

Monday, 26th March, 1951



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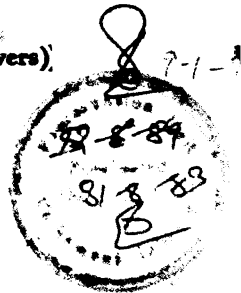
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME VI, 1951



(5th February to 31st March, 1951)

Third Session (Second Part)

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1951

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THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Monday, 26th March, 1951.

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**DEPUTY CHIEF CONTROLLER OF IMPORTS
AT MADRAS**

***2487. Prof. S. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to open an office of the Deputy Chief Controller of Imports at Madras; and

(b) if so, the reasons for it?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (b). There was already an organisation for the import and export control work at Madras as at the ports of Bombay and Calcutta. This organisation was, however, functioning under the control of Collector of Customs, Madras who was *Ex-Officio* Import and Export Trade Controller at that port. Recently however with the declaration of Cochin as a major port and other developments the charge of the Collector of Customs increased and further as a result of decentralisation which took place in July, 1950 there was an enormous increase of work on the Import Trade Control side also. The Collector of Customs at Madras could not be expected to handle all the additional duties devolving upon him. Taking all the factors into account a separate post of Deputy Chief Controller of Imports and Exports was sanctioned for the port of Madras just as it has been obtaining at Bombay and Calcutta ports with effect from the 10th November, 1950.
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Prof. S. N. Mishra: May I know in what other places such offices are going to be created?

Shri Karmarkar: There is no idea at the present moment of creating any additional offices.

Prof. S. N. Mishra: What would be the cost of this Madras office?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the port of Cochin has been declared as a major port, and whether it is functioning under the Major Ports Act?

Shri Karmarkar: My information is contained in the answer; I could not usefully add to it at the moment.

Shri A. C. Guha: Will there be any corresponding decrease in the Central office in Delhi?

Shri Karmarkar: Not, Sir; not at the moment. In the ultimate, when the work of decentralisation is completed, we hope to make a small reduction; that won't be substantial.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know when the effects of opening the Madras office will be felt so far as the Central Import Control office is concerned in the matter of economy?

Shri Karmarkar: I think, during the course of this year.

**EXPORTS AND IMPORTS TO AND FROM
HONGKONG**

***2488. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the total values of India's exports and imports from Hongkong in the year 1950?

(b) What are the articles of our exports to and imports from Hongkong?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a)

and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XIX, annexure No. 13.]

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the trend, both in exports and imports, is on the increase or on the decrease?

Shri Karmarkar: I think, I speak subject to correction, it is just steady. The details are given in the Statement. Subject to verification, I think the trend is steady. There is neither an abnormal increase nor an abnormal decrease except that we are not sending jute goods to Hongkong.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether we have any Trade Agent in Hongkong?

Shri Karmarkar: Not to my knowledge; I am not sure of the information.

Shri R. K. Chandhuri: May I know whether the full quota of jute could not be exported in time owing to circumstances beyond the control of the exporters and whether in any such case time for export has been extended?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice of the question.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether exports from India are re-exported to the main land of China or any other country?

Shri Karmarkar: That is not impossible; I have no definite information on that point. Hongkong is a neutral port; exports may take place.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether any of the merchandise exported to Hongkong has been held up by Nationalist China forces?

Shri Karmarkar: Not to my knowledge.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the amount of rice and bran imported into India from Hongkong?

Shri Karmarkar: Rice does not appear as one of the articles of import; nor bran.

TANNERY WOOL (TRANSPORT)

***2489. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the tannery wool produced in the States of Madras and Mysore is allowed to be freely transported to other places in the country?

The Minister of Commerce and

wool produced in the States of Madras and Mysore cannot be transported to any destination other than Bangalore, Wallajah and Salem, except under a permit issued by the Director of Industries, Madras or Mysore as the case may be.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the reason for banning the transport of tannery wool to other parts?

Shri Mahtab: The reason is this. Some time back, the wool Advisory Board recommended that this tannery wool should be diverted only to factories where the drugget industry is carried on, and that otherwise, this wool gets mixed up with carpet wool in Northern India, and the carpet manufacturer gets a bad name in the market. In accordance with the advice tendered to the Government of India by the Advisory Board, this step has been taken.

Shri R. L. Malviya: May I know the total quantity produced and the quantity exported?

Shri Mahtab: I am sorry that figure is not available now.

BUILDING COMMISSION FOR ASSAM

***2490. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of India have appointed a commission to examine the construction problem in the "seismically unstable" areas in Assam?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): No. The question of setting up such a commission is for the Government of Assam to consider. That Government are being advised to do so by the Government of India.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know the approximate number of houses which have been demolished during the last earthquake?

Shri Gadgil: I require notice.

HOLIDAY TO EMPLOYEES ON 26TH JANUARY

***2491. Shri Sidhva:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the Government of India have issued instructions to all industrialists to give a holiday with pay on the 26th January 1951 to the employees?

(b) If so, how many industrialists have carried out these instructions?

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

to grant an additional paid holiday on the 26th January, 1951 where this was not already included as one of the regular holidays in the undertakings.

(b) Enquiries made of the State Governments indicated that industrialists in general allowed their employees paid holiday on the occasion. In a few cases the employers are reported not to have accepted the suggestion while in some others workers were compensated in lieu of a holiday for this day. In Central sphere an Oil Company in Assam and a number of colliery owners in Dhanbad and Jharia are reported not to have observed the day as a paid holiday.

Shri R. L. Malviya: May I know whether the Government is aware that the colliery owners have paid only one rupee per head against their wages for one day and if so, what steps does Government propose to take to get one day's wages for these labourers?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I have indicated, most of the collieries have not allowed this holiday, nor compensated the workers. In a few cases, they have compensated, but that compensation is not up to the daily average earning of the workers.

Shri R. L. Malviya: In view of the fact that the appeal of the Government to observe paid holidays has not received adequate response from the colliery owners and some others, does Government propose to include these holidays as paid holidays in the Mines Bill and the Factories Act?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I do not think a statutory provision will solve the difficulty. Even under the Factories Act, we have a certain number of days as statutory holidays. This holiday was to be observed in addition to those where it was not included in the holidays. The question as to what action should be taken where they have not observed this day as a holiday is under the examination of the Government. As a matter of fact, in one case, we have referred the matter to adjudication.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know the total number of holidays that are at present being given?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I will refer my friend to the Factories Act so far as the factories are concerned and the Mines Bill which is pending before Parliament so far as the mines are concerned.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether these instructions were merely of an advisory nature as regards the holiday

on the 26th January, 1951 or compulsory? If the latter, may I know whether Government intends to take action against those who have not given the holiday?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It was, no doubt, an advice tendered to the employers; but it has some force as a compulsory one. Most of the employers have observed that. In a few cases where it was not observed, the matter is under examination and action will be taken.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: May I know why instructions were issued only in regard to the holiday on the 26th January, 1951, and not for any year?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: You will find that in a large number of units, 26th of January has been included as a regular holiday, and there is no occasion for issuing instructions. Last year, instructions were issued and this year also instructions were issued. In the future if it is felt necessary, instructions will be issued.

ENEMY PROPERTY

*2493. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what is the amount of India's property in the hands of any enemy country?

(b) Is there any understanding for the restoration of such properties after the cessation of hostilities?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, why have not such properties yet been disposed of in that manner?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Identifiable Indian-owned property in former belligerent countries has been valued at approximately 117 lakhs of rupees. In addition, claims of various kinds by Indians amounting to Rs. 501 lakhs have also been registered.

(b) and (c). Certain arrangements have been made by the Allied Occupation Authorities in Germany and Japan for the restitution of identifiable property in those countries owned by Allied nationals, including Indians. As regards other countries, property agreements for the settlement of war time debts and claims on either side have been concluded in several cases, and the release of the respective assets is being progressively effected.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Sir, may I know whether India also had some enemy property here?

Shri Mahtab: Yes.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether they have been restored?

Shri Mahtab: Not yet. Unless peace treaties with these countries are concluded, these matters cannot be finally settled; and situated as we are, India being connected with the Allied Powers, she cannot have independent arrangements with these countries.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that former German property is still treated as enemy property in spite of the fact that India has terminated the state of war with Germany?

Shri Mahtab: I would require notice of that question. So far as I remember, the question of property will be finally settled only when the peace treaty is concluded.

Shri Sidhva: May I know which are the countries whose properties are in India and with whom we have concluded peace treaties, as in the case of Germany?

Shri Mahtab: Enemy properties can be divided into three categories—(1) property owned by belligerent countries with whom peace treaties have not been concluded, (2) property owned by countries with whom peace treaties have been concluded and (3) property in countries which were formerly occupied by the enemy. The total value of such properties in India is Rs. 822 lakhs, but I do not have the individual names of the countries.

Dr. Deshmukh: Sir, is it a fact that some of these properties have been sold and if so, what is the value of the property thus sold?

Shri Mahtab: That relates to property in India, but the question here is about property of Indians in other countries. I am sorry I do not have that information available with me.

SALT

*2494. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a). Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state the total quantity of salt consumed every year in India?

(b) How do the unlicensed small scale manufacturers contribute to our supply of salt?

(c) Is the nationalisation of salt industry in the contemplation of Government?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) The consumption has been increasing from

year to year. The figures of consumption for the last two years and the estimated consumption for the current year are as follows:

Year	Quantity in lakh maunds.
1949	648
1950	684
1951 (Estimated)	714

(b) The small scale manufacturers produced about two per cent. of the total output in 1950.

(c) No.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know the total quantity of salt produced in 1950, and the quantity produced in government sources and how much from private sources?

Shri Gadgil: In 1950 the government factories produced 194.3 lakh maunds and private factories 505.9 lakh maunds and the estimated production in unlicensed small-scale manufacturers was about 13.0 lakh maunds, the total being 713.2 lakh maunds.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What is the amount of salt imported in 1950?

Shri Gadgil: I think that question was answered by me a few days back; it was about 30 lakhs maunds mostly from Aden and about 1½ lakh maunds from Pakistan.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What are the new development schemes that have begun producing salt now, I mean development schemes of the Government?

Shri Gadgil: Our attention at present is directed towards reorganising the government factories, and there is a proposal that the government factories should be so reorganised that more production will be secured. This is under consideration and nothing definite can be stated at this stage.

Shri A. B. Gurung: Sir, what is the quantity of salt imported into India from Pakistan?

Shri Gadgil: I stated it.

Shri A. B. Gurung: I could not follow that part of the answer.

Shri Gadgil: I said about 30 lakh maunds were imported mostly from Aden and about 1,50,000 maunds from Pakistan.

Shri B. K. Das: How far the scheme of salt production in the coast of West Bengal has progressed?

Shri Gadgil: Sir, I require notice.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: What quantity was imported by Eastern Pakistan from India and has that export stopped?

Shri Gadgil: There is no export of salt to Eastern Pakistan from India. And as regards the export figures in the past year by year, I would require notice.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को मालूम है कि यद्यपि नमक यहाँ पर अधिक उत्पन्न होता जा रहा है, इतने पर भी कई स्थानों पर अनेक बार नमक का दुर्भिक्ष हो जाता है, यदि यह बात सही है, तो इसका कारण क्या है और इसको दूर करने में माननीय मंत्री जी क्या कर रहे हैं ?

[Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that the supply of salt often falls short at several places in spite of its increasing production? If so, what are the reasons thereof? What steps are being taken by the Government to remove this salt shortage?]

श्री गाडगिल : यह बात सही है, इसका कारण यह है कि व्यापारी वर्ग बिलकुल मुनाफे को दृष्टि में सामने रखकर बर्ताव करते हैं और इसके लिये हम सोच रहे हैं कि सारा डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन स्टेट के हाथ में रहे ।

[Shri Gadgil: It is a fact; the reason is that the business community always aims at profiteering while transacting business. It is contemplated, therefore, that the entire distribution should rest with the State.]

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या माननीय मंत्री यह बतलायेंगे कि नमक.....

[Seth Govind Das: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether salt.....]

Mr. Speaker: We go to the next question.

DISPOSAL OF COTTAGE INDUSTRY GOODS

*2405. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether there is any Committee in America maintained by the Gov-

ernment of India to arrange the disposal of cottage industry goods from India?

(b) Who are the Members of the Committee?

(c) How much does it cost Government per year?

(d) What is the amount of benefit that India obtains through this Committee and is that commensurate with the expenditure incurred on it?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (1) Shrimati Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Ambassador of India in U.S.A.—President.

(2) Mrs. B. K. Nehru—Executive Chairman.

(3) Mr. B. K. Nehru, Financial Counsellor, Embassy of India and Executive Director for India in the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development—Member.

(4) Mr. A. R. Palit, Director, India Supply Mission, Washington—Member.

(5) Mr. P. L. Bhandari, Public Relations Officer in Washington—Member.

(6) Mr. A. B. Bhadkamkar—Secretary.

(c) All the members of the Committee are working in an honorary capacity and as such no cost is incurred on account of the Committee except on one full time clerk and occasional travel by the Executive Chairman.

(d) It is too early to assess the exact benefit that is obtained through the Committee, but the expenditure incurred on the Committee is negligible as compared to the benefits expected to be derived.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Sir, may I know why this special arrangement in America? Is there any special market for our products there?

Shri Mahtab: That will be known by and by. As I have said, we are trying to find out a market there. That is the position to-day.

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): I should like to add a little further to that answer, Sir. As a result of our exhibition there it was disclosed to us that there is a very good market for our goods there. But the principal difficulty in our way is that American

merchants want the articles on a mass scale. They want large mass production of the particular kinds of articles which we are able to supply. But it is clear that there is a very good market for some of our products in America.

Shri Shiva Rao: Sir, as a result of the activities of this Committee and also due to India's participation in the International Exhibition at Chicago, is it not a fact that a number of promising enquiries have been sent to various industries in India?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, that is so; and we are very happy to say that the services rendered by Mrs. Nehru and Mrs. Shiva Rao were very much commended.

Shri Shiva Rao: May I know if complaints have not been received that the Ministry in India is not co-operating with sufficient energy in this matter?

Shri Karmarkar: That is not the fact. We have given our best co-operation.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: What is the valuation of the trade between India and the United States during the last year with respect to the cottage industry products?

Shri Mahtab: So far as valuation is concerned, that will not be encouraging at the present moment, but we are at the trial stage.

Shri Ramaswamy Naidu: May I know what varieties of handicrafts have found a market there?

Shri Mahtab: I have not got the information regarding the varieties with me here. Certain varieties will probably find a market there.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether attempts have been made to create markets in other countries also and do Government propose to have such committees in other countries also besides the U.S.A.?

Shri Mahtab: No.

SPORTS GOODS INDUSTRIALISTS

*2496. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the sports goods industrialists who migrated to the Indian Union after partition have re-established their manufacturing centres in India?

(b) If so, where are those centres located?

(c) Are all the items of the sports goods being produced regularly?

(d) If not, what are the names of items which are not produced at present?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Yes, Sir, most of them.

(b) Meerut and Agra in Uttar Pradesh; Jullunder and Batala in the Punjab and Delhi.

(c) and (d). Yes, excepting Tennis balls and Golf balls.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Has a sectional committee been formed to look to the standards of the sports goods that are exported to the hard currency areas?

Shri Mahtab: I do not think any such committee has been formed.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Are Government laboratories checking the quality of these products from the various units?

Shri Mahtab: I require notice.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Have the industries come under the purview of the Cottage Industries Board?

Shri Mahtab: This has not come under the Cottage Industries Board.

Lala Achint Ram: What is the help which the Department of Industries and Commerce is giving to those displaced industrialists to establish themselves, particularly in the items which they have not been able to produce so far?

Shri Mahtab: The usual assistance is given to these industries as is given to other industries. We help them in obtaining raw materials, in securing plants and machinery and giving them technical advice, etc.

Shri T. N. Singh: Is the Minister aware of the fact that a few years ago hockey sticks were exported in large quantities from this country and, if so, what is the position in regard to the export of these hockey sticks at present?

Shri Mahtab: That information is not with me at present but I shall be able to supply it, if needed.

Shri S. C. Samanta: How many manufacturers and traders' associations have been formed in these sports goods since the Partition?

Shri Mahtab: I do not know how many associations have been formed but 189 factories are working now.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I take it that no associations have been formed and that it is not within the knowledge of the Government?

Shri Mahtab: I have no information.

DIESEL OIL

*2497. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state.

(a) the total quantity of our annual import of diesel oil and its value in Indian currency;

(b) whether any import duty is collected and if so, what is the annual collection;

(c) what are the countries from which diesel oil is imported; and

(d) whether there is any substitute for diesel oil, natural or artificial that can be produced in India?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) and (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XIX, annexure No. 14.]

(b) Yes, Sir. A statement showing the amount of import duty collected in the last three years is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XIX, annexure No. 15.]

(d) Yes, Sir. Groundnut oil, cotton seed oil and mustard oil (rape seed oil) are all good substitutes for Diesel oil and are produced in India.

I should add to the answer that they have been found to be uneconomic at present.

Dr. M. M. Das: Is it a fact that mustard oil can be used in place of diesel oil as fuel?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir. Experiments are being carried on and it has been found that subject to some processes these are very suitable as fuels. Under the auspices of the U.P. Government both at the Government technical institute and in the Jail Department arrangements have been made to change over from Diesel oil to vegetable oils. The experiments are going on.

Dr. M. M. Das: Comparing the import figures of 1949-50 and 1950-51 I find that the total import has gone up by 100 per cent. May I know the reason for the increased import?

Shri Karmarkar: If the hon. Member reads the statement he will see the figures given there. The value of imports in 1948-49

Dr. M. M. Das: I am speaking of the quantity.

Shri Karmarkar: The quantities have also varied—from 76,000 in 1948-49 to 136,000 and for nine months in 1950-51 1,00,000. The last item is only for nine months.

Dr. M. M. Das: I want the reason why the import has gone up by 100 per cent.?

Shri Karmarkar: I am not able to appreciate that question, because the figure for 1949-50 was 136,000 and for nine months in 1950-51 it is 100,000. I do not see how the figure has doubled?

Dr. M. M. Das rose—

Mr. Speaker: Now we are entering into an argument about the interpretation of the figures.

Dr. M. M. Das: Sir, he has not understood my question.

Mr. Speaker: If he has not understood the question, let us proceed to the next question. The hon. Member can ask for any information if he wants.

Dr. M. M. Das: In 1948-49 the total value was 294 lakhs and the import duty collected was 31,59,000. In 1949-50 the total value of the import was about 7 crores but the import duty collected was Rs. 45 lakhs. Why this discrepancy?

Shri Karmarkar: That is a good question but I should like to have notice.

Shri Chaliha: Which is the State in which this artificial oil is being used?

Shri Karmarkar: So far as we know it is only in the U.P. that experiments in these three oils I mentioned are being carried on.

Shri Chaliha: Has it been successful or was it a failure?

Mr. Speaker: That would be a matter of opinion.

Dr. M. M. Das: Comparing the import figures from Iran I find that it has gone up in relation to the year 1948-49. The Import has gone up by 15 per cent. whereas the price is nearly double.

Shri Karmarkar: Obviously the reason is that the price is double in respect of the 15 per cent. more of the commodity.

MRS. ILA MITRA

*2498. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a report of court

proceedings against Mrs. Ila Mitra, given on page 1 of the *Blitz* dated the 23rd of December 1950, in which details are given of the tortures inflicted on the party mentioned above?

(b) If so, has the matter been communicated to the hon. Minister for Minority Affairs, and his attention drawn to the case?

(c) Has any representation been made to the Government of Pakistan by our Minister for Minority Affairs, with special reference to the unhappy reaction of such cases on the relations between the two countries?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Yes. In reply to a representation made by our Central Minister for the implementation of the Prime Ministers' Agreement, the Pakistan Government have stated that an enquiry was made into this matter personally by the District Magistrate of Rajshahi and the allegations of torture of Mrs. Ila Mitra by the Police were found to be altogether false. Our Minister is pursuing the matter further with the Pakistan Government.

Prof. K. T. Shah: May I know if the full text of the detailed proceedings in the court were received by our Minister and, if so, whether there was anything in those proceedings to show that the allegations made by Mrs. Mitra were false?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot say at once whether our Minister received the full text of the proceedings or not but I imagine he must have seen a fairly full report of it. Without enquiring I cannot give the hon. Member a correct answer.

Shri A. C. Guha: What was the nature of the tortures inflicted on this lady?

Mr. Speaker: It is a matter which was published in the *Blitz* in December last and it referred to torture.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it a fact that this lady made a statement in the court alleging all these things and did the Government take any steps to verify the allegations and take action?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. There is a difference of opinion in regard to the contents published in the newspapers.

Shri A. C. Guha: The lady made a public allegation in the court.

Mr. Speaker: The Prime Minister has said that enquiries are being made through our Deputy High Commissioner in East Pakistan.

Shri Kamath: Did our Minister, Mr. Biswas, ask for permission to see Mrs. Mitra either himself or through one of his officers or through the Deputy High Commissioner and was that permission refused by the Pakistan Government?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have no information on that subject. As soon as it came to our notice through some newspapers that these allegations had been made we immediately got into touch with our Deputy High Commissioner in Dacca and asked our Minister Mr. Biswas to pursue the matter. Meanwhile the case was taken up in court there and I understand that the court has concluded its hearing and has decided against Mrs. Mitra. That is not in regard to this allegation but in regard to other matters against her. While we are pursuing these enquiries with the Pakistan Government it is rather difficult for us, in the circumstances, to do anything when the matter is before one of the courts of Pakistan.

REPARATIONS FROM GERMANY AND ITALY

*2500. **Shri A. C. Guha:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the machinery and other articles so far received from Germany and Italy as reparations?

(b) What was the estimated price of these?

(c) How have these been utilised?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) India has received 10,430 articles of machinery from Germany as reparations. These comprise mostly general purpose machine tools such as lathes, drilling machines, shapers, planers etc.

No reparation stores have been received from Italy.

(b) Rs. 2-45 crores approximately.

(c) Most of the stores have been allocated to Government Departments, States, Educational and Research Institutions.

Shri A. C. Guha: Was there any complete machinery for the production of ammonia? Also, was there a complete steel furnace for manufacturing steel by the Bessemer process?

Shri Mahtab: I am sorry that information is not available.

Shri A. C. Guha: Was there no complete machinery received which could manufacture these articles?

Shri Mahtab: The description of the machines is not here with me.

Shri Hussain Imam: May I know whether any part of these reparations has been allotted to the Chittaranjan Works?

Shri Mahtab: I have said the other day in reply to a similar question that all these machineries have been allocated to the Railway Ministry, the Communications Ministry and the Defence Ministry. I don't know whether anything has gone to Chittaranjan, but the Railway Ministry have taken a large portion of the reparations machineries.

Shri A. C. Guha: Sir, my question was whether was any complete factory, and, if so, how such complete factories have been utilised by the Government.

Mr. Speaker: I think that is covered by his reply.

Shri A. C. Guha: No, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: He said he has no information on that point. As regards utilisation, he said the reparation articles had been distributed to the three Ministries etc. but that he has no information as regards the use to which they have been put.

Shri Mahtab: Yes, Sir, I have no information about the exact nature of the use to which they have been put.

Shri Hussain Imam: Is it a fact that a particular part of the machineries received was so heavy that we had to make special arrangements for its unloading from the ship?

Shri Mahtab: Yes, that is correct.

ORDERS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

*2501. **Shri T. N. Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the past two years, as well as at present, orders have been placed by Government directly with manufacturers or manufacturers' representatives in foreign countries instead of through our Supply Missions and Trade Commissioners?

(b) If so, what was the nature and circumstances of such orders?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) Yes, Sir, but only in a few cases.

(b) A statement showing the details of the nature and circumstances of the orders is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XIX, annexure No. 16.]

Shri T. N. Singh: Is it a fact that the materials and equipment for the prefab. factory were ordered without the aid of the Supply Mission?

Shri Gadgil: Yes, that is so. It is stated in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether any decision has been arrived at in regard to the settlement of the dues on the import of these prefab. materials?

Shri Gadgil: The matter was referred to arbitration and a compromise was arrived at under which the Company has promised to pay Rs. 4.5 lakhs out of which Rs. 2,36,800 have already been realised as that amount was with one of the Banks as guarantee money.

Shri T. N. Singh: May I know whether the amount which has not been realised has to be written off, or whether there is any chance of its realisation?

Shri Gadgil: The amount which will represent the net loss in the whole transaction will be about Rs. 2 lakhs, and that is the price for wisdom purchased through experience.

Shri Kamath: Was the amount mentioned by the Minister with regard to the prefab. Swedish huts or the factory?—huts, I believe, and not the factory?

Shri Gadgil: It refers to the prefab. stalls and huts, not to the prefab. factory.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether the Government of India has deputed any officer for purchasing anything abroad recently, and, if so, what amount has been placed at his disposal?

Shri Gadgil: Purchase of what?

Shri R. Velayudhan: For stock-piling.

Shri Gadgil: Well, a very high officer has gone, but it is not in public interest to state the purpose and the exact details of the same.

Shri T. N. Singh: Besides the prefab. factory, may I know which is the next big enterprise for which imports have been made without the aid of the Supply Mission?

Shri Gadgil: The statement which I have laid on the Table gives the details. It includes Chipmunk aircraft and aircraft frames, Gypsy Major Engines and spares, locomotive tubes, tubes boiler, etc., etc.

Shri Sidhva: What are the amounts involved?

Shri Gadgil: There are nine items the respective expenditure on which is as follows:

First item	...	\$	4,22,294	0	0
Second item	....	£	10,341	8	0
Third item	....	£	1,552	12	0
Fourth item	....	£	2,903	18	0
Fifth item	....	£	24,656	16	8
Sixth item	....	£	12,610	0	0
Seventh item	....	£	1,913	6	7
Eighth item	....	£	203	15	0
Ninth item	....	£	11,84,000	0	0

INSURANCE AGAINST OLD AGE, SICKNESS AND UNEMPLOYMENT

*2502. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of factories where insurance against old age, sickness and unemployment have been introduced?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): The attention of the hon. Member is invited to pages 350-51 and 360-61 of the main report of the Labour Investigation Committee. The Government have no other information.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को यह मालूम है कि जहां तक बेकारी का सम्बन्ध है वहाँ तक बेकारी कई जगह गवर्नमेंट की छटनी के सबब से होती जा रही है ?

[Seth Govind Das: Is the hon. Minister aware that as far as unemployment is concerned, it has been spreading on account of the retrenchment done by the Government?]

श्री जगजीवन राम : जी हां, ऐसा है।

[Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes, Sir; it is so.]

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या गवर्नमेंट को यह बात मालूम है कि एक ही जगह गवर्नमेंट की एक फैक्टरी में छटनी होती है और उसी जगह गवर्नमेंट की दूसरी फैक्टरी में नये आदमियों की भरती होती है और क्या गवर्नमेंट इस मामले में कोई बात इस प्रकार की करना चाहती है कि जो छटनी के लोग हैं वे दूसरी जगह भरती कर लिये जाय ?

[Seth Govind Das: Are the Government aware of the fact that while some

employees are retrenched in a Government factory, others are recruited in another factory at the same place? If so, do the Government propose to take such steps as may enable the retrenched staff to be recruited elsewhere?]

श्री जगजीवन राम : ऐसा कुछ कुछ होता है, और ऐसा होना अनिवार्य भी है इसलिये कि जिस तरह के आदमी हटाये जाते हैं, सम्भवतः उस वक्त उसी तरह के नये आदमी नहीं लिये जाते हैं; बल्कि दूसरे काम के आदमी लिये जाते हैं। लेकिन फिर भी माननीय सदस्य ने जो सुझाव रखा है उस पर विचार हो रहा है।

[Shri Jagjivan Ram: Something of the kind does take place and it is but inevitable in view of the fact that probably the same type of employees are not recruited as are retrenched. Still, however, the suggestion made by the hon. Member is being considered.]

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. We are now entering into an argument. He may ask for information.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या गवर्नमेंट को यह बात मालूम है कि जब्बलपुर के सी० ओ० डी० में उसी तरह के आदमी निकाले गये जिस तरह के आदमी कि वहां की ही स्मरिया की फैक्टरी में भरती किये जा रहे हैं ?

[Seth Govind Das: Are the Government aware of the fact that in the C.O.D. at Jubbulpore the same type of persons have been retrenched as are being recruited in the local factory at Khamaria?]

श्री जगजीवन राम : यह सूचना इस वक्त तो मेरे पास नहीं है, लेकिन मैं देखूंगा।

[Shri Jagjivan Ram: This information is not readily available with me. I would, however, look into the matter.]

Shri Rathnaswamy: Do Government contemplate any statutory measures to enforce these beneficial measures in the factories?

Mr. Speaker: I do not follow what he means.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Do Government propose to take any steps to enforce

these beneficial measures in the factories where they don't exist now?

Mr. Speaker: The question is not clear to me.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Nor to me.

Mr. Speaker: Let us go to the next question then.

HOUSE CONSTRUCTION IN RAJASTHAN

*2503. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the scheme of construction of houses in Rajasthan is being held up for want of help from the Government of India?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): No.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या गवर्नमेन्ट को यह बात मालूम है कि जैपुर के दुर्गापुरा और उदयपुर के प्रताप नगर दोनों स्थानों का काम इसलिये बन्द हो रहा है कि वहां आगे कोई रूपया नहीं मिल रहा है और वहां का काम अधूरा पड़ा हुआ है ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** Are the Government aware that work both at Durgapura in Jaipur and Pratapnagar in Udaipur has been held up and has remained uncompleted simply for the reason that no further amount of money is being received?]

श्री ए० पी० जैन : दुर्गापुरा में तो कोई काम था ही नहीं। वहां तो कभी एक कैम्प था और वह करीब करीब तितर बितर हो गया। कोई नये मकान वहां नहीं बन रहे हैं। रहा प्रताप नगर का, वहां इतने रुपये की गड़बड़ हुई, इतना रूपया गबन हुआ है कि हम लोगों ने वहां के लिये आगे रूपया देना बन्द कर दिया है। उन के ऊपर एनक्वायरी भी बैठी हुई है और मुकदमा भी चलेगा।

[**Shri A. P. Jain:** At Durgapura there was no work at all. There was only one camp which has now been more or less dispersed. No new houses are being constructed there. As regards Pratapnagar, we have stopped advancing any further aid in view of vast misappropriation and embezzlement of money that took place there. In this connection an enquiry is being held and the defaulters will be prosecuted.]

सेठ गोविन्द दास : प्रताप नगर में जो रूपया गबन हुआ है उसके सम्बन्ध में जो गवर्नमेन्ट की जांच बैठी हुई है, उस का नतीजा कितने दिनों के अन्दर निकलेगा ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** How long will it take to announce the findings of the enquiry committee set up by the Government in connection with the embezzlement at Pratapnagar?]

श्री ए० पी० जैन : कुछ नतीजा निकल आया है और कुछ और निकल आयेगा।

[**Shri A. P. Jain:** Some findings have been made known while more are expected soon.]

सेठ गोविन्द दास : कितने दिनों के अन्दर निकल आयेगा ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** When will the remaining findings be made known?]

श्री ए० पी० जैन : आप राजस्थान में जरा मिनिस्ट्री तो बन जाने दीजिये।

[**Shri A. P. Jain:** Let the Ministry in Rajasthan be formed first.]

लाला अचिंत राम : क्या माननीय मंत्रीजी कृपा कर के बतलायेंगे कि राजस्थान में कितने मकान रिफ्यूजीज के लिए बनाने का प्रोग्राम है और वह कब तक खत्म हो सकेगा ?

[**Lala Achint Ram:** May I know how many houses for refugees are proposed to be constructed in Rajasthan and how long will it take to complete them?]

श्री ए० पी० जैन : राजस्थान में कुल नौ हजार मकानों की मांग है। वहां कुछ ऐसे लोग थे जिनके पास काफी मकान नहीं हैं यानी जो सड़कों पर पड़े हुये हैं, या धर्मशालाओं में रह रहे हैं, सर्वजनिक जगहों में या सरकारी बिल्डिंगों में पड़े हुए हैं। ऐसे परिवारों की संख्या ३३१७ है। इन के लिये ७०० क्वार्टरों की संकल्पना है जिन में से २२५ मकान फतहटोवा में बन चुके हैं और २८६ प्रतापनगर में बन

गये हैं। बाकी जितने क्वार्टरों की आवश्यकता होगी वह इस साल में पूरी कर दी जायगी।

[**Shri A. P. Jain:** The total demand in Rajasthan is for nine thousand houses. There are certain persons who have not got any houses and are either squatting on the streets, or living in Dharamshalas, Government buildings or other public places. The number of such families is 3,317. The construction of 700 quarters for them has been sanctioned, out of which 225 at Fatahtiba and another 286 at Pratapnagar have already been built. The remaining quarters that will be required will be built within this year.]

लाला अचिंत राम : क्या माननीय मंत्री कृपा कर के बतलायेंगे कि क्या वह क्वार्टर रिफ्यूजीज इन्स्टालमेंट बेसिस पर खरीद सकेंगे ?

[**Lala Achint Ram:** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the refugees will be allowed to purchase such quarters on instalment basis?]

श्री ए० पी० जैन : इन्स्टालमेंट बेसिस पर क्वार्टर्स के देने न देने के बारे में हम लोगों ने कोई आखिरी फैसला नहीं किया है क्योंकि इस तमाम प्रश्न के ऊपर विचार हो रहा है। बहरहाल यह मिलेंगे रिफ्यूजीज को ही चाहे किराये पर या इन्स्टालमेंट बेसिस पर या पूरी कीमत पर मिलें।

[**Shri A. P. Jain:** No final decision has yet been made with regard to the sale of these houses on instalment basis as the whole question is under consideration. It is, however, certain that these houses will be given to refugees alone, either on rent or on instalment basis or on realisation of full prices, as the case may be.]

श्री एम० एल० वर्मा : क्या माननीय मंत्री बतलायेंगे कि प्रतापनगर में गड़बड़ी के कारण जो जांच हो रही है उस जांच के कारण चूकि शरणार्थियों के मकान नहीं बन रहे हैं इसलिये गवर्नमेंट उन को हाथ में लेकर काम शुरू करेगी ?

[**Shri M. L. Varma:** Will the Government take up the construction work of houses for refugees which has been held up on account of the enquiry regarding Pratapgarh embezzlement being held?]

श्री ए० पी० जैन : वहां पर एक ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेटर भी मुकर्रर किया गया है : एक कोआपरेटिव सोसायटी थी जिसको कि रुपया दिया गया था। अब प्रश्न यह है कि इस कोआपरेटिव सोसायटी को जब तक खत्म न किया जाय उस वक्त तक गवर्नमेंट सीधे तौर से उसमें दखल नहीं दे सकती। एक कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आ गई है, दूसरी कमेटी जो राजस्थान सरकार ने मुकर्रर की है उस की रिपोर्ट अभी नहीं आई है। बहरहाल जो कार्रवाई इसमें की जा सकती है वह स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की सलाह से की जायेगी क्योंकि वह उसके मातहत है और अभी वहां उलटपलट हो रही है। पहले झा साहब थे अब शर्मा जी आ गये हैं। मामला कुछ थम जाय तो जरूर कार्रवाई की जायगी।

[**Shri A. P. Jain:** An Administrator has been appointed there. There was a Co-operative Society to which the money was advanced. Now the fact remains that unless this Co-operative Society is wound up, the Government cannot directly interfere in it. The report of one Committee has already been received, while that of another set up by the Rajasthan Government is yet to come. Anyhow, every action that may be taken in this regard will be taken in consultation with the State Government because the Committee is subordinate to them and changes are still taking place there. Formerly, there was Shri Jha whose place has now been taken by Shri Sharma. Certainly steps will be taken on conditions being stabilised.]

डा० राम सुभाष सिंह : सहयोग समिति जिसको वह रुपया दिया गया था जिसको कि उसने गबन कर लिया है, वह अभी चल रही है या तोड़ दी गई ?

[**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Is the Co-operative Society to which the money was given and which misappropriated the amount still functioning or it has been liquidated?]

श्री ए० पी० जैन : वह अभी कुछ चल रही है और कुछ बन्द हो गई है। चल इस तरह से रही है कि वह लीगली रजिस्टर्ड है लेकिन एक ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेटर मुकर्रर कर दिया गया है और अब वह कमेटी काम नहीं कर रही है बल्कि ऐडमिनिस्ट्रेटर काम कर रहा है।

[Shri A. P. Jain: It is partly functioning and partly not. In a way it is functioning because it is a legally registered one, but an Administrator has now been appointed and so the functions at present are being performed not by the Society but by the Administrator.]

PONDI HILL COLLIERY

*2505. Shri R. L. Malviya: Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) when the provisions of the Central Pay Commission recommendations were applied to the employees of the Pondi Hill Colliery in the ex-Korea State in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the recommendations of para A were applied with the consultation of the lessor; and

(c) what measures Government adopted before handing over charge of the property to protect the wages and privileges of the workers, who were employed by them during the period of lease?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) With effect from the 1st January 1947, or the 16th August 1947, as the case may be, according to the option of the employees.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The staff recruited for the Collieries were temporary and with the termination of the lease, their employment under Government ceased. The question of protecting the wages and privileges of the employees after termination of their employment under Government does not arise.

Shri R. L. Malviya: May I know the number of employees who have been absorbed by Government in other collieries?

Shri Gadgil: I cannot give the number, but the staff was recruited like this. During the lease, some permanent staff of the Indian Railways were transferred to the Pondi Hill Colliery. The temporary staff of the Coal Department were transferred to the collieries. These have been re-transferred to the Railways. Some staff was

taken over from the lessor in 1944 along with the colliery. This staff also went back to the lessor. The only category for which one can say that Government has some responsibility was the temporary staff recruited by the Chief Mining Engineer, but as these were temporary there was nothing like protection of wages and privileges involved.

LEASE OF PONDI HILL COLLIERY

*2506. Shri R. L. Malviya: (a) Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state the main terms of the lease executed between the Government and Sir Manakji, Dadabhai with regard to the Pondi Hill Colliery in the ex-Korea State in Madhya Pradesh?

(b) What has been Government's total investment in the Colliery during the period of lease and what is their total gain or loss?

(c) What is the capital expenditure on housing, powerhouse, machinery and stores?

(d) What were the reasons which led Government to take the colliery on lease?

(e) What was the total annual production of coal in the colliery during the period of lease?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) The main terms of the lease are contained in the attached statement. [See Appendix XIX, annexure No. 17.]

(b) The accounts of the Colliery have not been finally closed but provisional figures upto December, 1950 are:

	Rs.
Total Expenditure ...	1,01,09,746
Loss ...	9,30,254

(c) (i) On building and structures Rs. 10,51,385.

(ii) On plant and machinery Rs. 10,32,083-13-0.

(d) To increase the output of coal, which showed a steep drop of 4 million tons in 1943 as compared to the previous year. This colliery seemed to offer promising conditions for rapid development.

(e) 1944-45 (from 1st October, 1944) ...	22,243 tons.
1945-46 ...	84,557 tons.
1946-47 ...	147,619 tons.
1947-48 ...	176,997 tons.
1948-49 ...	130,863 tons.
1949-50 ...	107,485 tons.
1950-51 (upto 30th Sept., 1950) ...	47,041 tons.

Total ... 716,805 tons.

Shri R. L. Malviya: Did Government try to extend the lease in order to make up the losses incurred by them?

Shri Gadgil: The original lease was extended only once and that was up to September, 1950.

Shri R. L. Malviya: What is the value of the stores lying with Government?

Shri Gadgil: I cannot give it off-hand, but under the terms of the agreement most of the plant will come to Government.

Shri Massey: Was the coal supplied to Railways and if so, to what Railways?

Shri Gadgil: I require notice for that, but the entire output from these collieries was managed by Government and supplied to Railways.

Shri Massey: Was this coal not suitable for Railways?

Shri Gadgil: Not being an expert I cannot say.

INDIANS IN BURMA

*2508. **Shri Krishnanand Rai:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a large number of Indians are still living in interiors of Burma in very panicky conditions; and

(b) whether Government have received complaints from public organisations to the effect that due to lack of staff and proper personnel the Indian Embassy in Burma is not in a position to contact the Indians in the interior?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) Government are aware that a number of Indians are living in the interior of Burma. Conditions in that area have considerably improved, but are still somewhat unsettled. There appears to be no reason for anxiety and even less for panic.

(b) No.

Shri Krishnanand Rai: May I know whether our Embassy is in a position to contact Indians living in the very interior of Burma?

Dr. Keskar: Our Embassy in Rangoon is in a position to contact Indians in certain parts where communications exist and also where the recapture of these areas from the rebels has taken place. There are even now certain areas where our representatives are not able to contact the population, though we do get information by

various ways in regard to the conditions of Indians there.

Shri Krishnanand Rai: May I know whether any important organisations of Indians in Burma have complained to Government that the broadcasts made by our Embassies for Indians from Rangoon are in a language which the ordinary agriculturists and labourers cannot understand?

Dr. Keskar: I am not aware of any complaint with regard to the language in which our Embassy broadcasts for people in these areas are made.

Shri T. N. Singh: Have Government any information regarding the condition of Indians who are at present in the Karen-held territory and Northern Burma area?

Dr. Keskar: We have not got complete information, but we do get sufficiently reliable information with regard to the condition of Indians there. In the beginning, owing to the disturbed conditions created by the fight that was going on in Burma Indians were put to hardship in many parts occupied by the Karens but our latest information is that the position has very much improved. We can say with considerable confidence that the position of Indians now is such that it need cause no anxiety to us.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: May I know what specific action has been taken by our Embassy in Burma to remove the panic among Indians in Burma?

Dr. Keskar: I am afraid that in regard to Indians who are in territories held by Karens and other rebels, our Embassy can take no action which will have any effect in allaying their panic, as they are beyond the control of our Embassy in Rangoon. But in regard to certain areas which are under the Government of Burma, but were not in communication with Rangoon, our Embassy took many steps; for example, a few months back we sent by plane officers from our Embassy to North Burma, who visited as many of the localities as possible where there are Indians and tried to reassure them that the Government of India will do whatever possible to help them. That was the only thing that was possible. It was not possible for us to help Indians who were in rebel-held territory. Even there, I may inform my hon. friend that in one or two instances, Government did send messages to the rebels also that if Indians there are maltreated, the Government of India will ultimately hold the rebel authorities responsible for whatever that may happen.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE
OF REHABILITATION MINISTERS

*2509. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state whether Government propose to place on the Table of the House a copy of the proceedings or of the recommendations of the Conference of Rehabilitation Ministers held in New Delhi in December last?

(b) Were any non-officials also invited to this Conference, and did they participate in the discussions?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) A summary of the recommendations of the Conference is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XIX, annexure No. 18.]

(b) No.

Shri Raj Kanwar: May I know how many Rehabilitation Ministers of the States attended this Conference.

Shri A. P. Jain: All except the Rehabilitation Minister of Uttar Pradesh, because the Conference related to Western region only.

Shri Raj Kanwar: Have Government taken decisions on all the recommendations of the Conference and are they being implemented?

Shri A. P. Jain: Some of the recommendations have been considered and action is being taken. They are being implemented. In respect of other recommendations, they are under examination.

Shri Raj Kanwar: What steps are being taken to implement these recommendations, particularly with regard to publicity of rehabilitation schemes?

Shri A. P. Jain: The State Ministries have published pamphlets and brochures. Some broadcasts have also been given. A film is under preparation and the Central Ministry has also issued a number of news items and publications.

Shri Raj Kanwar: Do the State Rehabilitation Ministries correspond with the Central Ministry, on various subjects through their Governments, or do the Rehabilitation Ministers of States write direct to the Minister here?

Shri A. P. Jain: The procedure is governed by governmental rules. In certain matters Rehabilitation Ministers write direct to me. But in many other matters which are of a formal nature the communication is made direct by the Secretariat of the State Government to the Secretariat here.

लाला अचिंत राम : क्या माननीय मंत्रीजी कृपा कर के यह बतलायेंगे कि क्या इस कान्फरेंस का यह भी ख्याल था कि निर्वासित भाइयों को बसाने का काम बहुत लम्बा है और उसे सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने मंजूर कर लिया है ?

[**Lala Achint Ram:** Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether this Conference was of the view that the task of rehabilitating the displaced persons was such as would take a long time to accomplish and that this view has been accepted by the Central Government?]

श्री ए० पी० जैन : वह रिक्मण्डेशन यहाँ पर रख दी गई है। आप उसमें देख लें कि यह मौजूद है या नहीं। मैंने इस बात को नहीं देखा है।

[**Shri A. P. Jain:** The recommendations have been placed here and the hon. Member may see for himself whether these things are contained therein or not. I have not seen this thing.]

PREFABRICATED HUTS

*2510. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to refer to his answer to my Starred Question No. 6, asked on the 15th November, 1950 regarding Swedish Prefabricated Huts and state:

(a) whether the Directorate-General of Industry and Supply have completed their enquiry into the circumstances in which their Inspectorate in London certified wrongly that the stores were in accordance with the specifications and if so, with what result;

(b) whether it has been decided to take legal action against the firm for breach of contract; and

(c) if not, why not?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) Yes, Sir. The Inspector inspected the stores to the British Standard Specification. He did not obtain any outside technical opinion with regard to the suitability of the material with special reference to water absorption, as there was a warranty clause in the contract providing satisfactory service.

(b) and (c). As I stated in reply to Starred Question No. 2107 asked by Shri Ghule on the 12th March, 1951,

the matter was referred to arbitration in accordance with the terms of the contract.

Shri Kamath: Is it not a fact, Sir, that Mr. V. T. Krishnamachari in his report definitely stated that the inspector in London had wrongly certified these huts to be in accordance with specification, and if so, what action was taken against the officer who issued the wrong certificate?

Shri Gadgil: It is true, Sir, that in the report submitted by Shri Krishnamachari everybody except the inspector was exonerated. Unfortunately, the inspector is not a government servant. He was employed specially for this on payment of certain fees.

Shri Kamath: Was he asked to explain why he issued a wrong certificate, and when was his report received about this?

Shri Gadgil: The explanation is contained in my reply to part (a). Because there was a warranty clause in the contract so far as water absorption was concerned, he was in a way justified in testing it according to British Standard Specification.

Shri Kamath: Is the Minister aware that his colleague, the Rehabilitation Minister in the last session stated that the course open to Government was firstly civil action in a court of law, and second negotiations through the Swedish Representative of the firm? If so, why was it decided not to take any action in a court of law against the firm for realisation of the full amount?

Shri Gadgil: As stated earlier in reply to one of the questions, the contract contained a clause that if there is any disagreement or dispute as regards the guarantee of the contract, it must be first referred to arbitration. If we had filed a suit without first taking recourse to arbitration, the court would have stayed proceedings and asked both the parties to go to arbitration. Therefore, the matter was referred to arbitration and after a good deal of discussion it was thought prudent that the compromise proposed should be accepted and under that compromise, as I stated only a few minutes ago, Rs. 4 lakhs and 50 thousand is the amount which the firm has agreed to pay. Out of that Rs. 2,36,800 are already with Government.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact, Sir, that the technical adviser to the Ministry of Rehabilitation, Dr. Koenisberger in the course of the negotiations with the firm agreed to undertake plastering of the roofs to make them waterproof,

but neglected to do it before the huts were erected, and, therefore, the firm refused not to pay anything more?

Shri Gadgil: Sir, this is a matter on which it is not possible for me to give a reply off-hand. I would require notice of it.

Dr. Deshmukh: Has Government come to the conclusion that no proceedings can be instituted or no action taken against the person who issued the wrong certificate, because he is not a Government employee and was employed only on a fee?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has already explained the position; that they cannot do it, because of the clause of arbitration in the agreement and the court would have held that its jurisdiction was barred, if no reference was made to arbitration.

Dr. Deshmukh: I am not referring to the company: I am referring to the officer who issued the wrong certificate.

Shri Gadgil: He was not an officer of the Government of India; he was an expert employed for this specific purpose on payment of certain fees.

Dr. Deshmukh: Does that preclude action, Sir—that is my question?

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

AMMONIUM SULPHATE

*2511. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as stated in the Estimates Committee report on the Ministry of Industry and Supply, at page 39 thereof, the Sindri Fertiliser Factory was to have produced the first instalment of usable ammonium sulphate by the end of December, 1950;

(b) whether that schedule has been adhered to; and

(c) whether full production can be achieved by November, 1951, as envisaged, and if not, why not?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) The statement referred to in the Estimates Committee report was only an expectation expressed in a joint report submitted to Government in January, 1950 by two senior representatives of Government's consultants after an examination of the progress of work at site.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The situation today in general terms is that the stage of testing and taking over installed plant and machinery with a view to initial operation has commenced. Power generation has commenced and the Gas plant is being put in commission. When gas is available, it will be possible to start work in the Ammonia Synthesis plant and then in the Sulphate Plant. All that can now be said with reasonable certainty is that the construction of the factory will be completed by the end of 1951 and that having regard to the unavoidable time-lag between different stages of operation and the imperative necessity of carefully testing and tuning in each erected plant before allowing its continuous operation, it is unlikely that initial production will be established before November, 1951. Full production is expected to be achieved by the latter half of 1952.

Shri Kamath: Will the factory go into production—at least test production—during the life-time of the present Government?

Shri Gadgil: I do not have any idea of the life-time of this Government. But whether this Government is there or not, the factory is going to be completed and is going to be in operation before the latter half of 1952.

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

Short Notice Question and Answer

PERISHABLE GOODS COMING FROM EAST PAKISTAN

Dr. M. M. Das: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a considerable fall in the quantity of incoming perishable goods like (i) fish; (ii) fowls, (iii) eggs, (iv) milk products and (v) vegetables, from East Pakistan to the Calcutta markets, since the Trade Agreement between India and Pakistan came into operation; and

(b) if so, the reasons for this fall and the steps taken by Government to counteract it?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) and (b). According to the information received from Calcutta, the statistics of imports of perishable goods from Pakistan for the fortnight ending 4th March, 1951 show some decline over the figures of the previous fortnights. This fall is apparently due to the imposition of exchange control for exports to and imports from Pakistan. It must naturally take some time before persons conducting the business of importing perishable goods from Pakistan comprehend

fully the implications of exchange control regulations and start observing the usual formalities. A slight interruption in business in these circumstances seems only natural.

As regards remedies, it is yet too early to have a correct appraisal of the working of the exchange control on the import of perishable goods. The situation will, however, be watched and necessary steps, if any, will be taken to avoid any fall in business.

It may, however, be mentioned that, although the figures of imports for the fortnight ending 4th March, 1951 indicate some decline over those of the previous fortnights, the imports since the beginning of 1951 are a great improvement over the import position as it existed during the corresponding period in 1950.

Dr. M. M. Das: In view of the fact that it has been laid down in our Trade Pact with Pakistan that no import or export control restrictions would be imposed upon the movements of these food articles, milk etc., may I know whether no import or export licence is necessary for carrying on trade between the two Bengals so far as these commodities are concerned?

Shri Mahtab: This is not a question of import and export control. Because of the change in the exchange position some new rules have been introduced and it takes some time, it appears, for the business community to get accustomed to these new rules.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know what is the existing arrangement of the Government for the exchange of Pakistan and Indian rupees so that it will be readily available to these traders?

Shri Mahtab: I cannot say off-hand, but I can let him know if notice is given.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the value of the Pakistan rupee in the Calcutta market with reference to the Indian rupee is much lower than the Government exchange rate?

Shri Mahtab: It is again a very big question which cannot be connected with this. But so far as that is concerned, my information is that the marginal value always remains a little lower than the accepted value, but I do not know whether that is the position everywhere in the Calcutta market.

Dr. M. M. Das: Is it a fact that the traders carrying on the trade in these commodities are compelled to accept the Government exchange rate which varies widely from the market value in Calcutta and that this is the reason why the trade has suffered?

Shri Mahtab: At least that complaint is not being made by the traders. As a matter of fact there is no complaint on that score. On the contrary the latest information is—of course I have not got the exact figures, but in his letter our Deputy Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Calcutta gives the latest information and he says, "I may say that the decline has not affected the supply position in the city. Prices have remained stationary at the old level and we have not witnessed any shortage of supplies during the past few weeks. That shows that there has been no difference in prices. Only the difficulty has been with regard to the new rules. The traders have to adjust themselves to these new rules."

Shri Hussain Imam: Is it a fact that the Pakistan rupee is today available in Calcutta at much less than the official rate—at Rs. 108 or 107?

Shri Mahtab: I shall make enquiries. If that is the case how does it hit anybody?

Shri Hussain Imam: It means that we have to pay a higher cost. Does it not mean that Pakistan goods imported into India are costing higher today than they would have if there had been no exchange control?

Shri Mahtab: It is not the cost as the figures will show and the traders will say.

Shri Dwivedi: What are the restrictions on the export of betel leaves from India to Pakistan?

Shri Mahtab: I require notice.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

NEEDLES

*2492. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** (a). Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the total quantity and value of needles imported into India during the years 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 up to the end of December, 1950?

(b) Are there any factories manufacturing needles in India and if so, what is their annual outturn and how do the indigenous needles compare with the imported needles, both in respect to quality and price?

(c) What encouragement and facilities are being given by the Government of India to give an impetus to this industry?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) There is one factory capable of producing 230 million gramophone needles and 400 million hand sewing needles per annum. This has started production of gramophone needles on a limited scale recently and is expected to start manufacture of hand sewing needles early next year. It is premature to say anything about quality and price of the needles produced by the firm.

(c) Those who come forward with proposals for starting manufacture of needles are given even reasonable facility to obtain plant and machinery, raw materials, technical assistance, etc.

STATEMENT

Figures relating to the total quantity and value of different types of needles imported into India during the years 1948, 1949 and 1950 are not available as these are not specified separately in Foreign Sea and Air-borne Trade returns. The total value of all types of needles for which import licences were issued during these years is given below:

1948	...	Rs. 1,95,45,090
1949	...	Rs. 1,65,741
1950	...	Rs. 96,315

RENT REALISATION FROM GOVERNMENT QUARTERS

*2499. **Babu Gopinath Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the amount which the Government of India get annually in the shape of rent from Government quarters in Delhi and New Delhi;

(b) the amount which the Government have to spend annually on the maintenance of these quarters; and

(c) the number of *Malis* and *Chaukidars*, employed to look after these quarters and the expenditure incurred annually on the pay and allowances of this staff?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) The amount of rent recovered during the year 1949-50 including charges for services, in respect of quarters in Delhi and New Delhi was Rs. 60,07,850 as shown below:

		Rs.
Delhi	...	4,43,860
New Delhi	...	55,63,990
Total		60,07,850

(b) Rs. 54,53,662-8-0 during 1949-50.

(c) During 1949-50 the number of *Malis*, *Chaukidars* etc. employed for these quarters was 1383, and the expenditure incurred on the pay and allowances of this staff was Rs. 13,86,712

PEPPER EXPORT

*2504. **Shri Alexander:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that pepper is allowed to be exported only from Bombay and if so, why?

(b) Is it a fact that merchants in Bombay are controlling prices of pepper?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The export of pepper is allowed from all ports.

(b) No, Sir.

SEARCH OF NON-MUSLIM ABDUCTED WOMEN

*2507. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any change in the attitude of West Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan and East Pakistan as regards the search of non-Muslim abducted women, since the Indo-Pakistan Agreement came into force; and

(b) if so, how far the Pakistan Government have helped or are helping in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) The figures of actual recoveries of abducted women in West Punjab, Sind and Baluchistan during the last 12 months do not indicate any progress in the rate of recovery. In East Pakistan the problem is of small dimensions and is dealt with under the ordinary law of the land. In the absence of a special law, recovery work is carried out under certain legal handicaps. Efforts are being made to overcome some of these difficulties.

(b) The Pakistan Government have expressed themselves in favour of the recovery of abducted women and are trying to improve their machinery in order to obtain better results.

IMPORT OF BALL BEARINGS

*2512. **Shri Ramaswamy Naidu:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what is the total value of the imports in ball bearings of all types in the years 1949-50 and 1950-51?

(b) How many factories are there in India producing ball bearings?

(c) What proportion of the requirements of the country is produced by these factories?

(d) Will the Government Machine Tool Factory at Bangalore produce ball bearings?

(e) Do Government propose to afford any protection to the Industry?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Information is not available, as separate statistics for this item are not maintained.

(b) One.

(c) About 15 per cent.

(d) No.

(e) The factory has just started production and can meet only a fraction of the country's requirements. The question of giving protection to the industry will be considered in due course after the usual investigation by the Tariff Board.

ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE WITH SOUTH AFRICA

*2513. **Shri S. V. Naik:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh approach has been made by the Government of India for holding a Round Table Conference with South Africa, to discuss the problem of Indians in South Africa;

(b) whether any assurance has been given to the effect that the Group Areas Act will not be applied before the Conference takes place; and

(c) what progress, since the passing of the United Nations resolution, has been made in this respect?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) to (c). The Government of India are in correspondence with the Government of the Union of South Africa about the implementation of the Resolution of the General Assembly adopted at its last session. I think that it would be inappropriate to go into details while the correspondence is in progress, but I hope to be able to inform the House of the result of the correspondence as early as possible.

GLYCERINE

*2514. **Shri S. V. Naik:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) what quantity of glycerine is produced every year in India;

(b) how much of this is recovered as a bye-product in soap and other manufacturing process;

(c) what is the quantity of glycerine which is unrecovered; and

(d) what per cent. of the production of glycerine is utilised for manufacturing explosives in India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Production of glycerine (Refined).

Year	Tons
1948	2140
1949	1740
1950	1870

(b) The entire production of glycerine is a bye-product of the soap industry.

(c) About 950 tons per annum.

(d) About six per cent.

LADY HARDINGE Sarai, NEW DELHI

*2515. **Thakur Krishna Singh:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the displaced persons residing in Lady Hardinge Sarai, New Delhi, have made any representation to Government for reduction of rent charged from them by the Trustees of Lady Hardinge Sarai; and

(b) what steps Government have taken on that representation?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes.

(b) On their representation, a rebate of 33 per cent. in the existing rates of rent was sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi with effect from 1st January, 1949. On further representation, the Chief Commissioner, Delhi has advised the Trustees to allow the rebate with effect from 15th August, 1947.

COMMONWEALTH LOAN TO BURMA

*2516. **Shri Syamnandan Sahaya:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether India's share in the Commonwealth loan to Burma carries any interest and if so, what?

(b) What are the terms for repayment of this loan?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, Sir. Interest is payable six monthly at the same rate as the Burma Currency Board would earn by investing the Sterling assets.

(b) The repayment has to be made within 2 years from the date of signature of the agreement i.e. the 28th June, 1951.

MINIMUM WAGES

*2517. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has advised the Government of India against insisting on the fixation of minimum wages for industrial workers as envisaged in the Central Minimum Wages Act of 1948; and

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take steps to amend the Act mentioned in part (a) above?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) and (b). The Planning Commission was consulted in regard to the fixation of minimum wages in res-

pect of employments in agriculture and not in respect of those mentioned in Part I of the Schedule attached to the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The reasons for extending the time-limit to fix minimum wages in respect of employments mentioned in part I of the Schedule of the Act just mentioned, are given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill further to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 (Act XI of 1948) which was introduced by me on Monday last.

SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES

*2518. **Shri Chandrika Ram:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the recent decisions of the Cottage Industries Board; and

(b) whether any amount has been set apart for giving loans to individuals or organisations for starting small scale industries?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) A copy of the resolutions passed at the meeting of the Cottage Industries Board held at Santiniketan in January, 1951 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XIX, annexure No. 19.]

(b) Yes, Sir. A sum of Rs. 1,50,000 has been ear-marked for the grant of loans to cottage and small scale industries in Part C States.

ART SILK YARN TO WEAVERS

*2519. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to his answer to my Short Notice Question asked on 8th March, 1951 and state:

(a) what new ways and means are being considered to meet the requirements of weavers who are not members of any recognised associations; and

(b) what attempts have been made by Government to seize hoarded stocks?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) and (b). The matter is still under consideration.

SHOE FACTORY AT FARIDABAD

*2520. **Shri Kannamwar:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) how many workers from among the displaced persons at Faridabad will be absorbed by the shoe factory of Batas; and

(b) whether this shoe factory is to be run on co-operative basis under the

Faridabad Development Scheme in future?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) 300 to begin with which is expected to rise to 2000 in due course.

(b) No.

POWER PLANT AT FARIDABAD

***2521. Shri Kannamwar:** (a) Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state for what period and on what conditions the German Engineer, Mr. Doll has been engaged at Faridabad for the erection of the Power Plant?

(b) What amount will be required for the erection of this Plant and what will be the income derived from the surplus energy of the Power station?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Mr. Doll, a German Engineer, has been engaged for a period of one year at Rs. 2,000/- per month.

(b) It is estimated that the cost for the erection of the plant will be about Rs. 10 lakhs. It is not possible at this stage to give an estimate of the income from the sale of surplus energy, as it will depend on the rates to be charged from consumers for which negotiations are in progress.

BATA SHOE FACTORIES

***2522. Shri Kannamwar:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state how many shoe factories of Bata there are in India?

(b) How many labourers are working in these factories?

(c) What kind of protection do Government propose to give to shoe making cottage industries?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Two.

(b) About 5,068 workers in the foot-wear department of these two factories.

(c) Cottage leather industry stands on the same footing as any other cottage industry vis-a-vis the small industry. No direct protection has so far been given to any cottage industry against competition by the small industry, although the problem has been very much under consideration of Government.

REPRESENTATION FROM DELHI NAWAR AND TAPE WEAVING ASSOCIATION

***2523. Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Nawar and Tape Weaving Association has made a representation that the power and hand-loom weavers do not

receive proportionate quota of yarn as is given to the big power loom mills; and

(b) if so, what is the reason for this distinction?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Yes.

(b) The quota of yarn for both Powerloom factories and other manufactures is fixed on the basis of one shift working. Powerloom factories, however, are given their full quota on this basis and the balance is distributed to other manufacturers on a *pro-rata* basis. This is because it is not possible for Powerloom factories to reduce their working below one shift.

CEMENT AND IRON SHEETS FOR ASSAM

***2524. Shri Chaliha:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cement and corrugated iron sheets supplied to the earthquake-affected areas of North Lakhimpur, Sadiya, Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Sibsagar in the State of Assam;

(b) what quantity was allotted to the educational and public institutions there; and

(c) what quantity was actually utilised by the educational institutions and other public bodies there?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) to (c). 1,500 tons of cement and 3,000 tons of corrugated iron sheets were allotted to the Government of Assam for providing relief to the earthquake sufferers. The distribution of these materials was done by the State Government, and I am not aware of the details of internal distribution.

DIESEL OIL ENGINES (IMPORT)

***2525. Shri Alagesan:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether there has been a change in the policy of import of Diesel oil engines for agricultural purposes for the January—June period of 1951?

(b) If so, have the import quotas for Diesel oil engines of various Horse Power been revised under the present policy?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) and (b). The policy as announced in the old Ministry of Commerce Public Notice Number 150-I.T.C. (P.N.)/50 of the 15th December, 1950 has been modified only to the extent that in view of the growing requirement of Diesel oil engines for agricultural purposes, we propose consistently with the interests of indigenous

production to allow some further imports and for this purpose, information regarding the extra requirement is being collected.

PROTECTED INDUSTRIES

*2526. **Shri M. Naik:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state how many of the protected industries have so far been able to stand on their own legs?

(b) What are the safe-guards against the industries misusing the protective privileges accorded to them?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) If, by ability to stand on one's own leg, the hon. Member means ability to do without protection, the answer is obviously, none.

(b) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the reply given on the 6th December, 1949 in the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) by the then hon. Minister of Commerce, Shri K. C. Neogy to Starred Question No. 339 by Shri O. V. Alagesan.

MUSLIMS RETURNING FROM PAKISTAN

*2527. **Shri D. S. Seth:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government declared in 1948 that the Muslims who had gone to Pakistan during the disturbances of 1947, will be restored their properties if they come back to their homes in India; if so, when this decision was arrived at;

(b) whether Government propose to place a copy of the *communiqué* issued by Government in this respect on the Table of the House;

(c) whether any date for the return from Pakistan of the Muslims referred to above was fixed by Government and if so, what was the last date fixed;

(d) whether the persons referred to above were asked to report their arrival in the respective police stations of their districts;

(e) if so, when this order was issued by the Government of India or the Punjab (I) State Government;

(f) whether it is a fact that instructions were issued by the Superintendent of Police, Gurgaon District, to every Station House Officer of the police stations under his control to keep a record in a separate register of the persons referred to above;

(g) for what purpose this record was prepared;

(h) whether property can be restored on the basis of this police record

to the Muslims who returned but could not be enumerated in the census of Meos held in this district during July 1948; and

(i) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) No such declaration was made.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

(f) The Government of India have no information. The information is, however, being obtained from the Government of Punjab.

(g) to (i). It is not possible to give an answer until receipt of information in respect of (f) from the Government of Punjab.

DISPLACED MEOS

*2528. **Shri D. S. Seth:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the re-settled Meos in Alwar and Bharatpur districts of Rajasthan State, have been restored their properties including lands and homes in full and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether any of the re-settled Meos in these districts have been restored the occupancy lands they were holding at the time of their displacement during 1947-48 and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the partly settled Meos in Alwar and Bharatpur districts have been refused restoration of their homes and lands which were occupied by displaced persons; and if so, under what provision of law it has been done?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). The properties of Meos resettled in Alwar and Bharatpur have been restored in full except in cases where they had already been allotted to displaced persons.

(c) According to the law prevailing in the States at the time of disturbances in 1947 all the lands deserted by the Meos lapsed to the States of Alwar and Bharatpur. Subsequently on the merger of these states into Matsya Union, these lands were, according to Law, treated as Evacuee Property. The evacuee property can be restored under Section 16 to the owner subject to such terms and conditions as the Custodian may think fit to impose. As a matter of policy, it has been decided that where displaced persons have been settled on evacuee property they will not generally be disturbed. In the case of Meos

where restoration is not possible on account of the settlement of displaced persons they are being equivalent lands elsewhere.

MATSYA UNION EVACUEE LAND ENQUIRY COMMISSION

*2529. **Shri D. S. Seth:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Matsya Union Evacuee Land Enquiry Commission set up by the Rajasthan State Government during 1950 has been received by the Government of India;

(b) if so, the nature of the recommendations made by this Commission;

(c) the nature of observations made by the Rajasthan State Government on the report of this Enquiry Commission;

(d) whether the recommendations of the Commission and the State Government referred to above, have been taken into consideration by the Government of India; and

(e) if so, what decisions have been arrived at?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes.

(b) The recommendations of the Commission related to (1) restoration of lands to Meos and other Muslims, (2) restoration and allotment of land to local tenants (3) rehabilitation of displaced persons, causes of their dissatisfaction and abandonment of holdings by them, (4) land improvement and scale of allotment, and (5) reorganisation of the rehabilitation machinery in Matsya, etc.

(c) No observations were made by the Government of Rajasthan on the report of the Commission.

(d) The recommendations of the Commission were considered on 9th March, 1951 at a meeting attended by the representatives of the Government of India and of the Rajasthan Government.

(e) A copy of the decisions arrived at in this meeting is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XLIX, annexure No. 20.]

DEMONSTRATION BY WEAVERS IN NAGPUR

*2530. **Shri Rathnaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that over five thousand weavers staged a demonstration in Nagpur on the 12th March, 1951 due to the large-scale unemployment among the

weavers, which has arisen out of acute yarn shortage?

(b) What is the total quantity of yarn supplied to Madhya Pradesh in the last three months and have any steps been taken to assess the total requirements of the State?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to give immediate relief to these weavers?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Yes.

(b) In December, 1950 and January, 1951, 2,315 bales and 1,135 bales of yarn were released to Madhya Pradesh. An allotment of 2,627 bales was made in February, 1951; in March, 1951, this State has been given an allotment of 3,091 bales as against an equitable quota of 2,634 bales due to it on the present availability of yarn. All the State Governments have been circularised to take a census of the handlooms in their respective States in order to assess their total requirements of yarn.

(c) All the Mills have been directed to reserve for internal consumption 87½ of their packings of yarn with effect from March, 1951, and in consequence of the steps taken to ban export of all kinds of yarn and the incentive given to the Mills by restoration of four per cent. cut, it is expected that by April, 1951, large supplies of yarn will be available for distribution to various States including Madhya Pradesh.

साइकिलें

*२५३१. **श्री खापर्डे:** क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे:

(क) भारत में साइकिलें निर्माण करने वाली फैक्टरियों की संख्या क्या है तथा इन के द्वारा निर्माण की जाने वाली साइकिलों की संख्या क्या है;

(ख) विदेशों से आयात की गई साइकिलों के मूल्य तथा उपयोगिता की तुलना में भारत में निर्मित साइकिलें कैसी रहती हैं; तथा

(ग) किन किन राज्यों में यह फैक्टरियां स्थित हैं तथा उन फैक्टरियों के नाम क्या हैं?

BICYCLES

[*2531. **Shri Khaparde:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bicycle manufacturing factories in India and the number of bicycles manufactured by these factories;

(b) how the bicycles manufactured in India compare with those imported from abroad in respect of their prices and service; and

(c) the names of the States where these factories are located and also the names of the factories?]

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) There are two factories manufacturing complete cycles. During the year 1950, they produced 104,005 cycles.

(b) Indian cycles are lower in price than the ordinary imported makes and are not inferior to them in quality.

(c) (1) Bombay State
Messrs. Hind Cycles Limited.

(2) Bihar State
Messrs. Hindusthan Bicycles Manufacturing and Industrial Corporation.

UN-AUTHORISED OCCUPATION OF GOVERNMENT QUARTERS

149. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: (a) Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state the number of displaced persons still in un-authorized occupation of Government quarters in Delhi?

(b) How many such displaced persons were rehabilitated by the end of 1950?

(c) What is the number of applicants among displaced persons on the waiting list for alternative accommodation in Delhi?

(d) How do Government propose to provide them roof and within what period?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) 2,279 families; the number of displaced persons in those families is not known

(b) About 600 families but exact statistics are not available.

(c) As in part (a).

(d) Alternative accommodation will be provided according to a sector-wise programme within the next six months or so.

CHANDERNAGORE

150. Shri Kamath: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the elected Municipal Assembly of

Chandernagore has been dissolved recently;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a nominated provisional administrative commission for Chandernagore; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) and (b): Yes.

(c) The old Municipal Assembly was dissolved with a view to fresh elections, so that the administration of the city might be as representative as possible. The present arrangement is provisional and only till such elections.

The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Press Note issued by the Government of India on the 8th February, 1951. [See Appendix XIX, annexure No. 21.]

MINIMUM WAGES

151. Shri Kamath: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the reasons why in certain States and in certain establishments minimum wages have not yet been fixed?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Enquiry is being made from the State Governments concerned though, in view of the Amendment Bill which I introduced on Monday last, this may not be necessary at this stage.

SUPPLY OF YARN

152. Shri Kamath: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of yarn, cotton and art silk, demanded by each of the States during each month in 1950, and the first two months of 1951;

(b) the quantity of yarn allocated, and actually supplied to each state in each of those months;

(c) the number of looms lying idle in each State in each month since October, 1950; and

(d) the quantity of yarn demanded by each State for March, 1951, and the quantity allocated to each State for this month?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a), (b) and (d). A statement showing the quotas of cotton yarn fixed for each State by Government, its equitable share, average deliveries during January, 1950 to January, 1951 and quantity of yarn likely to be delivered to each State during February and March, 1951, is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XIX, annexure No. 22 (Statement I.)] Regarding Art Silk, no

monthly allocations are made. However, State Governments have, on our request, intimated to us their, approximate requirements of art silk yarn for the 2nd half of 1950. The quantities indicated by the different State Governments are given in a Statement, which is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XIX, annexure No. 22 (Statement II).] State Governments have not intimated their requirements of art silk yarn for January—June, 1951 period.

(c) The information is being collected from State Governments.

Satyagraha BY HAND-LOOM WEAVERS

Prof. Ranga: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) in what States hand-loom weavers have gone on *Satyagraha* in order to demonstrate their sufferings, caused by shortage of supply of yarn, consequent unemployment and semi-starvation; and

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(b) whether Government are taking any emergent steps to relieve the distress of the weavers, especially by way of increasing supply of yarn to weavers and arranging for the marketing of their cloth production?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) *Satyagraha* by weavers in Madras and Madhya Pradesh only, has been reported so far.

(b) In order to make more yarn available to the handloom industry, the Mills have been directed to reserve 87½ per cent of their packings of yarn for internal consumption with effect from March, 1951, and an additional incentive has been given to the Mills to produce more yarn by the restoration of the four per cent cut on free yarn. Exports of all counts of yarn have also been banned. Due to the shortage of mill-made cloth there is a demand for handloom cloth and no special arrangements have been made for the marketing of handloom production beyond what have been made by State Governments.

Monday, 26th March, 1951



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers.)
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PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Monday, 26th March, 1951

—

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

11-52 A.M.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

**STANDING COMMITTEES FOR THE
MINISTRIES OF COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY, COMMUNICATIONS,
DEFENCE AND EDUCATION**

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House that up to the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committees for the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Communications, Defence and Education, 15 nominations in the case of each of these Committees have been received. As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies in each of these Committees, I declare the following Members to be duly elected:

I. Standing Committee for the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.—1. Shri N. Alexander, 2. Shri Krishnanand Rai, 3. Shri M. Shankaraiya, 4. Shri Syamnandan Sahaya, 5. Dr. C. D. Pande, 6. Shri C. Subramaniam, 7. Shri Pida-thala Ranga Reddi, 8. Shri Maheswar Naik, 9. Shri Braja Kishore Prasad Sinha, 10. Shri Sadiq Ali, 11. Shri Manilal Chaturbhai Shah, 12. Shri T. M. Kaliyannan, 13. Shri R. L. Malviya, 14. Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar and 15. Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya.

II. Standing Committee for the Ministry of Communications.—1. Shri K. Hanumanthaiya, 2. Moulavi Mahammed Haneef, 3. Shri B. S. Arya, 4. Shri V. C. Ahamedunni, 5. Shri Mihir Lal Chattopadhyay, 6. Shri Chandrika Ram, 11 P.S.D.

7. Shri Girija Sankar Guha, 8. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad, 9. Shri Anirudha Sinha, 10. Shri Konda Venkat Ranga Reddy, 11. Shri Sunder Lall, 12. Shri P. Kunhiraman, 13. Pandit Mukut Bahari Lal Bhargava, 14. Master Nand Lal and 15. Shri V. M. Obaidullah.

III. Standing Committee for the Ministry of Defence.—1. Shri Manikyalal Varma, 2. Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru, 3. Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung, 4. Shri C. M. Poonacha, 5. Sardar Jogendra Singh, 6. Shri Moti Ram Baigra, 7. Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man, 8. Capt. Awadhesh Pratap Singh, 9. Pandit Govind Malaviya, 10. Shrinati Uma Nehru, 11. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, 12. Kanwar Jaswant Singh, 13. Shri Krishna Kant Vyas, 14. Shri Awadheshwar Prasad Sinha and 15. Shri G. R. Ethirajulu Naidu.

IV. Standing Committee for the Ministry of Education.—1. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, 2. Prof. K. K. Bhattacharya, 3. Dr. Panjabrao Shamrao Deshmukh, 4. Shri Nar Deo Snatak, 5. Shri G. Ramachar, 6. Shri Sarju Prasad Misra, 7. Dr. Zakir Husain, 8. Shri Indra Vidya-vachaspati, 9. Shri Kannaiya Lal Bal-miki, 10. Shri Ram Dhani Das, 11. Shri J. N. Hazarika, 12. Prof. Yashwant Rai, 13. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta, 14. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad and 15. Shri Abdus Sattar.

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**PARLIAMENT PREVENTION OF DIS-
QUALIFICATION BILL.**

The Minister of law (Dr. Ambedkar): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to declare certain offices of profit not to disqualify their holders for being members of Parliament.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to declare certain offices of profit not to disqualify their holders for being members of Parliament.”

The motion was adopted.

Dr. Ambedkar: I introduce the Bill.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS

SECOND STAGE

Mr. Speaker: The House will now discuss the Demands for Grants in respect of the General Budget. The time-table, showing the dates on which the Demands in respect of the various Ministries will be taken up, has already been circulated to hon. Members. Today the House will take up the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Defence.

As regards the time-limit for speeches, the usual practice has been to fix a time-limit of fifteen minutes for all Members, including Movers of cut motions, and twenty minutes or more for the hon. Ministers replying.

Now, before I place the Demands before the House, I should like to be clear as to how the House would propose to go on with the discussions. One day is allotted for this Ministry and I find that there are as many as 128 cut motions. It is physically impossible to consider all of them or even a substantial part of them. I also see, from the papers placed before me, that no agreement has been reached as to which particular cut motions are sought to be discussed in the House. I have already expressed my disapproval of the procedure that was followed last time, namely, taking it for granted that all the cut motions are moved and discussing them together. I would therefore suggest that the best course would be to have speeches on the Demands themselves and that would entitle hon. Members to cover all grounds without going into the very irregular procedure of taking all the cut motions before the House and discussing them. I would prefer this procedure unless the hon. Minister has got anything...

The Minister of Defence (Sardar Baldev Singh): I have no objection.

Mr. Speaker: Is the House agreeable to that course?

Hon. Members: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: That is the only possible thing that I can imagine. Otherwise, it lands us into a very undesirable sort of procedure. Do I take it then that none of the cut motions is going to be moved and that there will be a discussion on the Demands only? The hon. Minister may reply at the end on the various points raised in the debate.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): Does this procedure apply to all the subsequent Demands or for today only?

Mr. Speaker: It depends on the time available and the number of cut

motions and the presence or absence of agreement. If hon. Members agree, then certainly the agreed course will be taken. Of course any Demand could be rejected. That there will be only discussion on the Demand without referring to the cut motions does not necessarily mean that the Demands are passed.

Shri Jhunjhunwala (Bihar): If an hon. Member puts in a cut motion and wants to press for a vote, what will be the procedure?

Mr. Speaker: That is what I said: Do I take it for granted that no cut motion is going to be moved? If the House is agreeable, then we will follow this course. If an hon. Member is particular that a cut motion should be taken up, certainly, I am bound to place it before the House, but then the procedure will be that that cut motion only will be debated and there will be no debate generally on the Demand till such cut motions as are sought to be moved are disposed of. The result of that will be that perhaps two or three cut motions may be discussed and then there will be no occasion for a general discussion on the Demands. In order to avoid that kind of contingency, I suggested this course which fits in with the procedure; and I think this will enable Members to speak generally on the Demands which will include the subjects of the cut motions also. This, I think, will be the best course.

12 Noon

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): Do I take it that the programme which you have circulated stands?

Mr. Speaker: It has nothing to do with the programme. The programme stands. I again enquire: Do I take it that no particular cut motion is being sought to be moved by any hon. Member?

Hon. Members: Yes, Sir.

Prof. K. T. Shah (Bihar): If this procedure is agreed to, then at the end, the Demands only will be put to the vote and no cut motion will be put to the vote. The effect would be that there had been no cut motion at all suggested and if it becomes a precedent, then, I am afraid, it might be serious.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think the hon. Member need be afraid of any precedent. The position is quite clear to my mind. If no cut motion is moved, there is nothing to place before the House. The only position will be that the Demands will be placed before the House and the hon. Member, wishing to move the cut motion, will do

better if he restricts himself in the discussion of the Demands to the particular points which he wants to invite the attention of the House by that cut motion.

Pandit Kunzru (Uttar Pradesh): Would it not be better to assume that there is a cut of Rs. 100 moved by every Member in connection with the Defence Ministry's estimates? Instead of each Member moving his own cut motion, it may be assumed that there is a general motion that the Demand for the Defence Ministry be reduced by Rs. 100 and then that Demand can be put to the vote at the end.

Mr. Speaker: I am not in a position to see really the point. What is the sanctity of having a cut motion? In fact, a cut motion is a device to have an opportunity of agitating a particular question. When the whole Demand is there, I do not see any necessity for having any further cut motion on that.

Pandit Kunzru: I am making the suggestion only to meet the point raised by my hon. friend, Prof. Shsh.

Mr. Speaker: He does not insist on maintaining that point any further. He is satisfied.

Shri T. Husain (Bihar): May I know from you as to how many days are allotted in the House of Commons for discussion on a Demand, for instance, the Demand on Defence? You are supposed to know the procedure and that is why I am asking you this question.

Mr. Speaker: We have to equate ourselves to the position of the House of Commons, but I think, we have to march a long way before we can copy everything in the forms and details. That is a wider question and we need not go into these matters. We have to adjust our affairs in the light of our own situation and circumstances.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri (Assam): If you do not have these cut motions, if none of us oppose the Demand for Grant, how can a discussion be allowed? The Demand must be opposed and the cut motions must be moved. Otherwise, long discussion cannot be allowed merely to support the Demand.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member is perhaps proceeding under a misconception. Any person whether he wishes to support or oppose a Demand will be entitled to speak. It is not that only those who oppose are entitled to discuss or it is when opposing that a person is entitled to criticise or to make suggestions. There will be a general discussion. The only difference will be that this will be a general

discussion not on the Budget generally, but in respect of specific items, namely, the Demands for Defence.

Shri Hussain Imam (Bihar): It would be quite well that we discuss these Demands without moving the cut motions. But if there is a cut motion for economy cuts, then that may be treated separately.

Mr. Speaker: I have no objection to treat every one of them separately, but the only procedural difficulty will be that that particular motion will come in for discussion, and I cannot say what time it will take; and until that particular cut motion is disposed of—I do not know whether it would be economy cut—there may be no discussion either on the other cuts or on the Demands. It means practically this: If any cut motion is taken up, the discussion will be limited throughout the course of the day only to two or three cut motions and not more than that. If hon. Members, therefore, want to have an opportunity of discussing all aspects in the various cut motions, the best course will be not to move the cut motions and have a general discussion. Now, we need not take time over this.

Shri M. L. Gupta (Hyderabad): Suppose no cut motion is moved and at the end, the House wants to place some restrictions on the Ministry, we will have either to reject the Demand or reduce it. What will happen then?

Mr. Speaker: Let us go to the end and see what the House wants to do. If it want to reduce the Demand either on account of economy or for the purpose of censure or for any other purpose, certainly a cut motion may be moved at the last minute and the House may carry it, if the House so chooses.

Shri Goenka (Madras): May I ask one question, Sir, whether this arrangement applies only to the Demands for Defence, or to all the Demands?

Mr. Speaker: Unfortunately, it appears that hon. Members are perhaps engaged in talking or consultations while the discussion in the House is going on. Incidentally, I may also say that these talks, which should be really in a very low tone, are in such bigger tones that I find it difficult to hear the other hon. Members who are addressing the House. I would request hon. Members at least on my right and left to give me perfect silence so as to enable me to catch what other hon. Members are saying. Sometimes, the whole thing is lost. That is only incidental. I have made it clear that this is the procedure which I am suggesting today, not for all days, and that too, because I find that cut motions

[Mr. Speaker.]

are inordinately large in number. I say inordinately, looking to the time at our disposal; I do not say that they are unreasonable. They are perfectly legitimately tabled, I take it. But, it is not possible to go into all these things during the time at our disposal. Therefore, I said in the beginning that if the House is keen to have any agreed cut motion, let us proceed on that basis. If the House is not agreed, this is the alternative which I have suggested. If this is not acceptable, I shall take up these cut motions one by one in order and proceed to dispose of them, with the result that at five o'clock, it may be found that there is no time for a general discussion on the Demands themselves. In the best interests of the debate and looking to the time at our disposal I have suggested this procedure for today only. But, I certainly take this opportunity to request hon. Members that it would be better if they first confer and try to agree on certain cut motions which should be brought before the House. That would enable them to focus attention on certain points and to have a general discussion on the Demand.

Shri Kamath: Is this allotment of days fixed by Government on their own, or in consultation with you, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: It is the Speaker who does that considering the nature of the business.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad (Bihar): May I ask one question, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Not now; he may raise it later on. I will place the Demands before the House.

DEMAND No. 9—MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Mr. Speaker: the motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,24,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Ministry of Defence'."

DEMAND No. 10—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE-ARMY

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,28,55,09,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Defence Services, Effective-Army'."

DEMAND No. 11—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE-NAVY

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,72,51,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Defence Services, Effective-Navy'."

DEMAND No. 12—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE-AIR FORCE

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,89,37,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Defence Services, Effective-Air Force'."

DEMAND No. 13—DEFENCE SERVICES, NON-EFFECTIVE CHARGES

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,25,59,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Defence Services, Non-Effective Charges'."

DEMAND No. 96—DEFENCE CAPITAL OUTLAY

Mr. Speaker: Motion is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,88,92,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Defence Capital Outlay'."

Shri B. Das (Orissa): Is it not for the hon. Finance Minister to move the Demands and then for you to place them before the House?

Mr. Speaker: We have been following this procedure for the last two or three years. The Demands are assumed to have been moved and they are placed before the House by the Speaker.

Shri Shiva Rao (Madras): Before I speak, I would like to know whether there is any definite allotment of time for each speech.

Mr. Speaker: I said, 15 minutes to each Member.

Shri Shiva Rao: Speaking on the Defence estimates for this year, I would like to say a word at the beginning about the extremely unsatisfactory position in which the House finds itself as a result of the decision to allot one day for the discussion of this most important subject. You yourself have been pleased to point out that there are no less than 128 cut motions relating to numerous topics in charge of the Defence Ministry. Having regard to that large number and also to the fact that the Defence estimates aggregate 180 crores, or as much as the expenditure of all the other Ministries put together, I hope that at least, in the future, three or four days will be allotted for the discussion of the Defence estimates.

Last week, when I took part in the general discussion, I invited the attention of the House to certain items of expenditure in which, in my humble opinion, there seemed to be room for economy. I referred very briefly to an unfulfilled contract for jeeps. Since then, the hon. Minister of Defence has answered a question on the floor of the House. Unfortunately, that question was not reached and therefore, his answer was placed on the Table of the House. I would like to recall some of the main points of his reply, utterly inadequate as it was in many respects. The order of the Defence Ministry in the middle of 1948 was for 2,000 jeeps: not new jeeps, but re-conditioned jeeps. My hon. friend did not disclose in his reply the price that was being offered for these re-conditioned jeeps. We were told in the Estimates Committee that the price of each of these jeeps would be £ 300. Therefore, the total contract was for £ 600,000. My hon. friend was also asked in the question whether the firm to which that contract was given was one of substance or not. What was his reply? "Government have no information on this subject". Is this House seriously being asked to believe that when the Government gives a contract of the value of 80 lakhs of rupees to a firm, it makes no previous enquiry as to the standing or reputation of that firm? I can understand my hon. friend's reluctance to go further into the matter. If he had given the truth, he would have blushed so deeply that the advantage he enjoys would not have covered all his discomfiture. I would like to help my hon. friend out of his predicament.

This firm in question had capital assets of the magnificent value of £ 605-4-0. This firm was given a

contract for 80 lakhs of rupees. My hon. friend disclosed in his reply that there is still owing to us £ 172,000 from that firm, that is roughly 23 lakhs of rupees. Why was this amount given to it? Because, with its incredibly meagre resources, it would never have been in a position to fulfil that contract without this amount being granted to it. I would like to ask my hon. friend and also the Finance Minister whether, before the payment was made to this firm, the previous concurrence of the two Ministries was taken. And what was the result of the grant of this contract? Out of 2,000 jeeps ordered in the middle of 1948, after expressly insisting that these jeeps should be delivered not later than five months after the contract had been signed, only 155 jeeps had arrived in India by the end of that year. And what was the condition of these jeeps? They were declared by the Defence Department to be unserviceable and were therefore rejected.

This is not the whole story. The contract itself was so defectively worded that there was no penalty clause included in it, and we are now told that, according to our own legal adviser in London, the contract cannot be considered void. I am quoting my hon. friend's words, "The contract cannot be considered void on a strict interpretation of the terms." In other words, the Defence Ministry has tied itself down hopelessly, giving every advantage to a contractor who has not fulfilled the terms of the contract and who has walked off with £ 172,000 of the tax-payer's money, and there is no remedy left for the Government of India. I would like to tell the Defence Minister that he is taking a very heavy responsibility on himself in keeping back these unpleasant facts from the House. There are a number of technical advisers in London—army officers, naval officers and air officers—who are supposed to advise the High Commissioner and the Stores Purchase Department in regard to many of these matters; and we have a legal adviser who is believed to look into the terms of such contracts, and we have a financial adviser. We were told in the Estimates Committee that this particular contract deviated in certain important respects from the standard contract form which the Ministry of Industry and Supply had sent to the High Commissioner's office in London. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in allowing these deviations to be made, the previous consent either of the Ministry of Industry and Supply or of the Defence Ministry or of the Finance Ministry was taken.

[Shri Shiva Rao.]

Meanwhile, I place this report before my hon. friend and the House for what it is worth. I am told that this firm has gone into liquidation. I am also told that certain high placed military officers of the Egyptian Government, who also placed contracts with the same firm, have been dismissed from service. There is not a single aspect of this episode which is either satisfactory or above suspicion. I believe the Auditor-General, one or two of his deputies, the Finance Secretary and possibly one or two other officers have been to London to enquire into this matter. It is almost three years since the contract was placed, and we are still as far away from a decision as when the contract was placed.

Though this concerns the Defence Ministry primarily, I would like to suggest to the Finance Minister that he is not entirely free from responsibility in this matter. A week or two ago Shankar in his weekly had a cartoon in which he depicted the Finance Minister as either tickling the tail or pulling the tail of a white elephant which was squatting comfortably on the chest of my hon. friend the Minister of Natural Resources, and Mr. Tyagi benevolently smiling by his side. We who have had some experience of the new Finance Minister feel that that cartoon did not do him full justice. But at the same time, I would like to say this to him; that with not one white elephant but a whole herd of white elephants roaming round the Secretariat, the Finance Minister should take strong measures with regard to either extravagance or waste which springs from, maybe ignorance, maybe lack of experience, or maybe something much worse. I would like to say to the Finance Minister that he has been sufficiently long in this House to realise that in the pursuit of economy in any Ministry, he has the unqualified support of every section of this House.

It is not small sums that are involved in this. I have been looking into the estimates of the Defence Ministry for the forthcoming year. Charges in England come to Rs. 11.58 crores of which the purchase of stores account for Rs. 9.12 crores. I feel slightly uncomfortable about these estimates, because I find, particularly in Defence estimates on the purchase of stores that these original estimates have a habit of jumping up enormously. Take the current year. Against a budget estimate of Rs. 8.1 crores, the revised figure is Rs. 14.52 crores—an excess of over Rs. six crores. Last week, when I spoke during the general discussion, I drew

the attention of the Finance Minister to certain items like the maintenance of buildings and installations which cost very nearly rupees eleven crores where I think economies of a substantial nature are possible. I will not dogmatise. But it seems to me that the new Estimates Committee which will be elected very shortly could very appropriately scrutinise these items in the Defence estimates. For example "Transport and Miscellaneous Charges" are Rs. 12 crores. "Stores and Equipment" are Rs. 73 crores. Speaking for myself, I will deny nothing to the armed forces to which they are entitled. I would even be generous with them. But I have serious apprehensions that there is room for substantial economy without appreciably touching the standards and the comforts of the armed forces.

Now, during the year that is now coming to an end, the Estimates Committee had several opportunities of having side-lights into the working of the Defence Ministry, and what distressed the members of the Estimates Committee was—I regret I have to make the observation—the obstinacy and the arrogance of some of the representatives of that Ministry whose administration we dared to question in the Estimates Committee.

[SHRIMATI DURGABAI in the Chair.]

Some of us like Mr. Sidhva, Mr. Guha and Mrs. Renuka Ray, were authorised by the Estimates Committee to visit several depots and make our reports to the Estimates Committee. These reports were sent in due course, to the Defence Ministry and we have had the comments of the Defence Ministry on the reports which we had submitted to the Estimates Committee. I will not weary the House with a detailed reference to the points made by the Defence Ministry in reply to the charges we had brought before the Estimates Committee. But when I read that document, I was reminded of an observation which was made to me by a young British army officer who came to India during the war on special duty. I have known that officer as a boy and after he had worked in the Army Headquarters for some time he came to see me and he said, "I now find in this country there are three types of intelligence." I asked, "What are they" and he said, "First of all there is human intelligence; then there is animal intelligence and last of all, there is military intelligence." In spite of all the explanations that have been given by the Defence Ministry, most of us in the Estimates Committee are convinced that there is a great

deal of avoidable waste. The first report of the Estimates Committee made a reference to the causes which have led to this waste.

Take vehicles. Thousands were lying in the open in various depots. Most of them have now been removed to Dehu Road. When I visited last July the Military depot at Avadi, outside Madras, I was told that there were 3,500 vehicles which were declared as unserviceable. The same situation prevailed in England, and the Estimates Committee of the House of Commons invited the attention of the War Office to this fact, and they wrote that in view of the civil needs in the postwar years in England and more recently because of the export drive, the Army had no alternative but to make the fullest use of its wartime stocks of vehicles. What was the result? During 1950 I was told that 65,000 vehicles, previously condemned as unserviceable, had been reconditioned under a rebuilding programme and these vehicles are at present in use. This striking example of economy I would commend to the attention of both the Defence and Finance Ministers.

Lastly I would like to say this. After all we cannot overlook the fact that the structure and technique of our defence forces and the standards of our defence forces are British. But we are an Asian country, and our standards of life are different from those of a European country. As an independent country with no aggressive intentions towards anyone, we must remodel gradually our defence forces in keeping with our domestic and foreign policies; because, after all, even if we jump into the mad race that is going on in several parts of the world for rearmament, we can never hope to achieve a better position than one of the "also-rans" and therefore our defence policy and programme should above all not impose a crushing burden on the taxpayer. And while we are formulating long range objectives in the sphere of defence, I would beg the Defence Minister and the Finance Minister not to spare any avenue for economy.

Pandit Kunzru: The Finance Minister referring to the reductions made in the army expenditure during the current year said that the full effect of the reductions made in the strength of the army would be reflected only in the estimates of the next year and he then added "It is also hoped to effect certain further reductions during that year." Later on he says "The reduction in the armed forces relates solely to the army and the expansion and development of the two other nascent

services have to go forward." Now it is clear from his words that the Government have some plan to the reduction of the army and the development of the other services. Yet we have been given no indication of it either in the Finance Minister's speech or in the Defence estimates. I asked for information on this subject during the general discussion and I ask for it again. What is the Government's plan? What is the total amount of reduction that they want to effect in army expenditure and within what time? Is the money saved in this manner to be spent on the development of the Air Force and the Navy or does the extra money given to these services this year represent all the development that should, in the opinion of the Government, take place in these services? These are questions which though few people may speak on in this House are being asked outside it by almost every Member and the public. Government should therefore give us as complete information on this subject as it is possible for them to do.

While on this subject I should like to know what is being done in view of the actual and proposed reduction in the strength of the army, so to strengthen our organisation that it may be expanded in time of need and that the equipment and stores and ammunition that it will need will to the maximum extent be supplied by the ordnance factories in this country. There is very little information on this subject in the Defence estimates. I know that there is the territorial army and that some new items have been attempted to be manufactured in our ordnance factories. But surely this does not represent the maximum effort that the Government have to make to provide for the future security of the country, particularly keeping in view the genuine reduction in the strength of the army.

There are one or two other questions of policy also which I should like to refer to on this occasion. It will be readily conceded as being of the utmost importance to the efficiency of our army that its future officers should be carefully and impartially selected. Till a few months ago the selection of cadets for the National Defence Academy was carried out only by the Selection Boards. But now the Union Public Service Commission also deals with this matter. They hold a written examination and those who succeed in it are afterwards tested by the Selection Boards. The marks obtained by the candidate in both the examinations are added and the candidates are, I believe, then placed in the proper order

[Pandit Kunzru]

of merit. And it is expected that selections will be made in accordance with the position of the candidates in this list. Yet, I understand that some time ago, I am told, as many as 20 cadets were admitted notwithstanding the test held by the U.P.S.C. and the Selection Board. Whether those candidates had failed or had not appeared at all I do not know but I understand that according to the rules or practice that should prevail in the interests of the army the candidates who were selected in preference to those who should be selected were between 20 and 24 in number. If this information is correct my hon. friend, the Defence Minister, has a serious responsibility cast upon him in this connection. He owes an explanation to the House for the selection of so large a number of cadets in a manner that there is doubt generally on the method of selection of cadets for the National Defence Academy.

There is one other matter that I should like to refer to in connection with the question of policy before I deal with that of expenditure, and that relates to the maintenance of discipline in the Army. I drew the attention of my hon. friend, the Defence Minister and of the House about two years ago to the feeling creeping among the officers of the Army that while the junior officers were dealt with strictly the senior officers, however serious their faults might be, got off very lightly. I shall refer to the same subject again. Some time ago, perhaps more than two years ago, Government appointed a committee of enquiry to investigate the conduct of a number of military officers some of whom held high ranks. This committee reported, I believe, in December 1949. For about a year Government took no action on the recommendations of this committee. Whatever discussions may have gone on departmentally, nobody unconnected with the department knew whether Government proposed to take the report into its consideration or pigeonhole it. I understand that recently one officer was court-martialled as a result of the enquiry committee's recommendations, but no account has been taken of the conduct of the senior most officers. The Government have proceeded as if they had appointed no enquiry committee, or the enquiry committee had brought no charges against those officers. As regards the junior officer or officers who were court-martialled, I understand that the most serious charges against them were dropped and they were court-martialled only on the lighter charges. What action will be taken by the Government on the verdict of

the court-martial, I do not know. I understand that no action has been taken so far. This discloses a serious state of things. Some of the senior-most officers in the Egyptian Army were recently dismissed because of certain shady transactions that they were believed to have entered into. Some of the senior officers in the Pakistan Army have been arrested and the fact has been made public. Yet, where the conduct of our senior officers is concerned, Government trembles to take action against them. It is afraid lest the prestige of the Army and the country should go down if it comes to be known by the public that some of its officers are unworthy of the positions that they occupy. I venture to think that a single unofficial disclosure does more to discredit the military authorities than any number of punishments inflicted by them publicly after a public investigation, even on the most senior officers, will do.

Now, I will say a word about the question of expenditure. My hon. friend, Mr. Shiva Rao, referred to a contract for jeeps placed with a concern whose total issued capital was about £ 600. I understand that a contract for the supply of rifles and ammunition was placed with a concern associated with this concern, about the middle of 1949 or 1948. The total value of the purchases to be made from this concern amounted to about £ two million, but the total issued capital of this concern was only £ 100, I am told. When the rifles were not delivered within the stipulated time, the Defence Ministry ordered the cancellation of the contract, but it was told that the supplier who had failed to carry out the terms of the contract would, if the contract were cancelled, demand compensation to the tune of £ 60,000. If, however, an order for steel at competitive prices were placed with the same supplier who was connected with another concern, then no claim might be made for compensation. The Defence Ministry then agreed to enter into a contract for the supply of about 25,000 tons of steel plates at the rate, I believe, of £ 33 per ton. That is, it entered into a contract of the value of about £ 800,000 with another concern with which the old supplier was associated and the total issued capital of whose concern was only £ 300. When even this contractor failed to deliver the goods within the stipulated time, the Defence Ministry asked that this contract be cancelled, but it was told that an irrevocable letter of credit had been issued in favour of the supplier. Some time later—I believe in January 1950—Government came to know that this supplier was purchasing steel at the rate

of £ 29 per ton. I do not know what was the action taken by Government subsequent to this disclosure. It seems that this contract was linked up with the claim for compensation and could not therefore be cancelled. I should like to know how the choice of the contractor was made and how the High Commissioner recommended to the Defence Ministry that it should enter into contract with the concerns that I have mentioned who were obviously bogus concerns. How could a contract of the value of about £ three million be placed with bogus suppliers? Again, the manner in which the contract was concluded also requires investigation. The supplier wanted compensation of the amount of £ 60 thousand for the cancellation of the rifle contract; yet the Deputy High Commissioner was able to cancel this contract without any demand for compensation on the part of the supplier. That is another matter which requires to be looked into. Lastly, I should like to know how the high rates of steel came to be accepted. Were the Ministry of Industry and Supply and the High Commissioner totally ignorant of the sources of supply or the rates prevailing in the market?

The whole thing requires an investigation—a searching investigation—in the manner in which the High Commissioner's office and the Ministry of Industry and Supply dealt with this matter. It is a scandal of the first magnitude that these things should occur. I do not know how much money has been paid on account to the bogus firms to which I have referred.

Shri Kamath: Disgraceful.

An Hon. Member: Shame.

Pandit Kunzru: I should like my hon. friend the Defence Minister to state before the House candidly how long these things have happened; what is the total sum advanced by Government already; what is the value of the goods received by them; and what is the net loss that they are likely to incur. Lastly, I should like the Government of India and particularly the Prime Minister to look into the scandals to which I have drawn the attention of the House. I think the House and the public are entitled to demand that a matter of this kind should not go without investigation.....

Shri Kamath: Judicial enquiry.

Pandit Kunzru:and that if the persons concerned—whether they be high military officers or high senior civil officers—are found to be guilty after a proper enquiry, they should receive severe punishment.

An Hon. Member: Hanging.

Shri Joachim Alva (Bombay): General Gracy, the Pakistan Commander-in-Chief, the other day expressed the hope that India and Pakistan would be united—very happy words expressed by a foreigner about our own country, forgetting the entire past and how the communities were divided, how the two lands are still divided and how it will profit the foreigner still to divide us and keep a brother's arm raised against a brother! I shall not dilate upon this moral aspect except to quote from one of the British Authors, Sir William Hunter. In his book published immediately after the mutiny, he said:

“The army is now completely closed to them (Indian Muslims). No Mohamadan gentleman of birth can enter the regiments. A few Mohamadan gentlemen hold Commissions from the Governor-General, but so far as I can learn not one from the Queen.” [Sir William Hunter's *Indian Mussalmans* (1871) p. 156.]

That was in the year 1871. But in 1930 the situation changed so enormously that the communal ratio in the Army was turned upside down and we have the appalling statement from other Authors:

“The communal composition of the Indian Army has been undergoing a profound change. Punjabi Muslims and Pathans are gaining ascendancy. The Sikhs have been reduced from first to third place, while, the Madrasis, particularly Brahmins, have been nearly eliminated.” [Ashok Mehta and Achyut Patwardhan in *The Communal Triangle in India* p. 71.]

I am sorry to dig into the past, but the past seems to cling to us still, not through our own fault but because of people who are not interested either in our nationalism or in our patriotism. So, that has been the past.

In 1947 we made vital changes in the Army. The Commander-in-Chief, a British soldier, was up to that time next in importance to the Governor-General or Viceroy of India. Then came our hon. the Defence Minister who took charge and thereafter started vital changes in the Army by which we had a Commander-in-Chief for the Navy, a Commander-in-Chief for the Air Force and a Commander-in-Chief for the Army. These are all very happy changes that have come about. The Defence budget is a huge budget and we have a right to see that it is looked after with scrutiny and care.

[Shri Joachim Alva.]

and not one of the scandals to which my hon. predecessors Shri Shiva Rao and Pandit Kanzru referred to are repeated in any shape or form in the years to come.

Shri Sidhva: But the thing has actually happened.

Shri Joachim Alva: I know. What I am concerned with is that this army which has been handed down to us in a fighting spirit and fine mettle should not be destroyed. Politics should not enter the Army. We are happy to see that politics have not entered the Army, but the day politics do enter the Army and any kind of personal influence or any kind of communal feeling is introduced—that day the security of our land shall be very severely damaged. We have to take note of Egypt, the largest country in the Middle East. We have recently read in the papers what kind of scandals have crept in. Such a big country could not stand up to a tiny country like Israel and the army machine almost crumbled and Egypt unhappily had to face reverses. We will not have this kind of incidents occurring in our country. We have to be warned in time, because the Army is a vulnerable spot and whatever weaknesses have already been exposed by my predecessors who have spoken shall not be repeated. One scandal of this type is enough perhaps to send a Minister out of the British House of Commons. These are the general observations which I would like to make.

Our Army consumes such a large portion of our Budget. Perhaps the Defence Department has been cut up into three Sections with three separate Commanders-in-Chief. It is also time that three Members of this House took charge as Deputies for the Air Force, the Navy and the Army.

Shri Kamath: One for you.

Shri Joachim Alva: I say this in all humility and without any kind of motive as my hon. friend suggests. Great Britain which is such a small country geographically and possesses such fine fighting materials had till about 1930 only one Defence Minister. It was only after 1930 that they had a separate Minister for Air in addition to the one in charge of the Navy.

As regards other points, I shall take the Territorial Army first. Much money has been spent on the Regular Army; but the Territorial Army is the backbone of this Standing Army. It should come from the large cities and towns of India. It should be open

even to boys who draw Rs. 60—70 salary. Office assistants and executives should be drawn into the Territorial Army. We do not seem to have heard very much about the progress made by the Territorial Army, except that the response has been encouraging in some places, and poor in other places. We have to develop our propaganda machine in such a way that we shall be able to build a Territorial Army which will be in a position even to replace the regular Army in time of need.

We do not wish to grab any of our neighbour's territories; we cast no covetous eyes on other lands. We look only for our own security; we look for our own strength. We only wish to sow ideas of patriotism, character and defence in our hearts and minds. We are concerned with our own land. We look forward to the happy days when Pakistan and India, in spite of the differences, shall sooner or later have joint defence committees in the face of aggression from our borders. When third powers and non-Asiatic powers—I say that with deliberation—cast their eyes on us with a view to seeing us divided, it is time for us to think in terms of patriotism and strength and defence of our own countries.

Another important aspect of our defence, to which I wish to refer is about our ordnance factories. We are striving to become self-sufficient soon. But we have not even reached the 70 per cent. stage of the goal. I say 70 per cent. advisedly, because we hope we have passed 50 per cent. of the line. Armament factories are the sinews of war.—armaments have to be produced with specifications, details and formulas. Sooner or later our armament factories have to produce everything complete. We shall not place orders for anything outside. We shall have to put our workshops in the hands of our youngmen who have been to Europe and America. Let the armament factories be kept going in a spirit of efficiency. No doubt, some of them have labour troubles. But such labour troubles shall be few. Unless the labourers in these factories are kept contented and above want in the matter of salaries and allowances and other amenities we shall not have increased output; on the other hand they may prove to be grounds of discontent and sabotage.

The recent naval cruises have been a great success. We had a very happy announcement from the Commander of our squadron which recently returned from Australia that these cruises should be more frequent. It is good that our naval squadrons are going to countries where there are a good number

of our nationals. We should, however, see that our ships are not mere discarded junks of the British Navy. We shall have to plan properly to see that our naval shipyards have enough resources and material strength to build our own ships.

Another important matter about which I want to speak is about our National Cadet Corps. In the National Cadet Corps we find that the senior division has a fairly large number; and the junior division even more. But the strength in the girls division is not very encouraging.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member will resume after lunch.

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

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

[SARDAR HUKAM SINGH in the Chair.]

Shri Joachim Alva: In the earlier part of my speech I referred to the composition of the Army, to the early days when the communal character was maintained in principle and effectively enforced in the Army. We have after 1947, after India attained independence, given up that principle and we happily look forward to a future when our regiments and various formations will not be on a communal character though we still retain some of the past—and we look to the happy formation of various units drawn from all States. As an example of this I would cite that during the great disturbances in Delhi we had people from the South who were thought to be not so much up to the standard but who displayed a great amount of efficiency, patriotism and guts in quelling disorder. I also referred to the National Cadet Corps, particularly the girls division. Our neighbours across have, it is reported, developed the girls section—not of the National Cadet Corps but of other types—according to the army type and developed them into effective units. The National Cadet Corps has developed good Junior and Senior divisions but the girls division is still defective and not up to the mark. We would like more girls from various universities and colleges to be drawn into it. Above all I suggest that it may be made compulsory for university students and college students to join the National Cadet Corps. It has been reported in the activities of the Defence Department that they have received a good response in these directions. But that response is not good enough in the sense of instilling sufficient enthusiasm

and warmth in the university students as to make them worthy members of the National Cadet Corps so that in the next phase persons from the National Cadet Corps may be called upon to fill up the various officers' ranks of the Army.

I wish to refer to one point and that is about the Research Section. The Research Section of the Army has not been so well looked after, nor funds provided for that purpose in the manner it should have been. Research sections in the armies of Europe are very important units; the history of naval warfare, of aerial warfare, of atomic warfare, all these sections need really to be looked and read into. Research must be extensively undertaken in all these branches of naval, military and aerial warfare. We must find enough money for it. We find enough money for some extravagant items. We must find enough money for research in important sections of army strategy, naval strategy and aerial strategy so that we may have a real research bureau. That should provide the ground work in case of trouble or a conflagration. We must learn all about military successes or military failures and thus really profit by the examples of other countries. A strong bureau of research in every branch of Defence work is a pressing need.

It is heartening to know that the principle of not entering non-Asians in the army has been effectively introduced. I am glad that their number today is one-fifth of what it was in 1947. The number of non-Asians in the Defence forces, either as officers or as technical personnel, should be reduced to such negligible proportions so that our self-respect may be maintained and our security strengthened in any future conflict by closing up these gaps.

There is one final aspect which I would like to emphasize upon and that is about the manufacture of aero engines. It is a right thing that the Hindustan Aircraft Factory has come under the purview of the Defence Services. Aero engines are not manufactured in any scale in our country nor even a beginning made. We have nothing to boast of in this respect. The great Western countries have made gigantic strides in this respect. If the resources of Government-controlled factories cannot manufacture aero engines it is time we asked private manufacturers or industrial manufacturers to step in. As you know, aero engines constitute the ground work of aerial strength—the first item making up for aerial warfare. We should make a beginning for the manufacture

[Shri Joacham Alva.]

of aero machines in Government-controlled factories, or hand over the work to private enterprise. We ought to make a real beginning in this so that we may not be lacking in the first sinews of war when war may be on our borders or next door.

A word about the Defence Committee. I have been a Member of it and I must say in fairness that the Defence Minister or his colleague the Deputy Minister of Defence and the Defence Secretary have always been accommodating and helping us by placing all kinds of information at our disposal. We would have been happy if the same story could have been told by the Members of the Estimates Committee also. The Estimates Committee Members are perhaps more important in a sense and I wish that they have had the same experience that we have had. But we have been told that their experience has not been so happy as ours.

Lastly, may I say that our Army has to be kept in the best fighting form. As the hon. the Leader of the House said, he wanted the Army to be kept in a mobile, effective manner and that no ideas of retrenchment would be permitted to impair its efficiency. But the best way to be equipped in times of peace is to be ready for war, they say. I hope that we shall maintain all the divisions of our defence forces in a most efficient state, though no doubt there has been a lot of discontent about the demobilisation orders to which reference has already been made.

Mr. Chairman: Sardar Sochet Singh.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa): May I know, Sir, if you have got a list and you are calling from that list? If so, we would be spared from the trouble of trying to catch your eye.

Mr. Chairman: No. You have to catch my eye. That is all.

Sardar Sochet Singh (P.E.P.S.U.): I have a very sad and painful story to place before the House about a subject which is improperly called 'Integration of the Indian States forces' but which in reality has turned out to be the disintegration and destruction of the Indian States forces. Taking the constitutional position of these forces, article 259 reads:

"Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, a State specified in Part B of the First Schedule having any Armed Forces immediately before the commencement of this Constitution may, until Parliament by law otherwise

provides, continue to maintain the said Forces after such commencement subject to such general or special orders as the President may from time to time issue in that behalf."

And the second clause of this article reads:

"Any such Armed Forces as are referred to in clause (1) shall form part of the Armed Forces of the Union."

It is quite clear that for all practical, theoretical, legal and constitutional purposes the Indian States forces are an integral and vital part of the Indian Army from the 26th January 1950, and there is no sense or justification in treating them as a separate entity or as a foreign element which has to be integrated. Last year when this question of integration was being mooted I had my apprehensions that a good deal of injustice would be done to these poor forces and I made a few suggestions at that time which I think may be recapitulated now with advantage. I said:

"The step that is going to be taken for the integration of the Army is a desirable one. But there is one point in the coming integration of the Army which may cause some amount of hardship and injustice. The Indian States Forces did not have British or Non-Indian officers and with the quitting of the Britishers there has been no accelerated promotion in the Indian States Forces. The Selection Boards which have to judge and test the efficiency and fitness of the officers of the Indian States Forces are to be composed of very young officers who have put in between 15 and 20 years of service, while the officers who have to appear before these Selection Boards are some of them war veterans. There are Majors with 25 years service and Colonels with 30 years service in the Indian States Forces. It is but human nature that when these young officers examine these old veterans they would be guided by their own personal interests, namely that if they take on these old people their own seniority would be affected. It is but human nature. So they would think twice before recommending them for selection. The result would be that there was a danger that our Army after integration might lose a good deal

of talent, experience and many good points. Therefore, my humble suggestion is that retired officers of the Indian Army and the States Forces should constitute the Selection Boards, so that they would be above personal bias and would do evenhanded justice to those officers of the Indian States Forces who have to be integrated into the Indian Army."

My apprehensions and fears have been more than justified by the actual results. The composition of the Selection Boards before which hundreds of officers of the Indian States Forces were compelled to appear was such that they were entirely manned by officers of the Indian Army. There was not a single active or retired officer of the Indian States Forces who was taken on these Selection Boards. It is clear that no representation at all was given to the Indian States Forces in these Boards, which I think could have been better constituted as Joint Boards of the Indian Army and Indian States Forces officers. Some observers were appointed to watch the proceedings of the Selection Boards, but they had no powers to influence the decisions of these Boards and I know that difficulties and obstacles were placed in the way of these observers so that they could not discharge whatever little responsibility they were entrusted with in an efficient manner and in some instances these observers—very senior officers—were deliberately insulted so that they may not put their heart into this work and some of them just abstained from attending the proceedings which were conducted under these humiliating circumstances.

An Hon. Member: What was the duty of the Board?

Sardar Sochet Singh: The duty of the Board was to select those officers from the Indian States Forces who were thought fit to be integrated with the Indian Army. The rest were to be thrown out.

On one occasion the hon. Defence Minister in reply to one of my questions did say that the Selection Boards would consist of very senior officers. He also said that no officer below the rank of a Colonel would be taken on these Selection Boards, but in actual practice, even young Majors are now included in the Selection Boards. They have taken jolly good care that nobody who can affect their seniority is taken. The result is that in my own Union PEPSU, whose army was described by one of the leading papers of India as the finest small army in the country, which bore the brunt of the war in Burma, in Imphal and Manipur and at heights of 16,000 feet on the

snow-clad peaks of Kashmir,—they were in the vanguard of our battles against the raiders and the Pakistan regulars,—151 officers had to go before the Selection Board. Out of this 151, 31 were taken as regular officers, 42 were taken on short service from three to five years, two on short service for one year, 69 were rejected and seven were not thought fit to be even called for an interview. It will appear that in the finest small army only 21 per cent. of officers were thought fit to be taken into Indian Army. Senior officers, as I stated earlier, have been religiously eliminated because of the personal and vested interests of the people who were sitting in judgment on them. A few lucky ones who were selected are going to be subjected to another check-up under a system which has been recently evolved and called "Point System". They are given so many marks for this work and so many marks for that qualification. You would be astonished to know that if this test of "Point System" were applied to the Indian Army, the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army would get only 18 out of 60 marks. The author of this "Point System" is the only person who can aspire to get more than 50 out of 60 marks. He has devised the scheme in such a way that he will at least top the list among all the Indian Army and Indian States Forces officers. I will give you an instance. A winner of Victoria Cross, Param Vir Chakra or Vir Chakra or Maha Vir Chakra will get an equivalent number of marks as an officer who had done a 15 days' course in chemical warfare at Pachmarhi. This course is intended to teach the use of a gas mask in case there is any gas used in warfare, and an officer who has done a 15 days' training gets the same number of marks as the winner of the highest awards for gallantry.

An Hon. Member: What is his name?

Sardar Sochet Singh: I am not giving any names. I am only describing the system by which a man who gets a Param Vir Chakra and Maha Vir Chakra will get the same number of points as one who has done a 15 days' course to learn to fit gas masks at Pachmarhi. Secondly a Brigadier who has commanded a brigade or a formation in War will not get any marks or any point under this system, whereas his own staff Captain who has been doling out rations under him will get a certain number of marks as if the Staff Captain is more important than a Brigadier commanding a brigade in a war. This is the "Point System" which is to be applied to a few lucky ones who are selected and this has to determine

[Sardar Sochet Singh]

their seniority vis-a-vis the seniority of their opposite number in the Indian Army. Suppose somebody is first selected for Commission in the Indian Army then they will see where he will find a place in his rank after applying this "Points System". I appeal to hon. Members to imagine that when the C-in-C could not get more than 18 out of 60 marks, what do you expect of these poor Johnnies from the Indian States Forces.

Another point which I forgot is that there are three categories of officers in the Indian States Forces, Regular Commission, Emergency Commission and Temporary Commission. For the purposes of the Selection Board all the three categories have been thrown into the same pool; they are treated indiscriminately and promiscuously as if they form just one category. No distinction is made between regular, temporary or an emergency Commissioned Officer for the purposes of integration. The terms of service of the Regular Officers of the Indian States Forces under which they chose to enter the Army have been ignored and they have been varied to their disadvantage subsequently. This is against all principles and tenets of law and justice. When one has entered a service the conditions of service cannot be changed to his disadvantage. Any new scheme can only apply to new entrants and not to the old. Here experience and gallantry have been thrown overboard. The Hyderabad Army which, somehow, chose an abnormal course, which I should say was a course of doubtful loyalty, has been given more favourable terms as compared to the more loyal Indian States Forces.

With regard to Junior Commissioned Officers, every J.C.O. who has been a Subedar for ten years or more has been reduced to a Jamadar. All Jamadars and Subedars have been put in the same category. If a person had retired one day before the integration as a Subedar, a day after the integration, he will get only the pension of a Jamadar. All the Non-Commissioned Officers have been given acting positions; there is not a single case of a substantive N.C.O. after the integration. It means that N.C.Os. even with ten or 15 years service will get the pension of privates and soldiers. Soldiers who had under the old rules, which were also the Indian Army Rules, received three increments, will retain only one increment and two increments which they have already earned will be withdrawn from them.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar):
Why?

Sardar Sochet Singh: After a soldier completes a certain number of years of approved service, he is given one increment and after another period of service, he is given another increment. A maximum of three increments is possible for every soldier. After this integration, two increments which he has already earned are going to be withdrawn and he will be left with only one.

In some cases, whole units which have done so well in the past, are being disbanded. The First Rajendra Lancers which was mechanised eleven years ago and on which so much of money and labour had been spent in training, has been disbanded. It has won so many battles; it has so many achievements to its credit. The officers and men who are being thrown out are swelling the ranks of the unemployed and discontented people in the country. The real reason is that there is a clique of half-a-dozen officers in the Indian Army who call themselves K.C.I.Os—King's Commissioned Indian Officers—and they would not allow the Defence Ministry or anybody to do anything which goes against their personal interest. For their own class, they have provided on page 107 of the Government of India Defence Services Estimates, thus:

"K.C.I.Os. or pre-war regular I.M.S. officers seconded to the A.M.C. are entitled to rates of pay in issue prior to the introduction of the revised rates from 1st July 1947 unless they volunteer to receive the revised rates."

About themselves they make sure that there should not be any diminution in their own remuneration, privileges and allowances.

I submit that an impartial Committee consisting of Members of the House, retired officers of the Indian Army and the Indian States Forces should go into the whole matter of this integration of the Indian Army, and until then the *status quo* should be restored. Those who want to opt out should be offered alternative employment. They could be given land for settlement with some monetary aid to run their farms. The terms of mustering out concessions should be the same as were offered to the British officers at the time of Independence, if you do not want to keep them. The seniormost officers, whose seniority clashes with the seniority of the High Command of the Indian Army, of course, can be retired, on the scales of pay and pension governing the Indian Army. I have had opportunities of speaking to some of these officers and men. I may tell you that there is a bitter feeling

among these people. Whenever there was an emergency facing the country, they offered their lives and everything. But now, when there is peace and you do not know when the peace may be disturbed, they are being thrown out. They are cutting a joke about the word P.P. Whenever their services were required, P.P. meant perfect physique; when the war is over, it means poor physique. They are staging dramas about this retrenchment. My warning and request to the Government is that this Pandora's box should not be opened before the country as they are doing it. They ought to realise that whatever they think is a problem at present solved may not turn out to be a problem for the whole country unsolved. On the one hand you are short of officers in so many categories and branches while on the other hand, you are throwing away experienced, talented and gallant people who have done their bit and proved their mettle in the service of the country.

Shri Chaliha (Assam): No one in the House desires that our defences should be weakened or that our Army personnel should be treated in a way which creates discontent among them. We would not desire our Army personnel to have any grievances. They have a lot of grievances. They think they have been badly treated and that their children are not properly educated. We should see that they are given all opportunities so that we may have a contented Army. We do not want them to suffer from any grievances. Therefore, the first thing to do is to see that the Army personnel, all ranks and officers, are well treated.

I am at one with those gentlemen who have said that we should see that our money should be spent properly in purchasing arms and ammunition. We have heard the stories which Mr. Shiva Rao and Pandit Kunzru have brought to the notice of the House. These are shocking incidents. If they are true, as they are said to be, I think we should look into the matter properly and very carefully. I think we should appoint a committee to go into the whole matter. Somebody should be sent from this House to London to see what the matter really was and why a firm having a capital of £100 should have been entrusted with an order for £300,000. Therefore, I should like to suggest to the hon. Defence Minister that there should be a small committee of this House of those who are entitled to speak with authority to enquire into the matter. Government should see that such things do not occur again. We have heard of the Belcher's case brought forward by late Mr. Sarat Bose. There should not be a repeti-

tion of such things. In spite of our wish to support the Defence Minister, we think we should have a committee to go into this matter.

The Defence Ministry has been good enough this time to give us a brief summary of what is happening; but it is so cryptic that it is really difficult to follow. It has been drafted in such a language that we find that everything is very hopeful and coming up to the standard and above average. But, then, revelations like this lead us to suspect that the report has been prepared by a clever draftsman in order to white-wash every thing. Therefore, I request that a more detailed summary should be given to us so that we may know what it is. The language is so fine, so beautiful and so graceful and dignified and sweet that we cannot catch what it is. Unless Mr. Shiva Rao and Pandit Kunzru had given us all these details, we would not have been able to find them from all the books placed on our table. Therefore, I would request the hon. Defence Minister to give us more detailed information in a more commonplace language, because, coming from the villages, we do not understand high flown language.

3 P.M.

We find from the statement that we have two schools or colleges for the training of our soldiers—one at Wellington and the other at Dehra Dun, called the National Academy or so. Formerly these schools or colleges used to be even more costly than Westpoint. But what we want to know now is, have we done anything to improve the standard of training imparted in these institutions in order to get officers of the proper type to man the forces? There the cost is of such a type that it is not possible for the sons of the cultivators to derive benefit from these institutions. We have got to think now in terms of the sons of the cultivators. As a plain man coming from a plain country I think of the sons of the cultivators, of the villagers. Have we given any help to these people to be trained and to become officers in our army? Do we do that at Dehara Dun or at Wellington? My submission is we have not done that. We have yet to do that. It is not the sons of *zamindars* who will be able to lead our armies. We have got to get the sons of the cultivator into these training colleges so that they may be trained and may be able to function efficiently as officers and then they will really become the backbone of the country.

We are also told that we are having an ordnance factory for producing

[Shri Chaliha]

our equipment. But are the equipment articles produced up to the mark and according to the specifications required? Are they giving satisfactory service in actual use? That is what we want to know. Another point that is causing us anxiety is this. Are these articles which are being produced properly stored? We are told that about 60 per cent. of them get damaged and so are unusable. If that be so, it is a very serious matter and steps should be taken to see that there are proper facilities for safely storing these valuable articles of equipment of the army. A new Department of the Defence Ministry may, if necessary, be organised to go into this matter and put the thing in proper shape. There may be something called the Preservation of Ordnance Department or something like that and some Members of this House may also be associated with its working. There may be some such organisation even now, but if a small committee or something of that nature is associated with it, more things may come to light than was the case this morning. Therefore, we should have associated with this Department some Members of the House who are experts in defence matters.

As regards the navy, we have done little. I requested that we should have a first class base at Andamans and the Laccadives. Even if we make a start now it will take not less than fifty years to develop a first class naval base. Even if some beginning has been made already, we have not had any report about it. After getting such a base at Andamans we can think of developing Cochin and other ports. It takes fifty years to develop a naval base and not less than five years to build a battle-ship and so these things cannot be done quickly. We have something being done at Vizagapatam, but we do not know whether that harbour or yard has the capacity for meeting all our requirements. All that it seems to do now is to build a cargo boat ordered by the Government of India. We should as soon as possible, start the work of developing a first class naval base at Andamans and then we can think of having bases at Cochin and other places. We have only two torpedoes and the Delhi which was being shown about in Indonesia is talked of much, but I am not sure whether we can work these torpedoes without the help of foreigners. We have to get proper men trained for all these jobs and get a sufficient number of torpedoes. Otherwise at a time of emergency, we may find that foreigners may not be able to help, the United States or other countries may back out and not be of

any help to us at the time of real need. These things may seem small and one may be inclined to laugh at them, but they are all of real importance and all go to make our defences efficient. It is the navy that is going to protect us first and nothing else.

Now, I have to make a few observations with regard to the dumps lying in our country. My hon. friend Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava has referred to the dumps lying near Kirkee and Poona. Thousands of articles are said to be lying in these dumps and all the time they are getting rusty and more and more useless. I know of dumps in my own part of the country where such articles are deteriorating. I know of a friend who bought a heap at Rs. 23,000 and sold off 43 trucks each at Rs. 5,000. If that could be managed by a private agency, how much more could have been realised from these dumps if Government had arranged for properly arranging and sorting out the articles? I suggest that some machinery should be created to do this very useful job and save all this valuable material from being wasted any further. I do not know if anything on this line is now being done, and we have not had any report to that effect.

Now, coming as I do from a remote part of the country I would like to say a word about our frontier on the east. We are told that our defences there are very meagre. At Lushai Hills, for a frontier 700 miles long, you have just 50 soldiers to keep it. Your neighbour right across the border can walk over to Lushai Hills and Manipur and then to Assam and so on. It is also said that our own army does not know where the last outpost at Rima is. I know that at Rima the British flag used to fly, I have known this right from my childhood. Since that point belonged to the British, it belongs to us now as successor Government but I do not know if steps are taken to keep that point within our boundaries. They do not know which way the MacMohan line runs. Be that as it may, this place where the British flag was last flying should be on our side of the line. From there it is only five or ten miles to Walong and I am told our soldiers have reached up to Walong. But we should have our outposts at the correct points. We know we are generous. We have been generous to Bhutan at the expense of Assam and.....

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: When did the hon. Member see last the British flag flying there?

Shri Chaliha: Before it was made over to my hon. friend. As I said, I

know from my childhood that the British flag has been flying there. And every summer they used to go up and meet the Chiefs and exchange presents like horns and cloths and we gave them rum and opium and other things.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Was the flag there in 1947?

Shri Chaliha: It should be. The flag was always flying. As I said they used to go there and exchange presents. Well, my submission is that our Defence Department should know where the country's boundary is and that line should be properly protected. Even in the communist-infested Manipur you do not have a sufficiently large armed force

I would also request the Defence Minister not to fly over to the place but walk or march from Sadia to Rima, which would do good both to his health and his weight, and try to know firsthand what is happening there.

The Deputy Minister of Defence (Maj-General Himatsinhji): Sir, I would like to intervene in the debate and make a short statement in about fifteen minutes on the Territorial Army and the States Forces.

As the House knows the Territorial Army was raised in October 1948 and the strength aimed at and publicly announced was 130,000. For the first twelve months the response was so poor that only 50 per cent of provincial units were raised and the strength of the urban units was less than that. The strength of the technical and railway units was even smaller than that of the urban units.

It was therefore decided to popularise the Territorial Army and to hold a Territorial Army Week in which the Press, State Governments and the Central Government helped effectively. I am happy to say that the result has been most satisfactory, and the present state of the Territorial Army is as follows: The provincial units are now over 85 per cent, the urban units about 75 per cent, all railway units are over 80 per cent in strength, but the progress of the technical units is still not satisfactory. There is some reason for this. The skilled labourers working in factories and industries, on enquiry we find, feel that when they are embodied in the Territorial Army they will get less pay than what they are getting in the Civil employment in the factories. Also there may have been the fear that when they are embodied in the Territorial Army, they may also lose the right of strike. There are other reasons, that is, by doing overtime in their own factories they could earn

11 P.S.D.

more money than putting in four hours a week in the Territorial Army. I feel that we must find some remedy for this, so as to encourage skilled labourers to join the technical units. I have a suggestion to make to the Government and I hope the Finance Minister will give it his close consideration. If we cannot get skilled labourers from the towns we must go to the country, to the villages, and get the raw material, train them either military technical units or in factories and industries. This will have several advantages. The main ones are (1) that we will be encouraging the village people to become skilled labourers and (2) it will be a great asset to our country to have a large number of skilled labourers or technicians. I feel that we must pay more attention to this and hope that this question will be considered on its merits.

Shri Shiva Rao mentioned that he thought that Rs. 35 lakhs under the head of the Territorial Army was too small. I would like to point out that this represents only the pay and allowances of the personnel of the Territorial Army while under training. It does not include stores and equipment which go under other heads. It does not also include the pay and allowances and the expenses of the regular army personnel who are loaned to the Territorial Army. However, I agree with him and other hon. Members who spoke of the importance of the Territorial Army, and therefore I would like to repeat my humble suggestion and appeal to the Finance Minister...

Shrimati Reunka Ray (West Bengal): Are you not part of the Government?

Major-General Himatsinhji:..... I provide for a bigger budget under this head, even though he might want to economise in other parts of the armed forces.

Pandit Kunzru: What is the size of your reserve force?

Major-General Himatsinhji: Let me continue, Sir. On the whole I would like to say that the support from the public and the Press to the Territorial Army Week has been satisfactory and effective except in the case of technical units for which it is necessary to obtain sufficient equipment. I hope the financial stringency will not come in the way.....

Shri Sondhi (Punjab): A very big "if".

Shri Sidhva: What about your stores where there is so much wastage and leakage?

Major-General Himatsinhji: I am talking about the Territorial Army and the States Forces.

I will now deal shortly with the States forces. The hon. Member made some statements which are only one-sided and they might mislead the House.

Sardar Sochet Singh: The whole section is one-sided show.

Major-General Himatsinhji: I will give you the other side of the picture of the Indian States Forces. On the independence of our country the Government of India was faced with a very important problem, namely, that of the States forces. I do not know if the House realised that there were 45 independent armies in the country commanded and controlled independently by 45 different commanders-in-chief.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): All Indians, in any case.

Major-General Himatsinhji: They were trained and equipped differently. Their efficiency varied from State to State. They were divided into two categories—one known as the States Forces which were recognised by the Government of India, who were responsible for their training and equipment, and the other was known as the non-Indian States Forces Units, which were the responsibility of the States themselves. The largest of these States forces was that of Hyderabad, whose strength was known to be 22,000 but they had increased it to well over 30,000 without the permission of the Government of India. The smallest force was one platoon of 36 personnel. These States forces of different sizes and different categories, trained and equipped differently, were a problem to the Government when the country gained its independence. Naturally, therefore, it must be the policy of the Government to have one army under one commander-in-chief and under one control. Perhaps it is not known that after the Partition several States forces, besides Hyderabad, had started increasing their forces without the permission of the Government of India, for reasons better known to themselves. Therefore, the Government of India came to the conclusion that there should be one army and that the integration of the States forces should take place. Several committees were formed and certain steps were recommended. It was decided that selective test should be established both for the officers and other ranks. The officers were screened by a well qualified and well trained services Selection Board

at which high-ranking senior officers of the States forces were present as observers. It is on record that the tests were carried out according to Indian Army standards and they were instructed to give due consideration to the States forces officers in the matter of their age and the lack of opportunity they had in comparison with Indian Army officers. We had satisfactory reports from these observers. Those officers who had passed through the Indian Military Academy or through the National Defence Academy were exempted from the test and were selected on their merits. We considered the results of the work of these Boards satisfactory, because 50 per cent. of the officers had passed and were considered fit either for a regular commission or for a short-service Regular commission of three to five years in the Indian Army. The biggest problem for consideration, after their selection, was the question of their seniority. While their full service counted for pension, it was not so for purposes of seniority because on the other hand there was also the question of the seniority of the Indian Army officers to be considered. After prolonged deliberations, only recently, a satisfactory solution has been evolved which has been agreed to by the Rajpramukhs when they met representatives of the Defence Ministry some days ago.

With regard to the integration of junior commissioned officers and other ranks, these men were also put to certain tests based on educational qualifications and physical standards as laid down for the Indian Army. Persons not selected are eligible for special mustering out terms if they do not get alternative employment. These are special terms which are applicable to the Indian Army also. My hon. friend made a statement about the Hyderabad State Forces having better terms. All States forces have the option to elect whichever of the two they prefer either the State rules which existed, or the mustering out terms of the Indian Army. In the case of the Hyderabad State Forces they elected their own rules. In regard to Hyderabad, I would also like to point out that the major portion of the Hyderabad State Forces have been disbanded.

I should like to point out that integration and the resultant problem or reduction of the States forces was considered from the point of view of the overall defence requirements of the country as recommended by military experts. It might be said that reduction has been heavy in the States forces, but we cannot compare it with that in the Indian Army yet, because

the run-down phase of the Indian Army is not yet complete. When it is complete it might be heavier than that in the States forces. I should like to say that the Government of India are finding out every possible means to give those personnel who have been released, alternative employment in the civil and military police and in other Government Departments. Instructions have been issued to the Governments of the various States and States' Unions to find them alternative employment. Directives have also been issued to the Chief Ministers of Part B States to formulate schemes and plans for the rehabilitation of these personnel and high-level committees have been appointed which will submit their reports to the Central Government. I understand the Hyderabad Government has already submitted a practical scheme by which it is going to rehabilitate nearly 5,000 soldiers. We hope the Governments of the other Part B States will send their schemes soon.

Lastly, in the same connection I would like to say one more word, as one who also has been in the past an officer of the States forces. I would say that the stage of retrenchment of States forces that has come into being is not a normal one. The services of these officers and men of the States forces were guaranteed permanently under the old regime. It is because we have got our independence that they are going to be released, and that some are likely to be unemployed. Therefore, rightly or wrongly, they are dissatisfied and we must consider it from their point of view. I would like to put forward a suggestion for the consideration of the House and of the Government. In the year 1920 when it was found that the number of officers in the Army was more than necessary, a special release was ordered. The rules and details are contained in an old Indian Army Order the number of which I cannot now recall, by which every surplus officer so released was given a large lump-sum grant of so many hundreded pounds to enable him to rehabilitate himself, and over and above that he was given a grant of about three hundred pounds a year for three years to keep himself up until he settled down permanently in his new employment. Again, some time about the year 1935 when we in the Indian Army found that there were more officers of the same age and same group than required, who, if continued, would have formed what is known as "promotion bloc", here again, a special release was ordered. These officers were not released altogether—they were placed on what was called the special unemployed list. These officers were sent to their homes on a

certain reasonable pay and were told that they were free to get themselves employed otherwise. However, in an emergency they were liable to be called up as was done in the last war. I would like the House and the Government to give their consideration to this suggestion of mine.

Shri Kamath: Did the Deputy Minister make his suggestion to Government?

Mr. Chairman: If he made it to the Government the Government would have understood it. If he has made it to some other body that body would understand it.

Shri Kamath: Is he not a part of Government?

Shri Biswanath Das: I am thankful to you for having given me this opportunity to have my say. The Defence budget constitutes about 50 per cent. of the entire expenditure, and for a discussion and scrutiny of this item of expenditure the House is called upon to spend only 3½ hours! The hon. Speaker has stated that all the Demands under 'Defence' will be put to vote at about five o'clock. The result is that the House does not get even that 3½ hours time in the sense that the Minister and the Deputy-Minister take away one hour. So, in effect, the House gets 2½ hours for a discussion on the all-absorbing and very important question of the defence of India. That could hardly be called a discussion or a scrutiny.

If the Defence budget needs the careful scrutiny of the House, we must confess that we have sadly failed in this important respect. We cannot have more than 15 minutes. Is there any person in this House who can do justice to this subject even within one hour? To expect us to discuss it within 15 minutes is practically denying any discussion. We have reached the end of our journey. When I say "we" I include the hon. Minister of Defence and the Deputy Minister also.

The fact that national defence is an absolute necessity must be impressed on the people of this country. It is the responsibility of the hon. Minister of Defence and the Generals to go round and establish contact with the thinking and leading sections of the public. I made this suggestion in the first year of the Budget discussions after independence. I would ask the hon. Minister of Defence to tell me how far he has accepted in practice this suggestion. Apart from moving to important places, how many States has he toured? What action has he taken to impress on the people the necessity of national defence?

An Hon. Member: You mean Orissa?

Shri Biswanath Das: Whether it is Orissa, Bombay or Madhya Pradesh, it is a responsibility that weights heavily both on the hon. Minister and the top-ranking Generals. You must do it if you do not want the rank and file of the Army to come into contact with politicians. In this I must confess that we have failed.

My suggestion and request is always that the hon. Minister and the Generals including the Commanders-in-Chief should come into contact with the University Professors and students and impress upon them the necessity of defending their country. Thereby, you attract the best among us to come to the Army. I claim that it is equally the responsibility of the hon. Minister to establish contact with the Members of the Legislature, so that they can permeate this idea in the mass mind and inculcate in them the need for defending the country.

Defence of one's own country is not a new idea. Look at the *Mahabharatha*. In *Shanti Parva*, it has been said that when people chose a King they made it a condition precedent that he should not have a standing army but that he should depend upon the citizens. Similarly, you must have a citizen-Army or a standing Army. If you choose to have a standing Army, you will have to minimise the attendant evils. One evil is that the Army may be kept idle in peace-time; you must be able to utilise it. How are you going to do it? Grow more food. You may utilise the Army to help the Police or at least you may utilise it to earn something for itself.

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA in the Chair]

In this connection, I would like to refer to page 12 of the book of Demand circulated. Under the head 'Grow More Food' the Ministry itself refers to the Army Grow-More-Food Campaign. I made this proposal three years back. I said that the Army should raise at least its own requirements of vegetables and food-stuffs during peace time. This suggestion was ridiculed. But subsequently they had to eat the humble pie; because of the food difficulties they had to try my suggestion. What is the result? It is mentioned in the last sentence which reads thus:

"This is a voluntary effort carried out by the Army in their spare time without any additional expenditure to the Government. Approximately 6000 acres of land are

under cultivation and about 25000 maunds of crops have been harvested since August 1949."

This means that on an average the Army agricultural operations have yielded four maunds per acre. I put it to the hon. Minister of Defence whether this yield is fair to the Army even. Such half-hearted efforts would not be of any avail, not to speak of much avail. If efforts are to be made, they have to be made in a sincere and practical manner.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: Are you going to convert the soldiers into cultivators?

Shri Biswanath Das: It is not a question of converting. It is a question of earning during peace time. This is also an avocation. In India of yore the agriculturist was attending to agricultural operations during the agricultural season and was attending to army work at other times. That is our tradition. What are other countries doing? Britain had no standing Army of her own and yet she was able to put up an Army when required. If we are proposing to have a standing Army even in peace-time, my suggestion is that that Army should earn for itself its food to a certain extent.

I now come to another question, namely, one integrated defence system for India. I claim that in this regard much has not been achieved. My feeling is that all the natural resources of the country should be utilised for this purpose so that we can develop our Defence forces and their capacity. I come from a province which has one of the biggest lakes in India, namely, the Chilka lake. I have approached the Defence Ministry in connection with making that great lake useful for some defence purposes. It is for them to do it. I have often approached to no purpose the hon. Minister and I claim that he cannot have any reply. I have been harping upon this for the last four years both in Committees and in this House. In any country other than India I feel sure that a great natural resource such as this lake would have been utilised.

Shri Hussain Imam: Is it not utilised for fisheries?

Shri Biswanath Das: Of course, it is. The coastal area was vulnerable to attack when Japan invaded Burma and subsequently also India. The whole coast, especially the Chilka lake, had to be guarded. We have got our defence industries not far away from the coast. The biggest iron industries in Calcutta and Tatanagar are very close to the coast. When naval action takes place, the first place to be affected

ted in the Bay of Bengal is the Orissa coast, where the first naval action was taken. Since then conditions have changed. At that time we had Akyab, for Burma was under British control. It has now gone out of our hands. Chittagong was also an important port. That also has now gone out of our hands. We have to depend upon our own resources. Under these circumstances, it is the responsibility of the Defence Department to devise a plan by which an integrated system of national defence can be organised and we utilise all the natural resources that are available to us. I say that in this regard the Ministry has not devoted that amount of attention which the question deserves.

My hon. friends Pandit Kunzru and Mr Shiva Rao have made a reference to certain questions. Regarding the point raised by Mr Shiva Rao I would not go further. I would only state that my hon. friend has only stated half of what could be stated. Much more remains to be said in that connection. The point raised by my hon. friend Pandit Kunzru is equally important. All these call for an enquiry. I for one would be glad if even the Secretary of the Defence Ministry, with some of the members of the Standing Committee of this House, could be called upon to investigate into this matter and submit a confidential report. You may keep it confidential or place it before the Standing Committee. I do not see any reason why the Standing Committee could not be taken into confidence. Under these circumstances I claim that these and such other questions should be fully investigated and enquired into and the papers placed before the Standing Committee so that the House may have the confidence that a legislative enquiry is brought to bear on important issues, which have a great bearing on the finances of this country.

In this connection I wish to say that while I have to make the strongest criticism of certain measures of administration, I must frankly confess that we have nothing but admiration for our Army. Our criticism of the Defence Ministry does not mean, and in no way implies, criticism or disapproval of the Army. We are proud of our Army. I think things have changed since the inauguration of our independence. Ransack the trend of budget discussions before independence and you will see nothing but denunciation of the Army expenditure and the Army. But after independence you find just the reverse of it. For the last three years we have been giving a hearty welcome to the Army

and to the Army budget. The hon. the Defence Minister had nothing to defend and received encomiums. We really welcomed the budgets. But we must frankly confess that in this we have been disappointed—disappointed in the sense that proper scrutiny of the money sanctioned for the Defence Department has not been made.

We are a country given to peace, goodwill and peace throughout the world. That being the position, we cannot run a race in armaments. We have to depend for everything on foreign countries—for petrol, for spare parts, and for almost everything. Fortunately, or unfortunately, we have decided to be away from the blocks. Therefore our position is peculiar.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member has already taken sixteen minutes.

Shri Biswanath Das: I am very sorry, Sir. If you have no objection I shall finish in a minute or two.

Therefore, our position is peculiar. That being so we cannot add to the expenditure that we are already incurring. Within the course of two years, with all the call for retrenchment, we have been asked to increase the Army budget by about twenty crores. Under these circumstances I would urge for economy and efficiency consistent with contentment in the Army.

Shri Hussain Imam: May I appeal to the Government through you that, in view of the large amount which is represented by the Defence budget and also on account of the anxiety of several Members of the House to participate in the discussion, half a day more may be given for this discussion, if not a day more.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member fully knows that the allotment of time is made by the hon. Speaker himself. If he wants to make any such request, he may make it direct to the Speaker, rather than to Government.

Shri Hussain Imam: Is Mr. Speaker coming in the afternoon?

Mr. Chairman: I do not know.

Shri A. B. Gurung (West Bengal): I have been listening to the debates attentively from the morning and have been following the various arguments adduced by hon. Members. I also listened to what the Deputy Minister of Defence had to say about retrenchment in the Army. But I should confess that I have not been convinced by the explanation given by him in regard to retrenchment. The word retrench-

[Shri A. B. Guring]

ment has a particular connotation—I would rather have called it demobilisation.

There are two questions I would like to ask the Deputy Minister. I would like to know from him as to whether this retrenchment has been undertaken on economic consideration or on military consideration. If my memory serves me right, I think a few days ago the hon. the Prime Minister told us in this House that this was undertaken on military considerations. If that is so, I hope that the Ministry of Defence would have taken the advice of the Military chiefs. If, on the other hand, it was done on economic consideration, I am sure they would have consulted the civil authorities in regard to it.

So far as I know the hands that were proposed to be retrenched were all temporary. During the war the personnel were recruited temporarily and officers on short service commissions, temporary commissions, emergency commissions and they knew full well that after the cessation of hostilities their services would be terminated. But unfortunately after the cessation of hostilities we had to retain the Army. Now after having served in the Army for eight or nine years it is rather unfair that they should be thrown out on the streets. I would have appreciated if the finance Minister had devised ways and means to allocate more money for Defence purpose so that the retrenchment could have been avoided at this critical juncture.

The second thing I would like to point out is this that our learned friend Mr. Chaliha was talking about the north-east frontier bordering Assam and north Bengal. The House very well knows that after partition the north-west frontier, which used to be well looked after by the Ministry of Defence, has gone to Pakistan. That responsibility has, as a matter of fact, gone to the shoulders of Pakistan. But after partition now frontiers have arisen, one on the west and another on the north-east. The north-east frontier has become very vulnerable. I would like that these frontiers are well guarded and the transport facilities there improved. As a matter of fact, a few months back the Deputy Minister of Defence himself had been to Sikkim, and as he passed through Siliguri he must have himself seen that the road is in a very badly damaged condition and needs repair.

The third point that I would like to place before the House is one invidious distinction that you still find between

the Indian officers, one described as Junior Commissioned Officers and another comprising those above Second Lieutenant right up to the Commander-in-Chief. We are still maintaining this invidious distinction. Of course such a distinction served the purpose during the British days because they wanted the Indian officers to be *via media*, to suit their own purposes. But since the Army has been Indianised and nationalised I cannot understand why this distinction should still remain. I suggest that this distinction be removed as soon as possible and the method as you find in the British Army be brought into operation here.

I have only one more point to make. Last year it was I think Dr. R. U. Singh who had pleaded for the raising of the age-limits in the Armed Forces Academy from 15-17 to 16-18, and continuance of Rs. 75 allowance which was previously given to them. One improvement that Government effected was this that previously in the Indian Military Academy only the sons of rich persons could be admitted because the entire cost had to be borne by the parents or guardians of the cadets, but now in the new context of things as the boys have been given chances to get admitted into the Armed Forces Academy irrespective of the financial position of their families, I would like that this allowance, if it is possible, may be continued in those cases where the parents of the cadets are very poor—I mean only in those cases such consideration may be given to the cadets. This is the Academy from where we are going to bring out our future Army officers, and the future Army officers will become our Commanders-in-Chief. Therefore such consideration has to be given to the promising students.

Before I close I would like to make another reference to compulsory military education that should be imparted in colleges. The universities should prescribe text-books assigning the duty of a student also with regard to military matters. In that case it may be rather funny to see the professors lecturing on the strategic position of the country and the world to the students, but you will agree with me, when you see that some of the best military histories have come from civilians like Churchill on world crisis. Churchill has written a book on world crisis. It is indispensably necessary that the students in schools and colleges should have a sort of military training so that they may be imbued with the thought of the military prowess that the country possesses.

Pandit Krishna Chandra Sharma (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, you have been

hearing a lot about the abuse of authority in relation to contracts and so on I shall here deal with a small point but having the same bearing on the matter.

For the last two years I have had experience of what are called building contractors. I made representations to the hon. Minister on this matter. When I made the representations I did not know the implications of those representations, why the contractors were so much enamoured of sending their cases to the arbitrators who happen to be, under the provision of those contracts, military officers. In the lawyer's office many things come which are confidential. I cannot make use of that material here. But I make use of it to point out that it is time in the interests of the public, in the interests of the morale of the military—and, I say, the very high officers of the military are concerned—not to have that provision in the contracts, that is the provision for the appointment of big military officers as arbitrators. I repeat that I cannot make use of that material.....

Shri C. Subramaniam (Madras): There is no Evidence Act here, you can make use of it.

Pandit Krishna Chandra Sharma: But I make use of it to point out that it is safer for us, rather it is necessary for us to delete that clause in the building contracts which provides for the appointment of military officers as arbitrators. I dare say that from the facts that must have come to the notice of the hon. Ministers. They dare not deny the necessity for this change in the procedure. I put you the simple question. A military officer is appointed as arbitrator. He does not know what quantity of material has been issued to the contractor. He does not know what material has been used in the building. He does not know what the labour costs are. He does not know how the bills are prepared. He has not the intelligence enough—I assert here that he has not the intelligence enough—to sift the evidence, to go through the records and to come to a right or satisfactory conclusion. I say, at best, it becomes a blind man's rod. To do justice or injustice to the State or to the public in this way is hardly justified. But the story does not end here. I put the question, "Will the hon. Minister or his Ministry find out in how many cases the Government Advocate has disputed the intelligence of the officers concerned to decide the cases, in how many cases application has been made for the transfer of the cases, in how many cases appeal has been preferred against the award of

the officer concerned". And when these things are done, they are not done on the legal points alone. I say that when a transfer application is made, though the grounds may be given as technical grounds, underlying those technical grounds is something fishy, shady and even something immoral. I would appeal in the interest of justice, even allowing all the wisdom, all the honesty and everything good to the officer, even then it is necessary that this practice should be discontinued.

4 P.M.

Let us consider the matter which is brought for adjudication before a high military officer. He is a single man to adjudicate upon the matter. In ordinary procedure the Provincial Governments have changed the practice and instead of one honorary magistrate deciding a case, they have appointed a bench of magistrates—say two or three magistrates. Here are cases which deal with lakhs of rupees. Here is one military officer having neither the legal training, nor common-sense enough and nor the experience of the world to decide upon these cases. It would be better to leave them to either the judicial officer or people who know the job. It was stated in the Public Accounts Committee that everybody is corrupt. What if a military or a railway officer is corrupt? Suppose a magistrate is corrupt, what happens to the State? A man is prosecuted and sent to the jail. Another graduate may be appointed. But suppose you send a Brigadier to the jail, what happens? His twenty years experience and training comes to nothing. Would you appoint another man to be the Brigadier the next day? Where will be the morale of the military? There is a particular morale and discipline of the military. They do not go with the sense of acquisition. These are contradictory. You can have power. Greed and soldier do not go together. So it is rather dangerous to keep a high military officer within the reach of easy money temptation. Money today is important; it gives power, it gives prestige, it gives honour. Never before in the history of the world money has been so important, has lent so much prestige and power as it has done today. So it is much better to keep the high military personnel off from these temptations; it is in the interests of the State, it is in the interests of the officer concerned, it is in the interests of the people.

Dr. R. U. Singh (Uttar Pradesh): I shall confine my remarks to certain questions of policy and make a few suggestions for the consideration of the

[Dr. R. U. Singh]

hon. Minister of Defence. It is hardly necessary to emphasize the need for an adequate Defence force. There is hardly a country in the world that is not in fear of armed conflict. An atmosphere of uncertainty and insecurity prevails everywhere. We have our own problems in addition. We have our huge frontiers in the north, in the west, in the east and also in the south which includes a big coast-line. Now the question that we have to consider is to what extent is our Defence force adequate. I am quite aware that the country cannot afford the huge expenditure that is needed in order that the country may have an adequate Defence force. But just the same, I have no doubt that some sort of planning is necessary and within the limits that we can afford, certain things must be done because they need to be done. It is common knowledge that a Defence force must be a balanced Defence force between the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. So far as the Army and the Navy go, we are not very properly situated. Time after time in this House, it has been urged that these two branches of the armed forces of the Republic must necessarily be strengthened. I will not dwell upon that aspect of the question and I have no doubt that adequate steps will be taken to strengthen these two branches of the armed forces of the Republic. I shall confine my attention here to the Army. Modern warfare is based primarily on two factors, rapid fire power and mobility. It is extremely unsatisfactory that even for conventional arms like 25 pounder guns, anti-air-craft guns, entire range of signal equipment, and for vehicles, we have to depend upon the supply from outside, to say nothing of tanks etc. Then so far as mobility goes, there was a very important question that was raised by Mr. B. Das, the question of petrol, oil and lubrication. Something has to be done so that in time of emergency, the armed forces may not be paralysed. There is one thing to which I drew attention last year in this connection and that was to the effect that industry must be adjusted to the Defence needs of the country. I should like to know what has been done so far. I pointed out then that in the planning of industry a defence bias must be given. Government, industrialists and others must be persuaded to give preference to those industries which may be of use in this connection. I do not know whether the Planning Commission have done anything in this regard, but I do believe that they could give a lead in this connection.

This brings me to the question of retrenchment. It is apparent from what I have said and what many of

us feel that the House has not been happy over even the retrenchment that has taken place, and we should like to be given an assurance that no further retrenchment is contemplated. I could suggest certain economies that might be effected and if the Defence Ministry take up the question of economy, I have no doubt that they could save enough, so that further retrenchment in the armed forces of the Republic may not be effected. The post of Director-General of Medical services was created some time back. I do admit that there is need for co-ordination. There is need for research. Immediately after the war was over, we found that we could not do without the Director-General of Medical Services; we could not do without the entire staff that is there. I have no doubt that the country can wait for better times to come so that we might have a Director-General of Medical Services. The Director of Medical Services used to run the entire show before this office of the Director-General of Medical Services was created for the Army. Also so far as stores purchases are concerned, I have a feeling that they can be reduced to the minimum. The longest and the best use must be made of the things which are purchased. I will briefly explain. Suppose the scheduled life of a weapon is three years, it is safe to presume that it might be of good use for say five years. I suggest that as far as possible, we might minimise the purchase of stores and I have no doubt considerable economy can thus be effected.

I raised another point last year and I find that nothing has been done in that connection too. I have a very strong feeling that in static formations like the Ordnance Depots, Engineering services, Army Service Corps departments and Defence Headquarters, civil personnel might replace army men to a very great extent. Most of the work that the Army men do in these static formations can very well be done by civilians who are not liable to be transferred in the manner in which Army officers are transferred, and whose scales of pay perhaps need not be as high. I am not suggesting that the entire military personnel in these formations can be dispensed with. But, I have no doubt that civilians can to a very large extent replace military personnel.

I feel that the Army should be organised in such a way that it might be able to fight in every type of terrain. It has come to our knowledge recently that one of the reasons for the reverses of the U.N forces in the Korean War was that the U.N. forces were over-vehicled. In the Burma War, we

learnt a similar lesson. I believe that that lesson has not been forgotten by the Ministry of Defence. We have to revert partially to the pre-war organisation of animal transport to a certain extent. We also can maximise the effectiveness of the army. In that connection, I think the hon. Defence Minister can take up the matter with the State Governments. We find that in certain States, military forces have to be stationed for purposes of the internal security of the State. In certain States, this is not found necessary. I believe that that matter can be taken up with the State Governments so that a considerable number of troops might be available to reinforce our strength at the front. I hope that this matter will be taken up.

Last year, I raised the question of the payment of customs duties on defence stores. I believe the expenditure is about four crores now. I think that this is objectionable from two points of view. It gives an exaggerated idea of the defence expenditure. Whereas the defence expenditure appears to stand at a certain figure, the truth is really that the defence expenditure this year is four crores less. I think it is also bad accounting because it inflates both receipts and expenditure. I do hope that even if it is necessary that the other stores purchased by the Government should pay customs duties, at least the military stores should not have to pay.

I have one more suggestion to make and after that I will close. Ever since the dawn of Republic, I have had a feeling,—it may appear to be a small matter, but I have feeling about it—that the title of our Chief of our Staff, who is called the Commander-in-Chief, should go. He should not be styled as the Commander-in-Chief. This is extremely unusual in any country and it smacks as if we are continuing the old traditions. I suggest that the present title of Commander-in-Chief should go and the head of the forces should be called the Chief of Staff.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair.*]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister.

Shri Sidhya: Sir, before you call upon the hon. Minister to reply to the debate, may I submit one point regarding Cantonments? There used to be a separate page for the Cantonments Department. In this Budget, an item of 21 lakhs has been amalgamated with the General Officer Establishment. This is most unfair. I want to know why this has been done. The salaries of officers have been shown as 12 lakhs. Such a big staff is not

necessary. I want to know why the hon. Minister wants such a big establishment. He has paid 8½ lakhs for some barracks in Hyderabad. That amount has been debited to Cantonments. I want to know why this debit has been made to Cantonments. The contingency expenditure of Rs. ten lakhs is too high. I shall be glad if the hon. Minister could answer these points also.

Shri Hussain Imam: I had made a submission to the Chairman and he said that I might move it later when either the Speaker or the Deputy-Speaker was in the Chair. What I suggest is this. In view of the importance of the subject of Defence and in view of the quantum of the amount involved in the Budget, one additional day may be allotted by Government for this discussion, either tomorrow or some other day, so that the reply of the hon. Minister may be postponed and the House may have more opportunity to discuss.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: That is the view of the House, Sir.

Shri Kamath: Vote on Account for the month of April has been passed by the House. The Appropriation Bill has also been passed. There is no reason why the House should not discuss these Grants during the whole month of April. There is no difficulty at all. I think the House should be accommodated in this regard.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Defence eats away 50 per cent. of our revenues. I think this request is proper, particularly in view of the fact that for the whole of the month of April, amounts have already been voted on Account. I would like that the Government should seriously consider this matter.

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): If you want to take tomorrow for this, the entire programme will be upset.

Shri Hussain Imam: May I suggest that the further discussion may be postponed to a date which may be fixed later on. Let the House discuss this matter till five o'clock and let the matter be again discussed on another day convenient to the Government.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Even Saturdays have already been included.

Shrimati Durgabai (Madras): I want to make a suggestion.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is easy to make suggestions; but the difficulty is,

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker.]

even Saturdays have been fully occupied. I do not think there is want of *bona fides* on any side. With the best efforts, I am afraid Government may not be able to give another day. The 31st of March, Saturday is fully occupied for Demands for Grants. We have then Saturday the 7th April; that is also allotted for Demands for Grants. Then, Saturday the 14th; that is Official: consideration and passing of the Finance Bill. Thus it goes on till the 20th. We have not got even a single day, on this side, unless Defence stands over till the 14th. The Finance Bill can be taken up on the next day.

Shri Goenka: May I suggest, Sir, for your kind consideration, that one day may be cut off from the days allotted for the Finance Bill?

Several Hon. Members: No, no.

Shri Goenka: That is only a suggestion.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Let us wait for the Speaker to come; then we may decide.

Shrimati Durgabai: I suggest that one day may be cut off from the Finance Bill's consideration and that may be added to the days allotted for Health and Education. Something should be done, for we feel that every time we make a request for extension of time it has been refused.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Well, I will call upon the Defence Minister to give his reply.

Sardar Baldev Singh: Before I reply to the different points that have been raised by hon. Members here, I want to state clearly that as far as the Defence Department is concerned, we will always welcome a full discussion, may be for a day or two or three, as many days as hon. Members desire to have. We have not the least objection to that kind of a proposal. But as we know, this matter rests with the Speaker and what has been decided by the Speaker, we abide by.

Before actually beginning to reply to the criticisms that have been made both for and against, let me remove one wrong impression that has been created in the minds of Members here and also amongst the public in general, about our demobilisation programme. I have heard it stated from different sources that the Government has taken undue risks in adopting this demobilisation programme. As this House knows, we had decided to demobilise as much as 50,000 people and most of them if not all, have been actually

demobilised. This decision was taken by Government bearing in mind all aspects of the question, the general financial position of the country and the security of the country. This decision was taken also to indicate to everyone that as far as India is concerned, we are not maintaining our forces with any aggressive intentions. The Prime Minister has, and several of us also have, made it clear more than once that as far as this country is concerned, we have no aggressive intentions against anybody. But as I said, in making this decision regarding demobilisation, we also kept in view the security of the country. May I assure all Members of this House that this decision was taken after considering all aspects of the question most carefully and fully and the security of the country was given the fullest possible consideration. As regards our future demobilisation plans, the House will agree with me that it is not possible for a country like ours with its limited financial resources to maintain a very big army. To maintain a big army these days is a very difficult job, especially for an unindustrialised country like ours. If I had the time at my disposal I would have given the House a full picture of the financial aspect of such an army and the House would have fully agreed with me that it is not possible for a country like ours to maintain such a big army with all full modern equipment. Equipment is quite essential and unless that is produced in the country, it is no use maintaining a huge army. We do not make the equipment, but are at present dependent on foreign countries. For every little item we have to go to others. The costs have gone up tremendously. Quite apart from the cost, the things are not available even. I do not want to enter into greater details about this matter, but I want to say this much that this decision to demobilise was arrived at after very careful consideration of all aspects of the question. As to the future, that will depend on so many factors which are very uncertain. We have got the international situation. We have to watch that, and we have also to bear in mind the question of Kashmir which still remains unsolved. Before the future programme of demobilisation can be decided upon, all these factors have to be taken into consideration, and if we are convinced that there is no risk involved in further demobilisation, there is no doubt that we will have to go on demobilising. As has been said many times by the Prime Minister, it is not possible for a country like ours to maintain a big army. I hope the hon. Members will be satisfied with the policy that the Government is taking in this connection.

Some Members have also expressed the apprehension about the resentment that will be caused among the soldiers who are to be demobilised. I quite realise that a certain amount of hardship will be caused to them. But I want to assure the House that the Government want to go to the fullest limit to help these demobilised persons and every effort is being made to find out alternative employments for them. In addition to that, we are also exploring the possibilities of co-operative farming and other kinds of relief that we can give to these demobilised people. As regards further demobilisation, as I said that is a big problem and I do not want to say anything more on that subject unless a decision has been taken.

During the last year the situation has been very difficult and I should add, a most uncertain situation. During the year that has just passed, our forces, the Army, Navy and the Air Force—whatever may be the criticisms that have been made by some hon. Members—have had a difficult time and in spite of all the difficulties that they had to face, in spite of the heavy responsibilities that were forced on them, all of them, officers and men, have served the country very well indeed. It is not too much of a praise to say that any country possessing such a force must be proud of its achievements.

After these few observations, let me proceed to make one or two observations regarding the navy and the airforce. If and when we demobilise, that will fall on the Army because during the last 100 or 150 years during the British regime it was only the Army that was being built up and so far as the Navy and Air Force were concerned, they were neglected. Now we are a free country and therefore we have to see that our Air Force and our Navy also get their due share and they expand as far as they possibly can. I do admit that the progress in the Air Force and the Navy has not been as much as we wanted. I very much wanted that the Air Force should expand very quickly and so also the Navy but there have been difficulties and in the face of them it has not been possible for us to go ahead. In spite of all this our cruiser *Delhi* and our destroyers have visited different countries. Our Prime Minister visited Indonesia sailing on *Delhi* and wherever our destroyers and cruiser had been, the House will be glad to know, our officers and men have won great appreciation. The same is true about the Air Force. I would only say this that both our men and officers have won a high reputation and I have

not the least doubt that in the near future when we have finalised our expansion programme our Air Force will be the pride of this country.

There were some criticisms made by hon. Members. I am one of those who welcome constructive criticism but if it is made on absolutely unfounded grounds, if it is made on a basis which has absolutely no foundation at all, then the House will realise that it pains not only me but is likely also to create a bad impression outside.

I will first take the few remarks made by my hon. friend Mr. Shiva Rao in connection with the jeep contract. There was a question on this particular subject but unfortunately it was not reached and therefore I could not give full information to the House. I very much wanted to do so but it was not in my power to do it. Now I am glad that this question has been raised again and I have the opportunity to place the full facts before the House.

Before I give the actual facts I might say that as far as I am concerned, as far as the officers of the Defence Ministry are concerned, and also as far as the representatives of the Finance Ministry who were connected with the Defence Ministry are concerned, I have not the least doubt that all of us welcome any further information on this subject. I admit there might have been genuine mistakes, possibly so, but I am convinced that as far as the integrity of the officers and their honesty of purpose in regard to this contract are concerned, I have not the least doubt about it....

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: How did it happen then?

Sardar Baldev Singh: This contract for jeeps was placed in the year 1948, when we were making preparations for the police action in Hyderabad. We had then several problems before us and we wanted to get all the possible equipment that we could. Therefore we decided to have the jeeps immediately, which according to our experts were required by the army very urgently. This demand for 2,000 jeeps was conveyed to our High Commissioner and we requested him to find out whether it was possible to get these 2,000 jeeps immediately. After making enquiries he told us that it was not possible to get new jeeps but that, he said, we could get second-hand jeeps which were "as good as new". This was the term used, that these jeeps will be as good as new ones and that they would be duly inspected before they were despatched. All the same our officers were sent to ascertain what

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the actual position was and after a lot of discussion with our High Commissioner, who was ultimately responsible for executing the contract, the contract was finalised.

As regards the actual terms of the contract, as I said in my reply to the question, there is no penalty clause. It has been mentioned here that the terms of the contract were unusual. I do agree that the terms of this particular contract were unusual in the respect that they were not the same as the terms of the contract that are usually made. I do not know what the reasons were in this matter which is still being negotiated and when I get the fuller facts I will be able to take the hon. Members into confidence.

Pandit Kunzru: Was the change made without the authority of the Defence Ministry?

Sardar Baldev Singh: This contract was finalised and after sometime according to this contract we had to pay about £1,72,000 as advance against the contract. A few months after this sum was advanced we received the first consignment of 155 jeeps. These jeeps were put at the disposal of the military authorities who inspected them and after due trial found that they were not up to our expectation. When after every trial we came to this conclusion immediately intimation was sent to our U. K. High Commissioner that no further supply of jeeps should be made. This is what we possibly could do, namely, that as soon as we found the jeeps defective we immediately sent instructions that no further supplies were to be made.

Again this matter was negotiated by our High Commissioner and after a lot of negotiation it has now been decided—I have not got the date, but I have got the information from our High Commissioner's Office—that a new agreement should be made and that instead of 2,000 second-hand jeeps (out of which 155 have been already received by us) we will get 1,007 new jeeps. This will be supplied by the firm which manufactures them. I will read out the actual guarantee that has been given by the firm. "The firm has produced to our legal adviser and Director General satisfactory documentary evidence that the Willys Overland, the manufacturers, cover this new contract for the supply of 1,007 new jeeps. Besides the guarantee of the firm, the Directors of the firm have given their personal guarantee to the agreement, which we asked for as a means of additional caution....."

Shri Shiva Rao: What is the price of the new jeeps?

Sardar Baldev Singh: I will come to that. I will state the whole facts and if any points are uncovered I will be glad to answer them.

Shri Shiva Rao: In particular I would like to know which part of my statement was unfounded on facts.

Sardar Baldev Singh: The inference was that perhaps there has been some shady business in that.....

Shri Shiva Rao: I never made that allegation.

Sardar Baldev Singh: There has been absolutely no shady business as far as this transaction is concerned. It is just possible that there might have been some misjudgment....

Shri Kamath: It is a fraud.

Sardar Baldev Singh: Or a genuine mistake. My hon. friend says that it is a fraud. I am quite prepared to supply all the information at my disposal to hon. Members and if it is proved that it is a fraud due to the mischief of somebody, I am prepared to bear the penalty.....

Shri Sondhi: The jeeps were meant for the Hyderabad police action and Hyderabad is not there and we are getting the jeeps after three years.

Shri Sidhva: We want an enquiry.

Sardar Baldev Singh: My hon. friend has rightly put the question.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister has stated that after he gives out all the facts which he has in his possession, he is quite prepared to answer any questions. Hon. Members should wait until they have heard the Minister.

Shri Shiva Rao: When the hon. Minister makes a serious allegation that a part of my statement is unfounded, it is due to me that he should prove that statement. (*Interruption*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Can hon. Members not wait until the Minister has stated the facts and then put their questions? Let there be no interruptions.

Sardar Baldev Singh: My friend, Mr. Shiva Rao has perhaps misunderstood me. What I said was that the facts as have been disclosed by him are not what they actually are on the file. The facts are as I have stated. My friend, Mr. Sondhi, said these jeeps have not been received in time. Today the position is that we are going from country to country to get our equipment and we cannot get it.

Shri Sondhi: That is a different matter.

Sardar Baldev Singh: That is not a different matter. When we could not get new jeeps, as an alternative we had to go in for the second-hand ones which were promised to be as good as new ones. That is why we concluded this contract with this firm.

Shri Sondhi: But you never got any.

Sardar Baldev Singh: Well, we might have got them. As the House knows we got a first consignment of 155 jeeps but when they were found defective we stopped further supplies. That is the position. As regards why that contract was made, well, that is a matter for negotiation. We do not know anything of that. Information on that is with our High Commissioner. I hope that the House will be satisfied with the information I have given.

Several Hon. Members: No, no.

Sardar Baldev Singh: I will make a further suggestion. If any hon. Members are not satisfied with this information and want further information about this case, I am prepared to give them

Several Hon. Members: No, no. We want an enquiry.

Shri Kamath: What is the name of the firm?

Sardar Baldev Singh: I have not got it here, but the firm which is going to supply the jeeps now is covered by Willys Overland.

There is one more point. The advance we gave of £1,70,000 minus the price of the 155 jeeps that had been supplied to us, will be taken into account in this order. That is to say we have not lost anything on account of the order made with the original firm.

Shri Sidhva: That is not going to satisfy us.

Sardar Baldev Singh: As regards the price, my information is—and I speak subject to correction—that the price of these new jeeps for which we have made this contract, will be lower than what we will have to pay today to other suppliers.

Shri Sidhva: That is what they told us about fertilizers also.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Punjab): Will Government get any damages for failure of the contract?

Sardar Baldev Singh: I do not know. The question of damages can only arise if the new contract is not fulfilled.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Damages in regard to the old contract. Those jeeps were not like new ones and the contract was therefore broken. And all the jeeps were not supplied.

Shri Sondhi: Over 1½ years have gone since then. How is it that fuller information is not available from the High Commissioner even now? The matter is before the House for the last eighteen months.

Shri Sidhva: This is a serious matter. The country cannot afford to lose so many crores. I might tell you that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. May I ask the hon. Minister about its position. This matter was before the Estimates Committee also and that Committee went into it. Now, it is stated that it was a matter of very great importance and hon. Members are agitated over it, it is necessary that the hon. Minister, to whom the report of the Estimates Committee was already sent and a number of questions were raised, must now anticipate those questions. To say that the hon. Minister is not in a position today even to give the price but that it may be less than prices elsewhere, is not correct. Some more facts should be given to the House.

Sardar Baldev Singh: I have already stated the price of the 155 jeeps. The total contract was for £500,000 for 2,000 jeeps. Out of that number we have already received 155.

Shri Sidhva: Sir, he says he has no information. We want a judicial enquiry into this matter. *

Several Hon. Members rose.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. Is there no other method of eliciting information except by all Members simultaneously asking questions? *

Shri R. K. Chandhuri: We want to know the name of the firm.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But to speak at the same time serves no purpose. One question after another may be put to the hon. Minister. Now, the hon. Members want to know the name of the firm and the price of the new jeep.

Sardar Baldev Singh: I cannot give the exact price of the old consignment of jeeps but the price of the jeeps under the new contract is

Shri R. K. Chandhuri: What is the name of the firm?

Sardar Baldev Singh: I can send for the information and convey it to the hon. Members. I have not got it here with me.

[Sardar Baldev Singh]

Now, this is the position as regards the jeeps. As I have already stated, the terms of this contract were different from the terms of usual contracts. And this matter is in negotiation with the High Commissioner as to how a different contract was entered into.

Shri Sondhi: Where is the question of negotiation in this matter? The High Commissioner is one of our employees. Why cannot they get it from him straightaway?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Members are prepared to take each word and argue. I think he meant negotiation through the High Commissioner and not negotiation with the High Commissioner.

Shri Sidhva: As my friend Mr. Sondhi said, for 1½ years this information was called for from the High Commissioner and it has not been forthcoming. What is the reason?

Sardar Baldev Singh: I have already told the House that this information regarding the firm is already with us but is not with me here. As regards the manufacturer of the jeeps now, I have already said its name is Willys Overland. If the House wants to know the name of the original firm, I will give it later.

I have got two or three other points to reply to because if I do not reply to them misunderstanding is likely to be created.

Shri R. K. Chaudhuri: In the course of his speech the hon. Minister said that he would be prepared to answer any question on this subject, and you were also pleased to say that if questions were put the hon. Minister would answer. On the other hand, we find the hon. Minister does not give way when an hon. Member wants to put a question. Either the Minister refuses to answer questions or he answers them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What I find is that the hon. Minister has given to the House all the information that he has got. He has noted the questions that have been put to him. Various points have been raised during the course of the debate. I find as many as twelve or thirteen hon. Members have taken part in the debate. I request the hon. Minister to note all the questions, and may I suggest that in view of the fact that hon. Members are anxious to know the details he will lay a full and complete statement on the table of the House regarding the company. Allegations were made, and the hon. Minister also said that the whole allegation was

unfounded, meaning to say that there is some allegation against the manner in which the contract was entered into. So, information on the following particulars may be given to the House: the name of the company, the *bona fides* of the company, whether they trade in this article or not, so far as the 155 jeeps were concerned, what is the price which has been deducted, what is the price of the new jeeps, whether it is a favourable transaction or not. The House is anxious to know all that. If the hon. Minister has not got that information he will collect it and place it as early as possible on the table of the House. The hon. Minister may now go on.

Prof. K. T. Shah: Why was this contract different from the usual contracts? I want this to be enquired into.

Pandit Kunzru: What was the issue capital of the firm with which the contract was placed? That is one question that I would suggest.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members may kindly put down the questions they want to ask and pass them on to the Secretary, who will communicate them to the hon. Minister of Defence and he will give the House a full and complete statement of the facts.

Dr. R. U. Singh: How shall we vote the Demand without the information?

Several Hon. Members rose

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is open to the House to reject this Demand. This is all the information which the hon. Minister is in a position to give. It is open to the House to do as it likes. It is not proper that again and again all hon. Members should stand up simultaneously and make it impossible for the work of the House to go on. (*Interruptions.*) I am not prepared to allow any further questions.

Sardar Baldev Singh: I am told that the name of the firm with whom the order was originally placed is Antimistant.

An Hon. Member: We could not follow the name.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The name is not distinct. The full name will be given later.

Pandit Kunzru: What about the capital?

Sardar Baldev Singh: About the capital etc., I have not got the information here, but I am prepared to give all the information which hon. Members want.

As the time left is very short, I just want to reply to one or two other points that were made by my hon. friend Pandit Kunzru. He made some statements. I do not know what is the basis on which he made those statements. I must frankly say that I was rather shocked to hear such allegations from the mouth of my hon. friend. He is a member of the Standing Committee and as the House knows and all members of the Standing Committee know, I have never withheld this kind of information from hon. Members. If this question had been raised in the Standing Committee, I would have been in a better position to give all the information that the hon. Member wants, but all these allegations have been made on the floor of the House.

Firstly my hon. friend Pandit Kunzru said that there was a contract for something; then that was cancelled; and in place of that, he said that an order for iron sheets was placed. This is one of the allegations. As far as I remember, there is no such information at all and I can say with confidence that nothing of this kind was done, as far as my Ministry is concerned.

Secondly, my friend alleged...

Pandit Kunzru: I want to have the thing made clear. Does my hon. friend say that no order for rifles and ammunition was placed?

Sardar Baldev Singh: I am coming to that. The second point that my hon. friend made was that a large order for arms and ammunition was placed. It is a fact that at the time when we were considering the police action in Hyderabad, an order for arms and ammunition was placed and as soon as the police action was successfully over, we revised our plans and sent instructions to our High Commissioner in the U. K. That order was cancelled and not a pie by way of compensation was paid. This is the position as far as these arms and ammunition order is concerned. Therefore, I say that the information that has been conveyed to my hon. friend has got absolutely no basis.

Pandit Kunzru: What is the wrong statement that I have made? I said that a contract for rifles and ammunition was placed with a firm which according to my information had a capital of only ₹100.

Sardar Baldev Singh: May I request my hon. friend not to interrupt? When he was speaking, I did not interrupt at all. If he will hear my full statement, what I said was that an order for arms and ammunition was placed and subsequently it was cancelled and no compensation has been paid at all.

Pandit Kunzru: As I pointed out in my speech itself, the Deputy High Commissioner subsequently cancelled the contract (*Interruption.*)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. May I say that I find it rather difficult to get along?

Pandit Kunzru: If the hon. Minister makes statements that are absolutely incorrect.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member with all his experience is making the Chair sit instead of maintaining order. I would only say that the hon. Member also must have sat in his place when the Chair got up, but if all stand up I find it difficult. This is particularly so when the hon. Member goes on asking questions when the hon. Minister does not give in. I would appeal to the hon. Minister also that having regard to the importance attached to this subject, he should receive the questions by sitting down. When important questions are put by responsible Members, he should hear them and then try to answer the questions to the best of his ability.

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): May I spell out the name of the firm, Sir? It is Antimistants.

Pandit Kunzru: You have not improved matters. May I ask a question, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member will kindly resume his seat. The hon. Minister is on his legs and does not give in. I cannot therefore allow hon. Members to persist in putting questions.

Pandit Kunzru: I got up only because of the advice given by you to the Defence Minister.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But he does not give in.

Pandit Kunzru: If he disregards your advice, we are without a remedy.

Sardar Baldev Singh: As I stated, this is the correct position. I did not say that no order was placed.

There is another item about which Pandit Kunzru raised objection and that was the admittance of 20 cadets to the National Defence Academy. I have not got any time at my disposal, but what I want to say is that this information was not kept back from the House. It was on 16th November last year that all the information in connection with these 20 cadets was placed on the table of the House. If my hon. friend wants to have some more information about this matter, I am quite prepared to give it to him.

[Sardar Baldev Singh]

I have got nothing to hide. This was done and as I said, we were in an experimental stage and in order to find out which method was the best one this procedure was adopted.

There is another point which was raised by my hon. friend Pandit Kunzru and that was in connection with a certain enquiry. I do not want to deal with this matter at this stage, as it is still with the Court Martial. The officers concerned were court-martialled. If he has got any doubt as to why the report of the enquiry was delayed or if he has got any doubt as to whether the proper procedure was followed, I am quite prepared to give all the information he requires and he will be satisfied when he goes through the papers that the procedure laid down was fully followed. This is the position.

As regards the other points, I have nothing more to add. I want to repeat again that I do not want any misunderstanding to remain in the mind of the hon. Members Pandit Kunzru and Shri Shiva Rao. I think my hon. friends Mr. Shiva Rao and Pandit Kunzru were not in possession of actual facts. If they were they would perhaps not have found the necessity of raising this question at all. If, however, any further information is required, I am perfectly agreeable to furnish them.

5 P.M.

Pandit Kunzru: May I ask my hon. friend, why he has not said anything about the steel plates?

Sardar Baldev Singh: As far as my Ministry is concerned, nothing was done in regard to that. I do not know what the hon. Member is referring to.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I understand it is the wish of the House to postpone the Demand relating to jeeps. All the other Demands will be put to the vote of the House. Demand No. 10 refers to "Defence Services, Effective Army—Rs. 1,28,55,09,000." I will keep it over. The other Demands will be passed. As soon as full information is brought we will take it up.

Shri Kamath: May I know whether this includes the amount which was granted by vote on account the other day? The phraseology used is "that the respective sums.....be granted to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges, etc." It means that amount would not be spent in addition to this amount.

Shri Hussain Imam: May I draw your attention to the fact that the

words used are "as set out in the order paper", which means the whole amount. If you say 'as left over', then the position is different.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What happens is this. Hon. Members will understand that when we are voting sums not exceeding these amounts, this vote will be to complete the amounts. I shall just read out the phraseology:

"That the respective sums, not exceeding the amounts shown in the order paper, be granted to the President to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending...."

Shri Kamath: May I know how it can be completed?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They are distinct Demands. I have kept out the one Demand which concerns the jeeps. I am putting all the other Demands with respect to which there has not been a similar objection, to the vote of the House. I am not mixing them up.

Shri Hussain Imam: I suggest that the language may be clarified: "after deducting the amount already voted".

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): Under article 112 of the Constitution Government have to place before the House a full Demand for the whole year. Therefore, when it comes to a question of the Appropriation Bill we shall consider whether the appropriation on the vote on account will have to be repealed, because it will be incorporated in this. So far as the Demand is concerned the House has to discuss the entirety or the total of the Demand; otherwise it will be debating only on a fraction of it. Hon. Members may read article 112. It is the business of the Government to place the full Demand before the House.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Mr. Speaker: I understand lots of questions have been put as regards the form of the motion. If Members are careful to follow the language, it is very clear:

"to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952 in respect of Demands Nos. 9, 11, 12, 13 and 96 under the control of the Ministry of Defence".

Shri Sidhva: Is Demand No. 10 omitted?

Mr. Speaker: Of course, because that is held over. (Interruption). It will be better if hon. Members ask questions one after the other. If all of them ask together it is difficult to explain.

Shri Kamath: May I know which of these sums includes that particular sum granted by vote on account?

Mr. Speaker: If the hon. Member takes care to compare the budget estimates, the figures given in the vote on account and the figures given here, he will find that the figures of the vote on account and these figures will make up the total of the twelve months' supply. It is a very clear thing. I do not know how the doubt arose. And the phraseology is also very clear, that is, "to complete". That was not the formula which was used formerly when we had no vote on account.

The question is:

"That the respective sums, not exceeding the amounts shown in the order paper, be granted to the President to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of Demands Nos. 9, 11, 12, 13 and 96 under the control of the Ministry of Defence."

The motion was adopted.

[As directed by Mr. Speaker the motions for Demands for Grants which were adopted by the House are reproduced below.—Ed. of P.P.]

DEMAND No. 9—MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,24,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Ministry of Defence'."

DEMAND No. 11—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE-NAVY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,72,51,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Defence Services, Effective-Navy'."

11 P.S.D.

DEMAND No. 12—DEFENCE SERVICES, EFFECTIVE-AIR FORCE

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,89,37,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Defence Services, Effective-Air Force'."

DEMAND No. 13—DEFENCE SERVICES, NON-EFFECTIVE CHARGES

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,25,59,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Defence Services, Non-Effective Charges'."

DEMAND No. 96—DEFENCE CAPITAL OUTLAY

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,88,92,000 be granted to the President to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1952, in respect of 'Defence Capital Outlay'."

PURCHASE OF TRACTORS AND PLOUGHS

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry we are starting ten minutes late.

We will now start the discussion to be raised by Mr. Sidhva.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): This subject is in relation to my Starred Question No. 1669 of 23rd February in connection with Tractors. I had put certain questions at that time to the hon. Minister and the replies were not complete and satisfactory. The cost of tractors out of a total Rs. 4,81,69,006 was Rs. 1,61,47,224. I had asked whether any of the tractors imported are idle today and whether Mr. Kharegat's report which stated that a number of them remained idle was correct. Two contradictory statements were made by the Deputy Minister. At one stage he said that most of them are being renovated and at the second stage he said: I would like to have notice. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the position of these tractors.

[Shri Sidhva]

About the 180 new tractors Mr. Kharegat says:

"Both the Cletrac and the Allis-Chalmers are constantly giving some mechanical trouble or other. There appear to be definite mechanical defects. It is recommended that the existence of these defects should be brought to the notice of the local agents of the suppliers of these tractors and they should be asked to replace such defective parts (where feasible) at their own cost. If they refuse, it would be logical to decide that such firms are not suitable for being asked to supply further tractors to India."

I want to know whether that has been complied with. If not, I want to know whether their name has been removed from the contractors' list.

He further on says:

"It is explained that these tractors were used with only one plough most of the time; and if allowance is made for this, the percentage will rise to $7/4 \times 47 = 82$. One may juggle with the figures in any way he likes, but the fact must be faced that these tractors have not been efficient because they could not pull two ploughs."

This is also in relation to 180 tractors. What has the hon. Minister to say about this and what steps he has taken, I want to know, against the contractors.

Further on Mr. Kharegat says:

"The performance of the Allis-Chalmers tractors is even less satisfactory. These tractors were received or at least began operations late in the season and on an average worked for only 26 days each. In this period, each tractor should have ploughed $26/132 \times 1500$ or nearly 300 acres. The actual achievement with 52 tractors is 5,954 acres giving 115 acres per tractor and an efficiency of 38 per cent. only against 100 per cent."

I want to know who was responsible and why these tractors were purchased when their efficiency was so low.

Then, further on, he says: that the increase in the actual cost of reclamation from Rs. 40 to Rs. 52 has to be accounted for by the C.T.O., which means the Central Tractor Organization. The reason given is that this is due to the devaluation of the rupee. It is not clear how this can affect the charges in respect of old tractors, which have nothing to do with devaluation.

"The actual recurring cost has now been worked out to Rs. 30 per acre as against Rs. 28½ per acre previously and if depreciation is charged even at 20 per cent. in respect of these tractors, the total cost should come to Rs. 41-8-0 or say Rs. 42. The real reason why the charges for kans eradication by old tractors has had to be put up is that the tractors have not been giving proper service."—This is a combination of practically the old and new tractors—"It is this which puts up their recurring cost from Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 per acre and so the total cost is Rs. 51½ to Rs. 52. It is hardly fair that the farmers should be asked to pay extra because of the inefficiency of the Central Tractor Organisation. It is recommended that the matter should be reexamined by costing experts and the charges in respect of the units served by the old D-7 tractors should be reduced from Rs. 52 to Rs. 42 or other suitable figure."

I want to know what has been done in this respect and whether they have examined these matters. I put a question about 1250 ploughs which were purchased from Mr. Pashabhai and to that also the hon. Minister stated that he wanted notice.

Mr. Kharegat says in this connection:

"It is necessary at this stage to refer to the Pashabhai ploughs and pan-breakers which were purchased at a cost of over Rs. 21 lakhs and are now lying idle. Mr. Pashabhai admits that the ploughs are unsatisfactory but he says he was compelled by the Supply Department to use parts which were unsuitable. A departmental enquiry into this point by a qualified engineer appears to be called for. Rs. 21 lakhs is not a small sum, the loss of which can be looked upon with equanimity and put down to the cost of experimentation."

According to my information it is not 21 lakhs, but it eventually comes to 41 or 42 lakhs. I want to know whether any enquiry has been held, by whom it was held, and whether he was an expert. I want the report of the enquiry by the engineer to be read before the House.

There was another point that I had raised about the spare parts, whether there were any spare parts in excess.

which were not wanted. Mr. Kharegat says:

"It is true that the workshop has a large number of items in stock which are not wanted. A list of the articles in stock has only been prepared recently, and....."

That is to say, there was no list of the articles in stock.

"...even now, it is not certain that every item has been included. It is recommended that a study should be made of the intensity of the utilisation of the machine tools which are in use. This will serve as a guide to the efficiency of the workshop and indicate if the labour charges bear a suitable relation to the work done."

I want to know who was the Chief Engineer who placed the order. I want to know why an enquiry was not made until Mr. Kharegat drew attention to this. I also want to know why a complete list of the valuable articles was not prepared until Mr. Kharegat drew attention to that and whether it is now up to date.

Then, I come to the Central Tractor Organisation. There is one point on which I would like to have an explanation.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): On a point of order, Sir. Only four points were given notice of by the hon. Member for explanation. Evidently, he wants to know what has been done with every single sentence of the Kharegat report. It is hardly fair that he should travel into the big report and not stick to the four points. I am quite willing to give information on all these points. But, if he goes on reading page after page and says, I want to know, he should give me notice about that.

Shri Sidhva: This is from the Kharegat report.

Shri K. M. Munshi: The Kharegat report is not circulated; the hon. Member is reading from a private copy.

Shri Sidhva: I had asked in my last question whether the Kharegat report would be circulated to the Members. No reply was forthcoming. It is on record.

Mr. Speaker: The point is this. We are going to have this discussion for half an hour: not an interminable discussion without any time limit. Therefore, the rules specifically provide that the Member who wishes to

discuss must give the specific points in respect of which he wants to get information. If the hon. Member goes on reading the report and making enquiry on every point, the result will be that there will be no time left for the Government to reply to the various points. It is in the interests of proper discussion that attention should be limited to the points specifically mentioned and not all points. Of course, some points which may incidentally arise, will stand on a different footing. I think the hon. Minister's objection that the hon. Member must confine himself to the points raised by him, in respect of which he has given notice, is one which must be upheld in the interests of better discussion.

Shri Sidhva: With due deference to you, Sir, I have given notice of all these points. The only point which I was referring to, about the Tractor Organisation, I had not mentioned in my notice. May I read from this letter, Sir.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member need not take time on that.

Shri Sidhva: All the four points which I have mentioned are covered here.

Mr. Speaker: I think he referred to 1250 ploughs, and 21 lakhs of rupees.

Shri Sidhva: It is there.

Mr. Speaker: He was proceeding further.

Shri Sidhva: At the end, I was referring to the Tractor Organisation, which was, of course, not in the notice that I had given.

Mr. Speaker: He should reserve it for some future occasion.

Shri Sidhva: Yes, Sir. My hon. friend said that the Kharegat report is 60 or 70 pages long and I am reading the whole thing. I am not referring to every page and every para. I have referred only to four paras. He should have come prepared with satisfactory answers for all those four points. So far, I have given due notice. I wanted to refer also to the Tractor Organisation because it has a bearing on these points. I will not touch that now. I have only taken ten minutes and I should like to have the fullest answer to the points that I have raised.

Shri K. M. Munshi: My hon. friend Mr. Sidhva read some parts only of the report. I would like to refer to only a few sentences at the end of Mr. Kharegat's report before I go specifically to answer the points.

Shri Sidhva: Then, Sir, my points..

Mr. Speaker: Order, order, let the hon. Member hear the Minister.

Shri K. M. Munshi: It says:

"In conclusion it may be said that the sweeping statements made in some quarters that the Central Tractor Organisation is one huge muddle and waste of money are entirely incorrect. The Central Tractor Organisation has not worked at full efficiency. Mistakes there have been. Some muddle may have occurred. But by and large, the fact is that splendid work has been done. A good organisation has been built up; and if properly looked after, it is capable of doing a great deal more in the next few years and add substantially to the food resources of the country."

Shri Sidhva: When I raised these points from the report he objected, but now he himself has raised the points from the report.

Shri K. M. Munshi: I submit that it is not right to read out just part of it. It is not right to read part of a report which has not been published as that will create a wrong impression on the House as well as on the public.

Well, the point I want to make is this. This was the state of affairs before the Kharegat Committee was appointed in May, immediately after my taking office. As I have said again and again, whenever this question has been raised, the whole organisation has been on a different footing altogether. And so what has been referred to by my hon. friend here is not what is happening now. That was the state of affairs before the 13th May, 1950.

Now with regard to the four questions, I will confine myself to them specifically in my reply. There appears to be some little confusion in the questions asked and the replies given about old and new tractors. Therefore, the House will just bear with me for a few minutes when I make the position clear. In 1946, the Government of India bought 280 tractors from the Disposals. They were old war-weary tractors. Sixty-nine of them were sold to State Governments, leaving 211. From 1947 to 1951, they worked in some manner or other but being very old some of them were renovated and some of them went out of use and some were not working because of lack of spare parts. But six units have been working. What was referred to by the Deputy Minister was with regard to these units.

As regards the new tractors there were 12 units which arrived between February and May, 1950.

Shri Sidhva: What is the total number?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The total number is 180. And then later, another 60 were added.

An Hon. Member: Without the sanction from the Finance Ministry.

Shri K. M. Munshi: I do not know. I want notice for that. I am not on the Estimates Committee, unfortunately.

Shri Sondhi (Punjab): That has nothing to do with the Estimates Committee.

Shri K. M. Munshi: From 1950, 16 units are working. The difficulty with regard to the new tractors in the beginning was that they were heavy tractors with which our mechanics were not familiar and they were unable to cope with the work which the tractors demanded. But now our mechanics have been properly trained in the school at Bhopal and all the 16 units are now working properly and we hope to complete a fair measure of the target we have kept. Well, that is with regard to the first question.

The second question is whether some of the tractors are still idle, and why some are not in use. All the new tractors are working. Out of the total old ones 90 tractors are working. That is the position today.

The third question deals with the Pashabhai ploughs. They were intended originally for the old tractors, because all the tractors were not available. We originally intended them for the purpose of doing normal cultivation. Therefore these ploughs had to be made by an Indian company, Pashabhai Patel & Co. They were not available from outside. In 1946 this order was placed with that company but then the C.T.O. changed its intention and instead of using these ploughs for the purpose of normal agriculture it wanted to use them for *kans* reclamation. These ploughs for normal cultivation are of eight inches whereas they were required to work at the level of 12 inches. The result was these were not used for the purpose. That is the position.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): Does the Minister mean to say that the C. T. O. did not know the difference between the two ploughs?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Originally it was intended that the disposal tractors in 1947 should be used for a particular purpose. Later on they made a change of programme. That was before the 15th August 1947 and it would take long to delve into the files to find out who was responsible for the change in programme.....

Shri Sidhva: When did he say that they were unsatisfactory?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member did not follow the Minister's reply. They were satisfactory for the purpose for which they were originally intended but the purpose was changed.

Shri K. M. Munshi: They were manufactured for a particular purpose. The scheme of the C.T.O. was changed. Whoever changed I will have to find out. It must be the Government and the Minister for the time being must have approved of the change.

Shri Sarangdhar Das (Orissa) rose

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member has not given any notice.

Shri K. M. Munshi: I cannot say more than that. It happened before the 15th August 1947. I shall get the file and place it before the hon. Member if he likes to find out who was responsible.

Mr. Speaker: That was not his purpose.

Shri K. M. Munshi: That was the reason why the Pashabhai ploughs became useless for the purpose of *kans* reclamation. Mr. Kharegat's report was there and on that certain enquiries were made and it was found that they were unsatisfactory for *kans* work, not in the sense that they could not do *kans* work at all. They were intended for a different purpose. If the hon. Member wants further information let him put a specific question to me and I will make enquiries.....

Shri Sidhva: The question whether the enquiry was at all made and whether the report will be laid on the Table.....

Mr. Speaker: Why does the hon. Member interfere? Let the Minister finish.

Shri K. M. Munshi: As regards the Kharegat report steps were taken thereafter to implement it as much as could be done. The whole C.T.O. was organised. It is really an old document which relates to whatever happened before May 1950. If the Member wants I shall place it on the Table. That is all I can do, no more (*Interruption*).

Mr. Speaker: I would ask hon. Members to follow the Minister with a blank slate as it were and then form their opinions. They should not put questions with certain pre-conceived notions about the thing. Let them hear what he says.

Shri K. M. Munshi: Question No. 4 asks whether these 1250 ploughs worth Rs. 12 lakhs were unsatisfactory, and whether Mr. Kharegat asked for an enquiry. I might mention to the House with regard to this matter that the enquiry was not held, because it was found that there was a change in the purpose. If Members want that I should satisfy them as to why the change was made I am willing to look into the matter.

Dr. Deshmukh: I have listened very carefully to the information given by the hon. Minister. I do not think it can satisfy any hon. Member of this House including the hon. Minister himself. The point that has been brought to our notice is that at some stage the purpose for which the ploughs were ordered was altered. We have set up a very costly organisation. We have become accustomed now and again to coming up before this House and saying that some foreigner has patted us on the back for efficiency and for the great things that we are doing in this country in this matter and in that. In all probability, the hon. Minister might have in his pocket a certificate praising the deeds of the Central Tractor Organisation. But the question arises whether after having established such a costly organisation there was not one sensible man in the whole organisation who could find out from the records that these ploughs were meant for a specific purpose, that they were not intended for any other purpose, and therefore they should either be used for the purpose for which they were intended or not used at all. If in an organisation set up at this cost there is not one man who is prepared to lend his wisdom for the purpose, I am sure the Ministry and the Organisation stand condemned and the explanation or the information that the hon. Minister is putting forward is not worth listening to.

I have some personal knowledge of this because I happened at that time to be a member of the Standing Committee for Agriculture, when the ordering of the ploughs from Messrs. Pashabhai Patel & Co. came up before the Standing Advisory Committee. At that time the name of the firm was not known to me. I wanted to get the name but I could not get it till a few days later. Well, I had warned about this particular thing at that time. The question that I had put to the gentle-

[Dr. Deshmukh]

men in charge of this Organisation was whether there is any specification that they had given to Mr. Pashabhai according to which these ploughs should be manufactured. I was told: "There is some general specification. We have given them some alternatives." And although with respect to another order they had some experts according to whose instruction they were to be manufactured, in this case it was quite clear that sufficient care and attention was not paid to see that the specific ploughs were manufactured. The result that has been produced now was foreseen by me at that time, and if any of the gentlemen who had attended that meeting would come forward he would have to say that I had specifically pointed out that this would happen because this particular company had neither knowledge nor experience of manufacturing the ploughs. They had never done this sort of work before. When these facts were disclosed to me I had said at the time that it would be very necessary for the Ministry of Agriculture to be careful because neither the firm had any experience nor the people who were dealing with it were taking sufficient care to see as to what particular kinds of ploughs would be supplied and how far they would come up to our expectations.

So, I think the whole thing deserves to be more carefully gone into. With this information at any rate I am not satisfied—that because they were meant for one purpose they could not be utilised for another purpose! Why was such a foolishness as of utilising them for a purpose for which they were not meant committed? The information that has been given to the House is not satisfactory. I would therefore submit that this matter should be gone into again. I for one would insist on further enquiry. This is not the only thing where we have bungled. Every now and then it has become a chronic sort of an affair for this or that Ministry to come forward and try to explain the bungling in this or that matter committed by them. We went to America for a big loan for tractors. But I must complain that before the Ministry did so and set up this Tractor Organisation the Standing Committee was not consulted. It was consulted at a stage when more or less the whole thing was arranged and finalised. I do not know what the rules and regulations regarding placing such matters before Standing Committees are, but I have seen many big items placed before the Standing Committees at a stage when almost everything in the matter has been done and the Government have committed themselves to the expenditure irrevocably.

Shri Sidhva: I want to know what happened to the large number of items in stock which were not wanted.

Shri K. M. Munshi: But that is not in the list of questions.

Shri Sidhva: The hon. Minister read out Mr. Kharegat's report. It seems that he has read the whole report. If he does not want to give information, it is all right. Otherwise, Mr. Kharegat has said that a large number of items were in stock which were not wanted. Therefore, the hon. Minister may enlighten the House as to the value of those items and as to what has happened to them.

Mr. Speaker: The entire report of the Kharegat enquiry is not before the House for discussion at all. If he read certain parts of it, is because questions that are put and the discussion that is taking place are likely to create a very adverse impression about the Central Tractor Organisation. Therefore, it was necessary to give a general background to show as to the view that Mr. Kharegat who enquired so much into this held. That is why he read it. But that does not mean that every part of the Report must be covered. Has the hon. Minister anything to say in reply?

Shri K. M. Munshi: As regards the point made by my hon. friend Dr. Punjabrao Deshmukh, I know that he holds very strong views on most matters. It would have not been possible for my Ministry in 1947 to have agreed with him, but the fact is that there was no C.T.O. at that time. The loan had not been borrowed at the time when the ploughs were ordered. They were ordered for the old tractors bought from the Disposals by the then Minister in 1947. If you want that I should go into the deeds and misdeeds or omissions and commissions of 1947, I am quite willing to go into those matters and place them before the House. Mr. Chetty who was in charge of the C.T.O. has retired. That also the hon. Member knows. If he says that he said in 1947 that the whole thing would collapse and therefore it has collapsed, I beg to differ from him.

Dr. Deshmukh: I only pointed out that a warning was there.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether this report will be made available to the House?

Shri K. M. Munshi: I said a minute ago that I shall place it on the table of the House. Perhaps, he did not listen.

The House then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 27th March, 1951.