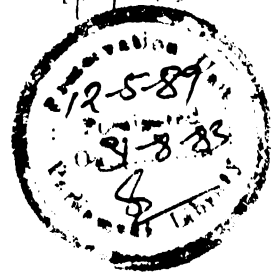


Thursday, 7th June, 1951



सत्यमेव जयते



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

VOLUME VIII, 1951

(17th May to 9th June, 1951)

Third Session (Second Part)
of the
PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1951

CONTENTS

Volume VIII—From 17th May to 9th June, 1951

| | <i>Columns.</i> |
|--|-----------------|
| Thursday, 17th May, 1951— | |
| Oral Answers to Questions | 4329—4366 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 4366—4374 |
| Friday, 18th May, 1951— | |
| Oral Answers to Questions | 4375—4407 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 4507—4410 |
| Saturday, 19th May, 1951— | |
| Oral Answers to Questions | 4411—4440 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 4441—4444 |
| Monday, 21st May, 1951— | |
| Oral Answers to Questions | 4445—4476 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 4476—4494 |
| Tuesday, 22nd May, 1951— | |
| Oral Answers to Questions | 4495—4523 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 4523—4536 |
| Wednesday, 23rd May, 1951— | |
| Oral Answers to Questions | 4537—4567 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 4567—4576 |
| Thursday, 24th May, 1951— | |
| Oral Answers to Questions | 4577—4606 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 4607—4618 |
| Friday, 25th May, 1951— | |
| Oral Answers to Questions | 4619—4652 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 4652—4666 |
| Saturday, 26th May, 1951— | |
| Oral Answers to Questions | 4667—4698 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 4698—4704 |
| Monday, 28th May, 1951— | |
| Oral Answers to Questions | 4705—4734 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 4734—4748 |
| Wednesday, 30th May, 1951— | |
| Oral Answers to Questions | 4749—4777 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 4777—4786 |
| Thursday, 31st May, 1951— | |
| Oral Answers to Questions | 4787—4817 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 4817—4826 |
| Friday, 1st June, 1951— | |
| Oral Answers to Questions | 4827—4859 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 4859—4876 |
| Monday, 4th June, 1951— | |
| Oral Answers to Questions | 4877—4909 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 4910—4928 |

Tuesday, 5th June, 1951—

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Oral Answers to Questions | 4929—4965 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 4965—5000 |

Wednesday, 6th June, 1951—

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Oral Answers to Questions | 5001—5033 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 5033—5054 |

Thursday, 7th June, 1951—

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Oral Answers to Questions | 5055—5087 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 5087—5106 |

Friday, 8th June, 1951—

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Oral Answers to Questions | 5107—5137 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 5137—5162 |

Saturday, 9th June, 1951—

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Oral Answers to Questions | 5163—5188 |
| Written Answers to Questions | 5188—5190 |

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

5055

5056

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Thursday, 7th June, 1951

*The House met at Half-past Eight of
the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

रेडियो सेट फैक्टरियां

*४९७८. श्री जांगड़े : (ए) क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या भारत में रेडियो सेट बनाने की कोई फैक्टरियां हैं ?

(बी) यदि भाग (ए) का उत्तर स्वीकारात्मक हो तो उक्त फैक्टरियों पर सरकार क्या नियन्त्रण रखती है ?

RADIO-SET FACTORIES

[*4978. Shri Jangde: (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether there are any factories in India for the manufacture of radio-sets?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, what control is exercised by Government on such factories?]

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Yes, Sir, there are 16 factories manufacturing Radio Receivers.

(b) No statutory control is exercised.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि हिन्दुस्तान में जो रेडियो सेट बनाये जाते हैं वह बाहर से आयात किये हुए रेडियो सेट्स से अच्छे और टिकाऊ होते हैं ?

[Shri Jangde: Will the hon. Minister please state whether the radio sets manufactured in India are better and more durable than those imported from abroad?]

Shri Mahtab: It is mainly a question of opinion. I think they are as good as the imported ones.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि हिन्दुस्तान में रेडियो सेट बनाये जाने के बावजूद भी बाहर से कितने रेडियो सेट मंगाये जाते हैं ?

[Shri Jangde: Will the hon. Minister please state what is the number of radio sets which are imported in spite of their being manufactured in India?]

Shri Mahtab: Actual production in 1950 was 43,514 whereas the annual requirements is estimated at 1,60,000.

Shri Rathnaswamy: May I know the average cost of radio sets manufactured in India?

Shri Mahtab: I am sorry I cannot give that information.

REHABILITATION OF RETURNING MIGRANTS

*4979. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number of Muslims, who had migrated to East Bengal and have since been rehabilitated in West Bengal on their return following the Indo-Pakistan Agreement of April, 1950?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): 31,933 families of returning Muslim migrants consisting of about 1,13,211 persons have been rehabilitated in West Bengal up to the beginning of December, 1950.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether all the returning migrants have been settled in their own houses?

Dr. Keskar: Not necessarily so. The majority of them have been settled in

their own houses but my hon. friend will remember that a number of them are workers in industrial areas and some people whose houses were occupied by others were not able to get them back.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any money has been spent on their resettlement and if so, what is the amount spent?

Dr. Keskar: Returning migrants are given an *ad hoc* sum of Rs. 200. Upto the end of 1950, the Government of West Bengal had spent nearly Rs. 9,81,000 for resettlement of the returning migrants.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any record has been kept of the number of people who have migrated to West Bengal and have since been rehabilitated in West Bengal?

Dr. Keskar: There is no complete record but it is estimated that about 30,000 workers left for East Bengal and out of them it is estimated that probably 20,000 approximately have returned.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the returning Hindus to East Bengal are getting similar facilities as the returning Muslims are getting in West Bengal?

Dr. Keskar: According to the agreement, they should get the same facilities. I will not be able to say off-hand whether they are in fact getting the same facilities.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether among the returning Muslim migrants who have been settled in the industrial areas many of them are non-Indian nationals?

Dr. Keskar: I would require notice.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know what is the financial assistance that is being given to the returning Muslim migrants here and what is the financial assistance given to Hindu migrants there?

Dr. Keskar: As I said, generally a sum of Rs. 200 is given to migrants who come back. With regard to the assistance given by the East Bengal Government, I will not be able to say definitely. According to the agreement they should also give the same facilities as we are giving on this side. It is true that for some time the East Bengal Government did not give any assistance but when this matter was brought to their notice, in recent months they have spent some money on helping Hindus who have returned to East Bengal.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if according to the Delhi Agreement even non-Indian nationals are entitled to have the rehabilitation facilities?

Dr. Keskar: Persons who were staying in West Bengal and who had to run away on account of the disturbances from their residences are entitled to help if they come back.

Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava: Is this payment of Rs. 200 in consonance with the Agreement?

Dr. Keskar: There is no reference to particular sums in the Agreement but this is an arrangement made by Government that as the refugees coming back would require some assistance, this has been fixed by the Government.

Shri Chaliha: May I know the number of Muslim migrants who went to East Bengal and came back to Assam and the amount spent on them in Assam?

Dr. Keskar: I just repeated it—about 20,000 have come back.

Maulvi Wajed Ali: Is there any provision for giving loans to persons who have returned to Assam and Bengal according to the Delhi Agreement—upto March 31, 1951?

Dr. Keskar: My colleague the Rehabilitation Minister might be able to give what provision there are for giving loans.

PEACE TREATY WITH JAPAN

*5013. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether separate drafts with regard to the Japanese Peace Treaty have been received from U. K. and U. S. S. R.; and

(b) if so, whether they are under consideration?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) A provisional draft of the Japanese Peace Treaty has been received from the United Kingdom Government. No draft of a treaty has been received from the U.S.S.R. Government.

(b) The United Kingdom draft is under consideration.

Shri Kamath: Are the Japanese Peace Treaty Drafts of the U.K. and U.S.A. substantially the same or are there any points or issues on which they are at variance?

Dr. Keskar: The drafts are substantially the same but there is a certain amount of difference between the two drafts.

Shri Kamath: On what issues?

Dr. Keskar: It is not at present possible to give out as the drafts are still treated as confidential.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that India has suggested an early conference of the interested Powers for the Japanese Peace Treaty talks and is it a fact that India has further suggested Chinese participation in these Peace Treaty Talks?

Dr. Keskar: I will not be able to say anything with regard to the details of the suggestions that India has made at this stage.

Shri Kamath: Has our representative in Tokyo had any talk, formal or informal, so far with the Japanese Government or the American representative there on this subject?

Dr. Keskar: As far as I am aware, no.

Shri Kamath: Has India conveyed her views to the U.K. and the U.S.A. Governments regarding the Japanese Treaty in the United Nations, regarding separate peace treaties with Japan and the question of Japanese re-armament, in her reply to the drafts sent to India?

Dr. Keskar: All the main points in both the drafts have been considered and our views have been communicated to the U.S.A. Government. As I said, the draft of the U.K. Government is still under consideration.

Shri Kamath: Could the House have an idea of these views?

Dr. Keskar: Not now, but later on.

TEMPLES IN CHITTAGONG

*4981. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any reports that temples and places of public worship of the Hindus at Chittagong have been served with notices of acquisition or of requisition by the District Magistrate of Chittagong; and

(b) if so, whether the Government of India have taken any steps in this regard?

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

(b) Yes.

Shri A. C. Guha: What steps have Government taken? Have they received any reply from the Pakistan Government?

Dr. Keskar: As is usual under the Indo-Pakistan Agreement, the Government have asked our Central Minister there to take up the matter with the East Bengal Government and our Deputy High Commissioner in Dacca also has urgently taken up this matter. We have not yet received any reply.

Shri A. C. Guha: What are the names of the temples which have been served this acquisition or requisition order?

Dr. Keskar: The latest report says that the District Magistrate of Chittagong has issued notices on the following temples for acquisition of lands on which they stand—not the temples themselves.

Shri A. C. Guha: Is it not true that these lands are parts of the temples and as such they are not subject to the land acquisition Act?

Dr. Keskar: That is true.

Shri A. C. Guha: Under what Act this order has been passed?

Dr. Keskar: As I said, this was a report that we received. We brought it to the notice of the East Bengal Government which contradicted it saying that it was absolutely false. We have made later enquiries and then they admitted that there was a move to acquire if not the whole of the land, at least a part of it. We have taken up this question with the East Bengal Government saying that these lands cannot be acquired as they are temple property.

Shri A. C. Guha: Have the Government received any report submitted by one of the members of the Minority Commission of East Bengal saying that Chandranath and certain other famous temples in Chittagong have been desecrated?

Dr. Keskar: I have not got it before me. I would require notice.

Shri A. C. Guha: Have Government received any report that these famous temples of Chittagong District and other temples in the interior have been desecrated or their sanctity violated in any way?

Dr. Keskar: Whatever report our Deputy High Commissioner gets he immediately transmits to us. I am not able to say definitely whether a report regarding the temples which the hon. Member has referred to has been received. I will make enquiries.

Shri Kamath: Does the Minister think that this action on the part of the Pakistan Government is contrary to the spirit of the Indo Pakistan Agreement of the 8th April, 1950?

Mr. Speaker: That is a question of opinion.

Shri A. C. Guha: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a press report published that Mr. Manoranjan Dhar, M.L.A., one of the members of the Minority Commission inspected some of these temples in Chittagong and he is convinced that those temples have been desecrated in some way or other?

Dr. Keskar: I have seen a report to that effect. As I said immediately we drew the attention of our Deputy High Commissioner to it and asked him to submit to us a definite report about it. As my hon. friend is aware where temples and properties are located in the interior it takes some time before we can verify the facts alleged. That is the reason why we have not been able to receive the verification.

Shri B. K. Das: How far back were the notices served for acquisition or requisition? For how long has this matter been agitated by our Government and taken it up with the East Bengal Government?

Dr. Keskar: I am not able to give the date when the notice was served. If my hon. friend wants I can find out.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether there is any complaint that one of the temples in Chittagong was defiled by unknown persons in June, 1950?

Dr. Keskar: It is quite possible but I am not aware.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: Apart from Chittagong, have complaints been received regarding the desecration of other temples in East Bengal?

Dr. Keskar: There have been one or two other complaints. As I said, they are immediately transmitted to the Deputy High Commissioner. I have not got the names of the places.

VIZAGAPATAM SHIP-BUILDING YARD

*4982. **Shri Sanjivayya:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether Government have taken any decision with regard to the question of acquiring the Vizagapatam Ship-building Yard?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given by me to Starred question No. 160 for the 20th November, 1950.

Shri Sanjivayya: Is there any proposal for the expansion or the improvement of this ship-building yard?

If so, was any loan or grant asked for by the ship-building yards?

Mr. Speaker: All these questions have practically been covered on a previous occasion.

Shri Kesava Rao: Sir, on a point of order, the hon. Minister has referred to the answer to a question in November last. Is the Member expected to know that answer? If it is a simple answer the Minister could as well read out the answer.

Mr. Speaker: The Member is expected to have searched as to whether the information was already given. It is only through a slip of the Parliament Secretariat that repetitions creep in.

Shri V. J. Gupta: In spite of the Government placing fresh orders for new ships, are the Scindias anxious to hand over the concern to the Government?

Shri Mahtab: The fresh orders which are proposed to be given are in continuation of the previous orders. As soon as the existing orders are executed fresh orders will be given. There will be no overlapping.

PILGRIMS TO HEJAZ ETC.

*4983. **Maulvi Wajed Ali:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of pilgrims from India who visited Hejaz, Syria, Palestine and Iran during the years 1948, 1949 and 1950;

(b) whether there is a Consul or Embassy office in Jeddah, to look after the interests of and any rest house for the benefit of the pilgrims;

(c) the number of Indians residing in Mecca and Madina; and

(d) whether the Provincial and Port Haj Committees are still functioning?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) The number of pilgrims who visited the Hejaz during 1948, 1949, and 1950 was about 14,100, 14,800 and 12,350 respectively. It is regretted that the figures in respect of pilgrims who visited the other countries mentioned are not available.

(b) There is an Indian Consul General at Jeddah, who *inter alia*, looks after the welfare and interests of Indian pilgrims in the Hejaz. There are some rest houses in the Hejaz for pilgrims.

(c) Exact figures of Indians in Mecca and Madina are not available but the majority of the two thousand four hundred and odd Indians residing in Saudi Arabia live in Mecca and Madina.

(d) The Port Haj Committee, Bombay, and the State Haj Committees, Lucknow and Calicut, and the Divisional Haj Committee, Dhubri, are functioning. The Port Haj Committee, Calcutta, is not functioning at present; in its place, an *ad hoc* Special Haj Committee has been functioning since 1949.

Maulvi Wajed Ali: May I know whether there is any proposal to start again shipping facilities from Calcutta as before and the Port Haj Committee there will function again?

Dr. Keskar: The Port Haj Committee at Calcutta will certainly try to function again as soon as possible. In view of the present scarcity of shipping Government is not able to promise that they will be able to provide the same shipping facilities such as chartering ships as was done before. We will try to do it if and when it becomes possible to get the ships.

Maulvi Wajed Ali: Will there be any increase in shipping facilities for the pilgrims this year? Last year they were less than in the previous two years. I mean the shipping facilities from Bombay.

Dr. Keskar: We are trying to provide as many and greater facilities for the pilgrims as possible under the circumstances of today.

रूस तथा चीन के साथ व्यापार

*४९८४. श्री जांगड़े : क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(ए) १९४८, १९४९ तथा १९५० के वर्षों में भारत द्वारा रूस तथा चीन से आयात की गई वस्तुओं के नाम, परिमाण तथा मूल्य ;

(बी) भारत द्वारा रूस तथा साम्यवादी चीन को जो वस्तुएं निर्यात की गई हैं अथवा की जा रही हैं, उन के नाम, परिमाण तथा मूल्य; तथा

(सी) चीन तथा रूस से, आयात की गई वस्तुओं के बदले में भारत द्वारा दी जाने वाली वस्तुओं का मूल्य तथा मात्रा तथा नकद धन राशि क्या है ?

TRADE WITH RUSSIA AND CHINA

[*4984. **Shri Jangde:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the names, quantities and value of goods that were imported by India from Russia and China in the years 1948, 1949 and 1950;

(b) the names, quantities and value of goods that have been or are being exported by India to Russia and Communist China; and

(c) the value and amount of goods and also the amount of money in cash that India sends in exchange of goods imported from China and Russia?]

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). Two statements showing the quantity and value of imports from China and U.S.S.R. and Exports to those countries during the last three years are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 37]

The commodities which are mainly being exported to these countries are tea, raw jute, jute goods, spices and lac.

The difference between the value of the goods exported and that of the goods imported is adjusted through the sterling exchange.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या मन्त्रिणीय मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि ऐसी हालत में, जैसा कि विवरण पत्र में दिया है कि चीन कच्चा चमड़ा हिन्दुस्तान को भेजता है, उस के यहां आने का क्या कारण है जबकि हिन्दुस्तान स्वयं यहां से कच्चा चमड़ा बाहर को भेजता है ?

[**Shri Jangde:** Will the hon. Minister please state why are raw hides, as given in the Statement, imported from China when India herself exports a good deal of raw hides to the foreign countries?]

Shri Karmarkar: We have now stopped the export of raw hide to China.

श्री जांगड़े : मेरे कहने का मतलब यह था कि जबकि हिन्दुस्तान खुद यहां से बाहर को कच्चा चमड़ा भेजता है, क्या कारण है कि चीन से कच्चा चमड़ा हिन्दुस्तान में मंगाया जाता है ?

[**Shri Jangde:** I meant to ask why raw hides are being imported from

China when India herself is exporting them to the other countries?]

श्री कर्मकार : कुछ ऐसा चमड़ा है जो हमें वहाँ से चाहिये, इस लिये उसे हम चीन से मंगते हैं।

[**Shri Karmarkar:** There is a special quality of leather which can be had from that country. That is why we import it from China.]

श्री जांगड़े : क्या वह चमड़ा हिन्दुस्तान में नहीं पाया जाता ?

[**Shri Jangde:** Is that kind of leather not available in India?]

[**Shri Karmarkar:** Obviously we do not get that type of raw hides.

इस लिये हम उस को चीन से मंगाने हैं ?

[That is why we import them from China.]

Shri Rathnaswamy: Is it a fact that Russia insisted upon carrying on trade with India only on a barter basis?

Shri Karmarkar: That is not a fact.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि निकट भविष्य में भारत रूस से पेट्रोल या ऐसे अन्य खनिज तेल मंगाने के लिये कोई समझौता कर रहा है ?

[**Shri Jangde:** Will the hon. Minister please state whether India is negotiating to enter into some agreement with Russia for the import of petrol or some other kind of mineral oils?]

Shri Karmarkar: Not at present.

Shri T. N. Singh: With regard to hides may I know whether any improvement has been effected in the matter of grading and of quality of hides which are exported and, if not, whether because of this we have not got a good market in Russia?

Shri Karmarkar: Whether we have improved our hides?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, and is that the reason of there being no demand in foreign countries.

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir. That is not the reason.

Shri Sohan Lal: May I know the names of the particular varieties of hides which are being imported from China?

Shri Karmarkar: I shall make a little research and communicate it to the hon. Member.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I know what was the adverse balance of trade in each of these three years?

Shri Karmarkar: In respect of U.S.S.R. for the year 1950 exports were to the tune of Rs. 1.41 crores and imports Rs. 1.59 crores. In respect of China for 1950 our exports were Rs. 2.40 crores and imports Rs. 49.38 lakhs. That will give the hon. Member an idea of the balance of trade.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: May I know whether the trade between India and China and India and Russia is carried on on the basis of some trade agreement?

Shri Karmarkar: No, Sir, not on the basis of agreements. Of course, we agree to export and import, but it is not based on bilateral agreements year by year.

Shri Chaliha: May I know what is the quantity of tea exported to Russia, whether it has reached the pre-war figure, and what is the total value of annual exports to that country?

Shri Karmarkar: All the figures are given in the statements laid on the Table. As regards pre-war figures it will be found in the statement showing the sea-borne trade.

WORLD SOCIAL SECURITY CODE

*4985. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the provisions that are proposed to be codified in the World Social Security Code;

(b) whether it is proposed to have a different set of provisions for different countries or a uniform provision for all member countries; and

(c) what is the attitude of India with regard to such provisions, whether they are to be finally accepted by India or she accepts the official recommendation without any requirement for ratification?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) I. L. O. propose to have a convention on objectives and minimum standards of social security. The proposed provisions may be found at pp. 325-348 of Report IV (2) for the 34th Session of the International Labour Conference. A copy of the report can be had from the Library.

(b) It is proposed to have uniform provisions for all countries. There will be 2 standards of social security—minimum and advanced. The proposed

Convention also provides for temporary exceptions. The undeveloped and under-developed countries can take advantage of the minimum standard and temporary exceptions.

(c) Government of India are in favour of a Recommendation and not a Convention. It is, however, likely that the majority opinion might favour a Convention. Government of India, therefore, propose to press for reduction in coverage conditions and contents of benefits so that they might ratify the Convention within the frame-work of the present Employees' State Insurance Act. A statement indicating the principal provisions and the attitude of the Government of India on these is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 38]

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether there is any *ad hoc* committee which makes proposals for provisions to be codified, and whether they depend on acceptance by the country concerned, or if they are passed by a majority they are accepted generally?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: There is no *ad hoc* committee but these proposals are examined first by the staff of the I.L.O. who prepare some sort of a draft and circulate it to the various countries. Some times questionnaires are issued to all the member-States and answers invited to those questionnaires. After that they have two discussions in the open conference of the I.L.O., the first discussion and the second discussion. When either a recommendation or convention is adopted by the I.L.O., whether unanimously or by a majority, the member-countries have to ratify those recommendations or conventions.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: In view of the fact that there is no provision in our country for sickness, maternity and employment-injury benefits, may I know whether it will be possible to get these benefits in view of the provision that a certain period of coverage preceding the year of ratification is necessary?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: There are eight or nine items which are covered by the social security measures and the member-countries are to cover at least three of them. At present we have provision for maternity benefit under the various State Acts. We have also some benefits of employment-injury under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Then we have provided medical as well as cash benefits under the Employees State Insurance Act. If we implement all these three we will be fulfilling the terms of the convention

or the recommendation as the case may be.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether India is prepared to ratify the convention as it has been adopted by other countries?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It has not been adopted as yet, Sir. It is still under consideration. This time it will be coming before the I.L.O. Conference.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether the social security scheme contemplated by the Government of India has anything to do with this security charter?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I will invite the attention of my friend to the reply I have already given.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know the names of the member-countries?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is a long list—more than 64 Governments are members of the I.L.O.

SCHUMAN PLAN TREATY

*4986. **Shri Amolakh Chand:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether the Schuman Plan Treaty will in any way affect the coal and steel industries of India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): The Schuman Plan Treaty is not likely to affect coal and steel industries of India.

Shri Amolakh Chand: India being an exporter of coal and steel may I know how it will not be affected by this pool which will be working to a total of 5 crore tons a year?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I think he is entering into an argument. The hon. Minister gave the views of the Government of India. He may ask for information but not argue.

Shri Amolakh Chand: May I know whether India was invited to the Schuman Plan conference?

Shri Mahtab: India was not invited and there was no occasion for inviting India for this purpose. The hon. Member perhaps knows that France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxemburg and Holland are the only countries who have joined this Plan.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know whether due to this Schuman Plan the price of steel is likely to be increased?

Shri Mahtab: Sir, may I take this opportunity to correct one statement made by Shri Amolakh Chand earlier?

India is not an exporter of steel but an exporter of coal, but no European country is interested in Indian coal. As regards the steel supply to India, positively it will be affected because India is an importer of steel.

Shri A. C. Guha: My question was whether the price of steel is likely to be increased due to the Schuman Scheme?

Shri Mahtab: That is our fear.

WORLD SOCIAL SECURITY CODE

*4987. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have replied to the questionnaire issued by the I.L.O. concerning provisions to be included in a World Social Security Code; and

(b) whether the personnel of the delegation to the I.L.O. Conference to be held at Geneva has been selected?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) The Government have replied to an I.L.O. Questionnaire on the objectives and minimum standards of social security which is Item IV on the Agenda of the 34th Session of the International Labour Conference to be held at Geneva in June, 1951.

(b) Yes.

IMPORT OF BUSES

*4987-A. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of fully equipped Buses (i) single decked (ii) double decked, both petrol driven and diesel oil driven that have been imported into India after independence up to date;

(b) the State-wise distribution of these buses;

(c) whether these buses were imported by the States independently of the Centre or they were imported through the Central Government; and

(d) the cost price with freight and custom (if any) of each variety?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (d). The information asked for by the hon. Member is not available as statistics in the form required are not maintained. However, two statements are placed on the Table of the House:

(1) showing the imports, both in quantity and value, of motor omnibuses and motor lorries, imported with bodies and in the form of chassis during the

years 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51, and

(2) showing the port-wise imports of these items during the same period. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 39]

The State Governments are free to place orders direct on importers. No fully equipped buses have been imported through the Central Government's purchasing agency, viz., the Directorate General of Supply and Disposals. The figures given in the statement represent total imports and the value shown is based on the value declared by importers in the Bills of Entry.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know whether the number of lorries and omnibuses given in this statement includes orders from the Defence Department also?

Shri Karmarkar: I should think so.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, whether the amount given as 'value' includes the value of spare parts as well?

Shri Karmarkar: Spare parts, I should think, are different from omnibuses and vehicles.

Dr. M. M. Das: In the statement I find that during the year 1948-49 the total value of imports is given as about Rs. 9½ crores and during 1950-51 the value has come down to Rs. 3 crores only. What are the reasons for this reduction to nearly one-third the previous year's value?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to find that out.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, whether motor buses and lorries are manufactured or assembled in any firm in this country?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir.

Dr. M. M. Das: What are those firms, Sir?

Shri Karmarkar: The following are the firms which have a manufacturing programme:

- The Hindustan Motors, Limited,
- The Premier Automobiles, Ltd.,
Bombay,
- The Automobile Products of India,
Bombay,
- Ashok Motors, Ltd., Madras, and
- Standard Motor Products of India,
Madras.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, what percentage of parts are manufactured and what percentage is imported into this country? I want to know whether the engine is manufactured in this country or it is imported?

Shri Karmarkar: So far as I know, engines are not manufactured. But some other parts are manufactured. In respect of parts manufactured, I should be happy if my hon. friend tables a separate question.

Shri Amolakh Chand: May I know the number of *de luxe* buses imported into India?

Shri Karmarkar: I am not aware of the definition of *de luxe* buses. If my hon. friend gives it to me, I can find it out.

INVITATION FROM U. S. S. R. TO INDIAN SCIENTISTS.

*4988. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Indian Scientists who have accepted the invitation of a cultural and scientific organisation of the U. S. S. R.; and

(b) whether any purpose has been mentioned in the invitation?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) Up to now our definite information is that three Scientists, Dr. Chinoy, Dr. Mahalanobis and Dr. Bhatt have accepted the invitation. Dr. Bhatnagar may also find it possible to visit the U.S.S.R. for a fortnight in July.

(b) We understand that the object of the invitations, which have been issued by Soviet organisations, is to return the courtesies extended to the Soviet scientists and artists who visited India during the last cold weather.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know, Sir, whether the invitations were received through the Government or were they received by the individual scientists direct?

Dr. Keskar: These invitations were received by the individuals concerned and not through the Government of India.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether there is any proposal to invite scientists from U.S.S.R. to visit India?

Dr. Keskar: There is no such proposal before Government.

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Scientists are not normally invited by Government, but by scientific associations of the country.

Naturally our scientific organisations, with the assistance of Government, invite scientists from abroad.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : जो वैज्ञानिक उसने बुलाये हैं क्या उनको व्यक्तिगत हैसियत से बुलाया है या कि वह व्यक्तिगत हैसियत से जा रहे हैं और उनका खर्चा रूस देगा या भारत सरकार देगी ?

[Seth Govind Das: May I know whether the scientists have been invited in their personal capacity or in other words are they going in their individual capacity and will their expenses be defrayed by Russian Government or by the Government of India?]

डा० केशकर : व्यक्तिगत रूप से जा रहे हैं।

[Dr. Keskar: They are going in their personal capacity.]

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : क्या आप पूछ रहे हैं कि खर्चा कौन देगा ?

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Does the hon. Member want to know as to who will defray their expenses?]

सेठ गोविन्द दास : उनको व्यक्तिगत हैसियत से बुलाया गया है या गवर्नमेंट से पूछ कर बुलाया गया है, और उनका खर्चा रूस देगा या भारत सरकार देगी ?

[Seth Govind Das: Have they been invited in their personal capacity or in consultation with the Government here and will their expenses be met by Russia or by the Government of India?]

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : उनका खर्चा हमारी गवर्नमेंट से कुछ नहीं दिया जायगा। रूस में वह मेहमान होंगे। बाकी अगर वह गये तो गालिबन अपनी जेब से देंगे।

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No expenses will be met by our Government. They will be treated as guests in Russia. If, however, they go they themselves will have to meet their own expenses.]

BILLS OF ELECTRICITY OF C. P. W. D.

*4989. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact

that the C. P. W. D. do not clear the bills for electricity within time?

(b) How many such bills were not cleared within time during the years 1949-50 and 1950-51?

(c) What were the amounts involved?

(d) What is the reason for delay?

(e) Have there been complaints regarding delay in the payment of such bills?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Buragohain):

(a) The bills are generally paid in time.

(b) 1949-50—22,
1950-51—7.

(c) 1949-50—Rs. 19,424.
1950-51—Rs. 6,405.

(d) The delay is usually due to some mistakes in the bills presented by the N.D.M.C., or delay in checking the bills in Central Public Works Department.

(e) No.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know, Sir, whether the entire bill for the consumption of electricity is paid by the Department as a whole or is paid separately by different units of the Department?

Shri Buragohain: They are paid separately. The total comes to about Rs. 24 lakhs in a year.

DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

*4990. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Diplomatic Missions of India in foreign countries exceeds by about 50 per cent. the number of foreign diplomatic missions in India;

(b) the reasons for this anomaly establishment of diplomatic missions being reciprocal; and

(c) which are the countries where our missions have been sent but who do not have their missions in India?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) No, Sir, this is not a fact. On the contrary, while we have only 30 diplomatic representatives abroad, 38 countries have sent their diplomatic representatives to India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are only two such countries, the German Federal Republic and the Union of South Africa. The German Federal Republic has only

recently been permitted to have diplomatic relations and we expect a representative of theirs to be appointed to Delhi. A German Consul-General has already taken up his post in Bombay. As regards the Union of South Africa, as is well-known, we have withdrawn our High Commissioner and only maintain an office there with a Secretary in charge for safeguarding the interests of the Indian community in South Africa. The Republics of Lebanon, Mexico and Ireland have no representatives in New Delhi but we have accredited our Ambassadors in Cairo and Washington to represent us in Lebanon and Mexico respectively. Our High Commissioner in London is at the time our Ambassador in Dublin.

Dr. M. M. Das: I could not follow the answer. What is the total number of diplomatic missions that we have got in foreign countries and how many of those countries are represented here?

Dr. Keskar: As I said very clearly, we have only 30 diplomatic missions abroad and there are 38 countries which have sent their representatives to India.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, what is the policy of Government regarding the appointment or sending of diplomatic missions to foreign countries? What I mean to ask is: what are the factors that determine that India should have a diplomatic mission in any other country?

Dr. Keskar: The opening of diplomatic missions is generally to look after our interests in that particular country and as a general rule it is done on a reciprocal basis but not necessarily so. There might be occasions when we might have to open a mission to look after our important trade interests or any other interests.

Dr. M. M. Das: May I know, Sir, what are the reasons why India did not send her diplomatic missions to all those countries which have got missions here?

Dr. Keskar: Government has tried to restrict the number of diplomatic missions abroad as much as possible in order to economise according to the directive of this House and in restricting the number of missions we have a list of priority of countries which are more important and which are less important.

Shri Hussain Imam: Out of the Missions abroad may I know in how many there are no Ambassadors or High Commissioners and where Charge d'Affaires are working? Is that also an economy measure?

Dr. Keskar: In quite a number. And in some cases it is an economy measure.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : माननीय मंत्री ने बतलाया कि जिन देशों में हमारे दूतावास हैं उन की संख्या ३० है। और उन देशों के दूतावास हमारे देश में भी हैं। पर हमारे यहां ३८ देशों के दूतावास हैं। तो क्या इन में से कुछ ऐसे भी देश हैं जहाँ कि हमारे दूतावास नहीं हैं ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** The hon. Minister has stated that the number of countries having our embassies is 30 and also that these countries in question have their embassies in this country. But 38 countries have their embassies in India. Does it mean that in some of these countries our embassies do not exist?]

डा० केशकर : जैसा मैं ने शुरू में कहा कि काफ़ी ऐसे देश हैं कि जहाँ हमारे दूतावास नहीं हैं। पांच छः देश तो ऐसे हैं कि जिन के दूतावास हमारे यहां हैं और जो चाहते हैं कि हम अपने दूतावास वहाँ खोलें लेकिन हम इस वक़्त मजबूर हैं और ऐसा नहीं कर सकते हैं।

[**Dr. Keskar:** As stated by me in the beginning there are several countries wherein we have no embassies. Five or six of these countries have their embassies in this country and, as such, they desire that we too should open our embassies in their respective countries. We are however unable to accede to their request just at present for certain reasons.]

Shri A. C. Guha: When one diplomatic representative of India is authorised to look after more than one country, is he entitled to have a separate establishment and officers in each of those countries he has to look after?

Mr. Speaker: It is going too much into the question.

Shri A. C. Guha: No, Sir. The point is...

Mr. Speaker: I know the point.

Shri Kamath: Have there been any talks or suggestions on a governmental level as regards the exchange of diplomatic representatives between our country and Israel recently?

Dr. Keskar: Not recently, Sir.

Dr. M. M. Das: Has there been any reduction in the number of diplomatic Missions of India in foreign countries in recent times and, if so, what is the number?

Dr. Keskar: If by reduction my hon. friend means whether we have closed any Mission, (**Dr. M. M. Das:** Yes) none, Sir.

REDUCTION IN NON-GAZETTED STAFF

*4991. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendation of the Estimates Committee on the late Ministries of Works, Mines and Power and Industry and Supply regarding the reduction of the non-Gazetted establishment by 25 per cent. has been considered; and

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

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) and (b). The Ministries of Works, Mines and Power and Industry and Supply are no longer in existence. The staff of the newly constituted Ministries, including that of the Ministry of Works, Production and Supply, have been fixed with the concurrence of the Ministry of Finance, after taking the Estimates Committee's views into consideration and certain economies have been effected already. The Estimates Committee's general recommendation that the non-gazetted staff should be reduced by 25 per cent. will, however, be examined as a general issue affecting all Ministries.

Shri Sidhva: I have mentioned the late Ministry in my question. So the hon. Minister is wrong.

Mr. Speaker: He may put his question.

Shri Sidhva: I just wanted to correct him.

May I know whether the Works, Production and Supply Ministry has considered the Estimates Committee's recommendation regarding the re-grouping of existing circles and groups with the object of saving Rs. 5,10,000?

Shri Gadgil: I have already stated two days ago that the matter is under consideration.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether this particular item is also under consideration? I would also like to know whether any reduction has already

been made in the gazetted staff—Deputy Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries etc.

Shri Gadgil: There has been some economy even in the matter of gazetted officers as I have already stated.

Shri Sidhva: May I know the total number so far retrenched?

Shri Gadgil: I require notice for that.

Dr. Deshmukh: The Government still says that "it is under consideration". May I know what consideration the hon. Minister or the Government is giving to the consideration made by the Estimates Committee?

Shri Gadgil: The consideration which we give to the recommendations of the Estimates Committee are again given the same consideration.

SHIFTING OF OFFICES FROM DELHI

*4992. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether as suggested by the Estimates Committee a committee to consider the question of accommodation available at other places to relieve congestion in Delhi has been appointed; and

(b) if not, what alternative steps Government have taken or intend to take for shifting of such of the offices as are not required to be in Delhi?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) A Committee of the Cabinet consisting of H. M. Transport and myself is already examining the question.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the recommendations made in the past for the removal of certain offices from here have been complied with or whether there have been some difficulties despite official and residential accommodation being available outside Delhi?

Shri Gadgil: This has been answered several times. Originally this Committee recommended the shifting of nineteen offices from Delhi to several places. Out of that about three offices have been shifted. With respect to the shifting of the other offices the difficulty arose about residential accommodation, particularly of clerks that were covered by this scheme of shifting. Several places, in fact twenty-five places, were visited by the officers of the then Works, Mines and Power Ministry and it was found that while there was ample office accommodation

in most of the places the real difficulty was in respect of residential accommodation of the clerks, who were very large in number, and hence the scheme could not be implemented. Further, there was a considerable amount involved in shifting the offices, by way of travelling allowance and other things. Now it has been decided to review the whole question entirely in the light of these facts.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : जिन १९ दफ्तरों में से १६ दफ्तरों को अभी यहाँ से नहीं बदला गया है, उन में से कितने दफ्तर ऐसे हैं कि जिन के लिए जगह का इन्तिजाम हो चुका था और इतने पर भी वह नहीं हटाये गये ?

[**Seth Govind Das:** How many of these 16 out of 19 offices, that have not yet been shifted from here, are such for whom alternate accommodation arrangements had been made for their location?]

श्री गडगिल : हो सकता है कि एक दो ऐसे हों ।

[**Shri Gadgil:** This may be the case with one or two of them.]

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether the pressure on accommodation in Delhi has been removed to some extent and whether it will be possible for the Government to find accommodation for the staff of the Circuit Bench?

Shri Gadgil: The pressure is still growing. As regards the other question every effort is being made.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether it is a fact that out of these sixteen offices for ten of them there was accommodation for residence also available in the other places but they were not shifted on account of official pressure brought upon the Ministry?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Sidhva: I want to know whether it is a fact.

Mr. Speaker: It is an inference. He is alleging it as a fact. The hon. Minister has plainly replied as to the considerations which led the Ministry to abandon the proposal. Now to infer from that and say "I want to know whether it was a fact"...

Shri Sidhva: I am not inferring. The hon. Minister himself stated it some time back.

Mr. Speaker: I will not allow such questions containing inferences and insinuations.

Shri Sidhva: The hon. Minister stated that he and the hon. Minister for Transport are considering the question. May I know what stage this Committee has reached and whether any recommendation has so far been made?

Shri Gadgil: The Cabinet has appointed a sub-committee consisting of myself and H. M. Transport to go into the whole question. It is still there and it is going to review the whole question in the light of the circumstances I just detailed.

COLLECTION OF RENT AND AREARS

*4993. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the suggestions made by the Estimates Committee in their fourth report regarding collection of rent and arrears have been followed;

(b) if so, with what result; and

(c) whether the suggestion to run cafeterias on co-operative basis in various Government Departments instead of giving contracts has been accepted; and if not, why not?

The Deputy Minister of Works Production and Supply (Shri Buragohain):

(a) and (b). The suggestions are under consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. The rent section of the Estate Office has however been reorganised and the rent records systematized. Out of the arrears 13 lakhs 47 thousand as on 28th February, 1951, rupees two lakhs and 31 thousand have been collected during March and April, 1951.

(c) The suggestion has been accepted.

Shri Sidhva: The staff employed for this purpose in the Budget Estimate was to the tune of Rs. 13,50,000. May I know whether there has been any retrenchment as suggested by the Estimates Committee as regards this item?

Shri Buragohain: As I have already stated, the matter is still under consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. The whole question—the original recommendation of the Estimates Committee—comprised of two parts. The Committee recommended that the work of recovery of rent for government accommodation should be done by the Departments instead of by the Estate Office. The same suggestion was made earlier by the Economy Committee. But it did not find favour with the Departments concerned as the suggested procedure

was not likely to result in any economy as the Departments etc. would have to employ additional staff for this purpose. And the sum total of the staff so employed would be far in excess of the staff now actually employed in this work in the Estate Office.

Shri Sidhva: If this particular proposal of the Estimates Committee was not considered feasible, may I know whether any alternative proposal was considered by the Ministry?

Shri Buragohain: With regard to the clearance of arrears of rent, the Estimates Committee also made a recommendation and for this purpose the Estate Office has been reorganized and the whole thing is now centralized in the Estate Office and a special staff of 3 Accountants and 12 Clerks is being set apart to deal with the arrears of rent.

Shri Sidhva: Has there been any saving in view of that, apart from the re-organization?

Shri Buragohain: I have already stated that out of Rs. 13,47,000 an amount of over Rs. 2 lakhs was realised during the months of March and April.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

बनस्पति के बीज (आयात)

*४९९४ श्री जांगड़े: (ए) क्या वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि १९४८, १९४९ तथा १९५० के वर्षों में भारत के उपभोक्ताओं तथा व्यापारियों ने कितनी मात्रा में मातृ बनस्पति बीजों तथा फलगोभी के बीजों का आयात किया तथा उन का आयात कौन कौन से देशों से किया गया था?

(बी) क्या यह सत्य है कि देशी बीज आबात किये गये बीजों से मात्रा तथा गुण प्रकार दोनों में ही उत्तम प्रमाणित हो चुके हैं?

VEGETABLE SEEDS (IMPORT)

[*4994. **Shri Jangde:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the amount of mother vegetable seeds and cauliflower seeds imported during the years 1948, 1949 and 1950 by the consumers and traders of India and from which countries they were imported?

(b) Is it a fact that the indigenous seeds have proved superior to imported ones both qualitatively and quantitatively?]

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) No information is available regarding actual imports of mother vegetable seeds and cauliflower seeds as separate statistics are not maintained for these seeds. A statement showing the quantities in respect of which Licences were issued to State Governments, Research Stations, seed growers and dealers during 1948, 1949 and 1950 is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) No general statement can be made as under certain conditions imported seeds do better than indigenous ones and vice versa.

I should like to add that during the year 1950 the import of mother vegetable seeds amounted to 1594 lbs. and that of cauliflower seeds to 3146 lbs.

STATEMENT

The licences issued for the import of seeds during 1948, 1949 and 1950.

| Item | Year | Quantity | Countries from which imported |
|------------------------|------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | | lbs. | |
| Mother Vegetable seeds | 1948 | 839 | } Mostly from the U.S.A. and the U.K. |
| | 1949 | 2101 | |
| | 1950 | 1594 | |
| Cauliflower Seeds | 1948 | Figures not available | } Mostly from Hol and Denmark. |
| | 1949 | 5516 | |
| | 1950 | 3146 | |

श्री जांगड़े : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि क्या यह सही है जो मातृ बनस्पति बीज आयात किया जाता है वह नकली होता है और गतवर्ष वह नकली पाया गया है ?

[Shri Jangde: Will the hon. Minister please state whether it is a fact that the imported mother vegetable seeds are generally artificial and last year it was found to be such?]

श्री करवारकर : मातृ बनस्पति नहीं है वह मातृ बीज है ।

[Shri Karmarkar: That is not mother vegetable, they are only mother seeds.]

श्री जांगड़े : क्या यह मातृ बनस्पति बीज नकली होते हैं ?

[Shri Jangde: Are these mother vegetable seeds artificial?]

Shri Karmarkar: There are no artificial seeds of which I know.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि क्या इस वर्ष न्यू कमर्स को लाइसेंस दिया गया है ?

[Shri Jangde: Will the hon. Minister please state whether new comers have been granted licences this year?]

श्री करवारकर : इस के बारे में हम न्यू कमर्स को लाइसेंस नहीं देते हैं। और सोचा ऐसा गया है कि जो मातृ सीड्स होते हैं उन को यहाँ प्रोत्साहन देना चाहिए और जैसा कि मैं ने कहा हम जो इन्सिजाम करते हैं वह रिसर्च स्टेशन्स और एक्सपेरिमेंटल स्टेशन्स के लिए करते हैं और वह फूड एंड ऐग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री की एडवाइस के अनुसार करते हैं।

[Shri Karmarkar: For this we don't grant licences to the new comers and it has been decided to give encouragement to the indigenous mother seeds here and, as stated by me, the arrangements that we make are, made solely for the benefit of research stations and the actual dealers and they act in accordance with the advice given by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture.]

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question.

TRADE WITH PAKISTAN

***4995. Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what arrangements have been made for supplying to and receiving from Pakistan of the articles under the trade agreement of February 1951;

(b) whether it is a fact that the supply of both countries has suffered on account of inadequate arrangements; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to remove the difficulties?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Of the commodities in Schedules I and III of the Agreement, export of coal to Pakistan and import from Pakistan of foodgrains and of jute partly are on a Government to Government basis, and suitable arrangements in this regard have been made by the Governments of the two countries in consultation with each other. Import or export of most of the other commodities in Schedule I is subject to licensing and instructions have been issued to the authorities concerned to grant facilities to the trade for the import or export of the commodities upto the quantities specified in the Agreement. The movement of commodities in Schedule II is free of licensing on either side and their import and export are left entirely to the trade. The import and export of commodities other than those specified in the Schedules are allowed in accordance with the regulations of either country applicable to sterling and soft currency areas.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know what is the total tonnage that has to be moved from India to Pakistan and Pakistan to India by the 30th June this year under the Agreement?

Shri Mahtab: That will be known from the Trade Agreement which was published and a copy of which was also laid on the Table of the House.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know how much raw jute has been received in this country by this time?

Shri Mahtab: The arrival of Jute is in this way. From March to 15th of May the total both on Government account and on private account is 2,60,239 bales.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know what is the quantity received on Government account?

Shri Mahtab: 8,22,381 maunds.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know in addition to the items mentioned in the trade pact if any other items have been put in the free list which would not require any licencing?

Shri Mahtab: I could not follow the question.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know whether there are any other items placed on the free list.

Shri Mahtab: I can read out a few items of export and import to and from Pakistan.

Shri A. C. Guha: Certain items have been put in the list which would not require licencing. May I know if any other items have been put on the free list which would not require any import or export permit?

Shri Mahtab: I have already said in my reply that there are commodities which are not in any Schedule. They are subject to the regulations of each country and their trade is free.

Shri B. K. Das: In view of the fact that 3½ lakh bales are to be received by India from Pakistan on Government account by the end of June and in view of the fact that only half of this quantity has been received in this country and also in view of the fact that the hon. Minister stated in reply to part (b) of my question that there is no inadequacy of arrangements, may I know what are the reasons of this short supply?

Shri Mahtab: Really the main difficulty is transport. Our Transport Ministry here and the Transport Ministry there have discussed the matter together and they are taking some steps to facilitate transport of these commodities.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether it is a fact that Pakistan has sent 1,000 wagons for the quick transport of coal from India? If so, may I know what commodity they have sent in those wagons?

Shri Mahtab: I think our Railway Ministry here wanted the Pakistan Government to release 2,000 wagons for the purpose of transport of these commodities and they have not yet been able to do so. I think they are taking some steps to facilitate the supply of wagons for the purpose. With regard to the point as to how these 1,000 wagons have been used, I am sorry, I cannot give you that information.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

*4996. **Shri Kesava Rao:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving any aid to private institutions where training in cottage industries is given;

(b) if so, the amount of grant given during 1949-50; and 1950-51; and

(c) what are the cottage industries in which training is given in these institutions?

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

(b) Rs. 85,000 in 1949-50 and Rs. 1,75,000 in 1950-51.

(c) Handloom weaving, hand-made paper, oil-extraction, palm gur, pottery, knitting and embroidery, mat weaving, rattan work, soap, ink, paints etc.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know whether the Government is giving aid only to private institution or giving aid to States to encourage these industries?

Shri Karmarkar: Government have given aid to private institutions as well as to States.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know whether the Government is giving any raw material for these institutions to encourage these cottage industries?

Shri Karmarkar: It has been the general policy of Government to provide for import of raw material or their supply as far as possible to institutions.

श्री जांगडे : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि क्या यह सत्य है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में गांधी आश्रम की जो संस्थाएँ हैं उनमें रई की कमी हो रही है और उन्होंने केन्द्रीय सरकार को इस के लिए प्रार्थना की है ?

[**Shri Jangde:** Will the hon. Member please state whether is it a fact that a shortage of cotton is being felt in the various institutions attached to the Gandhi Ashram in Uttar Pradesh and whether they have approached the Central Government for that?]

Shri Mahtab: That is a fact and they got it on the telephone the very day.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether there is any arrangement for the supply of the machinery for the cottage industries?

Shri Karmarkar: I think all facilities are given to cottage industries as well as other industries in respect of machinery.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether there is any arrangement for the manufacture of machinery for the cottage industries?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice of this question, but Government are interested in encouraging all such efforts.

Short Notice Question and Answer

PRE-FABRICATED HOUSING FACTORY

Shri Sidhva: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technical Committee of Engineers and Scientists ap-

pointed by Government to enquire into the use of the Pre-fabricated Housing Factory have submitted their report;

(b) if so, what are their main recommendations;

(c) whether the factory is likely to produce pre-fabricated houses as originally intended; and

(d) whether the Prime Minister will make a statement on this matter?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (d). The report was received by Government on the 1st June and is under examination.

The Committee have come to the conclusion that the equipment and buildings in the factory are useful assets and can be profitably employed for purposes of manufacturing pre-fabricated material for houses, foam concrete products, and other materials such as roofing slabs.

Government hope to arrive at early decisions in regard to the recommendations of the Technical Committee. A full statement will then be made.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether it is a fact that a foreign firm made a proposal before this committee that without any substantial commitment from the Government, they are prepared to turn out the same kind of houses which were originally intended by altering certain machinery, and if so, what is the recommendation in that respect?

Mr. Speaker: I think we should await the report of the committee. Instead of going into the details as to what was placed before the committee, and what was considered by them. I think the best course will be

Shri Sidhva: We will have no opportunity.

Mr. Speaker: The House will be meeting again, I presume.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There have been more than one such offers made by several firms. They are also among those being considered. The committee has considered first of all what can be done directly by the factory under Government supervision or with the assistance of private capital in India or in the alternative to accept any such offer as the hon. Member has mentioned. Further, the committee is generally of the opinion that first of all, pre-fab. houses can be made of a

special type which they have mentioned. They, feel, however, that in addition to making pre-fab. houses, other things can and should also be made such as hollow concrete blocks, pre-cast cement concrete materials such as T-beams and slabs, solid foam concrete blocks, insulation panels for being used as partition walls, asbestos cement concrete sheets and the like so that they feel that this factory can be used for the purpose of manufacturing pre-fab. houses and other materials such as I have mentioned.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that the process that was so far followed in the factory for the manufacture of wall panels has been abandoned, and that further in the working of this factory, the British firm's technical advice or assistance will not be availed of?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: At the present moment it is the technical committee's technical advice that is being availed of. What will happen in the future can be decided after we have considered their recommendations.

Shri Kamath: Has that process been abandoned?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: That particular process is not being used at the present moment.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

PASSPORT TO DR. LAL SINGH GILL

*4980. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Lal Singh Gill of Faridkot applied for a passport to England for the purpose of study in Eye Surgery at the Birmingham Eye Hospital;

(b) whether his application was rejected; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(c) The State Government did not consider it desirable that Dr. Gill should be provided with a passport to go abroad.

PRICES OF IRON AND STEEL

*4997. **Shri Kesava Rao:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that representations have been made to Government for increasing the price of iron and steel;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the price of iron and steel; and

(c) what is the anticipated increase in price?

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

(b) and (c). The matter is under consideration.

EXPORT OF MILL CLOTH

*4998. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the yardage of mill cloth which Government propose to export during the rest of the current year to the soft currency countries; and

(b) how much of this will be coarse, medium, fine, and superfine cloth?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) 461 million yards during the period May-December 1951.

(b) Coarse and medium—105 million yards.

Fine and Super fine—266 million yards.

COTTON PURCHASE BY TEXTILE MILLS

*4999. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that textile mills in B 1 and B 2 zones of Southern India will not be permitted to place orders directly with the nominees for the purchase of cotton?

(b) If so, what are the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Complaints were received that the nominee scheme in B1 and B2 zones was not working satisfactorily, as some of the mills through the choice of their nominees were buying cotton at prices higher than the ceilings; disturbing the pro rata allocations to Mills.

CLOCKS

*5000. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempts have been made to manufacture clocks in India;

(b) if so, the names of factories that manufacture clocks and the amount of annual production;

(c) the number of clocks imported each year and the names of countries from which they are imported; and

(d) the value of imported clocks per year?

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

(b) to (d). Two statements are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 40.]

EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE

***5001. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state what is the total wage bill of the employers of industries on which they may be required to contribute towards the Employees' State Insurance Scheme under the proposed Bill before the Parliament?

(b) What are the estimated amounts that the employers and the employees of the industries may have to contribute towards the Scheme?

(c) Are there any arrangements by the employers for benefits to industrial employees in case of sickness, maternity and employment injury on their own account?

(d) What are the arrangements and where do they exist in the industrial concerns outside Delhi and Kanpur?

The Minister of Labour Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) The total wage bill of employers in India to whom the Scheme will be applicable, excluding the state of Jammu and Kashmir, will be about 200 crores of rupees.

(b) The rate at which the employer's special contribution should be charged is under consideration. The employees in areas where the benefit provisions of the Employees' State Insurance Act apply will contribute in accordance with the rates laid down in Schedule I to the Act. This will be approximately 2½ per cent. of the wages in places where the Scheme is implemented. The amounts that will be collected from employers and employees will depend upon the rate of contribution to be charged from employers and the places where the scheme is applied.

(c) Employers are required by law to give certain benefits in respect of maternity and employment injury under the Maternity Benefit Acts and the Workmen's Compensation Act respectively. Benefits in case of sickness are not given under any law though some employers do so voluntarily.

(d) Attention of the hon. Member is invited to pages 233—243 of the Indian Labour Year Book 1948-49 wherein a brief account of the welfare activities undertaken by the employers in some of the major industrial and other undertakings is given.

FACTORIES PRODUCING BUCKETS

***5003. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that factories engaged in producing buckets without machinery driven by power are entitled to receive quota of supplies in respect of materials; and

(b) if not, how are they expected to get their supplies?

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

(b) Does not arise.

KEROSENE

***5004. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state whether Government propose to control and ration the distribution of kerosene in the near future; and if so, when?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): No. Government do not contemplate to re-introduce control over the distribution of Kerosene in the near future, unless there is some sudden and unforeseen change for the worse in our supply position.

REHABILITATION IN BIHAR AND ORISSA

***5005. Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the number of East Bengal refugees sent to camps in Bihar and Orissa and the approximate time when these were sent;

(b) on what dates and by what number these refugees have been sent from the camps to the rehabilitation areas;

(c) whether there have been any complaints about the conditions prevalent in those camps; and

(d) how many of them are still in camps and have not yet been sent for rehabilitation?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Bihar 26,176 Orissa, 24,447.

The displaced persons were sent in batches between March, 1950 and July, 1950, to Bihar and March 1950 and October, 1950, to Orissa.

(b) 6,886 displaced persons were dispersed from Camps in Orissa to Rehabilitation Centres upto 19th May 1951. A statement giving details of this dispersal is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 41.]

As regards Bihar, information is being collected.

(c) Yes. But on enquiry they proved to be unfounded.

(d) In Bihar 14,287 displaced persons were in Camps on 5th May, 1951, and in Orissa there are 5,524 displaced persons in Camps.

SINDRI FACTORY

*5006. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) when the Sindri Fertiliser factory is to begin production;

(b) whether Government can now give the amount so far spent and the amount likely to be spent before production begins;

(c) whether Government have finalised the future set up of its management; and

(d) what is likely to be the total market value of the fertiliser produced in the first year and the cost of production?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) By November, 1951.

(b) The expenditure incurred upto the end of February 1951 is Rs. 18.4 crores approximately and the further amount likely to be spent before production begins is 4.6 crores approximately.

(c) This has been done in broad outline.

(d) It is anticipated that about 1,75,000 tons of ammonium sulphate will be produced during the first twelve months following the start of production operations and on the basis of the present day price of imported ammonium sulphate the market value of the first year's production is estimated at Rs. 5.4 crores. It is not usual for a public statement to be made on the question of cost of production.

SLACK COAL DESTROYED BY FIRE

*5007. **Shri Kashudram Mahata:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of slack coal stocked in Kargali State Railway Colliery caught fire sometime in the beginning of May 1951;

(b) if so, what the cause of fire was; and

(c) the quantity of coal destroyed thereby?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) Yes,

Sir; a fire occurred on the southern side of the Kargali Colliery yard on 3rd May, 1951.

(b) The fire was due to spontaneous heating.

(c) Approximately 50 tons.

CLOTH PRICES AND PRODUCTION COSTS

*5008. **Shri Kashudram Mahata:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of increase in price of cloth of the same quality at present against the price when cloth control was first introduced in 1943;

(b) the percentage of increase or decrease in wages of Textile labourer at present against that in 1943;

(c) the percentage of increase in the prices of cotton for textile purposes at present over the prices of 1943; and

(d) the percentage of increase or decrease in the cost of electric power to run textile factory over the cost prevailing in 1943?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) The percentage of increase in the current price of some representative varieties of cloth as compared to their prices in 1943 is as follows:

(i) Percentage of increase in Ex-Mill Price—Coarse Sheetings About 13½ per cent.

(ii) Price—Coarse Medium Shirt-ing...About 15 per cent.

(iii) Price—Fine Long Cloth... About 20 per cent.

(iv) Price—Superfine Mull...About 77½ per cent.

(b) Information is being collected.

(c) (i) Percentage of increase in the prices of Indian Cotton used in the manufacture of Coarse Cloth...About 70 per cent.

(ii) percentage of increase in the prices of Indian Cotton used in the manufacture of Medium Cloth...About 66 per cent.

(iii) Percentage of increase in the prices of East African Cotton used in the manufacture of Fine Cloth...About 113 per cent.

(iv) Percentage of increase in the prices of Egyptian Cotton used in the manufacture of Super Fine Cloth... About 332 per cent.

(d) There has been no increase/decrease in the tariff of electric supply to Textile factories located at Bombay since 1943. Increase of about 40 per cent. in the cost of supply of electricity

has been recorded in Ahmedabad. Information about other places is not available.

HANDLOOM CLOTH PRODUCED IN MADRAS

*5009. **Dr. V. Subramaniam:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the quantity of handloom cloth produced in Madras State in the years 1949 and 1950 and the quantity that was exported during those years?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): Figures of production have been called for from the Madras Government. The total exports of handloom cloth from India during 1949 and 1950 were 59.02 million yards and 58.63 million yards respectively.

SALT PRODUCED AT TUTICORIN

*5010. **Dr. V. Subramaniam:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of salt produced at Tuticorin and out of which the quantity that was exported to Calcutta in the years 1949 and 1950;

(b) the freight charges per ton for export to Calcutta; and

(c) whether it is a fact that freight charges have been increased and if so, by how much?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) The total production was 47 lakh maunds and 59 lakh maunds in 1949 and 1950 respectively. The exports to Calcutta were 11 lakh maunds in 1949 and 20 lakh maunds in 1950.

(b) Rs. 22 per ton.

(c) The Shipping Companies have increased the freight from Rs. 17 to Rs. 22 per ton with effect from the 1st March, 1951.

PROTECTIVE DUTY ON CAUSTIC SODA

*5011. **Shri Amolakh Chand:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have suspended the imposition of protective duties on imported caustic soda in spite of the recommendation of the Tariff Board and if so, why and what is the estimated loss of revenue to Government;

(b) whether the landed cost of imported caustic soda has increased and if so, by what amount it has increased and at what point; and

(c) whether the suspension of the levy of the protective duty is temporary or it will continue till the landed cost comes down to normal?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes Sir. The Tariff Board's recommendation for the imposition of protective specific duty was based on the landed cost of caustic soda prevailing at the time of the enquiry, namely Rs. 26-13-0 per cwt., when the fair selling price was estimated by them at Rs. 27-2-2 per cwt. As the landed cost of imported article has since increased considerably Government do not consider, that there is any need at present to impose protective duty, as recommended. The existing rates of duty based on the current tariff value of Rs. 25 per cwt., work out to Rs. 6-8-0 per cwt. (Preferential) and Rs. 9 per cwt. (Standard), as against the rates recommended by the Board, i.e., Rs. 6-4-0 per cwt. (Preferential) and Rs. 8-10-0 per cwt. (Standard), based on a tariff value of Rs. 24 per cwt. or Rs. 6-8-2 (Preferential) and Rs. 8-15-9 (Standard) on a tariff value of Rs. 25 per cwt. There is therefore practically no loss of revenue.

(b) Yes. The landed cost of imported caustic soda which at the time of the Board's enquiry was Rs. 26-13-0 per cwt., went up and was Rs. 29 per cwt., recently. The increase in the landed cost at present is Rs. 2-3-0 per cwt.

(c) Yes. A watch will, however, be kept on the landed cost of imported caustic soda and the matter reconsidered, if necessary.

SULPHUR FROM ITALY

*5012. **Shri Amolakh Chand:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) why no agreement was entered into with Italy at the Torquay Tariff Conference for the supply of sulphur to India;

(b) whether it is a fact that Italy is the second exporter of sulphur to the world countries next to U. S. A.; and

(c) whether there is any possibility of importing sulphur from Italy or U.S.A. for the normal needs of India?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The Torquay Conference was for exchange of Tariff concessions among the participating countries and not a Commodity Conference. The question of entering into an agreement with Italy at the Conference for the supply of sulphur did not, therefore, arise.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the first two quarters (January to June, 1951) we have got a total allocation of 22,000 tons of American sulphur. The possibility of getting Italian sulphur is being explored.

TOWNSHIPS IN DELHI

*5014. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the names of new townships built in the Delhi State for the rehabilitation of refugees;

(b) the cost of building each township;

(c) the amount realised by the sale of houses and plots in each township; and

(d) the categories of persons to whom preference was given in the sale and allotment of houses in these townships?

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House giving the names of the Rehabilitation Colonies in Delhi, expenditure incurred on them upto the 31st March, 1951 and the amounts realised by the sale of houses and plots in each colony. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 42.]

(d) In allotting houses and tenements on rental basis, the following categories were given preference:

- (1) Those living in Camps.
- (2) Pavement squatters cleared under the sector-wise plan.
- (3) Evictees from Government quarters.

In 1948-49 allotments of houses in Rajinder Nagar and 200 sq. yard plots in Patel Nagar and Nizamuddin were made on the recommendation of an Advisory Committee appointed for the purpose.

Sale of houses is effected after satisfying that the applicants are eligible. Bungalow plots are sold by inviting tenders.

COAL MINES WELFARE FUND

*5015. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of the Coal Mines Welfare Fund as on the 31st March 1951;

(b) the amount spent out of this Fund during the years 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51; and

(c) the amount spent during the above period out of the Fund on building houses for coal miners?

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Rs. 4,41,91,607.

(b) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the statement placed on the Table of the House in reply to Question No. 4239 asked by Shri A. C. Guha on the 17th May 1951.

(c) 1948-49—Rs. 17,11,567

1949-50—Rs. 27,01,353

1950-51—Rs. 12,13,868.

TEXTILE EXPORT QUOTAS IN IRAQ

*5016. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of quotas of cotton textiles granted to newcomers in the year 1947 for export to Iraq;

(b) the quotas granted to these newcomers in subsequent years for export to Iraq or any other destination; and

(c) whether these newcomers have been compensated in any way for diversion of their quotas to other destinations in lieu of their exports to Iraq?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) 1.37 million yards.

(b) and (c). A quota of 1.37 million yards was fixed for the export of cotton piecegoods to Iraq by newcomers for the period January-June 1947. No quota was fixed for export for the subsequent licensing periods July-December 1947, January-June 1948 and July-December 1948. In making allocations to newcomers for these periods for destinations other than Iraq, no special consideration was shown to firms which received allocations in January-June 1947.

FOUNTAIN PENS

*5017. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fountain-pens of various makes imported into India from abroad during the last three years with the names of the countries from which they were imported;

(b) the maximum and minimum sale-prices of a fountain-pen imported from abroad;

(c) whether any fountain-pens or their parts are manufactured in India and if so, at what places; and

(d) whether any subsidy or concession is granted to any such industry?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) A statement showing the number of fountain

pens and the countries from which they have been imported during the period April 1950 to March 1951 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 43.]

Figures for the previous years are not available, as the item was not separately given in the import trade returns before April 1950.

(b) The maximum price of an imported fountain pen is about Rs. 85 while the minimum price of a cheaper quality imported fountain-pen is about Rs. 5.

(c) Yes, Sir, at Bombay, Madras, Kanpur and Delhi.

(d) No subsidy or concession is granted.

Toys

*5018. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the names of different materials of which toys are manufactured in the country on a commercial scale;

(b) the value of toys imported from abroad during the last three years with the names of countries from which they were imported;

(c) the names of factories, if any, in the country which manufacture toys on a large scale;

(d) the present position of the toy industry in India as a cottage, small-scale and medium scale industry; and

(e) whether any toys manufactured in India are exported to foreign countries; and if so, to which countries and of what value they were exported during the last three years?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Wood, rubber, clay, ivory, plastic tin, rags etc.

(b), (c) and (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 44.]

(d) The toy industry in India is only in its nascent stage of growth. This industry is handicapped for lack of finance and shortage of raw materials.

CONSULTATIVE BOARD ON INDUSTRY AND LABOUR

*5019. **Shri Ganamukhi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the High Power Development Committee on Industries has decided to set up a Joint Consultative Board on industry and labour;

(b) if so, the number of members of the Advisory Board and the interests represented thereon; and

(c) the questions the Board is expected to deal with?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Development Committee on Industries has recommended the constitution of a seven-man Joint Consultative Board consisting of three representatives of industry and three representatives of labour, with an independent Chairman to be elected by the six members.

The Committee has suggested that the Board should be responsible for the implementation of agreements reached from time to time between management and labour in regard to rationalisation and retrenchment, and will also deal with questions relating to association of workers with management and study problems of productivity and the retaining of retrenched personnel etc.

The recommendation of the Committee is under consideration.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN WORLD WAR II

*5020. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether any accurate figure or a fair estimate is available of the total expenditure incurred by the then Government of India in prosecuting World War II; if so, what it is;

(b) the number of Indians killed wounded and missing in that war;

(c) the total value of reparations so far received by India; and

(d) whether there is a proposal before Government to forego further reparations from Japan, Germany and Italy as a gesture to the ex-enemy powers prior to the conclusion of an early Peace Treaty?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keskar): (a) It will be extremely difficult to get any fair estimate of the total expenditure incurred by the Government of India in World War II. It will mean a detailed examination of the expenditure incurred from the year 1939 to 1943. The time and labour involved will not be commensurate with the results achieved. Moreover, it is not sure whether such figures collected will give us any accurate estimate.

(b) The total number of casualties (including killed, died, missing and wounded) in the then Indian Army during World War II is 1,09,631.

(c) and (d). The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the reply given by the hon. Commerce and Industry Minister in answer to starred question No. 3328 on the 23rd April, 1951. I have nothing to add to the statement then given, explaining the present position.

GOVT. OF INDIA'S BUILDINGS IN
W. BENGAL

*5021. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the names and locations of buildings in the State of West Bengal that are under the direct control and management of the Ministry;

(b) the buildings in West Bengal, the control of which has, at the time of construction or subsequently, been permanently made over by the Ministry of Works, Production and Supply to other Ministries; and

(c) whether any buildings belonging to the Ministry have been lent to the State of West Bengal?

The Deputy Minister of Works Production and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) to (c). A statement containing the required information in respect of Government owned buildings is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 45.]

ARTIFICIAL SILK YARN

*5022. **Shri Shankaraiya:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the import price of artificial silk yarn during 1949, 1950 and 1951;

(b) what is the market price of artificial silk yarn during 1949, 1950 and 1951;

(c) what is the total quantity of artificial silk imported Statewise, during 1949, 1950 and 1951;

(d) what steps are taken to ensure distribution of artificial silk to the weavers at reasonable prices; and

(e) whether any cases in black marketing have been detected since 1949; if so, what action has been taken thereon?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) Average import prices of art silk yarn during the years 1949, 1950 and 1951 were Rs. 3, Rs. 4 and Rs. 6-8-0 per lb. respectively.

(b) Average market prices of artificial silk yarn during the years 1949, 1950 and 1951 were Rs. 5, Rs. 8 and Rs. 9-8-0 per lb. respectively.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 46.]

(d) There is no statutory control on the distribution of artificial silk yarn. Licences are however issued to the established importers on the condition that they will sell their imports to the handloom weavers only. The question of distributing artificial silk yarn through the State Governments is under consideration.

(e) There being no control either on price of distribution of artificial silk yarn, the question of black marketing does not arise.

PIG IRON

*5023. **Shri Shankaraiya:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of foundries in India Statewise and the quantity of pig iron annually required by them; and

(b) what is the quantity distributed annually to the several foundries in India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 47.]

RENT CONTROL BILL FOR DELHI AND
AJMER-MERWARA

*5024. **Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether an undertaking was given on the 20th March 1951 that a Rent Control Bill for Delhi and Ajmer Merwara will be introduced and sent to the Select Committee during the current session of Parliament; and

(b) whether Government in pursuance of the undertaking propose to have the promised measure during this session and send the same to the Select Committee; if not, why not?

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): (a) Yes.

(b) The Bill has been introduced. Its reference to the Select Committee depends on the convenience of the House.

INDIVIDUAL EXPORTER'S QUOTA

*5025. **Shri P. Basi Reddi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports of cloth during 1948 to Pakistan have

been excluded from the basis of calculation in fixing an individual exporter's quota for the current half year;

(b) whether Government have received a representation from the South Indian Chamber of Commerce urging the inclusion of the 1948 exports to Pakistan also on the basis of the said calculation; and

(c) if so, what action have Government taken in the matter?

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

(c) The Government have not considered it necessary to modify the basis of quota fixation.

PRECISION INSTRUMENTS FACTORY, LUCKNOW

*5026. **Shri P. Basi Reddi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government Precision Instruments Factory at Lucknow has produced its first all-Swadeshi microscope;

(b) if so, what is the cost of its production and how does it compare with that of an imported microscope of similar quality;

(c) when is the factory expected to produce the instrument on a commercial scale;

(d) what are the other instruments, if any, that are being manufactured at the factory;

(e) whether it is a fact that the factory will be producing cheap radio sets shortly;

(f) if so, what is the target of monthly production of cheap radio sets; and

(g) when they will be first available for sale to the public?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) to (c). The factory is owned by the U. P. Government. I am not in a position to give information required by the hon. Member.

(d) So far as I am aware, the factory proposes to manufacture water meters and other precision instruments like instruction apparatus for mechanics, medical syringes, thermometers, electricity meters, Electro-cardiographs, special glass for radio valves and glass for spectacles.

(e) to (g). I understand that at present they have only a modest plan for assembly of cheap radio sets which is in an experimental stage.

PURCHASE OF PLOT BY U.K. IN DIPLOMATS' ENCLAVE

*5027. **Shri Kannamwar:** Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of U.K. have purchased a plot of land in the diplomats' enclave and if so, at what cost?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Buragohain): Yes, the United Kingdom High Commission have purchased about 24.53 acres of land and paid Rs. 20,85,051 as premium and commuted value of ground rent.

JUTE MILLS

*5028. **Saikh Mohiuddin:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the number of jute mills in the country which are actually working;

(b) what is their average requirement of raw jute per month and what is the stock position as on the 31st May, 1951;

(c) what is the target of export of raw jute and jute manufactured goods to foreign countries during the year 1951-52; and

(d) whether it is a fact that recently some mill owners approached the Commerce Ministry to give them facility of transport of jute received from Pakistan from Calcutta to their destinations, if so, to what effect?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) 84.

(b) On the basis of 42½ working hours per week, the minimum average requirement of raw jute per month for the whole industry is 4,25,400 bales. The stock of raw jute with the mills reporting to the Indian Jute Mills Association on the 26th May 1951 was 7,17,380 bales. Information regarding the stock position on the 31st May 1951 is not yet available.

(c) Export of raw jute is not being allowed at present. There is, therefore, no question of fixing at this stage, a target for its export during 1951-52. As regards export of jute goods overseas, the target will obviously depend on production. If the mills continue to work at the present rate it may be possible to export about 6.5 lakh tons during 1951-52 (July-June).

(d) No millowner has approached this Ministry for assistance in the matter of movement of Pakistan jute from Calcutta to the mill area.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICES SHIFTED TO MADHYA PRADESH

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

(a) which Government of India offices have so far been shifted to Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether residential accommodation has been provided for all the officers and staff working therein;

(c) how many of such officers and staff are still without residential accommodation; and

(d) what steps are being taken to provide them with such accommodation?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Buragohain):

(a) The only office which has moved to Madhya Pradesh is the office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Technical and Development Circle, Posts and Telegraphs Department.

(b) to (d). All the officers and staff (with the exception of one officer) have been provided with residential accommodation at Jubbalpur. This particular officer was also offered accommodation but did not accept it.

CLOTH DISTRIBUTION

429. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the revised system of cloth distribution in Delhi through the Fair Price Shops proposed to be enforced from June, 1951;

(b) what is the improvement made on the existing system of distribution of cloth on the basis of food ration cards; and

(c) whether there will be any increase in quota allotted to the State from June 1951?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) With effect from 1st June 1951, cloth will be issued to a family on the actual number of persons living in that family instead of the previous system under which families of 4 persons or more were entitled to the same quantity. The cloth quota per family will now be on a 3 monthly basis instead of on

the previous 6 weekly basis. To prevent the professional hawkers taking advantage of the new distribution scheme, a family will not be able to buy more than half its quota at one time. To avoid rush at the Fair Price Shops a family will buy its cloth quota on two occasions during the period of 3 months. Persons living in hotels and not in possession of civilian food ration cards will also be able to get cloth against special cloth cards issued to them.

(b) The improvement in the revised system is:

(1) that it enables a large family to get more cloth than in the previous system under which a family with 4 or more members could only get 20 yards in a period of 6 weeks;

(2) that persons not in possession of food ration cards will also derive the benefit by the Fair Price Shops Scheme; and

(3) that the increase in the period from 6 weeks to 3 months will have the effect of spreading over purchases and thus avoid rush at the Fair Price Shops.

(c) There has been no increase in the overall cloth quota of the State. But in view of the larger quantity of cloth now available for internal distribution, Delhi State expects to get their full quota of 2,500 bales per month. This would improve the position considerably.

INDIANS IN THAILAND

430. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) what is the special concession allowed to Indian Nationals in Thailand in respect of their registration; and

(b) how are the Indians in Thailand availing of this concession?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Karkar): (a) Indian nationals after registration will be granted permission to remain in Thailand subject to their fulfilment of the Thai Immigration regulations. The time limit for registration has been extended from 31st December 1950 to 30th June 1951.

(b) Every assistance is given by our Legation to Indian nationals to obtain registration cards before the expiry of the date.

NEW BUILDING FOR DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS

431. Shri Sidhva: Will the Minister of Works, Production and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply to my unstarred question No. 316 asked on the 21st May 1951 and state:

(a) whether the scheme for constructing a separate building for the Defence Head-quarters has been finalised;

(b) if so, whether the sanction for Rs. 230 lakhs has been received; and

(c) when the work is likely to start and when it is expected to be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Buragohain): (a) to (c). The scheme is still in its initial stages, and will be finalised only after it has been approved by the Standing Committee of Parliament for the Ministry of Works, Production and Supply, and the Standing Finance Committee. The scheme is expected to be placed before these two Committees at their next meeting.

The estimates for the work can be prepared and finalised only after a preliminary survey and jungle-clearance of the site are undertaken, with a view to assessing the cost of levelling and development of the area. The question of sanctioning this survey work is now under consideration.

The scheme will be taken up only in stages, and is expected to be completed within about three years. The question of according financial sanction to the scheme arises only after the approval to the scheme in principle of the Standing Committee and the Standing Finance Committee is received.

ILLEGAL MIGRATION TO CYLON

432. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of the officials of the Government of India and Government of Madras was held recently in Madras to consider measures for checking illegal migrations to Ceylon;

(b) what decision or decisions have the conference taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keeskar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The conference was not authorised to make any decisions. It has

made certain recommendations which are under the examination of the Governments of India and Madras.

CLOTH FOR BIHAR

433. Shri Jnani Ram: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cloth sent to Bihar for the period 1st March to 15th May during each of the last three years; and

(b) the total monthly quota allotted for the corresponding period during each of the last three years?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): (a) and (b). The information is given in the statement attached. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 48.]

INDIAN IN U.S.A. AND U.S.S.R.

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

(a) the number of Indian residents in U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. respectively, as on 1st May 1951;

(b) how many among them in each of those countries are students, and how many are in various trades, vocations and professions, the number being given for each trade, vocation and profession separately;

(c) how many in each country have acquired citizenship rights; and

(d) whether Indian residents in either country are subject to any disabilities and if so, what they are?

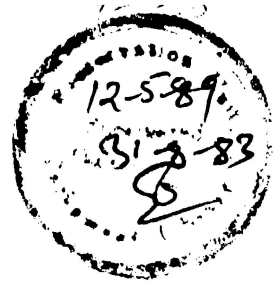
The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Dr. Keeskar): (a) The number of Indian residents in the U.S.A. in July, 1947, was 2,405. Later figures are not yet available. So far as we are aware, there are no Indians resident in the U.S.S.R.

(b) The figures are not available.

(c) In the U.S.A. 80 Indians were naturalised as U. S. citizens up to the year 1949. Later figures are not yet available.

(d) The Indian residents in U.S.A. are not subject to any discrimination once they acquire citizenship rights. However, before citizenship is granted there are certain limitations which apply to every foreigner regarding certain occupations, e.g. lawyers, Notaries Public, School teachers, etc. These professions are open only to citizens of the U.S.A.

Thursday, 7th June, 1951



PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

Third Session

of the

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

1950-51

WEDNESDAY, 6TH JUNE, 1951—contd.

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Motion <i>re</i> Conduct of Shri Mudgal, M.P. | 10259—303 |
| Motions <i>re</i> Delimitation of Constituencies Orders, 1951 | 10302—14, 10337 |
| Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Bill— | |
| Introduced | 10314 |
| Delhi and Ajmer Rent Control Bill— | |
| Introduced. | 10314 |
| Representation of the People (No. 2) Bill— | |
| Discussion on motion to pass—Not concluded | 10314—37 |

THURSDAY, 7TH JUNE, 1951—

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Leave of Absence from the House | 10338 |
| Business of the House. | 10338—42 |
| Papers laid on the Table— | |
| Notification under Section 4A of Indian Tariff Act, 1934 | 10342 |
| Motion <i>re</i> Delimitation of Constituencies Orders, 1951 | 10342—45, 10406—10, 10447—49 |
| Plantations Labour Bill—Introduced | 10345 |
| Essential Goods (Declaration and Regulation of Tax on Sale or Purchase) Bill —Introduced | 10345—46 |
| Representation of the People (No. 2) Bill—Passed, as amended | 10346—48 |
| Rajghat Samadhi Bill—Passed, as amended | 10348—75 |
| Scheduled Areas (Assimilation of Laws) Bill—Passed | 10375—80 |
| Resolution <i>re</i> continuance for further one year of powers of Parliament to make laws with respect to (i) trade and commerce within State; and (ii) production, supply and distribution of goods—Adopted | 10380—406 |
| Resolution <i>re</i> raising of export duty on cloth—Adopted. | 10410—39 |
| Industrial Disputes (Amendment and Temporary Provisions) Bill—Discus- sion on motion to consider—Not concluded | 10439—47 |

FRIDAY, 8TH JUNE, 1951—**Motion for Adjournment—**

| | |
|--|----------|
| Exclusion of Hindi from the syllabus of I.A.S. | 10450—52 |
|--|----------|

Papers laid on the Table—

| | |
|---|-------|
| (i) Appropriation Accounts (Civil) 1948-49; (ii) Appropriation Accounts (Posts and Telegraphs) 1948-49 | 10453 |
| Statement showing progress made <i>re</i> recommendations of Estimate Commi- tee. | 10453 |

Election to Committees—

| | |
|---|----------|
| Committee on Estimates | 10454—56 |
| Standing Committee for the Ministry of Labour | 10454—56 |
| Standing Finance Committee | 10454—55 |
| Indian Council of Agricultural Research, | 10455—56 |

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|---------------------------------|----------|
| Business of the House | 10456—57 |
|---------------------------------|----------|

| | |
|--|----------|
| Motion <i>re</i> Conduct of Shri Mudgal, M. P. | 10457—55 |
|--|----------|

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Industrial Disputes (Amendment and Temporary Provisions) Bill—Passed, as amended | 10465—500 |
|---|-----------|

| | |
|--|----------|
| Motion <i>re</i> Delimitation of Constituencies Orders, 1951 | 10500—13 |
|--|----------|

SATURDAY, 9TH JUNE, 1951—

Papers laid on the Table —

| | |
|--|-------|
| Commercial Appendix to the Appropriation Accounts (Civil) and Audit Report | 10514 |
| Statement in pursuance of promise made on the 7th April 1951 | 10514 |
| Agreement between India and Netherlands <i>re</i> Air Services. | 10615 |

Election to Committees—

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Estimates Committee ; Standing Committees for the Ministries of Labour and Finance ; and Indian Council of Agricultural Research | 10514—15 |
| Displaced Persons (Temporary Relief from Indebtedness) Bill—Introduced | 10515 |
| Motion <i>re</i> Delimitation of Constituencies Orders, 1951 | 10515—615 |

**THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

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

OFFICIAL REPORT

10338

10339

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Thursday, 7th June, 1951

The House met at Half Past Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-33 A.M.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: Before the House proceeds with any other business, I would like to inform hon. Members that Shri P. M. Audikesavalu Naicker has requested for leave of absence under article 101(4) of the Constitution till the end of the current session as he is not well.

Is it the pleasure of the House to grant him leave?

The leave was granted.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: Before the House proceeds with any further business, I want to be clear about the time-table of the House. I find that we have some important business which we must put through. The Representation of the People (No. 2) Bill will, I think, be concluded within a short time; that is what I believe. Then, the most important item will be the motions about Delimitation. I presume that the House is determined—I presume so—to see that by about six o'clock on the 9th, Saturday, we finish the present session.

Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: If that is so, then, we must have a strict time-table, strict 198 PSD

time-limit and rationing of time for everything.

Hon. Members: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Otherwise, we shall be dragging.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): And not add new Bills.

Mr. Speaker: It is not a question of adding or subtracting; it is a question of urgent business having to be put through. I do not think that there is any possibility of new urgent things coming up; but one does not know. I was therefore suggesting that the House may meet in the afternoon today and tomorrow also...

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Let us fix the time for today.

Mr. Speaker: About the timings, we shall see later on. We sit even in the afternoon and if necessary we sit again tomorrow afternoon, but not on Saturday afternoon. If the session is to end in the afternoon, Members will require some time for packing. Shall we sit at 4-30 today?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: We may sit from 4-30 to 6-30 today.

Mr. Speaker: We shall sit from 4-30 to 6-30. Tomorrow, we shall see how we adjust the time.

Shri Sidhva: Am I clear, Sir, that the session will end on Saturday?

Mr. Speaker: Now, the House has agreed. If the House wishes to discuss other matters, I shall use the method of guillotine. We have now reached an agreement. All questions undisposed of at one o'clock on Saturday, will be put to the vote without any further discussion. I think that is the only procedure.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): Will you please tell us, Sir, whether Government is anxious to put through

[Shri Kamath]

all the Bills in the List of Business or whether they wish to put through only a few of them? There are some unimportant Bills, in my humble judgment.

Mr. Speaker: The whole position is clear. It does not require any statement which will take its own time. We have the Representation of the People (No. 2) Bill. That is important obviously. Then, the Delimitation motions which are obviously important if the elections are to come off. Then, there are two Bills on the anvil: one is the Rajghat Samadhi Bill.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is a small one.

Mr. Speaker: The Rajghat Samadhi Bill is already on the anvil.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There are two resolutions.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: The Industrial Disputes (Amendment and Temporary Provisions) Bill is very important.

Shri Sidhva: No new Bills.

Shri Hussain Imam (Bihar): It is a big Bill which will require a great deal of discussion.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The hon. Member has mistaken it for another. This is a brief Bill dealing with bank disputes only.

Mr. Speaker: In view of the shortness of the time, let us not take more time. Hon. Members will confer amongst themselves and decide.

Shri T. Husain (Bihar): We do not meet after the 9th: I want to have an official announcement.

Mr. Speaker: We do not meet not only after the 9th, but also after one o'clock on the 9th.

Shri Kamath: May I remind you, Sir, about the Question Hour tomorrow? The questions of the 29th were postponed to tomorrow. I think that stands.

Mr. Speaker: Yes. I thought the hon. Member was suggesting that the Question Hour should be dispensed with.

Shri Kamath: No.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa): Notice of three resolutions has been given by

Government. Is it the idea to drop any one of these?

Mr. Speaker: Are there three resolutions or two?

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Three.

Mr. Speaker: There are three resolutions.

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): I am quite willing to postpone my resolution.

Mr. Speaker: That means there are two.

Pandit Kunzru (Uttar Pradesh): I have not been able to follow the discussion. There is so much noise that it was very difficult to hear either what you said or what any other Member said. I therefore want to be sure what it is that you intend to do at one o'clock on the 9th. You have said, Sir, I believe, that all business that is undisposed of at one o'clock will be put to vote. But, I take it that you do not include Bills on the agenda paper in the business.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member will be in a position to clarify from the other hon. Members so that I need not take up again the time of the House. But, I shall only say, in short, this much. We have some important business which must be put through before we adjourn. Amongst them are two resolutions of Government, and the Delimitation motions. Then, of course, I said, the Representation of the People (No. 2) Bill which is already at the third reading stage. There is the Rajghat Samadhi Bill which is already in possession of the House and is under discussion and the Industrial Disputes (Amendment and Temporary Provisions) Bill. I do not remember there is anything else. These are the important items which must be put through. Therefore, I suggested that as we are now unanimous or almost unanimous—there may be perhaps a dissentient voice—

Shri T. Husain: Unanimous.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know what is in the mind of the hon. Member—we now adjourn at one o'clock on Saturday the 9th, not to meet again till the next session. Therefore, in order to facilitate discussion of all these things and to see that the whole business is put through, I suggested originally that the House might sit even in the afternoon of today and tomorrow. We have decided that today we sit from 4-30 P.M. to 6-30 P.M.

As for tomorrow we shall settle after we see how far it is necessary to meet again and at what time. If necessary, we can meet after consulting the convenience of all. Therefore, I have suggested that there should be a time-limit for everything. Even if a few or one Member feels that some point has not been discussed sufficiently, in view of the unanimous desire of the House, or almost unanimous desire of the House, I shall at one o'clock on Saturday put to vote all the outstanding questions with reference to the matters which I have pointed out, and not with reference to other matters.

Now, let there be no more discussion on this.

Shri Hussain Imam: Sir, I would like to...

Mr. Speaker: No more discussion of this. We now go to the next item.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

NOTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 4A OF INDIAN TARIFF ACT, 1934

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): I beg to lay on the table a copy of Ministry of Finance Notification No. 51-Customs, dated the 1st June, 1951, in accordance with sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934. [*Placed in Library. See No. P-176/51.*]

MOTIONS RE. DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES ORDERS 1951

Mr. Speaker: Now we take up the motions *re. Delimitation of Constituencies Orders 1951*. Today is the last day for the second set of motions. We shall follow the same procedure that we had yesterday. I am calling out the names and hon. Members who are present, if they say "yes", we shall take it that their motions are moved. They may say "yes" loudly enough so as to enable me to hear it.

BOMBAY ORDER

Shri Hiray (Bombay): I beg to move:

(*For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4*)

Shri Deogirikar (Bombay): I beg to move:

(*For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4*)

Shri Sonavane (Bombay): I beg to move:

(*For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4*)

MADHYA PRADESH ORDER

Shri M. A. Hasan (Madhya Pradesh): I beg to move:

(*For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4*)

MADRAS ORDER

Shri Kanaka Sabai (Madras): I beg to move:

(*For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4*)

Shri V. J. Gupta (Madras): I beg to move:

(*For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4*)

The Minister of Law (Dr. Ambedkar): I beg to move:

(*For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4*)

UTTAR PRADESH ORDER

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (Uttar Pradesh): I beg to move:

(*For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4*)

Mr. Speaker: I do not know what the Government proposes to do about the motions in respect of the U. P. Order. The motions have to be moved to-day.

Dr. Ambedkar: I am in a difficult situation, because the revised Order is not yet ready.

Mr. Speaker: Will it be ready by one o'clock to-day?

Dr. Ambedkar: We are trying our best and I shall let the House know and let you also know before one o'clock how the position stands.

Mr. Speaker: The point is that before one o'clock the motions must be made in the House. Otherwise, perhaps, the motions will not be admissible at all. Therefore, I would suggest the motions may be moved and examined and then it will be possible to suggest amendments in the motion. That would be one of the courses open. The hon. Law Minister may consider that, I mean amendments so far as language and other such things are concerned and not amendments of substance.

Dr. C. D. Pande (Uttar Pradesh): I have given notice of amendments and without going into their details...

Mr. Speaker: He need not read out the whole motion.

Dr. C. D. Pande: I am not going to read out anything. The principle of plural constituencies has been accepted by the Government and...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That is not permissible now.

Shri T. Husain (Bihar): On a point of order, Sir. Is it open to an hon. Member who has not appended even a note of dissent to the report of the Committee and who has already signed it, to get up now and suggest an amendment which.....

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): Yes, it is.

Shri T. Husain: It is bad for an hon. Minister to interrupt an hon. Member.

Mr. Speaker: He is addressing the Chair.

Shri T. Husain: Sir, is it open to such a Member, who has signed the report, now to move a motion amending the Order?

Mr. Speaker: I do not see any objection. Every Member is entitled to revise his opinion at any time, especially in this case since two or three months have passed by since the report was made. Even between morning and evening one can revise his opinion.

Shri A. Joseph (Madras): Sir.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will not rise when I am on my legs.

Mr. Pande wanted to move a certain motion. I think it is necessary for me to record that that motion is inadmissible and I rule it out of order.

Shri Kala Venkatarao (Madras): Yesterday morning four Members gave notice of a motion about the Gudur State Assembly constituency in Madras. That has not been circulated. In the informal discussion it was one of the proposals accepted.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know how the position stands. If it was given in time, we shall consider it.

Shri Kala Venkatarao: It was given in time, Sir.

Shri A. Joseph: Something was mentioned here about the U. P. Order. May I know what is going to be done with regard to that Order by the hon. Law Minister?

Mr. Speaker: Let the motions come and we shall see.

Sari A. Joseph: I want to know whether there is any general principle to be adopted.

Mr. Speaker: They may or may not adopt any principle. We will proceed with the further legislative business.

Shri J. R. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, notice of motions in relation to the Delimitation Order which were put in the Notice Office day before yesterday and again yesterday have not so far been circulated. Yesterday you were pleased to allow me to move one motion. Yesterday I again put another motion and it has not been circulated.

Mr. Speaker: I will enquire into the matter. It will be noted that Mr. Kapoor moves his motion.

We will now proceed with further legislative business.

PLANTATIONS LABOUR BILL

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of labour, and to regulate the conditions of work, in plantations.

[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of labour, and to regulate the conditions of work, in plantations."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I introduce the Bill.

ESSENTIAL GOODS (DECLARATION AND REGULATION OF TAX ON SALE OR PURCHASE) BILL

The Minister of State for Finance (Shri Tyagi): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to declare, in pursuance of clause (3) of article 286 of the Constitution, certain goods to be essential for the life of the community.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to declare, in pursuance of clause (3) of article 286 of the Constitution, certain goods to be essential for the life of the community."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Tyagi: Sir, may I suggest to hon. Ministers that when an hon. Minister in whose name a motion is tabled

is absent, certainly any other hon. Minister can move it but I think it is necessary for him to say that he is moving it on say, Mr. Deshmukh's behalf. In future that may be adopted.

I introduce the Bill.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(NO. 2) BILL.—*Concl'd.*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now proceed with further consideration of the Representation of the People (No. 2) Bill.

We were on amendment moved by Dr. Deshmukh. The whole discussion is over. Has there been any agreement?

Hon. Member: No.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

In the *Explanation* to part (8) of clause 122, omit 'patil'.

The motion was negatived.

Clause 123.—(*Minor corrupt practices.*)
Amendment made:

In the *Explanation* to sub-clause (3) of clause 124 (old clause 123), for "purpose" in line 2, substitute "purposes".

—[*Dr. Ambedkar*]

Clause 125.—(*Prohibition of election meetings etc.*)

Amendment made:

In sub-clause (1) of clause 126 (old clause 125), for "poll" substitute "a poll"

—[*Dr. Ambedkar*]

Clause 129.—(*Prohibition of canvassing etc.*)

Amendment made:

In sub-clause (1) of clause 130 (old clause 129), for "on the date fixed for the poll" substitute "on the date or dates on which a poll is taken".

—[*Dr. Ambedkar*]

The Minister of Law (Dr. Ambedkar): I have already moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We proceed to the Rajghat Samadhi Bill.

Pandit Kunzru (Uttar Pradesh): You have allowed no time for discussion on the third reading.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I paused for some time and no hon. Member stood up to speak.

Pandit Kunzru: You did not stop even for a second. You put the motion to the House and it was carried.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I submit to the hon. Members to recall what I did. As soon as the final clause was over, I asked Dr. Ambedkar once again to formally move that the Bill, as amended, be passed. I looked round. I thought all hon. Members were sufficiently tired of speaking on the various clauses. Having regard to the pressure of work and the time-table given by the Speaker, I looked round and as no other hon. Member, apart from Pandit Kunzru, stood up, I put the motion.

Seth Govind Das (Madhya Pradesh): You were all along on your legs.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I always say, I think the ayes have it. It is open to any hon. Member to say 'no'. Even at that stage if somebody wants to speak, he can get up. Now the matter is closed—the Bill is passed.

10 A.M.

Pandit Kunzru: The whole thing has been most unfortunate. That is all I can say.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Neither the House nor the country is going to suffer. The House has had ample opportunities regarding this matter, unless it be that at the fag end of the Bill the House still wants to repeat something again and again. I am thoroughly satisfied that the Bill has been thrashed out sufficiently well. Pandit Kunzru was in the Select Committee. Personally so far as he is concerned he has had ample opportunities. As regards the other Members, who are always alert, they could have got up and said that they insist upon being heard. The House knows that we are not trying to muzzle anyone. They have had ample opportunities and it is not necessary to proceed further in the matter. The matter is closed and the Bill is passed.

Pandit Kunzru: Had you been here, Sir, I bet that you would not be able to hear half of what the Chair says. (*Some Hon. Members:* That is right.) There is so much noise going on that it is virtually impossible to hear even what the Chair says.

Shri Bharati (Madras): That is quite correct. The acoustics are not good.

Dr. V. Subramaniam (Madras): In view of the various amendments that have been adopted we want the printed copies of the Bill to be circulated to all hon. Members as soon as possible.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is published in the Gazette.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: It will take a long time. I hope you will consider my suggestion.

Shri Bharati: Apart from the Act we want to get the rules made thereunder. In fact the rules made under the Representation of the People Act 1950 I could not get from the Library. They contain important rules. I would request you to direct that rules should also be sent to Members. The rules made under that Act and the rules that may hereafter be made under this Act may also kindly be sent to hon. Members and I would request you to give a direction in the matter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: A general direction is given and any hon. Member who does not get them will write to the Secretary.

Shri Bharati: All Members are naturally interested in the rules. A general direction may be given that the rules made under the Acts may be sent to Members, irrespective of whether they apply or not.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Any Member who does not receive them may write to the Secretary.

RAJGHAT SAMADHI BILL—Concl'd.

Clause 4.—(Composition of the Committee.)

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay (Uttar Pradesh): I beg to move:

- (i) In part (b) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4, for "three" substitute "two".
- (ii) In part (c) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4, for "three" substitute "four".

The number of officials to be nominated is three, which should be reduced to two and the number of non-officials should be increased to four. Though the demand has been made by some hon. Members that there should be an elected Committee and not a nominated Committee, I do not go to that extent. There should be nominated persons but they should not be in this proportion. The number of offi-

cial should not be equal to the number of non-officials. It should be a non-official body. If it is not possible to have a non-official Committee we should have only two official members and four non-official members and one of them will be a chairman of the municipal committee. That would be the right composition of the Committee.

The Deputy Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Buragohain): I cannot accept the amendment. We have already four non-officials. The president of the municipal committee is also a non-official and the Central Government has power to nominate the Chairman who may be a non-official.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: I do not press my amendments.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): I beg to move:

After part (c) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4, add:

"(d) two persons elected by Parliament."

I referred to this point in the course of my brief remarks at the consideration stage a couple of days ago. I do not wish to repeat the arguments that I advanced on that occasion. I would only stress this aspect of the matter with reference to the reply given by the hon. Minister to the point raised by me. The hon. Minister, Mr. Gadgil, said—I am reading from the Reporters' uncorrected copy:

"Two points have been raised by my friend Mr. Kamath. One was that there must be a Member of Parliament on the Committee and he should be elected by the House. The provision as it is does not prevent Government from nominating one of the members from the Members of Parliament. I can assure Mr. Kamath that his suggestion will be kept in view and one of the members among the three non-officials would normally be a Member of Parliament."

We have become used in this Parliament to Ministers' assurances. From the Prime Minister to the last of his colleague—not last in the sense of importance but in the order of precedence—we have been treated to assurances in the House from time to time. I do not mean to say that those assurances have not been kept but the memory of the House is not so short that they can forget the fact that some of the assurances, at any rate, have not been implemented. The other day my hon. friend Dr. Mookerjee referred to an assurance given

only two days earlier by the Prime Minister, which was not honoured later on. Therefore, so far as I am concerned—and I am sure that most of my colleagues present here in this House today will agree with me in this matter—I for one feel that an assurance from whomsoever it might come and in whatever spirit it may be made in this House, cannot be accepted at its face value. After all, Mr. Gadgil may assure us today, someone else may take his place tomorrow, and in that eventuality how will an assurance given by Mr. Gadgil bind his successor? When even the decisions and Acts of a Parliament do not bind a successor Parliament, how can a mere assurance bind the successor of a Minister? Therefore, it has been held, not merely here but in Parliaments all over the world, that an assurance as such is not effective enough, has sometimes practically no value at all, and that if anything is meant by a Minister to be implemented in earnest it has got to be incorporated in the Act itself. The Minister said that “Mr. Kamath’s suggestion will be kept in view and one of the Members would normally be a Member of Parliament”. I do not wish to disclose the private talk I had with the Minister, because I suppose that will be ruled out of order and may not be quite appropriate on the floor of the House, because he told me something in private, and an assurance was given of a different kind. *(Interruption)*. I am not disclosing the contents of that private talk.

I would therefore urge upon the Minister the necessity of amending this clause specifically to the effect that one of these three non-official members will be elected by Parliament. My amendment is that two should be elected by Parliament, but while pressing this amendment I would, however, be content if the Minister meets me half way and agrees to provide in the Bill itself that one of the members of this Committee will be elected by Parliament. I can give him another alternative. I hope he does not stand on prestige; his Deputy is here watching the interest of his principal, I will not say principal, of his chief, and I hope he is more receptive to suggestions than his chief—but I do not know if he has had any instructions which cannot be disregarded and whether he has therefore been instructed to stick to his guns, big or small, but, I would give him a second alternative and that is this. It could be stated specifically by adding a comma after “three non-officials nominated by the Central Government” and saying, “of whom one at least shall

be a Member of Parliament.” That will keep the field open. If Government wants and Parliament brings pressure to bear upon Government they might nominate all the three non-officials from among Members of Parliament, or nominate only two or one. Therefore, if these words, “of whom one at least shall be a Member of Parliament”, are added to that part of the clause, that might be, though it is half-hearted, some sort of resolution of this difficulty.

While asking the Minister to accept this suggestion of mine, I also hope the House will not stultify itself by not accepting the amendment of mine, because my amendment is intended to enhance the dignity, the power, the strength, the prestige of this House, and I hope my hon. colleagues will see to it that this important Bill relating to the Samadhi of the Father of the Nation does contain a provision which will make it obligatory for Members of this House to serve on the Committee intended for the maintenance, preservation and administration of the Samadhi of the Father of the Nation.

I commend my amendment for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the difficulty for the Government when they have given an assurance?

Shri Buragohain: I will explain the position. Mr. Kamath’s second amendment has been accepted in principle...

Shri Kamath: No.

Shri Buragohain: In substance it has been accepted, and the hon. Minister has given an assurance.....

Shri Kamath: We do not accept your assurances.

Shri Buragohain:and the Government will stand by their assurance.

Shri Kamath: Which Government? This Government may go tomorrow and another Government may come.

Shri Buragohain: According to the provisions of the Bill it is conceivable that more Members of Parliament than one may be taken into the committee. No limit has been fixed in the provisions of the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the hon. Minister considered the other suggestion of the hon. Member, namely:

“of whom one at least shall be a Member of Parliament.”

Shri Buragohain: I have already stated that an assurance has already been given by the hon. Minister to that effect.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the harm in including it here?

Shri Buragohain: As I have already stated, it may be that we may have even five non-official members from among Members including the Chairman. Why should we limit the number explicitly to one?

Shri Kamath: At least one.

Shri Buragohain: Even at least one. That is why it is much better to leave it to the discretion of the Government because it is just possible that in a Committee of this kind eminent persons from various parts of the country and various sections of the population would like to be associated. It is much better that it should be left to the discretion of Government.

Shri Kamath: It will enhance the prestige of Parliament including that of the Deputy Minister.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it the desire of the hon. Member that I should put his amendment to vote?

Shri Kamath: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

After part (c) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4, add:

"(d) two persons elected by Parliament."

I think the *Noes* have it.

Shri Kamath: The *Ayes* have it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let the House divide.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru) *rose—*

Shri Kamath: On a point of order, are any speeches allowed at this stage, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. the Prime Minister will accept the amendment.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is for you, Sir, to determine whether I am in order or not: I do not know. I was not here at the earlier stage. But this is hardly a matter I should have thought on which the House would divide itself. This is a suggestion to be welcomed even from the point of view of the House itself. I do not

know if I may suggest to the Mover of the amendment a slight variation and that is two Members of the House nominated by the Speaker.

Dr. Pattabhi (Madras): In addition to the other members?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes.

Shri Kamath: This, Sir, is a reasonable compromise, but on a point of procedure, I would like to know whether it is in order for a motion to be amended after it is put to the vote of the House?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: By agreement anything can be done.

Shri Sivan Pillay (Travancore-Cochin): What will be the term of those members?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Wherever Members are elected or nominated to serve on committees outside the House their term depends upon the term of other members of the committee. Therefore, we need not make any special provision about it.

Shri Sivan Pillay: Suppose they cease to be Members of Parliament.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That can be considered later.

But there is one difficulty in the form of the amendment. The House of the People will come into existence only after the General Elections. If we put 'Speaker of Parliament' he can nominate two Members as soon as this Bill is passed.

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Rajagopalachari): He is the only person who is called "Speaker". Therefore the word "Speaker" would do.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

After part (c) of sub-clause (1) of clause 4, add:

"(d) two Members of Parliament to be nominated by the Speaker."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 5.—(Powers and duties of the Committee.)

Shri S. N. Das (Bihar): I beg to move:

After part (b) of clause 5, insert:

“(bb) to organise and maintain a public library or reading room containing Gandhian literature or literature pertaining to the life and teaching of Mahatma Gandhi including his Sarvodaya ideals;

(bbb) to receive and collect funds from the Government and the general public and administer them for the maintenance, preservation and administration of the Samadhi and activities attached therewith;”

मैं ने जो संशोधन पेश किया है उस का तात्पर्य यह है कि गांधी जी की समाधि के प्रबंध और व्यवस्था के लिये जो कमेटी बनने जा रही है उस के कर्तव्य के दायरे बढ़ाये जायें। यदि कमेटी सिर्फ समाधि की देख भाल करेगी और लोग वहां हज़ारों की तादाद में आते रहेंगे तो वह भी हज़ारों मेले की तरह एक मेला ही जायेगा। हम समझते थे, कि जब यह प्रश्न संसद् के सामने आयेगा तो इस के साथ कोई ऐसा भी काम लगाया जायेगा जिस से कि महात्मा गांधी के आदर्श की ओर लोगों का ध्यान आकर्षित किया जा सके। मैं समझता हूँ कि यदि समाधि को इसी रूप में रखना है तो उस के लिये इतनी बड़ी कमेटी की ज़रूरत नहीं थी। हिन्दुस्तान में बहुत सी ऐसी समाधियाँ हैं और बहुत से ऐसे स्थान हैं जहाँ हज़ारों की तादाद में लोग जाया करते हैं और वहाँ जा कर अपनी श्रद्धा प्रकट करते हैं। कहीं ऐसा न हो कि जैसे लोग और जगह मूर्ति पूजा के लिये जाया करते हैं वैसे ही यहाँ भी जाने लगें और महात्मा गांधी ने जिस पवित्र आदर्श को हमारे सामने रखा था उस की ओर उन का ध्यान न जाय। मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस बिल के द्वारा कुछ

ऐसा भी किया जाय कि जो लोग समाधि पर पहुँचें उन का चित्त महात्मा गांधी के आदर्श की तरफ भी खिंचे। हिन्दुस्तान में तीर्थ स्थानों की कमी नहीं है। मगर दिल्ली में कोई ऐसा तीर्थ नहीं है जहाँ सारे हिन्दुस्तान से लोग आया करें। यह राजनीति का स्थान रहा है और राजधानी रही है। बड़े बड़े राजे महाराजों की समाधियाँ यहाँ बहुत हैं। महात्मा गांधी की समाधि अगर उस श्रेणी में आ जाय तो मैं समझता हूँ कि यह उचित नहीं है। महात्मा गांधी की समाधि के साथ साथ हमें कुछ ऐसे काम करने चाहियें जिस से महात्मा गांधी के काम की तरफ लोगों का ध्यान बराबर खिंचता रहे। इस लिये मैं चाहता था कि कल्ल इस के कि इस बिल पर विचार किया जाय मैं अपने विचार प्रकट कर दूँ। मगर उस समय मौका नहीं मिला। इसी लिये मैं ने यह संशोधन आप के सामने रक्खा है कि उस समाधि के साथ हम कुछ ऐसे काम भी रखें जिन पर जनता का ध्यान जाय, और उन लोगों का भी ध्यान जाय जो बाहर से आ कर समाधि पर जायें, ताकि गांधी जी की बातों की ओर वह आकर्षित हों। इस लिये मैं ने अपने संशोधन में कहा है कि इस कमेटी का यह भी काम हो कि वहाँ एक सार्वजनिक पुस्तकालय का निर्माण करे जिस में गांधी जी के साहित्य को और उन के आदर्शों के साहित्य को वहाँ पर पढ़ने की व्यवस्था हो। और अगर कमेटी उस काम को हाथ में ले तो उस का यह भी काम होगा कि सरकार से पैसे ले कर या सार्वजनिक चन्दा ले कर उस से इस समाधि और उस के साथ संलग्न कार्यों की समुचित व्यवस्था करे।

मैं सभा का ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता हूँ यद्यपि यह महसूस करता हूँ कि

[श्री एस० एन० दास]

बिल को उपस्थित करने में माननीय मंत्री ने शायद उस के कानूनी क्षेत्र को संकुचित करने के इरादे से ही ऐसा किया है। लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि इस में इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था करना बहुत जरूरी है। इस बिल के निर्माण में मैं आशा करता हूँ कि माननीय निर्माण मंत्री इस संशोधन पर विचार करेंगे और उस के बाद इसे स्वीकार कर लेंगे।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri S. N. Das: I beg to move:

After part (b) of clause 5, insert: .

“(bb) to organise and maintain a public library or reading room containing Gandhian literature or literature pertaining to the life and teaching of Mahatma Gandhi including his Sarvodaya Ideals;

(bbb) to receive and collect funds from the Government and the general public and administer them for the maintenance, preservation and administration of the Samadhi and activities attached therewith;”

What I mean by the amendment that I have put forward is that the scope of the functions of this Committee, which will be formed to manage and look after Gandhiji's Samadhi, should be widened. If the function of the Committee is just to look after the Samadhi and nothing else I think it will not be anything more than an ordinary *mela*, when people would be coming in their thousands to visit the place. We thought when this matter would come up before the Parliament some such functions will be associated with it which would attract people's attention towards the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. In my opinion, there was no necessity of setting up such a large Committee if the Samadhi is to be maintained in this very form. There is a large number of such Samadhis and such places in India where people go in their thousands and pay their homage. What I fear is that this place may also not be converted into a place where people, just as they go to various other places for idol-worshipping, might come and simply worship and forget the teachings and ideals which Mahatma Gandhi put before us. I want that something must be done through this Bill so that

those who visit the Samadhi may also have an opportunity to pay some attention to the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. India does not lack in places of pilgrimage but there is no such sacred spot in Delhi where people from all over the country may come. Delhi has since long been a capital and a centre of politics. There are a large number of Samadhis of famous princes and rulers here. I do not think it will be proper if we place Mahatma Gandhi's Samadhi too in this category. Some such activities should be associated with the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi as may constantly draw people's attention towards his achievements. I, therefore, wanted that I should express my views on this matter before the Bill was taken up for consideration in the House. But I could not get an opportunity at that time and hence I have moved this amendment now that some activities should be associated with the Samadhi so that the people of this country and all those who visit the place, may pay their attention towards the teachings and ideals of Gandhiji. It is therefore I have stated in my amendment that the function of the Committee should also be to set up a public library containing Gandhian literature with arrangements for the study of literature pertaining to his teachings and ideals. If this Committee undertakes this work it will also be its duty to receive and collect funds from the Government or the general public for the maintenance, preservation and administration of the Samadhi and carrying on the activities attached therewith.

I do not want to take any more time of this House although I feel that the hon. Minister, in presenting this Bill before the House, has done so only with a view to circumscribe its legal scope. But I think it is very necessary to make these provisions in the Bill. I hope the hon. Minister of Works will give his consideration to my amendment and accept it.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It seems to me that there is perhaps some misapprehension about the objects of this Bill. This is meant merely to look after that place as efficiently as possible. Hon. Members know that there are a large number of schemes, partly Governmental but chiefly under the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Trust, to have libraries and many other things in connection therewith. I think to mix up the two would be undesirable. We can have very good libraries not perhaps situated right there but in some other part of Delhi, not in this particular area but across the road

there. There is, I believe, a big proposal to have a Harijan colony, libraries and all kinds of things across the road. All these things are being considered by the Gandhi Memorial Trust. But this particular thing should be isolated from other activities, isolated in the sense that this Committee looks after it as a sacred place, keeps proper order and regulates functions there. If you give it other functions they will overlap and they will tend to become controversial functions. For instance, in a subsequent amendment it is proposed that constructive workers should be trained there. That may be a very good idea. But as soon as you mix it up with this particular thing you amplify the scope of this and overlap with the Memorial Fund or with organisations like the Sarvodaya organisation or the Congress or whatever it is. That would be unfortunate. This should be completely non-partisan, non-political, non-propagandist. It is a sacred place which everybody in India holds in reverence and which has to be looked after properly. So I would beg hon. Members not to press this amendment because it would not be in keeping with the simplicity of this Bill. If we consider it from the other point of view then there are so many things that we should do. Let us do those other things through other ways, not through this Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Need I place this amendment before the House?

श्री एस० ऐन० दास : प्रधान मंत्री ने जो वक्तव्य दिया है उस को देखते हुए मैं अपने संशोधन पर जोर नहीं देता ।

[**Shri S. N. Das:** In view of the statement made by the Prime Minister, I do not press my amendment.]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So it is not necessary. What about the hon. Member Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay?

पंडित मुनीश्वर दत्त उपाध्याय : प्रधान मंत्री के बयान के बाद मैं उस पर जोर नहीं देता ।

[**Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** I do not press it after the Prime Minister's statement.]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 6 to 8

Shri Kamath: Now that the House has agreed to associate Members of Parliament with the Committee of the Rajghat Samadhi I do not propose to move my amendments to clauses 6 and 7.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then I will put all the three remaining clauses together.

The question is:

"That clauses 6 to 8 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 6 to 8 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

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

Shri Buragohain: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

सेठ गोविन्द दास : राजघाट समाधि के जिस प्रकार बनाये जाने की योजना है और अभी जो कुछ उस के लिये हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी ने कहा है उस का मैं हृदय से समर्थन करता हूँ। उन के कमरे में उस मानचित्र को भी मैं ने देखा जो कि इस समाधि के निर्माण के लिये एक अमरीकी कलाकार ने बनाया है। वह चित्र बड़ा सुन्दर है इस में सन्देह नहीं। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने स्वयं मुझे उसे दिखाने और समझाने की कृपा की थी। परन्तु कलात्मक वस्तुओं की भव्यता और सौंदर्य सदा बढ़ाया जा सकता है; और यह नहीं कहा जा सकता कि जहाँ तक भव्यता और सौंदर्य का सम्बन्ध है वहाँ तक कोई भी वस्तु पराकाष्ठा को पहुँच चुकी है। अमरीका को मैं कलात्मक संसार में कोई सब से महान देश नहीं मानता। उस ने धन का बड़ा भारी संग्रह किया होगा, सोना चांदी के निर्जीव टुकड़ों का वहाँ पर विपुल संग्रह होगा जहाँ तक उत्पादन का

[सेठ गोविन्द दास]

संबंध है, आज अमरीका संसार में सब से आगे होगा, जहां तक विनाश का संबंध है, अणु बम और हाइड्रोजन बम (Hydrogen Bomb) का, उस में भी अमरीका सब से आगे होगा, परन्तु कलात्मक संसार में अमरीका सब से आगे है, इस बात को मानने को मैं तैयार नहीं हूं। इस लिये मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी से निवेदन करता हूं कि अमरीकी कलाकार का वह चित्र बहुत सुन्दर होते हुए भी इस विषय में वह कुछ अन्य देशों के कलाकारों से भी परामर्श करें, विशेषकर फ्रांस के कलाकारों से, इटली के कलाकारों से, मिश्र के कलाकारों से, चीन के कलाकारों से, क्योंकि यह सब देश कलात्मक जगत में अपना एक विशिष्ट स्थान रखते हैं, तथा सर्वोपरि भारत के कलाकारों से। भारत के कलाकारों में शांति निकेतन के कलाकारों से सलाह लेनी चाहिये। शांति निकेतन ने आधुनिक युग में कला के समस्त क्षेत्रों में विशेषज्ञ और विशेष व्यक्तियों को उत्पन्न किया है और उन व्यक्तियों की विशेषता यह रही है कि उन्होंने प्राचीन परम्परा को न खोते हुए आधुनिक विशेषताओं का अपनी कला में उचित समावेश किया है। इस लिये मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी से निवेदन करता हूं कि अमरीका के कलाकार का यह मानचित्र रहते हुए भी उसे वह अन्तिम न मान लें और इस दिशा में यदि हमें कुछ और व्यय भी करना पड़े, दो, चार, पांच लाख भी और खर्च करना पड़े, तो हम पीछे न हटें क्योंकि वह समाधि किस प्रकार की बनाई जाने वाली है यह मानचित्र पर ही निर्भर रहेगा।

फिर जिस प्रकार की समाधि बनाने की योजना है, वह भारत की प्राचीन संस्कृति के अनुरूप है। हमारी संस्कृति में तपोवनों का एक खास स्थान रहा है। तपोवनों के

अतिरिक्त हमारे देश में और भी जो प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य हैं उन का विशिष्ट स्थान रहा है। श्रीकृष्ण की लीलाओं में आप देखें वृन्दावन और इसी प्रकार के दूसरे स्थानों का कितना ऊंचा स्थान था। राजघाट की समाधि में तपोवनों की भव्यता और वृन्दावन के सदृश वनों के मौन्दर्य का इकट्ठा समावेश हो। इस के विषय में मैं एक निवेदन और करना चाहता हूं कि भारत के प्राचीन ग्रंथों, महाभारत, रामायण, पुराणों, विशेष कर श्रीमद्भागवत, हरिवंश, ब्रह्मवैवर्त और पद्म पुराणों तथा काव्यों आदि में जो प्राकृतिक वर्णन हैं उन को देखना चाहिये और उस के बाद निर्णय करना चाहिये कि वहां पर हम जो वन या उपवन लगाना चाहते हैं, वह किस प्रकार का हो। यदि आप वहां के उपवन में कुछ आधुनिक पाम (Palm) या सुरों के वृक्षों को लगा दें तो वह एक बड़ी भद्दी बात होगी। वह उपवन ऐसा होना चाहिये जहां हम प्राचीन ताल और तमाल के वृक्षों को देखें, जहां हम प्राचीन बट वृक्षों का जो स्थान हमारे देश में रहा है उस को देख पायें। हमारे वृक्ष, तरु, लता, गुल्म, आदि के हमारे प्राचीन ग्रंथों में जो वर्णन हैं, उन को देखकर इस उपवन को लगाना चाहिये।

हमारे देश में बुद्धकालीन स्तूप, अजन्ता एलौरा की गुफाओं, ताजमहल सदृश्य इमारतों का एक विशेष स्थान है। आज जो कोई इस देश में बाहर से आता है वह इन स्थानों के दर्शन को जाता है। मैं चाहता हूं कि एक दूसरी दृष्टि से हमारे राष्ट्रपिता की समाधि का इस देश में वैसा ही स्थान हो। साथ ही वह स्थान ऐसा हो कि इस मार काट वाले संसार, इस झगड़े झंझट वाले संसार, इस ही हल्ला वाले संसार, इस राजनैतिक दलदल वाले संसार से हट कर जब हम वहां जायें तो एक अपूर्व शान्ति

का अनुभव कर सकें, जो शांति केवल कलात्मक वस्तुओं के दर्शन से प्राप्त होता है जिन कलात्मक वस्तुओं की नींव है—हमारे प्राचीन साहित्यकारों के अनुसार सत्यं, शिवं, सुन्दरम् ।

(English translation of the above speech)

Seth Govind Das (Madhya Pradesh): I give my whole-hearted support to what the Prime Minister has just now stated about the scheme which has been framed for the construction of the Samadhi at Rajghat. I have seen the design in his room which has been prepared by an American artist. The Prime Minister was kind enough to show me the design and explained the details of the scheme. Grandeur and beauty in things of art can always be added to and it cannot be said that so far as grandeur and beauty are concerned, any thing has finally attained the zenith. I do not consider America to be the most advanced country from the point of view of Art. May be, America has accumulated heaps of wealth, gold and silver, and America is the most advanced country so far as the general production is concerned as also the production of Atom and Hydrogen Bombs, but I am not prepared to accept that America is the most advanced country from the point of view of Art. I, therefore, request the Prime Minister that though the design prepared by the American artist is very beautiful, yet in this matter he should consult the Artists of other countries, especially the artists of France, Italy, Egypt and China and those of India, in particular, as they have distinguished themselves in Art. Among the Indian artists, specially the artists of Shantiniketan should be consulted. Shantiniketan has produced eminent artists who specialised in practical art, and the special feature of these artists has been that they have adopted, with ability, the modern features of art in their work while keeping intact the old traditions. I would, therefore, suggest to the Prime Minister that we let the design prepared by the American artist stand but let him not accept it as the final thing, for the construction of the Samadhi depends upon the design and even if we have to spend four or five lac rupees more in that behalf we should not grudge that expense.

Again, the scheme of construction of the Samadhi has been framed in accordance with the principles of ancient Indian culture. The *Tapovanas*

have had a special place in our culture. Besides *Tapovanas* the other beauties of Nature also have had a special place. If you see Shri Krishna's 'lila', you will find that Vrindaban and other places like it, had a very high place in it. The Rajghat Samadhi should present the same beauties of places like Vrindaban and the grandeur of the *Tapovanas*.

One thing more I want to submit about this matter. The decision regarding the gardens or groves that are proposed to be planted there, should be made only after the study of our ancient epic works such as the Mahabharat, the Ramayana, the Puranas, especially Shrimadbhagwat, Harivansh, Brahmvaivart, Padmapurana and other epic works. It will be ridiculous if we just plant the modern Palm or the cypress. It should be a type of garden where we may find the ancient Tal and Tamal trees, and where due regard is given to the planting of the banyan tree as has been our past heritage. There is a mention of various trees, plants, creepers, and groves etc. in our scriptures, and as such we should make efforts to plant them in this particular garden. The Stoopas of the Buddha period, the Ajanta and Ellora Caves, the Taj and such other structures occupy a special place in our country. All foreign visitors visiting India make a point to see these places. I want that the Samadhi of the Father of the Nation should also have a similar position in this country, although from a different point of view. It should give us a sense of perfect peace and calm whenever we visit it, seeking an escape from the conflict-torn world, so full of turmoil and political demoralization—a peace which is the boon of only things artistic, which have *Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram* as their foundation, according to our literati of the old.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : ऐसी अच्छी तकरीर के बाद जिस में कि सेठ गोविन्द दास जी ने उस इमारत का नक्शा खींचा है जोकि राजघाट पर बनेगी, जो मैं अर्ज करूंगा वह तो बिल्कुल ऐसा होगा जैसी कि पोइट्री के सामने प्रोज । मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि मैं उस राजघाट को जिस के मुताबिक यह बिल पेश हुआ है इतनी इज्जत की निगाह से देखता हूं और हमारे सारे देश भाई उस को इस इज्जत की निगाह से देखते ।

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भागवत]

कि चाहे वहां कोई इमारत बने या न बने हमारे दिलों में उस जगह की इमारत बनी हुई है। मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि जब तक जमुना और गंगा बहती हैं उस वक्त तक हमारे देश भाइयों के लिये राजघाट एक तीर्थ स्थान रहेगा। जब कोई शस्त्र पहले दिल्ली में आता है तो वह सब से पहले राजघाट के दर्शन करने जाता है। और बाहर से भी जो बड़े बड़े आदमी आते हैं वह राजघाट पर जा कर अपनी श्रद्धा के फूल चढ़ाते हैं। मैं जो बात यहां पर अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ वह राजघाट से ज़रा सी मुखलिफ है और वह यह है कि जहां महात्मा गांधी की असली समाधि हुई थी, जहां महात्मा गांधी का दरअसल देहान्त हुआ था, जहां पर स्प्रिचुअल फोर्सेज ने दुनिया की फिजिकल फोर्सेज पर फतह पाई थी, वह जगह आज तक पब्लिक के कब्जे में नहीं है। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि इस हाउस के सारे मेम्बरान की यह ख्वाहिश है, और मैं यह जानते हुए कि राजघाट की समाधि से जिस के बारे में यह बिल लाया गया है इस का कोई डाइरेक्ट ताल्लुक नहीं है, गवर्नमेंट की खिदमत में और मेम्बरान की खिदमत में आप के जरिये यह अर्ज करूंगा कि हिन्दुस्तान की रूह को उस वक्त तक तृप्ति नहीं होगी जब तक कि वह जगह जहां पर कि महात्मा गांधी की दरअसल समाधि हुई थी पब्लिक प्रापर्टी न बन जाय और उस जगह कोई नया मीमोरियल न बन जाय। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि हम बहुत सारे मन्दिरों की पूजा करते हैं। हम यह समझ लेते हैं कि मूर्ति के अन्दर परमात्मा का वास हो गया है और हम लोग इस किस्म की चीजों में यकीन कर लेते हैं लेकिन फिर भी यह नहीं हो सकता कि कोई आदमी दिल्ली में आये, समाधि के दर्शन करे पर उस स्थान के दर्शन किये बिना तृप्त हो जाय

जिस जगह कि महात्मा गांधी ने राम राम कहते हुए अपने देह का त्याग किया था। कौन नहीं चाहता कि वह उस जगह को जरूर जाय जहां शान्ति स्थापित करने में महात्मा गांधी ने एक बहुत बड़ा कदम उठाया था और उन के लिये अपने प्राण त्याग दिये थे। इन्हीं लिये मेरे दोस्त श्री जसपत राय कपूर ने हाउस में जो कहा था उस चीज को मैं दुहराना चाहता हूँ कि जिस जगह पर महात्मा गांधी को गोली लगी थी उस जगह को जरूर हिन्दुस्तान के वास्ते गवर्नमेंट एक्वायर करे और उस जगह पर एक पब्लिक नैमोरियल बनवाया जाय। जहां तक उस खानदान का सवाल है जिस का कि यह मकान है मैं उन के जख्मों को अच्छी तरह जानता हूँ और मैं उन से बखूबी वाकफ हूँ और मेरे उन से बहुत अच्छे ताल्लूकात हैं। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि अगर गवर्नमेंट चाहेगी तो हरगिज हरमिज बिरला फैमली इन्कार नहीं करेगी और उस को गवर्नमेंट के या पब्लिक के सुपुर्द कर देगी। मुझे उम्मीद तो नहीं है कि इस मामले में कोई इन्कार करे। लेकिन मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि पब्लिक के अन्दर जो जख्मे हैं उन के सामने किसी प्राइवेट आदमी के जख्मों की कोई हैसियत नहीं रह जाती। महात्मा गांधी बिरलों के नहीं थे, वह सिर्फ हिन्दुस्तानियों के भी नहीं थे, वह तो सारी दुनिया के वास्ते थे। मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर उस जगह का पता लग जाय जहां पर कि ईसा मसीह को सूली लगी थी तो मैं समझता हूँ कि वह सारी दुनिया के वास्ते सीट आफ पिलग्रिमेज हो जायेगी। जिस जगह महात्मा गांधी का देहान्त हुआ था वह ऐसी जगह है कि जहां सारी दुनिया के लोग आर्य और अपनी आत्माओं को शान्ति दें। यह जगह एक ऐसा इलेक्ट्रिक पावर हाउस है जहां से कि सारी दुनिया को चार्ज

किया जा सकेगा। वह जगह एक ऐसा ज्वाला मुखी है कि जिस से ऐसी रोशनी निकलेगी कि जो सारी दुनिया को मुनव्वर कर दे। उस जगह को जहाँ महात्मा गांधी का देहान्त हुआ है इस निगाह से देखना चाहिये। राजघाट तो वह जगह है जहाँ हम ने उन के शरीर का दाह किया था। लेकिन वह जगह जहाँ कि उन को गोली लगी थी और उन्होंने राम राम कहते हुए अपने शरीर को छोड़ा था वह सारे हिन्दुस्तान के लिये और सारी दुनिया के लिये एक पवित्र स्थान है। अगर हम उस की अहमियत को महसूस नहीं करते तो यह हमारी गलती है। मैं जानता हूँ कि हर मेम्बर के दिल में यह बात है और इस लिये मैं अपनी तरफ से और सारे हाउस की तरफ से गवर्नमेंट की खिदमत में यह अर्ज करूँगा कि वह ऐसा कदम उठाये कि इस जगह को पब्लिक प्रापर्टी बना दे और इस पर चाहे जितनी रकम खर्च करनी पड़े या किसी को नाखुश भी करना पड़े तो इस की कुछ भी परवाह न करे। यह जरूर है कि उस जगह के दर्शन की इजाजत है। पर इजाजत और चीज और एक पब्लिक प्रापर्टी और चीज है। अगर आप दरअसल चाहते हैं कि अगर कोई आदमी दिल्ली आ कर महात्मा जी के आदर्श से मुतासिर हो तो उस के लिये यह बहुत जरूरी है कि वह उस जगह का दर्शन करे जहाँ कि महात्मा गांधी ने अपने शरीर को त्यागा था। राजघाट अपनी जगह पर एक मुतबरिक जगह है लेकिन जिस जगह महात्मा गांधी ने अपने प्राण त्यागे थे वह उस से ज्यादा मुतबरिक जगह है। मैं जानता हूँ कि जो लोग दिल्ली आते हैं और राजघाट की समाधि का दर्शन करते हैं तो उस के बाद वह पूछते हैं कि वह जगह कहाँ है कि जहाँ महात्मा जी ने अपना शरीर छोड़ा था। वह ऐसी जगह है कि जिस की लोगों के दिलों में बहुत ही बड़ी इज्जत

है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि गवर्नमेंट यह कोशिश करे कि वह जगह पब्लिक प्रापर्टी हो जाये, और वहाँ पर एक पब्लिक मेमोरियल कायम किया जाये। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि इस विल का समर्थन करते हुए मैं अपने दिल से यह चीज दूर नहीं कर सकता कि हमारे ख्यालात की तर्जमानी उसी वक्त हो सकती है जब कि उस जगह एक मेमोरियल कायम हो जो कि हमारी कौम की जो महात्मा गांधी की तरफ श्रद्धा है उस का इंडीकेशन हो।

(English translation of the above speech)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Punjab): Speaking after such a fine speech by hon. Seth Govind Das, in which he has sketched the building proposed to be built at Rajghat, sounds like prose after a piece of poetry. I submit that Rajghat, to which the present bill relates, is looked upon with so much reverence by all our countrymen including myself that it is always pictured in our minds irrespective of the fact whether a building exists there or not. For all times to come it will remain a sacred shrine or a place of pilgrimage for our people. The first thing an individual does on first arrival in the capital, is that he goes to visit Rajghat. Again all great persons of our times go to pay their homage at Rajghat as early as possible after their arrival in Delhi.

I want to refer here to another aspect which is somewhat different from Rajghat itself. I submit that the real 'Samadhi' or the actual spot where Mahatma Gandhi breathed his last or the particular place where the spiritual forces gained victory over the physical forces is still not in public possession. I am aware that every hon. Member of this House entertains that wish and although this subject, strictly speaking, has no direct bearing on the subject of the Samadhi at Rajghat to which this present Bill relates, I want to convey to the Government that India will not be satisfied till the place where Mahatmaji actually breathed his last, is converted into public property and a new memorial is built there. We in India worship so many temples. We have the belief that the idol we worship, is the very incarnation of God. We entertain many similar beliefs. Yet

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

it is impossible that an individual, on arrival in Delhi should feel satisfied with a visit to the 'Samadhi' alone and go without paying homage at the spot where the Mahatma actually left his mortal coils with "Ram, Ram" on his lips. Who does not wish to make it a point to visit that spot where the great Mahatma took that fateful step to establish peace in the country and where eventually he had to give even his life? For that consideration I want to repeat what my hon. friend Shri Jaspat Rai Kapoor has said in the House earlier. I call upon the Government to see to it that the spot where Mahatma Gandhi was shot, is positively acquired for India and that a public memorial is built there. As for the family to whom that House belongs, I claim to know its members well and I have good relations with them. I have every hope that the Birla family, if approached by the Government, will never refuse this request and they will gladly give that house to the Government or to the public. Personally I do not think anyone could refuse such a request. I, however, wish to say that a private individual's sentiments count very little where the sentiments of the people at large are concerned. Mahatma Gandhi did not belong to the Birlas or even to India alone; he belonged to the whole world.

I feel that if, somehow, or the other, we could locate today that spot where Christ was crucified, then that place is sure to be converted into a seat of pilgrimage for the whole world. The spot where Mahatma Gandhi fell is sublime enough to pacify the disturbed souls of the whole world. It is like a Power House from where the whole world can be charged. It is a Light House of the kind which can emit light capable of lighting up this entire universe. The spot where the Mahatma fell should be viewed by us with these thoughts in our mind. Rajghat is, on the other hand, the place where only his body had been cremated. But the place where he was shot at and where his soul left the body with "Ram, Ram" on his lips, is sacred and will continue to be sacred for the whole of India as also for the entire world. We shall be committing a mistake if we try to belittle its importance in any way. I am aware that every hon. Member entertains the same sentiment and for that very reason I wish to request the Government on behalf of the House as well as on my own behalf to take steps to turn that spot into public property and to that end spend as much on it as is required. In doing so they should not mind incurring the displeasure of any person whatsoever.

It is true that all are even now permitted to visit that place. But there is a difference between this sort of permission and the idea of a public property. If you really want that people coming to Delhi may receive inspiration from the ideals of the Mahatma, then it is very necessary that they visit that particular place where he breathed his last. Rajghat is, of course, sacred in its own way, but the spot where the Mahatma passed away, is even more sacred than Rajghat. I have the personal knowledge that after the people arriving in Delhi have visited Rajghat, they make enquiries about the place where Mahatmaji actually breathed his last. That spot occupies a reverential place in the minds of our people. I, therefore, desire that the Government should strive to have that place turned into a public property and to have a public memorial erected there. Further, while supporting this motion, I am unable to remove this thought from my mind that our desires on the issue will be realized only when a memorial is erected there which should serve as an indication of all our reverence towards Mahatma Gandhi.

Shri A. C. Guha (West Bengal): I welcome this Bill to be passed by this House. It is in the fitness of things that Government and the House have taken this step to perpetuate the memory of a man, whose memory needs no material symbol to perpetuate. But, we are mortal beings, and this House being a material organisation, we have some responsibility to discharge our obligations to his memory.

This Rajghat Samadhi is the Samadhi of a person who is the product of our culture. But, in his life, in his activities, in his outlook, in his philosophy of life, he transgressed all limitations of time and space. I think there is hardly any person in India or in the world who would not recognise this transcendence of Gandhiji's personality. He belongs to no particular country or to no particular community. He belonged and even now he belongs to the universe for all time to come. He lived a life of simplicity and I think he gave a new interpretation, a new turn to the culture of the world. This Samadhi should be symbolic of that culture. About 100 years ago, Marx gave a new interpretation to the culture and history of the world. Gandhiji supplemented the shortcomings of the Marxian outlook and Marxian social philosophy. I think that this Samadhi and anything which this Government may do in perpetuation of his memory should be symbolic of that new outlook and new culture, that is, the culture of the common man.

The other day, in this House, through an interpellation, it was revealed that a statue 144 or 114 feet high was being devised. I think most of the Members will consider such a proposal repugnant to the ideal which was Gandhiji's life mission. Such a titanic image of Gandhiji.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are we now discussing the various forms of memorials? There is no good in taking the time of the House...

Shri A. C. Guha: I shall finish in five minutes, Sir.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: ...by going into the various forms of memorials. Saying in advance that something is titanic and wrong will be embarrassing and putting the people to inconvenience.

Shri A. C. Guha: This Samadhi, I hope, will not contain any such image or statue, nor any big structure. It should be simple. It should be in tune with the life that he lived here and it should be in consonance with the philosophy and social ideal that he preached through his life and through his activities.

In this connection, I should also refer to the spot where Gandhiji was shot and where he laid down his life uttering 'हे राम'. That portion of the House, as far as I know has already been segregated and kept apart from the main building of the House. That portion, also, I think should be acquired by the nation if necessary through proper land acquisition proceedings. Or, I think the Birla family would not grudge making a gift of that portion to the nation. That should be attached to the Schedule as a property of Rajghat Samadhi.

In India, we have had great men. Lord Krishna laid down his life in Prabhava and that is a place of pilgrimage for all in India. Lord Buddha laid down his life at Kushinara near the borders of Nepal and that is also a place of pilgrimage. Certainly, this Samadhi will be a place of pilgrimage for people all the world over, and for all time to come. So, I support this Bill. I welcome the proposal of the Government—hoping that it would be simple and unassuming memorial to the memory of Gandhiji.

कैप्टिन ए० पी० सिंह : मैं केवल दो तीन मिनट में अपना भाषण समाप्त कर दूंगा। मुझे केवल उस बात का पृष्ठपोषण करना है जो कि मेरे मित्र श्री जसपत राय

कपूर तथा भार्गव जी और गुहा जी ने कहा है कि वह स्थान जहां महात्मा गांधी की हत्या की गई है उस पर गवर्नमेंट को विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिये। मैं स्वयं कई बार उस स्थान पर गया परन्तु जिस प्रकार सफाई इत्यादि उस के आस पास होनी चाहिये वह वहां देखने में नहीं आती। बहुत से लोग उस को देखने के लिये आते हैं और वह इस बात की शिकायत करते हैं कि जिस प्रकार से वह जगह होनी चाहिये उस प्रकार से वह स्थान नहीं है। मेरी भी गवर्नमेंट से प्रार्थना है कि वह इस की जाँच करे और उस स्थान को ले कर उसे ऐसा कर दिया जाये कि जो लोग वहां जायें उन के लिये वहां आकर्षण हो।

दूसरी बात अभी हमारे मित्र सेठ गोविन्द दास जी ने कही है समाधि के संबंध में। वहां कुंज और लतायें होनी चाहियें यह ठीक है परन्तु मैं समझता हूँ कि जिस प्रकार से बिरला मन्दिर में स्तूप आदि हैं और उन पर उपनिषद् और गीता के श्लोकों की एन्वैविंग्स (लिखावट) है, उसी प्रकार से इस समाधि के स्थान पर भी आवश्यक है ताकि जो लोग वहां जायें, उनके मस्तिष्क में भी एक नई भावना पैदा हो जाये जबकि वह वहां के श्लोकों को पढ़ें। वह अंग्रेजी भाषा में भी मिल जायेंगी, बाइबिल से भी मिल जायेंगी, पुराणों से भी मिल जायेंगी, और दूसरे धर्मों से भी ली जा सकती हैं, परन्तु वह वहां होना जरूर चाहिये और कम से कम गीता और उपनिषद् को उस में काफी स्थान मिलना चाहिये। जब कि हम इन ग्रंथों को देखते हैं और अलाहिदा अलाहिदा श्लोकों को पढ़ते हैं तो हम लोगों को ज्यादा प्रसन्नता होती है और ज्यादा एलिवेशन आफ माइन्ड (उच्च विचार) हुआ करता है। पूरी किताब पढ़ने

[कैप्टिन ए० पी० सिंह]

हैं तो उतना आनन्द नहीं होता लेकिन जब एक श्लोक अलग कर लिया जाता है तो उस का बहुत ज्यादा असर पड़ता है। अगर हम वहाँ जायें और यह श्लोक पढ़ें :

इतो न किञ्चित् परतो न किञ्चित्
यतो यतो यामि ततो न किञ्चित् ।
विचार्य्यं पश्यामि जगन्न किञ्चित्
स्वात्मावबोधादधिकं न किञ्चित् ॥

और इस प्रकार के भाव अगर वहाँ जाने से हों तो हम को एक त्याग की भावना मिलती है और संसार की ओर से जी हटाने की भावना मिलती है। अगर हम ऐसा करेंगे तो बड़े बड़े कामों को कर सकेंगे क्योंकि स्वार्थपरता हमारे दिमाग से निकल जायेगी। अगर ऐसी भावना हम वहाँ रखेंगे तो यह निश्चित है कि हमारा लाभ होगा चाहे वह बातें त्याग की हों या और फिलासफी की ऊँची बातें हों। महात्मा जी का सिद्धान्त हो जैसे :

अभितो ब्रह्म निर्वाणं वर्तते विदितात्मनाम् ॥
अहिंसा सत्यमक्रोधस्त्यागः शान्तिरपैशुनम् ॥
आज्ञाभंगो नेरन्द्राणामशस्त्र वध उच्यते ॥

इत्यादि इसी प्रकार की भावनायें हम वहाँ रखें तो हमारा ज्यादा फायदा होगा। इस लिये स्तूप बनाये जावें और उन स्तूपों पर जैसे बिरला मन्दिर में श्लोक लिखे हुए हैं उसी प्रकार से यदि इस समाधि पर भी उन स्थानों पर जहाँ लोग जा कर बैठें उन के सामने ऐसी भावनायें रहें तो वहाँ पर लोग बैठ कर इन विचारों पर ध्यान देंगे और उन की नैतिक उन्नति होगी। इसी लिये मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि वहाँ इस प्रकार की चीजों का रहना जरूरी है।

(English translation of the above speech)

Capt. A. P. Singh (Vindhya Pradesh): I shall finish my speech within two or three minutes. I have only to support what my friends Shri Jaspal Rai Kapoor, Bhargavaji and Gubaji have said, that the Government should pay special attention to the place where Mahatma Gandhi was murdered. I myself have several times been to that place but the cleanliness that should have been there is not seen. Many visitors come to that place and they complain that the place is not so properly maintained as it should have been. It is also my request to the Government that they should enquire about it and after acquiring the place make it attractive for the visitors.

The second point just put forth by our friend Seth Govind Das is in connection with the Samadhi. It is all right that there should be groves and creepers, but I think just as there are *stupas* etc. in the Birla Temple with engravings from *Upanishads* and *shlokas* from the *Gita* they should also have them at this place in order that the people who go there may be inspired with a new spirit when they read them. These maxims can be drawn from the English language also. They can be found in the Bible, in the *Puranas* as also in other religious scriptures. But these must be there and quotations from *Gita* and *Upanishads* must find a prominent place among them. When we look into these scriptures and read the *shlokas* here and there we get more of joy and the elevation of the mind. Reading the whole of the book does not give so much delight as reading a stray *shloka* dissociated from its context, for them it creates a deep impression. If we go there and read this *Shloka*:—

*Ito na kinchit parto na kinchit
Yato yato yami tato na kinchit
Vicharyya pashyami jaganna kinchit
Swatmavabodhadadhikam na kinchit.*

(Nowhere in this world do I find any substantiality. When I ponder over, I feel the world is a mere shadow. There is nothing higher than the knowledge of the self.)

If such ideas are communicated to our minds in going there we are inspired with the spirit of sacrifice and the feeling of renunciation. If we do so, we shall be able to perform big tasks, for the spirit of selfishness will go out of our minds. The presence of such feelings in us would certainly

benefit us, be they the feelings of sacrifice or of high philosophy or those relating to some principles of Mahatma Gandhi such as:

Abhito Brahma nirvanam vartate piddatmanam.

Ahimsa, satyamakrodhastyagah shantirapaishunam.

Ajnabhango narendranamashastra vadh uchate.

(Those who have attained self-realization have salvation all round them. Ahimsa, Truth, Forbearance, Sacrifice, Calmness and avoidance of calumny. Violation of a king's order amounts to his murder without arms.)

If we cherish thoughts like these they will do us a lot of good. Therefore, if we build *stupas* in the Samadhi area, such as there are in Birla Temple, they will inspire the people who go there with these thoughts and will elevate them morally. So I say that things like that must be provided.

11 A.M.

Shri R. Velayudhan (Travancore-Cochin): I wish to speak only a few words on this historic Bill in which I feel deeply interested. Besides the natural psychological interest of the whole nation on this Bill it has deep interest for all those who have tried to follow Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for the independence of the nation. I welcome this measure and I only want to say that in this work we should work in the spirit in which Gandhiji worked and died.

The suggestion was made and views were expressed here that Birla House, where the Father of the Nation was assassinated, should be acquired by legal means. I would like to submit that I am not in favour of that step because Gandhiji never liked such things. And I feel that if Government worked in the spirit in which Gandhiji worked, what of Birla, even persons greater than Birla would come and prostrate before the Government and make a present of the spot. I do not know whether this House or hon. Members here who are dedicated to the principles of Gandhiji have made a request to the great host of Gandhiji in this connection. I think that has not been done. I humbly believe that no legal or coercive measures should be taken in order to acquire the spot where Gandhiji was assassinated. We want to perpetuate the memory of Gandhiji not only in books and classics, but also in the spirit in which he worked and died and if we do that, Birlaji himself will come forward and

make a present of the spot to the nation.

With these words I welcome this Bill and hope that this will come to be a memorial not only for India but for the whole world.

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to move:

"That the question be now put."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Buragohain: I do not wish to take more than a couple of minutes of the time of the House. Some suggestions have been made here regarding the memorial, but I feel that these relate to the work of the Memorial Designs Committee and not to that of the Committee that present Bill seeks to set up. I can assure the hon. Members that all these suggestions that were made with regard to the form of the memorial will be placed before the Memorial Designs Committee when they meet next time and I hope they will be considered by them.

With regard to the other suggestion regarding acquiring the place in Birla House, I do not think I can helpfully say anything at the moment beyond saying that the views expressed here by hon. Members will be borne in mind by Government.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

SCHEDULED AREAS (ASSIMILATION OF LAWS) BILL

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Rajagopalachari): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to assimilate certain laws in force in the scheduled areas to the laws in force in the districts of Darrang and Lakhimpur of the State of Assam, be taken into consideration."

I may explain that this is a very necessary administrative change that has to be made and...

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, this Bill was not one of the items listed this morning by the hon. Speaker for disposal before one o'clock on Saturday.

Shri Rajagopalachari: I will explain the position. This is an absolutely uncontroversial thing and it is already there on the Order Paper as item No. 5. I thought that hon. Members would give some twenty minutes for this Bill because there are certain areas in Assam which have not been included in the scheduled areas and they would therefore have to be provided for and the laws in force therein would have to be changed. The legislature of Assam has already changed them, and to the extent of concurrent and Parliamentary legislations we have to make the change.

Dr. Deshmukh: We do not question the urgency of it, nor the fact that it is not complicated and could be pushed through without much time. But what I wanted to bring to your notice is that the Speaker had decided this morning to apply a sort of a guillotine at one o'clock on Saturday and so he enumerated the list of business that should be put through and I am afraid this Bill was not mentioned at that time by the Speaker.

Shri Rajagopalachari: If this interferes with any other business of the House I do not intervene. But I assumed that instead of the resolution which has now been postponed this urgent measure could be taken up and passed. Of course, I leave it to you to decide.

Shri Chaliha (Assam): I think the Speaker did mention this Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The position is like this. There are three resolutions on the Order Paper. One of them was in the name of Shri Santhanam and that, he said, he was not pressing for the acceptance of the House now. There were then two other resolutions. One of them was that of the Finance Minister and I understand that he has agreed to postpone that resolution, thus making way to Shri Rajagopalachari to move this Bill. I do not think the Finance Minister is moving his resolution to-day.

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): I was thinking of moving it tomorrow because I find copies of the notification were available to Members only this morning.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: And so, the time that would otherwise have been taken up by the resolution of the Finance Minister is now proposed to be utilised for this Bill of the Home Minister. Apparently the hon. Member who hails from Assam is deeply interested in this measure and would like it to be passed today.

As regards the other items which may have to be taken up tomorrow, whatever alterations have to be made, will be made by the Speaker.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): We have no objection to this Bill being taken up now. But my point is, Mr. Mahtab's resolution also is very important and that will take some time, perhaps the whole of today. And so when the guillotine is applied on Saturday, we would not have had any satisfactory discussion of many matters.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Finance Minister's resolution was to have been taken up today and in its place the Bill moved by the Home Minister is being taken up. And whether if the Finance Minister's resolution is taken up tomorrow it will interfere with some other matter, it is for the Speaker to decide.

Shri Sidhva: We do not want to reopen these matters tomorrow. My point is Shri Mahtab's resolution could go on till tomorrow. This Bill may be deferred till tomorrow. Mr. Deshmukh's resolution will not take more than a few minutes. I do not think it is controversial.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Nor is this Bill likely to take much time. There are no amendments.

Shri Rajagopalachari: With your permission, Sir, I shall try to even reduce the time I had intended to take. There are three areas described in the Schedule to the Bill. In those areas, certain laws have been in force but by reason of the President's order by which these areas do not fall in the scheduled tribe areas, we have to provide laws for them and the local Legislature has provided the laws of Darrang and Lakhimpur. We have to provide that so far as the concurrent and Parliamentary legislation is concerned also, the laws that are in force in Darrang and Lakhimpur shall apply to this area. This is the only provision that has been provided for in this Bill plus a few difficulty-clauses that during the transitional period no suit or trial shall find any difficulty in disposal and if there is any unexpected difficulty in the application of law, it will be open to have the old law continued to that extent.

With these words I ask the House to take up the Bill for consideration.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to assimilate certain laws in force in the scheduled areas to the laws in force

in the districts of Darrang and Lakhimpur of the State of Assam, be taken into consideration."

Shri Chaliha: I welcome this Bill because it is a long-felt want. During the British time these areas were taken out of the ordinary administration and ruled autocratically. We had established an All-Assam Excluded Areas Association. We tried to get out of these regulations so that we may come to the ordinary administration of the country. The agitation has been going on for the last 20 years. It was in the fitness of things that this House should give them democratic laws and we welcome this. I find that clause 3 has been put very well and it has provided that in case of certain difficulty, the old laws will continue for the next 12 months and not more. That is good because there may be some executive action held up otherwise. In clause 4 the time has been limited to 12 months which is also a welcome feature otherwise there may be a tendency among local officials to continue them as long as possible. In both ways these provisions are well drafted. These areas, *viz*, Balipara Frontier Tract, Sadia Frontier Tract and Tirap Frontier Tract, which are inhabited by the civil population, under the Government of India Act 1935, were excluded from the normal administration. Some of these areas, from ancient times were under the Rajas there and were inhabited by very advanced people. Once I went in 1915 there and I was requested by the headmaster of the school to inspect it. When I was inspecting it the Political Officer came and asked him why I was allowed to come there. Then the poor man felt very much depressed and he came and informed me about it. That was the sort of administration then, and even now our own Indian Officers are not very much removed from that frame of mind. Therefore it is in the fitness of things that these areas should be brought under the normal laws of the state and I congratulate the Home Minister for doing the justice to them. These places will now get the advantage of elections and the ordinary laws of the State. I welcome the motion.

Shri J. N. Hazarika (Assam): I also welcome the Bill and this is a most important measure. There are about 75,000 people in these areas and we are now giving them civil rights. They were politically governed and their relations in matters of administration were not like that in the other areas of the State. According to the voters' list these areas comprise 22,811 voters. Of these about 5,581

are non-tribes. That means 17,230 voters are tribal voters. This has been already expedited and they have been enfranchised. Therefore, it is just proper to bring these areas under the civil administration. Till now we used to see a few officials and tribal labourers here and there in these areas and very few people thought of their development, educationally, politically or economically. It was for a long time governed by the Government of India and the Assam Government had nothing to do with that and these people were excluded from the rest of the country and we had to take special permission from the authorities concerned to go to those areas and to work for them there. This was one of the great difficulties due to which our country more or less got some disadvantages for social welfare. Under the new Constitution these areas are in Part B tribal areas. Now Part B areas have been brought under civil administration and they have not been transferred to the autonomous tribal areas. I do not know how it would have been wise to make their areas "scheduled areas" instead of bringing them under civil administration. There is no provision in the Constitution for the creation of "Scheduled Areas" in the State of Assam; and so there is no other alternative but to bring the whole of this area under the civil administration. It is said that the laws by which certain tribes are governed will not be applicable to such scheduled tribes. These scheduled tribes are specified in Item 2 of Part I—Assam, of the schedule to the Constitution (Schedule Tribes) Order, 1950. These are hill tribes though they are living in the plains—some of them. Now the scheduled tribes who have been enumerated in Item 2 of the said Order, are the Abors, Akas, Apatanis, Deflas, Galongs, Khamptis, Mishmis, Any Naga tribes, Singphos, Mombas, and Sherdukpens. There are the Miris who are mentioned in Item 3 of the Order. The Miris are a tribe which was originally connected with the Abors. Gradually they came to the plains and settled down there and have become one of the plain tribes. But there are hill Miris also who observe the same customs and habits, broadly speaking. There is a provision that any other tribe specified by the Government may be governed by regulation laws. If not in the case of the other tribes, at least in the case of the hill Miris, the old law should be made applicable.

I am very glad to inform the House that the Government of Assam has brought many other autonomous areas to the level of their civil administration. Certain areas have been brought from

[Shri J. N. Hazarika]

the Khasi hills which are autonomous. Also certain portions have been brought to the Sibsagar and Nowgong districts, from the Mikir hills which were also an autonomous area. Thus the civil administration of Assam is being widened. I welcome this Bill and I hope the House will pass it.

Shri Rajagopalachari: I have nothing to add, in view of the fact that two Members from Assam have welcomed the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to assimilate certain laws in force in the scheduled areas to the laws in force in the districts of Darrang and Lakhimpur of the State of Assam, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

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

Shri Rajagopalachari: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE. CONTINUANCE FOR FURTHER ONE YEAR OF POWERS OF PARLIAMENT TO MAKE LAWS WITH RESPECT TO (i) TRADE AND COMMERCE WITHIN STATE AND (ii) PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF GOODS—Concl'd.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): This resolution is both important and urgent. It is important because there are many items regarding the continuance of control on imported articles and it is urgent because the resolution of the 12th August last will expire. The urgency being there, if the House does not meet before then, the President would have had to issue an Ordinance which we all would like to avoid. Therefore from that point of view I welcome this resolution.

I also approve of the idea to continue the control for another year, because those who know do feel that the commodities mentioned here are scarce and their prices fluctuate to a great extent. They are essential commodities like bicycles and their parts, infant foods like horlicks, glaxo, ostermilk, cow's milk, etc.

While I welcome this measure, as we did last time, for many reasons, I feel that it is not being properly implemented as far as the prices are concerned, which is the main object of the resolution. It is interesting to note that an advisory board for fixing prices has been introduced. I feel that the consumers' interests are not properly looked after. The controls are mainly meant to safeguard the interests of the consumers but in the board the other interests are represented in a preponderating number. There may be a representative of the consumers, who may really not represent their interests. I have seen the working of this advisory board. While I do not want to say anything, I would like the hon. Minister to bear in mind that he should put in one or two more representatives of the consumers' interests. I do not want the other interests to be larger in number on the board: there may be an equal number. In fact I would go to the length of saying that the number of consumers' representatives should exceed the representation of other interests. I do not want to be understood as saying that interested parties who have financial interests should be unrepresented in any way. I do feel that it should be 50:50, because control is meant to check prices in the interest of the consumers.

I have also felt that while we have given this power to State Governments to administer this law, some of the State Governments are not vigilant. When a law is made here the Central Government should have some overriding authority or supervisory control over the States. Unfortunately it is not so.

The resolution provides that the price lists should be exhibited at each shop but this is not being followed. I can give a number of examples in Bombay. I have complained about it and the Bombay Government also have no expeditious and proper supervising authority. They merely issue orders but nobody sees that they are followed. While we are ready to support the Government in such measures which are meant to safeguard the consumers' interests, they must also see that their orders are strictly followed. Otherwise the controls get a bad name in the nation as a whole and people blame Government for no fault of theirs. Therefore I would go to the length of saying that although we have no power, the State Governments should be asked to send periodical statements regarding the staff employed by them to implement the orders and how generally the controls are administered. The Central Government has a duty in this

matter. Merely passing a law and leaving it to the State Governments will not do. The State Governments have controls of their own and they do not want to increase their staff on grounds of economy. Therefore good laws merely remain on the statute book without being operated successfully.

I would like the hon. Minister to consider adding one more item, ovaltine, to the list of infant foods mentioned. Ovaltine is used by both children and adults. There is a heavy demand and the prices fluctuate abnormally. Doctors prescribe ovaltine for sick and convalescent people. Sometimes it is available in the market but sometimes it goes underground and the prices are put up abnormally. So there may be control on the price of ovaltine as well. That was the only item that I wanted to add.

As I have already stated, the administration of this Act is defective in the sense that the State Governments do not apply their minds to its enforcement in the manner they ought to. This question should be considered by the Minister. I have made some suggestions here in this matter but if he finds they are not acceptable then he himself should find out a way so as to put the administration of this measure on a sounder footing in the interest of the consumers. The interests of importers are at present predominant in the Prices Advisory Board, and, naturally, there was a tussle, I understand, in regard to fixation of prices, between the interested parties and the consumers' representatives and that ultimately the interested parties' views prevailed. I do not know what the composition of the advisory board is just now, but whatever it be it should be remembered that the consumers' interests should be safeguarded and therefore their representatives should be present in the board in greater numbers.

The prices of certain commodities covered by this measure have not yet been brought down and we may have to continue these powers for a greater period. — The present resolution seeks power for one year. I welcome this resolution, but would ask Government to institute a little more check on distribution control, price control, etc. of certain articles so as to bring them to the requirements of the people. At present these measures are there on paper but I request the Minister that he will take steps to enforce these laws and also that next year when he comes — if prices do not go down or more imports do not come in on account of the international situation — he should give

the House a survey of the action taken to show that the law is properly administered by the State Governments. He should not come and tell us, "We have discharged our duty, it is the State Governments that have not functioned." It will not be a party to such a measure, if it has to be there, in which Parliament has no voice. Exercise the control either yourself or let the State Governments do it, but please see that it is done properly. This is a Central legislation for control measures and as such Parliament is responsible for ensuring that these powers are exercised. People come to us and ask as to what has been done in the matter. Therefore, Government cannot get over the responsibility by saying that the State Governments implement it. I say the Central Government should supervise in this matter. There can be no *via media* in the matter.

Shri A. C. Guha (West Bengal): I support this resolution of the hon. Minister, but in doing so I have many misgivings also as to the results so far achieved. It has been stated here that the Act has achieved a "reasonable degree of success". This language leaves sufficient scope for doubt. I do not know what the hon. Minister means by "reasonable degree of success". It is also stated here that the prices had been revised on several occasions. It would have been better if he had given us information as to how and on how many occasions, from August 1950 up to this time, prices of these controlled articles have varied, how the prices have increased even after the passing of the measure, and by what percentage prices have risen, and in what articles.

The main purpose of this measure, as stated by the hon. Minister, is to serve the interests of consumers so that they may get these articles at reasonable prices. However, from our own experience we can say that many of these articles are very often not available in the open market. For example, horlicks, I know, was not available some months ago at the controlled price. The House is aware of the position as regards soda-ash, caustic soda and sulphur. Recently there has been an international conference for the allocation of raw materials but our representative at that conference has not been very successful in achieving anything substantial. It is stated in this resolution that some of these articles are subject to international allocation and that there is therefore all the more necessity for Government to take control of them; but unless we can get better allocation from the international body, I do not know how the aim of

[Shri A. C. Guha]

the Act passed under this resolution would be successful.

As regards the Prices Advisory Board, here too the hon. Minister could have given us more details about how it is composed, how often it has met,—it is stated here that it first met on 31st October, 1950 and I do not know if that was also the last—what articles were considered, how the prices were revised on several occasions. All these things the House should have been allowed to know.

As the previous speaker said regarding enforcement of the Act itself, it is a curious thing that we pass certain measures here and then delegate the working of those measures to State Governments. In such cases this Government is almost taking a sort of vicarious responsibility and we do not know what would be the achievement flowing from these measures. So, I hope the Central Government should have an overriding authority to supervise the action taken by the State Governments in enforcing this legislation.

Shri R. Velayudhan (Travancore-Cochin): I remember about nine months ago, when the hon. Minister moved a similar resolution in this House, I also had a chance of speaking on it. In fact, I was one of those who welcome this new innovation because at that time in the country as a whole there was great difficulty on account of the rise in prices and the increase in the cost of living. When the House approved that resolution with great enthusiasm, ovation and joy, an Act based on that resolution was passed later on, but with no significant purpose or result at all. When that Bill was brought before the House, we found it had omitted almost all the essential articles which the common man, or even the middle or lower middle classes, use in their daily life. Therefore I say the purpose of that resolution was nullified. Only articles of use as industrial raw materials—apart from minor things like milk powder etc.—were included, articles which were mostly used by the capitalists and the upper classes. This is a significant fact that this House as well as the country will have to remember. We pass legislation here with loud voices and thunderous cheers but without any significance at all to the community whom we represent in this House. The note now circulated by the hon. Minister says that it has partially succeeded or completely succeeded in maintaining the price structure of the country. I do not know whether the hon. Minister is aware, or whether he has

gone through the cost of living index numbers published by his own Ministry and compared them with the statistics published by his own Ministry for last year. The prices of the commodities today have increased more than 50 per cent. since this legislation was passed last year. The hon. the Finance Minister also took credit for that Act in his Budget speech, but that Act was meant only for the capitalists of the country, and not for the common man or the lower middle classes of the country. Therefore, this resolution is intended only for those classes which have become and which are becoming richer at the expense of the poor man in the country.

Now, what was the working of this Act? Has Government given any careful consideration about its working by the States. They said that the States have looked after it and have worked it satisfactorily. But has the hon. Minister scrutinised the results of the working of this Act in the States? Even the commodities that are included in the list cannot be got in the market and can only be got in the black-market. The hon. Minister, the House as well as the people know it very well. Yet he has now the temerity to say that the States have worked this Act to his complete satisfaction.

Of course the bane of India today is not that this Parliament as it is constituted today is not able to do its duty, but that the States have gone far ahead and all sorts of mismanagement are now seen, which has resulted in chaos and confusion in the country. Let me tell you, Sir, that the passing of this resolution and the continuance of the same Act, without inclusion of essential commodities which the common man consumes, will not serve any useful purpose. I know the Government is anxious to bring a resolution like this because they have to satisfy the capitalists, the great industrialists and the great employers of this country. I know this Government represents those interests more than the British Government represented them in the same House before. It is my firm conviction that if we had a Government which represented the true interests of the people and the aspirations of the people, if a Socialist Government had been in power, a thing like this would not have happened, a resolution like this would not have been brought forward with a view to deceive this House, to deceive the people and to deceive the State. What we are lacking today is that we have not got a basic political ideology to work. I do not want to blame any

individual; I do not find fault with any party; I do not find fault with the Government for that, because unless and until there is a change in the philosophy and in our ideology, no Government can succeed, no party can succeed and the Government will go to the dogs, if not today, to-morrow. Let me say if there was a Government which.....

Shri Chaliha (Assam): Is the expression 'go to the dogs' parliamentary?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member could have said go to the wall.

Shri R. Velayudhan: I am prepared to go to war if this Government continues as it is today.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I said "go to the wall".

Shri R. Velayudhan: I am sorry. Let us be sincere when we pass this resolution. Let us search our hearts and ask whether this resolution will in any way help the common man in the country who is suffering by the rising spiral of prices. I know the hon. Mr. Mahtab knows it as well or as much as I do, because I know he has got the interests of the common man at heart. But the party to which he belongs has got the capitalist ideology behind it. This is the bane and the ill under which we are suffering today. Therefore instead of bringing forward a resolution like this, extending the Act, let him bring a Bill which will consist of all the commodities which are essential to the common man in the country and then not only this House, but the whole of India will welcome it and the whole country will change within six months' time.

The greatest trouble of the country is not the trouble of conflict in political ideologies; it is not the trouble arising because of the warring spirit of one party, or the so-called 'violent situation' that was referred to by the hon. the Prime Minister the other day. The main trouble is the rise in the price structure in the country and the difficulties of the common man to meet the expenditure. How many people are dying in the country today? What right have you to continue as a Government when millions are dying daily in the country?

An Hon. Member: Millions?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member means metaphorically.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi (Madhya Pradesh) rose—

Shri R. Velayudhan: I am not going to yield to anybody in this matter, because I know I represent the interests

of the common man; I express here the interests of the common man in the country. How many people are dying in the country because of lack of purchasing power? Even an hon. Minister the other day admitted that people are dying not because of lack of food, but because they have not got the purchasing power. I know in South India in my State in Madras.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): The hon. Member means suffering and dying, not actually dead.

Shri R. Velayudhan: They are dying because of starvation. There have been starvation deaths in the country, but Government have not accepted them.

Shri Sidhva: The hon. Member may say what he likes; but he should not put into the mouths of Ministers what they have not said.

Shri R. Velayudhan: I know Ministers will never die. But the common man has not got enough purchasing power today. Has the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry thought for a while before bringing forward this resolution? Has he got any desire to bring a measure before this House by which the price structure can go down? If he does that I would welcome that measure: I will be very grateful to him and I will certainly think that he is going to change the country within six months' time. The whole psychological atmosphere in the country will at once change. But he will not be able to bring a Bill like that, because he represents the capitalist interests of the country. You have got iron and steel here. What has the common man to do with it, except that he has to purchase a knife to cut his vegetables?

This is a matter which concerns a vital problem of the country. You cannot solve it by these white-washing methods, by passing a resolution and sending it to the States. You will have to change your ideology and unless and until that is done you are not going to succeed.

Shri Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras): So far as the extension of the period of the resolution is concerned I do not think there is any difference of opinion. In view of the present conditions of supply and also the difficulties in getting the supply distributed properly, I think the power has to vest in the Government with regard to these matters. But the complaint that is made is with reference to two or three other matters concerned. The first objection that was raised the other day was that sufficient information was not made

[Shri Ramalingam Chettiar]

available to Parliament as regards the action that has been taken and also as regards the administration of the Act. A note has been circulated by the hon. Minister now and it gives some information. But I would not say that it is a very exhaustive note or anything like that. In this connection I would suggest that such important matters ought to have been placed before the Standing Committees before they are brought to Parliament itself. The Standing Committees are there not merely to consider the proposals for legislation but also to look to the administration of the legislation that has been undertaken and also with reference to extensions like this. I may say that during the last one year or so the Standing Committee has not been taken into the confidence of the Minister or the Department to the same extent it was before the present Minister came into office. In the old days, in most matters the Ministers used to think that they should consult the Advisory Committees and also to give them information as to what is being done and what was proposed to be done. But now no such thing is done. Meetings are held very rarely, and even at those meetings very little information is given as regards either the administrative matters or the other matters which come before Parliament.

Having said that, I think the defects that have been pointed out in the country with reference to the administration of this measure are, in the first place, about the paucity of goods that have been brought under the measure and also with reference to delay in some cases in bringing them under this Act. It may be explained with reference to the latter defect that Government cannot take action immediately and that they will have to wait for some time, see how the prices go and how the supply position is, and then only take action. Anyway, in the present state of affairs where it is so difficult to get imported articles and also having regard to the very high rise in the scale of prices all over the world, I think it will be good if the Government is on the watch and is able to bring under control such of the goods as may require to be so brought.

But the greater objection that has been felt in the country is with regard to distribution. Things are got. Naturally the prices outside are very high. On account of the scarcity of the goods and also the high prices ruling outside, the black market seems to be the order of the day in almost all goods. It may be said that distribution is in the hands of the State Governments. No

doubt it is so. But with regard to all essential goods—all these goods and also other goods—distribution is the bottle-neck. That has been in the way of people getting goods properly, in time and at reasonable prices. It has been said that the co-operative agency may be utilised for the purpose of distribution. That has been a pious wish expressed in almost every document issued by the Government of India or the State Governments. But, as a matter of practice, the co-operative societies are not utilised to the same extent to which they can be utilised, with the result that the black market continues in all these and it goes on merrily. If only the Government of India will issue instructions that on account of the complaint received with reference to private agency the co-operative agency may be utilised to a greater extent for the distribution of these articles, things will be better.

The third objection that is raised is with reference to the prices. I mean there has been some plea that in the interests of producers the prices may be fixed in such a way that they are helped and not the consumer. Even when the matter came up before the House in connection, I think, with the Tariff (Amendment) Bill, the question was raised that the consumers' interests were not taken into consideration to the same extent as those of the producers, even though the producers are not in a position to supply all the goods that are wanted. And the position has not changed very much. This objection was specially raised with reference to bicycles and motor parts and things like that. But, as I said, things do not seem to have changed very much. No doubt some items are being produced now which were not produced in the old days. But the other goods in respect of which there are high duties and high prices are not available. So, in fixing the prices consumers' interests should always be taken as the dominating factor and prices ought to be fixed accordingly.

The Price Fixing Board is said to be in charge, but I do not know what exactly is done by that board. I was once a member of the board and I attended one or two meetings. But nothing really was done. One or two papers were circulated stating what action the Government had taken, and we simply dispersed after that. I do not know whether things have changed since and whether these price fixing boards have really anything to do in fixing the prices and all that. I hope that they will be consulted and that more of the business people who are dealing with these goods are taken

into those committees and asked to say what can be done with reference to these things.

So these are the matters which will have to be gone into by the Ministry in the administration of this law. Otherwise I welcome this and I fear that in the present circumstances of the international as well as the internal situation this law will have to continue in force for some more time. That cannot be avoided. I only hope that in the administration the Ministry will take proper care of the interests of the consumers and also bring into the list as many goods as are necessary and fix the prices so as to suit the interests of the consumers.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras): The resolution before the House, considered on its merits, should not provoke any serious opposition, nor can this occasion be made the subject of any detailed discussion of the economic policy of Government. The note that was circulated to Members of this House by the hon. Minister has indicated that Government have not set before themselves a very wide or big task but have used these powers to a comparatively narrow extent only where it was considered absolutely necessary. So far as the difficulties that Government have to face in this respect, which evokes criticism from the Members of this House and from the public, are concerned, I must say that my sympathies happen to be with Government, because it is an extraordinarily difficult thing to fix prices in regard to commodities which are in short supply and also ensure that the prices are observed by all the people who are interested in the trade. Fixing a price, if it is an economic price, one that would suit the consumer, often would act in such a manner that it would drive the goods into the black market. And that happens practically in all cases.

12 Noon

The Central administration, placed as it is, cannot hope to follow the movement of goods to its logical end, namely, to the consumers' hands, when normal economic factors do not operate. So, however vigilant the Government might be, whatever might be the staff at its disposal, all that the Government can do is to check the rise in prices in these commodities which are in short supply up to a particular point in the course of its distribution and not beyond that. I therefore, think that the Ministry has wisely chosen those commodities where their influence can be exerted, particularly commodities which are needed as raw

materials for industry and have chosen to concentrate their attention thereon. To that extent, I think, they have been successful but in the region of commodities which are in the nature of consumer goods, the inherent nature of the difficulties and the wide divergence in the methods of distribution, make it impossible for Government to exercise any adequate check on prices. There is no use my hon. friend Mr. Sidhva saying, "include ovaltine today" and somebody saying, "include some other commodity". The number of commodities that have got to be included are so many. Mr. Sidhva also says: Why do you not follow the Estimates Committee's recommendations and reduce the staff of the Government? Well, the inclusion of more commodities means more staff and at every stage there is difficulty in regard to obtaining the finance for necessary staff. Suggestions we can make and quite a lot of them and as I say the whole thing is backed by good intentions but all the good suggestions on these matters cannot be implemented. Therefore in a matter of control, we have an economy which is a mixed economy and we have a Constitution where the Provincial Governments have a certain amount of autonomy in their own field, and all that the Central Government could do is only to see that in the commodities which are necessary for the economy of the country so far as industry and other similar things are concerned, whether they could probably establish a pool, whether they could effectively control the incoming of goods imported or control the prices that industries charge. But in the vast list of commodities that are used by the consumers, it is a very difficult thing and if Mr. Sidhva has the experience of people who have the experience of trying to control prices even to the extent that they can and find ultimately it ends in a failure, we have only to sympathize with Government and hope for better times. Therefore, I think that any serious charge laid at the doors of the Ministry in this regard, unless it is substantiated by facts in relation to any particular industry or any particular commodity, need not be taken very seriously. But that does not mean that the administration cannot be improved. I have no doubt that the hon. Minister would be the first to admit that at every stage the administration is capable of being improved and at all times the room for improvement is there and I have no doubt that he will accept that position, but what has to be done really is largely in the Provincial field, in the State field where the States administration will have to deal with this matter.

[Shri T. T. Krishnamachari]

I can tell my hon. friend, Mr. Sidhva about one commodity which is put in this list, namely, horlicks which Mr. Guha mentioned. What happened is that horlicks is more or less a commodity under monopolist control and it is imported by one firm into India and I believe the I.C.I. are agents here. *(Interruption)* They agree to a particular price and the quantity that they import is limited but it happens that you can increase the quantity if you import it from New Zealand, from Australia or other parts and if you import it from those parts the cost will go up. It will not be Rs. 3-9-0 a bottle; it might be Rs. four and that would make a difficult thing to have one price. Actually, I know, six or seven months back, people were importing from other countries and the cost was considerably higher than Rs. 3-9-0 which was the price fixed by Government. So we are in a sort of a quandary. If you fix the price the monopolists give you, that means you are shutting off imports of commodities from other sources and if you allow the commodities to be imported by all kinds of people, the prices will have to go up and so a compromise has to be made somewhere. I agree with Mr. Guha that the commodity is in short supply. The alternative is for the Government to raise the prices and in every commodity, this difficulty crops up; the source of supply, the cost of transport, differing freight charges all come in if you get from different sources and a uniform price becomes impossible. There is not much use blaming the Government, so long as world conditions are what they are and the other alternative is for us to limit our demand of such consumer goods as are manufactured in other countries and where supplies are short.

In regard to the application of these controls, so far as locally manufactured commodities are concerned, I think it is very necessary because the contour of trade is constantly changing. Take for instance, an article like Soda ash; some portion of our supply is being manufactured by local factories and this House had recently sanctioned a measure of protection for this industry but all of a sudden it happened that the protection was not necessary because the prices charged by importers rose and the Government has to make up its mind to fix a higher price, because our needs are greater than we could produce and importers cannot import unless a higher price was given and Government had to make changes even in regard to local prices. The

necessity for empowering the Government with powers of this nature, so that they could act quickly has to be realised by people because of the changes in the economic condition of the world and the frequent changes in the cost of production in regard to imported articles, which have their effect, whether you want it or not, on the price of the locally produced article. Therefore, I think with all its imperfections, we cannot but arm the Government with this power and leave it to them and to the administration's good sense to do what they can for the people as best as they could.

There is one aspect of this matter on which I would like to place stress and I know it will not be very popular from the point of view of many hon. Members of this House. My hon. friend, the Mover of this resolution mentioned that about 234 people have been put under preventive detention in respect of the working of controls envisaged by this resolution. I am not one of those who sympathize with anybody, no matter what community or colour or class they belong, if they go off the rails and flout the Government and the law. I think they ought to be punished, punished heavily but I cannot for a moment look upon with equanimity on any class of people whom it is possible to bring to a court of law being put under preventive detention. I have heard it said in this House before: "Put a black marketeer in prison under Preventive Detention Act". People in this House without understanding why a preventive detention law has to be framed merely point out that it is an easy way of punishing somebody who is a disagreeable person. I think that is a wrong attitude particularly when in this House, several people have protested against arming the Government with more powers by the amendment of article 19(2) of the Constitution. I want that their conscience should not be so elastic as to be able to take a different view when Government acts in regard to black marketeers in one way but view differently when they act in regard to people who hold political opinions divergent from the views of the party in power. The preventive detention provisions in the Constitution, if I understand it aright, have been put in only for one purpose, where the Government cannot bring out all the evidence that it has against an individual who has committed a crime and put it before the court for the reason that the disclosure of that evidence would greatly strengthen the forces that are working against Government in this country. There is some justification for using the preventive detention provi-

sions of the Constitution and the Preventive Detention Act in such cases but in no other case is it justifiable to use any short cuts. Therefore, much as people in this House who are perhaps socialist-minded feel that black marketers ought to be put under detention and the preventive detention law should be used I would suggest to my hon. friend and to his colleagues of the Treasury Benches that while the black marketers should be punished heavily; they should be tried in a court of law; evidence should be adduced and the publicity that will attach to their misdeeds will be useful deterrent so far as the public is concerned rather than by the use of the Preventive Detention Act by which they are put in prison without trial and perhaps a mention is made in a newspaper and occasionally the hon. Minister says here: "We have put in 234 persons all over India under the preventive detention for black marketing offences."

Shri B. Das (Orissa): Let us have both: preventive detention and prosecutions.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I think in regard to any offence committed in respect of any Act that may be passed by virtue of a resolution of this nature, arming the Government with greater powers, it should not be impossible for the State Governments to prosecute the offending people, and get them sentenced very heavily, and if necessary, to make an example of them, to broadcast the proceedings in regard to those trials, so that it may deter other people, rather than use a provision intended for a totally different purpose, that is, where the Government finds itself unable or unwise to disclose the entire lot of evidence that they have against a particular person, who is acting in an unsocial manner. That is the only point I wanted to make in this connection. I have no doubt that my hon. friend the Minister will appreciate this point of view and he and his colleagues on the Treasury Benches will instruct the State Governments not to use the Preventive Detention Act except where it is absolutely necessary, where they can get no evidence whatsoever. Wherever they have evidence, they must bring to trial the persons who offend against the laws which have been passed because of this resolution and not use short-cuts however easy they might be. After all, it must be understood that Governments would like to use short-cuts if it is possible. My hon. friends who have times out of number opposed Government proposals to arm them with greater powers do so on the ground that the temptation to use short-cuts is always there. I would rather that the Government of this

country seeks to remove that temptation from the State Governments so that they can bring these persons to trial and get them convicted rather than use short-cuts. That is the only submission I would like to make while entirely supporting the resolution before the House.

Shri Iyyanni (Travancore-Cochin): While I have not the slightest objection to extend the period that is to be granted to the Minister for enforcing the law passed by the House, I would like to bring to the notice of this House one matter, which is rather painful to me and to our country, and that is, that the Minister has not done full justice in regard to the question of price of rubber.

The House will kindly remember that the largest quantity of rubber that is produced in India comes from Travancore-Cochin. The price fixed was only Rs. 90-8-0 when the world market price was more than Rs. 250. That has continued for a very long time in spite of our deputations to the Minister. After a few months, the price was increased to Rs. 122-8-0 and subsequently, I understand that it has been raised to Rs. 128-8-0. The House will also remember that this is one of the materials that has been brought under the Supply and Prices of Goods Act. I can understand if the price of raw rubber is small when compared to the market price in the world, if an equal kind of control is exercised with regard to rubber-manufactured articles here. Two firms who are manufacturing articles of rubber are: The Firestone Co. and Dunlops. I understand that most of the shareholders of these two firms are foreigners. They are selling their manufactured goods at the world market price. The rubber that is purchased by them in India is used for the manufacture of motor tyres. It is strange that they are not brought under the Schedule to this Act, whereas cycle tyres have been brought in. A major portion of the rubber that is purchased by these companies, is used for the manufacture of articles which are being sold at the world market prices. Is it fair, I ask? It has been brought to the notice of the Minister; but the Minister has not chosen to bring that into the Schedule. When there is short supply of an article, there would be a little bit of black marketing and things of that kind as such cannot possibly be prevented by any Government for that matter, unless the Government is very strict and takes very strong and stringent action against black marketers. In these days, owing probably to the fact that Government has also to depend upon the richer classes or the industrial magnates, it

[Shri Iyyunni]

is also winking or shutting their eyes to some of the misdeeds that are being done by the industrial magnates. What I beg to submit to this House is that at least the motor tyres that are produced in India out of rubber that is purchased at a low price here, may be brought under control, and the prices of those articles fixed.

With regard to the administration of the law, we have heard from all sides complaints not of a minor nature, but of a very serious nature. I do hope that proper attention will be paid to see that such of the articles prices of which are fixed, are made available to the consumers at that price.

Shri Hussain Imam (Bihar): May I say that while the spirit of the resolution is unexceptionable, the working of the powers of the Government is anything but satisfactory. The fact that you have shifted the burden of the administration to the shoulders of the States, without giving them any help in the shape of monetary gains, has made it like a step-child. The States have all the powers; but scarcely have they ever used them. The test of the pudding consists in eating it. The fact that you have made rules and regulations is not enough. What we want is that the articles should be available to the consumers at controlled prices and in sufficient quantities. The whole difficulty is that the Commerce and Industry Ministry frames the finest rules and regulations and makes it so difficult and almost impossible for ordinary persons to get the articles in time at the controlled rates. The option is either to wait for the article to be available in God's own good time, at the controlled price or if you are in need of the article urgently, to go to the black market. Things move very very slowly. The real cure for our troubles does not lie in framing rules and regulations. Either we must start manufacturing most of the articles used in India or start importing them in larger quantities. I quite see the fact that there are certain things which are in short supply. Many of the articles are in short supply on account of the policy of the Commerce Ministry which has always been pennywise and pound foolish. I can recount any number of instances. Sir, you well know that in the matter of our trade with Pakistan in jute, they were anxious and were offering us at the rate of Rs. 30 per maund. We refused it. Today, we are purchasing for Rs. 105. And a number of other things have also happened. The question of sugar was discussed which was taken up because it was

offered at a cheap rate in June but Government would not buy it then, and when they decided to buy it, the prices had gone up.

I personally feel that in the matter of essential raw materials, the policy of the Government should be to allow open general licence to the consumers only. These intermediaries come into the trade only for cornering purposes and all these difficulties which result finally end in greater burdens on the consumers. He is the person who finally pays through his nose. In the administration of the whole matter, we find that Government have no settled policy of its own. It is always experimenting. It is always a case of trial and error. Are we to go on like this? Are we never to become an accomplished and finished Government? How long are we going to remain beginners? Are we never to get qualified and become a Government which knows its job? If we cannot handle the job, let us throw it up and say that this thing which the Government has found it impossible to handle should be left to private trade. If you do not leave it to the private trade, then control it well. If you cannot control it well, then leave it to the private trade. One of these two courses must be adopted. The present policy of the Government according to which one day a thing is allowed to be obtained freely, and then it is restricted partly and later it may be that it becomes completely restricted, that is to say, its import is absolutely stopped is something which will do the country no good. Let the Government have direct contact between the foreign market and the users as for instances in materials like soda ash, tanning materials etc. which are required by the industries. Why should not the industries have a co-operative organisation and import these things at certain prices and also sell them at stipulated prices? Should we not force the industries to be able to stand on their own legs? Should not this spoon-feeding stop? You go on buying things at higher and higher prices and the prices of the finished products also go on increasing. Take for instance this textile industry of ours. That has never been able to get its cotton in a centralised way, just as you had in the case of jute, though even in that case, they forced the price up by means of some individual action. I think we must have some plan, that Government should plan and plan well after good thought and this spoon-feeding must stop. Let the industry buy its materials in the open market and sell the finished products also just as they like. And we will import from outside such quantities as are required to correct

the internal position. I feel that is the way to force the industries to stand on their own legs. These controls are not really effective. For instance, look at the long queues at the cloth shops. Most of the persons standing there, even though they look like consumers, they are not, as they generally buy the cloth from these shops and then sell it on to the black-marketer. Such things are bound to happen in a huge country like ours. And this kind of tinkering at the problem will not help. You have to tackle it at the root and that consists of making the industries work in a co-operative manner, and have purchase organisations of their own and also a sales organisation of their own. Unless you do that, you will not remedy the present evil. You ask these powers for one year. What happens afterwards? Will the world situation cool down by then?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: It can be taken only for one year.

Shri Hussain Imam: That is what I say. That is exactly my complaint. You have to give up this hand to mouth existence. You have found it necessary to bring in article 249(2). But why have these yearly extensions? The whole trouble arises because you are not having any settled policy and you do not look sufficiently ahead. Trade and commerce is not a thing in which the Government should dabble, and if Government does intervene, then it must do so with determination and with a full understanding and knowledge. In this matter of trade it is difficult to discriminate or decide properly. A man may come and tell you that such and such a thing must be imported. And he may be a bear who wants to bring down prices and thus make tons of money. Another may ask you to stop all imports of a particular thing. He may be a bull and if you stop the imports, he may make tons of money. And so the thing is very difficult. And the very fact that you have these powers only for one year makes the position secure for the black-marketer, for he can corner things and be sure of getting a good price at the end of one year. Therefore, I say the Government should have a consistent and long-term policy and not depend on this hand to mouth method.

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, the question be now put.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have called Dr. Deshmukh.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): Though many speeches have been made, I do not think the attention of

the House has been drawn to the fact that we are doing something here which is not ordinary. The procedure laid down in article 249 of the Constitution is an extraordinary procedure and it is a procedure for an emergency. Here we are dealing with certain provisions which have existed for one year and the hon. Minister wants them, I mean these provisions, to be extended for another year. Well, it is pertinent to ask whether this period of one year is sufficient for the purpose for which these powers are asked? Or will these provisions be extended year after year and in a way become more or less permanent on the statute book? That is one thing which the Government must ask itself and let us have an answer. I feel that as things are, we require an extension not for one year, but may be for five years and even then it may not be possible to dispense with these powers. I think it would not be consistent with the provisions of the Constitution to grant an extension, *ipso facto*, without being satisfied that the temporary nature of the enactment would be borne in mind and there will be an end to the exercise of these extraordinary powers at the end of a certain definite period.

Coming to the merits of the law, it seems to me that nobody can have any quarrel because everyone wants that the prices should be controlled and that the consumer should not be cheated in the way in which he has been for so many years; but to what extent these provisions have been effective is a pertinent question to which we have had only a 'hazy' answer. I do not think any hon. Member of this House can feel satisfied that price control has at any time worked so effectively as to give the consumers any relief they want. From the way in which hon. Members have expressed their dissatisfaction at the way in which these powers have been conferred and executed, I think there is room for improvement. There is also the complaint that although the Price Advisory Board has been constituted, only one meeting had been held in October 1950 and those Members who were associated with it do not feel satisfied that they have done anything effective. Nor are they quite pleased with the extent to which their suggestions have had any salutary effect.

I would point out that in para. 4 of this note, that the hon. Minister has given us, are mentioned many methods of control like Control on price, Control on movement or distribution, limitation of the quantity that may be sold on any one occasion etc. I would like to know whether these various methods

[Dr. Deshmukh]

of control are operating in the alternative i.e., in the way in which they have been given here or whether one commodity or any of the commodities are subjected to more than one method of control. For example, if we look at cycle tyres, they are mentioned under two heads but that is not the case with regard to other articles. I would like to know whether these methods of control are operating in the alternative or whether more than one method of control are exercised on any of these articles and whether it is the intention of Government to enlarge these controls or whether they wish to leave out certain articles. If they wish to increase, what are the articles they are likely to add. As everybody knows, the prices in spite of these laws and what the States or the Central Government wish to do, are going up and every day we find certain amount of increase of prices of the various goods which are imported into the country. So much so, that the margin of profit which the traders make must be enormous. Unfortunately the Government of India is totally unaware of the margin of profit not only of the small commodities but even of goods sold and bought in large bulks. I have been asking questions about this and every time they say they have not the information. I was glad to hear from the Deputy Minister that some effort is being made to ascertain prices at which goods are purchased and prices at which they are sold but so far as these articles are concerned, I would like to know to what extent Government can inform us how the consumers' interests are protected. It is very good to say in a general way that on the whole it is working satisfactorily but can they give us any data from which it can be calculated as to the way in which these controls are working and what prices the consumers are charged, how much of profit the trader is making and to what extent the controls are set at naught etc.? That would be something to go upon definitely. General statements cannot help either us or the Government.

There is one point which my friend Mr. Chettiar has made viz., with regard to the co-operative methods of distribution. There are many of these articles which could be ideal articles for distribution through the co-operative societies. I think both the hon. Ministers are firmly convinced that co-operation is one ideal which we must strenuously strive to achieve. If that is so, I think a double purpose would be served. Not only the co-operative societies will be helped but probably the consumers also will not be cheated as hitherto. I

hope in the course of the next year a larger effort would be made to see that as many of these articles as are suitable for being distributed through the co-operative societies are so distributed and also if necessary a larger number of other manufactured articles are added to it, so as to give greater experience to the co-operative societies. It would be a great and beneficial experiment by which the consumers will be in a position to obtain articles at a lower price.

I would also like to know what has happened to the anti-hoarding and profiteering Ordinance. If you want that these laws should be properly exercised and given effect to there should be some enactment against hoarding and profiteering. There used to be such an Ordinance during the war and I do not know why the Government was in such great hurry to take it away. I want to know whether it is contemplated that it is to be substituted by some other enactment. If we have any serious intention that the prices do not go above a certain level, if we want to see that the prices fixed are the prices at which the goods are sold and if we want also that monthly stock returns are given correctly, it is necessary to have some law against hoarding and profiteering.

On the whole I do not feel that this matter of extension of the period is quite an easy matter, because it is after all an invasion upon the State administration. Under article 249 we are depriving the States of certain powers which are legitimately theirs. Government will have to consider whether next year will see the end of this encroachment on the State list and whether it would not be necessary any further. If it is necessary what will take its place would be extension of the period by a fresh resolution.

Prof. S. L. Saksena (Uttar Pradesh)
rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There was already a motion that the question be put. The hon. Member was not in his seat then.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: I beg to move:

"That the question be now put."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): I must express my regret that I have not been able to

place as much material in the hands of hon. Members as I intended to do. I could have done it but for the fluctuating programme of Parliament. Otherwise the resolution could have come up for discussion after I had placed all the materials regarding the working of the controls. Hon. Members would have then been generally satisfied that the control under this law is more or less satisfactory.

I would now give the House the price fluctuations since 15th June 1950 to the 1st of April 1951 to show how this law has been able to keep the prices generally under control:

| Bicycles | 15th June 1950 | 1st April 1951 |
|----------|----------------|----------------|
| Hercules | Rs. 280 | Rs. 265 |
| Hind | 148 | 142 |

These were the prices which they came down to after various stages.

Similarly with regard to tyres. On the 15th June 1950 it was Rs. 4-8 and today after passing through various stages the price is Rs. six. With regard to electric bulbs the price was Rs. 2-4 on the 15th June 1950 and after several stages the price today is Rs. 1-4. The House will remember that the price of cycle tyres was increased in February on account of certain conditions. This question has been many a time discussed in the House and there was also a half-an-hour discussion on this particular subject.

Although some commodities have been brought under control, the prices of some commodities have not been controlled for various reasons in consultation with the members of the advisory board. It is not that there is no member representing the consumers.

Shri Sidhva: We do not say there is no representative—we say their number is not sufficient.

Shri Mahtab: To refresh the memory of hon. Members I can read out the names of the members and they will see that the board as it is constituted should give satisfaction generally to all. The members are: Shri Manu Subedar, Shri M. R. Masani, Shri P. D. Himatsingka, Shri Ramalingam Chettiar, Shri N. P. Sahukar, Shri Narielwala, Shri S. P. Jain, Shri Tulsidas Kilachand and Shri J. F. Sinclair.

Shri Sidhva: Only two or three representing consumers, the rest are for the interested parties.

Shri Mahtab: A point has been made as to why many meetings of the 198 PSD

board have not been called. If hon. Members would look into the proceedings of the first meeting they will see that some method was devised by the board about how to fix prices. Accordingly the prices are fixed. The formula fixes the percentage of profit which will be given to the traders after considering the landed cost and other factors. Taking into consideration the various factors as laid down in the formula we proceed to fix the prices of commodities. There are other commodities the price is Rs. six. With regard to other commodities the prices of which are fixed either by the policy of protection given to industry or by some other method. Take the case of tyres, for instance, which commodity is related to rubber. The price of rubber has been fixed in consultation with the Tariff Board. The point was raised as to why prices of motor car tyres and cycle tyres were not controlled. I have noted this suggestion and shall look into the matter. *Prima facie* I can say there is a case for considering the question of controlling the prices of this article because it has something to do with the price of rubber the price of which has been controlled on the recommendation of the Tariff Board. Then Mr. Krishnamachari referred to soda ash. It will be very difficult for me to explain how we passed through several stages, through several kinds of difficulties, in order to fix a price for that commodity, but on the whole the recommendations of the Price Advisory Committee are being followed closely and the prices are being fixed according as they have advised us and according to the formula they have given us. As regards meetings of the Committee, whenever necessary meetings will be called. No new situation has arisen since October with regard to fixation of prices and therefore a meeting had not been called. The problem today is very complicated on account of the fact that many commodities are not available, and while prices depend on availability of commodities, because of non-availability it has been very difficult to keep the prices steady; on the other hand the world fluctuations in prices are so rapid that it is very difficult for us to fix the prices.

Another point has been made, and many Members referred to what I said, incidentally, in my opening speech. I said the administration of this price control has been left to the States. Now I do not like to take shelter under that. Whatever is happening in the States I am prepared to take the entire responsibility for that. When I approach Parliament for giving certain powers then I must take the entire responsibility for their administration. If

[Shri Mahtab]

a certain State does not do the work properly that responsibility is also mine in the sense that I have not been able to persuade that State to do the work properly. Therefore, I am prepared to take the entire responsibility. I entirely agree with Mr. Sidhva that there should be some machinery to call for reports from the State Governments so that these reports could be placed before Parliament whenever called for or that we may have some kind of supervision over the administration of the measure. We have to carry the States with us somehow and we have to see that the thing is done. Because there is no other course open to us—the Government of India cannot have a duplicate administrative machinery all over the various States to give effect to these price control orders. Necessarily they will have to depend on the State Governments in this matter. I am quite sure in my mind that all the State Governments are doing their job as best as they can. It may not be to our satisfaction, but they are doing their best and I shall take steps to call for reports from them as to how the various controls are being worked. I could have placed a general report before the House if I had more time. But I can assure the House that I shall take the earliest opportunity to acquaint the House with the progress which the States have made with regard to the administration of controls.

Shri Kamath: Cannot the State Governments be asked to submit monthly reports?

Shri Mahtab: As to whether it will be monthly or quarterly is a matter which may as well be left to us. What I say is this. I agree that Members of Parliament should be in a position to know as to how these laws are being administered in the States and no scope or loophole should be allowed to the Central Government to take shelter under the excuse that the State Governments are administering this law—therefore, the Central Government has no responsibility. I have never done that and I do not propose to do that.

I have nothing more to say. I am very glad the House has agreed to extend this time-period. The constitutional point which has been raised is a very interesting one, but I do not propose to discuss it on this occasion. I would not have referred to another point but for the eloquence which was shown by my hon. friend the new convert with his natural enthusiasm with regard to the general attitude of Government. I am very sorry to say that he has not read this resolution nor

is he acquainted with the law. The law which has been enacted under this resolution has nothing to do with common articles. Common articles come under the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act. We are now discussing commodities which have relation with industries. Therefore, that kind of general criticism probably was not necessary on this occasion. But that can be excused because it came from a new convert.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Renegade.

Shri Mahtab: I would request the House, therefore, to pass this resolution unanimously.

Shri Sidhva: In the new composition now read out by the hon. Minister will he be prepared to expand the advisory board by taking more members representing consumers?

Shri Mahtab: I am prepared to consider that.

Dr. Deshmukh: What steps are being taken to publish these prices, so that every citizen of India or as many as possible would come to know of them? Are any periodical announcements made?

Shri Mahtab: The hon. Member knows well that whenever prices are fixed it is published in the Gazette and it is published in all the papers. Apart from that there is an order under the law that shop-keepers should also exhibit the prices for various commodities.

Dr. Deshmukh: That is observed more in the breach.

Shri Mahtab: That is another matter. If the shop-keepers are not observing them, steps will be taken against them. These are the steps which are taken for publicity of the prices for various commodities.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put the question to the vote of the House.

The question is:

“Whereas this House has declared by resolution passed on the 12th August, 1950, in pursuance of clause (1) of article 249 of the Constitution, as adapted by the President under article 392 thereof and as at present in force, that it is necessary in the national interest that Parliament should for a period of one year from the 15th

August, 1950, make laws with respect to the following matters enumerated in the State List, namely:

(i) trade and commerce within the State subject to the provisions of entry 33 of List III, and,

(ii) production, supply and distribution of goods subject to the provisions of entry 33 of List III;

And whereas it is necessary in the national interest to continue in force the said resolution;

This House do resolve in pursuance of the proviso to clause (2) of the said article, that it approves the continuance in force of the said resolution for a further period of one year from the date on which it would, but for this resolution, cease to be in force."

The motion was adopted.

Shri Kamath: Has it been carried unanimously?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes, unanimously. There was no opposition.

Shri Kamath: I think you might find out if there are any abstainers.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are there any neutrals, any persons who abstained? So far as the vote is concerned I took it that it was a unanimous vote. Mr. Kamath points out that I may ask the House if there are any abstainers or neutrals. If there are any persons who are not voting either for or against the motion they may kindly stand in their seats.

As no one has stood up I declare that the resolution is carried unanimously.

MOTIONS RE. DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES ORDERS 1951 —Contd.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So far as the Delimitation Orders are concerned I will first read the list of absentees. If any of the hon. Members are present here they may move their motions. If they are not present now they will lose their chance.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): Several Members have given notice of the same motions. So it does not matter.

Shri Hussain Imam (Bihar): You may ring the bell.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Ringing the bell is done only for division. Hon-

Members who are interested in the same matter may send for them. Otherwise it may be something like the child crying "Tiger, tiger!"

UTTAR PRADESH ORDER

Shri Chandrika Ram (Bihar): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Shri Sunder Lal (Uttar Pradesh): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then I take up the list of new Members who will move the motions just now in regard to the Delimitation Orders laid on the table on 18th May 1951.

PUNJAB ORDER

Ch. Ranbir Singh (Punjab): I beg to move.

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Punjab): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Shri Sondhi (Punjab): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Master Nand Lal (Punjab): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Sardar B. S. Man (Punjab): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Sardar Ranjit Singh (P.E.P.S.U.): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Sardar Sochet Singh (P.E.P.S.U.): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

UTTAR PRADESH ORDER

Shri J. R. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Prof. S. L. Saksena (Uttar Pradesh): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

MADHYA PRADESH ORDER

Shri Jangde (Madhya Pradesh): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi (Madhya Pradesh): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Of the new Members only Dr. Tek Chank is absent, I find.

Shri Sondhi: He is busy on a Committee.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I cannot help it.

Shri Hussain Imam: You may ring the bell.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have already stated that only for division it can be done.

Shri T. N. Singh (Uttar Pradesh): I had given notice of an amendment yesterday in regard to the delimitation of constituencies and my name was read out in respect of one of them, and I had moved it. But my name does not find a place. Is it just a clerical error?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Does it relate to the first set or the second set?

Shri T. N. Singh: Second set.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mr. T. N. Singh informs me that he wishes to move the amendment which he has tabled. I will take it as moved.

Shri T. N. Singh: I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): Dr. Ambedkar said he would move in regard to the Uttar Pradesh Order at one o'clock.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have called upon hon. Members who have stated that they have tabled motions of amendments. If the notice of amendments has already been sent to the

office, then their motions here will be in order; otherwise it would not.

Dr. Deshmukh: What about Dr. Ambedkar's motions?

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): The Speaker said that if he does not present it before one o'clock, it will not be admitted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have received notice of a motion regarding the delimitation of constituencies from the Punjab signed by a number of hon. Members. I shall read out the names of hon. Members and take it that each hon. Member has moved, whoever is present.

PUNJAB ORDER

Lala Achint Ram (Punjab): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Shri Sondhi: I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Ch. Ranbir Singh: I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Sardar B. S. Man: I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Sardar Hukam Singh (Punjab): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Master Nand Lal: I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members who are absent are: Prof. Yashwant Rai and Giani G. S. Musafir.

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I suggest that we can keep the motion to be moved by Dr. Ambedkar for the afternoon. It may be extended to 6-30 P.M.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The time for moving the amendments will be extended till 6-30 P.M. today. After that, no more amendments will be allowed.

The House then adjourned till Half Past Four of the Clock.

The House re-assembled at Half Past Four of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I request hon. Members who have been absent, and who have given notice of motions re. the Delimitation of Constituencies Orders to move their motions. Unless the motions, whether by the Government or by other hon. Members are moved before the House rises this evening, they would be out of order. They cannot be moved later on.

Shri Sidhva: Dr. Ambedkar is in charge. He is not here.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall wait. We will go on with the other business. After he comes, he may move his motions. Perhaps he is drafting them. Any other non-official Member may move his motions. Shall I take it that there are none?

Dr. Deshmukh: What about making the time twelve midnight?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall call out the names.

MADHYA PRADESH ORDER

Shrimati Dixit (Madhya Pradesh): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4).

RESOLUTION RE. RAISING OF EXPORT DUTY ON CLOTH

The Minister of Finance (Shri C. D. Deshmukh): An export duty of ten per cent. *ad valorem* was imposed with effect from 1st March 1951, as the House will recall, on medium and coarse cloth.

I am sorry, Sir. I shall move the resolution, first.

I beg to move:

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), Parliament hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) No. 51-Customs, dated the 1st June, 1951, by which the export duty on cloth, medium and coarse, was raised from 10 per cent. *ad valorem* to 25 per cent. *ad valorem*, with effect from the date of the said notification."

As I explained in my Budget speech, the cloth covered by the duty was most-

ly made from Indian cotton and therefore enjoyed a price advantage and therefore, a moderate export duty was deemed justified. We decided to impose initially a low rate on account of the unfavourable reactions in the past to cloth export duty. That was first levied in 1948 and had to be withdrawn the next year. One of the criticisms during the Budget discussion was that the rate of export duty levied in the Finance Bill was on the low side and some speakers said that it was even lower than what the trade had expected. The question of the adequacy of the duty has since then been continuously under examination and we have examined various possible scales. One of the criticisms also was that the duty was imposed somewhat late. The reason for the delay in the imposition of the duty was the desire to avoid dislocation of existing contracts resulting in a heavy tax being imposed during the inter-budgetary period. We feel that at present the time is opportune for a change as price changes for textiles were made only recently and allocations of new export quotas are being made for the next export year. Various estimates of the profits made by exporters on the export of cloth have been made; some place it at 50 and some place it at 100 per cent. The latter are undoubtedly exaggerated. But, there is no doubt that a substantial profit margin can easily be earned on export of medium and coarse cloth even after payment of the present ten per cent. *ad valorem* duty. The level of prices on which we have decided to impose originally a low rate of duty continues to be maintained as the world prices remain high. That is why by notification dated 1st June 1951, the rate of export duty has been raised with effect from that date from ten per cent. *ad valorem* to 25 per cent. *ad valorem*. This enhancement is likely to yield an additional revenue of about three crores per year.

Now, side by side with the question of an export duty on coarse and medium cloth, we have considered the question of a similar duty on fine and superfine cloth. This kind of cloth is made out of imported varieties of cotton for which the world prices still continue to be high. Inasmuch as we do not enjoy any special production advantage as in the case of coarse and medium cloth for which, as I said, the prices of short staple Indian cotton afforded an advantage, it has been considered that the imposition of a duty on the export of fine and superfine cloth might adversely affect the Indian exports vis-a-vis those of other competing countries. At the same time, we have taken notice of the fact that

[Shri C. D. Deshmukh]

there is a fair margin of profit on the export of fine cloth, and in the circumstances, as an alternative to the levy of an export duty, Government have decided to deprive the trade of an alternative tariff concession, namely, the grant of a rebate on customs duty on the imported cotton contained in fine and superfine cloth exported out of India. At present, this is allowed on an *ad hoc* basis at the rate of two annas per pound of cloth, being the equivalent per weight of the import duty on raw cotton. This concession, which is not strictly justified by the draw-back rules, has been given with effect from 8th March 1950 in order to encourage the export of fine and superfine cloth of Indian manufacture. That was a part of the concession that was allowed at the time when, in order to bring down the internal prices, Government ordered a reduction in the rate of excise duty and also sought to give a definite fillip to exports. Since then, the price margins have widened so that the continuance of this advantage for the Indian exporter is considered unnecessary and it only costs the fisc over a crore of rupees. This concession was, therefore, withdrawn with effect from the 1st of June, that is, the date on which the export duty on cloth other than fine and superfine has been raised from ten per cent. *ad valorem* to 25 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Since this notification was issued, as usual, we have received telegrams and letters both of approval and of protests, and the protests have been in both directions. On the one side it is claimed that it introduces another disturbing element in the existing contracts, and therefore it is likely to prejudice our export trade. And on the other hand those who are perhaps not specially interested in the export of coarse and medium cloth have urged that a higher percentage of duty might have been levied. When we decide on the precise level of duties, we have to take into account various considerations, one of them is the existence of contracts. And no matter what date you might select, you are always up against existing contracts although we have endeavoured to choose a date which would interfere to the least possible extent with any uncompleted contract. And apart from existing contracts, there are the considerations that any export duty that might be selected should be capable of being continued for some time. In other words, it is regarded as undesirable to keep changing the level of export duties from time to time. Now, the

international situation is very uncertain, and the cotton situation in particular is also somewhat fluctuating. The forecasts of the world production of cotton seem to indicate the possibility of much more cotton being available during the next season than was the case last season. Internally also, although so far it is our intention to hold the price level, one has to take into account the vagaries of the monsoon and consider the possible effect of a short cotton crop. So, taking these and similar considerations into account, we thought that the level of export duty that we have chosen is adequate so far as the requirements of the fisc are concerned, and that it is certainly fair or more than fair to the exporter and that here is a reasonable possibility of our being able to hold this level for a long time to come during the coming year.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Resolution moved:

“In pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), Parliament hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) No. 51-Customs dated the 1st June, 1951, by which the export duty on cloth, medium and coarse, was raised from 10 per cent. *ad valorem* to 25 per cent. *ad valorem*, with effect from the date of the said notification.”

Shri Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras): I am glad that at least now the Government has found the necessity for increasing the duty and has come to this House for approval of the action they have taken in the matter. This action, however, has been very tardy. I feel that this action should have been taken by them at least a year back and this will be admitted by everybody who knows anything about this business. Not only was the action tardy, but even when they took the action, they have been so hesitant that they have now fixed a rate of increase which is so low that it is difficult for one to understand why it has been fixed so low as that. The price of the cotton that goes into the manufacture of coarse and medium cloth is fixed at Rs. 1,000 per kandy and less here in India. This is a controlled commodity. The price is controlled and the cotton has to be sold at Rs. 1,000 per kandy and less for the manufacture of these goods. The same grade of cotton fetches about Rs. 1,800—taking the lowest figures for the last few months in Pakistan—and it

costs more than Rs. 2,000 in America. That is to say, there is a difference of about 100 per cent. in the prices of cotton, that is to say, between the controlled price in India and the price ruling elsewhere.

Now, what is being done is this. The local cotton which is controlled is being purchased at the low price and cloth manufactured and that is being exported to outside countries and there this cloth competes with cloth made of cotton which has been purchased at Rs. 2,000 per kandy. That means that the difference between the two prices is pocketed by the manufacturers. And that comes to crores and crores of rupees—not a small amount—and this fact has to be taken into consideration.

I have raised this question several times here, both in the interest of the consumer and in the interest of the State's revenues. What is manufactured out of the low-price cotton is sent away for the benefit of the manufacturer and to that extent the consumer in India suffers. And he has to pay a higher price for the cloth manufactured from the imported cotton—the fine and superfine varieties and things like that. The coarse and medium cloth which is so much in demand is sent away because it is more profitable for the manufacturer to send it out than to sell it here where the price of cloth is also fixed with reference to the price of cotton obtaining here. So we are suffering for want of cloth on account of this arrangement. And as I said we suffer because all the profits go to the manufacturers who get cotton at the low price in India and who send the cloth made of it to outside countries.

This question, as I said, has been raised here several times, but somehow or other the Government was not prepared to consider the matter at all. Even last time, I believe, it was during the Budget session, I raised this issue and informed the House that this was the state of affairs, but nobody seems to have taken it up, much less the Government, and pursued the matter. I raised both these issues—the question of the difficulty felt by the consumer on account of this large export that is being allowed and also the fact that large profits were made by manufacturers in this country. Now the difference between the price at which this cloth—coarse and medium—is manufactured here and what it would fetch outside when competing with the prices elsewhere will be somewhere between 60 to 70 per cent. The price of cotton differs to the extent of 100 per cent. but only 60 to 70 per cent. of the price goes for the price of cotton

and the rest is covered by manufacturing costs. Now the profit to the extent of 60 to 70 per cent. is retained by the manufacturer and this tardy measure proposes to take 25 per cent. out of that. The argument advanced by the hon. Finance Minister today is two-fold: One is, he is not sure that the cotton prices will stay where they are. The difference at present is 100 per cent. Even supposing it goes down, to what extent it will go down? I would not suggest to him that the rate should be raised to 60 or 70 per cent. to which the rate can be raised as things stand at present. I would suggest to him to be cautious but not over-cautious to the extent of putting it at 25 per cent. when the actual difference is 60 per cent. So I would suggest that the duty may be raised to 40 per cent. at least. Taking into consideration all fluctuations that may come about in the course of the year and also considering the other circumstances, I think raising the duty to 40 per cent. will be most equitable both to the revenues of the State and also to the manufacturer and in a way, it may also help the country because probably a little more of the cloth of the coarse and medium varieties may be made available to the country. For all these reasons, I think that Government is quite wrong in fixing the rate of duty at 25 per cent. I would ask them to reconsider the matter and raise it to at least 40 per cent. and thereby earn some money for the coffers of the State and also do justice.

There is a feeling in the country that the capitalists are having their own way and the Government itself is a capitalist Government. It is things like these that give a handle to these accusations. Why should Government be so hesitant, why should they have taken so much time to raise the duty and then coming to this Parliament to raise it to 25 per cent. instead of a very much higher duty? So I would request the Government, while this notification may be approved at present, to reconsider the matter and in the course of a month at least, to raise the duty to at least 40 per cent. and thereby do justice both to the country and to the coffers of the State and meet the accusation that is justly aimed at Government and others concerned in the business that they are favouring capitalists over much.

Shri Khandubhai Desai (Bombay): I fully support the resolution that has been placed before the House by the hon. Finance Minister. While giving my support, I associate myself entirely with the remarks that have been

[Shri Kbandubhai Desai]

made by Mr. Chettiar. This is just an example of an unimaginative and hesitant policy of the Government of India. They have now come out to impose an additional duty of 15 per cent. on the export of cloth. It is just like bolting the stable after the horse has been stolen. I may just remind the House that immediately after the Korean war started nearly 60 per cent. of our good cloth manufactured from Indian cotton had been exported during the period from August 1950 to March 1951, and according to my calculation, no less than about 50 crores yards of cloth was exported during this period as far as medium and coarse count was concerned. According to my own information, the profits made on those 50 crores yards of cloth exported is anywhere between 75 to 100 per cent. on the ex-mill price. It means that the profits made on the export of that cloth alone would roughly amount to about Rs 25 crores. That is lost to the exchequer which is entitled to mop up a big slice from this profit. Some of us had occasion in the Budget debate to make reference to this factor but as usual the Finance Minister or his advisers were very hesitant. It is just reasonable that when in parity the Indian cotton prices have been fixed at a lower level, they should have understood it and there was no imagination required to know that the cloth manufactured from the Indian cotton is any day cheaper than the cloth manufactured in any other country from the cotton which was available in the foreign countries. Immediately at that very time they should have increased the duty to such an extent so as to benefit the country. This would have given them money for their coffers and that money could have been utilized to reduce or to do away with the excise duty. It is an accepted principle of modern economic thought when a particular exportable indigenous product is cheaper and is able to compete advantageously in the foreign market, the export duty obtained from that commodity would be utilized in subsidising the indigenous consumer but it has not been done. Anyway better late than never.

Now our Finance Minister feels that this raising of duty will bring to him about three crores and as far as the cloth manufactured from foreign cotton is concerned, a rebate to the extent of one crore will not be given. I am very definitely of the view that a duty even on the export of cloth manufactured from foreign cotton would have been also desirable because even in the cloth that is exported, cloth that is

manufactured from foreign cotton, though the profits are not as high but still, according to my estimate, the profits are to the extent of 30 to 40 per cent. and the price of that cloth being higher, the profits also to that extent are bound to be very much higher in terms of money.

I fully support the suggestion of Mr. Chettiar that the export duty should have been at least, even as late as today, 40 per cent. and not 25 per cent. because even today, according to my information, the profits realized on the coarse and medium cloth are from 75 to 100 per cent. on ex-mill prices.

The pögey of contract is always being raised in season and out of season but according to my information, as far as export duty is concerned, the general trade practice is that whatever the export duty may be it is paid by the importing countries because there is always in the contract that particular condition. Therefore I feel that Government would not be losing anything if they increased the duty from 25 to 40 per cent. and even if there is some loss to exporters, it will come out of the huge profits they have made during the last six months.

Incidentally I would like to mention that an export duty of higher dimensions would also relieve to an extent the anxiety felt in the country regarding the supply of cloth. It should be realised that the export duty on cloth was not levied when it should have been levied, namely last September or October. There was a race among the manufacturers and the middlemen to export with hundred per cent. profit any piece of cloth available, with the result that during the last six months, namely from September to March, the country has been practically denuded of 60 per cent. of its production and that is reflected today in the scarcity of cloth felt in the country. Thank God, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, though late, has realised the position and has staggered the export of cloth to some extent. At the same time they have also put a sort of limit to the export of cloth during the year and the hon. Minister has assured us that during the next two months cloth will be available and there will not be such scarcity. In order to create the proper psychology in the country the export duty on cloth should not be 25 but 40 per cent. In conclusion I support the action of the Finance Minister, though it is belated.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): I hope I would be forgiven if I describe the position with regard to cotton yarn and textiles as thoroughly chaotic and we have all suffered on account of these chaotic conditions. The grower has suffered on occasions the millowners have suffered and the whole burden has fallen on the consumers who have been suffering all along. It is unfortunate that our remedies are almost always belated. My friend Mr. Khandubhai Desai was correct in saying that the Government of India are trying to lock the stable after the horse is stolen. It should be quite apparent to every one that when within two or three months we have to raise the duty to such a level as to amount to 150 per cent. of the original, there must have been some error somewhere.

The two hon. Members who have spoken have experience of the trade and know what they are talking about. They were right when they said that a duty of 40 per cent. not only now but for the past year would have been quite warranted and necessary.

I wish to speak from the point of view of the cotton grower. In this field there are ample anomalies. The controlled prices of short staple cotton which we are exporting are in the neighbourhood of Rs. 600 per kandy and because we need foreign exchange badly it is necessary to export some of it to foreign countries. It has been pointed out more than once that the margin of profit is Rs. 500 per kandy. If you take the case of cotton waste there is such a demand from foreign countries that the prices range between Rs 1100 and 1300 per kandy. Under the guise of cotton waste the merchants are able to supply even the best of cotton that is available because the controlled price level is so low. In Madhya Pradesh the maximum price of Jarila cotton is Rs. 865. If cotton waste could fetch Rs. 1300 where is the harm if merchants bought good cotton at Rs. 860 and sold it at 1300 as waste so as to realise a profit of Rs. 440? Even though the hon. the Minister of Finance may quarrel with the figures of 50 or 70 crores as profits or loss of revenue, the Finance Minister will have to admit that there have been substantial profits. I do not think he can deny that. Very substantial profits have been made by the millowners on one hand and the middlemen such as the exporters on the other. Where has all this profit come from? From nobody else's pocket but that of the cotton grower. The prices paid to him are unreasonably low as compared with the prices we are prepared to pay to any foreign

country from where we can get cotton. I have been repeatedly asking questions whether any cotton is obtainable from Pakistan and every time the Commerce and Industry Minister has said that it is not possible to get it, because the prices are high. What is the difference between Pakistan cotton and our cotton? The difference is near about 300 per cent.—that is the difference between the prices fixed and controlled by the Government of India and the prices at which Pakistan cotton is being sold and is not available to us. If there is so much difference and such a big margin of profit, it is evident that the whole of the profits, both to the middlemen and the millowners, have come from the pockets of the growers. Nowhere in the world you can get cotton so cheaply as in India.

My friend was quite right in stigmatising this action as belated. If not for anything else, at least for deriving revenues for the State, the duty should have been imposed long ago. Even now the duty is unsatisfactory: it should be in the neighbourhood of 40 per cent.

I am mostly interested in the cotton growers. I do not see why the Finance Minister should be so hazy in his calculation. After all these textile exports take place from a few definite places and not from everywhere. There are the shipping figures and it would not be too much to expect Government to find out at what rates and prices these exports are being made. They could also insist upon the contracts being submitted to them. They are the persons who issue the licences and it should not be difficult to find out what the margin of profit is, that is, the difference between the purchase price and the sale price and what must be the approximate profits made by the industry as well as the middleman. It should also be possible to ascertain the date from which and up to which the profits have been made and at what rate. If that be so, it should be quite possible to ascertain what the contribution or the sacrifice of the growers has been. I hope, at any rate, at this stage the Government will ascertain as to what the cotton grower is contributing towards the profits not only of the middleman and millowner but also indirectly to the revenues of the State. After investigating this matter from that point of view it should be possible for Government to make a reasonable addition to the price offered to the growers.

I for one do not agree with the hon. Members who think that we must at

[Dr. Deshmukh]

all cost grow the utmost possible amount of food in the country. I would rather examine the growing of a crop from the point of view of the economic benefit that the country derives. Looking to the prices of food-grains in the country it is in no way unwise to encourage even cotton and jute growing, because it does bring us more foreign exchange. If for the same money you can buy more food than we can grow, I am sure it is arguable and it should appeal to hon. Members that it is not very wrong or unwise to grow crops other than food-grains and import foodgrains wherever we can get them from. From that point of view I would suggest that this investigation should be carried on and cotton and jute growing should be encouraged, because that is more profitable. If our peasantry becomes rich, that is the greatest indication of the prosperity of the nation. The prosperity of no other section is likely to help the nation more than the prosperity of the peasant and the farmer. That is the basic factor. If he prospers, if he has money, everybody else is bound to prosper because it is through him that everybody derives his wealth and prosperity. I therefore urge that the cotton-grower of India should not be treated in the way he has been treated so far and that a more sympathetic consideration should be given to his condition and to the price that he gets for the cotton grown by him.

Shri M. C. Shah (Bombay): I wholeheartedly support the resolution moved by hon. Finance Minister for raising the export duty on coarse and medium cloth from 10 per cent. to 25 per cent. I agree with the previous two speakers, Mr. Chettiar and Mr. Khandubhai, that it is a belated action. Since August last we were suggesting that the export of coarse and medium cloth should either be stopped or a heavy export duty ought to be levied on its export. But it was a cry in the wilderness. As a matter of fact, last year out of nearly 1250 million yards of cloth exported, nearly 750 million yards was coarse and medium cloth which was exported to the great disadvantage of the home consumer. As is well-known, cotton prices are controlled and as has been stated, when compared with prices outside India our prices of cotton are very much low. Of course it ought to be so under the present circumstances because the moment you want to raise the prices of cotton you will have to raise the prices of foodgrains and of other articles also, so that it will be a vicious circle. So, the control of

cotton prices is a necessity in the economic interest of the country. But when the price of cotton is controlled the cloth spun and woven from that cotton ought to be given to the home consumers. But that has not been done and the Indian consumer is made to pay very high prices for the fine and superfine cloth he is made to consume, which is spun and woven from foreign cotton costing very much higher. If fine and superfine cloth is exported in greater quantities nobody would object to it, but coarse and medium cloth is being exported and was exported to the great detriment of the country. Even when the Finance Bill was considered in the Select Committee, the Select Committee was pleased to note that export of coarse and medium cloth should, as a matter of economic importance, be prevented, but the argument was that the question of foreign exchange comes in the way and therefore some export ought to be allowed. I believe that when cotton prices are controlled in the interest of the country, coarse and medium cloth should not be allowed to be exported, and if it should be allowed, there ought to have been a heavier export duty. At the time of the Budget discussion only two months ago, it was suggested that the ten per cent. export duty was rather low and that as a matter of fact it ought to have been heavier. Any way, now it has been raised to 25 per cent. and I believe that under the present circumstances this increase is quite justified.

It has been suggested by some hon. Members that it ought to have been higher. Forty per cent. is suggested. But I would tell them that we have to take a far-sighted view of the situation. We have to consider the fact that the textile industry of India is one of the main industries of our country and in order to maintain the export trade which has been developed very recently we must also see that the export trade is not too much disturbed. The prices of cotton in foreign countries were, no doubt, very high, but since the last month and a half, cotton prices in those foreign countries have been dropping. Egyptian cotton has gone down by about 30 per cent., American cotton has also gone down and there is every possibility that with a big crop in America the prices of cotton will go down further. Also, Egypt has just taken away the 75 per cent. export duty on cotton which means that Egyptian cotton will be somewhat cheaper. Therefore, we have to bear in mind that as the prices of foreign cotton might go down, the prices of cloth spun and woven from that cotton also will go down.

We have to compete with Japan and other countries; Japan is now returning to the field. In view of these factors, if we raise the export duty to a very much higher level, then there is the danger of disturbing the export trade which we have only very recently established. Of course, I would be naturally in favour of raising the export duty. I am entirely in favour of mopping up the profits that go to the manufacturers and to the middlemen, to a very great extent—they must be allowed only their legitimate profit. So, I believe that the 25 per cent. export duty on coarse and medium cloth is today justifiable under the present circumstances.

Dr. Panjabrao spoke about cotton waste and giving of higher prices to the grower. I entirely agree that the cotton grower is in a disadvantageous position today. But that has also to be looked at from point of view of the other controlled commodities in the country. Today we have a controlled economy under which we have to control prices. We cannot afford to allow prices going high, but in fact prices are going high and though there have been promises from the Government side that prices will be brought down they have not been successful in doing so. And in order to lower the prices all round we have to control cotton prices too. I know there is a move that cotton prices should be raised. I say that if you want to keep the economy of the country undisturbed and if you want to resist the trend of rising prices, then the cotton prices also ought to be controlled. Therefore, even though it is disadvantageous to the cotton grower it is in the best interest of the country that these prices should be controlled. Otherwise the position will be that there will be too much of cotton growing done and we will be deficit in cereals to a greater extent. We are today very much deficit in cereals. We wanted to be self-sufficient by March, 1952 but today we are told that we will not be self-sufficient even within the next six years. We have to import about 40 lakh tons of foreign cereals for which we have to find foreign exchange. All these circumstances have to be taken into consideration when we levy certain duties. And so I submit that the levy of 25 per cent. in the present circumstances is quite justifiable.

Even about the cotton waste to which my friend, Dr. Panjabrao referred, let me tell him that there is an *ad valorem* duty of 50 per cent. on waste cotton. Even if it fetches a price of Rs. 1200 or 1300 a kandi—and

I am not sure that it does—there is an *ad valorem* duty of 50 per cent. on it through which Government gets an export duty of some two or three crores. At the same time, at the suggestion of some people who knew something about it, certain types of cotton waste which could be re-spun, have been banned from being exported. Only such cotton waste as cannot be used for such purpose and which will remain idle here, to be burnt away, as was done some time back, is allowed to be exported.

In conclusion, I would say that looking at the question from all points of view, looking at it from the far-sighted point of view of the industry as such, looking at it from the export trade point of view, from the point of view of establishment and strengthening of that export trade, I believe that the export duty that has been imposed now is quite justifiable. It is correct to say that we have moved in the matter very late and, as was stated by my friend, Mr. Khandubhai, we have lost some crores of rupees by allowing export of coarse and medium cloth without a higher export duty, but there is no use crying over spilt milk. We should now congratulate the Finance Minister that even at this stage he has realised the position and has moved this resolution.

I fully support the resolution that has been moved by the hon. Finance Minister.

Shri Goenka (Madras): I do not want to inflict a long speech, although the textile trade and the industry demand a long speech. It must be admitted in this connection that the textile industry has been working in a chaotic condition. I do not want to repeat what my hon. friend Shri Kandubhai Desai and others have said. The fact, however, remains that the coarse and medium counts of cloth are now manufactured from the Indian cotton which is a controlled commodity and the price of which is practically 50 per cent. of the price prevailing in other countries. Now I would like to know from the Finance Minister definitely as to what is the margin of profit between the cost of production from the Indian cotton and what is the price which this cloth fetches in foreign markets? Our information is that the margin of profit is between 75 to 100 per cent. He has not told us in his speech as to what his information is.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I said that estimates of between 50 to 100 per cent. have been made.

Shri Goenka: I would like to know what is the estimate of the Govern-

[Shri Goenka]

ment of India. Many estimates have been made by different persons; but I would like to know from the Government of India as to what their information is and even if their information is that it is 50 to 100 per cent., I would say that the proposed duty of 25 per cent. is on the low side. The information of the people who are in the trade is that it is 75 to 100 per cent.

We have had experience of the way in which the Government of India have been behaving in regard to this export trade. We had the experience of jute. The export duty was levied after a very long time and as Mr. Khandubhai said the stable was locked after the horse was stolen away. The same is the case in regard to the textiles. There is a clamour for export licences—that nobody can dispute. The industry's main attraction is now export trade and not the internal trade. It is an admitted fact. If that is so, we should prevent it. I say that we should levy a duty which will be as high as to make it attractive for the mills to manufacture goods for home consumption and the home trade and export trade should be practically at par in consideration of the mills for the purpose of manufacture. I do not want to enter into details. All that I submit is this that export trade has become the main attraction of the industry, because where there is large money there is attraction. Since this large profit is due to the controlled price of cotton, I submit that an export duty of 40 per cent., as has been suggested by other hon. Members here, should be levied by the Government of India. Even admitting that the margin of profit is only 50 per cent., suppose we levy a duty of 40 per cent., there is still a margin of 10 per cent., which is the margin they get in the matter of internal sales. I therefore feel that a duty of 40 per cent. is just and fair.

The hon. the Finance Minister said that there were complaints from the other side. There are bound to be. People who are interested in the trade are bound to complain even if you take away one per cent. out of their 100 per cent. profit. Therefore it is for the Government of India to go into facts and figures; it is for them to make enquiries into the matter and if they come to the conclusion that the profit is even as large as 50 per cent., the minimum figure which the Finance Minister himself has given, there is ample justification for the imposition of a 40 per cent. duty.

I do not want to say much, except to say that since devaluation some of us have been insisting on the Government of India to look into the export trade so far as cotton and jute are concerned and although they looked into it at a very late stage, the action they took in the matter was a halting one, which has cost this country an enormous fortune.

Shri Himatsingka (West Bengal): I support the resolution moved by my hon. friend the Finance Minister and in doing so I endorse what has been said by my hon. friend Mr. Shah from Ahmedabad. There are two aspects which you have to take into consideration. If you want to encourage export trade you have to fix the duty on a particular basis; if you want that there should be less export and more left for internal consumption, the duty should be fixed in a different way.

At the present moment it seems to me that the shortage in the country is so acute that it is impossible for the people to have medium and coarse cloth and consequently they have to pay very high prices, much higher than the controlled prices. Therefore, at least for some time to come steps should be taken to see that the exports are reduced to a minimum. I made enquiries just now and it appears to me that the prices prevailing in foreign countries vary from country to country. In Australia it is 100 per cent. higher than the Indian prices; but in Pakistan it is only about 30 per cent. higher. If you look to Burma, which used to import very large quantities from India, there is now a very large accumulation of stock that the prices have gone down considerably. Therefore, it is not correct to say that prices are ruling about 100 per cent. higher in a general way. They vary from country to country. So in the matter of fixation of the duty you have to take into account all these different factors—as to which country is importing and what goods it is importing and so on. But as I have already said there is a very big shortage in the country. Of course, as a result of higher production things are looking up. But Government should at the same time see that all the coarse and medium cloth that is produced in the country is not allowed to go out of the country. Two or three months after there may be goods available at reasonable prices and the prices in the country might come down. That is the feeling at the present moment and if the Government gives a little more push to production and does not allow cloth to go out of the country, I feel that coarse and medium cloth will be

available at reasonable prices to consumers. Therefore even though the duty is kept at 25 per cent., Government should restrict exports of coarse and medium varieties of cloth at least for some time.

So far as prices of cotton are concerned, I speak subject to correction, I think, the prices of cotton were controlled, but not of *kapas*. Therefore the mills were buying *kapas* at a higher price and converting it into cotton. Cotton was not available at controlled prices. That is how the mills have been getting supplies of cotton, by buying *kapas* which was not controlled. In any event the present position demands that Government should see to it that exports are limited to as minimum a quantity as possible having regard to their needs for foreign exchange, so that the situation in the country may improve considerably and this scarcity of cloth might be removed.

श्रीधर रनबीर सिंह: मैं इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करते हुये यह कहे बिना नहीं रह सकता कि एक दिन मेरे लायक दोस्त श्री अमोलक चन्द जी ने यह प्रश्न उठाया था कि जो लोग कपड़े के व्यापारी हैं और जो पहले एक्सपोर्ट (export) किया करते थे उन के दिल में जलन पैदा हो रही है कि उन्हें लाइसेंस (licence) नहीं दिये जाते और मिल वालों के लाइसेंस (licence) दिये जा रहे हैं। मिल वालों को व्यापारियों के होड़ में आने का कारण विदेश के अन्दर हमारा महंगा कपड़ा बिकना है। चूंकि उस के अन्दर उन्हें बहुत ज्यादा फायदा है इसलिये हर कोई आवामी उस होड़ में आना चाहता है। व्यापारी भी और मिल बोनर भी। मुझे तो जाती तौर पर इस में कोई गिला नहीं होगी अगर मिल वालों को लाइसेंस दे दिया जाये क्यों कि इस तरह एक इंटरमीडियरी (Intermediary) बल्म होता है। हम उमीन के ऊपर से इंटरमीडियरी बल्म करते हैं तो दूसरी जगहों पर भी इंटरमीडियरी बनी रहने दें। इंटरमीडियरी को रकना में कोई ठीक नहीं मानता। कोई भी सिस्टम

(system) हो इस में कितने ज्यादा इंटरमीडियरी होंगे उतनी ही ज्यादा खराबी होगी।

इस के साथ साथ में यह बात भी कहे बगैर नहीं रह सकता जिसे कि मेरे लायक दोस्त डाक्टर पंजाब राव देवामूल ने बताया कि एक तरफ तो वह आवामी है जो कपास को पैदा करता है, घुप, गरमी और सरदी को सहता है, सारी तकलीफ उठाता है, एड़ी से चोटी तक पसीना आता है, एक तरफ तो वह आवामी है जो ब्रेट में मुश्किल से कपास पैदा कर के पैसा चाहता है, दूसरी तरफ मेरे लायक दोस्त ने अभी बताया कि काटन वेस्ट (cotton waste) पर ५० परसेंट एक्सपोर्ट ड्यूटी (export duty) देकर भी लाभ में रहता है। लेकिन इस के बावजूद क्या वह इस बात से इन्कार कर सकते हैं कि जितनी कीमत कपास के पैदा करने वाले को सरकार देती है उतनी कीमत तो कम से कम हर सूत में व्यापारी काटन वेस्ट काट कर भेज कर हासिल कर लेता है तो क्या जो कपास का पैदा करने वाला है उस की कपास की कीमत काटन वेस्ट के बराबर लगाई जायेगी? क्या यही बाप की सरकार से न्याय की तबकों की जा सकती है। फिर यही नहीं, हमारे माननीय मंत्री महोदय श्री हरेकृष्ण महताब जी से घोंती का कई दफा सवाल उठाया गया। उन्होंने कई दफा हाउस में आश्वासन दिया कि घोंती की पैदावार बढ़ाई जा रही है और फलों वाली में ज्यादा पैदा हो रही है। जब फैक्टरियों (factories) को हुपम दे दिया गया है। लेकिन जब वह हाउस में बन्द रहता जब हम यहाँ आये थे तो घोंती की पैदावार में ब्लैक (black) में २९ रुपये थी। अगर आज २२ से कम करवा ३२ पये हो गई है। वह तो खराबी है कि

[श्री चौधरी रबीर सिंह]

घोती की पैदावार बढ़ाई जा रही है। मैं उन को बताना चाहता हूँ कि बाजार में घोती की कीमत बढ़ती जा रही है इस का क्या कारण है ? इस का किस तरह इन्तजाम करन है यह आप की जिम्मेवारी है।

यही हीं, मैं मँतो यह कहता हूँ कि कपड़े का जहां तक वास्ता है, आप जब सन् ४७ में ताकत में आये तब से ले कर अब तक के हालात का आप मुलाहजा कर लें, इस पर गौर करें, तो आप को मालूम होगा कि यह एक अजीब कहानी है। सन् ४७ के अन्दर कपड़े पर कन्ट्रोल (control) था। लोगों ने कहा कि हमारे कारखानों में कपड़ा सड़ रहा है, कपड़े को डी-कन्ट्रोल (decontrol) किया जाये। गवर्नमेंट ने उन की आवाज को माना और उन की आवाज के असर में आ कर डीकन्ट्रोल कर दिया। लेकिन डीकन्ट्रोल के कुछ दिन बाद ही कपड़े की कीमत जब कन्ट्रोल था उस से दुगुनी और दुगुनी से भी ज्यादा तिगुनी कीमत पर लोगों को मिलने लगी। फिर सरकार इस बात पर मजबूर हुई कि कन्ट्रोल करे और राशन (ration) करे। कन्ट्रोल जारी किया गया। लेकिन वह कन्ट्रोल पहिली कीमत पर नहीं हुआ, बल्कि उस के मुकाबले में मेरे स्थाल में कम से कम शायद २० फी सदी के करीब ज्यादा कीमत पर कन्ट्रोल हुआ। इस के बाद फिर एक ऐसा वक्त आया कि कारखाने वालों ने कहा कि कपड़ा हमारे पास बहुत फालतू है, हमारा कपड़ा सड़ रहा है, उस के बाद फिर कन्ट्रोल को ढीला किया गया, राशनिंग को हटाया गया और फिर एक तरह से कपड़ा मार्केट (market) में तर्करीबत डीकन्ट्रोल के हिसाब से बिकने लगा। लेकिन उस के बाद हम आज क्या

हालत देखते हैं ? आज फिर वही कहानी है कि कोई भी कपड़ा हो, चाहे वह कोर्स (coarse) हो चाहे फाइन (fine) हो, कपड़ा कन्ट्रोल के भाव से बाजार के अन्दर नहीं मिलता। यही नहीं, वह घोती जिस की कीमत १२ रुपये कन्ट्रोल के हिसाब से है उस का भाव आज मार्केट ने ३२ रुपया है।

दूसरी तरफ मेरे लायक दोस्त ने कहा कि कपास की कीमत इसलिये नहीं बढ़ाई जा सकती कि उस की कीमत का असर अनाज की कीमत पर पड़ेगा और फिर अनाज की कीमत बढ़ जायेगी और इस तरह कीमतों को बढ़ाने की तरफ खान होगा। मैं उन से और माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि वह बतलाये कि पाकिस्तान के अन्दर कपास की क्या कीमत है और अनाज की क्या कीमत है अगर आप की बात में जोर है तो पाकिस्तान में उस का जोर क्यों नहीं है। हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर ही इस बात का असर क्यों होता है। वहां कपास हमारे यहां से तिगुनी कीमत पर बिकती है। अनाज वहां पर हमारे यहां से आधी कीमत पर बिकता है। कई एक मेरे लायक दोस्त समझते हैं कि हर जमीन में जहां कपास पैदा की जा सकती है वहां गेहूं या धान पैदा हो सकता है। जिस जमीन में हम शार्ट स्टेपल (short staple) कपास पैदा करते हैं उस में लॉग स्टेपल (long staple) कपास पैदा नहीं हो सकती, उस के अन्दर धान पैदा नहीं हो सकता है। जिस जमीन के अन्दर धान पैदा हो सकता है उस में गेहूं पैदा नहीं होता और यह कोई जरूरी नहीं है कि जिस के अन्दर आर पैदा हो उस में दूसरी चीजें भी पैदा हों। हर एक चीज के लिये पानी की बिकवार मुश्किल चाहिये, जमीन की किस्म मुश्किल चाहिये। एक जमीन जिस में कपास पैदा करने में

ज्यादा फ़ायदा हो उस में अगर अनाज उगाया जाये तो शायद इतना फ़ायदेमन्द न रहे। तो यह जो मेरे लायक दोस्त ने कहा कि कपास की कीमत को बढ़ाने की कोई बहुत अच्छी पालिसी (policy) नहीं होगी तो मैं तो एक बात कहता हूँ। या तो आप कपड़े का इन्तज़ाम कीजिये, जिस तरह आप कंट्रोल के भाव पर कपास लेते हैं, या फिर आप कपास को भी डीकंट्रोल के भाव पर बिकने दीजिये और इस तरह अन्याय न होने दीजिये कि आज व्यापारियों की जो काटन वेस्ट है उस के बराबर भी वह कपास न बेच सकें। मेरा इतना ही निवेदन है।

मैं समझता हूँ कि २५ फ़ी सदी जो है यह कोई ज्यादा नहीं है। इस को तो मैं समझता हूँ कि १०० फ़ी सदी रख दिया जाये तो भी शायद अन्याय न हो क्योंकि पिछले साल उन्होंने करोड़ों रुपये का फ़ायदा देश से बाहर कपड़ा भेज कर हासिल किया है। दूसरा सब से अच्छा ढंग यही हो सकता है कि आप स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन (State Trading Corporation) बनाइये और यह जो झगड़ा कभी कहते हैं कि कपड़ा ज्यादा हो गया, कभी कहते हैं कम हो गया, कभी कहते हैं कंट्रोल हो, कभी कहते हैं डीकंट्रोल हो, और जो लाखों और करोड़ों रुपया लोग बनाते हैं और उस के इनकम टैक्स (income tax) के लिये इन्वेस्टीगेशन कमीशन (Investigation Commission) बनाते हैं यह सब झगड़े आप के सामने नहीं होंगे। इस से आप के यह सारे मसले हल हो जावेंगे, अगर आप स्टेट ट्रेडिंग कारपोरेशन बनावेंगे और उस से जूट (jute) और यह दूसरी चीज़ें हैं दूसरे देशों से व्यापार करेंगे।

(English translation of the above speech)

Ch. Ranbir Singh (Punjab): While supporting this resolution I cannot help referring to the point raised the other day by my learned friend Shri Amolak Chand. He observed that the cloth dealers who used to export cloth previously were feeling bitter as they were not being issued licences whereas the mill-owners were being issued the same. The reason behind the present competition between the cloth dealers and the mill-owners is to be found in the high sale prices of our cloth in the foreign markets. As the margin of profit is very wide, everybody whether he is a dealer or a mill-owner is desirous of participation in this competition. Personally I have no objection to the grant of licence to the mill-owners because that would abolish the agency of intermediaries. Consistency demands that if we want to abolish intermediaries in the sphere of land settlement, we should not allow them to remain elsewhere either. I do not consider it to be proper to let the intermediaries continue. Whatever the system, it is bound to be rendered more and more defective with the increasing number of intermediaries.

I also cannot help referring to what has been stated already by my learned friend, Dr. Punjab Rao Deshmukh. He has said that on one side there is the producer of cotton who endures all sorts of hardships of hot and cold weather and the scorching sun. He puts in the hardest labour and it is with extreme difficulty that he can produce cotton. It is only after enduring all these hardships that he wants money in exchange for the cotton that he has produced. Here is the other side of the picture which has just been placed before the House by my learned friend. He has said that trade in cotton waste is profitable even after paying 50 per cent. export duty. Despite all this, could it be denied that the prices paid to the producer by the Government are made good by the dealer by the export of cotton waste alone? Does it mean that the producer of cotton is to be paid at the rate of export prices of cotton waste? Is it the type of justice which can be expected from this Government? It does not end here. The hon. Minister Shri Harekrushna Mahtab has been faced several times with the question of the non-availability of *dhoti*. Several times he has given an assurance that a larger number of *dhotis* would be produced and that the increased production of *dhotis* would actually begin from this or that particular month. Several times he has

[Ch. Ranbir Singh]

conveyed us the information that the factories have now been issued orders to that effect. At the commencement of the present session, the sale price of *dhotis* in the country-side was Rs. 22 but since then it has gone up to Rs. 32. He is giving assurances about the increased production of *dhotis*, but, on the other side, I may tell him that the prices of *dhoti* are daily going up in the market. What is the reason? The situation has to be controlled somehow or the other and to control it is solely your responsibility.

That is not all. So far as the cloth situation is concerned, I would like you to look back and consider the developments that have taken place since you assumed power in 1947. The whole story will be found very strange indeed. In 1947 cloth was under control. People demanded its decontrol on the ground that so much cloth was lying waste in the mills. The Government conceded that demand and the effect was that cloth was decontrolled. The prices were, however, still controlled. The decontrol of supply resulted in a rise of prices, as much as two fold and even more. The Government were forced to reimpose the control and introduce rationing. This way the cloth control began to function. But this time the prices were not the same. I think they fixed prices at least 20 per cent. in excess of the original prices. Again a stage came when the mill-owners complained that a large quantity of cloth was lying useless with them and once more the control provisions were somewhat relaxed and rationing was abolished. Thereafter cloth began to be available in the market as if there was no control. What is the position today? It is the same old story. No cloth whether coarse or fine is available in the market at controlled rates. Not only that, the original price of Rs. 12 of a *dhoti* has shot up to Rs. 32.

On the other side, my learned friend is not in favour of increasing the prices of cotton on the ground that that would affect the prices of foodgrains which are sure to rise by any such action and that the prices, in general, would have an upward tendency as a result thereof. Will the hon. Minister kindly tell us what are the prices of cotton and foodgrains in Pakistan at present? If you consider that your argument has any force, why is that force lost when that argument is applied to Pakistan? In Pakistan cotton is selling at almost three times the prices in our country and foodgrains too are available at higher prices than they are on this side of the border.

Several of my hon. friends are under the impression that the land where cotton is cultivated is also capable of producing wheat or rice. The case is, however, the reverse. We cannot grow even long staple cotton on the land where short staple cotton has been grown previously; much less can rice be produced thereon. Further, the land where rice has been grown, cannot be utilized usefully for having even a crop of wheat; maybe even jawar or any other commodities are difficult to be cultivated thereon. For every commodity the extent of irrigation and the kind of soil differ. The land where cotton can be grown with profit, may not be tilled usefully for the cultivation of other types of produce. I, therefore, want to submit one thing with regard to the observation of my able friend that increase in the prices of cotton would not be a good policy to follow. Either you arrange the supply of cloth at the controlled prices at which cotton is purchased or you permit the sale of cotton also at the decontrolled prices so that this kind of disparity and injustice may be removed whereby they are not able to sell cotton at prices at which the dealers can sell even their cotton waste. This is my simple request.

I think that the 25 per cent. levy fixed by you should not be too much. I go a step further to say that even a levy of 100 per cent. cannot be called unjust. The reason is they have made a profit of crores of rupees by exporting cloth to foreign countries. This way they have harmed their own country. Another and the best way is to establish a State Trading Corporation which would put an end to all sorts of complaints heard from time to time, such as excess or otherwise of cloth and the necessity of control or decontrol. There should then be no necessity left for the appointment of Investigation Commissions to enquire into the Income-tax evasion by people who have made profits totalling to lacs of rupees. You would not have to face any such troubles then. The establishment of such a Corporation entrusted with the work of trading with foreign countries in jute and all other commodities and articles, would provide a satisfactory solution to all these issues.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I think much of the criticism that has been levelled against our not selecting a higher figure than 25 per cent. represents the residual indignation in regard to cloth export policy and to that extent really, so far as the Finance Ministry is concerned—at the moment, there is no

responsibility. Adequate answers have been given in the past and if errors have been committed they have been admitted and corrective measures have been taken.

I think one has to consider this question on its merits. Now, you consider this either on the basis that you want exports or that you do not want exports. If you do not want any exports at all, certainly it is very desirable to have a level of duty which is not 25 per cent. but 100 per cent. or 150 per cent. That will be a very effective means of ensuring that you do not collect any export duty at all. But when from the point of view of the fisc we have an export duty we have to take into account the possibility of some exports being possible and being permitted.

So far as the quantum of export is concerned, I believe, now steps have been taken which should prove effective to ensure that only a limited quantity will be exported. I believe that out of about 800 million yards, possibly about 180 or 200 million yards may be coarse and medium cloth that would be exported for the next year and it may be that there is about 50 to 70 million yards which will be exported out of the contracts which were made before June. So you would save 250 million yards. Once that quantum is fixed, then I do not think it is necessary to consider this question of export duty from the point of view of what would be a deterrent level of export duty.

In some of the criticism calculations have been made which seemed to me to be oversimplifying the problem. Mr. Goenka's calculation, for instance, was that the profit is certainly 75 per cent. He challenges me to produce figures. I am sorry I cannot produce figures for the reasons given by Mr. Himatsingka. There are prices which vary for all countries and all varieties and the profit margin is not a uniform mathematical figure and indeed there are some lines of exports, which will not bear any export duty at all and that is the reason why varieties like towels and bed-sheets and furnishing fabrics have been specifically excluded from the export duty. If one were to believe the figure of 75 per cent. profit on everything that is exported to any country whatsoever, then Mr. Goenka may as well have charged us with being partial to capitalists for having specifically excluded towels, bed-sheets and furnishing fabrics and so on. I quote this in order to prove that a great deal of thought is given to this matter before a figure is chosen. I do not claim that that figure will

prove right for the next six or eight months or any reasonably lengthy period. It may be that our estimates may be falsified, but in choosing the figure one has to take into consideration the dilemma of the exporter, that is to say the exporter has to nurse his own market and it may be that a discriminating exporter will not try to milk the market to the maximum extent. He may wish to keep his prices low in order to ensure that his goods will be in demand over a very long period. I do not like to mention names, but there are mills who follow this conservative, and yet I have no doubt in the long term, wise policy. Then there is the question of competing nations. Again I do not wish to mention names, but there are certain competitions which are growing apace and there is not a consideration of merely the cotton prices, that is to say, the assumption that everyone who manufactures cloth buys the cotton at a uniform price and then proceeds to process it at a uniform price. Certain nations have a distinct advantage in the manufacturing costs or they may have special reasons for foregoing any profit advantage and they may be prepared to sell their goods in other markets. We have to compete with such nations, so that once we satisfy ourselves by direct means we are going to put a limit on the cloth that is going to be exported. Thus one should take into consideration how one ought to be able to maintain the export markets of one's choice.

Then the next criticism made was that this action was belated. Well, in the Government field, I think, all action is somewhat belated. One has to observe trends and make sure that certain definite trends are established, before one takes action. It is not speculation. It may be in private life or even in private business; one may have a flair for things and take action and then pat oneself on the back if returns turn all right or condole with the shareholders if they turn out to be wrong. In the case of Government operations, there is this burden of anxiety as to whether a particular action which is going to be taken is right and that, as I repeat, inevitably leads to a certain amount of delay. In the case of cloth export there has also been this consideration that at one time we could only export coarse and medium cloth, that is to say, our markets were only accustomed to coarse and medium cloth and at least we were not accustomed to sell any fine or superfine cloth and that is why in the first year when we started, we congratulated ourselves that we had now started exporting cloth for the first time and that

[Shri C. D. Deshmukh]

we have exported 600 or 800 million yards. Then came the next year when things became easier for our exports and perhaps we exported a little more than we should have done. After that, we realised that certain circumstances had changed in our favour and it became possible for us to export fine and superfine cloth, although we were not quite sure that it would have a market. I believe, it began with a very low export—200 million yards. Gradually, now I think, it has gone up to 500 million yards and it may be that we shall arrive at a stage where the bulk of our export will be in fine and superfine cloth and we shall only be exporting coarse and medium cloth to the very limited extent to which we decide to export it. That is the explanation why sometimes in this field, action has to be belated.

Then reference has been made to profits made in the meanwhile by the textile mills, at least by such of them as have been in a position to export. That is the inevitable consequence of delay. The only circumstance that redeems the situation is that about half of these profits come back to us again. So we need not regard this as a total loss.

Dr. Deshmukh: Are you sure of the percentage?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: Well, I think, with most mills, it would be very difficult not to disclose the profits from export trade. So I am assuming that there will be a loss of efficiency in collection but out of this Rs. 25 crores, I should expect that in the fullness of time, we might get about Rs. ten crores back. They might not come this year.

There was some reference made to trade practices and it being unnecessary for Government to worry about the foreign buyer. Trade practices differ. I was told that so far as buyers in U.S.A. are concerned, the usual practice was for them to contract themselves out of any liability, notwithstanding the provisions of the Sale of Goods Act. On the other hand, I have communications here which seem to show that at least in some of the newer lines of exports, it is the buyer who has to bear the brunt of this export duty. I shall read out one or two telegrams that have been sent to me.

"Object strongly arbitrary unethical measures. Definitely refuse increase letters of credit. Draw attention case your authorities persisting high-handed attitude.

Feel all outstanding contracts will be cancelled. Attention situation bound cause....."

This does not read well; but that is how it is.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras): It is only a telegram.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: The phrase here is:

"unfavourable impression throughout South American market. Foresee all clients abstaining future any further purchases. Indian view lacking most elementary guarantee execution."

That is one telegram. Another one says:

"Most regrettable view definitely unacceptable since throwing prices beyond world market level. Therefore cable separately enable you lodge our official protest. Understand competitors adopting same attitude....." and so on and so forth.

I read these out in order to draw attention to a real difficulty. We may say that we might ignore what these buyers say and that they are bound to squeal, as Mr. Goenka said. Apart from any other consideration whether one should be fair to one's buyers, from a long term point of view, these resilientcies are not things to be ignored for all time. They build up an opinion; that spreads in the community and from the community it spreads to Governments and various other consequences follow. Therefore, it is worth our while to take stock of the situation and I wonder whether it is better to drive our points home and recover another three or four crores of rupees and lose perhaps various other intangible, or, may be, tangible benefits. It is very difficult to put this argument more precisely. But, the consideration is there and has to be taken into account by the Government.

The calculations, as I said, that have been made, rather assume that everything would stand still. Fortunately, a couple of Members supported me and gave an instance which I was going to give, namely, that of Egyptian cotton. The Egyptian Government have reduced the export duty as the world was not purchasing cotton from them.

Shri Khandubhai Desai: Does that apply to cloth manufactured from Indian cotton on which the duty is imposed?

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: It applies in this way. Mr. Ramalingam Chettiar said, Egyptian cotton is purchased at a certain price, that is, Rs. 2,000 and Indian cotton at Rs. 1000; therefore, the difference is Rs. 1000; then 60 per cent. of that is gone and there, 60 per cent. is the minimum profit. To the extent to which world cotton drops, this calculation must be affected. To the extent to which Indian cotton moves up, this calculation must be affected. If both start moving together, your 60 per cent. will disappear in a very short time.

The other example which I would like to give you is.....

Shri Ramalingam Chettiar: Egyptian cotton is not used for coarse and medium cloth.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: I gave an illustration of what might happen if certain cotton prices were to drop: not only Egyptian cotton, but there may be other cotton. An illustration is only an illustration. I am going to give another illustration about jute. The hon. Member may say that jute has no connection with cotton. I am only going to say that when we put this Rs. 1500 duty on, everybody said, "You are as usual being partial to capitalists; you may easily add another Rs. 1,000 to this duty". We must have said at that time, that we believe in being conservative and we do not know what the events are going to be and how the Indo-Pakistan Agreement is going to work. As it has happened—I do not say it is going to happen in cotton—jute prices have gone up to the extent that U.S.A. for a time stopped purchasing our jute goods and an agitation for a lowering of the export duty on jute has already started.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: That is because of stock-piling in other countries.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: That may be. I say that various factors do exist and that possibility has to be taken into consideration. I do not wish to overstrain this illustration.

That brings me to the next point and that is the plea that was entered so emphatically in favour of the cotton grower. If that plea were to be accepted, of course, it would mean that there should be no export duty at all. Obviously, therefore, I take it that the hon. Member naturally agrees with me that 25 per cent. is, if at all, on the high side.

Dr. Deshmukh: There is a demand to raise it to 40 per cent. You have

raised it to 25 per cent. There is a margin of 15 per cent. for increase of prices.

Shri C. D. Deshmukh: What I meant was, if the argument was that cotton prices should be raised, in that case, there is no case for an export duty. The hon. Member is in a different court altogether. I know he had certain views on currency matters. That again would seem to argue against any high export duty. I am only indicating the sort of dangers that exist in the way. All I claim is that we have made an honest attempt to select a level of duty which we think could be maintained over a long period. If we find for instance, that the trends are such that our present expectations are bettered, then, there is nothing to stop us from reconsidering the matter although we shall have lost a bit. I have no doubt that we shall be criticised again for taking belated action. We are in search of what we regard more or less as a semi-permanent basis.

With these remarks, I would commend my resolution to the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"In pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), Parliament hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Finance (Revenue Division) No. 51-Customs, dated the 1st June, 1951, by which the export duty on cloth, medium and coarse, was raised from 10 per cent. *ad valorem* to 25 per cent. *ad valorem*, with effect from the date of the said notification."

The motion was adopted.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (AMENDMENT AND TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) BILL

The Minister of Labour (Shri Jagjivan Ram): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, and to make certain temporary provisions relating to pay and allowances of certain workmen, be taken into consideration."

I do not want to make any speech. The House is aware that by a judgment of the Supreme Court, the award of the Bank Tribunal was held invalid. Then, I made an announcement in the

[Shri Jagjivan Ram]

House that we are going to make provisions so that the scales of salaries of the employees, as they prevailed on 1st April 1951, will not be disturbed, and the different allowances drawn by the employees on the 1st April may not be reduced by the employers.

[SHRIMATI DURGABAI in the Chair]

The announcement further said that efforts will be made to resolve disputes between employers and employees and for that purpose, if necessary, a tribunal will be set up. This Bill provides for these two contingencies. This occasion has been availed of also to lay down a limit to the period of conciliation to two months as it exists at present in the Industrial Disputes Act in the case of public utility services. Provision has also been made for the recovery of arrears of the pay and allowances of the employees by a simpler process. These are the two or three important provisions which are sought to be made by this short amending Bill. The House is aware of the circumstances which have led us or rather made it necessary for the Government to come forward with this short piece of legislation. I do not want to take up any more of the time of the House and I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, and to make certain temporary provisions relating to pay and allowances of certain workmen, be taken into consideration."

6 P.M.

Shri Khandubhal Desai (Bombay): I support the Bill that is placed before the House by the hon. Minister of Labour, Shri Jagjivan Ram. This is in consequence of a particular decision of the Supreme Court which upset the award given by the Banking Tribunal and it created a very dangerous situation from everybody's point of view. The Bill has been brought in with a view to improve, or I may say rectify certain inherent implications arising out of the judgment of the Supreme Court. For the first time the country has been faced with the possibility of a situation which might arise particularly in industrial disputes when awards are set aside by any higher tribunals or courts. The risk inherent in dealing with industrial disputes, concerning as they do thousands of workers on the one side and scores of industrial establishments on the other, is, I believe

by now apparent to the House. The ordinary laws, the ordinary procedure and the normal technique of litigation in the matter of industrial disputes, in my opinion, are not only undesirable but highly explosive if we seek to deal with industrial questions in the same traditional way. The very fact that the Government has to come before this House within two months after the Supreme Court's decision to enable the Government to maintain the *status quo* as it obtained as a result of the award, proves that the delay in the matter of implementing industrial arbitrations' decisions is highly dangerous. This conclusion may be borne in mind for the future also. And steps may have to be taken to avoid any future possibilities of such validating Bills coming before the House in future. It is possible to amend the pending Labour Relations Bill which will be considered by Parliament in its next session in such a way that it may not happen. In that Bill sufficient provisions should be made so that as far as possible appeals are reduced to the minimum extent, only necessary to be in accord with the Constitution.

I may just tell the House that there are some cases of industrial disputes in the States of Bihar and Bombay which were referred to the Industrial Tribunal by the respective States. But in the first place the employers challenged the very validity of those references. They went through various courts on the plea that it was *ultra-vires* of these Governments to refer these disputes to arbitration. The High Court, in both the cases, decided that it was *intra-vires* of the States and the States were entitled to refer the dispute to arbitration. Then the employers, with the advice of lawyers—they always get any advice on payment of fees—have come as far as Delhi and to the Supreme Court, in appeal against High Courts. Fortunately in one case—the one in Bombay—the Supreme Court has held that reference was legal. I do not know what may happen in the case of the Bihar appeal. The House will be surprised to know what happened in the Bihar case. The question has been referred by the Bihar Government to arbitration, that is to say, the adjudication of the Industrial Tribunal about nine or ten months back. Proceedings could not continue because an injunction was served and the Tribunal's work came to a standstill. When the decision will be reached that the matter can be referred to the Tribunal, only then will the Tribunal be seized of this question. And one does not know what time that will take.

After all the country has to make a choice. It should either follow the

law of the jungle to prevail between industry and the employees, that is to say, the law of direct action. Or they have to evolve a machinery or system which is quick, prompt and without any unnecessary legalistic techniques. If it is the other way, then I am very doubtful about the future of the whole industrial peace in the country. An opportunity has been taken in this Bill to say that conciliation proceedings should be completed within two months. This is a very healthy and salutary suggestion. But there is just one matter to which I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister of Labour. In this Bill it has been provided that in a future tribunal that may be appointed, a banking expert may be included. Well, I do not mind the inclusion of a banking expert, because I know that some of the awards that have been given by tribunals were found by both parties to be incapable of being implemented, because on the tribunal there were only judicial people who had not sufficient experience of industries. And so I say this is a healthy provision to have a banking expert on the tribunal. But along with such an expert, I suggest that there should be a person who knows the labour problems also. Unless you include such a person also, I am afraid that the decisions are likely to be not only unfavourable to the employees, but they would not create the confidence that is necessary, among the employees. And therefore I suggest that along with the expert on banking matters, a person who knows labour problems should also be included.

With these words I support this Bill. It is a small Bill and I need not expatiate long on it. I would only repeat that we should not now forget the costly lessons that we have learned as a result of this particular matter or particular judgment and in order to avoid future difficulties, bring necessary amendments in the Labour Relations Bill that is pending before Parliament.

Shri Venkataraman (Madras): In so far as this Bill seeks to validate the award of the All-India Industrial Tribunal for banks in respect of wages and allowances, I am in whole sympathy and agreement with the provisions of the Bill. You are aware that a very competent Tribunal was appointed to go into the question of wages, allowances, conditions of service etc. of the employees in the banks and that award, which after a great deal of deliberation spread over nearly a year or more, was set aside by the Supreme Court on a technical ground that one of the members of the Tribunal did not sit during certain stages of the

enquiry and ultimately signed that report after his resumption of his duties as a member of the Tribunal. It may be all right for lawyers to see the technical error in it and to say that such an award is vitiated by the absence of a member of the Tribunal but to the labourers, to the employees in the several banks, it came as a rude shock because they said that the dispute between the employees and the employers did not unfortunately relate to the question whether Mr. Chandrasekara Ayyar sat in the Tribunal or not but it related to something else viz., wages, dearness allowance and conditions of service etc. and why should the award be set aside on the question of a member sitting at the time and not sitting at another time while there is clearly no case whatsoever for setting aside the award on the merits in relation to those items in dispute. The Government have done very well indeed and I am sure they have earned the gratitude and thanks of the thousands of bank employees in coming forward to validate the award and not sticking to the technicality that the award has ceased to be valid.

The Government to-day, so far as labour administration goes, has showed itself to be very responsive to the general opinion of the bank employees in this regard and at the recent conference of the bank employers and employees, when the suggestion was mooted that Government should validate the portions of the award relating to the conditions of service, Government readily agreed and it was, I must say in fairness to the employers, the banks, accepted by them also. Therefore in so far as this Bill seeks to validate those portions of the award of the All-India Industrial Tribunal for banks, it has the united support of the employers, employees and the public in this country.

But I am rather disturbed by a subsequent provision in this Bill and that relates to the appointment of a person who is a specialist or who has experience in banking or insurance whenever there is a dispute relating to banking or insurance. To a judicial mind this will result, you will agree, in weighting the scales in favour of the employers. A specialist in banking and insurance, if he is appointed as a member of the Tribunal, will carry a certain amount of bias in favour of the employers because he would largely be drawn from that class and to that extent I am quite apprehensive that the interest of the employees will suffer. There are provisions in the Industrial Disputes Act itself which can be invoked to guard against any unreasonable decision of a single judge who has

[Shri Venkataraman]

no acquaintance either with banking or insurance or with the conditions in industry. Unfortunately that provision has not been used at all or if it has been used, it has been used so sparingly that it has not borne fruit. That is sub-section (5) of section 11 which says that with the consent of parties to the dispute, a court or a tribunal may, if it so thinks fit, appoint one or more persons as assessors to advise the court proceedings. Wherever there is any point of technicality to be cleared, wherever certain information has got to be gathered, it is quite open to the tribunal to appoint assessors, one from the employers and one from the employees to assist them in the disposal of the matter in dispute and that would have yielded the best results. During my recent visit to those countries where compulsory arbitration has been very successful, I found that almost every case in which there was an industrial dispute, parties were represented by the assessors—the employers send one representative and the employees send another—and it is a court consisting of one judge and two assessors that disposed of every matter. Now if that is resorted to, there would be absolutely no necessity for having the provision as is now contemplated under this Bill. I may also say that the employees will feel that this provision is more or less inserted to weight the scales of judgment of the court against the employees and in favour of the banks and insurance companies.

This is not a new provision. This was introduced in the Select Committee on Labour Relations Bill and there was a very bitter controversy and the motion in the Select Committee was carried by a narrow majority of one. Opinion on this matter is so divided that it would not be fair to the hon. Minister himself to rush this provision in this Bill which is now taken up just for the purpose of validating certain previous proceedings. A controversial matter ought not to be taken and rushed in this manner. Let us discuss this fully when the Labour Relations Bill is taken up, let us hear the pros and cons of having this provision at all, let us then decide whether it is proper and just that a specialist in banking and insurance should be sitting as a member of the tribunal.

I would also endorse in this connection the suggestion of my friend Mr. Khandubhal Desai that whenever a person who is considered to be a specialist in banking or insurance is appointed to sit as a member of the tribunal, another person who is well versed or experienced in labour problems shall also sit as a member of the

tribunal. Otherwise I am afraid the scales will be weighted against the employees and whether it is weighted or not, I do not care, the impression would be created which is something worse than the actual thing. In no field of judicial activity is the dictum that justice should not only be done but must appear to be done, more necessary than in industrial disputes. We are not concerned with individuals, we are not concerned with the rights of particular members but we are here concerned with the classes of society and if there we do not create a proper atmosphere, we do not have the proper confidence among the parties that justice is going to be done, the institution itself will fall. I will appeal very strongly to drop this provision or alternatively accept the other amendments which I have given that whenever a specialist in banking or insurance is appointed as a member of the tribunal, there should be another person who is well versed in labour problems and who should sit as a Member of the Tribunal.

I have only one more small matter to refer to, that is, with regard to clause 5 where the period of conciliation is limited to two months. I consider that the period of two months is too long for conciliation. In fact the Labour Minister himself has agreed that a conciliation ought not to take more than 15 days. When we are trying to change the law, why not change it for better and set the pace so that when we take up the Labour Relations Bill, we may reduce the period of conciliation to not more than two weeks. I know in the name of conciliation, proceedings are being dragged on for months and months and I am anxious that the conciliation, in order that it may be fruitful, should be as quick as possible. If a matter cannot be settled within two weeks, I am quite positive it will not be settled even in two years. The necessary frame of mind does not last longer than two or three weeks. I would appeal to the Minister to see whether he cannot reduce the period—at any rate let him at least have it in mind when we consider the provisions relating to the Labour Relations Bill.

I give my qualified support to this Bill and I urge that provision relating to appointment of the specialist be dropped for the present in a measure which is primarily intended to validate certain award and not intended to cover a wider field.

Mr. Chairman: Before Mr. Sidhva begins, I would ask him to finish his

speech by 6-25 P.M. as I want five minutes for asking Members to move their amendments.

Shri Sidhya (Madhya Pradesh): I am not going to take more than five minutes.

श्री भट्ट : सभानेत्री जी, मैं एक बुलासा पूछना चाहता हूँ। क्या आप चाहती हो कि यह सब आज साढ़े ६ बजे तक खत्म हो जायगा।

[**Shri Bhatt (Bombay):** Madam, on a point of information, do you want all this to be finished by 6-30 P.M. today?]

मिस्टर चेरमैन : यह आज ६ बजे कर २५ मिनट तक खत्म हो जायगा और अगर आवश्यकता हुई तो इस विल पर डिस्कशन (discussion) कल फिर शुरू होगा।

[**Mr. Chairman:** It will finish by 25 minutes past six in the evening today and, if necessary, discussion of this Bill will be resumed tomorrow.]

Shri Sidhya: I rise to support this Bill as it stands with all its clauses. I am really glad that the hon. Minister has brought forward this Bill in view of the unfortunate situation created by the Supreme Court by rejecting the award on some technical ground.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): Rejected by the Supreme Court ruling.

Shri Sidhya: I support particularly the appointment of a banking expert. After all we are talking of mixed economy, mixed benefits to the industrialists as well as the workers. This particular Bill is for the benefit of the workers, namely, the clerks for whom I have always had sympathy in my life. The industrial workers have their unions through which they can voice their grievances and have them redressed. The clerks have no such organisation. It is only now that they have come into prominence and I am glad that their interests are safeguarded here.

At the same time the banks are not only meant for workers but for the business classes as well. While I have every sympathy for the workers, the workers must also admit that it is in the interest of a balanced economy of the country to see that business does not suffer. After the banking award businessmen have been complaining that the banking hours on Saturdays are such that practically no business could be done after eleven o'clock. The banks open at 10-30 A.M. and after half

an hour no cheques are accepted. I put a question the other day to the Minister of Finance. This is a matter of very great importance: At present the banks suffer, the businessmen suffer, because they cannot cash their cheques until the following Monday. The Finance Minister admitted this state of affairs and said that he would take steps to see that this matter is remedied. At that time the award was not disturbed. But on the next occasion when the award had been disturbed I put another question. The Finance Minister said that now that the award had been disturbed by the Supreme Court he would see that this particular difficulty experienced by businessmen is rectified.

As is well known I have my whole-hearted sympathy for the workers, particularly this class of workers. I hope the hon. Minister will bear this point in mind and place it before the conciliation board so that with regard to business people who suffer on Saturdays sufficient provision shall be made. Probably from that point of view the hon. Minister has put in this expert on banking. I have no quarrel with Mr. Khandubhai Desai if he wants a labour expert put in. I entirely agree with him, that if one expert is there another expert can also be there. But it must not be of one class of people. Banking is not meant for one class of people only. Therefore I would request the hon. Minister to place this point of view of the business people before the board. I am supporting the working classes but I do so in the interest of every one.

Mr. Chairman: I suppose this speech may be taken as the last one on the motion. (*Hon. Members:* No, no. We want to speak) Then the debate will continue tomorrow.

MOTIONS RE. DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES ORDERS 1951

—Contd.

Mr. Chairman: I will now call those Members who did not move their motions at 4-30 p.m. in regard to the Delimitation Orders laid on the Table on the 18th May, 1951.

BOMBAY ORDER

Shri Kumbhar (Bombay): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Mr. Chairman: I will now ask new Members to move their motions on the assumption that they have already given notice.

MADRAS ORDER

Shri Alagesan (Madras): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Shri R. Subramanian (Madras): I beg to move:

(For text of the motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 4)

Shri Jhunjunwala (Bihar): I have given notice of an amendment to an amendment.

Mr. Chairman: If the hon. Member wants to move it he can, subject to the orders of the Speaker with regard to its admissibility. But is this particular amendment with regard to West Bengal?

Shri Jhunjunwala: Yes, it is.

Mr. Chairman: I am afraid the time has already lapsed and it cannot be moved.

The House then adjourned till Half Past Eight of the Clock on Friday, the 8th June, 1951.