

Wednesday, 5th March, 1952



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# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME I, 1952

(6th February to 5th March, 1952)

Fifth Session

of

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1952



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

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**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA**

*Wednesday, 5th March, 1952*

*The House met at Half Past Nine  
of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**DISTRIBUTION OF RICE IN ANDHRA**

**\*328. Shri P. Kodanda Ramiah:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that rice of good quality produced in the Andhra area is diverted to non-producing areas, and red and bad quality rice which is not useful for human consumption is distributed in that area?

(b) If so, what action has been taken by Government in this matter?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) It is a fact that at some places what is called red rice was produced before the Deputy Minister during the recent election campaign.

It is not correct to say that red rice is inferior. Due to the policy of non-polish rice being issued as good from nutritional point of view, the colour was red. It incidently lends itself for being mixed with dust which is done either by millers or retailers. A more strict inspection is being organised by the Madras Government.

It is not true that all the best quality rice is being sent out of surplus districts. Control being centralised in the Board of Revenue Madras the discretionary recommendations made by the District Collectors were not properly appreciated at the State headquarters.

(b) Government have drawn the attention of the State Government and urged upon them to remove reasonable complaints of the surplus areas.

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**Shri P. Kodanda Ramiah:** Is it a fact that the district collectors of East and West Godavari represented to the Board of Revenue to permit them to retain the first crop paddy for local consumption?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Well, I do not know exactly about the district collectors referred to; but there were references from several district collectors; but the Madras Government at the centre looking after the whole control system could not permit this kind of retention.

**Shri P. Kodanda Ramiah:** May I know whether the red rice was produced in East and West Godavari districts or was it imported from any other place?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I could not follow the question.

**Shri P. Kodanda Ramiah:** I want to know whether this red rice or paddy was produced in East and West Godavari or whether it has been imported into Madras State from outside?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I do not know specifically about these two districts, but there seems to be some misappreciation of the position. The surplus districts produce what is called the long-term variety which we also call the better rice and there is what is called the short-term crop which is what you call the red rice. It has been found that it is not possible to maintain the control system in Madras and at the same time allow the producing districts to have only the long-term rice. There are various difficulties which if the hon. Member wants, I may mention here. But it is not possible for the Madras Government to accept the idea that producing district must keep its long-term variety and export only the short-term variety.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the details may be left to the Madras Government, if it is all under the administration of the Madras Government.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** This complaint has been made to the Government of Madras by certain districts, that they should be allowed to retain the good quality rice.

**Mr. Speaker:** But my point is that, if the administration is entrusted to the Madras Government, then the Madras legislature is the proper forum where the details can be asked, unless of course, the Centre has got a voice in determining the whole thing.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** As a matter of fact, strictly speaking, the controls are administered under the Essential Commodities Act which is a Central Act.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then he may give the explanation if he has the details with him.

**Shri Amolakh Chand:** May I know, Sir, if this red rice which was distributed in Madras was procured from some red country?

**Mr. Speaker:** He has given the explanation that it is produced in some districts.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** In the same district there are two varieties and one looks like red rice.

**Shri P. Kodanda Ramiah:** Was that rice imported from other countries?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** It is not imported from other countries.

**Shri P. Kodanda Ramiah:** But there is no such crop in the East and West Godavari districts.

**Shri Kesava Rao:** May I know whether it is a fact that the Food Committees of these two districts of Godavari and also Kistna have objected to the indiscriminate export of rice from these districts?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The districts concerned want to keep the whole of the good variety of rice to themselves and produce for the deficit districts a slightly inferior variety. But the Government of Madras, administering the system for all the districts has to look not only to these particular districts but also to all the districts and also they have to see that it does not affect the procurement in all the districts, and that the funds of the procuring agents are not locked up. There are various reasons why they could not put into effect the district's demand to keep the good rice to that particular district itself.

E.C.A.F.E.

\*331. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the E.C.A.F.E. at its recent sitting reviewed the food situa-

tion of Asiatic countries and passed any resolution or expressed any opinion on the matter.

(b) if so, whether Government propose to have a co-ordinated plan with neighbouring Asiatic countries to meet the impending crisis in food; and

(c) whether the E.C.A.F.E. organisation has any plan of its own to help the Asiatic countries?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) Yes. One of the resolutions adopted at that meeting relates to Land Reform as a means of increasing agricultural production.

(b) The matter is under constant examination and the Government of India is in touch with neighbouring countries.

(c) The matter is under consideration of the E.C.A.F.E.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know whether the E.C.A.F.E. has put forward any definite plan?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** So far no plan has emerged that I know of.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** What is the position of the respective countries as regards the supply of food and self-sufficiency?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Respective countries?

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Yes, yes, those countries which were represented at the conference and a coordination scheme was contemplated among those countries.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** They have not yet completed the coordination scheme, and I have not got any other information here.

**Shri Kamath:** May I know, Sir, whether the E.C.A.F.E. has made any differentiation or categorisation of these Asian countries into under-developed and under-developed countries so far as food production is concerned, and if so whether any priorities have been fixed?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The under-developed countries are generally recognised as belonging to South-East Asia. No particular coordination has been made as suggested by the hon. Member.

**Shri M. Naik:** Is it a fact that the E.C.A.F.E. has assessed the food deficit in India much in excess of other Asian countries?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I don't think so.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know, Sir, what cereals were under consideration when the food grains position of these countries were considered?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** All that they considered was a closer cooperation between the different countries. As a matter of fact, at the last meeting in Rome it was decided to recommend to the E.C.A.F.E. that they should take over the question of land reform in all the South-East Asian countries, and it appears that a resolution recommending the introduction of land reforms as a means of increasing agricultural production was adopted at the meeting. That is all that was done at the meeting, so far.

#### CINCHONA CULTIVATION

\*332. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Scheme of the Russian or Short-term method of Cinchona cultivation in West Bengal and Madras has been given up;

(b) if so, the reasons for it; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred and the total amount recovered up to date?

**The Minister of Health and Communications (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):**

(a) Further planting under the scheme was discontinued in West Bengal and Madras from 1946 and 1947 respectively.

(b) The scheme was started during the last war as an emergency measure to produce quinine within a short time. With the cessation of the war and improvement in the supply position of quinine in the country, it was not considered necessary to continue the scheme any longer as this is not an economical way of producing quinine.

(c) The approximate total expenditure incurred and recoveries made under the scheme upto date are Rs. 94,45,554/- and Rs. 13,900/- respectively. The latter amount represents the sale proceeds of a very small fraction of the material harvested in West Bengal. The major part of the plantations is still standing. The entire expenditure is expected to be recovered when the cinchona plants are harvested, quinine extracted and sold in due course.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** What is the amount of loss suffered by the Central Government in the Bengal and Madras plantations?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** No loss has been suffered, only recoveries have been delayed, because we have decided to await the extraction of quinine from mature plants in order to get back more money.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether these plantations have been handed over to the respective State Governments or they are still kept under the Central Government?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** They are run entirely by the State Governments and as far as the plantations undertaken under the Russian method were concerned the Government of India paid 75 per cent. of the expenditure in the first instance.

**Shri M. Naik:** What are the places in which cinchona plantation has been successful?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** It has been successful in the States of Madras and Bengal. They are the only two States that have cinchona plantations.

#### INDIAN REGISTERED SHIPS

\*333. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian registered ships and their total tonnage requisitioned by U.K. during the period of last war and the duration of such requisition;

(b) whether any financial settlement has been arrived at with the U.K. Government regarding the claim in respect of these ships being requisitioned by U.K.; and

(c) if not, how the matters stand now?

**The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami):**

(a) Twenty-five Indian registered ships of a total tonnage of 1,15,679 G.R.T., were requisitioned on behalf of the United Kingdom Government during the last war. The duration of requisition of these vessels ranged from about one month to over five years.

(b) and (c). Negotiations are in progress and it is hoped that a satisfactory settlement will be reached shortly.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether all these 25 ships requisitioned by the U.K. Government have been returned to India or some of them have been lost in the war?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I think a few were lost but practically all the rest have been returned to India.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** What is the total amount that has been claimed by the Government of India and the amount that the U.K. Government has agreed to pay?



**Shri Gopaldaswami:** The negotiations are still proceeding and it would not be quite wise to disclose the actual figures. I may however inform the hon. Member that both the claim made on our behalf and what has been admitted by the U.K. Government exceeds five crores and the difference between the two has been reduced to something like 2-24 lakhs.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether there is any other point of dispute or disagreement between the two Governments regarding these ships?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** No other point, so far as I know.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know when a settlement may be arrived at?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I should expect it within the next month or six weeks.

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE

\*334. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri S. A. Ayer, Director of Publicity with the Government of Bombay, recently returned from Tokyo and submitted to Government a report on the death or present whereabouts of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of the report will be laid on the Table of the House; and

(c) if not, whether the House can have a *resume* of the contents thereof?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) to (c). On the 15th of September 1951, Mr. S. A. Ayer called on the Prime Minister and told him that he had paid a brief visit to Japan towards the end of May. The purpose of his visit had been to re-verify the story of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose's air crash near Taihoku (Formosa) on August the 18th, 1945. He also showed the Prime Minister some papers, some photographs and some documents signed by the Japanese people. At the Prime Minister's request, Mr. Ayer sent him a detailed report of his enquiries on the 26th of September. A *resume* of the report is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 21.]

**Shri Kamath:** In view of the fact that the House is deeply interested in this matter, may I request the Prime

Minister to read not the whole of the *resume* but at least Habib's version on pages 2 and 3?

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not see why the time of the question hour should be taken by such reading. The *resume* is already there and hon. Members may refer to it.

**Shri Kamath:** So that supplementary questions may be put.

**Mr. Speaker:** He has got a copy of the statement.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** May I, Sir, read the last two lines? The report is a detailed version of the enquiry. It also contains a certain version given by Japanese officers who met him (Mr. Ayer). Those are details but the final conclusion I would read from the report.

"In conclusion I would repeat that I have not the faintest doubt in my mind that the ashes that are enshrined in the Rankoji temple in Tokyo are Netaji's."

**Shri Kamath:** Did Mr. Ayer in May last visit only Tokyo or also Taihoku, Saigon and other places?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I have to speak from memory. I do not think he went to Taiwan or Formosa. I cannot say about any other places either.

**Shri Kamath:** The report with me says that at Taihoku after the...

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not see the utility of putting these questions. The report is by an officer and it is before the House and all that the hon. Prime Minister is doing is to convey the report to the House. How can he answer questions about the accuracy or otherwise of the report?

**Shri Kamath:** Is it not a fact that on several occasions in this House the Home Minister, the Late Sardar Patel and later Dr. Keskar stated that they had had no irrefutable proof of the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and if so, may I know whether this report is taken as the last word on the subject?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** This is the fullest and latest account that we have had. Whether it is the last word or some further information may come later I cannot say but it does seem now that it is a fairly convincing account.

**Shri Kamath:** Now that Government is satisfied that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is definitely no more, is there any proposal before Government to erect a suitable memorial to him preferably in front of the Red Fort?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid I must disallow the question. It is a suggestion for action. Next question.

#### AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION TRAINING SCHEMES

\*335. **Shri M. Naik:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what are the financial or other aids received or expected to be received from the Ford Foundations for Agricultural Extension Training Scheme?

(b) What are the different aspects of this scheme and how are they going to be implemented?

(c) Is the whole cost of the Scheme going to be borne by the Ford Foundations or have the Government of India to contribute towards the implementation of the Scheme?

(d) Has any work been started towards implementation of the Scheme and if so, at what places?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) The Ford Foundation has agreed to assist the Government of India and the States in establishing 15 pilot extension projects, and 5 centres for training key personnel for these projects. The financial aid expected to be received from the Foundation for this purpose at present is estimated at 1,200,000 U.S.A. dollars. The Foundation has also offered to consider the furnishing of financial assistance (1) for extension training programmes at a few higher education institutions, and

(2) to suitable persons with capacity for effective work in rural development programme for study in the United States and other countries.

(b) Under this scheme agricultural extension projects will be started in 15 States. Each such project will cover an area of approximately 100 villages. The entire programme will be designed to bring about increased agricultural production by means of better cultural practices, use of improved seed and fertilisers and by the provision of facilities for irrigation. Better animal husbandry methods will also be utilised. An attempt at increasing adult literacy, provision for better sanitation and encouragement to the rural population in the methods of cooperation will also be made. The co-operation of the various departments of the State Governments will be enlisted. The pro-

jects will be executed by the State Governments under the direction of the Central Government.

The five training centres will train agricultural extension workers provided by the various State Governments over a period of approximately 9 months. The method employed will be "learn by doing" method and full participation of the trainees in all operations in the field of agriculture, animal husbandry, education sanitation and cooperation will be attempted. A training expert and an Extension expert obtained under Point Four from U.S.A. will be attached to the Training and Extension Projects.

(c) 1. The Ford Foundation has agreed to bear

(i) The entire cost of the 5 centres for training key personnel during the first three years and has expressed willingness to consider the extension of this assistance for a further period of 2 to 4 years in the light of the experience gained.

(ii) The entire cost of the 15 'Development Projects' to be established immediately for a period of two years and to share one-third of the expenditure on them during the third year.

2. The remaining 2/3rd of the cost of 15 development projects for the 3rd year and their entire cost in the 4th and the 5th year will be met by the Government of India and the State Governments concerned on 50 : 50 basis.

(d) The first training-cum-development centre under the scheme was opened at Anand on 31st January, 1952.

Arrangements have been made for starting similar centres in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Mysore and Madhya Pradesh. Steps have also been taken to start the development Projects in PEPSU, Assam and Bihar presently.

**Shri M. Naik:** May I know whether these schemes will be worked out separately or in co-ordination with the intensive cultivation scheme of the Government of India?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The villages where this scheme will be in operation will certainly be within the intensive cultivation programme and if necessary 'Grow-more-food' grants will also be given. The whole idea is that that particular area has to be intensively developed.

**Shri Chattopadhyay:** May I know which area in West Bengal has been selected for this purpose?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** So far areas for the pilot projects have not been selected anywhere. The Government of India is in correspondence with the Governments concerned, but if I remember aright—I am speaking subject to correction—the training centre in West Bengal is likely to be in Burdwan.

**सेठ गोविन्द दास :** जिन १५ राज्यों में यह कार्य आरम्भ किया जाने वाला है वे कौन कौन हैं और वहाँ की सरकारों से इस सम्बन्ध में जिस स्थान के बाबत लिखापढ़ी हुई है उसके सम्बन्ध में कोई निर्णय अब तक हुआ है या नहीं ।

[**Seth Govind Das:** May I know which are those fifteen States where this work is going to be started and whether any decision has been reached regarding the selection of places about which there has been some correspondence with the Governments of those States?]

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I have already mentioned that the first training centre has been opened at Anand in Bombay. The other four centres are being opened, as I have pointed out, in West Bengal, Mysore, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh dividing the States into five zones for the purpose of training the workers. Then development projects to be established in Assam, Bihar and P.E.P.S.U. have already been sanctioned and steps are being taken to start them forthwith. Projects for Himachal Pradesh and Bhopal have been received and are under consideration while those of Punjab, Orissa and Madhya Bharat and Vindhya Pradesh are still awaited.

**Shri M. Naik:** May I know during what period Government is contemplating to start these development projects throughout all the States?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** One training school has been started and I think within about a month's time two or three more will be started. With regard to the others, as I have pointed out, some have been selected and the State Governments are trying their best to prepare material for ushering in the scheme. I hope all the schemes will be started within about four or five months.

**Shri M. Naik:** May I know whether the trainees from these agricultural extension schemes are to be employed by the Government or they will render private service for agricultural development?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** They are all officers of Government who have been sent on deputation for being trained. After training they will go to their respective States and carry on the work. At the same time we are making provision so that if any private persons want to be trained there facilities will be provided.

**Shri M. Naik:** Has Government any intention to train land army personnel in these schemes?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** As a matter of fact, there is an intention that persons who are going to be appointed trainers of the land army will be trained at these centres.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** May I know if any definite proportion has been fixed between the trainees coming from Government servants and private persons?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** So far the proportion fixed is only with regard to Government servants who are coming from different States, but if there are any private agencies who approach Government I am sure provision will be made for them.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** May I know if a degree in agriculture will be insisted upon so far as non-officials are concerned or will any practical agriculturists also be admitted?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Not only practical agriculturists, but the whole idea is that people who are sufficiently qualified for the purpose will be admitted.

**Shri A. C. Shukla:** How many of the agriculturists will be trained if they offer themselves for training?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** For the moment the provision made is for 40 trainees in each of the five training centres. These 40 have to be drawn from the Government servants of the States which fall within that zone. As regards the other people when their applications come, they will be provided after taking into consideration the facilities available. But the object is to welcome any private agency that is forthcoming.

**Shri Shiv Charan Lal:** Will there be one centre in each State or more than one if the State wants more centres?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The training centres are only five. Therefore the country has been divided into five zones and the States have been allocated to each zone. As regards the pilot projects the idea is to put them in such States which have not got the training centres. Then we have also got some provision for educational

institutions, so a few agricultural colleges will be made the centre for a scheme like this—that again will be in places where the other schemes are not there. So, as far as possible all the States will be included in this project.

#### MEDICAL INSTITUTE

**\*336 Shri M. Naik:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state what is the present position in respect of establishing a Medical Institute in India?

(b) What is the estimated cost involved in the Scheme, both recurring and non-recurring?

(c) Is it a fact that New Zealand is offering its aid in pursuance of the Colombo Plan towards the cost of establishing this Institute?

**The Minister of Health and Communications (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** (a) It is proposed that the foundation stone of the All-India Medical Institute should be laid in the first week of April, 1952.

(b) The estimated cost of the scheme when fully completed is Rs. 1,66,33,000/- non-recurring and Rs. 29,50,000/- recurring.

(c) Yes.

**Shri M. Naik:** May I know whether any terms and conditions have been attached in respect of the New Zealand aid?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** None whatsoever.

**Shri M. Naik:** May I know where the institute will be located?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** In Delhi.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know whether this institute will be a post-graduate research institute or an ordinary medical college for giving graduate degrees?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** The main object of the institute is to promote post-graduate studies and research.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** May I know if the study of *Ayurved* and Homoeopathy will be included in this institute?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** As far as research in *Ayurved* is concerned, Government has already made an allocation. As far as Homoeopathy is concerned, we are awaiting the decision of the All-India Medical Council. But if research is to be developed in these lines and there is room for it here there is no ban on research in both the systems being taken up here also.

#### DEVELOPMENT PLANS (JAMMU AND KASHMIR)

**\*337. Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the amount which has been granted to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir as aid for the development plans of the State; and

(b) the amount paid so far?

**The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami):** (a) A loan of Rs. 50 lakhs has been sanctioned for the current financial year.

(b) Rupees 15 lakhs.

**Shri Jnani Ram:** May I know if some of the development plans have been examined by the Government of India?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** They have been certainly reviewed by the Planning Commission.

**Shri Kamath:** Is there, sir, any proposal before Government or before the Planning Commission to integrate or at least to dovetail the development plans for Jammu and Kashmir with or into the overall Five-Year Plan for India?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I am not sure there is dovetailing, but certainly plans for development in Kashmir have also been examined by the Planning Commission.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** Am I to understand that in addition to this loan no amount is given to Kashmir as grant-in-aid?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** An additional sum of Rs. 30 lakhs has been given to Kashmir in the current year also as loan, for the purpose of meeting their budgetary deficit.

**Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** Is the hon. Minister in a position to state the total amount of money given to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir since the integration of that State?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** In 1947-48—rupees two crores; in 1948-49—rupees one crore and two lakhs; in 1949-50—rupees one crore and 50 lakhs; and in 1950-51—Rs. 35 lakhs have been loaned out of about Rs. 40 lakhs sanctioned.

**Shri Kamath:** Which, Sir, are the specific projects for which the loan has been advanced and how far have these projects progressed?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** The projects are the Sind Valley Scheme—(this is a hydro-electric project)—and the scheme for the supply of electricity to

Jammu from Joginder Nagar. The loan is paid only on the basis of work done and reported to us. On that basis, we have actually paid Rs. 15 lakhs.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** What portion of the amount given to the State is in the shape of grant-in-aid and what portion is in the shape of a loan?

**Shri Gopalaswami:** All the amounts I have mentioned have been treated as loans.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether as a result of the examination made by the Planning Commission any of the development projects submitted by the State of Jammu and Kashmir have been found to be unsound?

**Shri Gopalaswami:** Not that I know of. It is only for schemes pronounced to be sound by the Planning Commission that loans have been advanced.

**Shri Jnani Ram:** May I know if the Government of Jammu and Kashmir also require the aid of technicians from the Government of India?

**Shri Gopalaswami:** Wherever for any project the assistance of experts and technicians from India is required, it is made available.

#### MAIZE (PRODUCTION)

\*338. **Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Maize produced in India during the year 1951;

(b) the quantity used in the preparation of Starch from Maize during the above period;

(c) whether any other material is available for manufacture of Starch; and

(d) how the production compares with the world production figure?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) 16.8 lakh tons during the agricultural year 1950-51.

(b) 14,461 tons of maize were utilized in the manufacture of starch during the period April-December, 1951.

(c) Starch is also manufactured from tamarind kernel powder, tapioca roots and deteriorated cereals unfit for human consumption.

(d) Our production of maize is about 1.3 to 1.4 per cent. of world production.

**Shri Jnani Ram:** May I know if the Government have made any attempt to reduce the use of maize for manufacturing starch?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** As a matter of fact, the Government has been trying its best to get the industry to use tamarind kernel which is produced in India on a very large scale and is going waste. The Tariff Board, however, took the view that at present the tamarind kernel is not sufficiently developed to replace maize. Of course, I may mention that the Ministry of Agriculture takes a different view.

**Shri Jnani Ram:** May I know the quantity of tamarind kernels obtained from different States?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I am not ready with the figure, but it is very large, I can assure you.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** May I know what quantity of the foodgrains that are rendered unfit for human consumption is utilised for the manufacture of starch?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Some research will have to be made on that question.

**Shri Kamath:** Has any attempt or experiment been made to convert the starch manufactured from such grains unfit for human consumption into sugar?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** No attempt has been made so far.

#### FOOD SCARCITY

\*339. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what parts of India are at present famine-stricken or under scarcity conditions and what measures, if any, have been taken by the Government of India to afford relief to the affected parts?

(b) Have the Government of India shared any part of the financial liability for such relief measures with the State Governments and if so, to what extent?

(c) What assistance has been given to the famine-stricken areas from the Charitable Fund at the disposal of the Prime Minister and for what purposes?

(d) What degree of control or supervision is exercised by the Government of India over the famine test or relief works in existence in the various famine-stricken areas?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) and (b). A statement furnishing the information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 22]

(c) A statement indicating the information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 23].

(d) Control over works in part C States is exercised through the Chief Commissioners who submit periodical reports to Government regarding works in operation, number of labourers employed, expenditure on each work etc. Government of India is also keeping general watch on the situation in Part A and B States. Periodical reports on the conditions prevailing in these States and the measures taken by them to relieve distress are also being received regularly. In Rajasthan the Government of India have also appointed their representative on the Co-ordination Committee dealing with Relief Work.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** May I know which is the most affected province according to the information of the Government of India?

**Mr. Speaker:** Does he want to know which is the worst affected area from among the Part C States?

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** No, Sir. Throughout India.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** It is difficult to measure the extent of the scarcity but the general impression is that some parts of Madras are the worst affected.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Is it a fact that Rajasthan and Ajmer are the worst affected?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I have mentioned both these States here, but I have not been able to find the exact yardstick with which to measure the extent of the scarcity.

**Shri A. Joseph:** Has any request been received from the Madras Government asking for Rs. 3 crores in order to do relief work in the Rayalaseema districts of Madras State?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** A request has been received from the Government of Madras only two days ago for a loan of about Rs. 2 crores and a grant of about Rs. 1 crore for relief measures, and it is being examined.

**Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva:** May I know whether Government is aware of the near-famine conditions in Rayalaseema and in particular in Cuddapah district?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I have already mentioned that so far as my information goes, some districts in Madras are very badly affected and that includes the Rayalaseema districts referred to by my hon. friend.

**Shri V. Gangaraju:** Has any assistance been given to the Madras State

from the Prime Minister's Charitable Fund?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Yes, from the Prime Minister's Fund a sum of Rs. 50,000 was given for famine relief.

**Shri A. Joseph:** Is there any supervision in the famine affected areas over the merchants who are distributing grains to the poor people and what is the number of those who take rations from these relief shanties?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The Madras Government is doing the inspection work and the District Collectors are charged with the responsibility of supervising these shops.

**Shri V. Gangaraju:** May I know when this sum of Rs. 50,000 was given from the Prime Minister's Fund to the Madras State?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I have got the dates: from 1-5-51 to 22-2-52. I forgot to mention that from the Food Relief Fund also Madras was given Rs. 2 lakhs and 25 thousand.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** Could the hon. Minister state the number of workers working in these relief works in the various States, as this would be a proper basis for comparison?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I have not got the figures here.

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

#### CHEAP FOODGRAINS SHOPS IN AJMER

\*340. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the rate at which foodgrains are being sold at the rationed shops in the city of Ajmer and the rate at which foodgrains are sold at rationed shops in the statutory rationed area excluding the city of Ajmer and the reason for the difference in the rates, if any?

(b) What is the market rate of the various kinds of foodgrains in the interior of the rural area of the State of Ajmer?

(c) Have any cheap foodgrains shops been opened in the interior of the rural area to give relief to the rural population, if so, at what rate foodgrains are being sold at these shops and if not, why not?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) and (b). A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure

No. 24.] Up to 29-2-1952, Ajmer city was being supplied imported foodgrains at subsidised rates and the issue rates from Government shops were, therefore, less in Ajmer City than in the other areas of Ajmer State. But, from 1st March, 1952, the scheme of subsidising selected areas has been discontinued and there will be uniform selling rates throughout Ajmer State.

(c) Yes, Sir. 178 Fair Price Shops have been opened in the scarcity affected rural areas for issuing foodgrains to the population. The wholesale issue rates from these shops till 29-2-1952 were:

Wheat	Rs. 19 12 10 per maund.
Milo	Rs. 13 6 10 per maund.
Jowar	Rs. 11 14 0 per maund.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** May I know whether these rates are subsidised rates or market rates?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** These concern the rural areas and therefore could not be subsidised rates.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** May I know whether it was the policy of Government last year to supply subsidised grains in the famine-stricken areas of Bihar and Madras and if so why is this differential treatment meted out to Ajmer alone?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** As I told the House on an earlier occasion last year there was a scheme of subsidy applicable to the industrial and extremely deficit areas. Naturally, therefore, the issue price of food-grains was lower than in the rural areas. That has been given up now.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** My question is whether it is a fact that last year famine-stricken areas in Bihar and Madras were supplied subsidised grains and if so what is the reason for this differential treatment to the famine-stricken rural areas of Ajmer?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** It is the local Governments of the States which were subsidising grain in the rural areas of Madras and Bihar which were very hard hit.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Is it a fact that most people in the rural areas of Ajmer cannot purchase grain at these high rates and if so has the Government any scheme of subsidising these grains?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I do not think it is correct to say that most people in rural areas in India are not able to pay for the grain. Government has no proposal to subsidise all these areas particularly now when subsidies have been abolished.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** I am sorry my hon. friend refers to India instead of Ajmer. My question was whether the people of famine-stricken areas in Ajmer are not in a financial position at present to purchase grains at these high rates and if so has the Government any intention to start cheap grain shops to help them.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** Relief works are being opened for the purpose of helping those who are not able to buy foodgrains.

#### RELIEF CAMP KOTRA

\*341. **Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** (a) will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the labourers in the various famine test and relief works in the State of Ajmer are not regularly paid their wages?

(b) Is it a fact that the demand of the labourers for the payment of the arrears of wages in the Relief Camp Kotra in Jwaja circle led to a firing incident by the Police on the labourers?

(c) Has any investigation been made into the incident and if so, with what result?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) No.

(b) and (c) An enquiry is being made by the District Magistrate and after his report is received Government will be in a position to form conclusions on the issue raised in these two parts and take such further action as may be necessary.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** The answer given to part (a) of the question is in the negative. Am I to understand that there never was any irregularity in payments?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** As a matter of fact there was a complaint that they were not regularly paid and that there was four weeks' delay, but that has now been brought under control. For some weeks now they are being regularly paid.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** May I know whether the irregular payment was responsible for the recent firing incident?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The firing took place on the 31st December 1951. At one time there was delay, I admit; on account of certain difficulties payments were late by as much as four weeks. Now the whole thing has been put on a proper footing and there is only a time-lag of about a week.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** When did the investigation into firing incident commence and when is it likely to be completed?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The investigation is already going on. The charged officer has already been placed under suspension, pending enquiry into his conduct.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Is the complaint of irregular payment of famine work labourers true of Punjab also and workers in Hissar district have not been paid for the last one and a half months. This matter has been brought to the notice of Government in this House, but has not been attended to.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I have no knowledge of it. It will fall really within the jurisdiction of the Punjab Government.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Punjab is under the President's rule yet.

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** I am sorry.

#### LOT AGAINST SAURASHTRA GOVERNMENT

\*342. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** (a) Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a P.T.I. Note published in the morning papers of Sunday, the 17th February, 1952 under the caption "Alleged Plot against Saurashtra Government"?

(b) If so, are the facts mentioned therein substantially correct?

(c) If so, what directions, if any, have been issued and what assistance, if any, is being given to the State Government to restore normal conditions in the State of Saurashtra?

**The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami):**  
(a) Yes.

(b) It is a fact that certain arrests have been made.

(c) The Government of India have assisted the Saurashtra Government by obtaining the services of some Police officers and lending two companies of the Central Reserve Police. The Government of Saurashtra have also been in consultation with the Government of India from time to time. No necessity for any directions has arisen.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** May I know how many persons are involved in this plot and how many have been

arrested so far? What steps are being taken to arrest and bring to book the remainder?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I cannot say how many persons are involved in this plot until the investigation is completed. I believe something like 60 to 70 persons have been arrested.

**Shri Raj Kanwar:** Are there any important persons also involved in this plot?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** Certain important persons are alleged to be involved in this plot.

**Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** Is the hon. Minister in a position to assure the House that the main culprits will be severely dealt with however high their political position may be?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** Culprits who are proved to be culprits will be dealt with according to law irrespective of their position in life.

**Shri Amolakh Chand:** Have any princes or princesses also been arrested in this connection? Has the attention of the hon. Minister been drawn to a cartoon in "Shankar's Weekly" which...

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, Order. He need not go into that. What information does he want now?

**Shri Amolakh Chand:** May I know the number of princes or princesses who have been arrested in this connection and whether they have been released on bail?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** I believe about half a dozen princes and relations of princes have been detained under the Preventive Detention Act. I do not think that any has been released on bail; possibly they have started habeas corpus proceedings.

**Shri Kamath:** Is it a fact, Sir, that in view of these recent happenings, Government is reconsidering the question of privileges enjoyed by ex-rulers, particularly those relating to privy purse and the possession of arms?

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

#### BRITISH HOMŒOPATHIC FACULTY, LONDON

\*343. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Council and State Faculty of Homœopathic Medicine, West Bengal, have invited the British Homœopathic Faculty, London, to hold an examination at Calcutta;

(b) if so, when the examination will be held;

(c) whether any other States in India have invited the British Homoeo Faculty; and

(d) whether the Government of India were consulted before inviting the Faculty to hold examination in India?

**The Minister of Health and Communications (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):**

(a) From the information I have been able to elicit, yes.

(b) I believe in October, 1952.

(c) and (d). No.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, whether the Diploma of the British Homoeopathic Faculty is recognised by the British Medical Council?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** I do not know whether it is recognised by the British Medical Council. But I do know that the faculty of Homoeopathy in London is a statutory body.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, whether Government is aware that the standard of the British faculty is lower than that of West Bengal Faculty.

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** I am not aware of that.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** Since the homoeopathy question is being considered by the Central Government, may I know whether Government will interfere or is interfering in other matters, as regards the establishment of schools, colleges, etc. in States?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** Government is not interfering with any private institutions but, as I have said more than once on the floor of this House, the Government of India's policy on the question of homoeopathy can be finalised only after the Indian Medical Council's recommendations have been received.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether the hon. Minister has received any representation to the effect that instead of holding the British Homoeopathic Faculty examination once only, some professors from that Faculty should be invited to deliver lectures in India?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** I have not received any such request.

**CLASH BETWEEN STUDENTS AND POLICE  
AT IMPHAL**

\*344. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any clash between the students and other demonstrators on the one hand and the police and military on the other hand at Imphal (Manipur) on the 12th and 13th February, 1952;

(b) if so, the reasons for the demonstration and the circumstances which led to the clash;

(c) the casualties in the incident; and

(d) the present situation there?

**The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami):** (a) to (d). I shall make a brief statement on this incident. The Principal of the Dhanmanjuri College, Imphal, expelled for 10 days a student as a disciplinary measure. On this, a section of the students absented themselves from the college, and persuaded, and in some instances intimidated, others to do likewise. The Principal had to expel four of the ringleaders, rusticate three others and fine a few. The students again absented themselves and started picketing the college, preventing the staff from entering it, and, in spite of warnings, holding meetings and processions where they were joined by others and behaved in a disorderly fashion. Action had therefore to be taken against them and some of them had to be arrested and put in jail. During the dispersal of the unruly crowd, two students and one woman were injured and were admitted to the hospital. Seven others were slightly injured and were, after treatment at the hospital, discharged.

The arrested students have since been released on an undertaking given by them that they would call off the strike and join the college. The strike has been called off; the students are attending the college; and the situation is normal.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know the reason for the Principal first expelling one student for ten days?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** He expelled in the first instance one student who had been grossly impertinent.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know if after the lathi charge and the arrest of the students there was any general strike of students all over the State?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** The information I have does not corroborate that story.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** May I know whether...

**Mr. Speaker:** I think it is too small a question to go into further.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I have just one question to put, Sir. In view of the fact that the hon. Minister stated some time ago that the law and order position in that State is not what it ought to have been, may I know if Government have taken any step to prevent disruptive elements playing with the students and impressionable young men?

**Shri Gopalaswami:** I am afraid the hon. Member has attributed to me a statement which I do not remember having made in this House.

**Shri A. C. Guha:** I think he made it in connection with Manipur and Tripura.

**Shri R. Velayudhan rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** I am calling the next question.

#### *Juar* (SUPPLY AS RATION)

\*345. **Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state if *Juar* is the staple food of the inhabitants of Gurgaon?

(b) Is it a fact that at present *Juar* is supplied in Gurgaon District in the daily ration of food?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) and (b). *Juar* is to some extent consumed by the inhabitants of Gurgaon district. Owing to the partial failure of the South West Monsoon the stocks of coarsegrains in Punjab were not satisfactory and the Punjab Government asked Government of India for supply of some imported milo and they have been given about 2800 tons. 100 tons out of this quantity which is similar to indigenous *juar* was allocated by the Punjab Government to Gurgaon. It is issued to the consumers in the place of other coarsegrains at the scale of 2 chhatacks per adult per day in the areas where scarcity conditions prevail.

#### NEW PROJECTS ON ASSAM RAILWAY

\*346. **Shri J. N. Hazarika:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what are the new projects on the Assam Railway undertaken to be completed in the year ending the 31st January, 1952?

(b) Have the Railway Station platforms of the Assam Railway been improved during the year 1951-52?

(c) How many Stations thereof have been modernized?

**The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami):** (a) No new line project was undertaken on the Assam Railway during this period.

(b) The reply is in the affirmative.

(c) The work of modernization is in hand at four stations on the railway.

#### FOOD GRAINS FOR ASSAM

\*347. **Shri J. N. Hazarika:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total estimated requirement of food grains for the State of Assam for the year 1952-53?

(b) What is the Centre's allotment to the State for the year 1952-53?

(c) How much of the total requirement will be met internally by the State through local procurement?

(d) What is the total quantity of rice promised by the Centre for the State for the year 1952-53?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) The Basic Plan for foodgrains is worked on the basis of the Calendar Year. The Assam Government's estimate of their requirements for 1952 is 250,000 tons.

(b) The import quota for Assam for 1952 has been fixed at 147,000 tons at the Conference of Food Ministers held in New Delhi on the 19th and 20th February, 1952.

(c) 70,000 tons.

(d) This has not yet been decided. 6,000 tons of rice has however been allotted so far, during the present year.

**Shri M. Naik:** May I ask whether in view of the scarcity conditions in different States any extra allotment is also being fixed?

**Shri K. M. Munshi:** The scarcity conditions are taken into account in making the allotments made at present.

**Shri M. Naik:** I want to know whether any extra allotments are also being made in view of the scarcity conditions.

**Mr. Speaker:** That is what he says, that all these things are taken into consideration and they are included in the allotments he has mentioned.

#### SILIGURI-KALIMPONG RAILWAY LINE

\*348. **Shri Barman:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state to whom the Railway line from Siliguri to Kalimpong belongs?

(b) Is it a fact that during the earthquake in 1949, the line was badly damaged and it is not now working?

(c) Is it proposed to restore the line?

**The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami):** (a) There was a narrow gauge railway connection between Siliguri and Giellekholā only. This belonged to the Tista Valley Railway Extension Company, until it was acquired by the Government of India with effect from 20-10-1948.

(b) The portion of the Railway between Sevoke and Giellekholā was seriously damaged by the heavy floods in the Tista river in the early part of June 1950 and has been abandoned, but the portion between Siliguri and Sevoke has been converted to metre gauge and forms part of the Assam Rail Link route.

(c) The reply is in the negative.

**Shri Barman:** In view of the fact that Kalimpong is an important hill station and all development programmes have been stopped, does the hon. Minister think it possible in the near future to take up the construction of that link on that line?

**Shri Gopaldaswami:** We have already investigated two alternative schemes for giving that connection, but they run through very difficult country (mountainous areas), and the cost is somewhat prohibitive. But if in the future the financial position enables us to undertake works of this magnitude we shall certainly consider the matter.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Question-hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### PROCUREMENT PRICES OF PADDY IN MADRAS

**\*329. Shri V. Gangaraju:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madras have made any representation to the Government of India for further increase in the procurement price of paddy in the State after the recent increase of annas eight per maund; and

(b) if so, whether the increase would be allowed?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) and (b). The procurement price of paddy in Madras has since been raised further by Re. 1/- per maund.

### AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF AGENCY TRACTS

**\*330. Shri V. Gangaraju:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have any plans for agricultural development of the Agency Tracts of West and East Godavary districts, Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam districts in the Madras State on the lines of Malva development plans; and

(b) if not, why not?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi):** (a) No.

(b) It is only when a region capable of agricultural development extends over the territory of two or more States that the Government of India usually undertake the initiative in preparing a developmental plan. Since the areas referred to by the hon. Member lie entirely in the State of Madras, it is for the State Government to formulate a developmental plan for them.

### AYURVEDIC TEACHING INSTITUTIONS

**\*349. Dr. V. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Health Ministers' Conference held at Delhi on or about 31st August, 1950 resolved in the matter of Education in Ayurvedic teaching institutions, to upgrade at least one institution in each State?

(b) What are the States where such colleges have been opened or upgraded?

(c) What is the status given to the students after they finish their courses?

(d) What are the directives given to State Governments in this respect and do Government propose to place a copy thereof on the Table of the House?

**The Minister of Health and Communications (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** (a) The recommendation of the conference was that at least one college offering instruction on the lines indicated by the Conference should be started in each State under the auspices of Government or with subsidy from Government.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(d) No directive has been issued by the Government of India in this matter. Copies of the resolutions passed by the Health Ministers' Conference were sent to the State Governments.

## BRANCH LINES

\*350. **Shri V. B. Valdia:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state how many branch lines are there, where no light is provided in the coaches and the trains have to travel for several miles in darkness?

(b) Is it a fact that on several branch lines, people have to travel in open wagons and even on carriage roofs even on ordinary days, due to want of passenger coaches?

**The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami):**  
(a) None.

(b) There have been cases of passengers on special occasions resorting to travelling in open wagons of mixed trains and roofs of carriages.

## ALLAHABAD SCHOOL OF GROUND ENGINEERING

\*351. **Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the date on which the Allahabad School of Ground Engineering was started?

(b) What was the date on which the first batch of students was admitted and the number of students so admitted?

(c) What is the strength of the teaching staff?

(d) Is it a fact that there has not been adequate teaching staff at any time since the starting of the school?

(e) Is it a fact that all the students came to Delhi to represent their case to Government?

(f) Do Government propose to make a comprehensive statement on the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) 2nd January, 1951.

(b) The first batch consisted of 21 trainees, of whom 14 trainees joined on the 2nd January 1951, and the remaining 7 by March 1951.

(c) I place on the Table a statement showing the position. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 25].

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, I believe all or most of them.

(f) The matter hardly merits the making of a statement, but if the hon. Member desires information, I shall have no objection to supplying it.

## PUMPING STATION AT KILOKRI

\*352. **Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the

bad smell as a result of the inadequate working of sewage pumps at Kilokri Pumping Station in New Delhi?

(b) How long has this bad smell been there?

(c) What are the causes of the same?

(d) What action has been taken or is proposed to be taken in the matter?

**The Minister of Health and Communications (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):**

(a) Yes. Bad odours do prevail in certain areas when sewage water overflows at peak flow hours.

(b) About six months.

(c) Inadequate capacity of the pumping plant and equipment and of the outfall sewers to cope with the excessive flow of sewage.

(d) New machinery is being erected and parts of the old machinery will soon be replaced. A relief outfall sewer is also proposed to be laid.

## SEWAGE WATER

\*353. **Dr. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that sewage water flows regularly in considerable quantity in the river Jumna at Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that this has caused the destruction of fish on a large scale in the river Jumna?

(c) Is it a fact that this quantity of fish that died amounted to four months supply to Delhi?

(d) What action do Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Minister of Health and Communications (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):**

(a) No. Sewage Water overflows in the river Jumna at a few places at Delhi at peak flow hours only.

(b) No. Fish in only one pond near Okhla Weir, where the sewage overflow terminates, were destroyed in December last.

(c) No. It is understood that the quantity of fish destroyed was not even equal to Delhi's daily fish consumption.

(d) With a view to checking overflow of sewage, additional machinery is being erected, parts of old machinery will soon be replaced and a relief outfall sewer is proposed to be laid.

## CLASS II OFFICERS IN RAILWAYS

\*354. **Shri Massey:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing:

- (i) the total number of class II officers on class I Railways as on the 1st April, 1951 giving separately the number confirmed and the number officiating; and
- (ii) the total number of posts sanctioned on the cadre of class II officers on class I Railways as on the 1st April, 1951?
- (b) What is the longest period for which officers have been officiating in each cadre without being confirmed?
- (c) Is there any difference in the work or responsibility of class II officers as compared with class I officers?
- (d) Is there any difference in the scale of pay?

**The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami):**

(a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Class II Officers are all meant for filling Assistant Officers' posts whereas Class I Officers are meant for filling all posts from the Assistant Officers' posts up to the highest administrative posts. Class II Officers who fill Assistant Officers' post do the same work and have the same responsibility as Class I Officers who fill such posts.

(d) Yes.

#### OFFICERS IN RAILWAYS

\*355. **Shri Massey:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the total number of class I officers in each of the following cadres as on the 1st April, 1951, giving the sanctioned and actual figures in each case:

- (i) Junior Scale Officers,
- (ii) Senior Scale Officers,
- (iii) Junior Administrative Officers, and
- (iv) Senior Administrative Officers;

(b) the number of officers working against permanent vacancies in each cadre who have been confirmed and the number still temporary; and

(c) the longest period for which officers have been and are officiating in each cadre without being confirmed?

**The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami):** The information is being collected

from Railways and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### DELHI NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE TOWN EXPANSION SCHEME

\*356. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme called "the Delhi Notified Area Committee Town Expansion Scheme" under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, how many plans have been prepared, so far;

(c) the boundaries of the respective plans;

(d) the estimated cost of the respective plans;

(e) when this plan was taken up by Government;

(f) the present position of the Scheme and the plans;

(g) how much time will it take for this Scheme to materialise; and

(h) whether Government have received any representation from Co-operative Societies for expeditious execution of the plans?

**The Minister of Health and Communications (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):**

(a) No.

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

#### RAILWAY OFFICERS (PREMATURE RETIREMENT)

46. **Shri Massey:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the number of Class I and Class II officers on Class I Railways, who applied for premature retirement and who were permitted to retire in each year from 1945 to 1951, giving separate figures for Indians and non-Indians?

(b) Has there been any case during the above period where full benefits including gratuity were given to officers of Indian domicile who were permitted premature retirement?

**The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopaldaswami):** The information is being collected from Railways and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### GROW MORE FOOD SCHEMES IN MADRAS

47. **Shri V. Gangaraju:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of food deficit of Madras State as estimated by the Madras Government on the 1st January, 1949;

(b) the total number of "Grow More Food" Schemes sponsored by the Madras Government during the years 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(c) the additional production under the above Schemes;

(d) the estimated additional production expected under the above Schemes; and

(e) the total money spent for achieving the above production by the Government of India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) 11.49 lakh tons.

(b) to (e). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

### STATEMENT

Year	No. of GMF sponsored by Madras Govt.	Addl. production of food under the schemes.	Estimated addl. production of food under the schemes.	Total money spent by Government of India.
1	2	3	4	5
		(Lakh tons)	(Lakh tons)	(Lakh Rs.)
1949-50	22	0.99	1.82	132.78
1950-51	27	1.83	2.69	145.94
1951-52	27	0.52	6.22	66.37
			(up to Dec. 1951)	(sanctioned up to the end of Feb. 1952)

#### Explanatory Note :

- Column (2) — No. of schemes forwarded by the State Government.  
 .. (3) — Actual additional production as verified by the State's revenue officials.  
 .. (4) — Estimated additional production as envisaged at the time the schemes were formulated.  
 .. (5) — Amount actually spent in respect of 1949-50 and 1950-51; amount sanctioned in respect of 1951-52.



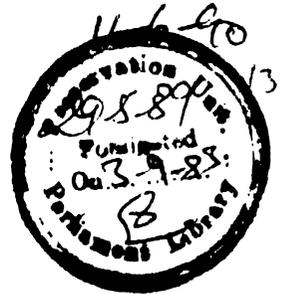
# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

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VOLUME II, 1952



(1st March, 1952 to 5th March, 1952)

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Fifth Session  
of the  
PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1952

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**CORRIGENDA**

to

the Parliamentary Debates (Part II—Other than Questions and Answers), Fifth Session, 1952

In Volume II,—

1. No. 1, dated the 1st March, 1952,—
    - (i) Col. 1662 *for* existing line 40 *read* "11 A.M."
  2. No. 2, dated the 3rd March, 1952,—
    - (i) Col. 1773, line 23 *delete* "in the".
    - (ii) Col. 1851, line 17 *from* bottom *for* "Rs. 38" *read* "Rs. 88".
  3. No. 3, dated the 4th March, 1952,—
    - (i) Col. 1890, line 18 *from* bottom *for* "where" *read* "when".
    - (ii) Col. 1907, *after* line 49 *insert* "immediately a thing is taken up the".
    - (iii) Col. 1936, *delete* existing last line.
    - (iv) Col. 1975, *between* lines 12 and 13 *from* bottom *insert* "Rs. 8,85,96,000 be granted to the".
  4. No. 4, dated the 5th March, 1952,—
    - (i) Col. 2002, line 12 *delete* the words "less than" *occurring* twice in the line.
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**THE**  
**PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**  
**(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)**  
**OFFICIAL REPORT**

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1993

1994

**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA**  
**Wednesday, 5th March, 1952.**

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*The House met at Half Past Nine of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

(See Part I)

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10-30 A.M.

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT**

INFILTRATION OF PAKISTANI AND 'AZAD KASHMIR' ELEMENTS INTO KASHMIR IN INDIAN TERRITORY

**Mr. Speaker:** I have received notices of two adjournment motions one from the hon. Member, Mr. Velayudhan. I do not think that I need read it out to the House or take any serious notice. It is only a repetition substantially of what he uttered yesterday.....

**Shri R. Velayudhan** (Travancore-Cochin): Let the House know it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Not at all. I am not bound to read out any frivolous motions of that type. The second is from the hon. Mr. Kamath regarding the failure of Government to prevent large scale infiltration of Pakistani and so called 'Azad Kashmir' elements into Kashmir in Indian territory.

I am sure that this infiltration is not a matter of yesterday, which has certainly grown up and I do not see what the matter of urgency is there in this. If the hon. Member wishes to speak about it, he had ample opportunities to do so and perhaps, on the Finance Bill also he could make his points. Anyway the matter is not definite, nor does it raise an important matter. It is much less urgent in the sense in which urgency is understood in motions of this kind. Therefore, I do not give my consent to this.

8 PSD

**Shri R. Velayudhan:** If it is a frivolous motion, let the House know it.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is the privilege of the Chair to decide whether a motion is frivolous or not. So long at least as the rules are there, I do not propose to part, with the right of the Chair in favour of the House, with all respect to the House, of course.

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**RESIGNATION OF MEMBER**

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to inform hon. Members that Shri G. Ramachar has resigned his seat in Parliament with effect from the 22nd February, 1952.

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**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE**

**Mr. Speaker:** Now the next item notified was the Address by the Chair to the Members of Parliament as this is the last day of the session; but at the request of the hon. Prime Minister I am taking it up at about 12.30. I do know what time the hon. Finance Minister will require by way of reply to the Finance Bill. Of course, he cannot say what time he will take unless he knows what the criticism is going to be.....

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** That is my difficulty.

**Mr. Speaker:** Supposing I call upon him to reply by 12.15 or so?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** That will be quite all right.

**Mr. Speaker:** I may require ten or twelve minutes and the hon. Prime Minister may require some time. I shall see how the debate goes on. So then, the debate will close on the Finance Bill at 12 o'clock or at the most at 12.10 and then I shall call upon the hon. Finance Minister to

[Mr. Speaker]

reply and then; of course, the statement which I have to make and the Prime Minister, if he wants to say anything.

**Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh):** In view of the fact that this afternoon we have only one Bill or rather half a Bill, the discussion on the Finance Bill may be resumed in the afternoon and the Minister may reply in the afternoon.....

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. It is a matter of adjustment of time according to the convenience of the Members of the House. I am afraid the position of the other Bill will not be such a smooth matter as the hon. Member assumes. But if the House is agreeable and limits the time absolutely and if we use guillotine in a legislative matter, we may consider in that way as to whether the time should be extended. All that I am anxious is that the session comes to an end at 5 o'clock.

**Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh):** We have done so previously. This is the last day of the Parliament which is fast dying and it is the last day of the debate. I think the utmost time may be given.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have no objection but from what little I saw about the other Bill to which the hon. Member is referring, I think the matter was sufficiently important and controversial; and so far as the Finance Bill is concerned, of course, it is an important Bill and hon. Members are entitled to make any sort of grievances on any subject under Administration. It has a wide scope, but as I said on the previous occasion, after having debated all these grievances for the last four years continuously at each time on the Finance Bill, I do not see any useful purpose will be served by repeating the same things over again, just when the House knows that the whole thing is going to be placed before the new Parliament after about three or four months. In the meanwhile, there is the Vote on Account which has already been passed and the Finance Bill provides nothing new. It only continues the *status quo*. So the practical effect to my mind, if I am not misunderstood as showing any disrespect to hon. Members who want to speak on it, is that the only purpose that will be served will be to satisfy the urge of a few Members to speak at length.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** There are only a few who are anxious to speak.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then they must speak within the limits.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** They have always observed.....

**Mr. Speaker:** I am not talking with reference to individual Members. The hon. Member may be an exception but that is a different matter. There is another course open also. Shall we fix a time limit on these speeches?

**Dr. Deshmukh:** Very often the time limit is fixed and sometimes.....

**Mr. Speaker:** If there is a time limit, I think the remarks will be more pertinent and more relevant (*Interruption*). I have got the power, but I do not propose to exercise that power. If hon. Members want to speak, they may. If they want that a larger number of Members should be given an opportunity to speak, then, of course, there are two alternatives and as I said I cannot give a guarantee that the next Bill will be put through. That must be given time and perhaps to my mind, it deserves more time than the Finance Bill.

**Shri M. Naik (Orissa):** You yourself said that the other Bill is of a controversial nature. What is the harm in putting it off till the next session of the new Parliament?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Government have already decided it. It is controversial in the sense that there are many points in the Bill which in principle are not controversial but in details opinions differ and in that sense it is controversial. The principle of the Bill is there. The House has accepted that principle years back.

**Shri Kamath:** As a fair compromise, may I suggest that the Finance Minister may reply to the discussion on the Finance Bill at three o'clock? We can have the whole morning for our discussion.

**Mr. Speaker:** If that is acceptable to the House then the discussion may come to an end at 12.30, the remaining time being reserved, and then, the hon. Finance Minister may reply in the afternoon. Of course, I am sure he will be as short as possible.

I was thinking of fixing a time limit for the Finance Bill only, not the other Bill.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Punjab):** The other Bill shall require not less than two hours.

**Mr. Speaker:** The time limit for the Finance Bill will be about ten minutes for each speech.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

### ESTIMATES COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON THE CENTRAL WATER AND POWER COMMISSION ETC.

**Shri M. A. Ayyangar (Madras):** I beg to lay on the Table the Fifth Report of the Estimates Committee on the Central Water and Power Commission and the Multi-Purposes River Valley Schemes. [Placed in Library. See No. IV O. 1(77).] Please permit me to say a few words on this occasion. We express our thanks—thanks on behalf of the Committee as to your good self for having guided us in our deliberations from time to time and for being always available to us whenever we had any difficulty. For your kind patronage the Committee is grateful and to the best of our ability we have been able to send our four reports and this is the fifth report. Also two Committees have sat during this period when this Parliament was working. The second Committee also contained almost the same members who sat in the first Committee with some exceptions, which added to the importance of the Committee. I also wish to take this opportunity of thanking all the Members—the outgoing Members as also the Members who belong to this Committee—for the enormous energy and the ability which they brought to bear on the deliberations and the great assistance they gave in the scrutiny of the various aspects that came up for discussion. I would also like to express our thanks to the Secretary of this House, who did a lot of work, and the other officers who assisted him in gathering the details and putting the reports into shape.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not express our grateful thanks to the Finance Ministry, and particularly, to an erstwhile Member of the Estimates Committee, the hon. Mr. Tyagi, for the kindness with which he appointed, with the able assistance of his chief, a special Joint Secretary to review from time to time how many of these recommendations have been implemented. With their guidance and co-operation, we have also established a convention that wherever they are not able to implement any of the recommendations of the Committee, they do not immediately brush aside those recommendations, but they give intimation to the Committee and after

discussion with the Chairman of the Committee, by agreement, they either give up the recommendations or implement them with certain modifications. I hope that the same degree of accommodation and co-operation will continue to exist between the Ministries and the Committee that may come into existence next time, and I hope that the Committee will have a long and useful career in the years to come. The Committee, I think, is the watch-dog of the expenditure of Parliament.

I thank you, Sir, for the opportunity you gave me to express our grateful thanks to all the persons who have taken an important part in the deliberations of the Committee and also in coming to the various conclusions and placing them before the House.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION (PART I) FOR THE YEAR 1950-51.

**The Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri Sri Prakasa):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Part I of the Annual Report of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 1950-51, under subsection (5) of section 45 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948. [Placed in Library. See No. IV M. 4(8).]

Sir, perhaps you will permit me to express my regret at the great delay that has taken place in presenting this report. According to the law in this behalf, this report should have been in the hands of the House in October last. The report is ready only now, many months later. I have also to apologise to the House for its incomplete nature. According to the Act, the annual accounts and the audit report should also be placed along with the report. That is not yet ready. So, I am presenting only Part I of the annual report. Part II will be placed as soon as it is ready and will contain the annual accounts and the audit report.

Sir, as this is going to be my last act in this House, perhaps you will permit me to offer my grateful thanks to you, Sir, and to all sections of the House for the great courtesy I have received. When I came to this Ministry, I was a novice and it took me some time to understand the working of the Ministry. I am sorry that I should be leaving it at this stage. You will remember, Sir, that the list of questions used to contain a large number of questions about the Damodar Valley Corporation and other projects,

[Shri Sri Prakasa]

when I came to this Ministry. In fact, the various projects were the subject of controversy and criticism. I am very happy, Sir, and I am sure you will also be happy, that the number of questions has dwindled considerably and no Member pressed me to the breaking point in supplementaries. I have every reason to be grateful to every Member of the House for all the kindness I have received from them. Though I am going, I know that I am carrying the good wishes of the House. I should like to assure you, Sir, and the House that I shall always remember with gratitude all the kindness I have received here from you and from the Members of the House. I should also like to say that my interest in the working of the House will continue because I have been connected with it for 15 years now, off and on. The various Ministries with which I have been connected here will also receive my constant attention. If I can be of any service to the House or to the Ministries concerned from anywhere I might be, I can only say that I shall always be at your disposal.

**Mr. Speaker:** He can make use of some other opportunity: not this one. The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of a part of the financial year 1952-53, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 to 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

The Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

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

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

#### FINANCE BILL

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** I beg to move:

#### APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL.

**The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh):** I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of a part of the financial year 1952-53, be taken into consideration."

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the service of a part of the financial year 1952-53, be taken into consideration."

**Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh)**

rose—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. Member knows that no debates are permitted. There is no debate on an Appropriation Bill, not by rules, but by convention of the House firmly established. The Grants have already been passed, and as I explained on the last occasion all that is done now is to provide a machinery only to keep that check alive. Nothing further on merit has to be done.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** Even then, it is a Bill and it should be open to discussion.

"That the Bill to continue for the financial year 1952-53 the existing rates of income-tax and super-tax and additional duties of customs and excise, and to provide for the discontinuance of the duty on salt for the said year, be taken into consideration."

I have nothing to add to the observations contained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

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

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That the Bill to continue for the financial year 1952-53 the existing rates of income-tax and super-tax and additional duties of customs and excise, and to provide for the discontinuance of the duty on salt for the said year, be taken into consideration."

**Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh):** There is no time to make any detailed observations either on the policy of the Government so far as income-tax, super-tax, and their rates, and administration are concerned; nor is it possible even to refer to the innumerable important things that happen from day to day in this vast country. I wish that a little more

time than it was possible to spare was available so that some of the more important matters may at least be cursorily mentioned.

I have one very important matter to speak upon. Since there is very limited time at my disposal, I had better refer to it at once rather than dwell on any other point. That question is the present condition of the cotton growers of India. I had tried to bring this matter before the House by an adjournment motion. The hon. Speaker ruled that I would be able to do it on some financial motion that may be placed before the House. I therefore hope that the House will bear with me when I refer to the difficulties that these cotton growers are going through at the present moment.

The body of people who grow cotton in the whole of India is very large. It consists of a large proportion of the vast agricultural population in the country. The Government has been regulating the prices of cotton. Unfortunately, Government regulation of prices so far as agricultural products are concerned has always benefited everybody else except the agriculturists. Whether it be oilseeds, whether it be jute or any other commodity, our experience has been,—I do not know how it happens, but it has been happening—that at the time when the agriculturists have the produce, the rates are the lowest, and as soon as the produce leaves their hands, the rates increase and the profits go to somebody else. In the marketing of cotton also many things happen. This year it has really reached a breaking point. Last year there was scarcity of cotton. I do not know if there was any radical change in the policy of Government, but so far as this year and also last year are concerned in any case, there was a greater demand for Indian cotton last year and the Government was panicky lest the ceiling prices should be pierced and therefore they proposed a certain scheme by which they offered to purchase cotton at a certain rate, almost ruthlessly victimising certain areas for the sake of the rest of India especially the Mill-owners. Unfortunately the victims came from the parts from which I come and as a result of that the agriculturists had suffered very great losses. The people, however, consoled themselves with the hope that they would be getting cheaper cloth.

**Shri A. C. Shukla (Madhya Pradesh):** Will the hon. Member be able to tell us how much loss the people suffered?

**Dr. Deshmukh:** They suffered a loss of crores and crores.

**Shri A. C. Shukla:** Can he give us some figures?

**Dr. Deshmukh:** Yes, I can if the hon. Member wants them, but unfortunately I do not have the time for it now. For instance last year the grower could have got Rs. 50 to 70 more for every Rs. 680 that he got and from the whole of Berar there were no less than six and a half lakh bales produced. I leave it to my hon. friend if he knows any arithmetic, to calculate what the loss to the cultivators has been.

**Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh):** Is the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh aware of that fact?

**Dr. Deshmukh:** The question may please be put by Mr. Kamath to the hon. Member who interrupted me just now. He would be in a better position to answer.

**Shri A. C. Shukla:** That question is to be put in that Assembly and not here.

**Dr. Deshmukh:** The prices were controlled and the persons who could directly deal with the millowners were also fixed. The result was that beyond a certain level the prices did not go up. Of course, this was done artificially. The actual prices in the market were much higher than the price paid to the agriculturist. This year a somewhat funny situation has arisen. I do not know if that is because of the larger imports of American cotton or what the cause is: but there has been a reduction of anything between fifteen per cent. to twenty per cent. in the prices of cotton. As we know, the agriculturist is not a very prudent man and he generally thinks that the rates that he gets are going to stay. As a result of that he did think that the ceiling rates which he was getting for some time in the beginning of this year would be continued. But during the last month and a half, the rates have dropped and the agriculturists are being put to a very severe loss. I have no time to go into the actual cost of production; but it is a matter of concrete fact that this was debated in the Indian Central Cotton Committee and it was proved to the conviction of most of the members that the cotton prices were uneconomical. The cost of cultivation is high and compared to the prices in the international markets, the Indian

[Dr. Deshmukh]

cotton grower gets a very, very small price. This year the prices have gone down still further and somehow it synchronises with the drive of the State Government to collect taxes, specially land revenue. The agriculturist has, therefore, no other alternative than to sell his cotton at this very low rate which is not at all economic when compared to the cost he incurs in growing the cotton and considerable losses have been suffered by these agriculturists. I have seen with my own eyes hundreds of carts brought to the cotton markets, and as they were not being bought by the merchants for even fair prices, prices about ten to fifteen per cent. below the ceiling prices, they had to take the carts home. It is a very acute situation that has arisen and although there was a certain reference by my hon. friend the Food Minister when he spoke before the Indian Central Cotton Committee the other day, it does not appear that anything is being done in this respect. Since we are short of supplies of cotton, I do not know why it should not be possible to bring into existence some organisation by which some minimum price could be fixed so that at least that price may be available to the agriculturist. What will happen now is that once these hard pressed agriculturists sell their products then the prices probably will go up with the result that the merchants will benefit. I hope Government's attention will be directed towards this and that they will see that the interests of the cotton growers are protected.

The marketing of cotton is in a very unsatisfactory condition. I happen to be the Chairman of the Cotton Marketing Committee and this Committee has produced a report some months back, but even the printing of a report of a few hundred pages has taken six months and I do not know what will happen to our recommendations themselves. Under these circumstances all that I can do is to invite the attention of Government to this very serious matter. I have received many telegrams and letters from the cotton growers and they feel that neither the State Government nor the Central Government are doing anything in the matter. I do not think that it would be proper to let these people retain this feeling of complete frustration. I feel that something urgent must be done. That is very necessary. Of course we have got long-term schemes of organising the farmers into associations and all

that. But I do not know when those ideas and ideals will be realised and when we will have, as there are in several other countries, farmers' associations and farmers' unions so as to be able to cope with the markets and see that the agriculturists do not lose to the extent that they do at present. In this unorganised state of the agriculturists it is necessary that the Government should take up the issue immediately. I had made a reference to the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry and I do not know what he has been able to do. Unfortunately the whole thing is in a very unsatisfactory condition, because the rates are being fixed by the Commerce and Industry Minister whereas he does not know what the exact condition of the agriculturist is. That is supposed to be known to the Food Minister and he deals with the Indian Central Cotton Committee with which again, the Minister of Commerce and Industry has nothing to do. Therefore, I think this matter ought to be looked into. Last year also when these ceilings were to be enforced, the Minister of Food and Agriculture made representations through his officers that the rates fixed were not proper but no heed was paid to them for a considerably long time and so certain areas had to suffer.

I cannot say anything more than this, that if the Government is not sympathetic enough and is not alive to the interests of the cotton growers, the situation will not be a very happy one and the people would be driven to take some sort of direct action, like picketing or not bringing to the markets their produce, or taking out processions and other things. They are being fast driven to that and I hope Government will realise the actual nature of the situation and take up the matter at an early date.

There is also this complaint about the staples. Much of the difficulties arise as a result of the arbitrariness with which sometimes the staple is fixed. If the staple of a particular area is allowed to remain the same as it was in the previous year much of the difficulty will be removed. I am referring especially to the area near about Damangaon where a particular staple is produced. If the same staple is allowed to remain then the agriculturist will get a slightly higher rate. But some sort of plot or trick was used by certain merchants in the beginning and they got the staple measured to the detriment of the agriculturist and that particular rate

is now being given to the agriculturist. This has also been represented to the Minister of Commerce and Industry. The growers are awaiting his action. Every day sales take place and they are put to loss. I hope this point will also be looked into and no time be lost in giving proper redress and relief to the cotton growers in the whole of India.

11 A.M.

**Shri Kamath:** The outstanding, if also a rather unhappy feature of the Bill is that there is no lightening of the tax burden for the common man and the Finance Minister has held out no assurance or prospect of any tax relief in the near future. I wonder whether the Finance Minister could not have done a little to meet the demand of the common man so far as his tax burden is concerned.

Last year the Government promised economy in expenditure and the Finance Minister promised an economy of, I believe, five to five and a half crores in Governmental expenditure. But that promise seems to have been quietly forgotten, if not buried. On the other hand, the revised estimates of expenditure for the year 1951-52 show the figure at 405 crores as against the original estimate of 376 crores. As regards the Budget for the year 1952-53, the estimated expenditure is even more by about one or one and a half crores. Therefore I would ask the Finance Minister to tell us whether the attempt to effect economy in Governmental expenditure has failed or it is not going to be tried at all.

Next I would ask him to consider whether some tax relief could not have been given by reconsidering or reviewing, and if necessary modifying, the policy of prohibition which is in force today in several States. Much has been said on the subject in this House and one of the States, Madhya Pradesh, appointed a Committee last year and it has reported on this subject, and I think that a revision of the prohibition policy is going to be enforced in that State in the near future.....

**The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi):** Revision in what respect?

**Shri Kamath:** I would request the Minister of State to call for a copy of that Committee's report and study it at leisure.

**Shri Tyagi:** I was anxious to know the hon. Member's views.

**Shri Kamath:** I have several other points to take up within the limited time. I would only request the Fin-

ance Minister to ask the State Governments, wherever this policy is in force, to review and report to the Centre as to how far this policy could be revised so as to bring about an economy in the expenditure which has arisen out of the policy of prohibition, and to increase the revenue.

In this connection it will not be out of place to tell the House what one of the members of the friendly Turkish Press Delegation who visited India last month had to say on this subject before he left India. In one of the very useful articles he contributed before he left India, he of course thanked the country for the hospitality that he had enjoyed here—his name is Ahmed Emin Yalman, Editor, Daily *Vatan*, Istanbul—and he referred to the prohibition experiment in America and in Turkey. He says:

"I believe that prohibition constitutes a policy of national suicide. We tried prohibition in Turkey. It resulted in the creation of a criminal class, disposing of large financial means and in paralysing and corrupting the forces of order. When the discovery was made that the Director of Police in Ankara was a partner in a secret liquor factory, the public became startled and the poisonous law of prohibition was immediately repealed so that revenues from alcoholic drinks went openly to the Treasury instead of to the underground gangsters."

He goes on to say:

"I also made a close personal study in America of the working of prohibition. Not only did it corrupt public life and make gangsterism a dominant force; it also made eager drink-addicts out of people who never cared for drinks before. If the Americans had not promptly repealed the prohibition law, America would have ceased to remain an orderly country....."

Then he says:

"I received exquisite hospitality in India....." That shows that it is a genuine summing up of the working of prohibition. He continues:

"I am deeply grateful for it. I think that the best way to pay my moral debt is to warn my Indian friends against the pitfalls of prohibition. The policy is not only bad in itself, but it may form the beginning of other ready-made negative and impulsive social cures at the expense of an objective diagnosis and well-studied remedies."

[Shri Kamath]

This, I believe, is the verdict of a person who has studied the working of prohibition not only in America but also in Turkey. I would therefore request the Government to study, review and modify, if not repeal entirely, the policy of prohibition which is in force today in some of the States.

Next I would take up what I had sought to raise by means of an adjournment motion earlier in the House today. There have been distressing reports appearing in the press about infiltration of Pakistani and so called 'Azad Kashmir' elements into Indian territory in Kashmir, and one report dated the 3rd March from Srinagar says that more than 5,000 persons have crossed over to the Indian side during recent months. The State Government is reported to have alerted all its officials in the forward border areas to be on the look-out for Pakistani agents. The report further says that concern has been caused in Srinagar by reports of large-scale infiltration of Pakistanis into the State in the Poonch area. (*An Hon. Member*: In which paper?) The *Times of India* of yesterday and it is a U.P.I. message from Srinagar dated the 3rd March. I am afraid that this may be the beginning of some trouble in the near future, and I would like Government to take prompt action to see that such infiltration is stopped and those that have already crossed over to the Indian side are arrested or suitable action taken to send them back. The better course would be to arrest and detain them here. There are some internal civil disturbances going on in Jammu and it is likely that hostile elements may take undue advantage of these disturbances for their own purposes. Therefore it is all the more necessary to be vigilant so far as Pakistani infiltration into Kashmir is concerned.

Lastly I would refer to a matter pertaining to the elections which have taken place. Recent reports reaching us say that in Nagpur demonstrations were given before the Regional Election Commissioner, Mr. Mehr, where some of the candidates who had taken part in the elections or some of the leaders of the non-Congress parties gave a demonstration before him and showed to him how a box could be opened with a hair pin or some such thing within two minutes.

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad** (West Bengal): That is now an accepted fact.

**Shri Kamath**: I had a talk with the Election Commissioner on the subject and he told me that so far as U.P. and Madhya Pradesh (I believe West

Bengal also, but I am not quite sure) are concerned the Governments of these two States did not accept the advice or the directive of the Election Commission to get the boxes manufactured by Godrej or Allwyn companies who had taken the contract for making these ballot boxes. These two Governments said they would get them manufactured locally in their own States. Government must see, especially in view of the promise made by the Prime Minister on the floor of the House earlier this session that an enquiry would be instituted into all such allegations, why these two Governments did not get boxes manufactured by Allwyn or Godrej and got them manufactured locally, whether the defects in the boxes complained of are due to local manufacture and whether the defects could have been obviated if the boxes had been manufactured by the companies to whom the Election Commissioner had given the contract.

I would request the Finance Minister to tell the House whether any allocation has been made—because the details are not available—for bringing the international air ports like Dum Dum and Santa Cruz and also the night port of Nagpur up to standard particularly so far as lighting is concerned, especially high intensity lights with approach lanes and beacons. These are very necessary and these are accepted standards of international air ports all over the world. Otherwise accidents might recur.

Then, lastly, there is only a brief reference in the Budget papers to the proposed expansion of the Department of Parliamentary Affairs. If the Finance Minister is in a position to tell us in what way the Department of Parliamentary Affairs is going to expand—the hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs is not here—whether he is going to be a more active Minister so far as the House is concerned.....

**An Hon. Member**: He is there.

**Shri Kamath**: He is not in the House exactly, he is behind the House, in the background. The Finance Minister or the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs may tell us in what way the expansion will be made, what new functions will devolve upon him and whether he will take a more active part in the proceedings of the House, particularly during question hour, because we find that he has not been very active in this session, even as a Stepney Minister. I would therefore request the Finance Minister to throw some light on this matter as well.

**Dr. K. V. Thakkar** (Saurashtra): Some hon. Members of this House have complained during this session that the party in power used unfair means during the general elections. But my complaint, Sir, is the other way round. Coming as I do from the State of Saurashtra, what I am going to say applies to Saurashtra only. My complaint is that in Saurashtra it is the anti-Congress groups and parties that have used the most unfair, cruel and violent methods to intimidate voters and terrorise them into not voting for the Congress candidates.

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh** (Bihar): How can that be possible?

**Dr. K. V. Thakkar**: Leaders and candidates of non-Congress parties had openly stated in their speeches that they would oust the Dhebar Ministry from power by means of the ballot box and if that was not possible by other means. A State-wide scheme of violence was planned, which included the murder of the Chief Minister and the Home Minister. A regular campaign of arson, loot and murder had been planned before the elections. Letters were sent to Congressmen which contained threats to their lives. Haystacks belonging to Congress-minded farmers were set fire to.

**Shri R. Velayudhan** (Travancore-Cochin): Congress-minded? What part of a mind is that?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: Congress sympathisers.

**Dr. K. V. Thakkar**: Those Congressmen who stood either for the State Assembly or for the House of the People were made to live in fear of their lives all throughout the election period. The shop of one of them was looted and he was killed. In another village half a dozen people were ordered by miscreants to come out of a shop and two of them who were Congress volunteers were shot dead in front of the shop. Altogether the anti-Congress groups or parties have twenty murders to their account during the eight or ten weeks of election. This number includes Congress candidates, their relatives and Congress-minded villagers. What was planned beforehand was put into effect during the elections. Large dumps of ammunition were collected at some places. The atmosphere of a second Telengana was created.

In a village in the constituency of the Chief Minister, Mr. Dhebar, when an election meeting was about to disperse, five men armed with guns came up in jeep all of a sudden from somewhere and said to the people,

"Oh, you wish to vote for the Congress? Well then, have these bullets first." They fired on the crowd. Eight men were killed on the spot and two more died in a hospital later. A miniature Jallianwala Bagh was enacted. Ten more men were killed in other places, at other times during the election period.

The other day, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee asked the hon. Dr. Katju to tell him in which part of the country were there deliberate or organised attempts to violate maintenance of law and order. The facts I have placed before the House are my answer to Dr. Mookerjee's question. I would not say anything more in this connection as all the happenings and their perpetrators are now under police investigation at present. Meanwhile I make a present of these orgies of blood, these tragedies, these calamities, these heinous crimes to those friends who have been charging the Congress with use of unfair means and methods and maligning the Congress on that account, day in and day out, within this House and without. There was a question by the hon. Member, Shri Raj Kanwar this morning on this and I think my answer just comes in proper time.

Now I come to the stories of the harassment of *Harijans* in the P.E.P.S.U. State. Have *Harijans* no right of free voting? If like other people they have the right of free voting why should they be harassed, intimidated and punished because they voted for a certain party? And yet this is what is actually the state of things in P.E.P.S.U. Those higher class gentlemen are ill-treating the *Harijans* who voted against certain parties. During the last year, at the time of the census also these poor people were ill-treated because they would not register Punjabi as their mother tongue. I warn the oppressors not to oppress these poor and oppressed people any more. The more they are oppressed they will one day rise in revolt against these better classes with greater reaction.

Last year a demand has been made by some hon. Members for an increase in the amount provided for scholarships for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. From Rs. 15 lakhs it has been increased to Rs. 17½ lakhs. This is satisfactory so far as it goes but I think Rs. 25 lakhs is the least that should have been allotted for these scholarships.

Another point is that though twelve and a half per cent. is the fixed proportion of reservations in Government

[Dr. K. V. Thakkar]

services for *Harijans* that proportion is not actually put into practice. I know the Government reply is that candidates of the proper calibre are not found amongst the *Harijans*, but my point is that unless enough facilities are provided.....

**Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** On a point of order. Sir. Can an hon. Member read a written speech in this House?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** They are notes referred to by him.

**Dr. K. V. Thakkar:** I complained last year regarding the underestimation of the tribal population in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh etc.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Objection is taken to his reading right through. He may therefore merely refer to the notes

**Dr. K. V. Thakkar:** Lest I forget, I have put my points in writing. The tribal population has been underestimated to the extent of 69 lakhs in the States of Hyderabad, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Orissa and Assam. Nothing has been done about the correction of these figures. Lastly, it is high time that in accordance with articles 239 and 240 of our Constitution a Committee is appointed to report on the administration of scheduled areas and on the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes and to investigate into the condition of the socially and educationally backward classes within the territory of India.

**Shri Venkataraman (Madras):** I rise to try and persuade the Finance Minister in howsoever a feeble manner to revise his views with regard to the grant of food subsidies to the working classes which are concentrated in the industrial towns like Kanpur etc.

**Shri A. Joseph (Madras):** You want to throw out the rural people?

**Shri Venkataraman:** I shall meet that point. It is not as if it is new.

The first objection to the Finance Minister's reply to the debate when he dealt with this point is this. He treated this subject as if it is capable of some arithmetical average. He was answering Pandit Kunzru's point that the effect of the withdrawal of the subsidies is likely to be an increase in the cost of living index. The Finance Minister replied that he and his experts had worked out that

the cost of living index would only go up by three or four points. Arithmetically, these figures may be right but when translated into food, they will show a serious gap in the spending capacity of the working class people, especially in regard to their food. The price of second class rice in Madras before the withdrawal of the subsidies was nine annas three pies per Madras measure. Today it is ten annas. The price of wheat was nine annas six pies and today it is thirteen annas six pies. I have left out of consideration the first quality rice, because I take it for granted that the working class people cannot afford to buy it, even though if I were so inclined as the Finance Minister was to show a sort of jugglery of figures I would have easily taken that into account and shown that the increase is far greater. The percentage of increase in regard to second quality rice is eleven per cent. and as the bulk of the expenditure of the working class is on cereals, this eleven per cent. increase in the cost of rice is bound to make a much greater hole in their income than the average of three points which the Finance Minister mentioned. I have heard it said that law is an ass, but I must now say that the index figures are a worse ass than the law. If a ten per cent. increase in foodstuffs is only going to bring about a negligible and even less than one per cent. increase in the cost, then these figures are useless. The working class spend as much as 50 to 60 per cent. of their income on food and only the rest on other items. If the cost of food is increased by eleven per cent. then for them the increase in the cost of living will be much more, although for purposes of calculation it will show only an increase of three points. And then the entire quantity of rice is not given in rice. A portion of it is given in wheat. So far, wheat was supplied at nine annas six pies per measure and you know the reluctance of the Madras population—as also the population elsewhere in India which is habituated to rice—to take to wheat readily. The effect of increasing the wheat price will be that not only will you thrust an unwanted food on them but you will make the cost of the grain also four annas more than before. This is hardly calculated to induce the people to take to wheat. Therefore, I submit that this withdrawal of food subsidies, particularly in the industrial centres of Madras like Madras, Coimbatore, Maudra and Vizagapatam is likely to cause such a serious unsettlement in the family budgets of the workers

that their entire economy will be upset and the people will get more frustrated than they are at present.

My hon. friend was saying that people in rural areas are discriminated against when this subsidy is given only to people in industrial areas. There is a very sound reason for that. People in rural areas sometimes get their wages in kind. I know this to be so with regard to agricultural labour and therefore those people can manage their domestic budget.

**Shri Sivan Pillay** (Travancore-Cochin): It is only for a few months in the year.

**Shri Venkataraman:** But never in the course of the whole year does an industrial labourer get even a bit of rice. At least the rural population get some quantity of rice for two or three months in a year, but the industrial population does not get any rice at any time in the year and it has to depend entirely on its wages.

**Shri Sivan Pillay:** Their money wages are sufficiently high.

**Shri Venkataraman:** It is said that the amount of money which is taken away by way of food subsidies will be returned to them in the Grow More Food Campaign, irrigation, well subsidies etc. I do not know what is the official view of all this expenditure, but so far as the public are concerned, we are less than satisfied that these expenditures will yield as much as the Government imagines. At any rate, they are not likely to afford any relief to the industrial labour, which will be very seriously affected by the withdrawal.

Then the Finance Minister said that the price index is falling and that the cost of living index will fall in sympathy. If you look at the figures, they tell a different tale. The Finance Minister said that there is a time-lag and we all know that there is a time-lag between the fall in the wholesale prices and the cost of living index, but giving double the figure he mentioned, (because I take six months into account), I find that from April, 1951 to October, 1951 there has been a fall of 19 points in the price index while the cost of living index, far from falling in sympathy during that period, has risen by three points in the State of Madras. From 333 it has increased to 336; so that these two are moving in contrary directions. I can understand a time-lag in the cost of living index moving in sympathy with the price lag. But, on the con-

trary, you find that the cost of living index is moving upwards while the price index is moving downwards. This is due, in my opinion, to the slow process of increasing the cost of living adopted by the Finance Minister in every one of his Budgets.

Last year when certain taxes were imposed I analysed the effect of those taxes on prices and submitted to him that even according to the statistical calculations of working the cost of living index in Madras it would lead to a three points rise. Last year there was a three points rise. This year even according to the Finance Minister there is going to be another three points rise in the cost of living.

I submit, Sir, that the food subsidy has been abolished at a very, very wrong time. It has been given for a long time and people have come to regard it as part of their wages. In fixing the wages the food subsidy is taken into account and if that is now withdrawn there will be a clamour for the revision of wages. It is likely to lead to industrial unrest and far from the labour getting more and more satisfied you are creating circumstances and conditions when it will be getting more dissatisfied with the policy we pursue. My submission is that even though this food subsidy cannot be given in the way in which it is being given—and I quite agree that it should not be given in the way in which it is being given—let the food subsidy be retained for people drawing less than Rs. 300. Let all those who are not assessed to income-tax continue to get the subsidy. Let the ration shops issue food at the old prices for those who are drawing less than Rs. 300. It is possible for them to do that because in Madras sugar ration is issued on the basis of income. People getting lower incomes are getting lower quota of sugar and people getting higher incomes are getting a higher quota of sugar.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** What will an agricultural labourer get then?

**Shri Venkataraman:** I shall come to that.

If that is possible in the case of sugar, then it should be possible in regard to issue of rice rations for persons drawing less than Rs. 300 at the old subsidised rate.

As regards agricultural population I made it clear earlier that because they are getting their wages in kind the price factor does not disturb their family budgets. I am not pleading for sugar being given to the working

[Shri Venkataraman]

classes. You can cut down sugar from their ration. But they want rice at subsidised rates. Once you begin distributing article under ration, everybody asks for what is being given to the other man. If you ask what you would have in preference to the other, I say they would prefer to have rice rather than sugar. Since agricultural labour gets his wages in kind, the price factor does not at all disturb his family budget and his domestic economy whereas in industrial areas the price of food-grains is the major factor.

The point is that the industrial population would be very seriously affected by the withdrawal of these subsidies and the Government should at least consider my suggestion that food may be continued to be subsidised at least to people drawing less than Rs. 300.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Is the fixing of minimum wages for agricultural labour going to be in kind or cash?

**Shri Venkataraman:** It can be in kind or cash; the option is given to the Committee.

**Dr. M. M. Das (West Bengal):** It may be in some parts of the country; it is not possible all over India.

**Shri Venkataraman:** So far as the Minimum Wages Act is concerned, discretion is left to the Committees to be constituted at the District and State level to fix it in kind or in cash and in some areas it has been fixed in kind. I am referring to an agreement which was arrived at in the Tanjore District when our respected friend Shri Kala Venkatarao was in charge of Revenue in Madras in the matter of grain wages.

There is only one other matter to which I would like to draw the attention of the House. We always shed crocodile tears every year during the Budget session for the middle classes, but very little has been done for the middle classes during these two or three years. Not only that, what little had been done has been undone. The middle classes today are in a worse position than even the working classes, for this reason that the working classes have more than one earning member in the family while in the middle classes there is only one earning member and he has to maintain a number of persons. Relief to the middle classes can be afforded by raising the income-tax exemption limit say up to Rs. 5,000 in which case there will be economy to Government also,

because a lot of the income-tax officers' time is wasted on small assesseees. Therefore, my submission is that greater attention should now be paid to the relief of the middle classes than has been done before and in order to do that the income-tax relief would be one of the primary things to be taken into account.

**Dr. J. P. Srivastava (Uttar Pradesh):** Sir, if I rise to intervene in this debate it is only because I have a weakness for food. (An Hon. Member: Do you take much?) A good deal has already been talked about Food by people who look starved and I fully sympathise with them.

**Shri Tyagi:** You were the genius who started this food control.

**Shri R. Velayudhan:** Do you sympathise with the starving?

**Dr. J. P. Srivastava:** The Food Department has been doing a good deal of work to make the country self-sufficient in food. They said two years ago that India would be self-sufficient in food in 1952. We are now in 1952—I suppose we can read the calendar—and I do not know how far we are nearer self-sufficiency. I am inclined to think that we are as far away as we would be in 1962. I may be wrong—I hope I am wrong.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Punjab):** We wish you were wrong.

**Dr. J. P. Srivastava:** But judging from what was stated by the Minister of Food in the recent Food Conference, we do not seem to know where we are with food at the present moment. We have done a certain amount of Grow More Food work. Some of the work is really valuable. But what I want to maintain is that that work is a long-term work. We have started a bold experiment of mechanized farming. That experiment will, I hope, succeed. But it takes time for a thing like that to succeed in a country like India. We will have many pitfalls, as we know already. Some of the work of the Tractor Organization has been commented upon by different parties. I am sure they tried, but there is no doubt that they did not achieve the success which they wanted to achieve in many places. First of all they did not know what mechanized farming was. They ordered a lot of equipment, tractors, bull-dozers and so on, but they did not have the trained personnel to look after the machines. Then, they did not have

the spare parts to attend to wear and tear. I am glad to note that the Government has now started some places where tractors can be repaired and serviced. This should have been thought of in the very beginning.

Development of new land is all very well. But what about increasing the yield of our existing cultivated lands? We have, I do not remember the exact figure, but I think it is not less than 20 million acres of cultivated land where the yields can be doubled quite easily if we provide three simple things. They are water for irrigation, manure and good seeds. These are very simple things, and the cultivator will do the rest. I think this needs a real drive. About water, we have some admirable schemes, river valley schemes and so on which will give us water. But these will take time. In the meanwhile we shall be importing foodgrains to the tune of millions and millions of rupees. Why can we not tap the water resources which we have everywhere—I mean underground water? I calculated roughly that if we have thirty thousand tube-wells...

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao):** You calculated when you were Minister?

**Dr. J. P. Srivastava:** I calculated quite recently that if we have thirty thousand tube-wells in the country in areas where yields are low because of want of water, we shall produce an extra four million tons of foodgrains annually. My figures are absolutely correct. They have been checked by people who know, and I can show those figures to my friend, the Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture.

**An Hon. Member:** To what year do they relate?

**Dr. J. P. Srivastava:** They pertain to this year. I am a farmer myself and I am talking as a farmer. These thirty thousand tube-wells will give us four million tons more of foodgrains per year, that is in excess of what they are producing now. The cost of these tube-wells, complete with power-plant comes to 160 million dollars. I mention dollars because the cost of two million tons of foodgrains which we recently obtained from the U.S.A. was 190 million dollars. If we set aside the money which we will get from the sale of those two million tons of foodgrains, we could quite easily put up thirty thousand tube-wells. And I know that my figures are right. They are based on latest quotations. What we should think of is something which

would produce results immediately. Otherwise, if we go on like this, I do not know how long the country can bear the drain.

I would like my hon. friend the Finance Minister to say what would be the picture of the finances of India if there is self-sufficiency in the matter of food and he did not have to find three hundred or four hundred crores for importing food. The position I am sure would be much better and we could then go along and embark on nation building activities and we could increase our production in various fields.

I would like the Food Minister to apply his mind to increasing the production of food on a basis which would give us quick returns, say, in twelve months. Food should be put on a war footing, because unless we have enough food we can make no progress in anything. To do this I would suggest that food should be the special concern of the Prime Minister. He has just done a whirl-wind tour for the purpose of elections, which has produced wonderful results. Why not let him do a similar tour for food? Failing that, put food in charge of the Commander-in-Chief and let him use his Army. Then it would be on a real war footing. I think the problem is a desperate one and requires desperate remedies.

I do not wish to say more beyond begging of the Government to look into this matter with the care which it deserves.

**Sheikh Abdullah (Jammu and Kashmir):** Sir, this is the last day, I think, of this Parliament. Though I have been here since the very start I have not had the good fortune of taking a little time of Parliament in telling my problems to the House, because the problem of Kashmir is very well known. But recently I understand that some friends here have persistently raised certain questions about Kashmir, particularly with regard to some Jammu incident, and today I hear further that another friend and colleague of ours, Mr. Kamath, tried to table an adjournment motion on some infiltration business that is going on in Kashmir. I do not want to take much of your time, because, Sir, as you know the Kashmir problem is still bristling with all manner of difficulties and I do not want to complicate it still further. But I want to clarify certain points with regard to this so-called Jammu incident. I am thankful to Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena—whose speech I read—for the affection

[Sheikh Abdullah]

he has showered upon me. I assure him and I assure the House that I consider the children and the boys who are in detention as my own children. We have no desire to keep them behind prison bars. We want them to attend to their studies without interruption. It is very difficult for one who has to administer justice in that State to allow a few boys to create trouble in the college and to force the majority of students not to attend to their studies in the college. Out of nearly 750 boys who are attending the Jammu College, there are hardly 20 or 30 boys who have persistently tried to create scenes just near the college to force the other boys, nearly 630 or 650 boys, not to enter the college and attend their studies without interruption. When they failed in this game and the majority of students did not like to remain away from the college, they organized a procession and tried to break the glass panes of the college building and damaged both the chemical and geological laboratories and forced the girl students to come out of their college rooms. Then we were forced to put them in detention. We did not like to keep them there for long. After some days when the conditions returned to normal, we released those students in the hope that they will give up their unlawful activities, without getting any assurance from them or without punishing them in any way whatsoever and what did these students do? Immediately they were released, the next morning, they again repeated the old game and tried to stop the rest of the students from going into the college and tried to create similar scenes of rowdiness and hooliganism in the city. Naturally it was difficult for us to allow them to indulge in unlawful activities and so, we had again to put them in detention. We have no desire to keep them here, provided those students assure the Government that if they are released, they will not indulge in any unlawful activities. That is our part of the thing but if they are released and they again repeat the same old game and try to create trouble in the college, it will be my painful duty to preserve law and order to enable the rest of the boys and the majority of them to continue their studies peacefully. After all when the college is attended by 700 boys, nobody would allow 20 or 30 of the boys to prevent the rest of them to attend to their normal studies, but once they assure the Government that if they are released, they will not indulge in any unlawful activities and that, they will not

prevent the rest of the boys from attending the college, we have no desire to keep them behind prison bars. Once we are assured, we will do our part.

There is another point which Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena has pressed in the House and that is that the "Praja Parishad" is the only political opposition in Kashmir and by insinuation he has tried to convey this impression to the House that we, belonging to the National Conference, do not probably want to have any opposition there. This is far from the truth. Opposition parties are not created by making a tall claim of being the only opposition. When the time came to prove their claims, whether that party is the only opposition party in the country, the country rejected that claim. When we fought the elections to the Jammu and Kashmir Constituent Assembly, they created all manner of misunderstandings and wanted to throw mud upon the National Conference and the Government. They were given every possible opportunity to prove their claims and to show to the world that the Government had acted in a manner which was not constitutional. But they failed to do that and the country has rejected their claim and they had to run away from the elections at the last minute.

Now, if you say, well that is the only opposition, we have no desire even to suppress that opposition but that opposition must adopt constitutional methods in putting its point of view before the country. After all the real strength are the masses. If the masses are with them, I am nobody to stop them. But if the masses are not with them, I cannot help it.

As for the history of this "Praja Parishad" is concerned, the less said the better. I do not want to remind the House of the past of these people who claim to be the leaders of the "Praja Parishad". Probably we know enough and I am still having many problems on my hands because of their past doings in Jammu. My position is not an easy one. I have to fight communalism on all sides. Since 1938 I had to fight the aggressive communalism of the Muslim League and I am still fighting that communalism on that side. When persuasion failed to impress League communalism, they started a full fledged attack upon us

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and we had to face an attack on Kashmir and I had to preserve the life, honour and property of nearly 2,00,000 of non-Muslims there. While the National Conference was doing that, what happened in Jammu? Probably every one of you knows the painful history of Jammu and what the leaders of this organization did there in 1947. That is an open secret. We did not take any revenge and I thought that probably time will help these people to understand matters correctly, but unfortunately they considered that as weakness on my part. They thought that while I was strong enough to suppress Muslim communalism, I was afraid to suppress Hindu communalism. That is not so. I have to fight communalism right and left and I will not spare any brand of communalism, whatsoever, because I am fighting a life and death battle in Kashmir. I will not allow anybody to exploit religion under any circumstances. You now probably understand my position. I have to protect the Muslim minorities in Jammu, and I have to protect the Hindu minorities in Kashmir. So I cannot use one method in Kashmir and a different method in Jammu. But still, the real basis of our attitude has been to win the opposition through love. I do not believe in power. I do not want to use my power in order to suppress anybody. Therefore, I allowed time to my friends to cure themselves and to start on a clean slate. But, unfortunately, I have failed. I have failed even to understand what their objective is. Sometimes they raise the bogey of communalism; sometimes they raise the bogey of provincialism. Sometimes they say that their main aim is to drive me out of Jammu and push me on into Kashmir. We do not want to force Jammu to remain with Kashmir. Nobody can force these friends to remain with us. But, if they mean that because we happen to be Muslims, they do not want to have any truck with us, it is for them to decide and for my friends in India to decide. I cannot force them to remain with me but then, the whole basis is completely changed. We want to be friends. We have suffered a lot. We are still fighting. We want to be friends with India. We do not believe in this Hindu, Muslim and Sikh and all this business. We want to live as friends together, and the country supports that point of view. But, if some friends do not want to live with me, I cannot help them. Unfortunately for them, their own Province does not support that point of view. I tried to discuss this matter

with them. I said to them, "Come, let us sit as brothers and discuss all that has happened. I do not want to create a situation similar to that created in India which led to partition. If in spite of all my efforts, you do not want to be friendly or brotherly with me, I cannot force my way upon you. Let us sit together and discuss. If that is advantageous to you, I shall have no hesitation in accepting that position; but unfortunately partition of ways between Jammu and Kashmir will not be advantageous to you, to us, to India and to our stand". They have refused to understand these things.

Sometimes they say, "We must have the Maharaja back". I cannot help that. I have been fighting feudalism, not now, but since 1931. When you are yourself seeing that feudalism is disappearing throughout India, you cannot force feudalism there. As far as the National Conference goes, we have made it absolutely clear that we will have no monarchy in Kashmir. That has happened here in India as well. You too will not have Rajas and Maharajas in future. We want to be equal partners in that freedom struggle. If they want to create the conditions which obtain in some parts of India, in Saurashtra etc. where the vested interests want to return to power by murdering people, by creating communal problems, if they want to adopt the same methods, it will be my painful duty to stop them from doing so. If they want to gain their point constitutionally they are welcome. I have not banned the "Praja Parishad" organisation. I would very much like you to read their speeches, most filthy speeches, asking people to subvert the Government. They came in a procession and when I was away in Paris, they tried to storm the Secretariat. They threw out files and tried to burn the whole Secretariat. They tried to drag out girls. I cannot allow that situation to prevail there. Yet, I have no hatred towards them. I do not want to suppress them by force. I want them, and I appeal to them, to understand our point of view and understand our difficulties and tell us where we are wrong.

Some question has been raised about this National Conference flag. They say that they have got conscientious objection and they do not want to recognise that flag. Nobody wants them to recognise our flag. Our flag is the National Conference flag. We have given battles under that flag to the mightiest opposition to peoples' freedom. We are still carrying on

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that struggle to its bitterest end under that flag. That flag came into existence in this way. In 1938 when we converted ourselves into the National Conference, the Congress did not want the States to use the Congress flag in the States. You know in the Tripura and other Congress sessions Gandhiji's point of view was that in the States the Congress flag should not be used because, then, the Congress is involved in difficult commitments in the States. Consequently we had to have our own flag and we chose this flag. It is not a communal flag, as my hon. colleague Maulana Moosudi explained the other day. The party in power is the National Conference. Whenever we have any functions, we respect only two flags: the Union flag and our party flag. You cannot expect me to have a function under a Muslim League flag, or under any communal flag. The Congress came into power; but still they respect their organisational flag. That is the point. In the students' function, both the flags were flying. Some ten or twelve students took objection. They said, "This is a party flag; we have conscientious objection". The authorities told them, "Nobody compels you to go there; if you have conscientious objection, do not salute that flag; do not participate in that particular item; you can participate in the rest". They said, "We will not allow others also to participate".

You cannot force your will upon others. It would have been quite a different thing if those ten or twelve students had been forced to go and salute this party flag. Then there could have been every justification for them to condemn the Government. They were not forced. When they were not forced, they have no right to force others not to love that flag. That is the position with regard to the flag.

Then, Mr. Kamath tried to again bring in the Kashmir question with regard to infiltration on the basis of some report which he has read in some newspapers. Mr. Kamath came to Kashmir. At that time, probably he went as far as Uri, if I remember well. Unfortunately, it was raining very hard and he could not see much. Otherwise, I would have taken him to all the frontiers and he would have understood the difficult position there. Our frontier stretches over hundreds of miles. It is very difficult to guard every nook and corner of that countryside. We are doing our best to stop

infiltration. But, still to say that we have succeeded 100 per cent. is not correct. Nobody can succeed 100 per cent. The situation is a very difficult one.

In the communal trouble in Jammu hundreds and thousands of Muslims went to the other side and Hindu and Sikh refugees came to this side. In some cases, the father, mother and one sister are on the one side and one sister is on the other side. Naturally, her tendency is to come to this side. At the risk of their lives, sometimes they enter this side. Immediately they are found, they are caught and interrogated. On the merits of each case they are either allowed to remain here or they are sent back. It is a very difficult problem to handle and we are doing our best to handle this problem as efficiently as possible. In that respect, the Kashmir Government, the Indian Army, our militia and the Home Guards are trying to handle the situation as efficiently as possible. There is no danger of large-scale infiltration.

There is one more important thing. What is our aim and objective? The aim and objective is, by our own work, to impress upon our friends on the other side that what they had done was absolutely wrong, that we are absolutely safe with India, and that it is in our own interest to align ourselves with India. That is the impression that we have to create on the other side by our own work. Fortunately, we have succeeded in creating that impression there. Therefore, those people who had gone there or who were in those circumstances driven to that side, are anxious to return to our side, completely converted. We have received anxious requests from those people to allow them to come back to this side. I refused. I said, it cannot be one way traffic. I have every sympathy with these people because they are our kith and kin. But, what am I to do? Nearly 2,00,000 Hindus and Sikhs have been driven out from that side and I have to take care of them. If I allow these people to come back, what am I to do with the two hundred thousand Sikh and Hindu brothers and sisters who are on this side and whom I have to rehabilitate? That situation can only be dealt with if there is some basis for it. Conditions have to be created on the other side so that the Hindu and Sikh nationals of the State who have been driven out can with confidence settle in their original homes. But unless these conditions are created by these people over there by

driving out the invader, I cannot help them. Sometimes, as I said these people at the risk of their lives and in spite of all our precautionary measures, succeed in infiltrating to this side. But then they are immediately caught hold of and interrogated and if found undesirable they are sent back. I assure Mr. Kamath and the House that he need not feel very anxious, that our position is absolutely sound and that we do not at all feel perturbed. It is the other side that is completely frustrated at the present moment. I assure Mr. Kamath and Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena—I thank him again for the love that he has showered upon me—that there is absolutely no desire to antagonise any section of the population. On the contrary we say that they must help us in understanding our problems and they must help us in giving those who approach them correct guidance. I shall be always prepared to listen to reason.

**Shri Kamath:** Sir, may I request the hon. Member, the Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, to let me have a little clarification with regard to the use of the National Conference flag? In India, at any rate, in no State, nor at the Centre, is the Congress party flag used at Government or official or State functions. Am I to understand that the use of the National Conference party flag is permissible at official or State or Government functions in Jammu and Kashmir while the Congress party flag is not used in India on such occasions? What is the position with regard to Kashmir?

**Sheikh Abdullah:** I do not know when the Congress here took over the administration and no decision had been taken about the national flag whether they used to meet under the Union Jack flag. I do not remember whether they ever did that. In Kashmir the party in power is the National Conference and whenever we have any function, we use the Union flag and our party flag. We have to respect that flag because it has brought us freedom. And as for the question as to what is going to be our State flag, that has to be decided by the Constituent Assembly. But as far as our position is concerned, wherever we go, being the party in power, we will have that flag because we respect that flag and we cannot throw it out.

**Shri Kamath:** Will Jammu and Kashmir have a separate State flag, apart from the Indian tricolour?

**Sheikh Abdullah:** As far as Jammu-Kashmir is concerned, probably you  
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know Jammu-Kashmir has acceded to the Union of India in three subjects, Defence, Communications and Foreign Affairs, and for the rest we are autonomous. Under the terms of Accession, these are the three subjects which we have surrendered to the Centre. Now again, there is some agitation going on that this article 370 or whichever article it is, must be scrapped. But that is not for me to do. It is for the Constituent Assembly of Kashmir to decide—even with regard to other subjects. But under the agreement, all the States had to accede necessarily with regard to these three subjects. For the rest it was through consultation and mutual agreement that the whole Constitution was applied to them. As far as Jammu and Kashmir State is concerned, we have acceded with regard to these three subjects, and for the rest it is upto the representatives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the Constituent Assembly, to surrender more subjects or to stop at that. It cannot be done by creating agitation. It cannot be done by any way except through constitutional means. Therefore, with regard to the rest of the subjects, we are autonomous, and so we go on like that.

**श्रीधर रत्नसिंह:** उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, फ्राइनेन्स बिल का स्वागत करते हुए मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस बात की तरफ़ दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि आज ऐग्रिकल्चरल एकानमी (Agricultural economy) के अन्दर एक नया दौर शुरू होने जा रहा है। जैसा उन्होंने कल बताया था, सन् १९३१ से ले कर सन् १९३९ तक ऐग्रिकल्चरल एकानमी के लिये एक सख्त दौर था और सन् १९३९ के बाद से फिर कुछ समय बदला और ऐग्रिकल्चरल एकानमी के अन्दर एक तब्दीली आयी जिस में कि किसान को कुछ राहत मिली। लेकिन इस साल से कुछ दूसरे हालात शुरू हुए। यहाँ हमारे कुछ भाई एक एक बात के बारे में बहस करते हैं कि अनाज इतना महंगा हो गया है, इस से इन्डेक्स नम्बर इतने प्वाइंट हो गया। लेकिन मैं उन्हें बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि वह एक साल का ही बक़्त लें। आप ने पिछले साल गुड़

[श्रीधरी रनबीर सिंह]

का भाव २१ रुपये मन रखा था कंट्रोल में। लेकिन आज गुड़ के भाव की क्या हालत है? वह आज छः या सात रुपये मन बिक रहा है। कुछ अन्दाज़ा लगाइये, एक तरफ़ आप प्वाइंटों की गिनती करते हैं और प्वाइंटों की गिनती के ऊपर देश के अन्दर एक्ससादी रेवोल्यूशन (revolution) की बातें करते हैं, दूसरी तरफ़ आप गुड़ वालों को देखिये। आखिर वह भी तो आप ही के देशवासी हैं, और उन का भी इस देश के ऊपर कुछ असर पड़ेगा। उन की बिक्री की दर एक दम से २१ से ६ रुपया मन आ जाय, यह कोई बात है? दूसरी तरफ़ हिन्दुस्तान के ही अन्दर नहीं बल्कि दुनिया के अन्दर प्लैण्ड एकानमी (planned economy) का बोलबाला है। लेकिन मैं आप से पूछता हूँ कि क्या यही आप की प्लैण्ड एकानमी है? एक तरफ़ तो आप क़ानून पास करते हैं कि एक खास क़िस्म की कपास बोई जा सकती है, लोगों को यक़ीन दिलाते हैं कि इस से इतने नीचे या इतने भाव पर सरकार आप से यह कपास खरीदेगी। लेकिन आज क्या हालत है? कुछ दिन हुए बाबू ठाकुर दास जी ने अपने ज़िले के बारे में कुछ बातें बतलाई थीं। उस इलाक़े के किसान वहाँ के फ़ार्म वाले यहाँ भी आये और इंडस्ट्री और कामर्स मिनिस्टर से मिलने की ज़रूरत भी की थी। आज देश के अन्दर क्या हालत है? जो सब से अच्छी लम्बे रेशे वाली कपास है वह हांसी इलाक़े में, और करनल व मेरे ज़िले में बोई जाती है। आज उसे कोई भी किसी भाव पर बोन के लिये तैयार नहीं है। वैसी ही कपास आप अमरीका से, जिस का भाव तक़रीबन तीन सौ रुपया पड़ता है, या इस से भी ज़्यादा, लेते हैं। लेकिन आप अपने देश की कपास पचास रुपया मन भी लेने को तैयार नहीं हैं। तो क्या मैं आप से पूछ

सकता हूँ कि यह कैसी प्लैण्ड एकानमी है, इस प्लैण्ड एकानमी के अन्दर हिन्दुस्तान किस ढंग से तरक्की करने वाला है यह आप सोचें। अगर आप चाहते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान बढ़िया कपास में आत्म निर्भर हो जाय, तो आप कोई भी कपास दूसरे देशों से न मंगायें और अपने रुपये को दूसरे देशों में न खर्च करें इस के लिये। बल्कि अपनी बढ़ोतरी के लिये आप एक्सचेंज (exchange) को इस्तेमाल करें। लेकिन इस के लिए भी आप को तमाम बातें सोचनी पड़ेंगी। हमारे यहाँ ऐसी कपास होती है जिस का नाम नरमा कपास है, वह जैसा उस का नाम है वैसी ही नर्म भी है। कुछ समय के बाद वह बिल्कुल नर्म हो जाती है।

पंडित ठाकुर दास भागंब : १६ मार्च के बाद discolouring आरम्भ हो जायगा।

श्रीधरी रनबीर सिंह : १६ मार्च के बाद उस कपास की कोई क़ीमत काश्तकार के लिये नहीं रहने वाली है। अगर आप १६ मार्च के पहले उस कपास को नहीं उठवाते हैं तो आप अन्दाज़ा कीजिये कि उस का क्या नतीजा होगा। आप आइन्दा कोई कायदा, कोई क़ानून बनायें, लोग इस बात को बेहतर समझेंगे कि अपनी ज़मीन को वंजर ही पड़ी रहने दें बजाय इस के कि वह इस को बोयें या इस के लिए वह मेहनत करें। मेहनत किसान करते हैं अपने चिन्दगी का खर्च कमाने के लिये, अगर उन को उल्टा घाटा पड़े और कोई इस की परवाह न करे तो उसे क्या ज़रूरत है घाटा उठा कर हल चलाने की और मेहनत करने की। तो अगर आप चाहते हैं कि कपास अच्छी तरह पैदा की जाय तो आप यह बात याद रखिये कि इन पिछले दस सालों में आप के कंट्रोलकी

क्या कहानी है। यह कंट्रोल क्या चीज थी ? इस कंट्रोल के जरिये सरकार ने काश्तकारों से जो रुपया उन के पास था वह ले लिया, उस को उन से छीन लिया और समाज के दूसरे सेक्शन को उस कंट्रोल के भाव पर चीजें खरीद कर पहुंचाई। तो आज जब दूसरा वक्त शुरू होने वाला है तो आप की यह जिम्मेदारी है कि आप उन की रक्षा करें। और आप को उस जिम्मेदारी को हिम्मत से संभालना चाहिये। जब गुड़ मंहगा था तब आप ने पूरी ताकत लगाई, पिछले साल कोल्डों पर लाइसेन्स आप ने लगाया और आप ने गुड़ को सस्ता करने के लिये तरह तरह की तरकीबें इस्तेमाल कीं। तो मैं आज अपने फूड मिनिस्टर और डिप्टी फूड मिनिस्टर साहब से अर्ज करूंगा कि आप ने क्या जराय अख्तियार किये हैं जिस से गुड़ का भाव कहीं तो जा कर टिके। और अगर आप इस के लिये कुछ नहीं करते हैं तो क्या मैं पूछ सकता हूँ कि आप फूड मिनिस्टर हैं या इण्डस्ट्रीज मिनिस्टर। अगर आप फूड और एग्रीकल्चर के मिनिस्टर हैं तो आप का फ़र्ज है कि कोई स्कीम, कोई बिल, कोई जरिया देश के सामने ऐसा लायें जिस से जिन आदमियों ने देश की मदद करने के लिये देश के अन्दर मीठे की कमी को दूर करने के लिये ज्यादा ईख बोई और मेहनत की, उस के लिये गर्मी और सरदी में एड़ी से चोटी तक का पसीना बहाया, उन की मेहनत का सिला उन को मिले। और अगर नहीं मिलता है तो जो मुश्किलता आप को आज अनाज की दिखाई देती है वह मुश्किलता आप के सामने फिर आने वाली है। कल तक कपास न मिलने की वजह से हमारे कारखाने बन्द होते थे। क्या आप समझते हैं कि वह हालत दुबारा नहीं आ सकती है ? वह जरूर आयेगी। अगर आप चाहते हैं कि आप की फाइव इयर प्लान (Five

Year Plan) तरक्की करे तो इस के लिये यह बात निहायत जरूरी है कि इस की तरफ पूरा ध्यान दिया जाय। कई दोस्त समझते हैं कि इण्डस्ट्रियल एरिया के अन्दर फूड सब्सिडी (food subsidy) जरूर दी जाय, अगर नहीं दी जाती है तो इन्डेक्स नम्बर ऊंचा हो जायगा। लेकिन जब देहात के मजदूरों की बात आती है तो इस बात को भूल जाते हैं कहते हैं उन को तो काश्त में साझा मिलता है। कैसा साझा ? अगर एक शख्स को पांच मन या चार मन अनाज मिलता तो उस के अन्दर उस का जीवन निर्वाह नहीं हो सकता है। कहा जाता है देहात के आदमियों की आमदनी में बहुत फ़र्क पड़ गया है। मैं आप को बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि आज कल सब से कम एकानमिक लेवल (economic level) या कम से कम आमदनी किसी सेक्शन की है तो वह खेतहार मजदूर की है। और अगर आप चाहते हैं कि फूड सब्सिडी दी जाती तो अगर इस के लिये मन्क में सब से पहले किसी का हक है तो वह खेतहार मजदूर का है। और अगर उन को आप मिटाना चाहते हैं तो मिटाइये। जहाँ और सेक्शन को तकलीफ़ होगी वहाँ उन को भी तकलीफ़ होगी। कई भाइयों को डर है अनरेस्ट (unrest) का। मैं उन को बताना चाहता हूँ कि अगर आप एशिया के इतिहास को पढ़ें तो आप को मालूम होगा कि अगर किसी का अनरेस्ट यहां तीव्र हुआ है तो वह देहात का है। आप बतलाइये कि आज आप के सामने मद्रास, या वम्बई या कलकत्ता का सवाल है या तेलंगाना का सवाल है। आज जो हमारे एडमिनिस्ट्रेटर (administrator) हैं उन को तेलंगाना की बातें देख कर नींद नहीं आती है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह औद्योगिक मजदूर हैं ? हिन्दुस्तान के लिये अगर कोई क्वांटि आने वाली है तो वह देहात से आने वाली है।

### [श्री चौधरी रनबीर सिंह]

अगर हिन्दुस्तान में आजादी आई है तो वह हिन्दुस्तान के देहात के सिपाहियों की लड़ाई की वजह से जो कि तक़रीरें देना नहीं जानते थे और अखबारों में खबरें नहीं भेज सकते थे। और उन्हीं लोगों की वजह से दूसरी क्रान्ति आने वाली है। हिन्दुस्तान में इंडस्ट्रियल लेबर बीस पचीस साल तक तो बहुत इफ़ेक्टिव (effective) नहीं हो सकती। इस लिये आप अपनी फ़ाइनेन्शियल पालिसी बनाते वक़्त उन की तकलीफ़ों को सामने रखने की कोशिश करें। अगर डर से नहीं तो बैसे भी इस मुल्क में देहात का हिस्सा सब से अधिक है। अजीब बात है कि एक कृषि प्रधान देश हो और उस की पालिसी जब बनती है तो देहात की न गिनती होती है, न मुनवाई होती है, न कोई पूछ होती है न ताछ होती है। मैं आप से कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप ज़रा टेक्सेशन पालिसी (taxation policy) की तरफ़ ध्यान दीजिये। आप टेक्सेशन में इनकम टैक्स (Income tax) वसूल करते हैं। हमारे बाबू ठाकुर दास ज्वाइंट फ़ैमिली (Joint family) का बड़ा गीत गाते रहते हैं। वह कहते हैं कि ज्वाइंट फ़ैमिली में चार, पांच हजार या छः हजार तक माफ़ कर दिया जाय। दूसरी तरफ़ देहात में टेक्सेशन का क्या हाल है? अगर एक आदमी एक बीघा भी बोता है और चाहे उस को घाटा ही क्यों न हो उस को टैक्स देना होगा। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि वह अंग्रेज़ वाली कहानी आज भी क्या कोई कहने की ज़रूत कर सकता है कि ज़मीन सरकार की मालियत है और दूसरी चीज़ें सरकार की मालियत नहीं हैं। लगान भी एक टैक्स है और इनकम टैक्स भी एक टैक्स है। तो देश में एक के लिये टैक्स का एक उसूल है और दूसरे के लिये दूसरा उसूल है।

श्री श्यामनंदन सहाय : उन को क्या देना पड़ता है।

श्री चौधरी रनबीर सिंह : ईस के लिये एक एकड़ पर १५ रुपया पड़ता है और दूसरे के लिये ढाई रुपया देना पड़ता है।

पंडित ठाकुर दास भागंब : वाटर रेट (water rate) वगैरह है। रेवेन्यू इतना नहीं है।

Shri Syamnandan Sahaya: What is the revenue per acre?

श्री चौधरी रनबीर सिंह : मैं एक और बात कहना चाहता हूँ। यह अजीब बात है कि दिल्ली बन रही है और चंडीगढ़ बन रहा है। वहां सड़कें बन रही हैं और वहां लोगों के लिये तरह तरह के आराम के इंतज़ाम किये जा रहे हैं। इस के लिये वहां वालों से क्या लिया जाता है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि दिल्ली के ऊपर कितना खर्च हुआ है और इस में से दिल्ली वालों का कितना हिस्सा है? लेकिन देहात के लिये यह बात है कि अगर कहीं नहर निकलती है तो उस का सारा खर्च देहात वालों से लिया जाता है और उस के बाद भी उस के लिये उन को कर देना पड़ता है। तो आप बताइये कि यह आप के फ़ाइनेन्स की कौन सी जस्टिस है? क्या आप के फ़ाइनेन्स का यही न्याय है कि जो क़ानून बनाया जाता है वह देहात के लिये एक तरह का होता है और शहर वालों के लिये दूसरी तरह का होता है।

मध्यम श्रेणी के आदमियों की तकलीफ़ों का बड़ा ज़िक्र किया जाता है। क्या यह सच नहीं है कि हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर जब तक अंग्रेज़ रहे और उन के बाद सन् ३९ तक हिन्दुस्तान के मध्यम श्रेणी वालों ने न केवल अपने हक़ का ही खाया है बल्कि दूसरों के हक़ का भी खाया है। और अब अगर दस

सालों से उन को अपना ही हक मिल रहा है तो इस में कौन सा अन्याय है। आज भी अगर हम हिन्दुस्तान की सोसाइटी का मुकाबला करें तो आज भी आप को मानना होगा कि मध्यम श्रेणी वाले दूसरों के मुकाबले में आज भी जीत में है। तो आप मध्यम श्रेणी वालों के लिये इतना साफ्ट कारनर (soft corner) रखें और दूसरों के लिये न रखें यह कहां तक ठीक है और कहां तक यह बात चलने वाली है, खास तौर पर ऐसे देश में जहां कि बालिया मताधिकार हों और जहां बालिया मताधिकार पर राज्य बनता और बिगड़ता हो।

इसलिये अगर आप चाहते हैं कि हिन्दुस्तान में स्टेबिल (stable) हुकूमत हो और प्लान्ड ढंग पर तरक्की हो तो उस के लिये आप को सोचना होगा, समझना होगा और अपनी फ्राइनेन्डाल पालिसी को बदलना होगा।

[English translation of the above speech]

**Ch. Ranbir Singh (Punjab):** Sir, while welcoming the Finance Bill, I have to draw attention of the hon. Finance Minister to the fact that a new era of agricultural economy is about to begin. As stated by him yesterday, years 1931—39 proved to be a hard era for agricultural economy after which the situation took a turn and a change occurred which brought some relief to the agriculturist. But peculiar circumstances have been prevailing since the beginning of this year. Certain hon. friends have been discussing the sharp rise in food prices and mention that the living index has gone up considerably. I, however, suggest a period of last one year for this survey. The control price of 'gur' was fixed at Rs. 21/- per maund last year. What is the price today? It is selling at Rs. 6/- or Rs. 7/- per maund. On one hand you are showing concern about the rise of some points in the cost of living index and express fears about an economic revolution overtaking the country, while on the other hand you are ignoring the depression with which 'gur' merchants in the country are faced. They are also your countrymen

and their trade also effects the country's economy. It is not a small thing that price of the commodity in which they are trading should so suddenly come down from Rs. 21 to Rs. 6 per maund. Yet we find—not only in India but also in the whole world—the slogan of planned economy catching the people's imagination. I will like to know whether this is what you mean by planned economy? You pass legislations and give assurances that cotton of a particular variety can be sown and this cotton the Government will purchase at some specified rates. What are, however, the conditions today? Some days back Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava gave an account of the situation obtaining in his district. A deputation of the agriculturists and farm-owners of that area recently had an interview with the hon. Minister of Industry and Commerce. In this country long staple cotton is being grown in Hansi and Karnal in addition to my own district. But the situation at present is such that none is prepared at any cost for its cultivation now. You are purchasing the cotton from America where the rate is about Rs. 300 and even more. On the other hand you are reluctant to purchase the very same indigenous cotton even at Rs. 50 per maund. I want to know what sort of planned economy this is. Do you really think the country stands to gain thereby? I request you to pause and think. If you want to see India a self-supporting country in the matter of superior type of cotton, you should stop importing it from other countries and stop spending your finances in other countries on its purchases. You will, however, have to take all aspects of the matter into consideration. We in this country grow a variety of cotton known as 'narma'. It is as narma (soft) as its name implies. It becomes more softer after some time.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** After March, 16th the discolouring would begin.

**Ch. Ranbir Singh:** After March, 16th the agriculturist will not be able to get any price for it. You may just realize the result if it is not purchased before March, 16th. You should pass some legislation to meet the situation, otherwise people will let their land remain unsown rather than put in so much toil with no returns. The cultivator toils in order to earn his living. Should that, however, be not possible and on the contrary should he have to incur loss, he will certainly desist from labouring on the plough. If, therefore, you want that more cotton

[Ch. Ranbir Singh]

of better quality should be produced in the country, you should just ponder over the results of your controls policy during the last ten years. The Government have—by following the policy of controls—taken away all money from the cultivators and have helped other sections of the society in purchasing the commodities at controlled rates. Now that a different trend is in the offing, the Government ought to protect their interests. You should discharge this obligation boldly. You adopted all measures and employed all devices to bring down the prices of *gur* last year. You imposed even a licence on the *kolhus*. I will like to know from the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Food what steps they have taken to stabilise *gur* prices at some level. If you, however, plead inability, I would then like to know whether you are the Minister of Food or the Minister of Industries. As Minister of Food and Agriculture, it is your duty to evolve some scheme, introduce some Bill or adopt any other measures to see that the people who toiled hard to produce sugar or *gur* for the country and endured all rigours of the weather in doing so, get a due return for the same. Should you, however, fail, the difficulties regarding the food situation are bound to confront the country in a much more serious form. Till recently our factories had often to close down for want of sufficient cotton. Do you think that such a situation cannot arise again? It is bound to come. If you want your 'Five Year Plan' to achieve results, you will have to concentrate more attention on it. Many friends suggest the granting of food subsidy in the industrial areas without which they think the cost of living index is bound to go up. They, however, forget such a necessity in the case of agricultural labour. An excuse is advanced that they already receive a share in the crops. What is this sharing of crops? A person receiving four to five maunds of foodgrains as his share under this system, cannot be expected to be able to make both ends meet. It is said again that the income of people living in rural areas has considerably increased. I want to tell you that if there is any section of society whose economic level can be considered to be the lowest, it is the agricultural labour and it is this section which deserves most the grant of any subsidy. If you are, however, interested in their ruin, you may proceed with it. They will, in that case, gladly suffer along with other sections of society. Many friends here fear some unrest overtaking the country. I will ask

them to study the History of the Asian countries if there has ever been a severe unrest, it had its origin in the rural areas. Today you are not faced with any problem concerning the cities of Madras, Bombay or Calcutta. It is Telangana that is engaging your attention most. Our administrators get disturbed sleep because of the developments in Telangana. I wish to know whether that area could be considered as populated by the industrial labour? Any revolution that may overtake the country, will have its origin in the rural areas. India has attained her freedom because of the struggle of those simple country-folk who did not know how to make speeches or get news published in the papers. The history will repeat itself because of these very people and a revolution may come in the country. India's industrial labour is not likely to prove effective for another 20 to 25 years. You should, therefore, keep their difficulties in view in any financial scheme that you may evolve. Even if you cast all fears aside, the part, which our villages play in the country's economy, has to be reckoned with. It is very strange that in a country predominantly agricultural, rural areas should be so by-passed and utterly neglected in all our financial policies. I wish you just to pay some attention to your taxation policy. You levy and realize income-tax from the people. Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava is all praise for the joint family system. He wants the taxation limit to be raised to Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000 in the case of joint families. What is, on the other hand, the position regarding taxation in the rural areas? Any person with a holding of only one *Bigha*, though suffering a loss, has to pay the tax. I want to know if somebody yet dare repeat what was generally said during the British rule that all things may belong to the individuals but land belongs to the Government. Revenue and other taxes are identical thing. Yet different rules apply to the two categories of taxpayers.

**Shri Syamnandan Sahaya (Bihar):** How much are they required to pay?

**Ch. Ranbir Singh:** For sugarcane crop they have to pay at the rate of Rs. 15 per acre while for all other purposes it is Rs. 2½ per acre.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** These include water charges etc. The revenue is not so much.

**Shri Syamnandan Sahaya:** What is the revenue per acre?

**Ch. Ranbir Singh:** I want to refer to one point. It may surprise you to know how much the people are charged in Delhi and Chandigarh where roads are being built and all other modern facilities being provided. I want to know the total expenditure incurred on the development of Delhi and the contributions made thereto by the local residents. The case with the rural areas is, however, different. People there are charged for the canals dug in their areas and even afterwards they are required to pay regular taxes. Can it be called financial justice? The underlying basis of your justice occurs to be that there should be different sets of laws for rural and urban areas.

A good deal has been said about the difficulties of middle class people. Is it not a fact that during the British rule right up to the year 1939, this class had been living at the cost of other classes? In addition to their own rights they had usurped other people's rights also. What is wrong if they are getting what is rightly their own for the last ten years. There is no injustice involved therein. A comparison of their financial position with the rest of society even today will show that they are in a more favourable condition. It is no justice to have such a soft corner for the middle class people while denying the same consideration to others. It is not a practical proposition especially in a country where adult franchise has been conceded and where Government's fate hangs on that very basis.

If, therefore, you want to see a stable administration in India and achieve prosperity through a planned economy, you will have to do hard thinking and change the present economic structure if necessary.

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad:** We are asked at the far end of a very important Parliament to give effect to the proposals of a care-taker Budget. There is a strange unreality about the Budget discussions. We are to make a bequest, a death bed bequest, to our successors. Our recommendations will not be in the least binding unless they are agreed to by the successor Parliament. Now this is just like a dying person making a will, not a Hindu making his will, whose will will be binding, but a Muslim making a will in favour of an heir which will be binding only when all the heirs agree after his death. Therefore, our debate cannot

but be to a certain extent of a reminiscent character. This House which came in as a Constituent Assembly passed one of the biggest and the most important constitutions in the world. This House, as Parliament, passed the People's Representation Act under which the greatest election has been held and it is quite apparent that the people by a vast majority have endorsed the policy and the administration of the Government...

**Shri R. Velayudhan:** Question.

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad:** Well, Mr. Velayudhan questions the statement. I think he has introduced an element of comedy during these debates.

**Shri R. Velayudhan:** I will introduce more when you will not be there.

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad:** He has expressed a desire to reconcile two irreconcilable things, namely that you should have democracy under communism which he hopes will be installed in the Treasury Benches after five years.

**Shri T. Husain (Bihar):** No, never.

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad:** While I believe that he is raising a hope that the Communists will sit in the Treasury Benches after five years, I also believe that he is raising another kind of hope amongst the saner section of the public which is rapidly spreading wide: it is the hope that the day would be far distant when Mr. Velayudhan would have an opportunity of putting the theory into practice.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** He will then also be in the opposition.

**Shri R. Velayudhan:** That is the wishful thinking of many people.

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad:** My friend does not realise that his wishes are wishful thinking.

The questions which are before the country now are, speaking prospectively, speaking as a man making his will on his death bed.....

**Shri Syamnandan Sahaya:** God forbid!

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad:** This House is dying—though next Parliament will live again in May next, this House is dying.

**Shri T. Husain:** Not the House, the Members.

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad:** That is only a difference in points of view. My friend is not dying, because he is expected to come to the Upper House. But there are many who have not dared to contest the elections and there are many who bravely fought and bravely lost, and for them it is a dying House.

Sir, in spite of the encomiums that have been showered on the Government I submit there are a few subjects which should be clearly kept in mind. The hon. Finance Minister is likely to brush them aside as so many 'Hardy Annuals', as if they are absolutely ignoble matters. One is the elimination of the blackmarket, the other is the elimination of corruption, the third is the elimination of controls and the last, though not the least, is some amount of tax relief. These are some of the problems which cannot be brushed aside on the ground that they are merely "Hardy Annuals". I hope and believe that these problems will have to be tackled. The next Parliament will not be as easy-going as the present Parliament. We have lived in an atmosphere of friendliness and goodwill but I am afraid that this atmosphere of friendliness and easy-going character of the debates will be lost in the next House.

**Shri Sondhi (Punjab):** Elimination of the Hindu Code also.

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad:** The Hindu Code is practically dead. At least it will not come in the shape in which it was brought. Of that I have no doubt. The country has expressed its wish in this respect in a most unmistakable fashion. Of course, there must be some amount of changes; some amount of experiments even in the matter of social Legislation, even in the Hindu Code, but I think the country requires some amount of rest after the Elections.

With regard to the next House every attempt should be made to make things interesting and I think the Government will be hard put to it and I am glad they will be hard put to it to fight the Communists with all the weapons in their armoury. But if the Government wishes that the Communists should not be installed in power, Government must solve some of these big problems. Unless they can solve them I think Mr. Velayudhan's wishful thinking may come true in, not five years, but in ten years.

**Shri R. Velayudhan:** Mine is real thinking.

**Shri V. Gangaraju (Madras):** I want to speak on the restrictions placed on imports from hard currency countries which have benefited the finances of our country to a great extent. While these restrictions have been helpful to the country, we are, on the other hand, seeing so many unimportable goods from hard currency areas abundantly exhibited in the markets of Madras, Bombay and other places. All these goods are flowing into India through the foreign pockets that exist in India, like Pondicherry and Mormugoa, etc. While there is an official restriction on the direct import of these articles, merchants purchase these goods in Pondicherry and other foreign pockets in this country and bring them into India stealthily to sell them in the blackmarket. Even though we are not affected by having to pay in hard currency for these goods because Indian rupees are used for these transactions, at the same time Government is losing a lot of import duty on these items which are smuggled into India. Government should either prevent such smuggling or allow such goods into India after charging the usual import duties or even extra duties. Such an action will either stop this large scale smuggling of goods or stop to some extent the blackmarketing that exists at the present time.

Sir, I congratulate the Labour Minister for his zeal in helping the labour, but I am sorry that he has not been able to do anything towards the amelioration of the rural and agricultural labourers. We often hear of land being brought under cultivation, but unless there is a chemical and soil survey, this process of bringing more land under cultivation and starting Sindri and other fertiliser factories will not be effective. You must first know the nature of the soil and the kind of manure which will strengthen it.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Sir, in regard to the granting of land for the landless poor, unless you open Agricultural Credit Banks there is no use your simply granting lands to landless poor or even advising the State Governments to do so. They should have sufficient capital to manure the land and make it yield results.

With these few suggestions, I request Government to take action on them, and beg to conclude my remarks.

**Mr. Speaker:** As I stated earlier in the day, the hon. the Finance Minister will reply to the debate in the afternoon.

#### FAREWELL ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members of Parliament, as today's is the last meeting of the last session of the present Parliament, it is but proper that, before we part, I should convey to the hon. Members of this House, my grateful thanks for the willing cooperation and generosity extended by them all to me in bearing the burden of the high office, which I was called upon to discharge. A great honour was conferred on me, when the House selected me as the first Speaker of the First Parliament of independent Republican India. The task being heavy, I was naturally nervous about my ability to shoulder the burden to the general satisfaction of all. The recent party and a token present to me with an autographed scroll conveying good wishes, love and affection of Members amply evidence their general satisfaction.

This is not the time nor the occasion for giving any detailed retrospect of the work of our Parliament in the direction of march towards democracy, but I may touch upon a few points illustrating our progress towards our democratic ideals through Parliament.

The present Parliament, a continuation of the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative), came into existence as Parliament from the 26th of January, 1950, when the Constitution came into force. Without any violent break with the past, the Parliament began its functions with a substantially altered outlook as regards its duties and responsibilities. We began to develop our democracy both in matters of procedure and substance. Some important changes in the old order of things may be noted.

In the first place, recognising the necessity of Parliamentary control over the finances of Government, so essential for translating into action, the responsibility of Government to the House, we have set up two Parliamentary Committees, called the

Estimates Committee and the Public Accounts Committee. Incidentally, these committees give an opportunity to the Members of Parliament to go into the inner workings of governmental machinery. I am glad to say that these two Committees have done splendid work, which has been appreciated both inside and outside this House.

It is essential that we should have a careful scrutiny of the accounts and the Budget estimates. We are now following the procedure of having a Vote on Account so that, while the Government have no difficulty in continuing their normal functions, the Members have ample opportunities of going into details of the Budget and there is now no rush to pass the Budget estimates by the 31st of March every year. We are also following the financial provisions of the Constitution by having the Consolidated Fund and Appropriation Bills.

To facilitate elucidation on points that arise during the Question-Hour, we have provided for, what we technically call, a rule for half-an-hour's discussion and I am happy to say that advantage was taken of this by the Members.

With a view to prevent waste of time, we have adopted certain sound conventions such as absences of discussion on Appropriation Bills. The grants having been discussed the Appropriation Bills are but a machinery for the statutory check and, though they are a matter of substance so far as checks on finances are concerned, they are a matter of form only, so far as the debates in the House are concerned.

With full responsible Government, we have also appreciated that the procedure of raising discussion on a subject by means of an adjournment motion should now be abandoned, particularly when Members have so many opportunities of raising questions on many matters by way of questions, half-an-hour discussions, Budget speeches, etc. The adjournment motion has consequently become very rare and I hope it will soon be a matter for the historian.

We have further realised that, to make our democracy successful, there should be our conscious effort to educate the Members in matters of administration instead of merely inviting them to support or oppose

[Mr. Speaker]

the measures which Government may introduce. Our chief task is to make the Member fully understand the subject he votes upon, make him study it, so that he may offer constructive criticism, and last but not the least, vote as a representative of the people, who have voted him to the seat. A good deal of work in this sphere will depend upon the political and other organisations outside the House. Yet much needs to be done inside the House also; and with this end in view, we have been making efforts to organise the Parliament Library and publications on modern lines. The first problem of a Library is to get maximum literature. We have, therefore, adopted various methods to achieve this purpose. We have a network of exchange system with foreign Governments, literary institutions, universities and other important bodies which produce research material of a high order. So far as inland books are concerned, we have an arrangement now that the Parliament Library gets, free of cost, one copy of each book, publication, etc. which is published in the Union of India. We also use our limited resources in purchasing useful and thought-provoking books for the use of the Members. We further receive tremendous literature as free gift from the various Governments, Legislatures and other bodies in India. The second important function, which a Parliament Library has to provide, is to supply, in a concise and easily assimilable form, the references of the literature which a Member wants immediately in support of his arguments or contentions or points of view. We have, therefore, organised a Reference and Research Service which, as the Members are aware, is proving exceedingly useful. Apart from this individual help, the Members are assisted collectively in the shape of bibliographies on Bills, monographs on important subjects, Abstracting Service, etc. In addition to full stencilled debates, Members are supplied daily with Parliamentary Bulletins.

We have also started a Sales Section in the Parliament House where not only Parliamentary literature but other publications of the Government in which Members of this House or of the public are interested are sold on the spot. This has cut out a lot of delay and inconvenience usually caused under the old arrangement.

We have established the Indian Parliamentary Group which functions as a Branch of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. These organisations work for the promotion of world peace and prosperity through the Members of the National Parliaments. Conferences are held periodically to which the Indian Parliamentary Group sends a delegation. The Group is also a forum under whose auspices important personages are asked to address the Members and to arrange entertainments and receptions. Side by side with these Conferences, the meetings of the Secretaries-General of the various Parliaments are also held. These Conferences discuss questions of procedure and practice in the various Parliaments and other constitutional issues and they are attended by the Secretary of this House.

In view of Hindi being the official language of the Union and the policy laid down in the Constitution for a complete change-over to Hindi in a few years time, we have organised in the Parliament Secretariat, a Special Hindi Section for Hindi renderings of the Debates, as also of questions; and the Parliament Secretariat has started classes to give the staff a workable knowledge of Hindi at the initial stages which may, thereafter, be developed by them on their own. We have also proceeded in the direction of finalising a standard Hindi Type-writer Keyboard and have prepared the ground for the manufacture of such typewriters by various commercial firms. We have aimed at attaining a uniformity of script and also evolution of Hindi which will neither be too much Sanskritised nor too much Persianised and would include as many words of regional languages as are most common to a large number of languages. We have got the Constitution translated into the various regional languages, keeping in view a common terminology as far as possible.

Along with these, which I may term "the internal preparatory work for raising the general level", attention is also being paid to the external surroundings of our House. The building that we occupy is undoubtedly a stately and magnificent building; but unfortunately it appears too bald and does not touch our hearts, as the surroundings are entirely Western and do not reflect our indigenous

philosophy of life and action, in which we are soaked through centuries and which alone can inspire us to the further effort, to build up the future of our State to its legitimate heights, on the basis of our ancient culture. The House does not bring to our eyes a vivid picture of our ancient, medieval and recent life, history and philosophy nor does it give us, in the form of pictures, paintings or statues, the inspiration that we can derive through art, of our ancient national life and our struggle for independence during the last hundred years or more. I have therefore set up a Committee, who will advise and prepare plans of decorations for the Parliament House, which, when executed, will go a great way to create a very inspiring atmosphere. However, I know the greatest difficulty in our way will be the finances. I am in no hurry to achieve this all at once. All that I am anxious for is that an overall plan be made which may be executed by bits from year to year by our successors.

Lastly, I have to inform hon. Members who were also Members of the Constituent Assembly and participated in the drafting of the Constitution, that we have prepared a calligraphed illuminated copy of the Constitution in English, as also in Hindi. The pages are decorated with suitable scenes from Indian life from ancient times by Shri Nandial Bose, the well-known artist. The English copy is almost ready and its photostat is in the press. The Hindi copy is in progress of execution and will take some considerable time. In pursuance of the promise made by our President, when he was President of the Constituent Assembly, photostat copies of the Constitution when ready will be available to those Members at no very distant date.

Before I conclude, I again gratefully thank all the Members for the co-operation and the goodwill that I had from all and each of them in so ungrudging and generous a manner, throughout the period of the life of this Parliament.

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Sir, may I, on behalf of all the Members of this House, offer you our grateful thanks for the words you have addressed to us? You have mentioned, Sir, various conventions that have grown up under your sheltering care and the various steps you have taken during these last few years to

build up a democratic structure of Government at which we aim.

We have passed through unusual and abnormal times during the last few years and to the unseeing eye it might appear that we are as we were. Others again might think that we have completely changed. Perhaps there is an element of truth in both those views. It has been, I believe, the genius of India throughout the ages to change when change was required and yet not to be uprooted from the soil from which it grew. And so we change and sometimes we change fairly rapidly and yet we do not, to a casual observer, appear to change as much as we have changed. Yet, the fact of the matter is that in the last few years very great changes have come about this country of ours and from day to day these changes increase.

So far as we are concerned here in this House, which has been the centre of political and other activity and to which millions of our country have looked, we have naturally been some kind of norm of these changes, bringing those changes about, initiating them, preserving them and generally giving guidance to the country.

You have referred, Sir, to the co-operation you have received from Members of this House. I am grateful to you for that expression of your views on this subject. I believe that each Member of this House has wished and endeavoured to give that cooperation, even though some of us, or all of us, have sometimes not acted up to the standard at which we aimed. Partly, I think, even when we failed to attain that standard, it was due to the knowledge that you were sitting in that chair, Sir, to guide us and we could not go far astray so long as you were there. In any event, whatever we may have done, or not done, there can be no doubt that such conventions as have grown up and such habits and procedure have been largely due to your able—and if I may say so—very understanding guidance of this House. And all of us, whether we come back to subsequent Parliaments or not, have profited greatly by that guidance of yours and in whatever sphere of activity we may indulge in, that profit will endure.

1 P.M.

This Parliament has passed through a difficult and delicate period of India's history. To some extent we have shaped that history, to some extent we have ourselves been shaped by those events. In any event, after a few hours or a day this Parliament and all of us as Members of this Parlia-

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

ment will ourselves be history, even though we may function in other capacities. This transitional Parliament bridged the big gap from the old days when we were something other than the Parliament to the new days when a new Parliament elected by hundreds of millions of the people of India comes into existence giving full effect to the Constitution which, not this Parliament, but many in this Parliament in another capacity drew up after long labour. Thus we finish yet another chapter of our history and go forward, I hope, with courage and with some vision to the next phase of India's story. What that story will be we cannot say now except that I think, if I may say on behalf of the Members of this House, that we look forward today with confidence and faith in our country and in the traditions that have grown up not only in the country during these few years but in the House under your able guidance. Above all, I am sure we shall remember you, Sir, and what you have taught us during these years.

May I, again, on behalf of all the Members of the House express to you our gratitude?

*The House then adjourned for Lunch till Three of the Clock.*

*The House re-assembled after Lunch at Three of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

**FINANCE BILL—concl'd.**

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** The first point that I wish to deal with is that of cotton prices, especially in Berar. From the speech made by Dr. Deshmukh, the House might gather the impression that cotton prices were threatening to tumble below the floor levels that have been fixed. That actually is not the case. From time to time the ceiling has been raised during the last two years, according to the classification and gradation of cottons, in order to encourage the cultivation of cotton, and control was exercised not only for the purpose of keeping down the price of cloth, but also for safeguarding the interests of the cultivator, so that he could obtain the proper price for certain specific genuine qualities of the cottons that he was encouraged to grow. It is true that there has been a recession in the world prices of cotton, just as there has been a recession in the prices of other raw materials and commodities, and in many cases the spot market prices are

below the ceiling. But the point that I wish to make is that in no case have the prices fallen to or anywhere near the floor, and as I shall show you, the current price is still well above the floor prices.....

**Shri Sondhi:** Much below the ceiling.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** That is not the relevant consideration here for the purposes of the debate. I cannot pretend to be sorry that they are below the ceiling. The ceiling is the maximum.

**Shri Sondhi:** That is the point we raised.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** The point raised, as I understood it, was that they were tumbling and that the time had come when Government should do something about it, which was a circumlocutory way of saying that there should be a floor.

To return to the figures which I was proposing to give, Sir, for Jerla, the ceiling is 820 and the floor is 495 and the latest available quotations will run between 700 to 880. Then Vijay: the ceiling is 925, the floor is 565 and prices are slightly below the ceilings in 920. Then C.P. Desi; here there is no floor. Gaorani 990, floor is 625 and present price is round about 900 and so on. So the ceiling and floor prices are fixed in terms of section 3 of the Cotton Control Order, 1950 and in terms of a Notification and a Press Note issued in August 24, 1946. Government have given an assurance in the following terms:

"When the prices are at the floor rates for any or all of the descriptions for which such rates are specified in the Schedule annexed to the said general permission, the Government of India undertake to buy such cotton of grade and staples, specified for those rates in Bombay on terms set out in the notes appended to the said Schedule and at equivalent prices elsewhere."

In terms of this undertaking Government have actually purchased cotton, as, for instance, in 1943 and in 1945 and Government stand committed to this undertaking and will be closely watching the situation.

Now, one reason why prices are falling, apart from a sympathetic fall together with other commodity prices is that the mills seem to be reluctant to lift their quotas. This has been brought to our notice, but it is not so very easy to think of a remedy. If

you were to say: "Well, penalize the mills; they would forfeit their quota in case they do not lift it within a stipulated time", the result might be that the mills might cease to work for lack of cotton. That is not going to help the cotton grower. It would certainly castigate the mill-owner but does not improve the position. So instead of penalizing, we are considering whether we should not try admonition and the Textile Commission has been instructed to try and persuade the mills to lift their quotas within a stated period, that is to say, in effect to stagger their purchases instead of waiting till the end of the half year and perhaps the prices might have gone down further.

All these developments are constantly being brought to the notice of Government by the interests concerned. One Dr. Deshmukh raised a point; there is another Deshmukh who has written to the Commerce and Industry Ministry at Berar and a third Deshmukh is trying to explain the situation. So you can see how alert and interested the Deshmukhs are to deal with this problem.

**उपाध्यक्ष महोदय :**

ब्रह्मार्पणं ब्रह्म हविर्ब्रह्माग्नौ ब्रह्मणा हुतम् ।  
ब्रह्मैव तेन गन्तव्यं ब्रह्मकर्मसमाधिना ॥

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker:

*Brahmarpanam Brahma havir  
Brahmagnau Brahmna hutam.  
Brahmaiva tena gantavyam  
Brahma-Karma-samadhina.*

The offering-spoon is Brahma (the Omnipresent God), the oblation is Brahma, it is offered to the fire that is Brahma, by the performer, who is Brahma; through all these deeds done for Brahma, it is to reach the Brahma.]

**श्री कामत :** ओं शान्ति : शान्ति :  
शान्ति : ।

[Shri Kamath: *Om Shantih, Shantih, Shantih.*]

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** From this incantation it is time for me to pass from cotton to agriculturists about which Chaudhuri Ranbir Singh spoke. He raised some fundamental issues, that is to say, justice and equality as between the town dweller and the village dweller. Now, that is an issue on which one could not hope to throw light in the course of an answer to a

debate of this kind. It is my impression that the denizen of the rural areas has not done so badly during the last few years. Although I have no statistical evidence, I should imagine that at least the producer is better off relatively than the middle-class man in the urban areas.

**Shri Alexander** (Travancore-Cochin): What about the producer of foodgrains?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** That is precisely the person I referred to. He has not done so badly.

**Shri Bharati** (Madras): That is not correct.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** That can be proved. In 1947, for instance, in my district, the grower was getting Rs. 125 per kandy for his paddy. In six months' time, he started getting Rs. 185.

**Shri Bharati:** What about the cost of production?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** In six months, there was no change in the cost of production. It was just a windfall due to decontrol. Apart from the jute grower, I cannot think of any one else who has received that kind of accretion to his profits. I think that by and large, till very recently, the grower of food and cash crops has not been too badly off. The particular point of taxation to which Ch. Ranbir Singh referred is a matter not within the field of the Central Government. He referred to land revenue and the absence of any exempted minimum of income. That again involves the question of agricultural income-tax. I dare say that when land revenue is placed on a more uniform footing in the country, that is to say, when it is replaced by an agricultural income-tax, there might emerge some such minimum as is contemplated by the hon. Member. But, in any case, as I said, so far as the Central Government is concerned, there is nothing that one can do about it. Since most of the other taxes are indirect taxes and since the purchases made by the rural population are not so considerable as compared with the purchases made by the inhabitants of urban areas, I do not think the average agriculturist bears a disproportionately large share of the general taxation in the country.

I next come to the vexed question of subsidies. I can assure the hon. Member that any tears that we may have shed were not crocodile tears. Nor was there any intention to juggle with figures.

**Shri Sondhi:** Were there any tears at all?

**Shri Venkataraman:** Yes.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** There were plenty of figures.

**Shri Venkataraman:** He was asking about tears.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** The point made by the hon. Member was that what was said about the time-lag as between the curve of wholesale price indices and the cost of living indices is not true. On the other hand, he seemed to imply that the opposite was the case. That, I fail to understand. It is possible that there is no parallelism after a time-lag; that is to say, that the other curve does not follow the first one after an interval of three months. But, since some of the items are common to both the indices, to the extent to which the prices of those articles are affected, the shape of the curve is bound to be affected. That was the only point which it was my intention to make. The weightage that has been given to food articles is not as high as 50 or 60, but is nearer 33. Food articles include various other things besides cereals. If the hon. Member is interested, I can show him the working of the Chief of the Economic Division in the Planning Commission, on whose authority I quoted the figure the other day of three per cent. I said three points. I am afraid it is wrong. It is three per cent. increase. So, we have these two figures: that between 1948 and December, 1951 there has been an increase of ten per cent. in the cost of living indices.

Secondly, if the subsidies are taken away, the middle class representative may have to pay three per cent. more and his cost of living may go up by three per cent. The hon. Member quoted certain figures to show what the cost of the cereals would be if no subsidy were given. That brings out the point that I have made that even with the existing subsidy, we cannot hold the situation because of the progressively increasing prices of imported foodgrains. That costs us more and the freight on it is greater. Therefore, the work that was done by a subsidy of say 35 crores one year would require 60 crores next year and perhaps 90 crores: That was the maximum figure that we calculated. However sympathetic one may be—and one is genuinely so to the middle classes—our Budget just cannot bear the impact of a figure of that dimension when it is devoted just to subsidies, namely a figure of 90

crores. All that we could at one time afford was 25 crores of which about ten or twelve crores will be retained in any case. The point that I made the other day was that the sum of 15 crores is not going to make such a material difference to the population affected.

On the other hand, there are certain indications which could be regarded as hopeful by the middle classes, and that is, if we can find additional money for our development projects, it will mean additional employment for the representatives of what we recognise as the middle classes. It is not strictly true to say that only one person in a middle class family works. Actually, I referred to the figures and I find that 1.68 person works.

**Shri Venkataraman:** Is that in the middle class family budget report prepared by Mr. Subramaniam of the Government of India? A statistical enquiry has been conducted by the Government. A statistician went into the middle class family budgets all over India and his figure was 1.68 for the working classes and 1 or less for the middle classes.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I am quoting from "War on Middle classes: An Enquiry into the effects of War-time inflation on middle classes in Bombay City by J. J. Anjaria.

**Shri Venkataraman:** Why not refer to your own statistician?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** He is one of our statisticians.

**Shri Venkataraman:** The Government appointed a statistician to go into the question and Government has conducted an enquiry into the cost of living of the middle classes. The report is there before the Government.

**Prof. K. T. Shah (Bihar):** May I ask what is the definition of 'middle class'?

**Shri Tyagi:** Unemployed.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** That is trenching into the time that has been allotted to me, but, I have no doubt that if one goes through this pamphlet he can find out what the definition of 'middle class' is. Anyway, if we do not know the definition, it is no use discussing the subject. If we understand something in common by 'middle class'...

**Prof. K. T. Shah:** It is not a question of not knowing the definition. It is a question of knowing what you have adopted as the middle class.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is a question of categories. Anyhow, it will be opening a new chapter.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I do not lay any great stress on this point that it is 1.68. It may be one and a half. All I am saying is that there is a tendency for grater employment being available as a result of the development plans undertaken by the Centre and the State Governments. And the condition of the middle-classes would be very much worse if these development plans were not to be there. For the rest they could only be helped by our general efforts to increase production and to counter inflation by monetary and fiscal and other means rather than by these somewhat artificial means of subsidising living.

Then there was another point made by the hon. Member and that is that it might be practicable to give a subsidy to people whose income was Rs. 300 per mensem and below. Now, that means that the subsidy should be given to 90 per cent. of the people instead of to 100 per cent. It does not really make any difference in this country, in a country where incomes are so low. That really is no solution of the problem. It is after giving anxious thought to all these considerations that we came to the conclusion in issue. It is not as if the middle-class has been forgotten entirely and throughout. After all, take the history of the income-tax over the last few years. In 1947 the taxable minimum was raised from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 2,500. In 1948 it was raised to Rs. 3,000 and in 1949 the minimum for a Hindu undivided family about which we might hear a little more, was raised from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Their minimum is about Rs. 900.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** The hon. Member will have an opportunity to say a lot about the Hindu undivided family. Well then, in 1950, the taxable income for a person within the Hindu divided family was raised from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 3,800 and for the Hindu undivided family to Rs. 7,200. And then the rate of income-tax on the slab between Rs. 19,000 and Rs. 15,000 was reduced from three and a half annas to three annas, and the maximum rate of income-tax above Rs. 15,000 was reduced from five annas to four annas. Now, it may be said that these are small mercies; but these are all that one could afford from time to time. I give this information in order to prove that it is not out of neglect that a larger extent

of relief is not available to the middle-classes.

**Shri Sondhi:** Does it compare favourable with the price index?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** We have not tried to establish any correlation between price indices and the income-tax relief; but I do believe, Sir, that if we get the better of inflation, we shall have taken some effective step towards helping the middle-classes both in reducing the cost of living and in making more money available for development expenditure.

Then there was the question of food self-sufficiency. An attractive scheme was put forward by an hon. Member who at one time had a great deal to do with food production, and I find tube wells cannot be dug in all parts of the country for they depend on subsoil water levels. Neither the machinery nor the equipment nor the technical personnel is available for constructing 30,000 tube-wells in six months—or nine months—I forget which (*An Hon. Member:* Six months). And then, at present the experiment is being carried on for sinking 1,000 tube-wells in the Punjab, U.P. and Bihar and it will take about two years to complete these. Therefore, 30,000 tube-wells will take 30 times two, that is, 60 years, and the cost will be about 100 crores. I am not referring to the cost if the thing is worth doing. If the money can be found and if some one were to say you can complete this thing in six months and you have million tons waiting for you, well, I for my part, would take the risk, because it is the quickest form of return to projects that any one would turn to. But, alas, that is not the case.

**Shri Sondhi:** But he himself offered his services.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** That is not enough. One has to consider the circumstances of the case. Actually the water table is not considered high enough or plentiful enough to sustain 30,000 tube-wells. Anyway, it will require a great deal of elaborate surveying before we can come to the conclusion that one could embark upon the construction of so many tube-wells. Otherwise it might become one of those muddles about which we might be asked to start an enquiry, if we give a contract for 30,000 tube-wells in our excessive enthusiasm. I am told, however, that the estimated cost of one tube-well, including equipments is Rs. 60,000. Therefore, 30,000 will cost Rs. 180 crores or 378 million dollars and not 160 million dollars—I think that was the figure that the hon. Member gave. And the average out-

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put per tube-well is estimated at 60 tons per year and therefore, 30,000 tube-wells will give 1.8 million tons and not four million tons. Therefore there is a great deal of difference when you examine it prosaically between the scheme put forward by the hon. Member and the facts as they are. But taking his points in general, we are prepared to agree that if one could concentrate within the limits of one's resources, on minor works of irrigation and so on, one could get the quickest return and both the Planning Commission and the State Governments as well as the Ministry of Food and Agriculture are very well seized of the importance of this point.

Then coming to the next few less important points like prohibition (Shri Kamath: Less important? It is very important). I will not enter into an elaborate defence of what is being done, but by and large, we are committed to bringing about prohibition some time and the whole question is, what exactly is the objective diagnosis on which our experiments are based, and I myself would be inclined to agree with the hon. Member that if one finds as a result of experience that one has taken a premature step, that certain very serious sociological consequences have come about, then one ought to review the situation and see if some other step could be taken or if propoganda could be strengthened or if in the last resort, one should draw back. One cannot make a general statement. Apart from stating these principles, each case would have to be examined on its own merits. I understand—I have not seen the report, but I am prepared to accept the hon. Member's statement—that in Madhya Pradesh they seem to have come to the conclusion that they perhaps acted in too much of a hurry. That in a sense touches me, because the first prohibition experiment was in my time when I was Secretary in the separate Revenue Department (Shri Kamath: Yes) and I hope it is not there that the failure has been made.

Shri Kamath: May I know whether the other State Governments have been advised to review and report to the Centre, following the example of Madhya Pradesh?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I think it is an important matter and the final draft of the Planning Commission is getting ready. We have not yet finalised it. We have had discussions with various people interested in the

question and I am not sure if we have heard the Chairman of the Committee which went into this matter in Madhya Pradesh. We were trying to arrange an interview with him. I can assure the hon. Member that we are considering this point, though categorically the reply to the question is that no directive has gone from the Central Government so far.

Dr. Deshmukh: Are there similar Committees in Bombay and Madras?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: There is a Committee in Bombay but I would not call it a similar Committee. Its terms of reference differ slightly.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: A Committee was appointed in Madras also.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: That was many years ago. I do not know what the findings and results of that Committee are.

Then there is the question of the election which crops up again and again. I am informed that it is wrong to say that in U.P. and Madhya Pradesh the Election Commissioner's instructions were not observed. No ballot boxes used by any State were unapproved by the Election Commission. A ballot box which is not closed and sealed properly can of course be opened with a hair pin or any other pin. But merely because a ballot box is tamperable one need not necessarily draw the conclusion that in all cases over whole States the boxes were tampered with.

Shri Kamath: Nobody says that.

Shri Sondhi: That is not the allegation.

Pandit Kunzru: May I know whether the Election Commission has sent for the Presiding Officers and asked them how they sealed their boxes as soon as the voting was over?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I could not say what action the Election Commissioner has taken. This is the information that I have received from him.

Shri Kamath: In all the States other than U.P. and Madhya Pradesh the ballot boxes used were manufactured by Godrej or Allwyn. In these two States the boxes were manufactured locally.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I did not deny that but that does not necessarily mean that they were tamperable.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Were they not steel boxes? In Madras wooden boxes or plywood ones were used and no such thing happened. I was myself a candidate.

**Shri Kamath:** In Madhya Pradesh the boxes used were cottage industry products.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I am sorry I shall not be able to throw any more light.

**The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil):** Veritable Pandora's box!

**Shri Kamath:** Where is Pandora?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** There was the question of aerodromes. I had some notes here, which I have lost, showing the provision made in the next year's Budget. There is provision in accordance with a programme for the improvement of aerodromes, especially in regard to lighting. That matter is receiving attention.

Then there was some reference to smuggling of goods from Pondicherry, Goa and so on. Questions have been frequently asked in the House and replies given as to what precautions are taken from time to time but if the conclusion is that because there is smuggling we should reduce the import duties and allow these goods in, I do not think that that conclusion is right. Even if you remove all duties there are people who would be risking their lives or self-respect for bringing the goods in, if there is money in it.

Lastly, there was reference to death-bed bequests, parting kicks, swan song by an hon. Member who is not here.

**Shri Naziruddin Ahmad:** I am here.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** Those also are in very general terms, that one has done nothing about corruption, black-marketing or one has not solved the question of controls, etc. These questions have been discussed very frequently on the floor of this House and I am inclined to think that there is a far greater awareness now and consequently a far greater degree of success in dealing with both corruption and black-marketing and to the extent to which it flourished in money supply, action has been taken to reduce money supply to them. Today you will find that our money supply in contrast to many other countries in the world is 100 crores down. I think gradually we are getting the better of these problems.

Sir, I have tried to meet the criticisms made by hon. Members and would now commend my motion to the House.

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

"That the Bill to continue for the financial year 1952-53 the existing rates of income-tax and super-tax and additional duties of customs and excise, and to provide for the discontinuance of the duty on salt for the said year, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

**Clause 2.—(Income-tax and super-tax).**

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I want to move my first two amendments and not take up too much time of the House in expatiating upon them.

I beg to move:

(1) In page 1,—

(i) in line 7, for "modification" substitute "modifications"; and

(ii) in line 10, add at the end:

"and all the provisions seeking to impose income-tax or super-tax on the Hindu Undivided Family shall be regarded as repealed"; and

(2) In page 1,—

\* (i) in line 7, for "modification" substitute "modifications"; and

(ii) in line 10, add at the end:

"and in the First Schedule to the Finance Act, 1951.—

(a) in Part I-A,—

(i) the words "Hindu undivided family", where they occur for the first time, shall be omitted;

(ii) for all the words beginning with the words 'The limit referred to' and ending with the words 'notwithstanding any custom to the contrary', occurring after the first Proviso, the words 'The limit referred to in the above Proviso shall be Rs. 3,600 in every case' shall be substituted;

(iii) for all the words beginning with the words 'The limit referred to' and ending with the words 'in every other case' occurring after the second Proviso, the words 'The limit referred to in the above Proviso shall be

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Rs. 27,200 in every case' shall be substituted;

(b) in Part II-A. the words "Hindu undivided family" shall be omitted."

Sir, as a matter of fact, I know what the fate of these amendments will be. It will be argued by the Finance Minister that at this fag end of the session when the Finance Bill is to be passed in a few minutes it is not the proper occasion to consider this vexed question. I quite agree. But my submission is that for the last 26 years I have been agitating this question. I tried to put in a resolution through the ballot box but I did not succeed. I sent an application to the President for allowing me to move a Bill in the House. To that also I received a reply that the sanction is not given for moving a Bill in regard to this matter.

In 1928 when this question was raised the previous British Government gave me sanction in 1929. I had to leave the House after six months. Then again I wanted to speak about the matter on the last Budget, when such attempt was gillotined. Then the matter came up before the Investigation Commission. They also did not go into the matter deeply and only made superficial recommendations for implementation. Without calling for good evidence they ran into half-hearted conclusions which were not justified. I want that this question may be thoroughly gone into. I have not been able to find a valid basis for using the Hindu joint family for purposes of taxation. In fact there is no valid basis for it at all. I ransacked the pages of the old Taxation Inquiry Committee's report and no reason is given there. As regards the Taxation Enquiry Committee the Minister told us that it is going to be appointed. During the last 24 years every time when this matter was brought before the House the reply always came that it is not the time. For the last 80 years you have been mulcting the Hindu joint family and I do not know when it will be settled. . . .

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** When the Hindu Code Bill is passed.

**Shri Sondhi:** It will then be settled once for all.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** If the question was so easy of solution, as the hon. Minister stated, I would be content. When the Hindu Code

was on the anvil even then I raised the question. Since the Government is committed to the Hindu Code Bill let them do justice now. Even then you cannot get justice. When the Estates Duty Bill and the Court Fees Bill came the Government took up the position that the Hindu joint family would be taken as divided Hindu family for charging taxes. For other purposes of taxation too it is treated as if it was a divided family but only in regard to income-tax because much more money is realised the joint Hindu family is not being treated as a divided family.

The Finance Minister gleefully said that taxation has been raised to Rs. 7,200 so far as the Hindu joint family is concerned. He does not realise that if there are five or six members this amount will divide to a ridiculous figure. So he will himself not be able to justify that the Hindu joint family should be taxed. This is like the *Jazia* in times of old—So far as the constitutional aspect is concerned there is no justification for it. In a secular State you want to tax the Hindu joint family but the Muslim or Christian joint family you do not tax. I do not want any sort of concession for the Hindus. It is far from being my intention. I only want that the Hindus may be treated in the same way as other people, as my Muslim brethren or my Christian brethren are treated. I do not want any sort of concession—take away section 14 and take away everything else. What about section 25? Well, the Hindu law says that even if there is no division by metes and bounds by the mere declaration of intention the Hindu joint family is divided. It is in the hollow of every Hindu's hand that he can divide his family as by mere declaration the family can be divided according to the tenants of the Hindu law and the decision of the Privy Council. But what does your section say? It goes much beyond and says that unless there is a division by metes and bounds the income-tax officer may not regard a Hindu divided family as a divided family. Because I brought up this point **Shri Shanmukham Chetty**, a former Finance Minister, issued a circular on this saying that it ran counter to the Hindu law and he was quite justified in accepting the Hindu law as the basis of the circular. But what is the use of doing things in a circumlocutory manner? Why not tackle the question direct? I know the reply to this will be that it cannot be done

now. When a few years ago I raised this question the predecessor of my hon. friend was good enough to go into this question and made a gesture by increasing the limit from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 7200—perhaps the year before he increased the amount from Rs. 3000 to Rs. 3500. It is not a question, as my friend Ch. Ranbir Singh, was expecting that Thakur Das Bhargava will speak on Hindu joint families as he has been doing for 25 years. It is a question of doing justice. You may raise the limit, but before being generous to every body you ought to do justice to those whom you are unjust. Why should you say that in India the tax limit is Rs. 3,500? It is about Rs. 900 if the family is big enough.

I know the amendments will not be accepted by the Finance Minister. I will not press them but I beg of him not to shelve them, not to take it up at the far end and say there is no time left. He assured me once before that he has got an open mind in this matter and he will treat the question in a fair way. I only beg of him to kindly decide this point and not to say this will be decided after the Taxation Enquiry Committee has made its report, which will mean another five or ten years or more. All that I want to contend at this hour is that when we consider the Budget in the new Parliament this question may not be shelved but after a full deliberation let us take a decision which will be just to undivided Hindu families for taxation purposes.

**Shri Kamath:** Will you move your amendments now or in the new Parliament?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I have moved them, but as at the same time I do not want to take the time of the House on a subject like this while we have another Bill before us, I do not want to press them. I would very humbly ask the Finance Minister to take a sympathetic view and assure me that he will take it up in right earnest.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** It was never my intention to shelve it by dilatory methods. There are certain genuine difficulties which we feel about this particular subject. We think that a Hindu undivided family is a unit for all purposes and therefore there is no justification for treating it as otherwise for income-tax purposes only. I am not stating now my conclusions but these are the considerations that appeal to us at the moment. Secondly, if we treat members of a Hindu undivided family as

separate it would create difficult administrative problems and the share of each member would fluctuate with every addition or deletion in the number of members of the family.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** That is about *mitakshara* families. What about *dayabagh*?

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** In the *dayabagh* families we might be able to proceed with this.

Thirdly, recovery, just as the right of ownership, cannot be assigned to any particular person thereof. Fourthly, if a Hindu undivided family feels the rigour of the law it can easily divide its shares in a partnership deed and be assessed as a firm. Then, the fact is that in addition to the relief we have already given, really there are only about 25,000 families which are left for purposes of assessment on account of this raising of the exemption limit in a total population of we know what dimensions.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** So it is easier to do justice.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** Lastly it is a point which might appeal to the hon. Member and that is, the result of the individual assessment would not necessarily be an unmixed boon as shares in the income of the undivided family would be added to the personal income of the individual members.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** They should be added.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** They should be added, they might be, and in many cases it might mean an addition to the tax burden of the individual.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Let it be.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** As it happened at one time, it did look as if the Hindu Code Bill was going to be passed, and if it had been passed. . . .

**Shri Tyagi:** The hon. Member came in the way.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** Yes, the hon. Member himself came in the way.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** May I inform my hon. friend that ultimately when the conference on the Bill was held the then Law Minister, Dr. Ambedkar was of the view that the joint family system would continue even if the Hindu Code was passed.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I am trying to give some sort of answer to the

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twenty-six year history. What I meant was that at one time the view was taken that if the distinction between *dayabagh* and *mitakshara* could be done away with then it might be made easier.

Lastly, we still intend to appoint the Taxation Enquiry Committee and surely the time has come very much nearer now and it will be very much better if this question were referred to them for a complete examination. In the meanwhile, I do not know if the hon. Member has had any private discussion with our people in the Central Board of Revenue on this matter. It might clear the air if some time he finds leisure to discuss the question with us at greater length than it is possible to devote to it in a session of this kind. So, I would request him to seek some opportunity to discuss this question in all its bearings with my colleague and myself and our experts in the Central Board of Revenue.

Sir, I understand he is not pressing the amendments, so there is no question of requesting him to withdraw them.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am not going to put them to the House.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** There is one other amendment standing in my name.

I beg to move:

In page 1,

(i) in line 7, for "modification" substitute "modifications"; and

(ii) in line 10, add at the end:

"and in the First Schedule to the Finance Act, 1951,—

(a) to Part I-A the following further Proviso shall be added, namely:—

"Provided further that the firms registered or in respect of which application for registration has been or shall be made under Section 26A of the Income-Tax Act 1922, shall be deemed to have been registered or shall be registered as the case may be as before the delivery of the judgement by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (Delhi Branch), No. 4936 of 1950-51, Messrs Ram Gulam Madanlal Appellant, *versus* Income-Tax Officer, C Ward, Delhi, Respondent,

until the law in this behalf is changed by Parliament"; and

(b) to Part II-A the following Proviso shall be added, namely:—

"Provided that the firms registered or in respect of which application for registration has been or shall be made under Section 26-A of the Income-Tax Act 1922, shall be deemed to have been registered or shall be registered as the case may be as before the delivery of the judgement by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (Delhi Branch), No. 4936 of 1950-51, Messrs Ram Gulam Mandalal, Appellant, *versus* Income Tax Officer, C Ward Delhi, Respondent, until the law in this behalf is changed by Parliament."

Sir, a few days back I submitted for the consideration of the House that a ruling was given by the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal, Delhi Branch to the effect that under section 26A if a firm applied for registration—and the House fully knows the effect of registration under section 26A—then the firm as such is not taxed but individual members are taxed in respect of the respective profits they received from the firm. If a firm applies under Section 26A and it is registered the result is very favourable to the firm, as only individual members are taxed. This matter came up for consideration before the Income-Tax Appellate Tribunal and they came to the conclusion that if a firm applied and the firm had been in existence for one or two years before under an oral agreement under which the business was started, then the Tribunal came to the conclusion that when such a firm applied for registration after some time that firm could not be said to have been constituted under an agreement of partnership. I am not concerned whether this decision is right or wrong. My only submission is this. For a long number of years, the income-tax people have held that such firms could be registered. But this judgment has now come and unless the C.B.R. issues directions that it should not be given effect to, the firms which have already applied or are likely to apply would be affected and there would be a great disturbance in the commercial world. It means that the taxes of those people will be enhanced. Both the hon. Minister of Finance and the Minister of State have condemned for such

legalism. I suggest that no one should take undue advantage of a technicality, when he knows that it is not just to take such amendment. That is the right view. Mr. Tyagi went and gave lectures to the people that their chimneys would be kept burning. He assured them that Government would not take undue advantage. The hon. Minister also took a similar view. He appointed Liaison Officers in some places so that confidence may be inspired that the assessee are to be rightly dealt with. If the intention of the income-tax people is that these firms could be registered, whatever be this ruling, then the right thing is to assure these people and tell them that Government are not going to take advantage of this technicality, and that they will bring in legislation for giving effect to the previous practice. In law there is a principle that if a thing has been observed for a long time it is not right to change it lightly. After all, people in the commercial world are not so legalistic. If Government want more taxes, this is not the way to collect them. Let them resort to other ways. Government should not take advantage of technicalities to collect more taxes. They should set an example. Otherwise, the result would be that by the time you have this law, thousands of people would have been taxed under the principle of this ruling.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** My hon. friend has been knocking at a door which has been almost open. The existing practice of the Department is, as the hon. Member says, a very long standing one and we realise that a sudden reversal of the position would create undue hardship even in genuine cases. We have therefore decided that the existing practice should continue, and meanwhile we are taking steps to amend the rules of registration so that the assessee are not affected. The new rules will require that the deed of registration should be drawn within a reasonable period, say, six months, after the formation of the partnership. That is the guidance for the future.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I do not press my amendment.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Then, I may as well put the whole Bill. The question is:

"That clauses 1 to 4, the Title and the Enacting Formula stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 to 4, the Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

**Shri C. D. Deshmukh:** I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

**Prof. S. L. Saksena (Uttar Pradesh):** Sir, I must congratulate the hon. the Finance Minister on his having secured Rs. 200 crores within half a day. We have also listened to many important things during the course of the debate. I must, I think, congratulate myself and Mr. Kamath for having brought the hon. the Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir to his feet. This is the first time he spoke here. If nothing else, our cut motions have succeeded in bringing him to his feet. I want to assure him that everybody in this country realises the difficult position in which he is. We all have our sympathies for him. It is in the interest of everyone in this land to support him. We all keenly appreciate the credit that he has brought to his post. If I had brought this hunger-strike to the notice of the House, it was because this is causing misunderstanding in this country. If such incidents are allowed to grow, they do not add to the prestige of the country. No doubt, it was a small incident and somebody acted unwisely and allowed it to develop further. As he said, this Kashmir tangle will be finished and ultimately everyone knows that Kashmir has to be one and even that portion which is with Pakistan must come to us. That is the hope of us all. Therefore, people in Jammu have to be one with the whole State. They may be in a minority—and they have to be a minority—and yet they must make up with the majority and live there. But so long as some people are foolish and hurt other people's sentiments, it is not good. I think it is wise for the Jammu and Kashmir Government to respect those sentiments and at least not to excite them. If the boys had made a fuss, they were arrested and released. But to fine them Rs. 100 later on was not a wise act. I think this unhappy incident should close. Therefore, the first thing that the Sheikh Sahib should do is to release these students who have been fasting for long. It will do no good to anybody to keep them behind the bars. He should not worry. He has got the strength of the India Government behind him. What can these few students do? If they are released, people will appreciate the Sheikh Sahib's large-heartedness. They would not think that he has been covered down. Rather, he will win the sympathy of the people. The incident should be closed. I think everyone in this country should do all he can to help the Sheikh Sahib to carry on the great task he is carrying on with great credit. He has got some opinions about some

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student leaders. I also tried to agree with him and I also wrote to him that in my opinion the things alleged were not true. Anyway, this chapter should be closed and the past must be forgotten. Ultimately, he has to live with the people of Jammu also. Recently there have been many changes which perhaps have not been to the people's liking; but ultimately, they have to get reconciled. Therefore he must forget the past and try to forge a link of unity and love. If he shows the ability to be generous and releases all these students and let them gain a position in life, it will be very much appreciated and will lead to peace.

**Sheikh Abdullah:** I have already assured my hon. friend Prof. Saksena and I may assure the House that we have absolutely no desire to keep the students behind prison-bars. They have to do only one thing: they have to assure the Government that once they are released they will not indulge in unlawful activities again. Unfortunately, we tried that experiment and released them from jail but they started their old game again—of preventing the rest from going to the college. So they again forced our hands to shut them up behind the bars for some time. If the students assure the Government that they will not indulge in unlawful activities, that they will not try to force their will upon the majority of the students, I shall be glad to release them. But unless they do that, it will be very difficult for me to take that step.

4 P.M.

As for the rest, I assure Prof. Saksena that we do not follow a vindictive attitude in any matter. We want to be friendly with everybody, because we follow the path that Gandhiji has taught us—of peace, love and harmony. Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena said that I should rise to the occasion—to the expectations of Prof. Shibban Lal Saksena and other friends. I assure him that as far as Kashmir goes, it will be my earnest endeavour to rise up to the expectations of Gandhiji and Jawaharlal.

**Shri R. Velayudhan:** But the oppression will continue.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. Enough has been said. It is not right to disturb the equanimity and harmony that has been established.

The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted

### DELHI AND AJMER RENT CONTROL BILL—*concl'd.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The House will now take up clause by clause discussion of the Delhi and Ajmer Rent Control Bill.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

**Clause 5.—(Unlawful charges etc.)**

*Amendments made:*

(i) In page 3, line 10, for “a residential building” substitute “a premises”; and

(ii) In page 3, lines 12 and 15, for “building” substitute “premises”.

—[Shri Bhatt]

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

“That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 6 and 7 were added to the Bill.

**Clause 8.—(Cases in which standard rent may be fixed by Court.)**

**Pandit Bhagur Das Bhargava (Punjab):** I beg to move:

In page 4, line 34, for “2nd day of June, 1944” substitute “24th March, 1947”.

My humble submission is that this is a very important and substantial amendment. Part (b) of sub-clause (1) of clause 8 reads:

“(b) where, at any time on or after the 2nd day of June, 1944, any premises are first let and the rent at which they are let is, in the opinion of the court, unreasonable;”

I want that the words “2nd of June, 1944” should be substituted by the words “24th March, 1947.” The reason is quite clear. We passed the previous Bill on the 24th March, 1947. In that Bill Government enacted that in regard to houses built between 2nd of June, 1944 and 24th March, 1947 the first letting will serve the basis for finding out the standard rent. For all these years from the year 1944 this has been the rule. In regard to such lettings which took place seven years ago, the court is being given the power to again meddle and disturb the old relations between the tenants and the landlords. Now, as I submitted earlier, the first criterion of legislation should be that you ought not to unsettle settled things.

**Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh):** Not of politics.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Now many persons have gone to courts and even to the High Courts and the courts have decided that the first letting value is the proper rental of the house. I am glad that the hon. Minister is going to accept an amendment in which such decrees as have been passed by courts are not going to be disregarded. So far as the courts have decided the question of standard rent they do not want to interfere. So far so good. But at the same time let me humbly submit for their consideration the consequences that will flow from the acceptance of this situation. As a result of a judgment of the Punjab High Court many decrees obtained by people became nugatory. When this point was brought to the notice of the hon. the Minister in charge he accepted the amendment in this Bill that 13 (1) of the old Act will not be retrospective and previous decrees will remain valid, because we did not want any uncertainty to prevail.

What shape things will take, I am not in a position to say, but I have a misgiving that thousands of cases will crop up as a result of this change under 8 (b). Suppose in a particular mohalla a particular person has gone to court and the court has decided that the first letting value constitutes the standard rent. Under clause 8(b) all similarly situated cases can be reopened, though all relations have been adjusted by a decree of the court or by mutual agreement. Suppose there is a consent decree and the people have agreed that this is the proper rent. Is my hon. friend going to unsettle them also? If there is an agreement through court or outside, what is the difference between the two? As was pointed out by the hon. Mr. Buragohain three or four days back in this House, there were very few cases in which it could be said that the rent was unreasonable, because the building activity was very small in those days. So far as the principle of first letting value is concerned, when we have accepted this as the basis of adjustment of our relations, when we have decided that this should constitute the rent, we cannot at this hour of the day, after seven or eight years, unsettle it. People have purchased properties on the basis of that rental, and people have been paying rent for the last seven or eight years on the basis of this very rental. Now, by a fiat of the hon. Minister in charge all these persons shall go to court and there

shall be such an amount of work for the courts. This is the position not only in Delhi. In U.P., Punjab, Bombay and other places also the principle of first letting value was accepted. And the reason is clear. We took the 1939 value as the standard and allowed 25 or 12 per cent. increase on that.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Why not ascertain the view of the hon. Minister?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I have been knocking at his door, but the door did not open and he has taken such a wrong attitude. He is sticking to his guns after so much entreaties have been made to him.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Amendment moved:

In page 4, line 34, for "2nd day of June, 1944" substitute "24th March, 1947", I would like to know what the reaction of the hon. Minister is.

**The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil):** I cannot accept this. Why it was accepted in the Act of 1947 was—let me confess—that not sufficient care and scrutiny was bestowed on this particular matter. Actually, the rent in 1947 was anything about double to 250 per cent. of the rent that could be determined under the seven and a half per cent. return. Because we accepted that the first letting value should be the standard rent then, it does not mean that it was justice or that it was fairplay either. If on the merits of the case we come to the conclusion today that the tenants were helpless on account of scarcity or for some other reasons and were forced to give whatever the landlord demanded, does my friend mean that the Government representing the community should not have the opportunity to review the position?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Why did they sleep for the last seven years?

**Shri Gadgil:** My friend may just listen to me. Now awake, the Government have come to the conclusion that if the tenant feels that the rent is higher he can go to the court. Undoubtedly the court will take all these facts into consideration, including the fact that he agreed to pay so much for a number of years. I submit, Sir, that a decree is final to some extent, but it does not decide finally everything in the world. Because there is a substantive change in the law of the land, therefore the benefit must go to whomsoever the benefit belongs. As for the question that there will be many suits brought and settled facts would be unsettled, I am of the opinion that you cannot deny justice

[Shri Gadgil]

on the ground of limitation or because a certain period of time has elapsed. If we are convinced honestly that there has been injustice, then we must rise to the occasion in spite of the fact that many settled facts would be unsettled. Many settled facts have been unsettled, and that is because the community has always considered justice about expediency.

My friend referred to the other question that the Government has agreed that where decrees have been obtained, those cases will be exempted. And he has already submitted an amendment to that effect. Well, Sir, inasmuch as my colleague has already given that promise, although I have different views on the question, I must stand by him and accept that amendment—but only that and not this amendment.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Sir, I was submitting when I was interrupted by you and my hon. friend was asked to give his reaction, as to how the position stands. May I humbly submit . . .

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Is not the point a simple one? Are elaborate arguments necessary? The only question is whether it ought to be allowed since 1944 or since 1947. If unreasonable rents have been charged on account of adverse circumstances after 1944, whether they ought not to be reopened—that is the only point.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** But that depends upon the consideration of many principles involved. My hon. friend says that there is some injustice. Now he has discovered some injustice. Let him give evidence of that injustice to us. I have times out of number requested him to say in how many cases they have come to know that injustice has been done. There is not a single case with them. Otherwise they would have placed that information before us.

**Shri Gadgil:** You need not worry about that at all.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** There is no question of that. You know the House would be with you. Otherwise there is no justice in what you say. Sir, my hon. friend says that since his colleague has accepted that position he would not go against it. Does he not know that the whole House accepted that position then that until 1947 the first letting value shall be the criterion? The whole House accepted it then. But he does

not care for that and cares only for what his colleague accepted two days back and says he is making this concession because his colleague has accepted it. Is it just? As for the rent fixed by decrees of courts, after all the decrees proceeded on the assumption that the first letting value was the proper value. This was the basis. That he is accepting—that very principle which was accepted in 1947. Then where does he stand? He does not know where he stands. If decrees are good, on what were those decrees based? On the criterion of first letting value: so that in so many cases the decrees were based on the first letting value. It comes to the same thing. He has therefore given up his case when he has accepted the position which my friend took up. Therefore, if he accepts that amendment, he is bound in law to accept this and he is stopped from denying that the first letting value is to be taken as the criterion.

**Shri Gadgil:** Then I will not accept that amendment also, to be consistent.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** That is not being consistent. He is trying to be consistent with the wrong position that he has taken up.

**Shri Gadgil:** Not in the least.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** If his position is right . . .

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Would not time have an effect upon the original letting value? A number of years have passed since 1944. A number of houses have been built.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** After 1947 we have got the law that the court will go into the question and find whether the rent is reasonable or not. We are concerned with the period between 1944 and 1947. We made the law in 1947 that the first letting value was to constitute the standard rent for the period between 1944 and 1947. My hon. friend after seven years wants to take up this position that today we declare that the first letting value is not the right standard. In regard to the cases of houses constructed after 1947 we are not disputing. The law is there. Let it remain. We are not disputing. I am only disputing in regard to houses which were let between 1944 and 1947. What has happened with these houses? The entire record of the Municipality has been burnt, and nobody can find

out today whether the houses were built in 1940, 1941, 1942 or 1944. All these records have been burnt. How will it be proved that the house were built after 1944? You, Sir, have got great experience of the rules of legislation. Even remedial measures are not in all cases retrospective. Usually the rule is that you cannot legislate for things which happened long ago. Usually the Acts are not given retrospective effect.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Is there any provision for refund excess rent? Therefore, the whole question is whether the rent originally fixed in 1944—whether that rate of rent—should continue now.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** My point is that many persons have purchased property at the prices then existing and the value of the properties will be affected. In one particular street, in one house it was considered that the standard rent is the proper one. In regard to the other houses, the cases will go to the court. Therefore, I say that my hon. friend cannot find thousands of houses of importance?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Is it the hon. Member's contention that once rent was fixed in 1944 that has become a permanent one?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Not permanent. In U.P., in the Punjab and in other places the first letting value was considered the proper standard rent in 1944 and everywhere this is the law. In regard to such cases which have been decided by the court, he is still agreeable. At least he was agreeable two minutes ago. So far as the principle is concerned, if we cannot today after seven years, when people have adjusted their relations and they have been paying the rents rightly continue it then what is the basis of the law of limitation?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** There were 100 houses in 1944 but now there are 10,000 houses. The rent as a whole has gone down.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** This is pure fiction and imagination. My hon. friend says that there has been no building activity. You were not present when he admitted it.

**Shri Gadgil:** The facts are otherwise.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Then those facts should be placed before the House.

**Shri Gadgil:** The point is that undue advantage has been taken by a number of landlords of this lacuna and we as a Government must come to the help of the tenant.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** If the premises are correct and if there are thousands of cases, then surely, Government must have recourse to law. Today they have stated that in future, for seven years, this law will not apply to new houses. After three months, they will come again to the House and say that thousands of cases have come to their notice after another five years. What is the guarantee that they will stick on to one thing. They may give a thing today and take it back tomorrow. Is that the way in which you can inspire confidence in the Government? The rule of legislation is that when you have accepted certain facts, you must stand by them. I must submit, it is his *zid* that he does not choose to agree with this very just amendment.

**Dr. Pattabhi (Madras):** I am surprised at the very facile way—I use my word carefully—in which the hon. Minister wants to go back upon the assurance given by the hon. Deputy Minister.

**Shri Gadgil:** I have been warned. He wanted me to be consistent. Then I said in the interest of consistency, I am quite prepared.....

**Dr. Pattabhi:** I wish to draw the pointed attention of the House to the fact that the hon. Minister threatened the House just now. He said: "If that is so, I am going to cancel that concession also." If that is the way in which a senior Minister can revoke his junior Minister's word, is it any wonder that this Government.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I am sure he is standing by that. What he said was that if consistency is wanted, he would be consistent this way.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** He can be consistent the other way also, but there he does not agree.

**Dr. Pattabhi:** We all of us can understand English and we understand people in a certain manner and the supposed intercession of the hon. Minister and his knowledge of rhetoric are all before us and in these circumstances the poor Member becomes helpless. The whole point is this: if assurances solemnly given in legislation which we had put through during the bureaucratic days, as was the case in 1947, when the hon. Minister was a

[Dr. Patabhi]

member, of the I.L.A., are thrown to the winds, then there is no sanctity about legislation. If you want to change it at every turn in order to suit your fancy or anything else, it is not fair. You must not unsettle settled things in this respect. People have come to an agreement on these matters. It looks as if this legislation is fomented by somebody interested in litigation. No legislation inevitably binds any litigant for various reasons. The object and the purpose of legislation should not be to promote litigation. You should positively encourage people who have been transacting business on a certain agreed basis to settle by argument of love, between the houseowner and the occupant of the house. As against this you want to encourage them to go to the court and plead for the unsettling of the whole affair on the basis of seven and a half per cent. gross rent. It is a different matter whether seven and a half per cent. is all right or not. For the time being we agree to that. I ask: "Is this the purpose of legislation"? Then there is no guarantee. The sacred word of a Minister becomes no longer sacrosanct and it becomes not equal to a bond. I wish the Minister's words to be a bond. The written word of 'legislation' which is a simple word has two meanings but the spoken word has only one meaning. We must not encourage but try to put down litigation but in this case you positively encourage litigation. I hope, the hon. Minister will reconsider his position.

**Shri Gadgil:** I agree with Dr. Patabhi that there should be sanctity, but at the same time any piece of legislation is not merely to stop litigation but to do justice and fair play between citizen and citizen and between the Government on the one hand and the citizen on the other. Now in March, 1947, the Government of the day decided that the first letting value should be the standard rent in order to expedite matters. But after some time the experience was that the rent charged was so much more than the standard rent in other circumstances. I put one simple question to this House: After having discovered such injustice and such foul play, is it or is it not the duty of the Government of the day to amend a piece of legislation...? (*Interruption*). The courts had no authority to go beyond this because the law laid down that if the man has agreed to pay so much, it should be considered as standard rent. If that act had provided some such provision that the court could go into the

merits of the case, then the courts would never have passed such decrees. For the purpose of expediting matters, it was then stated that whatever the man has agreed to should be considered as the standard rent for the purpose. What are we doing here? Are we giving retrospective effect to this? No. What we are doing is that we have defined that the standard rent should be something like seven and a half per cent. on investment. We are doing no injustice to the landlord. The case is like this. Through mistake or ignorance I give more change than is justified. Somebody gives me a rupee and in exchange I give seventeen annas and I discover after some time that I have paid more. Is it not my duty in my own interest that I should ask back that one anna? That is exactly what is being done. If I had stated in this Bill that this will have retrospective effect, I can understand opposition. If I had stated that you should get nothing, I can understand that. I have made a provision that it should not have a retrospective effect. I have made a provision that the landlord is entitled to the standard rent. Therefore, if there is an act of clear injustice, then justice must be done even if the heavens may fall. I stand by that. It is a principle to which every jurist and every lawyer will agree. Something was said by Dr. Patabhi which hurt me.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** What happens to the arrears? Are they payable at the old or new rate?

**Shri Gadgil:** Court will decide according to the merits of the case.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** The right reply to your question is this that there is a provision for recovery of past arrears and for recovery of future arrears. The court shall decide what the standard rent is so far as the landlord is concerned and as for the tenant he can recover that if he likes.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Arrears are according to the old rates.

**Shri Gadgil:** As regards Dr. Patabhi's hit that I was not standing by the admission made by my hon. colleague, I said I accept it and it would be wrong on my part not to accept it. Taking advantage of this, I was accused of inconsistency. Well, then, in the interests of consistency, I am prepared to oppose both the amendments.

**Dr. Patabhi:** Is it right to take up a position like that for an hon. Minister?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I may just invite your attention to clause 12. You were pleased to ask about refunds. In regard to that, you will be pleased to see the provision there.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** With retrospective effect? If it is higher rent, can that also be recovered? If according to a court's decision a reasonable rent is fixed and the earlier rent is held to be not reasonable, then, the amount that has been paid can be recovered. Refund also can be claimed under clause 12. The House must know exactly what it is passing. Whereas it may be that with respect to future rent, the court must have power...

**Shri Gadgil:** Clause 8 is clear.

**An Hon. Member:** Clause 8(b) is only in regard to the future.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That is all right.

**Shri Venkataraman:** It says: whatever is determined to be the reasonable rent after the date on which this application is made. Only an application can be made after this Act comes into force. Then, something is said about past rent.

**Shri Gadgil:** There is clause 12.

**Shri Venkataraman:** Clause 12 deals with rent and some over-payment. It must be over-payment.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Over-payment, over and above the reasonable rate that is now fixed. Let the House be clear as to what it is passing. It is my business to explain to the House when there is some doubt or difficulty.

**Shri Gadgil:** May I inform the House that so far as arrears are concerned, they will be paid at the old rate. When clause 12 is under discussion, I shall make it clear.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will clause 12 be consistent with this?

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava (Ajmer):** Will the amount be refundable?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister may consider that matter when we come to clause 12.

**Shri Gadgil:** I may also bring to the notice of the House that sub-clause (7) of clause (8) provides:

"In every case in which the court determines the standard rent of any premises under this section, it shall specify a date from which the standard rent so determined shall be deemed to have effect....."

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** So that the court can say that from a much anterior date, or from the date on which the house was taken possession.

**Shri Buragohain:** The proviso makes it clear; not earlier than six months.

**Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Let it be clarified.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is only six months.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** It means that so far as the arrears are concerned, while according to themselves the court can determine the rate for that period during which a person had been in possession, if they do not amend clause 12, he will be entitled to refund and deduct from the rent payable in future.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That will be considered when we come to clause 12. Even for refunds under clause 12, it will be for six months or an earlier date where a new rate can be fixed. Now, shall I place the amendment before the House?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Yes.

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

In page 4, line 34, for "2nd day of June 1944" substitute "24th March, 1947".

The motion was negatived.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I beg to move:

In page 4, after line 40 add:

"(1A) The Court shall not regard any rent as unreasonable if after deducting ground rent, municipal taxes and rates, repairs, maintenance, insurance and collection charges, if any, it does not exceed six per cent. of the reasonable cost of construction of the premises."

Sir, in regard to this there was some discussion in the House and I do not want to reopen all that discussion. Some hon. Members were of the view that six per cent. is too high a rate. But, Government took up the position that as a matter of fact six per cent. was not too high. They were agreeable to five per cent. They did not consider that anything less than five per cent. was a reasonable return. I will not go into detailed arguments because we have already dealt with the question at great length. With your permission, I will just submit for the consideration of the hon. Minister one fact. That fact is this. The Government of the day are the landlords so far as the Members of this House are

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concerned and the Members are the tenants. During the session, they charge us some rate and during the non-session period, they charge some other rate. There is a saying: 'Yatha Raja tatha praja'. The Government should at least live up to their own traditions. If Government themselves have been charging rent at a particular rate, it does not lie in the mouth of that Government now to come forward and say that this rate is not reasonable. Otherwise, they will be open to the charge that they are the most unreasonable of people. I do not want this charge to be laid against the Government. I am very jealous of the reputation of the Government. I will not allow this Government to be dubbed as unreasonable.

**Shri Kamath:** Now it is 'yatha praja tatha Raja'.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I will just quote from the Fundamental Rules and the Compilation of the General Financial Rules Vol. II in which these principles are laid down. I do not know if hon. Members are aware that today Government charge from us six per cent. on the cost of construction as defined by them, then three per cent. as departmental charges, Municipal taxes etc. are borne by us. So that Government do not charge less than ten per cent. on the cost of construction today.

**An Hon. Member:** Are the Government charging so much from us?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Is it not better to say that Government also should reduce and not charge such excessive rent?

**Khwaja Inait Ullah (Bihar):** You file a suit against the Government.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I for one am not so unreasonable because I submit that six per cent. is not proper. Six per cent. is too high. They said even five per cent. is agreeable. I went further and said, four and a half per cent. is sufficient. Some Ministers also accused me of being rather pro-landlord. I want to assure them that I am not pro-landlord. So far as the tenants are concerned, they are poor people and they should be treated with sympathy and consideration. I was saying that Government should charge six per cent. I am not looking at the question from that standpoint. I am submitting that the Government, in order to be

consistent, should revise their rules and accept four and a half per cent. as the basis for rent. I would invite your attention to page 22 of the Central Government Compilation of the General Financial Rules. The rule runs thus:

"(5) When a Government building is let to a private person for residential or business purposes, rent should be recovered monthly in advance at the rate prevailing in the locality for similar accommodation used for similar purposes..."

Government claim they have been very liberal in providing here that one month's rent can be taken in advance. For their own purposes, they have already made it a rule. The rule proceeds:

"But, without the sanction of the minor Local Government, such rent shall not be less than the rent calculated in accordance with the provisions of Fundamental Rule 45-B. In making the calculation, proviso (IV) under clause II and Note I under clause III of that rule shall be ignored and full department charges for establishment (including pension), tools and plant, and audit and accounts charges shall be taken into account both for the purpose of arriving at the capital cost and the additional charge to be included for ordinary and special maintenance and repairs."

There is a Note, which runs thus:

".....In all cases where buildings are merely acquired by Government through the agency of the Central Public Works Department, a charge of 3 per cent. only on the capital cost shall be levied in lieu of the full rate of departmental charges."

Let me read out Rule 45-B of the Fundamental Rules to the House. This is Audit Instruction No. 2 under FR 45-A, which runs as follows:

"(2) A question having arisen whether under provisos (i) and (iii) to F.R. 45A-II, a local Government is competent to determine the present value of a residence, the capital cost of which is already known, the Government of India have issued the following interpretation:

The substantive part of the Rule provides that 'for the purpose of

the assessment of rent' the capital cost of a residence shall be either

- (a) the cost of acquiring or constructing the residence and any capital expenditure incurred after acquisition or construction; or when this is not known.
- (b) the present value of the residence."

Then, we come to page 209 where a schedule is given, the rule reads as follows:

- "(4) The rates of interest given in the following Table should be applied in calculating the standard rent of residences, under clause III(b) of Fundamental Rules 45A and 45B."

In the schedule, it is seen that from 1st January, 1922 until further orders, it is six per cent. for buildings occupied on or before the 19th June, 1922 and after 19th June 1922, six per cent. is charged. And then in the next page 211 you will find:

"In the case of residences owned by Government, the ...."

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Is it exclusive of tax?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** About taxes also, I am submitting this:

"In the case of residences owned by Government, the standard rent shall be calculated on the capital cost of the residence, and shall be a percentage of such capital cost equal to such rate of interest as may from time to time be fixed by the Secretary of State in Council, plus an addition for municipal and other taxes in the nature of house or property tax payable by Government in respect of the residence and for both ordinary and special maintenance and repairs, such addition being determined under rules which a local Government may make."

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Yes, but these are not fixed, the charges vary from time to time.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** But they have stated on page 209 that the rate of interest shall be six per cent. plus the other items that I have read out.

**Dr. Pattabhi:** Please read out again the portion relating to the six per cent. interest being charged.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** They have stated:

"The rate of interest given in the following table should be applied in calculating the standard rent of residences, under clause 111(b) of Fundamental Rules 45A and 45B"

and then they have a Schedule in which it is stated that for buildings occupied after the 19th June, 1922 the rate of interest shall be six per cent.

**Dr. Pattabhi:** Then it is an inference that.....

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** No, it is there in the Government's own book from which I have read out. I am not quoting from my book, it is a Government's own book. They are their rules and not my rules.

**Dr. Pattabhi:** I have understood that. But what I want to know is whether it is six per cent. including all these charges or is it such percentage as the Secretary of State decides plus municipal taxes. Is it one or the other or both as in the amendment?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** According to the rules here it is six per cent. plus municipal taxes and addition for maintenance and repairs. And there will be departmental charges of another three per cent. and so it will in all come to nine per cent. And if you add the ground rent and the *chhajja* tax, it will come to about ten per cent.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** And if the amount is paid in instalments then in the course of 30 years the house will belong to the tenant himself?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I am not thinking of any hire purchase system which probably the Chair has in mind. The charge is really more onerous than that. The Government owns a house and it rents it out to a private person and in all it gets according to the rules I have read out six per cent. as interest, plus three per cent. departmental charges and.....

**Dr. Pattabhi:** But we pay Rs. 25 as enquiry office charges and Rs. 11/4 for garage and servants quarters and Rs. 12-8 for the garden outside and another Rs. 2-8 for the garden inside—though we do not get Rs. 2-8 worth of flowers in the whole year round.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** My submission is this and I have put it

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

in the two parts of my amendment. I say: "The Court shall not regard any rent as unreasonable if after deducting ground rent, municipal taxes and rates, repairs, maintenance, insurance and collection charges, if any, it does not exceed six per cent. of the reasonable cost of construction of the premises."

I have explained the purpose of this amendment and I am prepared to come down to five per cent. or even four and a half per cent., for I want to be reasonable. There may be a row among the landlords, but I do not care, for this is my own view. There will be no incentive but they will be recompensed. As I submitted the other day—and Dr. Patabhi was pleased to read out some calculations—it is clear as day light that if you fix seven and a half per cent. they cannot get even five per cent. I can give the calculations here. A house is built on 1,500 sq. yds. and the premium charged by Government is about Rs. 70,000. Rs. 80,000 is the cost of construction, according to the P.W.D. and so in all it comes to Rs. 1,50,000 and seven and a half per cent. on that comes to 11,300. You have the two and a half per cent. ground rent (1750) and the municipal taxes (1750) and the depreciation which comes to Rs. 1,875 and it will be clear that the return that landlord gets cannot possibly be even five per cent. or even four and a half per cent. It is a matter of calculation. As regards the principle I will go even further than the Government and accept even five or four and a half per cent. but you should go a little into the calculation. If the court can find that the return to the landlord is five per cent. then it is reasonable. But conditions are not the same everywhere. Even with regard to Delhi and New Delhi the conditions differ. In Delhi, for instance, you have the *chhajja* and colonnade charge that is not prevalent in New Delhi. So in every case let the court decide what will be the reasonable rent. If taking all the circumstances into consideration if the return is not more than five per cent. then the court should not hold it as unreasonable.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Has not enough been said about this matter?

**Khawaja Inait Ullah:** I want to oppose the amendment, Sir.

**Shri Gadgil:** I will do it. I am opposing the amendment. I cannot

accept it though it is cleverly worded. What is suggested is that the court shall not regard any rent as unreasonable if after deducting certain charges, namely ground rent, insurance etc. etc. I do not know why the burden of all these should fall on the tenant. According to our calculation the net return will be about five per cent. and it compares very well with the provisions in the Bombay Act. And then when everyone is talking of a socialistic society, here is my hon. friend advocating that the man must get a clear six per cent. In the industrial spheres they are limiting dividends. But after paying all the charges, insurance charges and this and that, the landlord must, it is said, get his six per cent. I think that is too much.

**Dr. Patabhi:** It is a travesty of what we have been representing here. Nobody has said six per cent. net. It is the Government which is charging six per cent. net on a building costing 20 to 25 thousand rupees.

**Shri Gadgil:** The hon. Member is not aware of the fact that in many cases it is less than six per cent. at a concessional rate and both together will work out at less than six per cent.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Only in respect of your own officers you take less. If the hon. Minister wants I am agreeable to these words being cut out from the amendment, namely, 'insurance and collection charges.'

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That can be done only if the Minister accepts. Would that make any difference?

**Shri Gadgil:** I am not prepared to accept the amendment.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** He is not accepting it in any case.

The question is:

In page 4, line 40 add:

"(1A) The Court shall not regard any rent as unreasonable if after deducting ground rent, municipal taxes and rates, repairs, maintenance, insurance and collection charges, if any, it does not exceed six per cent. of the reasonable cost of construction of the premises."

The motion was negatived.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I want to move another amendment which is a substantive one. I beg to move:

In page 5, for lines 1 to 4 substitute:

"(4) In fixing the standard rent of the premises under clause (b) of sub-section (1) the Court shall fix an amount which does not exceed 9 per cent. of the reasonable cost of construction of such premises."

The only difference is that in the present provision seven and a half per cent. is used and I want to substitute it by nine. Previously in the Bill the percentage was nine which the Government had fixed. When they brought the Bill they must have done it after mature consideration. What has happened between bringing of the Bill and the passing of the Bill, in which this rate has been reduced from nine to seven and a half per cent. The words are "shall not exceed nine per cent." It does not mean that in every case nine per cent. will be given. We know that the Birla Committee recommended a higher percentage. Considering all the things an incentive is to be provided for house building and it is necessary that seven and a half per cent. should not be accepted. It cannot in any way be justified. When you are putting the upper ceiling you ought to give more discretion to the courts and if it is nine per cent. nothing will be lost. The principle is accepted that six, five or four and a half per cent. is the proper rate. If you put the ceiling at seven and a half per cent. in hard cases the court will not be able to do justice. We are giving discretion to the court and the heavens will not fall if you give this discretion to the court to do justice in hard cases.

**The Deputy Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Bura-gohain):** This matter was considered by the Select Committee and they came to this decision. We will not like to change it at this stage.

**Dr. Pattabhi:** Have they given any reasons for the change? We looked in vain for the reason.

**Shri Gadgil:** The reason is seven and a half per cent. is good.

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

In page 5, for lines 1 to 4, substitute:

"(4) In fixing the standard rent of the premises under clause (b) of sub-section (1) the Court shall fix an amount which does not exceed 9 per cent of the reasonable cost of construction of such premises."

The motion was negatived.

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

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 9 to 12 were added to Bill.

**Clause 13.-** (*Protection of a tenant against eviction*)

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I beg to move:

In page 6,—

(i) line 48, omit "for residential purposes"; and

(ii) line 50, omit "as a residence".

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

In page 6,—

(i) line 48, omit "for residential purposes"; and

(ii) line 50, omit "as a residence".

The motion was negatived.

**Shri Gadgil:** I beg to move:

In page 6, line 51, after "suitable-accommodation;" add:

"that he has acquired his interest in the premises at a date prior to the beginning of the tenancy or the 6th day of June, 1951 whichever is later, or if the interest has devolved on him by inheritance or succession, his predecessor had acquired the interest at a date prior to the beginning of the tenancy or the 6th day of June, 1951 whichever is later."

[Shri Gadgil]

This is meant to help the refugees who have purchased property for their own use.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I oppose it. As a matter of fact the Select Committee did not favour it and did not pass it. On the previous case the Minister took his stand on the report of the Select Committee but the Committee did not accept this.

Secondly this will operate against the interests of the owners of the houses. We have accepted the principle that the owner of a house should be enabled to get his own residence in certain circumstances. Even under the Bombay Act, on which the hon. Minister wants to rely even business premises are allowed to be taken back by the house owner. We have hedged it with such conditions, namely that it must be required for a *bona fide* purpose. We have given discretion to the court under (e) as also later.....

**Shri Gadgil:** If you do not want it I will not press it.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I do not want it.

**Shri Gadgil:** Then I do not press it

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

"That clause 13 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13 was added to the Bill.

• Clauses 14 to 27 were added to the Bill.

**Clause 28.—(Recovery of Possession by manager of a hotel etc.)**

*Amendment made:*

In page 11, after line 44, add:

"(e) that the lodger has failed to pay the rent due from him."

—[Shri Gadgil]

5 P.M.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then Pandit Bhargava.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** My friend has taken his amendment from mine.

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

"That clause 28, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

• Clause 28, as amended, was added to the Bill.

• Clauses 29 to 32 were added to the Bill.

**Clause 33.—(Jurisdiction of courts)**

**Shri Gadgil:** I beg to move:

In page 12, line 37, after "provisions" add: "but does not include any proceedings which a Controller is empowered to determine under Chapter IV."

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** May I just understand something from the hon. Minister? Does it mean that if a Controller gives a certificate then the matter need not go to court and he will be able to pass eviction orders himself?

**Shri Gadgil:** What the amendment really means is that he can issue a certificate and after the certificate is issued then only proceedings in the court will be started.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Then my amendment will be necessary. So far as his amendment is concerned I have no dispute with it but my amendment has become necessary because his is there.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have not studied the amendment, but I take it that if this is passed the hon. Member's amendment will not be barred?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** No, Sir.

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

In page 12, line 37, after "provisions" add:

"but does not include any proceedings which a Controller is empowered to determine under Chapter IV."

The motion was adopted.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I beg to move:

In page 12, line 31, after "in the case" add:

"except in the case of proceedings based on the certificate of the Controller under Section 28 when the value shall be determined by the amount of rent which is or would be payable for a period of one month."

The simple proposition is this. I quite agree, as the hon. Minister has been pleased to say in his amendment that the Controller's certificate should be taken to court. Then the question in court will be as to what the

value of the suit is for purposes of court fees, jurisdiction, assessing cost, etc., I have said that in ordinary cases the assessment will be one year's rental, but in some cases one year's rental may be too much. Therefore I have said that in certain cases of lodgers in hotel, etc., one month's rental may be taken as the proper rental for jurisdiction, value of the suit etc.

**Shri Gadgil:** I cannot accept it as I am told that we cannot fix court fees.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Court fees will not be fixed by you. My friend has not appreciated what I have submitted. The court fee is not to be fixed by him—it is the business of the State legislature. The only point is that since he has not been pleased to fix the jurisdictional value etc. I am only fixing the jurisdictional value, not the court fees. In an ordinary suit the rental value of one year is fixed, but in the case of a person who stays for two or three days only it will be too much and it is enough if one month's rental value is fixed.

**Shri Gadgil:** I shall accept it.

**Mr. Speaker:** Does the wording given by the hon. Member fit the main section? If the amendment is accepted in the same wording, will it fit in?

**Shri Gadgil:** I have not gone into that.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then, if the amendment is accepted, the House may as well agree that the draftsman may examine this and I may be authorised to change the language of the draftsman.

**Hon. Members:** Yes.

**Mr. Speaker:** Subject to this I am putting the amendment to the vote.

The question is:

In page 12, line 31, after "in the case" add:

"except in the case of proceedings based on the certificate of the Controller under Section 28 when the value shall be determined by the amount of rent which is or would be payable for a period of one month."

The motion was adopted.

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

"That clause 33, as amended, stand part of the bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 33, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 34 to 38 were added to the Bill.

**Clause 39.—(Exemption of certain premises from the operation of the Act.)**

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I beg to move:

In page 13, omit line 33.

The reason for this motion I gave in detail on the day when this Bill was considered and I do not want to repeat my reasons. I would only advance one more argument in relation to this amendment. We have seen that even after a few years the hon. Minister has gone back upon the promise which he gave in the Act of 1947. So there is no point in having this period of seven years put here because at any time he chooses he can change the entire basis of the law as he has been pleased to do. As a matter of fact, in all such legislation the period is given. The age of the Bill should have been for five years but to that he does not agree. He says the period of exemption shall be seven years, but how can we say what will happen within that time in the future, especially when my friend is not sticking to what he said in 1947? In the Act of 1947 we enacted that all new buildings shall not be brought within the operation of that law—after seven months he changed the law.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is a bunch of these amendments and they all relate to the period. Dr. Pattabhi.

**Dr. Pattabhi:** This is an agreed amendment. I beg to move:

In page 13, lines 30 and 31, for "after the commencement of this Act" substitute "after the 1st day of June, 1951".

**Mr. Speaker:** It is an agreed amendment and need not be discussed.

**Dr. Pattabhi:** I beg to move my second amendment:

In page 13, lines 31 and 32, for "such commencement" substitute "the commencement of this Act".

**Mr. Speaker:** Before I put these to the House. I shall call on the other movers also. **Mr. Kapoor.**

**Shri J. B. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh):** I think the hon. Minister may be in an agreeing mood so far as this amendment is concerned if I further tone it down with your permission. I beg to move:

In page 13, line 33, for "seven years", substitute "ten years".

Instead of twelve I have made it ten years. My only reason for suggesting this amendment is that only the other day the hon. Minister brought to our notice the fact that the Government had been pleased to issue a communique to the effect that for ten years hereafter, in the case of new buildings they shall not requisition them. Similarly, I suggest that in the case of new buildings which are constructed hereafter or which may have been constructed after the 1st day of June, 1951,—according to the amendment suggested by Dr. Pattabhi which I understand is going to be accepted—the provisions of this Act may not, for ten years, be applicable to those buildings. This is just to be consistent with the provisions of the communique which has been recently issued.

**श्रीमदट:** I beg to move:

In page 13, line 33, for "seven" substitute "five".

मेरा संशोधन इस प्रकार है कि सात साल की बजाय पांच साल कर दिया जाय। उन को सात साल के बजाय पांच साल की छूट दी जानी चाहिये और पांच साल तक वह जो चाहें नफ़ा उठा लें, उस के बाद ज्यादा मियाद नहीं बढ़ानी चाहिये।

दूसरी बात हमारे डाक्टर पट्टाभि ने कही है कि यह बिल इन्ट्रीड्यूस हुआ है तब से लागू कर दिया जाय। इस के मानी यह होंगे कि जिन लोगों का आज स्टैंडर्ड रेंट (Standard rent) मुकर्रर

हो गया है उन को भी फिर तकलीफ में डाल दिया जायगा। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूँ कि जो कुछ हो वह इस ऐक्ट के अमल में आने के बाद की बात होनी चाहिये। उसके पहले की बात कभी नहीं होनी चाहिये। और मैं यह फिर अर्ज करूंगा कि सात साल की मियाद घटा कर पांच साल कर देनी चाहिये।

(English translation of the above)

**Shri Bhatt:** I beg to move:

In page 13, line 33, for "seven" substitute "five".

My amendment is that the period should be five years instead of seven. They should be given exemption for only five years and let them take advantage only during that period. There should not be any further extension of time.

Then, my hon. friend Dr. Pattabhi said that this Bill should have effect from the date it was introduced. It would mean putting those landlords in trouble again, the standard rent of whose premises has already been fixed. I want that this Act should not have any retrospective effect. I would again submit that the period should be reduced from seven years to five.

**Mr. Speaker:** I shall put the agreed amendments first.

The question is:

(i) In page 13, lines 30 and 31, for "after the commencement of this Act" substitute "after the 1st day of June, 1951"; and

(ii) In page 13, lines 31 and 32, for "such commencement" substitute "the commencement of this Act".

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. Speaker:** I think the other amendments fall through now, because there is no question of any extension.

**Shri J. B. Kapoor:** The other amendments will not be debarred.

**Mr. Speaker:** I shall not contest it, in view of the shortage of time. Is he serious about putting his amendment to the House?

**Shri J. R. Kapoor:** Yes. If the hon. Minister is prepared to accept it.

**Shri Gadgil:** No, I cannot accept it.

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

In page 13, line 33, for "seven years" substitute "ten years".

The motion was negatived.

**Mr. Speaker:** What about Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava?

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** It may be put.

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

In page 13, omit line 33.

The motion was negatived.

**Shri Bhatt:** I do not press my amendment.

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

"That clause 39, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 39, as amended was added to the Bill

Clause 40.—(Landlord's duty to keep the premises in good repair.)

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I beg to move:

In page 13, line 44, before "Where any repairs" insert:

"Except in cases provided for under clause (g) of the Proviso to section 13".

**Shri Gadgil:** Sir, I oppose it.

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

In page 13, line 44, before "Where any repairs" insert:

"Except in cases provided for under clause (g) of the Proviso to section 13".

The motion was negatived.

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

"That clause 40 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 40 was added to the Bill.

Clause 41 was added to the Bill.

Clause 42.—(Landlord's duty to give notice of new constructions to Government.)

**Shri Gadgil:** I accept my friend Pandit Bhargava's amendment.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** I was going to say that if he is not in a mood to accept then I shall not move it!

**Mr. Speaker:** Would such an agreement as that not be against public policy?

Amendment made:

In page 14 line 31, for "fifteen" substitute "thirty".

—[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

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

"That clause 42, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 42, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 43 was added to the Bill

Clause 44.—(Penalties)

**Shri Gadgil:** Sir, I accept the amendments tabled by Pandit Bhargava.

Amendment made:

(i) In page 15, line 46, for "six" substitute "three": and

(ii) In page 15, line 49, for "one thousand" substitute "one hundred".

—[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

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

"That clause 44, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 44, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 45 and 46 were added to the Bill.

The First Schedule and the Second Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill

**Shri Gadgil:** I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

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

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

**Shri Kamath:** Before you adjourn the House *sine die* shall we not, Sir,

invoke the blessings of God on our Parliament, and say with one voice, "Long live Parliament".

**Mr. Speaker:** I entirely associate myself with the sentiment, but while Members may come and Members may go, Parliament will continue. The House is now adjourned *sine die*.

"The House then adjourned *sine die*."

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