feel guilty of having given any gloss over this motion. The position is now very clear. I do not think we need argue about it any further.

I was just going to suggest that the result of all this enquiry will, at the most, be that those guilty for the state of affairs will not be available for punishment.

**The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar:** It is not a question of punishment of the persons guilty for not preparing the accounts because the persons concerned are protected by the Constitutional legality of the orders then passed. I should like to explain to the House how the position stood.

The accounts for 1946-47 could be prepared by an Auditor-General who was the Auditor-General on the 1st April 1947. Obviously on the 15th August 1947 we had two Dominions, and neither person, who was acting as Auditor General either in Pakistan or for India could undertake legally the responsibility of preparing an audit report for the accounts of a united India. No such person existed at all. A further point is this, which I think the House has somewhat forgotten.

Under the old Government of India Act, 1935, the Auditor-General did not function under the Government of India as such. He functioned under the Governor-General and some of the duties which he performed were directed and issued to him under the discretionary powers given to the Governor-General in his individual judgment. The orders which were passed, whereby the accounts were not compiled, they are orders passed by the Governor-General in his individual judgment. They were not passed on the authority of the Finance Department or any other Department of the Government of India. Therefore, the responsibility for the non-compliance or non-make-up of the accounts of the Government really lay on the Governor-General who acted in his individual judgment, which merely means that he was obliged to consult the Government but was not obliged to accept the decisions of the Government. That is really the position and the reason why the Governor-General exercised his powers in his individual judgment and passed his orders, because he found that on the appropriate date there was no such order by which the accounts for the year 1947 could be compiled since it was an order meant for the whole of India and not for the two Dominions.

There is no question of punishing any particular officer for dereliction of duty

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I am afraid that even the Law Minister has misunderstood the precise injunction.....

**The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar:** I say the House is directly entitled to consider the question as a matter of expediency. I wanted to show that there was no particular individual who had been guilty of dereliction of duty in the matter of non-preparation of these accounts.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** At the moment it will not serve any useful purpose if we indulge in mutual recrimination or in an examination of the legality of the situation, which perhaps I cannot understand because I do not possess the legal equipment. My Honourable friend has maintained that a successor Government loses its rights for going into the accounts of the Government that existed in a previous period, but the position assumes a different complexion when it happens that the bulk of the accounts relate to the successor Government also. In whatever manner this House, and the Committee appointed by it, will be enabled to go into the accounts for 1946-47 there should also be a provision by which they could examine the accounts for 1945-46, which were not examined at all. The real position is not to bring those people, who were the offenders, if such offences are revealed to book but of finding out the lacuna in the financial administration in the Centre. In the past these Public Accounts Committee's reports and the Auditor-General's report have been very revealing, and the particular instance referred to by Mr. Ranga in regard to Bengal has been one of the most notable of these incidents. It is a matter for future guidance and the rectification of errors, might be continued otherwise. We will have to go not merely into the accounts of 1946-47 but also of 1945-46 particularly because 1946 happens to be part of a war year and



the expenditure has been akin to the scale of the previous war years and the money spent on account of the Government of India and on behalf of H.M.G. as it then was exceeds over Rs. 500 crores. All these matters will have to be gone into and without our knowing the exact position I think we shall be in the dark in the future. My feeling is that the Honourable the Finance Minister should undertake that he would authorise, or ask the Committee not merely to go into the accounts for 1946-47 but also for 1945-46. I understand we have not now available the administrative machinery that functioned in those years. All the European officers and the Muslim officers have gone. These persons will not be able to come and give evidence. Nevertheless, some kind of scrutiny will be of use and will not be absolutely of no benefit to future accounting in this country.

So far as the legal position is concerned, the same provision still find a place in the adapted Act. This is a successor Government and the natural law seems to me to be that we are quite competent to go into the past and there is no legal bar to proceed in that manner.

**Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya** (Madras: General): Many provisions have been made for filling in the gap that existed between the old and the new India by means of the Adaptation Act. Could not this be provided for also by a provision in the Government of India Adaptation Act, for which there still seems to be scope, since off and on we have been getting additional provisions under that Act?

**Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad** (West Bengal: Muslim): There is this difficulty. Today is the last date on which this power will be exercised. From tomorrow no such power will be available.

**Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya**: That is why I mentioned it.

**Mr. Speaker**: Whatever happens, it is a sort of *post mortem* affair now. I believe that so far as the merits of the case are concerned, there is an agreement in the House. So I shall put the motion to the House now.

The question is:

"That the members of the Assembly do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (2) of rule 51 of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) Rules, eleven members from among their number to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts."

The motion was adopted.

## ELECTION TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, fourteen members to serve under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister on the Standing Finance Committee for the financial year 1948-49."

**Mr. Speaker**: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, fourteen members to serve under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister on the Standing Finance Committee for the financial year 1948-49."

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madras: General): Sir, last year when the Finance Minister brought forward a resolution of this kind for the election of members to the Standing Finance Committee I raised the contention that the scope of the powers of the Standing Finance Committee should be enlarged. That is why, unlike in the case of the other Standing Committees that were constituted for a period of not three months but for a full period of three months and one year so as to expire by the 31st March 1949, in this case, that is the Standing Finance Committee, and

[Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

also in the case of the Standing Finance Committee, for the Railways, the period was fixed at only three months. The Finance Minister also promised to place a memorandum before the Standing Finance Committee to suggest the possibility of giving power to it to scrutinize the various budget items before they come up for discussion in this House. A similar practice was adopted by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. There is not a single item there which does not come for the scrutiny of that Committee. Budget proposals are different from taxation measures. I am not contending that the taxation proposals should be placed before any Committee. They will come up for scrutiny after they have been laid before the House. But with respect to budget proposals—estimates for expenditure etc.—there cannot be any objection. With respect to new items the Standing Finance Committee is exercising its judgment over them and passing or rejecting them. Similarly, with respect to other items, those items might have been placed before the Standing Finance Committee before they come up here; or other means of scrutiny by the Committee from time to time may be adopted. I am sorry neither the one nor the other has been done. Neither was any memorandum placed before the Committee nor has the Honourable Minister come forward with any such memorandum before this House. This question has been agitating the minds of members for a long time. In the previous Government, in 1938 the then Finance Minister, Sir James Grigg circulated a memorandum for enlarging the scope and functions of the Standing Finance Committee so as to give it powers to scrutinize the various items of the budget with a view to leading to economy. (Interruption). He started in a good mood soon after he joined his office and he wanted to introduce some new provisions. Later on when he became a bureaucrat and an iron hand he withdrew it. And it was no wonder. He has gone once and for all. He has gone for good. I expect a different treatment from our Finance Minister. On behalf of the House I should like to have an explanation from him as to why he has not chosen to do this, and when he proposes to do this. If he does not do this, it will be another Public Accounts Committee and no material will be placed before the Committee. Material is not available in the one case, and in the other there is no inclination to place material. I want a categorical assurance from him that he would take immediate steps in this direction and would not allow the Committee to become useless but enable it to discharge its functions of scrutinizing the items from time to time. This will also avoid the need for appointing, once in ten or fifteen years, an Economy Committee. Let it be possible for this Committee to suggest to the Government that such and such items of expenditure ought not to be budgeted for. That is the kind of scrutiny that is expected of the Committee.

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Sir, my Honourable friend is himself a member of the Standing Finance Committee and I feel confident that I can appeal to other members of the Standing Finance Committee who are present in this House to bear testimony to the readiness with which I was prepared to invite the co-operation of the Standing Finance Committee not merely in the limited sphere in which they were expected to operate but in all the spheres relating to the Ministry of Finance, just as if they were a Standing Advisory Committee for the Ministry of Finance. I certainly envisaged that I would be in a position when making this motion today to propose something concrete regarding the scope and functions of the Standing Finance Committee. But unfortunately we have been working under such high pressure. We have had so many meetings of the Standing Finance Committee. In fact we have one this afternoon at 5-15 p.m. We have not had the time in the Standing Finance Committee itself to examine the question about the scope and functions of this Committee. In fact I made it perfectly clear to the

Honourable Members of this Committee that notwithstanding any restrictions in its scope the Committee is at perfect liberty to ask for any information and to suggest any field in which the Committee will interest itself. When we had the official discussions with the British Delegation regarding the settlement of the Sterling Balance for this current half year, on my own initiative I invited the Standing Finance Committee to nominate three of its members to be associated with the Finance Ministry in framing the proposals and conducting the negotiations. The Committee was good enough to ask me to nominate the three members. I did so. Two of the members are left in this House—one has gone as Governor—and I am sure the two Honourable Members will testify to the fact that right from the very beginning of the negotiations I placed every material before these two Honourable gentlemen, and it was on their advice that finally the negotiation was concluded.

Again, the Standing Finance Committee constituted various sub-committees to examine various other matters. It was decided at one of the meetings of the Standing Finance Committee that a sub-committee will be appointed to undertake a close and detailed scrutiny of the entire defence estimates. So, in a practical measure, so far as it lay in my power, I have been trying to enlarge the scope of work of the Standing Finance Committee by convention. If the House wants that the scope of the Standing Finance Committee must be embedded in a cast iron resolution of this House I have no objection, after consultation with the Standing Finance Committee, to bring forward such a motion.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga** (Madras: General): Sir, I wish to add only one word. I am extremely glad that my Honourable friend the Finance Minister has done all this that he has said today to extend the scope of the work of the Finance Committee. Although I am not a member of the Committee I do know that the Finance Committee this time has come to be extremely useful and also powerful, thanks to the accommodating spirit and also the initiative taken by the Honourable the Finance Minister. At the same time I would like him not to think that the suggestion made by my Honourable friend would lead to any sort of cast iron conception of the Committee at all. And I would very much like my Honourable friend the Finance Minister himself to come forward at a later occasion before this House with a suitable resolution in order to embody the spirit of the conventions that he has been establishing, so that even when his successors come it will not be left entirely to their personal initiative or predilections but will be there as a matter of right.

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Saksena seems to be absent. There is, therefore, no question of amendment.

The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner, as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, fourteen members to serve under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister on the Standing Finance Committee for the financial year 1948-49."

The motion was adopted.

## ELECTION TO STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR RAILWAYS

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai** (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner, as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, eleven members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1948."

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner, as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, eleven members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1948."

**Mr. E. K. Sidhva** (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, during the Railway Budget discussion some Honourable Members stated that sufficient material was not placed before the Finance Committee, and the Honourable Minister was good enough to state at that time that the time at the disposal of the Committee was so short that it was not possible to place all the materials before them. He also stated that the larger number of members of the Committee did not take interest in attending the meetings. The copy of the Proceedings of the Committee supplied to the members confirms that view. I was surprised to find that in many of the meetings hardly four or five out of the eleven members attended the meeting. The budget expenditure was so important that I found within one or two days crores of rupees were sanctioned. The Honourable Minister who complained was perfectly right and he therefore said that he does appreciate the feeling of the members of the House in this respect but he suggested that if you want to follow the parliamentary procedure of the House of Commons as far as Standing Committees are concerned, you must have longer sittings and the Committee and members should take interest. I quite appreciate that. I am certainly dissatisfied not with one committee or two committees but with all Standing Committees where we sit for two or three hours and pass a whole budget. I am a member of the Food Committee. I was invited to one of the meetings of the committee. I do not want to narrate all the drawbacks but my experience is this from what I see from the proceedings of the committees. I feel the present procedure requires drastic change. If Honourable Members want to take really keen interest in this matter, then there should be a certain procedure as the Honourable Minister for Railways stated the other day. We must have policy laid down. Members should be prepared to attend these meetings, which should be constantly held, regularly much more before the budget period, and there should be no question of expenditure or things like that. The question is whether members are prepared to spare sufficient time to attend meetings, and I quite appreciate the Honourable Minister's statement the other day on that issue. So I would like to know from the Honourable Minister on this occasion whether they have considered this proposal of adopting for these committees the parliamentary procedure of the House of Commons. If so, has this government taken any steps in that direction or will this method still continue because it is no use our speaking in the Budget session or in other sessions making our grievances when facilities are not available. Some members are quite prepared to sit down with members for as many days as they want them to do. I want ample opportunity and lay all the material before them? No question of time should prevail with members of the House. Officers also should be prepared to sit down with members for as many days as they want them to do. I want therefore a little clarification from the Honourable Minister for Railways and a very categorical reply on this subject. I would like to know whether for this new committee he would be prepared to take this matter into consideration.

**Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya** (Madras: General): *Per contra* I wish to say that the policy of the Ministers will have to depend upon the inspiration that they will have to get from the attendance at the committees. I have just come out from the Standing Committee for the States Ministry, where we were three out of ten, and we wanted to know whether we should wait or carry on. We thought we should wait, but the longer we waited, the more useless it appeared to be to wait, and so we decided to carry on. It is no use our blaming Ministers for the blame is on ourselves. Therefore I say a vicious circle is apt to be created. Ministers do not care for the Standing Committee because the Standing Committee members do not care to attend when it meets. We are in great rush to get our names inserted in the list by the Chief Whip at the time, but none of us cares to attend. This is my eternal complaint and I am sorry I am making myself somewhat odious by constantly drawing attention to this

very sorry and sordid fact in this House. The other day I was with the Commerce Minister in the Standing Committee. We were 3 out of 10 again. Three appears to be the normal attendance. I therefore agree, while appealing to Ministers to make information available, Honourable Members should also take pains to attend these meetings.

**Dr. B. V. Keskar** (U. P.: General): Sir, I support heartily the sentiments expressed by my Honourable friend Dr. Pattabhi and I would suggest that in the formation of committees, more attention should be paid to the fact whether members are able to give time to the particular department. I am aware that many of the Honourable Members are very eager to get into committees, but after some time their enthusiasm wanes and they do not find time as they have other occupations also. So I think it would be better when the committees are being formed that members who allow their names to be included for those committees should also at the same time expect that they will have to give sufficient time to those committees. Otherwise they should not give their names.

**Seth Govinddas** (C. P. and Berar: General): My experience of these committees has been somewhat different. I happen to be a member of only one committee, and that is External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, and I found that in that committee there has been an attendance of 90 per cent of the members. Whenever that committee met, all members, with the exception of one or two, attended, and we could put in some good work also. So when a blame is being laid at the door of members that they do not take interest, I at least, want to point out that there is at least one exception and that is as far as the External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations Committee is concerned. So Sir, I think this blame of the members should not be universal and therefore I wanted to say a few words to point out that there are exceptions to it also.

**Shri Satyanarayan Sinha** (Bihar: General): I move:

"That the question be now put."

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

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai:** There are two opposing points of view expressed in the course of this brief discussion, with both of which I happen to be in agreement. On the one hand I agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Sidhva that it would be to the advantage of not merely the Ministry but of the whole House if every matter of importance in connection with the Ministry of Railways was placed before the Standing Finance Committee and if the meetings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways were sufficiently long for the members of the Committee to go in detail into those questions. As far as I am concerned I am prepared to have as many meetings as the committee may require and I am prepared also to make time to attend meetings of any duration. On the other hand I have an uncomfortable feeling that when you have a number of meetings of these committees during a busy legislative session, it is a little difficult to get Honourable Members to attend in sufficient strength, and as far as the meetings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways are concerned, I do wish to say that I feel disappointed at the small attendance that we have had at various meetings where matters of extremely urgent importance were under consideration. So I would like to endorse the appeal that Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya has made.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, eleven members to serve on the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1948."

The motion was adopted.

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## ELECTION TO CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS

**The Honourable Dr. John Matthai** (Minister for Railways and Transport): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, eight non-official members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1948."

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, eight non-official members to serve on the Central Advisory Council for Railways for the year commencing 1st April, 1948."

The motion was adopted.

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## ELECTION TO INDIAN NURSING COUNCIL.

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur** (Minister for Health): Sir, I move:

"That in pursuance of clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, two persons to serve on the Indian Nursing Council."

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madras: General): I would only say that at least one of the two must be a lady member.

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

"That in pursuance of clause (d) of sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947, the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the Speaker, two persons to serve on the Indian Nursing Council."

The motion was adopted.

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## ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF HEALTH

**The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur** (Minister for Health): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to serve until the end of the financial year 1948-49 on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects concerning the Ministry of Health, *vice* Dr. N. B. Khare who has resigned from the Assembly."

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to serve until the end of the next financial year on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects concerning the Ministry of Health, *vice* Dr. N. B. Khare who has resigned from the Assembly."

The motion was adopted.

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## ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh** (Minister for Defence): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to serve until the end of the next financial year on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects concerning the Ministry of Defence, *vice* Major-General Shri Maharaj Himmat Singhji, resigned."

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to serve until the end of the next financial year on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects concerning the Ministry of Defence, *vice* Major-General Shri Maharaj Himmat Singhji, resigned."

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following Committees and Councils, namely:

	Date for nomination	Date for election
Committee on Public Accounts	2-4-1948	5-4-1948
Standing Finance Committee		
Standing Finance Committee for Railways		
Central Advisory Council for Railways	3-4-1948	6-4-1948
Indian Nursing Council		
Standing Committee for the Ministry of Health	5-4-1948	7-4-1948
Standing Committee for the Ministry of Defence		

The nominations for these Committees and Councils will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room (No. 21) in the Council House between the hours 10-30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

*(15th August 1947 to 31st March, 1948)*

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now proceed with the discussion on demands for supplementary grants. I find, from the nature of the cut motions and the subjects mentioned, that, there is probably a misapprehension on the part of Honourable Members as regards the exact scope of discussion when the supplementary grants come in for the vote of the House. Before the House proceeds with the discussion of the supplementary grants, I should therefore, like to make the position clear by referring to what has been the practice of this House as stated by my predecessors.

**An Honourable Member:** You are the first Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes, but with a past and a continuity.

This is the practice, which the House of Commons also follows and follows for very good reasons.

"The Chair said that it is perfectly clear that as regards the demands that refer to schemes which have already been sanctioned by this House, there can be no question at all of discussing any question of principle or policy, but as regards demands which come up with respect to a new service and for which previously no sanction has been obtained of this House, no doubt that rule has to be relaxed to a great extent but the question of policy must be confined within the item on which the vote of the House is sought."

That is what the Chair expressed at that time and therefore I find that there is hardly any scope for discussion on many of the cut motions. I shall be able to decide individually when a particular cut motion is taken up, as regards the scope of the discussion.

**Seth Govinddas** (C. P. and Berar: General): Besides cut motions, if a demand is put to vote will it not be open to members to make their remarks generally on those demands?

**Mr. Speaker:** There is no difference, so far as the scope is concerned, as between the supplementary demand itself and a particular cut motion, except this: that the cut motion will have a still further restricted scope. But the real point is that these are supplementary demands; and in the case of the original demands, for whatever objects they were made, the principle as well as the policy of those demands had been discussed thoroughly by this House at the time of the Budget, when the Budget was sanctioned in respect of those demands as also again at the time of the Finance Bill. Any further discussion over the whole demand, either in respect of the policy pursued or of the principles, will be nothing but a repetition of the same debate over and over again.

It is, therefore, as I said for very good reasons, that the scope of the discussion will be only restricted to such new things or new items as had not come for discussion before the House when the Budget was voted upon. That is the principle on which the scope of discussion is restricted. I find Honourable Members carrying the same motion about the scope of discussion as the Honourable Member Seth Govinddas has raised. I will just take an example—I am doing this just to clarify the position, to illustrate; each cut motion will have to be looked into on its own merits, but take for example demand No. 37. Now, the cut motion reads:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 24,000 in respect of Ports and Pilotage be reduced by Rs. 100."

Now, I find that this expenditure is in regard to excess which is mainly due to larger cost of repairs and to more British officers having proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement than anticipated. Therefore, the policy of having Ports and Pilotage cannot come under discussion in this. The only question will be the cost of repairs; all that could be discussed is very probably—if at all there is any scope for discussion—that the repairs were unnecessary or over-costly. It will be a very difficult subject to discuss; it is of minor importance. That illustrates the scope of discussion. Honourable Members will kindly remember the scope and then address themselves.

**Seth Govinddas:** I wanted to know one thing further. Suppose certain things have happened since certain demands were put to the House at the time of the Budget, for instance the demand for Ministry of States? Suppose certain things have happened in Hyderabad since that demand was voted upon. Will remarks on this question be allowed to be made when the demand is put to vote?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member has given an instance but at present the question is a hypothetical one. If it comes before me, I will certainly dispose it of in the light of what I have stated. Taking the instance of Hyderabad, which the Honourable Member has cited, it will come under Demand No. 27. There, the Honourable Member will see that, the excess is due to payment of arrears of pay and dearness allowance and tour charges of officers. Therefore, it is not open to him to discuss Hyderabad, whatever may have happened there. I can see his anxiety to discuss the question and can appreciate it also, but it will be again discussing the whole policy of the States Ministry with reference to what it did in respect of this or that State or States generally. If the Honourable Member's argument is allowed every day the same subject can be opened again, as something or other is bound to happen somewhere. Therefore, the scope of the discussion will be very much limited here. The Honourable Member can, of course, say that the arrears of pay should not have been given or the dearness allowances were much in excess of what they should have been



but he will not be able to discuss the policy of the States Ministry, which has already been discussed during the course of the General Budget, on the cut motions and also on the Finance Bill.

**Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad** (West Bengal: Muslim): and discussed thread-bare too.

**Mr. Speaker:** I cannot say threadbare, as some members may perhaps urge that they did not have sufficient time or they could not catch my eye. Bearing these limitations in mind Honourable Members will now discuss the demand.

## TION

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 56,33,000 be granted to the Governor-General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation'."

*Creation of a Statutory Corporation to take over Business of Air India International, Limited.*

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari** (Madras: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 56,33,000 in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

**Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth** (Madras: Muslim): Sir, on a point of order, in the light of the ruling given by you is this motion in order?

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (Madras: General): This is a new one.

**Mr. Speaker:** If the Honourable Member will refer to page 28 of the book of Supplementary Demands, he will find that the supplementary demand is required to cover a part of Government of India's share amounting to 98 lakhs in paid up capital of the Air India International Limited set up recently for the purposes of operating an air transport service.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** As my Honourable friend Mr. Ishaq Seth knows the Standing Finance Committee sanctioned the initial expenditure. This is an expenditure, as you have been good enough to point out that had not been budgeted for and the demand contains the entire payment of the subscription of the Government of India, in fact its own share of the capital of the Air India International Limited. The House might know that this new company, which has now been incorporated, has been formed with an authorised capital of 7 crores. I have not got a copy of the prospectus and the articles of association but this information would perhaps have helped me in making out a better case. The authorised capital is 7 crores. The paid up capital is to be 2 crores, out of which this amount has now been called up. The Government of India will subscribe 49 per cent. of the capital as at present and there is an idea that the Ceylon Government might be asked to participate in it. I would like to mention to the House at once that I am not going into the question of the merits of the proposition at all. I am quite willing to leave it as it is. The Government of India is probably quite right in embarking on this venture along with Air India. In fact the matter has been discussed by the Standing Finance Committee which voted the necessary amount but what I am at present concerned to raise is a very narrow point. As I said before the Government of India capital payment will as at present envisaged exceed, apart from this particular amount of 56 lakhs, a crore and there might be further calls for additional capital, because it is a company started with a very big capital structure, so much so that it is quite conceivable that we might have 4 crores of money invested in it before long. My position really is this. I do not know if it is worthwhile for us to invest the taxpayer's money in a company and be in the same position as any other shareholder of the company. Some people might say that there is nothing wrong in it. The Companies' Act which protects the ordinary shareholders protects the Government but is that protection adequate? My feeling is that it is not a question of the Government investing 5, 10 or 20 lakhs but it is a matter of several crores as I quite see the possibility of the expansion of the company. So I think when embarking on a venture

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

like this it is best for Government to put it on a statutory basis. I do not say that Air India should not be in it. They can be there on the same terms. For instance we passed in the House recently the Industrial Financial Corporation Bill into an Act and there the position is that the Government is participating with private interests. There will be nothing wrong in the Government participating with Air India but my contention is that the Government should not be placed in the same position as any ordinary shareholder. For instance there are the legal proceedings to which this company might become subject under Sec. 162 of the Companies' Act, item 5. Anybody to whom the company owes money might bring up an action. Supposing for various reasons legal proceedings are started can we in all conscience say that the Government's interests have been protected adequately when the Government is investing such a large amount of money in a company where they are placed in the position of a shareholder. This has been agitating my mind for a long time and I had mentioned this fact on more than one occasion previously. I also raised this question when there was a cut motion in regard to the Communications Minister's demand and I have taken this opportunity of raising the question over again. No matter what has already been done, it is quite possible for Government to reconsider the position and see if they cannot in fact make it a statutory Corporation with the present participants in it on the same terms and, providing them with all the rights now conceded. Only in a statutory corporation the ultimate interests of the taxpayer will be safeguarded even if it does not find the Government any extra rights. I think it ought to be easy and I venture to commend this idea to my Honourable friend the Communications Minister. A longer speech in a matter like this is not necessary, because many of the Honourable Members here know full well that the Indian Companies' Act gives only a limited protection. That is not adequate when we are dealing with trust money, which is what the money of the taxpayer is. Sir, I move.

**Mr. Speaker:** Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 56,33,000 in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation' be reduced by Rs. 100."

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Sir, I beg to support the cut motion moved by my friend Shri T. T. Krishnamachari. Under the present arrangement, Air India Limited become the managing agents of this Company. For the time being, the Government of India take 49 per cent of the shares and the balance 51 per cent being distributed between the Government of Ceylon, some Provinces and the Air India Limited. It is open to the Government of India to take over 2 more per cent, so that they may convert this 49 per cent. into 51 per cent. and have a dominant voice. The reasons that were set out by the Government for not taking straightaway 51 per cent and having a dominant voice are that there may not be that incentive to work as in the case of private companies and there may be troubles over higher scales of wages being insisted upon in case it is a Government concern instead of a private concern. But my own plea is that it is an inescapable position. Whether early or late, we must face the situation. Therefore, instead of not taking the full 51 per cent quota, I would urge upon the Government to take 51 per cent and even more and to start it off as a completely Government concern. The Government alone must manage it as a Corporation.

In this connection, Sir, I would say that the policy of the Government has not been set out regarding the airways in India. On a former occasion when the matter came up, I said that under communications every highway must be taken up. Delhi to Madras, Madras to Bombay, Bombay to Calcutta and so on, these highways must be taken up and the byways may be left for private enterprise. If these Airways—foreign service—is taken up by the Government straightaway as a Corporation—and it is our policy to establish Corporations; we have established the Damodar Valley Corporation—the Government is not

going to run it departmentally. The experiment is being tried of creating Corporations in all big concerns of trade and commerce even though the ownership may be entirely in the hands of the Government. The administrators may not be competent; therefore a special service may be created to manage these concerns. On the same lines, the Electric Supply Corporation Bill has also been introduced to create Provincial Boards under the aegis of the Government. One such Corporation might have been thought of in this case also from the outset. I shall not blame the Government if they did not pursue that course. If the Honourable Minister for Communications accepts it, he would set right what could have been done even at an earlier stage.

If the overseas service is taken up, gradually we can extend the service and then the through communications from Madras to Delhi, Delhi to Bombay and to various capital centres in this country, may be left for private enterprise. I therefore request the Honourable Minister to make a beginning in this direction and later on clothe this Corporation with the powers to acquire and run the internal services also. Once we start, the service may be extended for internal services so far as highways are concerned. After all, all the aerodromes, the engineering service, the buildings etc. are costing the Government now about 18 crores. The capital cost of this service may not after all be more than 20 or 30 crores or at the most 40 crores. This is not a big sum and the House need not be afraid of embarking upon a venture where we do not know what amount of loss we must incur. We have got one of the biggest industries, the Railways, over which we have invested 800 crores and odd. This is another vital communication. Communications must go together, though no doubt communications have got a particular significance so far as the Government of India is concerned. I do not know how the Railways do not come under the term "communications". Communications include both Railways, Telegraph Telephones and Air Services. For the purpose of convenience, there are separate Departments created.

Sir, in my opinion all communications must belong to and be run by the State. They are essential key services. Having regard to the small amount that we have to spend upon this service and the meagre possibility of incurring any loss—even if there should be a loss, we have guaranteed, under this Agreement, to rectify that loss over a period of years—these are onerous conditions: why should we show these concessions to other Companies? Why should we not take it up ourselves?

I support this motion and I expect the Honourable Minister would kindly accept it and pursue it and extend it also to the internal services.

*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.*

**The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai** (Minister for Communications): Sir, I appreciate the points that have been raised by Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari. I have also consulted the Law Minister and he thinks that there will be no difficulty if we want to convert into a statutory Corporation, but the points will have to be examined. We have agreed to certain terms with Air India. If we can incorporate all the terms that we have agreed to, then there will be no objection and I will get the matter examined and if it does not in any way affect the terms of our agreement, I will see that the intention of the mover is carried out.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I would like to have the leave of the House to withdraw my motion in view of the very satisfactory reply the Honourable the Minister has given.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Honourable Member wishes the leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion. Has he got the leave?

The cut motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 56,33,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 53—AGRICULTURE

**Shri Upendranath Barman** (West Bengal: General): I rise on a point of elucidation. As regards demand No. 53—Agriculture, the Honourable Minister for Agriculture places the demand before this House for Rs. 2,08,82,000 and the explanatory Memorandum says that along with other sums got by way of reappropriation from the savings of other portions of the original grant, the sum total will come to Rs. 2,28,82,000. We are not told as to how this sum is going to be spent either in this year or in the coming year and on what principle or under what heads. I do not know whether by granting this sum of money the Ministry will be at liberty to spend it as they like or they will have to come before this House again for definite items of expenditure. I want some elucidation on this point.

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty** (Minister for Finance): May I answer the question? The House might remember that when we decontrolled sugar we froze the entire stocks and then we allowed the sugar factories to release the stocks frozen at Rs. 35 per maund whereas our control price was about Rs. 25 and odd. There was this profit of Rs. 14 and odd per maund which the Government took over. The Honourable the Premier of the United Provinces had some negotiations with the Sugar Syndicate on this subject. As a result of that negotiation it was arranged that out of this Rs. 14 and odd, five rupees will be given to the Sugar Syndicate to be distributed among its members to make good certain losses that the sugar factories made during the period of control. The other Rs. 9 per maund was retained by the Government as a profit resulting out of this decontrol. That amount came to about Rs. 2,08,82,000 and odd. The question then was: How is this amount to be spent? Well, the Government decided that this should be ear-marked for expenditure for the improvement of the sugar industry and sugar-cane cultivation. The next question was: "How is this amount to be apportioned amongst the various provinces? We finally decided that the Provinces will be getting from this fund an amount *pro rata* on the basis of the stocks held in the different provinces at the time of the decontrol. The United Provinces and Bihar happened to be the two Provinces that had practically about 90 per cent. of the total stocks that we had thus frozen. Therefore, very nearly 90 per cent. of this amount will be given to these Provinces concerned and the other provinces which held sugar stocks will also get their portion *pro rata* according to the stocks held by them. It was anticipated that there might be a slump in the sugar industry towards the end of this year and the Government of India, therefore have advised these provinces not to spend this money for the present, but to simply hold it in a suspense account till the end of 1948. If during the year any slump occurred in the sugar industry this sum might be utilised to meet that contingency; if not, after December 1948 the Provinces concerned will be at liberty to spend this money purely for the benefit of the sugar cultivation and sugar industry. That is how this amount is proposed to be spent.

**Mr. Speaker:** I want to know what particular demands Honourable Members would like me to put to the House and what particular cut motions they want to move.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** No question of cut motions arise so far as we are concerned, but we would like to speak on certain of the demands as and when they come up.

**Mr. Speaker:** Do I put No. 53 now?

**Mr. E. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General):** May I know what procedure is being followed? Are you now starting from No. 1 or anyone who has to say anything should intervene.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have not yet decided upon any procedure. I just wanted to know what is the mind of the House.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** As and when an opportunity arises, if any Honourable Member wants to speak about any particular demand, he starts and then another member speaks on another demand and at 5 O'clock you will apply the guillotine.

**Mr. Speaker:** That will not be a very desirable or proper thing to do. As the Honourable Member got up, I thought that it was the desire of some members to have No. 53. That is why I thought I might put No. 53 to the House for discussion and then the other demands may be taken up. Unless the House agrees to have an agreed order, I would like to follow the numerical order here.

The motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,08,82,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

**Prof. N. G. Ranga (Madras: General):** Sir, I am glad to know that the Government of India moved in this matter at the right moment and were able to save this amount of money for the country and its sugar-cane growers and the sugar-cane industry, as otherwise it would have been possible for the sugar manufacturers to have pocketed all this money. But at the same time, Sir, I cannot congratulate them upon what actually had happened after these stocks were frozen. I was told—and I hope my information is not wrong—that many of the sugar mills which had actually made good enough profits during the last three or four years have also been given the benefit of this additional price of Rs. 5 that was allowed by Government. Certainly that was not contemplated at the time either by the Finance Minister here or by the Agriculture Minister; and I do not know how it came about that even those mills which really did not deserve this profit were given this margin.

**The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai:** We have discussed that here several times.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Yes, I suppose we have discussed our failure to prevent this leakage. Then, Sir, I have not got much quarrel as to which Government got this money, the provincial Government or the Central Government. But I am really particular about the money that has gone to the wrong people.

Secondly, I found that although at that time the sugar mills gave Government to understand that the price was not going to be put up very much, actually the price has gone up very much higher, and till now neither Government nor the consumers have been able to control these people.

Thirdly, the growers have not been treated properly by the Sugar Syndicate. In U.P. and Bihar I am told that a price of Rs. 35 per ton of sugar-cane has been agreed to. But so far as the Madras Presidency is concerned, the Madras Government has not as yet been able to make the sugar mill owners agree to pay a similarly reasonable price.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The bulk of them are foreigners.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Yes, but even our Indian mill owners seem to be just as bad, so far as the cane growers are concerned. They plead that in view of the lower sucrose-content of the Madras cane it would not be possible to pay as much as the U.P. and Bihar sugar mills are paying.

**An Honourable Member:** Who said the sucrose-content is lower?

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** The sugar mill owners are maintaining that. Even supposing they are correct in that the other fact remains that the transport charges which the Sugar Syndicate has got to bear in order to transport its sugar to Madras Presidency is there against them. Secondly, all the sugar is being sold by the Sugar Syndicate at one and the same price in all the provinces. Therefore it must be easier for the sugar mill owners of the Madras Presidency to pay even a much higher price for the local sugar cane than what is being paid in the U.P. and Bihar. In spite of that they do not even agree to pay as high a price for sugar-cane as is being paid in U.P. and Bihar. So I suggest that the Government of India should keep a watch over these things and see that the sugar cane growers of the south are treated at least as well as the sugar cane growers of the U.P. and Bihar. In this respect I wish to remind the Government of India of their duty towards the sugar-cane growers because there was an Act according to which this protection for sugar industry was brought in; and in that Act a specific provision was made to see that the sugar-cane growers' interests also would be protected along with the interests of the sugar manufacturers.

I hope, Sir, the Government of India will keep these points in mind and see that the sugar-cane growers in the south are also just as well protected as those in the U.P. and Bihar. I do not know whether it is possible for them to rectify this mistake that they had made by giving the benefit of this additional price of Rs. 5 to those mills which are affiliated with the Sugar Syndicate which had made heavy or high enough profits in the last three or four years and which really did not deserve this special windfall.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (C. P. and Berar: General): Sir, I must confess that the explanation given by the Finance Minister, if it happens to be correct, deserves to be condemned by this House. We were expecting that the difference between the old controlled price and the price at which this stock of frozen sugar was permitted to be sold would be available for the people of India. And what is the result? If I have understood the Finance Minister rightly,—which I hope I have because I was listening to him very attentively,—he is going to give Rs. 5 for the previous losses of the sugar manufacturers and remaining Rs. 9 are going to be reserved for future losses. So we have at the most in the bargain only about Rs. 5 per maund. First of all we were told that most of the money would be available for some nation-building purpose or for some purpose which would reach the common man and the people of India in general. We actually find that a very large portion—more than two-thirds—is going to be reserved or is going to be given to sugar manufacturers. We are told Rs. 5 are going to be given to manufacturers for meeting old losses. I smell some mischief behind all this because there could be no loss or deficit to the sugar manufacturers which needed being provided for. There may have been some lean years before the war, but if we take all the years together we will find that they made enormous profits. For this no one need rely upon me. We have the evidence, of what they themselves published in the papers. For instance, I know that in the Phaltan State Mafatlal Gagabhai had a sugar factory, and I have seen with my own eyes an advertisement in the *Times of India* stating that though the factory was established about the year 1939 or 1940, the first year's profit was 10 lakhs of rupees when the total investment of the whole factory was only 10 lakhs. Next year the profit was 20 lakhs and in the

third year it was 10 lakhs again. I cannot imagine how, when the whole capital outlay of a factory has been made up in one year's profit, there can remain any losses which are to be paid out of this amount.

Secondly, this whole policy of sugar control and giving protection to the sugar industry is absolutely anti-national and deserves to be condemned. I am probably voicing a somewhat unusual and solitary opinion which may not be shared by many people; but I feel that the ordinary average man is being made to pay for the profit-making of the industrialists because whatever profit is made goes to the industrialist and it does not come back to the people in any shape or form. I have a recent case in which I can inform the Honourable the Minister-in-charge of Finance and the Government of India as to the method which these sugar manufacturers employ. This refers to the happenings in the sugar mill at Rawalgaon. A big Bombay capitalist obtained free of any cost 1,500 acres of land. After getting this land from a Congress Ministry in 1937 he obtained the irrigation water at a concession rate, all in the name of encouraging sugar industry. As a result he pays only Rs. 9 as against Rs. 15 to 23 that an agriculturist has to pay. These sugar factories, Sir, are really maintained on the blood money of the ordinary people of India. Although the Java sugar and other sugar from foreign countries can be sold here at any thing between Rs. 8 and Rs. 12 per maund, we were buying it throughout the war at Rs. 21 and now we are buying the same at Rs. 35 per maund. So every man who uses sugar is contributing absolutely directly 200 to 300 per cent. to the Indian sugar manufacturers and it is in this way that they make the enormous profits. In spite of the concessions granted to the Rawalgaon factory which I have already mentioned, the Manager of this factory coerced the agriculturists to part with their sugarcane at Rs. 30 per ton. My friend, Prof. Ranga was not quite up-to-date in his knowledge about this sugar question. Otherwise he may have made a much more effective speech than what he could do. But I am aware of the statistics and I am in a position to say that the sugar industrialists are deserving of no consideration. While the Rawalgaon sugar factory purchases sugar-cane at Rs. 30 per ton, they manufacture three maunds of sugar out of this and thus make Rs. 105 i.e. a net profit of at least Rs. 70 per ton. The factory crushes 700 tons of sugarcane per day and the daily profit of the company therefore comes to nearly Rs. 50,000.

What has the Government done? The Government has curious methods of acting. Instead of themselves asking the sugar industrialist to buy according to certain regulations and give a minimum price to the sugarcane growers, they have left this particular matter to some one else. The Government of India gives protection to all sugar factories; but so far as the protection to the sugar-cane growers, it is the job of the Provincial Governments. The U.P. and the Bihar Governments have passed the necessary Acts and have fixed the price of sugar-cane at Rs. 54-4 per ton. (But the other Provincial Governments have left the agriculturists at the mercy of the factories. In the Bombay Presidency, the Bombay Government has yet to pass an Act similar to the one obtaining in the U.P. and Bihar with the result that the industrialists of Rawalgaon are coercing the agriculturists to sell at Rs. 30 a ton. Any one who has any knowledge of agricultural cultivation will agree that it is impossible to grow one ton of sugar-cane in Rs. 30. The actual cost comes to at least Rs. 55 a ton. A very serious situation, Sir, is likely to arise at Rawalgaon and I would not be surprised that if the proprietors of the sugar industries persist the factory may come in trouble because the agriculturists are very angry. They have not even been given a hearing. The Managers of the sugar factories are not prepared to meet them. I hope they will change their attitude.

In so far as the distribution of the profit the Government made in this transaction the House has not been fairly treated. This question had been

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raised before on the floor of the House and we were expecting that this extra money would be available for some good purpose out of which benefit would flow to the whole Indian community. But that has not been so. Some of the profits are reserved for the sugar manufacturers themselves and almost nothing is given to the ordinary people and even those Rs. 5 that remain are to be reserved not for the sugar-cane growers in the U.P. and Bihar alone but the sugar-cane growers and the manufacturers. I do not quarrel with the former. I do not mind the agriculturists of any part of the country being benefited but that is not a very commendable sort of situation and I would therefore be glad if the orders could be revoked and this money made available for the Agricultural Department for its development. This would be the proper thing.

There is another point I would like to bring up. It is this. We have got a Labour Department in the Government of India. Every Province has a Labour Department. There is also an Agriculture Department here and in the Provinces. But whereas the Labour Department includes the welfare of the labourers, the Agriculture Department nowhere includes the welfare of the agriculturists. A mere handful of labourers have their own shouters. Industrial labour, which is organized, has its leaders who shout from house-tops in season and out of season. They are the people who strive to protect labour's interests. Here also, we have lots of members who let go no opportunity in advancing their interests. But with regard to the agriculturist, it seems to be everyone's business and no one's business. While there are hundreds of Labour Welfare Officers, there is not as yet a single Agriculturist's Welfare Officer. Has any Provincial Government done anything in this regard in spite of the fact that Mahatmaji lived and died for the *kisans*? Is there anything really being done for the *kisans*? To my knowledge nothing. If it is necessary to protect the interests of the labourers it is doubly necessary to protect the interests of the agriculturists because they are far more backward and oppressed. I had given notice of a cut motion in the original budget on this subject. I would like to point out to the Government of India that it is time they thought of the welfare of the agriculturists in a more direct way, and did something similar to what is being done for the labourers.

I might mention that I had a talk with the Honourable Minister for Agriculture on this point and he appeared very sympathetic. I hope his sympathies will not end there and that he will be able with the assistance and co-operation of the other members of Government to do something substantial for the welfare of the agriculturists. And that also should not be all. I hope that he will be able to persuade the other Provincial Ministries and Governments to Act in a similar way. The profit made by us in this sugar transaction should be a good source of revenue for such an endeavour. A portion out of the profits we have made on sugar could, I think, be usefully utilised for this purpose.

I do not think it will be proper on my part to touch any other point although I have so much to say and have had no proper opportunity to say it.

**Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya** (Madras: General): The public are well aware that when a hint was thrown in the press that the control on sugar would be abolished, the prices that were advertised went up from Rs. 21 to Rs. 35. Naturally this news created a perturbed feeling in the minds of some of us and we tried to get into touch with the Minister. It was stated at the time that all the Rs. 14 would not be taken by the mill-owners, but that Rs. 9 would go to the Central Government and the remaining Rs. 5 would be allowed to those mills to make up past losses. Then we made an enquiry as to whether all the mills had made losses. We felt that it was quite fair that if the mills had made losses in the past five years, they should be compensated but on enquiry it immediately turned out that all the mills had not



made losses, though we did not know how many mills had made losses and how many had made profits. Then it was agreed that compensation should be given from out of this Rs. 5 only to those mills which had made losses in the previous five years. At that point it was also agreed that the stocks should be frozen. If this had to be the line to be adopted, it was necessary to freeze the stocks overnight by means of an ordinance. The ordinance was passed and we felt comfortable that everything was readjusted.

But what was our surprise when later we learnt that the understanding that had been reached in this affair was not observed, and as the Finance Minister has stated today, a part of the Rs. 5 or all the Rs. 5 went towards compensating the millowners. I wish to know, Sir,—unfortunately the Food Minister is not here, but the Finance Minister may be knowing it, I do not really expect him to know—whether all the millowners had made losses or whether there was any examination of the mills that made losses and whether compensation was given to those millowners who made losses according to the published balance-sheets. The balance-sheets were referred to in our conversation. Later on, however, I was told that the reason why the understanding that had been reached was gone back upon was that the U.P.

3 P.M. Ministry protested. There was no ground for the U.P. Ministry to protest at all, because they were not asked to close this bargain. They were asked only to negotiate a settlement with the sugar syndicate and put it up to the Central Government for approval. The U.P. Ministry apparently went beyond their terms of reference and said that they had committed themselves in the matter and that they would cut a sorry figure in the eyes of the Sugar Syndicate if the agreement was not adhered to in letter and spirit. Apparently the Food Ministry weakened thereupon and collapsed and agreed to the dictates of the U.P. Ministry. This was a very, very disappointing situation. So the Rs. 5 went to the millowner and unless somebody reassures that only the loss-makers got the compensation we should also think that another piece of injustice might have been done in apportioning the moneys both among those who made losses and those who made profits.

One redeeming feature which in fairness I owe it to myself to express in the House, for the reason that it is within my knowledge, is that all the Rs. 5 was not swallowed by the millowners. I was told that Rs. 3½ would revert to the Income-tax Department. That would only leave Rs. 1½. Re. 1 went to the labourers. That was but fair so that only eight annas might have gone to the millowner, to some wrongly and to others rightly. This is the genesis of the whole affair and I think we should be fair to the facts of the case. The reason why the price was raised all of a sudden from Rs. 21 which was the controlled price to Rs. 35 was stated to be that cane growers had been demanding for sometime an increase in the rate of cane and that after February last they would get not Rs. 1-4 per unit but Rs. 2. According to calculations that would very nearly justify the increment from Rs. 21 to 35, the proportion being almost the same. If that were so, the point for us to ascertain would be whether the growers have had their share of the increment to which they are legitimately entitled. The query in this behalf put by my Honourable friend Dr. P. S. Deshmukh is very appropriate, except that I am surprised that he should have said that he never heard anything much about *kisans*. I hear nothing except the word *kisan* and for him to have said so in the presence of Prof. Ranga was a little bit audacious and unjust to the professor! However, the *kisan* is not a silent being. I know care-takers are not appointed to protect his interests. Their care-takers should be very numerous indeed, because nearly 80 per cent. of the population are *kisans*. Under these circumstances I would like to make an observation that the Food Ministry weakened

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at the psychological moment. If they had only been strong enough there would have been a juster apportionment of the moneys but so far as the 9 and 5 proportion was fixed, that was the point to which we were parties but we were not parties to Rs. 5 being appropriated entirely by the millowners.

**Shri Upendranath Barman:** Sir, after the discussions that have occurred on the floor of the House I would like to make one or two observations on this demand. First of all, to my mind, this huge sum was rather a windfall and at the time when the last budget for the year was passed this huge sum was not in contemplation of the House. Subsequently by some fortuitous circumstance more than 2 crores came into the hands of the Ministry. Certainly the House should have been apprised as to how this sum was going to be spent. Hearing the discussions on the floor of this House I suppose this was not done. I think that this expenditure was not so much regular as it should be. I hope that my friends from U.P. and Bihar will not take it otherwise when I say that. Accidentally, two of the provinces had 90 per cent. of the stock in their hands and it was certainly not due to any efforts on the part of U.P. and Bihar Ministries or the population there that these 2 crores and 28 lakhs came into the hands of the Government of India. The agriculturists have got their due cost: when the price of cane was not remunerative the Ministry thought it best to raise the price of cane and certainly the consumers are ready to pay whatever reasonable price may be fixed. Neither did this sum come into the hands of the Ministry, from any efforts, on the part of the Government of India. Under certain circumstances it was accidental that this sum got to the coffers of the Government of India. To my mind had the Ministry thought it fit to allocate this sum to different provinces for the purpose of growing sugar cane,—to such provinces where sugarcane can be grown,—in that case this essential food commodity also would have been grown in as wide an area in India as possible. That would have been better and would have minimised transport cost. If there was any difficulty in installing sugar mills I am certain that the poor villagers would be satisfied with *gur*. From all these considerations I think that the Ministry would have done better had they allotted this sum to such provinces where sugar cane is not grown but where it can be grown. That would have been a justifiable expenditure. Anyway even now if the amount goes to the benefit of Bihar and U.P. cane-growers I have no objection.

**Shri Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General):** Sir, while sanctioning any expenditure the House ought to be very very strict and especially while sanctioning supplementary grants we ought to be rather over-strict. What is the use of passing a budget? While passing the budget amounts are placed for distribution amongst so many departments. But while making the expenditure the spending department does not consider the amount sanctioned to them for expenditure but they go on spending and spending. If the expenditure has been made under circumstances over which they have no control of course the supplementary grant may in that case be sanctioned. (But after the general budget has been passed any amount of supplementary grant is brought to the House and it is sanctioned. Sir, I do not like it. In this case we hear that so much money has been received by the Government. If that is so it is a very good thing. But as regards expenditure we hear that it should have gone to the agriculturists and so on so forth. The attitude of the Government towards the sugar industry has always been objected to. It is really very difficult for us to understand the attitude of the Government towards the sugar industry. But we understand one thing. It is very very easy to be generous at the cost of others. If those people who are so very generous to the sugar industry had to spend anything from their own pocket then they might have understood what this generosity means. But at the

cost of the consumers and the growers they can be very generous to the sugar industry. In this case I think this method of expenditure must not be sanctioned. Every pice of the amount must go to the agriculturists and the growers of sugarcane must get the benefit of the amount just received. By way of manure and many other things the Government ought to distribute the whole amount among the sugarcane cultivators. They are so very kind and generous to the sugar industry, the millowners, the rich people, and they want to distribute money in this way. Sir, I think this must not be allowed.

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Sir, this really concerns my Honourable friend the Food Minister. But in his absence I do not mind answering some of the points that have been raised in the course of the discussion.

With regard to the payment of Rs. 5 per maund to the Sugar Syndicate what really happened was this. Here I think I must frankly state what took place at the time of the decontrol of sugar. The Government of India decided to decontrol sugar. When that decision was taken no steps were contemplated for controlling the price because we were launching on a policy of decontrol. The credit must really go to the Premier of the United Provinces to have found out that immediately after decontrol there would be a rise in prices and an unjustifiable profit going into the hands of the sugar mills. It was therefore he that stepped into the field first.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** On a point of information, Sir, may I point out that this point was raised in this House immediately on the bringing up of the question of decontrol and it was pointed out by some Honourable Members in this House; and I think steps were taken in this direction after that suggestion.

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** No, Sir. It was really the Premier of U.P. that first took up this question and he had a discussion with the Sugar Syndicate and came to this arrangement. It was really after that that we woke up and found that something like this ought to have been done. When we decided that the lines along which the U.P. Premier had finished the negotiations with the Sugar Syndicate were the right lines we thought we must honour the understanding that he had arrived at with the Sugar Syndicate in its entirety. And therefore it is that we agreed to the arrangement that we made under which Rs. 5 out of this excess was to be given to the Sugar Syndicate. How exactly this amount was distributed among the members of the Sugar Syndicate is a point about which I have no information. But, as my Honourable friend Dr. Pattabhi said, more than Rs. 2½ out of this will come back to the Government of India in the form of income-tax and corporation tax. And a portion went to the labour for the increased wages that we have fixed, with the result that what actually the Sugar Syndicate got was only a very modest amount. The price of Rs. 35 was not really an excessive price, because, as my Honourable friend Dr. Pattabhi pointed out, since decontrol the U.P. and the Bihar Governments made an arrangement under which the price for the cane grower was raised from Rs. 1-4-0 per maund to Rs. 2 per maund. At the same time there was also a very substantial increase in the minimum wages to be paid to the labourers of the sugar mills. Taking these two factors into consideration we were satisfied that Rs. 35 per maund was a fair price. That was why the price of Rs. 35 per maund was arrived at. Honourable Members, especially my Honourable friend Mr. Ramnarayan Singh, are not correct in saying that the Food Department has gone on spending this money without obtaining the consent of this House. Well, Sir, this Department has just now come before this House for spending the money in the manner proposed. Therefore there is no question of the Food Department having spent the money and their representing the House with a *fait accompli* at all.

**Shri Upendranath Barman:** Why is there no indication in the Explanatory Memorandum as to how this money is going to be spent?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I have given the explanation in the Memorandum as to how the money was going to be spent.

My Honourable friend Prof. Ranga has very rightly drawn the attention of the House to the fact that the Provincial Governments other than U.P. and Bihar—especially the Government of Madras—have not yet taken any steps to increase the price to be given to sugarcane growers. The fixation of sugarcane price is a matter which is entirely within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Governments. We shall certainly draw the attention of the Provincial Governments concerned, and especially of the Madras Government, to the feeling expressed in this House that the benefit of this must really be given to the sugarcane growers.

Sir, something has also been said about the 'undue protection' given to the sugar industry. I happened to examine the case of the sugar industry when I was the President of the Tariff Board. It was no doubt a summary enquiry. But even in the course of that summary enquiry I was convinced that the so-called protection to the sugar industry is, in essence and in substance, protection to the sugarcane grower and not to the industry at all, because the price of the Java sugar is less than the price that we pay to the sugarcane. Honourable Members must understand that unless a substantial protection is given to the sugar industry there can be no sugarcane growing at all; there will be no sugar industry; and there will be no sugarcane cultivation in this country. Well, this matter will come up for more detailed examination in due course by the Tariff Board and this House also will have an opportunity of pronouncing its verdict on this matter. Sir, I do not think any further point was raised in the course of the debate.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,68,82,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 21—MINISTRY OF COMMERCE.

**Mr. Speaker:** Instead of taking up the time of the House in putting each item separately I should like to know what particular demands Honourable Members would like to discuss so that I shall put together all the remaining demands in respect of which Honourable Members do not wish to make any observations.

**Shri B. Shiva Rao (Madras: General):** I want to speak about Demand No. 21—Ministry of Commerce.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I would like to speak on Demand No. 55.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I want to know something about Demand No. 77.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** I want to speak on Demand Nos. 28, 56, 77 and 78-A.

**Mr. Speaker:** I propose now to take up these demands. All the remaining demands, I shall put in an omnibus form at 5 o'clock. We shall take up demand No. 21.

The motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,61,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August, 1947 to 31st March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Commerce'."

**Shri B. Shiva Rao:** Sir, if you look at the explanation given for this supplementary demand, one of the points mentioned is the unexpected prolongation of the Geneva and Havana Trade Conferences. That is not the whole of the explanation, and at the present moment I am inclined to refuse the demand altogether unless the Finance Minister can give a satisfactory explanation. When I spoke on the Finance Bill the other day I drew the attention of the House to what I called the extravagant expenditure of certain officials who are sent abroad on some of these delegations, and although I did not mention details, I had in mind the Preparatory Trade Conference in Geneva. As a rule I am most reluctant to mention the names of individual officers or to invite the attention of the House to incidents of this kind, unless there is some general interest served by that reference. I am compelled to do so on this occasion for reasons which I propose to narrate very briefly to the House. Sir, one of the Government of India's representatives to the Geneva Conference flew to London and asked the High Commissioner's Office to lend him one of their most competent stenographers. Interpreting that in the natural sense, they sent a middle-aged woman of 45, but he sent her back after a week on the ground that she was too old for his work. Sir, I cannot understand a stenographer of 45 being discarded as too old. That is not the whole of the story. He chose a much younger stenographer in Geneva and flew her to Washington at government expense, and in Washington, during the two days he spent there, his hotel bills were on a scale that Royalty might envy. Sir, I refer to it, because this officer has wangled a second visit to Washington in the course of the last six months, and at the present moment I understand, if my information is correct, he has asked for the services of that same stenographer from Geneva to be flown to Washington to help him with his work for a few days.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** A very faithful man.

**Shri B. Shiva Rao:** I am surprised that the Ministry of Food and Agriculture should have passed on this preposterous claim without any comment to the Department of Finance, and I am equally surprised that the Finance Department, instead of rejecting it outright, is seriously considering the claim at the present moment. I have a grouse against the Finance Minister, because over my modest claim for dollars to meet legitimate expenditure on my paper in New York he has been sitting tight for weeks, and yet he seems to be lavish and even reckless in sanctioning expenditure of thousands of dollars for holiday jaunts for some of his officials who manage to get two world tours in the course of a year, whether the business is genuine or artificially created. I do feel, although it may seem strong language, that officials, however able they may be, if they have no conscience about the manner in which they spend public funds, should never be sent out of this country. I would like to know what steps the Finance Minister proposes to take over the point I raised in the course of discussion of the Finance Bill that there should be some check on the expenditure of officers who go out on tours of this character.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Sir, I have one more word to say. That is only to reinforce what Mr. Shiva Rao said some time ago, and that is that we should see that our own Indian stenographers are sent abroad, and clerks also, instead of these women being employed abroad, women who are not of our colour, of our kith and kin, but women of some other race. It has a special bearing, Sir, upon the strategic importance of these international missions. It always pays other countries to try to get news or information about any secret consultations that our people may be having in their own Group meetings or in their own delegation meetings, and can there be a better way of getting all this information than by simply tipping either by money or various other means these girls whom our people are so very fond of employing abroad, and that is why I take very strong exception to this particular practice. I know

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some of our friends are under the impression that whenever our boys go there, they rather collapse. They may be collapsing, but nevertheless they are our boys. Therefore, I would rather prefer our own Indian stenographers, clerks and assistants, being sent abroad: and when they come back again, they will come back with all the experience of their foreign tour and the impressions that they gather of the method of work, the organization of office and all the rest, will go to enrich our own office work. I do not see any reason why these highly placed officials alone should go abroad, and not these lower placed people. Secondly, I have never seen any foreign delegation ever going to any conference without their own nationals serving them from the clerk's position right up to delegate's position. And thirdly, Sir, I myself happened to be at Geneva at the time the Trade Conference was going on. I cannot complain that our delegate or his assistants either in the delegation or in the office really were squandering our money. My only complaint was that the amount of money that we had to pay for the stenographers, clerks, assistants and others that we had to employ was rather too heavy. Again, whenever our people were giving any entertainments, they could not do it just as well as others because they could not spend money just as judiciously as others do on drinks because our people do not know much about drink and when they do drink, they get drunk, whereas other people do not show they are drunk at all. Nevertheless you should entertain and so I would like to suggest that when they do give these entertainments, they should try to do it in the Indian fashion, if necessary taking certain things from this country and showing to these people what we mean by real entertainment.

**An Honourable Member:** Country liquor!

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** There is no need for country liquor. Adam's ale is about the best as far as I can see. Therefore I think it is as well some attention is paid by the Finance Ministry as well as the other Ministries concerned to the points that we have raised here, and also various other points that they ought to keep in mind since some of them have themselves gone abroad on these delegations.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Sir, I would like to make one or two suggestions. I am told, subject to correction by the Honourable the Finance Minister, that whatever expenditure is incurred inside the country is all audited, but so far as expenditure by delegations outside India is concerned, it does not come within the purview of the audit. That is what I am told. Therefore, if there is a provision for spending a particular amount here and if that is exceeded, the auditor immediately calls upon them to account for the excess, but in respect of amounts spent outside India, the auditor does not seem to exercise any jurisdiction whatever.

If that is the position, then it must be a practice which must have been started by our old masters, a legacy which has been left to our Ministers, and I am sure the Honourable the Finance Minister will correct it as early as possible.

The other point I want to make is this. For every delegation that is sent abroad an estimate should be prepared and under no circumstances should they be allowed to exceed the estimated amount.

With regard to the employment of stenographers by our Embassies and Delegations—which was referred to by the previous speakers—there is a grave danger. I am told, of course I myself have not gone to the U.S.A., that in our Embassy there, there are a good number of American lady stenographers. Our Government have to send constant instructions to our Delegation at the U.N.O. through our Embassy, and it is likely that very often they may contain something against U.S.A. It is these American ladies who have to decypher

these messages which are sent in code. I feel that however much faithful they may be to us, it is rather dangerous to trust them in these matters. In the larger interests of the country as a whole and in the interest of economy, I would therefore appeal to Government to see that our own nationals are kept in these Embassies, whatever might be the cost.

Another vital point which I want to mention is that the Delegations which we send abroad should set an example of our high tradition and best culture. I am given to understand by my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga that the delegates to the International Food Conference who went to plead before the representatives of the world that we are starving and that we have not sufficient money to pay for the food we want to import, lavishly spent Rs. 7,000 on a cocktail party of 600 guests, and that in hard Swiss currency. Let the entire world laugh at us—we do not mind—, but we should impress on the world that we are a nation of tee-totalers. Let us carry this message far and wide. I do not evaluate the achievements of a Delegation in rupees, annas and pies, but by the impression they create before the representatives of the world. And then, let us not send very young men on these delegations. From the stories I hear, I understand that very few people are able to keep their balance. Some of them go to pieces. Let, therefore, only tried men be sent on these foreign delegations, people who represent the best that India can put forth.

**Mr. B. K. Sidhva:** Sir, on a point of information I want to know from the Honourable Minister for Finance whether it is not a fact that the entire staff of the British and the American Embassies in Delhi, from the highest to the lowest, from the Ambassador or High Commissioner, down to the clerk, does not consist of the nationals of those countries? Even the staff of the Indonesian Embassy has been brought from that country. Not a single Indian is employed in any capacity in any of the foreign embassies in Delhi. I would therefore request Government that if they cannot do anything on their own initiative, let them at least follow the footsteps of the other Governments. Is it not, therefore, most unfair that our Embassies and Consulates abroad should deny such opportunities to their countrymen. What prevents a clerk from going abroad and serving his country? Should he not aspire to better his prospects, and show to the rest of the world that he is in no way inferior to them when it comes to a matter of competition. This is a matter on which we all feel strongly. I can straightway tell the Honourable the Finance Minister that there should be no question of economy in this particular matter; the question of cost does not come in, when it is a matter of national prestige. What after all is the meaning of an Embassy or a Consulate? That is a medium for the representation of Indian culture. Why, a clerk on the staff of the Embassy is as much an Indian as the High Commissioner or Ambassador, by whatever designation you may call him. I would, therefore, wish to convey to the Honourable the Prime Minister, through the Finance Minister, that the entire staff of every Indian Embassy abroad from the Ambassador right down to the lowest clerk, should be drawn from Indian nationals.

**Shri Biswanath Das** (Orissa: General): It is not my intention to make any long speech on this occasion. I wish only to point out how things are going on in the Foreign Embassies in Delhi. A particular Indian gentleman, applied for a job in the British Embassy here, to which he received a reply that no non-nationals are employed in that office. Unfortunately the Delegations sent abroad by the Government of India and the various embassies under the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations take a fancy even for non-Indian stenographers. I would appeal to the Ministry in particular and to all gentlemen connected with the Indian delegations going abroad to take a leaf out of the example that I have just now brought to their notice.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** Now that this question has been raised. I feel impelled to make a few observations. I do not wish however to refer to appointments in our Embassies abroad as that point has been sufficiently discussed. I wish to refer to employment of Indians in other spheres. I had addressed certain questions with regard to the employment of Indians in firms working in India, to which I have not been able to get a satisfactory reply. My main complaint is that even in foreign firms which are doing business in India, we find very few Indians employed. If, on the other hand, we want to go to foreign countries and it is almost impossible for any Indian to start any business abroad. As against that there is a free and unfettered scope for any foreigner to come here and start any business he likes. I would, therefore, suggest that before any license is granted to a foreign firm to start business in India we should make it a condition that they must employ as many Indians as is possible in that firm. It is not merely a question of salaries; it is also a matter of our countrymen getting experience. The other day the Honourable the Commerce Minister admitted that a foreigner is free to do whatever he likes in this country and the foreigners take the maximum advantage of the unsettled state of affairs here. I know of some cases of foreigners who had come to India during the war. When they went back to their countries, they found life miserable. There was not sufficient food, there was not sufficient clothing—nor any accommodation. As compared with this they led a very comfortable life in India. They are therefore now coming back to India some of them professing to be experts and specialists in one thing or the other.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid the Honourable Member is going beyond the scope of the discussion. The point here is with respect to the Delegations to foreign countries, particularly Delegations to Geneva and Havana and the cost of the Indian Delegation to the International Shipping Conference.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I thought, Sir, the "Commerce" demand was under discussion and that I was free to mention other points also. In any case, I have more or less finished stating the suggestion I wanted to convey.

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Sir, as Finance Minister I am very much obliged to my Honourable friend Mr. Shiva Rao for drawing the attention of the House to the very extravagant and almost scandalous way in which expenditure seems to have been incurred by some of our representatives abroad. Well, I might assure him I was not at all aware of such a state of affairs. I was under the impression that there was a very strict scale of allowances prescribed for all the delegates that went abroad for any international gathering. I have myself gone as Government representative, Sir, on previous occasions to a number of international gatherings, and I might tell you that I was given a prescribed amount and I was not allowed to spend one penny more than that except from my own pocket.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Somebody is cleverer than you!

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** That is my own experience. I do not know if that practice has changed now. Well, I would further discuss this matter with my Honourable friend Mr. Shiva Rao who happens to have some first hand information about this and I might assure him that if any items relating to such unauthorized expenditure are still pending the sanction of the Finance Ministry they certainly will not get that sanction.

**Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad:** That would be most unkind.

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I certainly will have a most searching enquiry made in this matter now that it has been brought to my notice.



With regard to audit of this expenditure abroad, I really do not know what is the position today. Certainly, before the 15th August there was an Auditor at the India Office who exercised the same audit check as the Auditor-General on this side. I do not know if there is a laxity on this audit procedure now.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** That procedure has been removed now.

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Evidently there is a lacuna now and I would certainly see that with regard to all expenditure incurred abroad also, audit would be made as effective as for internal expenditure.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** And these entertainment allowances?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Yes, I will certainly look into the whole question. I certainly am in general agreement with the feeling expressed in this House that of late there has been quite an epidemic of these delegations abroad and a very considerable expenditure is certainly being incurred.

With regard to the staffing of our Embassies and Consulates abroad, personally I am in full agreement with the point of view urged by Honourable Members. I think, Sir, our foreign Embassies and Consulates must as far as possible be manned by Indian nationals. It certainly is the practice followed by other Embassies abroad and even in our own country. I am sure the Honourable the Prime Minister will take note of what has been said in this House on this point.

Of course this matter of girl stenographers is always a rather difficult and interesting point.

**An Honourable Member:** Intriguing also.

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I have myself had some experience of this matter while I was in the United States and there a story was told me about this girl stenographer business. A certain big-businessman was a bachelor and he sent his income-tax return and in the income-tax return against the column "How many children have you got?", there was an entry, "One child". The Income-tax Officer happened to be a friend of this gentleman and so when he met him at a party he said, "I say, what is this? You are a confirmed bachelor and I find in your return an entry as one child against that column. I suppose it is your stenographer's mistake?", and the gentleman said "Oh, you are telling me about it!".

**Mr. Speaker:** I will now put the Demand to the House.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,61,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th of August, 1947 to 31st of March, 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Commerce'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 2—MINISTRY OF STATES

**Mr. Speaker:** The motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 38,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th of August 1947 to 31st of March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of State'."

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Sir, I will not take much time. According to me this is a very important matter which the Honourable Members will kindly listen to. After the Honourable Minister took ill, the Secretary has been making a number of statements which have involved this country in

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great difficulty. I do not want that the Secretaries should take the responsibility of making statements on behalf of the Government or give Press conferences. I would only give one instance. Only yesterday the Prime Minister had to refer to the question of the accession of Kalat. In the issue of the 28th of March of the *Hindu*, it is reported that the States Secretary made a statement at a Press conference and therein it is said:

"Mr. Menon bitterly complained about the 'dishonest' way in which some foreign correspondents had been attempting to present in a distorted manner developments in Indian States. He referred in particular to the story of Kalat's attempt to accede to the Indian Union, the plebiscite in Junagadh and the agitation in Bharatpur. The Khan of Kalat had approached the Government of India some time ago through an agent about the accession. But the Government of India flatly refused to have anything to do with Kalat."

Sir, it was that statement which gave rise to so much of comment. It was only yesterday that we heard from the Honourable the Prime Minister that there was no such approach at all and unnecessarily the A.I.R. took this cue and broadcast it—there was so much trouble.

Sir, there was a great responsibility during the previous regime; those Secretaries could become Executive Councillors. It is not right—they must leave everything to the Minister; if the Minister is not there, some other Minister or the Prime Minister should take the responsibility, but such statements should not be made. I have the greatest regard for those Secretaries, but in their zest they are a little overdoing.

Sir, there is another trouble. On page 9 of the *Hindu* of March 30th, he has created by his statement another trouble regarding the future of Sandur State:

"The Sandur Government in a Press communique issued today says:

The Government of Sandur are surprised to note the statement made by Mr. V. P. Menon, Secretary, States Ministry, at a Press Conference held at Delhi on March 27 to the effect that Sandur would be integrated with the province of Madras and that the date has not been fixed. The Government wish to make it clear that when the Political Member to Sandur Government met the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of States at New Delhi on March 18, it was made perfectly clear to him that the State of Sandur will not agree to any form of merger with the province of Madras. This attitude of the State has further been reiterated and ratified by the State Legislature at its joint session held on March 26."

I do not want that, however high an officer might be, any statement should be made which would bring our country into trouble or the Government into trouble. The Secretaries ought not to make such controversial statements in regard to controversial matters. I am sorry the Honourable Minister is not able to be present here; nor even the Prime Minister is here. Anyway, I thought this is a matter which the Legislature must take note of. We should avoid as far as possible such mistakes. As the Legislature, we have a right to direct the Secretaries not to indulge in such things. It is not as if they are doing it deliberately. But this is another example and gives pointed attention to our complaint that the Secretaries want to boss over the Ministers and make the Ministers cyphers. It is wrong in principle. We protest against it. These people, however good they may be, ought not to take the place of the Ministers. This involves us in a great deal of trouble. That is all that I have to submit.

**Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya:** I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, that there is something wrong in our interpretation of things, because so far as Kalat is concerned, the statement given by the Prime Minister yesterday is in contradiction with the newspaper statement. Therefore, either this version of the paper must be wrong or there must be something wrong elsewhere. Accordingly the Secretary may not be indicted until we know the truth about it.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** All that I am saying is that the Secretary need not talk about this.

**Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya:** That is another point.

The second point about Sandur, if that is equally incorrect, it remains to be corrected. Therefore, we must ascertain the truth in the matter.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 38,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th of August 1947 to 31st of March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of State'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 28—MINISTRY OF DEFENCE.

**Mr. Speaker:** The motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,24,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th of August 1947 to 31st of March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Defence'."

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** You will see, Sir, from the Explanatory Memorandum circulated regarding Demand No. 28 and 29 that the arrears of pay and dearness allowances for the period ending 14th August 1947, which was normally debitable to the joint account of the former Central Government have to be debited to the account of the Indian Dominion as the Pakistan Government have decided not to implement the Pay Commission's recommendations. I was not able to understand what this meant.

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

If for the period ending 14th August 1947 when we were joint the Defence Forces were common to us and some of those Forces were transferred to Pakistan and some taken by us, the Pakistan Government must be in a position to pay the arrears of pay and allowances. There must be a charge against them and they must be borne by Pakistan. It is a debt against them. How is it that they have refused to pay them and we are obliged to pay what they are obliged to pay. If the arrangement was one-sided and we had to take up the full responsibility why did we agree to do so? This is one of the matters which the Honourable Minister has to explain.

Then, Madam, I am informed that India has to receive a debt of Rs. 300 and odd crores from Pakistan. What arrangements are being made to clear that debt. Are there any instalments? Unfortunately, so far as these arrangements between Pakistan and India are concerned, the Secretaries of Department refer to them and decide these matters. It is necessary that in regard to the various arrangements and agreements that are entered into which have far-reaching consequences, like the allocation of assets, the distribution of assets or debts, statements ought to be laid on the table of the House from time to time. I do feel that at least when the House is in session this House must be taken into confidence. How are we going to justify and dispel the various rumours and suspicions that go about in the air through whispering campaigns outside this legislature throughout the country? We are under a peculiar handicap. Some Secretary here asks some Secretary there and they enter into some sort of arrangement. Actually, we pass the legislation and we have to implement those arrangements by our legislation and bear all the taxes. It is a rather strange thing. If on the other hand our Ministers at least are there in some Committee, they are responsible for all these things and I shall have no quarrel, but they have no time.

Now, Madam, I have taken this only as an instance. Even in the matter of the division of property between the members of a small Joint Hindu family, there are various things. There are movable and immovable assets of various

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shapes and forms, both quantitatively and qualitatively, which have to be decided, and in the matter of division of assets or debts affecting the whole of India, where various kinds of assets have to be divided, debts have to be apportioned, where personnel have to be divided and various other things, we do not know how they are divided, except here and there some scrap of news finds itself in the papers; otherwise, we have no knowledge about them. In so far as there is no trouble, we absolutely do not want to interest ourselves. But wherever trouble arises—with respect to a matter where as much as a debt of Rs. 300 crores is due to us—what is the present position? How have we disposed of it? How long will it take for us to realise it? These are questions which nobody knows. Take an instance, I was told that an Engineer went seven times to Pakistan to get all the articles due to us to the worth of Rs. 7 crores.—I would like the House to be taken into confidence in regard to these matters. I want an explanation from the Honourable the Defence Minister as to why, if Pakistan refused to pay these arrears, we should take up the responsibility on us and thus have the responsibility on one side only.

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Madam, with regard to this particular point, I think I may be able to give an explanation. Under the partition arrangement, all joint expenses arising before the 15th August and which are sanctioned expenses are to be debited to the common account, but no new items of expenditure for which sanction of the previous Government had not been obtained can be debited to the joint account except with the consent of both the Dominions. With regard to the Pay Commission's recommendations, the actual order was passed by us after the 14th August. So it is a new thing and we gave retrospective effect to those recommendations from the 1st January 1947. Therefore if we are to debit the expenses connected with the implementation of the pay Commission's recommendations to the joint account between the 1st January and 15th August 1947, we must have the concurrence of the Pakistan Government. Pakistan Government said that they will not agree to the implementation of the Pay Commission's recommendations regarding pay and dearness allowance, with the result that so far as our own nationals are concerned, we have undertaken this liability to which we have given retrospective effect. That is the position—unfortunately, one of the partition arrangements for none of which we are responsible.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** May I know whether for the period from 1st January to 14th August 1947 owing to the increased allowances according to the Pay Commission to our nationals, the whole amount shall be borne by the Government of India or half by Pakistan and half by us?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** It was all debited to the common account. The common account was supposed to be closed on 14th August 1947 and in debiting any new item to that common account we had to get the concurrence of the Pakistan Government.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,24,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th of August 1947 to 31st of March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Defence'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 29—MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND SUPPLY.

**Mr. Chairman:** The motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 39,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Industry and Supply'."

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Sir, the Pay Commission sent its report. It has been variously implemented, some to the liking of some and some not. As regards the decision to pay a salary of Rs. 4,000 to Secretaries,

Some of us are not in favour. Various representations are being made to us, by individual members and by some groups that the Pay Commission has worked a hardship so far as they are concerned. To avoid all this I want to suggest that a Committee of the members of this House be appointed to sit along with the Honourable the Finance Minister or with various committees in order to see how this Pay Commission is working so far as each Department is concerned and to see what items that have not already been accepted may be accepted and if they have been accepted, how far they are working a hardship and therefore they may not be accepted. Above all if they have fixed a top limit of Rs. 2,000 or 3,000 for the Secretary of a Department, I do not see what is the need to give Rs. 4,000. I was told that was due to an interpretation given of the Pay Commission's report and that is the way the Government has understood it. We would like to review that position. I do not know if that interpretation is correct, but if the recommendations of the Pay Commission are accepted it involves us to an expenditure of nearly 30 crores of rupees year after year. The Pay Commission's recommendations were never placed before this House for consideration. Lesser matters come up and we have been spending a lot of time. The Pay Commission to my knowledge was never placed for our consideration. I want the Honourable the Finance Minister to give an opportunity for the consideration of the Pay Commission by this House as to how the recommendations may be accepted and how certain portions need not be accepted.

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** Madam, I cannot, I am afraid, give off-hand an assurance about a re-examination of the Pay Commission's recommendations by a Committee of this House. It is certainly a matter which would require a little more consideration before I can say anything definite about it. The Pay Commission's recommendations, as Honourable Members know, cover a very wide and intricate field and after a great deal of examination orders have been passed on most of the major recommendations of the Pay Commission's report and at this stage to again undertake a review of the decisions of the Government on those recommendations might involve complications which Honourable Members may not at the moment foresee. But I would certainly like to examine further the suggestion made by my Honourable friend.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 39,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of Industry and Supply'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 36 —POLICE.

**Mr. Chairman:** The motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 56,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Police'."

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** The remarks under this demand says: "mainly for payments to Provinces for additional police employed by them, owing to the disturbed condition of the country." The amount is Rs. 56,000. I want to know which of the Provinces have got this amount of Rs. 56,000 or part of it. Is it in each province for the disturbed conditions or is it merely for the Delhi Province? If it is Delhi, then I will have to say something. But if it is for the various provinces, it will come to a very negligible amount and after all 'Police' is a provincial subject and the function of maintaining law and order being that of the province, I want to know why this amount has been contributed to the Provinces. I want to have some enlightenment on this matter and if the payment refers to Delhi only, then I would like to make some observations.

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** The expenditure now asked for relates mainly to the additional amount for the maintenance of Police granted to the Provinces of Punjab and Bengal. On account of partition disturbed conditions occurred in these two Provinces in a special measure and we thought there was a justification for the Centre to help these two Provinces to maintain their Police force on a large scale. Therefore it refers only to Punjab and Bengal.

**Mr. B. K. Sidhva:** That means only Rs. 28,000 for each Province. It comes to that and that amount could have been met by the Provincial Government as it is very small. I can very well understand the Provincial Governments wanting to have some lakhs of rupees to maintain law and order.

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** These were the Provincial Police for special protection arising out of these communal disturbances.

**Mr. B. K. Sidhva:** I must admit, I cannot understand.

**The Honourable Shri B. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** The complaint is that we must have given more.

**Mr. B. K. Sidhva:** It is not a correct information that the Honourable Minister is giving. We do not ask for more money to be given. What we feel is that the amount being negligible the information given appears to be incorrect. After all the Government was functioning in East Punjab and Bengal. Though they were newly established, they had some money. They would not have asked for the equal distribution of Rs. 28,000 between them. It looks to me rather extraordinary and surprising.

**The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai:** That was given by the Government of India to protect certain strategical positions.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 56,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Police'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 56—OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE.

**Mr. Chairman:** The motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 56,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Overseas Communications Service'."

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** The explanatory memorandum says: Mainly payment to Messrs. Cable and Wireless Limited for cable maintenance and half share of the profits due to them by previous agreement with Messrs. Indian Radio and Cable Communications Company Limited, whose assets were acquired by Government from 1st January 1947. Provision was not made in the budget as negotiations were still in progress.

I would like to make a few observations as to how Honourable Members of this House must be informed about what takes place in the Standing Finance Committee. Hitherto the Honourable the Finance Minister might remember that along with the supplementary demands the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee used to be circulated to the members of the House. The proceedings are all supplied to the Committee by the Government, from time to time so that the members will be able to keep a watch over the activities of the Committee and ultimately it is the House that has to accept the recommendations and the decisions of the Committee. I speak subject to correction, no such memorandum or proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee have

now been circulated among the members of this House. Even where some reference is made to this in the explanatory memorandum, Honourable Members have not got the proceedings. We may have something in the Standing Finance Committee possibly with which the Assembly may not agree as to the decision taken. I would therefore suggest that the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee in the manner in which they were being printed last time must be printed and made available to all members. Not only this, but the proceedings of all committees also should be sent. There are slips of paper sent with regard to the decisions of the various Standing Finance Committees to various members and these slips are lost when the matter comes up here. Therefore we should have the decisions of every Standing Finance Committee made available to all the members of this House, because ultimately the Assembly has to decide. Therefore, I take this opportunity of impressing upon the Honourable the Finance Minister and the other members of the Government that by the time any demands for either a supplementary or original demand come to this Assembly, the members of the Assembly must have decisions of all the various Standing Finance Committees at their disposal relating to various Departments along with the memoranda and other attached papers. This is the object with which I want particularly to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to Demand No. 56.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I want to ask for a little more enlightenment. We want to know something more about this payment for cable maintenance and half share of profits. Is it cable between India and England or between India and any other country?

**The Honourable Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai:** When the Overseas Communications Service was acquired by the Government of India from Indian Radio and Cable Communications Limited, the contract in the agreement of that company and the British company was that every year £90,000 will be paid as maintenance charges and half of the profits. It was expected to replace this profit-sharing by another agreement (all rights being purchased) when the negotiations were started. But the negotiations have not been completed and this year's profits have to be paid, and this demand is therefore made.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,89,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Overseas Communications Service'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 77—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE (SUPPLIES AND STORES)

**Mr. Chairman:** The motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,04,72,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Defence Services, Effective (Supplies and Stores)'."

**Shri C. Subramaniam (Madras: General):** This demand is in respect of Ordnance, Harness and Saddlery and Clothing Factories. I would like to know whether it represents the purchase of stores or the salaries of employees or both. I would like to have some details.

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh (Minister for Defence):** It relates to both purchase of stores as well as salaries. The position was that the entire expenditure was joint and it was supposed to be shared between Pakistan and India; and as all the Ordnance factories have come to us we have taken upon ourselves the responsibility of this additional expenditure. It was not included in the original budget; only our share of the expenditure was included. This additional expenditure was to be deducted from Pakistan when the factories were to be divided; but as all the factories have come to us we have to bear this expenditure.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What was the justification for this additional expenditure at all over and above the provision made in the last budget?

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** No, it was not provided in the original budget.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** As this relates to disposal of stores, I will say that many surplus stores in many stations are lying for disposal for a number of years and nothing is done to dispose of them. For instance, in the Delhi station . . .

**The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh:** This has nothing to do with those stores. These stores are those that are necessary for running the Ordnance factories.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,04,72,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Defence Services, Effective (Supplies and Stores)'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND NO. 78-A—GRANTS-IN-AID TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

**Mr. Chairman:** The motion is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,40,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Grants-in-aid to Provincial Governments'."

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** I am not opposed to this provision because these two Governments have been going through great trouble and certainly need special assistance from the Central Government. But from the financial point of view I should like to know at what level these questions were decided. And also, when they were decided, whether the Finance Department took the earliest steps to bring these things to the notice of the Standing Finance Committee.

Secondly, I would like to know whether any more such additional or special grants are going to be made to these two Governments during the current year; and if so, whether Government have fixed any sort of ceiling up to which they would be willing to assist these two Governments.

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** These are *ad hoc* subventions to these two provinces to enable them to meet their revenue and expenditure budget. Honourable Members have no doubt realised the special difficulties which these two provinces had to face on account of the partition. The decision was really taken as an *ad hoc* decision; and after examining the budgets of these two provinces I took the decision myself. At the ministerial level the decision was taken and approved by the Cabinet; and subsequently I think the matter was placed before the Standing Finance Committee also and they too approved of it.

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Reference can be made to that in the memorandum.

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** With regard to that point I do not know why it was not done this year. The entire proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee must be made available to members.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is it proposed to make any more grants to these people?

**The Honourable Shri R. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** No, not for the current year. We have made a provision for 1948-49 also. This closes with today.



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

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,40,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of ‘Grants-in-aid to Provincial Governments’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 99—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF STATE TRADING

**Mr. Chairman:** The motion is:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,53,25,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of ‘Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading’.”

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** I wish to draw attention to clause (b) of the footnote. It is said that the expenditure on the Mechanical Cultivation Scheme was sanctioned after the budget was framed, and sanction is now sought for an expenditure of Rs. 11,71,000. I was opposed to this and am still opposed to it, but I cannot place before the House the materials regarding this proposal. It happens in this way. The Americans had about 300 or 400 heavy tractors. They gave that away. We purchased them. After purchase some of them could be retained here—about 100 or so—to assist in reclamation of lands in and about Delhi, the U.P. and East Punjab. The rest could be distributed to the various provinces. The whole of India may be divided into four regions and the balance distributed among those regions and small workshops for their repairs might be established. On the other hand, the scheme envisages the possibility of a central depot here for 300 tractors which may be moved in sets of 15 from one end of the country to the other end. They might be worked by an establishment which proceeds from here and also a mobile repair shop and the memorandum circulated to us showed how fantastic the proposals were. It was said that along with those tractors, those tractors must be guarded on the fields by a gazetted officer with a force of 15 constables. The ground must be made free of malaria and so on. But I do not know how the tractors would be walked away with! All these arrangements were for the purpose of creating the establishment for a central organization. We are trying to centralize various things, which in the nature of things must be decentralized. Of course some of the provinces close to Delhi are taking advantage of it. One of the provinces said that 10,000 acres may be brought under cultivation by the tractors. The tractors were sent and 10,000 acres reclaimed. Now they say that we do not have any surplus men. Therefore come and plough this. Next they will say throw the seed for us and then reap the harvest and get the benefit and share it with the Centre!

I know the Finance Minister does not agree with me and he need not agree with me. But I cannot place the materials before the House. I would have liked to read out to the Honourable Members the various items in the memorandum. According to me the reading would show that it was not necessary. But I am helpless. It is a matter of 11 lakhs which is a recurring expenditure. This only refers to the capital outlay. What it involves is different. It might be said that you are going to get the rent or the charges from the provinces. It will be too heavy a cost. Madras does not want it. She is prepared to do without it, partly on account of the heavy expenditure and the fact that there are not such large plots of land which have to be brought under cultivation at a stretch. Either the 10,000 acres must be brought into cultivation in big groups of small units to be of any benefit in provinces with small plots: or if they are split up into units of two or three they may be more useful according to the needs of the provinces concerned. But I

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do not know how to ask for the aid of all the members here in respect of my contention. I am sure the Honourable Minister will explain the position to us. In any case the sanction which has been asked for, if it is sanctioned, it must be for a year. This matter should be closely watched as to whether decentralization might not prove more effective than centralization.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** Fortunately for my friend, he knows something about it because he is a member of the Finance Committee. But I am absolutely ignorant of this matter as to what this amount relates to. When I read it I thought this related to the production of tractors which would be given to the provinces on loan for cultivation and for our food campaign. But from his speech I find that this is quite different, though, even from his speech, I could not exactly say for what it was. Is it a capital grant? On the one hand he said it is . . .

**Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** This is capital outlay: that involves recurring expenditure.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** Still the matter is not clear. What is this mechanical cultivation for, if it is not for food or for other products? He made a reference to malaria. I therefore desire that the Honourable the Finance Minister should let the House know what is the scheme, and after hearing him, we could discuss it, because it seems to me that there is a lot of material to be studied. It is therefore unfair that such a matter should have been brought to this House without sufficient information being supplied to the Honourable Members. Really speaking, Madam, I had a complaint about all these subjects. The materials given are so scanty. Half of them relate to increases as a result of the Pay Commission, dearness allowance and so on. I may inform you that I have been in the Provincial Government and let me say that the Provincial Governments give in their budget demands, both for supplementary and annual, far more information than we get here. There are two books. One is a white book and the other is a blue book. One contains figures and the other gives all the information as to why the necessary increase is demanded and statements for the preceding five years are given, showing the number of employees, the increase or decrease every year and how the amount stands in every one of these five years. I thought that the Central Government must have something better than the Provincial Government and that here we can get better information and there would be something to learn. But I am surprised to find that the information supplied by the various departments for the budget is very scanty. Ordinary members, without studying it carefully, will not be able to make out the A, B, or C of the budget: and those who would like to make a study of it would not be able to make head or tail of the subject. Here is a glaring instance. I wanted to know what it was about. I took it to be for the good purpose of mechanical cultivation and for tractors which may be given to the provinces and I did not bother much about it because they want to step up production. Now it is something quite different and we are asked to give sanction to this Rs. 11 lakhs. We have only thirty minutes more to pass the whole budget and I do not know how we can reconcile ourselves in this matter when we do not know what it is and still we shall be a party to the passing of this item! Therefore, I do hope that the Honourable the Finance Minister will kindly enlighten us more fully and in future he should bear in mind that much has been stated about the preparation of the budget by many Honourable Members. Sufficient has been said and much more could be said and a much more enlightened and simple budget could be presented to this House, which any layman could understand, criticise and make useful suggestions about to the Treasury Bench Members. That stage has gone so far as this year is concerned. The Finance Committee members will be alert . . .

**Mr. Chairman:** Order, order. I think the Honourable Member is going off the subject.

**Mr. E. K. Sidhva:** No Madam, my remarks relate to this as I am absolutely ignorant about it and I am quite consistent with what I say. There is no material here from which I could make a case and when I have to make out a case I have to give these other details. Therefore, it is most unfair to keep the House in the dark and obtaining the vote of the House for these Rs. 11 lakhs and as a matter of fact for crores of rupees without giving us sufficient material to understand, just because the Honourable Ministers know that these things will be passed. At the same time it is not proper that we should not be given all the information. I therefore repeat and state that at least as far as this item is concerned, let us know what it is so that we may understand the argument between him and Mr. Ayyangar and we may be able to come to our own opinion and we may then have the consolation of knowing that while sanctioning this amount we understood this item.

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram** (Minister for Food and Agriculture): Madam, it seems that there is some misunderstanding with regard to this question of the tractors. I think part of the criticism is due to the fact that sometime ago a news paragraph appeared in the press that 10,000 acres of land were being cultivated by mechanical tractors in the U.P. Sometime, before I took charge, a plan for importing tractors not for the purpose of reclaiming small patches of land here and there but for the purpose of reclaiming large areas of land which could not be handled by man, which was part of a scheme for developing the food resources of the country had been sanctioned. It is not my intention that these tractors should be used in this or that province on any other considerations except two. One consideration is the potentiality of that province to place under the plough large areas, to fill the gap with regard to our food deficit. The second consideration is the readiness of that province to complete first the cultivation operations and then the harvesting operations. It is only where these two considerations apply that tractors will be sent out. I know that some tractors are on the move. As a matter of fact a unit of 15 tractors has been sent to the Central Provinces, because it is understood that in the Central Provinces there are large tracts of land which are awaiting reclamation. It has been suggested that instead of sending large units of 15 tractors the units sent should be much smaller. It is a matter for consideration whether the overhead expenses will not be unnecessarily heavy. But I have no objection to considering any scheme which will be proved to be economical whereby three or four tractors could be sent to certain parts of our country. But the use and the repair of these tractors require fairly high technical skill. Whether it will be possible to distribute this high technical skill to many parts of the country I cannot at present straightaway say. But I am prepared to examine this proposal of decentralising the plan for the use of tractors. However my present study of the question shows that it may on the whole prove to be an uneconomical use of what tractors we have. We have at present round about 200 tractors in use. These tractors were purchased from the army disposals. They are now being repaired and converted for the use of agriculture. Therefore at present we have got about 200 working tractors and about 100 or so under repairs. We have given orders for another 440 tractors which are expected to arrive in the course of the next six months. I cannot say when they will arrive. It will depend upon the shipping space available and many other factors. There is no question of these tractors being available for this or that province on any other consideration except what I have mentioned. I am perfectly willing to consider the proposal that we might have a smaller unit for any province but I would plead with the House not to allow this suggestion to be inspired by what I might call purely local feelings, that this or that province has not had its share. I would really request the House to deal with this matter on an All India basis. Which are the areas

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where probably this type of reclamation will speed up food production and give us the best results for the country as a whole—that I think should really be in the present emergency the over-riding consideration. At the same time if any province which is deficit in food is ready for work and both the Government and the cultivators there are ready for the despatch and use these tractors, I will have no objection to consider most open-mindedly the diversion of a small unit to that particular area.

**Mr. R. K. Sidhva:** If these units are to be sent to certain provinces for this purpose, I want to know why not that amount be debited to that province on account of these tractors and why burden the Government with that expense?

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** I cannot say much about the methods of accounting but these tractors at present are purchased by the Centre and rented out to the provinces. The provinces have to pay for all the cultivation expenses. If the proposal is that all tractors should be purchased by the provinces, that is a different question altogether. Then it means that the province would permanently take charge of them whether they require them or not any longer. I think it is in the interest of reclaiming large areas (we have probably about 45, or 50, lakhs of acres) awaiting reclamation and it can reclaim them, all our food deficit will be covered—that the Centre should maintain these tractors and allot them to those areas which on the whole we think are areas from which we expect the maximum results. If you suggest that the provinces should purchase these tractors, then it is a matter to be gone into in due course. I cannot commit myself at this stage.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Madam, the whole scheme seems to be the result of a kind of drawing room inverted mathematics or arithmetic. All that my Honourable friend the Minister has said will be quite correct if he had in his mind just a small province like Orissa. But where you must have a sort of central station with 300 or 400 tractors from which you will be sending out tractors in tens or twenties with the idea of economising overhead expenses and so on, where we are thinking in terms of the whole of India to be turned into one unit, that Delhi should have been thought as the centre of it all! Whoever must have thought it must have a very bad idea of India's geography. If they wanted to save on overhead expenses or they wanted to have one central station, they should have thought of Betul or Wardha and not Delhi. These officers do not want to go away from Delhi: there will not be any fun anywhere else. It is absurd. I am glad my Honourable friend the Minister has agreed to consider this suggestion. It is a very good suggestion and I hope the Minister will very soon come to a conclusion. It would be better to distribute the whole bunch of these tractors into at least four centres and then these centres, whichever provinces may be chosen, would entrust the work to the local department of agriculture.

Secondly, I wish to warn the Government that we had better not make too much haste in going ahead with this tractor importation or utilisation, for this reason that they have themselves appointed a Major (who impressed me the other day rather well) in order to investigate into the practicability of the utilisation of many of these machines. He is now studying it, what kind of tractors will be useful to our country, whether any alterations have got to be made or whether any improvements have to be made. Pending the enquiry and the results of his researches it would be better that Government should not hasten to spend too much money. That does not mean that I am opposed to the introduction of these tractors, harvesters or combiners. Wherever they can possibly be introduced with the aid of the state or on the initiative of the state for large scale cultivation of land certainly they should be brought into this country or should be manufactured in this country itself and then introduced.

Thirdly, I would like the Government to investigate into the possibility of manufacturing these things as a state enterprise in such a manner that these machines will be absolutely suitable to our own country.

Fourthly, I would like to suggest to my Honourable friend that the areas in every province, particularly in the agency tracts, where these big tractors or such other machines alone can possibly be used in order to bring those areas under cultivation to help the local people produce more food and to make India self-sufficient in food. I know of Agency areas where there is plenty of fertile land, but there is labour shortage. If you think of importing labour from outside into the Agency areas it will be an impossible proposition because there is malaria and blackwater fever and various other scourges. In such areas if you are to succeed in raising bigger and bigger crops, then certainly you have got to rely more and more on these machines. Therefore, it is all the more necessary why the Government of India should try to hasten with their own researches first of all; secondly not to be too much in a hurry to import these machines at very high cost; thirdly to select at least four places where they can possibly centralise these things instead of keeping them all in Delhi alone. If they must necessarily have one station alone to start with, then certainly Delhi is the last place for it. Let them choose some other place. Probably they have erected some sheds and some other things; they might have put up some quarters also. But they can be used for various other purposes connected with the Agricultural Institute itself. Let me hope the Honourable Minister will give his best consideration to these points.

**Shri Ramnarayan Singh:** I want to put one question. May I know how much waste land has been reclaimed by these tractors in the year which is coming to an end today and how many tractors have been sent to Bihar?

**The Honourable Shri Jairamdas Doulatram:** In U. P. 10,000 acres have been cultivated. I cannot say off-hand how many tractors were sent to Bihar.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs 8.53,25,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading'."

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Chairman:** Demands Nos. 21, 27, 28, 29, 36, 53, 56, 77, 78-A, 92 and 99 have been disposed of. All other demands are now put to the House together. The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper, except in the case of heads of Supplementary Demands Nos. 21, 27, 28, 29, 36, 53, 56, 77, 78-A, 92 and 99, be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of corresponding heads of Supplementary Demands entered in the second column thereof."

The motion was adopted.

[As directed by Mr. Chairman the motions for Demands for Supplementary Grants which were adopted by the Assembly are reproduced below.—*Ed. of D.*]

#### DEMAND NO. 1—CUSTOMS.

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,74,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Customs'."

#### DEMAND NO. 2—CENTRAL EXCISE AND SALT.

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 83,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Central Excise and Salt'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,50,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

**DEMAND NO. 4—OPIUM**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,62,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Opium'."

**DEMAND NO. 6—STAMPS.**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,02,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Stamps'."

**DEMAND NO. 9—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department'."

**DEMAND NO. 19—MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS.**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 51,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations'."

**DEMAND NO. 33—AUDIT.**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,98,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Audit'."

**DEMAND NO. 37—PORTS AND PILOTAGE**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 24,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

**DEMAND NO. 55—INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES.**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 69,00,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Industries and Supplies'."

**DEMAND NO. 58—BROADCASTING.**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,68,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Broadcasting'."

**DEMAND NO. 61—CENSUS.**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 75,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Census'."

**DEMAND NO. 66—MINT.**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,84,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Mint'."

**DEMAND NO. 79—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments'."

**DEMAND NO. 81.—CIVIL DEFENCE**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Civil Defence'."

**DEMAND NO. 82.—DELHI**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,99,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Delhi'."

**DEMAND NO. 86.—RELATIONS WITH INDIAN STATES**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Relations with Indian States'."

**DEMAND NO. 97.—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS**

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,65,000 be granted to the Governor General to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the period 15th August 1947 to 31st March 1948, in respect of 'Commuted Value of Pensions'."

*The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 1st April 1948.*