

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

	Columns.
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	4605—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
236 P.S.D.	

(ii)

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

4929

4930

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Tuesday, 5th June, 1951

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

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DELHI CLOTH MILLS Vanaspati MANUFACTURING PRODUCTS

*4857. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Inspectors of the office of the Vegetable Oil Product Controller recently visited the Delhi Cloth Mills Vanaspati Manufacturing Works;

(b) whether they examined samples of Vanaspati manufactured there;

(c) whether it is a fact that those samples did not conform to the prescribed specifications; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken against the manufacturers?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao):

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) M/s. Delhi Cloth Mills Vanaspati Manufacturing Works were asked to show cause why they should not be prosecuted for infringement of the provisions of Vegetable Oil Products Control Order, 1947. The explanation of the factory has since been received and is under examination.

Shri Kamath: Is the hon. Minister in a position to disclose the contents of the explanation offered by them?

Shri Thirumala Rao: They said that usually they are conforming to the standards prescribed by the Govern-

ment, and that there is a slight discrepancy, and they wanted a re-examination of the samples along with their chemists.

Shri Kamath: Of which samples?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Our officers have gone there to examine whether the product is up to the required standard. They have taken three samples and sealed them. There are two more under seal. The Delhi Cloth Mills have requested that their chemists may be associated with our chemists to see how far the production is up to the standard specifications.

Shri Kamath: What is the usual procedure in examining the samples? Is the chemist of the firm or manufacturer concerned associated with the chemists of Government?

Shri Thirumala Rao: No, Sir; hitherto, there was no occasion. This manufacturing firm was known to conform to the standards generally. They have made a request and it is under consideration. Making a request is not conceding it.

Shri Kamath: When.....

Mr. Speaker: The matter is under examination. Let the chemists satisfy themselves.

Shri Kamath: One question for information, Sir, when were the three samples examined?

Shri Thirumala Rao: 8th March, 1951.

COCA-COLA

*4858. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rajpramukh of PEPSU is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Coca-Cola (India) Ltd.; and

(b) whether he has obtained the permission of Government to become the Chairman of the Board?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No permission of Government was taken when His Highness the Maharaja became Chairman; he was not then a Rajpramukh.

Shri Kamath: Has he not resigned this, Sir, after he became Rajpramukh?

Shri Gopalaswami: He has the matter under consideration. I believe he is taking steps.

Shri Kamath: Has Government under consideration or the Rajpramukh?

Mr. Speaker: Rajpramukh.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that under the Constitution a Rajpramukh cannot hold any other office of profit?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order; if it is in the Constitution, it is a matter of record. Next question.

Shri Kamath: One question for information, Sir. When did he become the Chairman of Coca-cola (India) Limited?

Shri Gopalaswami: I cannot give the date; it was certainly before he became Rajpramukh.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether the Rajpramukh is considering the matter at the instance of the Government or of his own accord?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Kaka Bhagwant Roy: Did he accept the Chairmanship of the Board last year, in May?

Shri Gopalaswami: Could not be. I have said that he accepted it before he became Rajpramukh.

SCHEME FOR CROP COMPETITION

***4859. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the scheme of crop competition is being experimented in any State?

(b) Has this scheme augmented production in any State, if so, in what State and to what extent?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao):
(a) Yes. The Crop Competitions from this year are being organised in almost all the States. In some of the States, viz., U.P., West Bengal, Travancore and Cochin and Bombay, these competitions are being held since 1949-50.

(b) Yes. A statement showing the additional production reported by the State Governments of West Bengal and Hyderabad as a result of Crop Competitions held in those States in 1949-50 and 1950-51 is placed on the Table of the House. Similar information from other State Governments is not available.

STATEMENT

The additional production obtained as a result of the implementation of crop competition schemes.

(1) West Bengal	<u>Paddy</u>	
	1949-50	1950-51
	104000 mds.	147718 mds
	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Potatoes</u>
	1949-50	1950-51
	504 mds.	2465 mds
	Not available.	
(2) Hyderabad	<u>Paddy</u>	
	152 tons	

*No potato competition was held during 1949-50.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know in what crops competitions are organised in the U.P.?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Paddy, wheat, gram, maize and potato.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: May I know whether the persons to whom prizes were awarded were generally persons who had big farms and big capital invested in the farms, or they were small cultivators?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I answered this question on the floor of the House very recently, that the gentlemen who were awarded prizes recently were middle-sized farm holders, between 30 and 50 acres of land.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: In respect of what State? I wanted to know about the U.P.

Shri Thirumala Rao: I want notice.

Shri Amolakh Chand: What was the highest produce in a particular crop which won the prize?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I do not want to depend on my memory. Very recently, I have given all these points on the floor of the House.

Shri Rudrappa: May I know whether the Central Government have launched this scheme of crop competition and if so to what area it is limited?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The Central Government has circularised all the States to organise this competition. States are the instruments through which the Central Government functions.

Shri Dwivedi: I want to know why the competition in the provinces is not tried in the Centrally Administered areas?

Shri Thirumala Rao: This year, we have been trying to extend it to other areas also. Delhi and Coorg are included among the Centrally Administered Areas for purposes of this crop competition.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether this crop competition in Travancore-Cochin was conducted directly by the Government or by private individuals?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The States are asked to conduct these things.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: As it appears from the statement, it is only in respect of paddy that there is an increased production in West Bengal. As regards other States and other crops, may I know whether there has been a general tendency to increase production on account of this competition?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I just now said that except West Bengal and Hyderabad, the other States have not provided us with the information.

SCHEMES FOR PLANT PROTECTION

*4860. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what are the important features of schemes for plant protection?

(b) In which of the States are these schemes in operation?

(c) Has any scheme of plant protection been introduced in the State of Bihar?

(d) If so, from when is it in operation?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) The important features of schemes for plant protection are the ensuring of freedom of principal food crops, pulses, vegetables and fruits from pests and diseases by spraying and dusting pesticides. Plant Protection Schemes also include plants to control the damage to crops by monkeys, wild bears, jackals and other wild animals.

(b) Plant Protection schemes are in operation in (1) Assam, (2) West Bengal, (3) Bihar, (4) Uttar Pradesh,

(5) Punjab (6) Madhya Pradesh, (7) Orissa, (8) Bombay, (9) Madras, (10) Delhi, (11) Bhopal, (12) Ajmer-Merwara, (13) Coorg, (14) Hyderabad, (15) Madhya Bharat, (16) Mysore, (17) PEPSU, and (18) Saurashtra.

(c) Yes.

(d) It is in operation since 1948-49.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know to what extent the various State Governments have been successful in combating public sentiment against killing monkeys and nilghais?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I have not got the figures here. I want notice.

Shri S. N. Das: I wanted to know the names of the States which instead of killing the monkeys have exported them to other countries.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Monkeys are found all over India: mostly in U.P., Bihar and the Punjab.

Shri S. N. Das: Which of the States have exported monkeys to other countries instead of killing them?

Shri Thirumala Rao: This question relates to destruction of pests; how does this arise? I want notice.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: May I know what is the estimate of the loss caused to crops by these wild animals, and on what basis that estimate is made?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I have not got the exact estimate of the losses here. It is mostly empirical.

Shri S. N. Das: What is the total number of wild animals killed by the various States to save the plants?

Shri Thirumala Rao: We have not taken any census of these wild animals.

Shri Iyyunni: May I know whether there is any special reason for excluding Travancore-Cochin from the operation of these schemes?

Mr. Speaker: We are going into State-wise enquiries. It is not possible to give all these figures.

Shri Iyyunni: Sir, I wanted to know if there was any special reason for excluding this State?

Shri Thirumala Rao: There is no question of excluding any State. We have asked the States to start this scheme on a fifty-fifty basis, that is to say, half the cost to be borne by the State and the other half by the Centre. If the Travancore-Cochin State Government is prepared to bear this cost, they can start the scheme.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: Is it a fact that from the North monkeys are moving now towards the South?

Shri Thirumala Rao: No, Sir. The North is found to be more congenial.

Shri S. N. Das: Is Government aware of the extent to which paddy plants in the State of Bihar are affected by leaf-spot and other diseases and are effective steps being taken to combat them?

Shri Thirumala Rao: We have to obtain the information from the State Government.

RAILWAY SCHOOL AT CHITTARANJAN

*4861. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the annual maintenance cost and the initial capital expenditure for the Railway School at Chittaranjan;

(b) the contribution of the Government of India, the West Bengal Government and of the public to that school;

(c) the number of students therein; and

(d) how are the representatives and the Chairman of the School Committee selected?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) The annual maintenance cost and the initial capital expenditure for one high and two primary schools at Chittaranjan are as under:

Annual maintenance cost	Rs.
during 1950-51	52,524
Capital expenditure	59,884

(b) (i) Contribution of the Government of West Bengal.—A grant of Rs. for the grant-in-aid received from the Government of West Bengal, all expenditure on these schools is met by the Government of India.

(ii) Contribution of the Government of West Bengal.—A grant of Rs. 5399 was received for the two Primary Schools from the Government of West Bengal in the year 1950-51. During that year no grant for the High School was received.

(iii) Contributions of the Public—Nil.

(c) 905 boys and girls in the three schools

(d) When the schools were started in January 1950, a School Committee, according to the Rules of Manage-

ment of the E.I. Railway Schools, was formed from among the staff whose wards were seeking admission as students. The Chairman of this Committee and two Guardians' representatives were nominated by the General Manager.

This Constitution has been approved by the Syndicate of the Calcutta University. A new committee, when formed, will have elected representatives of the guardians and teachers.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know if the high school has been affiliated to the Calcutta University?

Shri Santhanam: Presumably yes. The School Committee has been recognised by the Syndicate of the Calcutta University. Otherwise the question would not have arisen.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I know the reason why the guardians have not been allowed to elect their representatives on the school committee?

Shri Santhanam: In this committee they have been nominated and in the following committees they will be elected.

Maulvi Wajed Ali: What is the number of students in the high school and in the middle schools, separately?

Shri Santhanam: I do not have the detailed break-up of the number. Presumably one of them is both a high school and a middle school.

Shri A. C. Guha: Has the composition of the managing committee been approved by the Calcutta University?

Shri Santhanam: Yes, it has been approved by the syndicate of the Calcutta University.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Central Pay Commission's Pay scales are being observed in respect of the teachers in these schools?

Shri Santhanam: Yes.

LAVATORIES AND BATH ROOMS IN I AND II CLASS COMPARTMENTS

*4862. **Maulvi Wajed Ali:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether soaps and towels were being placed in lavatories and bath rooms of I and II class compartments in important Railways for the use of the upper class passengers; and

(b) if so, from when that practice has been discontinued?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) The only trains, on which soaps and towels were being provided, were the Imperial Indian Mail which used to run between Howrah and Ballard Pier and on the Deccan-Queen and the Race Specials which run between Bombay and Poona.

(b) The Indian Imperial Mail ceased running in 1941 and the practice on the other trains gradually lapsed during the period of the last war.

Maulvi Wajed Ali: May I know whether Government is considering any proposal to supply fixed towels and liquid soaps in the important mail trains between Delhi and Calcutta and Delhi and Bombay?

An Hon. Member: And Madras?

Maulvi Wajed Ali: Yes, and also in important mail trains going in other directions?

Shri Santhanam: I believe passengers of the first and second classes prefer to use their own towels. As for the supply of liquid soap, I had the cost calculated and we find that it is too costly.

Maulvi Wajed Ali: I could not hear the reply regarding liquid soap.

Mr. Speaker: He says some arrangement is being made.

Shri Santhanam: No Sir. We do not propose to make any arrangements because as I said passengers would like to use their own towels and as for liquid soap, it is too costly to be provided in these trains.

Maulvi Wajed Ali: But I think liquid soap...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let us not enter into any arguments.

Shri Chaliha: But in European trains they provide liquid soap.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Thakur Lal Singh: Is there any proposal to change the European type of commodores in the lavatories to Indian types?

Mr. Speaker: These are all arguments. We now go to the next question.

Mr. Speaker: Babu Ramnarayan Singh? Not present. Shri G. S. Guha? Shri Krishnanand Rai? Shri Ganamukhi?

An. Hon. Member: Sir. Shri Krishnanand Rai is present.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, but he was not alert and did not get up when called. He may come up at the end.

Shri Shiva Rao: May I suggest our taking questions 4866 and question 4918 together? They deal with almost the same subject.

An Hon. Member: That is not fair. Question 4918 is far away. It may not even be reached.

Mr. Speaker: I think we shall take them up separately. We now take up question No. 4866.

CENTRAL BOARD OF FORESTRY

***4866. Shri Ganamukhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a drafting committee has been set up by the Central Board of Forestry with a view to evolving a national forest policy;

(b) if so, the personnel of the Committee; and

(c) whether the views of the various State Governments have been ascertained in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) Yes.

(b) The following are the members of the Committee:

- (1) The hon. Shri K. M. Munshi, Minister for Food and Agriculture.
- (2) The hon. Shri K. B. Sahay, Minister for Forests, Bihar.
- (3) The hon. Shri M. P. Patel, Minister for Forests, Bombay.
- (4) The hon. Shri Rameshwar Agnibhoj, Minister for Forests, Madhya Pradesh.
- (5) President, Forest Research Institute and Colleges, Dehradun.
- (6) Inspector General of Forests—Secretary.

(c) The question was considered at a meeting on 8th May 1951 of the Central Board of Forestry on which the State Governments are represented and they will again be consulted when the draft is ready.

Shri Ganamukhi: What is the percentage of the forest area to the total land area?

Shri Thirumala Rao: It is variously estimated. According to the reported area it is 10 per cent of the total area and the reported and unreported areas

taken together it is about 18 per cent of the total land area.

Shri Ganamukhi: What is the least forest area that is desirable?

Mr. Speaker: Least forest area?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Sir, he wants to know the percentage of forest area that is necessary for all-round development. It is estimated at about 22 to 25 per cent.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I know whether the Planning Commission has not taken up this matter and if so, why this separate committee has been set up?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The Planning Commission is connected with plans. This committee has got to implement the schemes and work them out.

Shri Ganamukhi: Do Government propose to start an intensive campaign of afforestation in view of the deficit?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Yes.

Shri R. Velayudhan: May I know whether there was no national forest policy being pursued by Government till now and if so what is the change now that has led to the setting up of this committee?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Planning has been going on all along. This committee now does not mean that there was no policy before.

श्री भट्ट : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी बतलायेंगे कि यह कमेटी कब नियुक्त हुई थी और इसका काम कहाँ तक पहुँचा है ।

[**Shri Bhatt:** Will the hon. Minister please state when was this Committee appointed and how far it has proceeded?]

Mr. Speaker: When was the Committee appointed and how far it has proceeded?

Shri Thirumala Rao: It was appointed on the 9th May 1951 it will be in existence until its purpose is achieved.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that there is already in existence a report on the future of forests and planning therefor by a former Inspector General of Forests which was published in 1945 and if that is so, why should not the whole matter be referred to the Planning Commission as part of the over-all forest plan for India?

Shri Thirumala Rao: There is no conflict between the Planning Com-

mission and this Committee. Of course when this Committee goes into this question, it will have the report referred to by my hon. friend before it in making its final conclusions.

Mr. Speaker: The point of the question is if there is already a report submitted as late as 1945, where is the necessity of having this additional Committee?

Shri Thirumala Rao: All the States are actively associated with this. All the Ministers in the States in charge of this subject were invited and they are represented on this Board and a scheme is being evolved for all the States.

Shri Amolakh Chand: May I know whether the need for more land under forest to the tune of 33-1/3 per cent the *Vanamahotsava*, the training of rangers and foresters, and the question of prevention of erosion of land between Rajasthan and U.P. was also taken up?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The whole question is being viewed in a comprehensive measure and I am not sure of the percentage of 33-1/3 but the whole question is being reviewed.

Shri Ganamukhi: May I know if there is any arrangement for re-afforestation of forest areas which are denuded of their trees and no replanting has taken place?

Shri Thirumala Rao: In areas like Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, this problem is assuming important proportions and is being tackled.

RAISING OF QUOTA OF RATION IN MADRAS

*4867. **Shri Rathnaswamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madras Government have made a representation to the Centre to raise the over-all ration from 9 oz. to 12 ounces and also to reduce the price and if so, with what result;

(b) whether it is a fact that a high official of the Food Ministry in his recent tour of the Madras State has expressed his opinion that some of the parts of Madras State are worst affected; and

(c) what steps do Government propose to take to give relief to the affected parts of the Madras State?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) The Madras Government recently represented that they should be allowed to increase the basic over-all ration

from 9 ozs. to 12 ozs. per day and this request was based on newspaper reports about a similar intention announced by the Bihar Food Minister in the State Legislature. The newspaper report was baseless as the announcement was in regard to the restoration of the cut in the basic ration of heavy manual workers in Bihar which was authorised with effect from the 19th February 1951 by the Government of India, but which the State Government was unable to give effect to on account of the shortage of stocks. The position has been explained to the Madras Government both by the Government of India and the Government of Bihar.

No recent representation has been received from the Madras Government asking for a reduction in prices. When the modified scheme of subsidy was introduced with effect from 1st January 1951, the Madras Government in common with other States had represented against the reduction of the subsidy paid to them by the Government of India but their request could not be accepted on account of financial stringency.

(b) The report of the officer is confidential.

I may however say that scarcity conditions are prevailing in certain parts of the Madras State.

(c) The measures already taken have been explained in reply to Starred Question No. 4278 on 18th May 1951. The Government are closely watching the food situation in Madras and will take all steps found necessary from time to time.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Is it a fact that the Madras Government asked the Centre to despatch the allotted foodgrains as early as possible and if so, what steps have been taken to comply with this request?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The allotments were made from month to month and we are not keeping any arrears. We are despatching the whole allotments especially to Madras and Bihar.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Is it a fact that the food prices in certain areas of Madras are soaring and if so, what measures have been taken for checking the soaring of prices?

Shri Thirumala Rao: It is a fact that in certain areas where foodgrains have been decontrolled, prices have gone up. Government have started more than 2,000 fair price shops and their number is growing up and that is bringing down the prices.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Is there any justification in the belief that the 25 per cent. cut will be restored after August and the Government would even consider the advisability of removing the food-control altogether?

Shri Thirumala Rao: It all depends on the circumstances then. I can't give any advance information on what might happen in August or September.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know whether Government is aware that Madras is not able to give 8 ozs. of foodgrains?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I don't think it is correct.

Shri Rathnaswamy: Is there any truth in the news that the Prime Minister has requested the Chief Ministers of the various States to take up the food portfolio.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: What is the ration for manual labourers in Madras?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The something as in other places—12 ozs.

Pandit M. B. Bhargava: Is it a fact that the over-all situation in the country has improved now in the recent fortnight and if so, has Government any intention to restore the 25 per cent. cut in the ration?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I cannot say—it is a question of circumstances. The situation is somewhat reassuring than before and unless there is marked improvement with regard to the whole thing, the question of restoration of the cut cannot be considered.

Shri Kamath: Is it not a fact that at the time of the present cut in the basic ration the hope was held out by the Minister that the cut would be restored in April or thereabout and if so, is the matter at present under the active consideration of Government?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The matter is always under the consideration of Government and whenever conditions permit, they will not postpone it a day longer.

THE RAILWAYS (TRANSPORT OF GOODS) ACT

*4968: **Shri P. Basu Reddi:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the following particulars:

(i) The Sections of Railways and the goods or classes of goods in respect of which Government have issued orders under the provisions of 'The Railways (Transport of Goods) Act', directing the concerned Railway Administrations to deviate from the principle of 'first come first served' and show priority; and

(ii) The reasons for the issue of each of the said orders?

(b) Whether Government propose to rescind any of the said orders in the near future?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a)

(i) With the lapse of the Railways Transport of Goods (Amendment) Act, 1949, all the orders under that Act also lapsed on 31st March 1950.

(ii) The orders were issued in public interest to ensure speedy movement of essential traffic in priority over the less essential traffic.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri P. Basi Reddi: What are the goods that are considered essential by the Government in the matter of movement by rail?

Shri Santhanam: We have got some arrangement—not under this Act which has lapsed—but under the amendment to the Railways Act. We have issued general instructions for the preferential movement of military and operational traffic, sponsored foodgrains, coal, railway materials, movement of raw materials and products of the three basic national industries—cement, iron and steel and textiles etc.

Shri Himatsingka: Is the hon. Minister aware that the freight offered in 1950 beginning, has not yet been moved in some of the Railways?

Shri Santhanam: It all depends on the freight. If the hon. Member refers to timber, probably it is the case in certain parts.

Shri Himatsingka: Is the hon. Minister aware that timber required by railways itself is not moved at various places?

Shri Santhanam: That merely shows the impartiality of the Railways.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know if movement of foodgrains has led to congestion of transport so far as other articles are concerned?

Shri Santhanam: To some extent, yes.

QUARTERS FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN VINDHYA PRADESH.

***4868-A. Shri Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the sums of money if any, sanctioned for construction of quarters for the Government employees in Vindhya Pradesh particularly for those who had to leave their homes in Bundelkhand and take up duty at Rewa;

(b) what construction work is likely to be taken up and when is it likely to be completed;

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what arrangements do Government propose to make for the employees in Vindhya Pradesh at Rewa where the problem of accommodation is very difficult; and

(d) whether Government propose to shift some departments to Nowgong where a great number of Government buildings are lying out of use?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) Nil.

(b) No new construction has been programmed.

(c) Accommodation for employees at Rewa has been provided in the Army Lines vacated by the non-Indian States Forces units.

(d) No.

Shri Dwivedi: Is it not a fact that quite a number of quarters have been built since 1948 in other Part 'C' States? If so, why has this not been done in Vindhya Pradesh where the accommodation problem is very acute?

Shri Gopalaswami: I have no information as regards construction in other Part 'C' States and therefore I am unable to make a comparison.

Shri Dwivedi: Is it not a fact that one of the officers in Vindhya Pradesh was given a government residence irrespective of the fact that he had a private residence of his own?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. This question has been raised previously.

Shri Dwivedi: I want to know whether any steps have been taken to cancel the allotment?

Mr. Speaker: I cannot allow questions relating to individuals. He may put questions on the general policy.

Shri Dwivedi: What use do Government propose to make of the buildings and quarters at Nowgong which are lying unused at present?

Shri Gopalaswami: They are not proposed to be used for housing establishments, as any such transfer to Nowgong is considered administratively undesirable.

Shri Dwivedi: Is it a fact that it is proposed to transfer the high court of the Judicial Commissioner's court to Nowgong?

Shri Gopalaswami: I should like to have notice.

PROPOSAL OF CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY CROSSING AT SCHOOL LANE, NEW DELHI

***4869. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the heavy rains, New Delhi is practically isolated from Old Delhi for long hours as rain water blocks the traffic both at the Hardinge and Minto Road Bridges and causes great inconvenience to the people;

(b) whether a proposal was received from the local Government or New Delhi Municipality to provide a railway crossing at the end of the School Lane, with a view to connect New Delhi with Old Delhi; if so, when was this received and what action was taken on the same;

(c) what is the estimated cost of the crossing and the recurring monthly expenses; and

(d) when Government hope to finalise this proposal?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes, except that all-weather road communications exist between New Delhi and old Delhi by other routes.

(b) The matter has been under correspondence between the New Delhi Municipal Committee and the Railway Authorities for a long time. It was only in December last that the Chief Commissioner of Delhi moved in the matter and approached the Ministry of Railways through the Ministry of Health. The question whether the cost of the level crossing together with the recurring charges should be borne by the Railway Authorities or by the local Administration is under examination.

(c) The provision of a level crossing is estimated to cost Rs. 70,300. The recurring expenses would be Rs. 350 a month approximately.

(d) A decision in the matter is likely to be taken shortly.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that for more than one year this question has been hanging fire as to who should bear the cost, whether it should be the New Delhi Municipality, which is a subsidised body or the Railway authorities? Is it not a fact that on this ground that this important suggestion made by the Chief Commissioner's Advisory Council as well has not been gone into and no decision has been taken?

Shri Santhanam: The point was as to who was legally responsible to bear the cost. The New Delhi Municipality claimed that the Railway should construct it at their own cost. The matter was referred to our Solicitor General, whose opinion was that the Railway was not bound but that the Municipal Committee or the Delhi Administration should bear the cost. In the light of the Solicitor's opinion the matter is under negotiation.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the Railways propose to build a high fencing all along this line between Minto Road and Hardinge Bridge. If so, what will be the cost incurred on that?

Shri Santhanam: In fact as a result of many questions in this House we have decided to put up a fence. I am not quite sure but I think it is on behalf of the C.P.W.D.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that there are frequent accidents on the line between the Minto Road and Hardinge Bridge, as the public frequently cross the line and is it realised that if a railway crossing is provided the number of accidents will go down?

Shri Santhanam: To prevent the accidents a fencing is being put up. As for the level crossing, it is open to the Municipality to provide the money and we will put it at any time.

RAILWAY CLEARING OFFICE BUILDING

***4870. Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the building of the Railway Clearing Office situated at the junction of Queens Road and the Burn Bastion Road was set fire to by a mob in the year 1942;

(b) whether the site of this building has been lying vacant since then.

(c) whether this site belongs to Government or to Delhi Municipal Committee;

(d) why has this valuable site been allowed to remain vacant for so many years and whether Government propose to put up a building on the same and if so, what are Government's plans in this respect?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The site is on perpetual lease with the E.P. Railway Administration from the Delhi Municipal Committee.

(d) Several proposals for utilising this plot of land have been under consideration. Prior to partition it was proposed to construct an Outpatients' block for the Railway hospital but due to some special conditions in the lease agreement, the proposal had to be dropped. A proposal is now under consideration to construct a suitable building for use as a Railway Co-operative Store and a Railway Co-operative Credit Society.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Why has it taken Government nearly nine years (at least four years since this Government came into office) to take a decision in the matter? Is it realised that the site has been converted into a slum during the last three or four years?

Shri Santhanam: The hon. Member knows the temporary character of the E.P. Railway Administration. That railway administration's position had to be stabilised before we could make use of this site.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Government likely to take a decision in the matter very soon?

Shri Santhanam: I have already stated that a proposal is under consideration to construct a building for a railway cooperative store and cooperative credit society.

CONVEYANCE FOR MAILS

*4871. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the names and varieties of means of conveyance used for carrying mails both in urban and rural areas of India;

(b) the basis of appointing these means of conveyance;

(c) what are the rates of pay per month of the runners who carry mails especially in rural areas; and

(d) whether these runners are entitled to have dearness allowances and other facilities?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A list is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 19].

(c) Departmental runners, (whole-time employees), both in urban and rural areas, are on a basic scale of pay of Rs. 30-35 per month.

Extra-Departmental runners or mail carriers, (part-time employees), receive a monthly basic allowance not exceeding Rs. 30 per month.

(d) Departmental runners, like other whole-time employees of Government, are entitled to the usual dearness allowance and such other allowances and facilities as are admissible to Class IV Central Government employees stationed in that locality.

Extra-Departmental runners are granted a dearness allowance of Rs. 10 per month.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether tenders are called for giving contracts to carry mail?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This question cannot be answered unless the hon. Member states what type of service or conveyance he means.

Shri S. C. Samanta: I mean motor buses and the like.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Yes, Sir. Quotations are invited through sealed tenders and the most favourable quotations are accepted.

Shri S. C. Samanta: What is the basis of granting the contract? Is it on the basis of the minimum bidder or on any other basis?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The usual basis, namely what is most favourable to the Government.

Shri P. Basi Reddi: Is it a fact that some bus owners offer to pay money to Government for being allowed to carry mails?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is not a fact.

श्री जांगड़े : क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि एक डाकघर से दूसरे डाकघर को मेल ले जाने के लिये जो रनर्स रहते हैं वह कितना मेल ले जा सकते हैं या कितना मेल एक डाकिये को ले जाने की आज्ञा है।

[**Shri Jangde:** Will the hon. Minister please state how much mail can be

taken by the runners who are employed for carrying mail from one Post Office to another or how much mail is allowed to be carried by a postman?]

श्री राज बहादुर : एक डाकिया १५ सेर तक बज़न ले जा सकता है ।

[**Shri Raj Bahadur :** A postman can carry mail up to the extent of 15 seers.]

श्री द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि दिल्ली शहर में मोटर साइकिलों द्वारा डाक ले जाने का जो इन्तज़ाम किया गया है उसमें क्या खर्च हुआ है, और क्या दूसरे शहरों में भी ऐसा इन्तज़ाम किया गया है ?

[**Shri Dwivedi :** May I know what expenditure has been incurred in making arrangements in Delhi for carrying mail by motor-cycles and whether similar arrangements have been made in other cities, too?]

श्री राज बहादुर : दूसरे बड़े शहरों में भी इसका इन्तज़ाम है । दिल्ली शहर में इस पर जो खर्च हुआ है उसको जानने के लिये माननीय सदस्य को दूसरा प्रश्न देना होगा ।

[**Shri Raj Bahadur :** Other big cities have also got such arrangements. The hon. Member will be required to give notice of a fresh question in order to know the expenditure incurred on the same in Delhi.]

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi : What is the difference between the dearness allowance given to departmental runners and that given to extra-departmental runners?

Shri Raj Bahadur : Departmental employees are wholetime employees and as such they are governed with regard to dearness and other allowances by the Central Pay Commission's recommendations. As regards extra-departmental runners they get an allowance of Rs. 10 per month.

FOOD AGREEMENT WITH BURMA

*4872. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh :** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a five-year food agreement is shortly to be signed between India and Burma?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao) : A five-year trade agreement has been discussed between India and Burma and is to be signed shortly. Under the proposed trade agreement, Burma will make certain quantities of rice available to India each year and India would allow export to Burma of certain quantities of gunnies, ground-nut, oil, cotton yarn, iron and steel, and other commodities.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh : What quantity of rice will Burma make available to India under the proposed agreement?

Shri Thirumala Rao : Burma will supply to India 240,000 tons in 1951, of which 120,000 tons will be on a cash basis and the other 120,000 tons will be on the basis of exchange of gunnies and other commodities. From 1952 to 1955 Burma will supply each year 230,000 tons of rice on a government to government basis. In addition, we would have the advantage to buy 120,000 tons from private parties in Burma.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh : May I know, Sir, whether India will receive any quantity of rice as a result of negotiation between the hon. Mr. Munshi and the representatives of the Burmese Government?

Shri Thirumala Rao : This is the result of that negotiation.

Seth Govind Das : May I know, Sir, what was the position before this agreement was made and how far the negotiations have improved the position: what I mean to ask is what quantity India was to get from Burma previously and how much India will get now on account of these negotiations?

Shri Thirumala Rao : As I have said, from 1952 to 1955 Burma will supply us 230,000 tons of rice yearly. This year we have got 240,000 tons of rice. In addition, about 120,000 tons of rice have already been purchased from Burma.

Shri Satish Chandra : Is it a fact, Sir, that the rate at which Burma has agreed to supply rice to India is much higher than the rate locally prevailing in Burma?

Shri Thirumala Rao : I want notice of that question. Moreover, these rates are not proper subjects of discussion on the floor of the House.

Shri Challa : May I know what are the average quantities of rice supplied

by Burma in pre-partition days to India?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I have not got an exact idea of the pre-partition days, but previous to the second World War it was estimated that about 2 million tons of food-grains were coming from Burma to India.

Kaka Bhagwant Roy: What is the quantity of rice that we have purchased through our Embassy in 1950-51 and what is the quantity that we have purchased through private sources in Burma?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I don't think we have purchased any rice from private sources, but I want notice of that.

JUTE CULTIVATION IN ASSAM

***4873. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of land (in acres) which was under jute cultivation in the State of Assam in the years 1949-50 and 1950-51; and

(b) whether any increase is proposed to be made in the acreage of land under jute cultivation in the State of Assam in the current year?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) The area of land under jute cultivation in Assam in 1949-50 and 1950-51 was 258,700 acres and 292,000 acres respectively.

(b) Yes. An additional area of 100,000 acres is expected to be brought under jute in Assam during the current year 1951-52.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know what is the increased yield of jute in the year 1950-51 as a result of increase in acreage of jute cultivation?

Shri Thirumala Rao: In 1949-50 the yield was 259,000 tons and in 1950-51, 292,000 tons. The difference is the increase.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know what kind of land was brought under additional acreage in 1950-51 whether it was paddy land or fallow land?

Shri Thirumala Rao: According to the jute development plan of 1951-52 the reclaimed fallow and waste land is 31,500 acres; replacement of paddy crop land 40,000 acres; double cropping with other crops 28,000 acres. That is the programme for this year. I have not got details for last year, for which I want notice.

RAJASTHAN DESERT

***4874. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to a supplementary of my starred question No. 4038 of 11th May, 1951 and state:

(a) whether the desert area of Rajasthan contains any water tank;

(b) if so, at what depth; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to utilize that by tube-wells, etc., for irrigation purposes?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) to (c). There are no tanks on surface in the desert area of Rajasthan except a few on the Luni river and its tributaries. Their depth varies from 15 to 40 feet. They are used for irrigation purposes. Subsoil water is met in some area at a depth of 120 to 400 feet. This water cannot be used due to great depth and salinity. At other places, work of boring is receiving the active consideration of both the Governments of India and Rajasthan. The Rajasthan Underground Water Board is selecting sites for boring.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the services of *paniwala maharaj* were utilised by Government to select suitable sites for sinking wells?

Mr. Speaker: That has been answered before in this House.

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): I understand that the services of *paniwala maharaj* are being utilised, because Rajasthan has got a special claim on him.

Shri R. C. Upadhyaya: May I know the basis for the information that there is sub-soil water at a depth of 120 feet in Rajasthan?

Shri Thirumala Rao: It is supplied by the Rajasthan Government on our enquiry.

Shri R. C. Upadhyaya: Have any experiments been carried out by the Rajasthan Government?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: May I know the number of tube wells that has been sunk in the Luni river valley?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I want notice for that.

POST OFFICES IN GORAKHPUR

*4875. **Shri Sohan Lal:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Post-Offices opened till now in Gorakhpur Division (U.P.) according to the programme for having post-offices in all villages with a population of 2000 and above;

(b) how many hands have been recruited for these post offices as Post-Masters, Post-men, peons and mail-peons;

(c) what is the number of Scheduled Caste candidates in the newly recruited hands for the said posts; and

(d) whether there are some villages in which such post-offices are still to be opened, if so, how many?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 237.

(b) Extra Departmental Postmasters—237.
Postmen—18.
Mail Peons—14.
Extra Departmental Delivery Agents—75.

(c) Extra Departmental Branch Post-Master—1.
Postmen—2.

(d) No.

Shri Sohan Lal: May I know whether the Scheduled Caste representation in these services is adequate; if not do Government propose to remove the difficulties of the candidates in future?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I may inform the hon. Member that the Department is too anxious to absorb as many Scheduled Caste people in the services as possible and those who have complied with the necessary qualifications have been absorbed.

Shri Sohan Lal: Does the hon. Minister mean to say that in Uttar Pradesh (particularly Gorakhpur) which is thickly populated by Scheduled Castes, candidates are not coming forward for these posts?

Shri Raj Bahadur: It is a fact that people with necessary qualifications are not available.

Shri Sohan Lal: When there is no necessity for any high educational or literary qualifications,.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He is trying to argue. He has already stated that when people with requisite qualifications, whatever that may be, are available they will be absorbed.

Dr. Deshmukh: Even if there are no qualifications of any sort required. That is what the hon. Member is driving at.

PURCHASE OF FERTILISERS (GRANT)

*4876. **Shri Rathnaswamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total grant given to various States in the years 1949-50, and 1950-51 for the purchase of fertilisers; and

(b) what is the grant given to Madras for the same and whether Madras Government has asked for an increased grant?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) Rs. 73,23,000 during 1949-50 and Rs. 53,91,000 during 1950-51.

(b) Rs. 14,83,000 during 1949-50 and Rs. 10,76,000 during 1950-51. A grant of Rs. 12,93,652 has been asked for by the State Government for 1951-52 and is under consideration.

Shri Rathnaswamy: May I know if any periodical check-up is being made to see that these grants are properly utilised for the purpose for which they have been granted?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Yes, Sir.

Shri Rathnaswamy: May I know, Sir, whether these grants given to the various States have been fully utilised and whether there is any balance left?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I think they are fully utilised.

Shri Rathnaswamy: What is the total tonnage of fertilisers used during these two years by various States and what is the tonnage used by Madras alone?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I would like to have notice of that question.

Shri S. N. Das: May I know whether there is any supervisory staff under the Central Government to see that these grants are utilised in the proper way?

Mr. Speaker: To supervise whom—the State Governments?

Seth Govind Das: May I know on what basis these grants are given to the different States and what is the reason for the fact that they are less this year?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The requirements of the States with regard to fertilisers are assessed and then these grants are distributed according to the needs of the States. The diminution in the grant this year is on account of financial stringency.

Shri Sidhva: May I know whether these are absolutely free grants; or they are repayable in instalments?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Grants are grants, Sir.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Are the grants in cash or in kind?

Shri Thirumala Rao: It is mostly in kind in the sense that the Central Government imports the fertilisers and then supplies them to the States in the shape of fertilisers and the cost is debited to the grant.

Shri Chaliha: What is the quantity of fertilisers allotted to the eastern zone and what is the quantity allotted to the eastern provinces?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I want notice of the question.

Saikh Mohiuddin: Has Government any records to show in how many acres of land these fertilisers are used?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Every State Government gives us figures in what area and to what extent of acreage these fertilisers are distributed.

RESEARCH ON SUGAR-CANE

*4877. **Shri Kesava Rao:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been carried out regarding sugar-cane in India;

(b) the improved varieties of sugar cane on account of this research; and

(c) what is the difference of yield in production of sugar between ordinary sugar-cane and that from improved seed?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) Yes.

(b) Over 600 new improved varieties have been bred at the Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore.

(c) The percentage of sugar recovery has risen from 8.5 in indigenous canes to 10 in the canes grown from the improved coimbatore varieties.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know which are the States receiving the improved varieties of sugarcane seeds?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Almost all the States are using the improved varieties.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know whether there is any co-ordination between sugarcane research and research in other agricultural crops?

Shri Thirumala Rao: This question is with regard to sugarcane breeding which, Sir, is separate from other agri-

cultural items and which need not have any co-ordination with them.

Shri Kesava Rao: May I know which are the States growing the highest quantity of sugarcane per acre?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The Southern States of Bombay and Madras have shown appreciable quantities of production per acre.

Maulvi Wajed Ali: May I know where this Sugarcane Research Institute is located and whether there are sugar-cane research institutes in the States also?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The questioner is slightly confusing the matter. This is a question on sugarcane whereas his question is on sugar research

Maulvi Wajed Ali: About sugarcane?

Shri Thirumala Rao: For the present Coimbatore is the main sugarcane research centre but almost all the States have got their farms and institutes.

Saikh Mohiuddin: Is it a fact that transport difficulties are resulting in a decrease in sugarcane cultivation in some States?

Shri Thirumala Rao: The overall position shows that it is not decreasing.

NAUTICAL AND ENGINEERING COLLEGE, BOMBAY

*4878. **Shri Amolakh Chand:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the grant or subsidy which is being granted to the Nautical and Engineering College at Bombay;

(b) the number of trainees in the year 1951; and

(c) the estimated cost of the Gyro Compass and a Radar Set for which orders have been placed with a firm in the U.K.?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) As the Nautical and Engineering College is wholly maintained and controlled by the Government of India, the question of grant or subsidy does not arise.

(b) The number of students admitted during the period 1st January to 31st May 1951 was 163.

(c) The estimated cost of the Gyro Compass, an order for which has been placed in the U.K., is £1,660. No orders have been placed for the purchase of a Radar Set.

GOODS TRAFFIC BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

*4879. **Shri Amolakh Chand:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether as a result of Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement of February 1951 any increase has been registered in the Rail borne goods traffic between the two countries in the months of March and April 1951 and if so, will the hon. Minister state:

(i) the wagons loaded and received from and to India during these months:

(ii) the principal commodities despatched and received during the period; and

(iii) how do these figures compare with the figures of March and April, 1950?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri. Santhanam): There has been an increase in the rail borne traffic as a result of the Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement of February, 1951.

(i) to (iii). A statement is placed on the Table of the House giving the required information. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 20].

Shri Amolakh Chand: May I know whether these perishable articles shown against the Assam Railway are also transported by air?

Shri Santhanam: May be, to a small extent.

Shri Amolakh Chand: Is there any return showing the trade carried on by air with Pakistan?

Shri Santhanam: The Railways do not keep those accounts, Sir.

SHIPMENT OF FOODGRAINS FROM U. S. A.

*4879-A. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the total shipment of foodgrains fixed for July from U.S.A. to India?

(b) By what time is the entire foodgrain sanctioned by U.S.A. likely to arrive in India?

(c) What percentage of the entire quantity is wheat and what percentage forms coarse grain?

(d) When is the shipping difficulty likely to ease if at all during the shipment of the sanctioned foodgrains to India?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Thirumala Rao): (a) 1,45,000 tons of foodgrains which we

have purchased are expected to be shipped from U.S.A. during July, 1951.

With regard to (b) my hon. friend asks by what time the entire foodgrain sanctioned by U.S.A., is likely to arrive in India. No foodgrains have so far been "sanctioned" by U.S.A. The foodgrains being shipped and expected to be shipped in July from U.S.A. are out of purchases made there on commercial basis. The foodgrain so far purchased are expected to arrive in India before the end of October.

(c) Wheat forms about 53.9 per cent. and Milo approximately 46.1 per cent. of the foodgrains purchased from the U.S.A. in 1951.

(d) With the release of steamers by U.S.A., from the Reserve Fleet, the shipping position has somewhat eased.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know at what rates wheat and milo have been purchased in U.S.A.?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I want notice of that question.

Dr. Deshmukh: May I know if there has been any increase in prices during the last three years of wheat purchased in India?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I have not got the information readily available.

Maulvi Wajed Ali: Arising out of answer to part (b), is it not a fact that there is a Bill before the U.S. Senate for supply of foodgrains to India on loan and when is it expected...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He knows it from the papers.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the wheat and milo purchased in U.S. were purchased by our Supply Mission over there or by the Commerce Department or the Agricultural Department of the U.S.A.?

Shri Thirumala Rao: We make these purchases under the international wheat agreement. Some of it was purchased when our Secretary was there last year, and some of it was purchased by our Embassy officials in Washington and by other branches of the Indian Embassy in the U.S.A.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether any rates have been fixed according to the international agreement?

Shri Thirumala Rao: Yes.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: What are those rates?

Shri Thirumala Rao: I want notice.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS FOR U. P.

*4880. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food and Agriculture Organisation of U.N. has arranged to supply experts to U.P. Government for their development schemes;

(b) when are these experts arriving in India;

(c) what countries they belong to;

(d) what will be their functions during their stay in India; and

(e) what are the other requirements of U.P. Government in connection with their development schemes for expert advice and planning?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Not yet known.

(d) A statement showing the functions of each of these experts is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 21].

(e) The State Government has asked the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to secure the services of two Agriculture Extension Experts.

LANDING GROUND FOR AIRCRAFT IN ANDAMANS

*4882. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been pending before Government to construct a landing ground for aircraft in Andamans;

(b) whether Government have any proposal for rapid communications between India and the Andaman Island?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The question of constructing an aerodrome was considered by the Civil Aviation Department in 1948 and it was decided that the expenditure would be too heavy.

(b) There is no proposal at present to augment the existing communication facilities between India and the Andaman Island.

Shri Sidhva: May I know the amount of expenditure that is likely to be involved?

Shri Raj Bahadur: An inspector was sent about December, 1948 to investigate the whole matter. The un-

suitability of this site along with the expenditure likely to be involved and the amount of traffic which could be expected have all led to the decision not to go ahead with the matter.

Shri Sidhva: Apart from economic considerations, has the question been considered on strategic considerations either by the Communications Ministry or by the Defence Ministry?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The latter part of the question should better be addressed to the Ministry of Defence, Sir.

PLANNING COMMITTEES FOR VINDHYA PRADESH, BHOPAL AND HIMACHAL PRADESH

*4883. **Shri Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) if any committee for planning has been constituted in Vindhya Pradesh, Bhopal, and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, who are the personnel;

(c) how many meetings of each committee have taken place so far;

(d) what are the terms of reference of each committee;

(e) if any suggestions have so far been made by any committee;

(f) if the answer to part (a) above is in the negative, what steps Government contemplate to take for the development of these States; and

(g) whether Government are prepared to place on the Table of the House the various proposals that have been made from time to time with stages of progress if any in each case?

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

(a) No committees for planning appear to have been constituted in Vindhya Pradesh, Bhopal or Himachal Pradesh.

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

(f) and (g). The Chief Commissioners of Vindhya Pradesh, Bhopal and Himachal Pradesh have drawn up two and five-year-development plans which are under examination by the Planning Commission. Government do not consider it desirable to place these draft proposals on the Table of the House at the present stage.

Shri Dwivedi: What is the reason why planning committees have not been appointed in Vindhya Pradesh and other States whereas in Uttar Pradesh and some other States even in districts there are planning committees?

Shri Gopalaswami: I have no idea. The whole correspondence with regard to these plans has been conducted

directly between the Planning Commission and the Chief Commissioners.

Short Notice Questions and Answers

ENQUIRY INTO FERTILIZER TRANSACTION

Shri Sidhva: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the supplementaries to Starred Question No. 3953 answered on the 8th May, 1951 and state:

(a) What is the position of the Fertiliser matter in which an employee has been dismissed and the other warned and which subject is before the Cabinet;

(b) what is the cause of delay in reaching the decision;

(c) whether any judicial enquiry is contemplated;

(d) Whether Mr. Swamy, the dismissed official has made a representation to the President in this respect; and

(e) If so, what is the outcome of it?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) to (c). It has been decided to hold an independent enquiry into the whole matter. A reply is awaited from the gentleman selected for holding the enquiry as to whether he will accept the invitation.

(d) Yes.

(e) It is under consideration.

Shri Sidhva: What will be the terms of the enquiry, may I know?

Shri K. M. Munshi: The enquiry will be into all the matters that have been discussed before the House. I have not got the terms of the enquiry here, but they will fully cover all the points made in the House.

Shri Sidhva: What is the name of the person who is going to conduct the enquiry?

Mr. Speaker: Is it one person?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Yes, Sir. Only one person with Secretariat experience as well as a person of high character—Mr. Kharegat. But we have received no reply from him yet.

Shri Sidhva: In reply to parts (d) and (e) the hon. Minister stated that the matter is under consideration. By whom? By the President?

Shri K. M. Munshi: Of course by the President. It is addressed to the President. But the Ministry will after due consideration submit such advice as it thinks proper.

128 PSD

Shri Sidhva: Is it a fact that to his representation Mr. Swamy has attached a note that if he is prosecuted he will disclose all the matters?

Mr. Speaker: That will be a matter for the Enquiry.

Shri Sidhva: Will that note also go before the Enquiry?

Mr. Speaker: Whatever the gentleman wants.

Shri K. M. Munshi: I cannot bind myself to what my hon. friend means. The enquiry will be instituted and the gentleman enquiring will do the best he can under the circumstances.

Shri Sidhva: The hon. Minister said that the terms of the enquiry are not with him. May I know whether they have been framed or is it that he could not remember? What is the position?

Shri K. M. Munshi: They are to be framed. They are not finally approved.

DEMOLITION OF A TEMPLE IN PAHARI DHIRAJ, DELHI

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that on the night of Thursday the 24th May 1951, a temple in Pahari Dhiraj, Delhi, was demolished under the supervision of the Delhi Police;

(b) was a written demolition order shown on request made by the local people;

(c) whether it is a fact that the District Judge, Delhi, has held that the land on which the temple was built has been in possession of the person who was financing its construction; and

(d) the reasons why the temple was ordered to be demolished?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Rajagopalachari): (a) An unauthorised structure was demolished in the evening of Thursday 24th May 1951 in Pahari Dhiraj. It may have been intended for a temple but only two rooms had been partially constructed, and no deity had been installed. The demolition work was carried out by the Municipal staff, and the Police were present for the purpose of preventing apprehended interference with them.

(b) No such request was made by the local people. A copy of the order was posted on the structure itself after

the person responsible for construction had, earlier in the day, refused to accept the notice when it was tendered to him.

(c) Proceedings under Section 145 of the Criminal Procedure Code were instituted in respect of this site and the site was attached by the Magistrate. It is understood that, on a petition arising out of these proceedings the case is now before the High Court.

(d) The construction was started without the prior approval of the Municipal Committee as required by the Municipal Act. As a result of this notices were issued under Section 195 and 195A of the Municipal Act of 1911. Subsequently after the notice was repeated a formal application for a building licence was submitted for building a temple. The application was rejected by the Building Sub-Committee of the Delhi Municipal Committee. This decision was sought to be reversed by the Municipal Committee on the 17th May 1951. The Deputy Commissioner acting under Section 232 of the Municipal Act, 1911 held that this was in excess of the powers conferred by law and contrary to the public interests. It appears that a mosque stood on this site until 1947 when during the disturbances the structure was demolished by rioters. The Deputy Commissioner's decision was accepted by a majority of the Municipal Committee at a meeting held on the 24th May 1951 and a notice calling upon the person concerned to demolish the unauthorised structure was issued by the Municipal Committee. Acceptance of this notice was refused by the person responsible for the structure. A copy of the notice was then posted on the structure, which was demolished by the Municipal staff on the expiry of the time given.

Shri Kamath: Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi suspended and not cancelled or rescinded the earlier resolution of the Delhi Municipal Committee; recommending or approving the construction of the temple, and that the Deputy Commissioner suspended the resolution as late as the 23rd of May and the work of demolition was undertaken the very next day without adequate notice to the owner or the financier of the temple?

Shri Rajagopalachari: As I have already explained, the person responsible for building it began construction without having previously got the licence necessary for any building. Thereafter steps were taken as I have already explained. If a person does not wait for a building licence but

builds, he does not come with clean hands when he brings a grievance. But as for the cancellation, the Deputy Commissioner's order suspending the resolution was passed on the 17th May, based on section 232 of the Punjab Municipal Act, which applies, and it was confirmed by the Chief Commissioner under section 235. There is no fault in the procedure at all.

Shri Kamath: Is it not a fact that, as the Home Minister stated, the whole question of the ownership of the land is before the High Court and, if so, when the matter is *sub judice* why did the Deputy Commissioner take action as was mentioned by the Minister?

Shri Rajagopalachari: The question of ownership is before the High Court; the question of rights and wrongs is before the High Court. But the question of raising a building in Delhi within municipal limits is quite a different question and it is governed by building licence laws.

Shri Kamath: Is it not a fact that the owner of the site applied to the Delhi Municipal Committee perhaps over a year ago for permission to build a temple and the Municipal Committee permitted him to do so?

Shri Rajagopalachari: I have stated what has happened actually. If the hon. Member refers me to any prior application I must look into the matter. But this application was made after notice was issued to the person that he had built without authority.

Shri Kamath rose—

Mr. Speaker: I think there is no use going further into the question.

Shri Kamath: Why not?

Mr. Speaker: Because it is unnecessarily being prolonged, and the matters are very clear. It is tantamount to a representation in Parliament on behalf of dissatisfied owner.

Shri Kamath: No.

Mr. Speaker: It may not appear to him so.

Shri Kamath: But the matter is not so clear to me.

Mr. Speaker: It may not be. There are many matters which may not be clear to particular hon. Members but very clear to the Chair. And unfortunately or fortunately the House has to accept the Chair's ruling about these matters. (*Interruption from Shri Kamath.*)

The hon. Member is always in the habit of passing remarks as the whole thing is going on. (Further interruption from Shri Kamath).

I have been every day seeing that.

Shri Kamath: I must protest.

Mr. Speaker: He may protest. But if he wants to protest he must protest effectively.

Shri Kamath: I do all I can.

Mr. Speaker: If he disturbs and interferes again I will have to take very stringent measures.

Shri Kamath: What are they?

Mr. Speaker: I would ask hon. Members to preserve the decorum and the discipline of the House.

Shri Kamath: I also have an idea of decorum.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

U. P. RAILWAY OFFICERS (CORRUPTION CHARGE)

***4856. Prof. S. L. Saksena:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the Special Police has registered during the last one year any cases of corruption against some high officers of the U. P. Railway?

(b) On what dates were these cases registered?

(c) Has investigation in these cases been completed or is it still pending?

(d) Have these officers been transferred in accordance with the rule to enable the proper investigation to be made against them?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): The replies, I propose to give have been framed on the assumption that the hon. Member is referring to cases on the E.P. Railway.

(a) A case of corruption alleged to have been committed by some officers of that Railway was registered in 1950.

(b) First information report was dated 23rd May 1950.

(c) Final report of investigation is still awaited.

(d) No. There is no rule according to which an officer against whom investigations are being made should necessarily be transferred to a different station. Transfers are only effected if their stay at a particular station is found to hamper the course of investigation.

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT'S ORDER FOR TRACTORS

***4863, Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of the Punjab have placed an order for 300 tractors as per P.T.I. news published in the Tribune of May 12, 1951; and

(b) whether it is a fact that this purchase is being made out of the funds placed at the disposal of the Government of the Punjab by the Centre for helping the Punjab displaced persons?

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

(b) Does not arise.

COMMUNISTS IN TRIPURA STATE

***4864. Shri G. S. Guha:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether a raid by over 2000 armed communists dressed in military style took place at a place half a mile away from Khowai town in Tripura State on the 12th May, 1951 at midnight;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any report of the occurrence;

(c) whether it is a fact that communists are now in control of practically the whole of the Khowai Division;

(d) whether communists armed with rifles, sten guns and bren guns are in effective control of nearly half of the area of the State and are realising taxes in money and in kind, and are kidnapping Government servants and Congress workers and killing them at intervals or releasing them on ransom; and

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

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) and (b). On the midnight of 12th May 1951 about 300 communists and coolies armed with a few M.L. Guns and other deadly weapons committed a dacoity in the house of one Sashi Sankar of Singhichara, one mile east of Khowai, and looted about 200 maunds of baddy and rice and other movable properties including ornaments etc.

(c) to (e). It is not correct to say that communists are in control of practically the whole of the Khowai Division or nearly half the area of the State. There were, however, a few cases of kidnapping and dacoities

during the last month but the security measures in the State are being tightened up.

FOOD GIFTS

*4865. **Shri Krishnanand Rai:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what quantity of food grains has been received so far internally by way of gifts;

(b) whether the food so received is distributed free or on partial payments to meet transit charges; and

(c) whether State Governments have been directed to collect food as gifts for scarcity areas?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

(b) The gift collections are to be distributed free.

(c) Yes.

FORMATION OF Bhoomi Sena

*4881. **Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the objective behind the formation of *Bhoomi Sena* or land army as suggested by the advisory Board of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research;

(b) whether this organisation of *Bhoomi Sena* will be official, or non-official, and under whose supervision and guidance will it work; and

(c) if the organisation has to be of non-official character, what aid do the Government propose to give to it and do they propose to associate such organisation in the working out of the Government Schemes?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) To enlist the co-operation of village leaders, enterprising farmers, and other public spirited persons interested in rural development and to infuse amongst villagers enthusiasm for effecting improvements in Agriculture and in the rural life of the country.

(b) It will be organised by each State Government but work through non-official agencies under the supervision and guidance of the State Board of Extension.

(c) The Government of India will share with the State Governments the cost of training and equipment of the Land Army whose main function will be to help the official agencies in carrying the results of agricultural research to the cultivators' fields.

'GROW MORE FOOD' GRANTS

*4884. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise distribution of Grow More Food grants and loans during 1951-52;

(b) how the amounts of these grants and loans to any particular State are determined;

(c) how the schemes sent by the States are examined by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture in the Centre; and

(d) whether any officer is sent to the spot to examine the feasibility and possibility of the scheme?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) A statewise distribution of Grow More Food grants and loans for 1951-52 is still under consideration.

(b) to (d). The Schemes received from the States are scrutinised on the basis of the rules laid down for the purpose with particular reference to their economic nature, production value and the possibility of speedy execution. The Schemes are then discussed with the State Government representatives and necessary revisions are made. If any scheme requires further scrutiny and examination on the spot, the concerned officer of this Ministry is sent to the States concerned.

IRRIGATION SCHEMES OF WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT

*4884-A. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of irrigation schemes sent by the West Bengal Government to the Centre for the execution of which pecuniary help in the shape of loans and grants have been asked during the last two years, 1949 and 1950 and the current year;

(b) how many of these schemes have been sanctioned by the Centre either for loans or for grants; and

(c) the names of the schemes and the amounts sanctioned either in the form of loan or grant during the last two years and the current year?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) 23 Irrigation Schemes in all during 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52.

(b) and (c). Three statements furnishing required information are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 22].

DIVERSION OF LAND FROM FOOD CROPS TO COTTON

***4885. Shri Krishnanand Rai:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Bombay has drawn a plan to increase the cotton output in 1951-52 by diversion of land under food crops to cotton; and

(b) if so, whether the Government of Bombay has consulted the Government of India about this plan?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) and (b). Yes. It is proposed to increase the area under cotton in 1951-52 by 4 lakh acres.

REPORT OF ENQUIRY INTO RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT DARBHANGA

***4885-A. Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enquiry report from the Government Inspector of Railways regarding the railway accident at Darbhanga on the G. T. Railway on the 11th May 1951 has been received;

(b) the number of total lives lost as a result of the accident;

(c) the extent of damage caused to the railway property;

(d) total value of the property lost or damaged belonging to the passengers;

(e) what the cause of accident was; and

(f) the number of persons responsible for the accident against whom action has been taken?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) The Government Inspector's preliminary factual report has been received. His final report is awaited.

(b) Eleven.

(c) Rs. 48,000 approximately.

(d) This assessment would be possible only after claims in this regard have been received and scrutinised.

(e) The provisional finding of the Government Inspector of Railways is that the accident was caused by failure

of the human element on the part of railway staff. His definite conclusions will be incorporated in his final report.

(f) Responsibility will be fixed on receipt of the Government Inspector's final conclusions when disciplinary action as may be necessary, will be taken.

FOOD DEPUTATIONS SENT ABROAD

***4886. Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how many deputations went to foreign countries during 1950 and up-to-date for the purpose of settling rate and quantity of food grains; and

(b) the quantity and the concession in rates secured due to their personal visits?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) From January 1950 to May 1951 eight Delegations were sent abroad in connection with the purchase, shipment and inspection of foodgrains and other allied matters. Of these six Delegations consisted of one officer only each. The remaining two Delegations formed part of the Delegations sent to Burma and Pakistan for negotiating trade agreements with these countries.

(b) The functions of these Delegations were various and were not confined to the purchases of grain and negotiations of prices. Substantial quantities of rice from Burma and Pakistan, of wheat from Canada and U.S.A. and of rice and milo from China were made by the Delegations concerned at favourable prices. It will not be in the public interest to disclose the details of the negotiations.

DEHRI-ROHOTAS LIGHT RAILWAY

***4887. Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) if the Dehri-Rohotas Light Railway is yet under private control;

(b) if the Government have received complaints that the facilities of transport are not equitably given to all the industries of the area as also complaints of maladministration;

(c) if any industry of the area has practically stopped its operation for lack of transport facilities;

(d) if all complaints regarding this Railway to the Railway Board are generally replied formally that it is within the competence of that Railway to deal with such complaints; and

(e) if Government have any proposal of taking over this railway?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes. The Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway is, at present, under the management of a private concern, Messrs. Dalmia Jain and Co. Ltd.

(b) A complaint was recently received from Messrs. Kuchwar Lime and Stone Co., Calcutta, that the Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway had gradually withdrawn the supply of wagons to it thereby prejudicing the business of the complainants.

(c) Government has no information.

(d) In connection with the complaint referred to in reply to part (b) of the question, the party was advised that the remedy for their complaint against the railway is provided for in section 41 of the Indian Railways Act, i.e., to approach the Railway Rates Tribunal. Another party who complained in January, 1950, against undue discrimination in the allotment of wagons was also replied accordingly.

(e) The right of purchasing the line vests in the District Board of Shahabad and not in the Central Government. The question of Government taking over this Railway does not, therefore, arise.

CENTRAL RESEARCH RICE INSTITUTE

***4888. Shri Thimmappa Gowda:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the progress achieved by the Central Rice Research Institute in evolving the new variety of rice by crossing some of 'Indica' types with some of the 'Japonica' types; and

(b) whether this new type of paddy has been used by the agriculturists for seedling purposes and if so with what result?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Crossing work between the two varieties commenced at the Central Rice Research Institute last year and the first generation is now in the field.

(b) Selection work will begin only in the second generation and it will take at least five years before suitable selections can be made available to agriculturists.

SANDAL WOOD

***4889. Shri Thimmappa Gowda:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three fourth of the sandal wood supply of the world is grown in Mysore State;

(b) In what other areas in India, sandal wood is grown;

(c) the quantity of sandal wood and its products required in India;

(d) the quantity exported and the amount earned from it;

(e) whether there is greater demand for sandal wood and its products than what are grown now in the country; and

(f) whether Government have any proposals for stepping up the growth of sandal wood?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes, a very large portion of the world's supply comes from Mysore.

(b) Madras, Coorg and Bombay.

(c) About 1,500 tons of sandal wood and 1,50,000 lbs. of sandal oil per annum.

(d) About 800 tons of sandal wood valued at Rs. 25 lakhs and about 1,10,000 lbs. of sandal oil valued at Rs. 40 lakhs annually.

(e) Yes.

(f) Yes. The Government of Mysore, Madras and Coorg are trying to regenerate areas with sandal wood by natural and artificial methods.

ASSISTANCE TO CULTIVATORS

***4890. Shri Oraon:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture, be pleased to state what are the major facilities which the Government of India are generally giving to the cultivators?

(b) What amount of money was spent by the Government of India during 1949-50 in giving these facilities to the cultivators?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The Government of India do not give directly any facilities to the cultivators, but they give financial assistance to the States, who provide facilities to the cultivators for increasing the yield in the lands already under cultivation or for bringing fallow or new lands under cultivation. Some of the major facilities provided to the cultivators are:

(i) Supply of manures and fertilisers and seeds at concessional rates;

(ii) grant of subsidy for construction and repair of minor irrigation and land improvement works;

(iii) adoption of dry farming methods;

(iv) Taccavi loan recoverable in easy instalments spread over a number of years for the purchase of capital equipment like machinery, tractors and other equipments;

(v) Taccavi loan for the construction of minor irrigation works, which are of self-financing nature; and

(vi) Supply of iron, cement, coal, fuel oil required for agricultural purposes.

(b) Attention of the hon. Member is invited to a statement laid on the Table of the House in reply to Starred Question No. 1477 on the 15th February 1951.

NIGHT MOBILE POST OFFICE SCHEME

*4891. **Shri Sidhva:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) in what parts of the country night mobile post office scheme is operating;

(b) what are the facilities awarded to public under the scheme;

(c) what are the working hours;

(d) how many persons have taken advantage of this scheme; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to expand this scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Nagpur City.

(b) Sale of Stamps:

Acceptance of all unregistered post-
cards, letters and packets.

Acceptance of registered letters with
late fees.

Booking of air mail parcels.

(c) From 17.45 hrs. to 21.15 hrs.

(d) No record of the number of persons who have taken advantage of the scheme has been kept.

(e) The question of extending the scheme is under examination.

AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

*4892. **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Agricultural Institutions under Central Government in India at present;

(b) the number of students accommodated in all such Institutions for imparting agricultural education with special reference to post-graduate training; and

(c) the expenditure per student annually?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Four: Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Central Rice Research Institute, Central Potato Research Institute and Central College of Agriculture.

(b) About 50 students in each class in a 2 years' post-graduate course at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute. The Central College of Agriculture trains students for the three years' Honour's degree course of the Delhi University. It has accommodation for 120 students in 3 classes. The other two Institutes do not give any post-graduate training.

(c) About Rs. 2,500 per head per year in the Central College of Agriculture. Similar information for the Indian Agricultural Research Institute is not readily available.

TRAINING IN AGRICULTURE

*4893. **Shri Kshudiram Mahata:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what arrangements are there to impart training in agriculture to the tillers of the soil?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): The primary responsibility for imparting training in agriculture to the tillers of the soil is that of the State Governments. Most State Governments have set up agricultural schools and colleges where preference and even scholarships are given to candidates who are sons of cultivators. Practical work in farms is part of the curriculum in agricultural schools and colleges. The District staff consisting of agricultural officers, Inspectors etc. carry out demonstrations and propaganda for adopting improved implements, fertilisers and improved methods of cultivation. So far as the Central Government are concerned, an Extension Service and a Land Army are being organised by them throughout the country under the auspices of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. An Extension Board has already been set up at the Centre; a similar Board of Extension is to be set up in each State. Further down the ladder District Extension Boards will be set up to take charge of the extension work in their areas. To successfully carry on the extension service, a land army is being formed on a nation-wide scale. As I indicated in my reply to part (d) of starred question No. 4754 on the 1st instant, the object of the Land Army is to enlist young men from among the villagers as well as others interested in agriculture and give them training through special courses in training camps; the programme to be executed

through them would include composting, growing vegetables, pests and disease control through simple methods, weed eradication, tank improvement and improved practices of agriculture.

AIR SERVICE BETWEEN GAUHATI AND IMPHAL

*4894. **Shri G. S. Guha:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a direct air service plying between Gauhati and Imphal;

(b) if not, whether such a service is contemplated in the near future;

(c) whether a shuttle air service between Gauhati and Shillong is proposed to be started; and

(d) if so, whether it will work for passengers, mails, and goods alike, or any of them?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (**Shri Raj Bahadur**): (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) and (d). Yes.

AERODROME AT GAUHATI

*4895. **Shri G. S. Guha:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) when the aerodrome at Gauhati (Assam) is expected to be ready for service;

(b) whether all the necessary buildings have been constructed;

(c) whether equipment for night landing has been installed or proposed to be installed there; and

(d) would the new aerodrome at Gauhati be one of the major aerodromes in Assam?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (**Shri Raj Bahadur**): (a) There is already an aerodrome in use at Gauhati. The new aerodrome under construction will be ready for use early in 1952.

(b) No, some.

(c) For the present temporary facilities for night landing are being provided.

(d) Yes.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS OF PART 'C' STATES

*4896. **Shri Raj Kanwar:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state whether the Governments of Part 'C' States have published or intend to publish their Administration Reports or Summaries of their activities in the

different departments for the year 1950-51?

The Minister of States, Transport and Railways (**Shri Gopalaswami**): No separate reports are being or are intended to be published but I would invite the attention of the hon. Member to the Report on the Working of the Ministry of States for 1950-51, which included a summary of the activities of Part 'C' States during the year.

BRAHMAPUTRA WATER TRANSPORT BOARD

*4897. **Maulvi Wajed Ali:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 4375 asked on the 22nd May, 1951 and state whether Government have in contemplation the setting up of the Brahmaputra Water Transport Board and Boards for other big Navigable Rivers?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (**Shri Santhanam**): No.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN ASSAM

*4898. **Maulvi Wajed Ali:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) what are the National Highways maintained by the Government of India within the State of Assam;

(b) the amount spent for repairs and maintenance of these highways (separately) during the year 1950-51; and

(c) what is the amount proposed to be spent for the same during the year 1951-52?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (**Shri Santhanam**): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). The information is being called for from the Government of Assam, and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

STATEMENT

The National Highways in Assam.

(1) N.H. No. 31—(Assam Access Road) from West Bengal border up to Jogigopa.

(2) N.H. No. 37—Goalpara (South Bank)—Gauhati—Jorhat—Dibrugarh (Lakhimpur)—Makum—Saikoi Ghat (opposite Sadiya).

(3) N.H. No. 38—Makum—Digboi—Ledo—Lekhapani.

(4) N.H. No. 39—Rauduar—Dimapur—Imphal.

(5) N.H. No. 40—Jorabat—Shillong—Dawki.

PRODUCTION OF COMPOST

*4899. **Shri Sanjivayya:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how much financial assistance was given to the State of Madras during the year 1950-51, to increase the production of compost; and,

(b) what is the report of the All India Compost Development Committee on the progress made in the production of compost?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) An expenditure of Rs. 93,720 was sanctioned in 1950-51 from the Food Bonus Fund for the Madras Rural Compost Scheme.

(b) The Central Manure (Compost) Development Committee held two meetings, (namely in July and December, 1948). The second meeting reviewed the progress during the year 1947-48 and the first half of 1948-49, but it did not record any formal resolution in the matter. I place on the Table a statement showing the annual production of compost (both urban and rural) during the last five years. It will be observed therefrom that the production increased from 8 lakh tons to 56 lakh tons during the last quinquennium.

STATEMENT

Production (Tons)

Year	Urban	Rural	Total
1945-46	2,82,670	5,20,000	8,02,670
1946-47	4,09,360	8,29,000	12,38,360
1947-48	4,86,080	12,58,986	17,45,066
1948-49	7,21,257	27,65,944	34,87,201
1949-50	12,09,089	44,24,721	56,33,810

PRODUCTION OF BLOOD-MEAL

*4900. **Shri Sanjivayya:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of bloodmeal produced in India during the year 1950-51; and

(b) what efforts are Government making to see that blood is not wasted in the various slaughter houses in India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The statistics are not available.

(b) In 1949 a note was circulated to all the States indicating the utility

and methods of preparation of bloodmeal and suggestion that action should be taken to ensure that no blood is wasted in slaughter houses. Replies have been received from the States. Some are considering detailed schemes in consultation with the local bodies. Others have come to the conclusion that the existing arrangements for utilisation of bloodmeal need no improvement. In some of the small states there is not much scope for any detailed scheme.

SUGAR EXPORT

*4901. **Shri Balmiki:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar actually exported from India during recent years; and

(b) the destinations to which the exports took place?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) and (b). After the reimposition of control on sugar on 2nd September, 1949, there has been no export of sugar except to the following neighbouring countries which are normally dependent on India for their supplies:

	1949-50 (1.11.49 to 31.10.50) (Tons)	1950-51 (1.11.50 to 22.5.51) (Tons)
(1) Nepal	200.6	151.4
(2) Sikkim	260	120
(3) Tibet	85	Actual figures not yet known.
(4) Bhutan	45	nil

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

*4902. **Shri Iyyannal:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total mileage of roads under the National Highways which are under the Central Government and the mileage running within States, state-wise;

(b) the dates or date on which they were taken over by the Centre;

(c) the allotment made for the maintenance and repair of the same for each year state-wise; and

(d) the amounts of money spent on the same, state-wise?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a), (c), and (d). The hon. Member is referred to the statement laid on the Table of the House on the 27th March

1951 in reply to Starred Question No. 2546.

(b) The Centre assumed liability for the construction and maintenance of national Highways in the Part 'A' States with effect from the 1st April 1947 and in the Part 'B' States from 1st April 1950.

RAILWAY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

*4903. **Shri D. S. Seth:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) if it is proposed to open a Welfare Department in each Railway;

(b) the purpose and scope of the proposed Railway Welfare department; and

(c) if recruitment of the personnel of the Department has already begun and if so, what are the qualifications of the personnel?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Saathanam): (a) to (c). I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given by me to a similar question No. 4172 asked by him on 15th May 1951.

RATIONED RICE IN DELHI

*4904. **Dr. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the rice drawn in the ration shops in Delhi during this month;

(b) what country this rice comes from;

(c) whether it is the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th quality of rice obtainable from that country;

(d) the rates at which it was purchased in the country where it was produced and what was the landing cost in India;

(e) the quantity of this rice which has been allotted to the State of Delhi;

(f) the reasons that led to the import of this quality of rice from foreign countries;

(g) whether any rice produced in the neighbouring districts of U.P. and Punjab was sent out of these districts, if so, where it was sent and what quantity; and

(h) whether it is a fact that transport charges were added both to the rice which was imported into Delhi and the rice taken out of the neighbouring districts to the other places?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes.

(b) Rice issued in Delhi during the first half of May came from Burma and

that in the 2nd half of May, came from Thailand. The supplies in both cases were received in India in February 51 and were against 1950 contracts.

(c) Rice in Burma and Thailand is not graded as 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th quality. Burma and Thailand rice issued in Delhi was of good quality.

(d) Full Boiled Rice 12 per cent. was purchased from Burma in 1950 @ £40/10. The landed cost was about £42/10.

White Rice 20 per cent was purchased from Thailand in 1950 @ £39/18/9 per ton exclusive of cost of gunnies delivered on lighters/boats at mills. The landed cost in India was about £45.

(e) Burma rice 1650 tons and Thailand rice 900 tons.

(f) As the quality of the said rice is good, the question does not arise.

(g) There were no allotments of rice from U.P. or Punjab during February 1951 when Burma and Thailand rice was allotted to Delhi.

(h) Does not arise.

RAILWAY EARNINGS

*4905. **Dr. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the gross earnings for each class on different railways for the months of March and April 1951 and the gross earnings for the corresponding period of last year?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Saathanam): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 23].

RATIONED WHEAT IN DELHI

*4906. **Dr. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the wheat drawn in the ration shops in Delhi during May 1951;

(b) what country this wheat comes from;

(c) whether it is the 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th quality of wheat obtainable from that country;

(d) the rate at which it was purchased in that country and the landing cost in India per maund;

(e) the quantity of this wheat allotted to Delhi State;

(f) what were the reasons that led to allotment of this quality of wheat to Delhi;

(g) whether any wheat produced in the neighbouring districts of U.P. and

Punjab was sent out of these districts, if so, where and what was the quantity sent; and

(h) whether it is a fact that transport charges were added both to the wheat which was imported into Delhi and that which was taken out of Delhi State?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes.

(b) U.S.A., Australia, Argentine and Canada.

(c) The wheat was of fair average quality of the standard export specifications of the exporting countries.

(d) The clearing and forwarding cost of imported wheat is estimated at Rs. 14/14/- per maund in bulk as against the estimated average f.o.b. cost of Rs. 12 per maund.

(e) Since January 1951 Delhi has been allotted 92,300 tons of imported wheat.

(f) As the wheat allotted to Delhi was of fair average quality, the question does not arise.

(g) Since January 1951 there have been no export of wheat from Punjab or U.P.

(h) Does not arise.

ECONOMICS OF JUTE GROWING

***4907. Saikh Mohiuddin:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five Economic Research Sections have been opened at different centres in the country to investigate into the economics of jute growing in the country; and

(b) if it is a fact that crop cutting experiments were made in the year 1950 in some States and if so, whether experiment was made for cutting of jute crop also?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes. Since 1945 the Economic Research Section of the Indian Central Jute Committee has been investigating the economics of jute-growing annually at a few selected centres in different jute-growing States.

(b) During 1950-51 crop cutting experiments on jute were carried out by the Indian Statistical Institute in West Bengal and by the Statistical Section of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in Orissa.

HEMP CULTIVATION

***4908. Saikh Mohiuddin:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States, where cultivation of hemp is done;

(b) what was the acreage of land under hemp cultivation in the year 1948, 1949 and 1950; and

(c) whether India is self sufficient in hemp?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Hemp of one variety or another is grown practically all over the country.

(b) Figures are available only with regard to Sann-Hemp. The area under this crop in India during 1948-49 and 1949-50 was 709,000 acres and 729,000 acres respectively. The area during 1950-51 is not yet known.

(c) Self-sufficiency in respect of hemp has to be judged with reference to the requirements of the jute industry, in which Sann-Hemp and Deccan Hemp are used as substitutes for raw jute. The total supply of jute and jute substitutes in India falls short of the requirements of the industry.

STOCK POSITION OF FOOD GRAINS

***4909. Shri V. K. Reddy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the stock position of foodgrains in the country at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that States Governments have been given foodgrains over and above the quantity asked for in their previous requests; and

(c) what are the quantities allotted to Bihar, Madras, Bombay and West Bengal for the months of May, June and July?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The stocks of foodgrains with the State Governments on and about the 20th of May (the latest date for which reports have been received) amounted to 14.5 lakh tons.

(b) Madras desired that they should be given 80,000 tons, and Bombay 90,000 tons for June. In both cases the allotment for June is 5,000 tons more than the demand.

(c) A statement showing the quantities of foodgrains allotted to Bihar, Madras, Bombay and West Bengal for the months of May and June is placed on the Table of the House. The quota for July 1951 has not yet been fixed.

STATEMENT

Quantities of foodgrains allotted to Bihar, Madras, Bombay and West Bengal for the months of May and June, 1951.

(In '000 tons)

State.	May, 1951.	June, 1951
Bihar	112.4	120.0
Madras	66.9	85.5
Bombay	95.1	95.0
West Bengal	25.0	45.0

CROP COMPETITION

***4910. Shri V. K. Reddy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a big prize has been announced for the winner in the crop competition scheme; and

(b) if so, what is the amount of the prize?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) and (b). Yes. Six prizes of Rs. 5,000 one for each of the six crops viz. Paddy, Wheat, Jowar, Bajra, Gram and Potatoes.

N. S. RAILWAY SCHOOLS

***4911. Shri Pull Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the staff of the N.S. Railway Schools have been given the Central Pay Commission scales of pay, as implemented in other Railway Schools; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) The N.S. Railway like other Railways in Part 'B' States came under the control of the Central Government with effect from 1st April 1950, and the Government have decided to apply the Central Pay Commission Scales of pay to the staff of those railways from that date. The task of the equating of the non-gazetted posts on the N.S. Railway to the C.P.C. scales of pay, which has been entrusted to the Central Railway Service Commission, is nearing completion and the school teachers will not be left out when the C.P.C. scales are made applicable to the staff of the railway.

(b) Does not arise.

FOOD PROCUREMENT IN MADHYA PRADESH

***4912. Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities of foodgrains procured in Madhya Pradesh every month since November 1950;

(b) how much has been despatched to deficit areas during each of those months, and to which areas; and

(c) whether the prices of foodgrains have been steadily rising in Madhya Pradesh during the last six months?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) A statement showing the required information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 24].

(b) There were no despatches of foodgrains from Madhya Pradesh during the period November 1950 to April 1951 but during this period they were allotted 40,000 tons of foodgrains by the Government of India. In the month of May 1951, Madhya Pradesh Government agreed to export 20,000 tons of rice to Bihar. This quantity is now moving.

(c) The prices of rice, wheat and jowar have been more or less steady since the beginning of January 1951.

FOOD SCARCITY IN AJMER

***4913. Pandit M. B. Bhargava:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) which portions of the State of Ajmer are famine stricken;

(b) whether there are any famine relief works in progress there; if so, at how many places and what is the strength of the labourers working at these centres;

(c) what is the scale of wages paid to the workers at the different centres and whether the payment is in cash or kind;

(d) whether there are any cheap grain shops started at these centres, if so, at what prices the different food grains are being sold at these shops; and

(e) what has been the total expenditure incurred by Government in these famine works so far and what is the estimate of the total expenditure to be incurred and whether there is any proposal to start new works, if so, at what places?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) None.

(b) No famine relief works are in progress but test works have been started at Sheopura Ghata Road, Beawar Todgarh Road and Taragarh. Attendance at these centres was 1575, 1431 and 65 respectively on the 26th May, 1951.

(c) Cash wages are being paid for all the Test workers ranging from 15 pice to 28 pice per day.

(d) Fair price shops have been opened at these centres where milo is being supplied at unsubsidised rates of 2 seer and 12 chhatanks per rupee.

(e) Rs. 32,800 have been spent on Test Works from the 1st April, 1951 and the total estimated expenditure up to the end of August, 1951 is Rs. 1,21,300. New test works will be started if necessary.

"PHARKA MENACE" IN AJMER

*4914. Pandit M. B. Bhargava: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what measures were adopted during the years 1949-50 and 1950-51 to control and counter-act "Pharka menace" to the Khariff Crop in the State of Ajmer;

(b) what assistance, financial or otherwise, was given by the administration to the agriculturists for the purpose during the said years;

(c) what was the total expenditure incurred by the Government and how far the steps taken have been effective in this regard; and

(d) what steps are being taken to counter-act the evil during the coming Khariff Crop and what expenditure has been provided for the purpose?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The following measures were taken:

(i) removal of egg pods from the infested areas;

(ii) dusting of hoppers, and in a few cases adults, with Benzene Hexachloride.

(b) The agriculturists were provided with insecticides free of cost for killing 'Phadka'; and the cultivators, who collected eggs, were paid annas eight for each seer of egg-masses collected.

(c) The total expenditure incurred during 1949-50 and 1950-51 was Rs. 1,83,000 and Rs. 4,39,500, respectively. As a result of this expenditure increase in the total yield during 1949-50 was estimated at 1,38,165 maunds of cereals and 1,10,532 cart loads of fodder,

valued at Rs. 44,21,280. About 200 acres of cotton were also treated, and an estimated increase of yield, valued at Rs. 20,000 was obtained.

During 1950-51, maize, jowar, bajra, sesamum and cotton attacked by Phadka were treated over a total area of 1,19,800 acres, and loss of crops worth Rs. 1,07,58,764 was thus avoided.

(d) The control measures will depend upon the extent, range and intensity of the grasshopper attack. Every effort will be made to destroy the pests.

LAND RECLAMATION

*4915. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times the International Bank has sent its experts for inspecting land reclamation in India as carried on by virtue of the loan given to India;

(b) who were the experts each time and what was the length of their stay for purposes of inspection;

(c) what was the amount of expenditure incurred in connection with the inspections and who is to bear it;

(d) whether the experts have submitted their reports and if so, whether Government are in possession of their copies; and

(e) what is the general opinion of the report in connection with land reclamation in India and the working of the central tractor organisation?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The International Bank has on three occasions sent experts to India to review the progress of the land reclamation operations.

(b) Dr. J. T. Lund, an agricultural economist, and Mr. G. W. Burgess, representing the Loans Directorate of the Bank, came to India in November, 1950, and stayed for about 10 days.

Mr. J. H. Connors, Consulting Engineer to the Bank, arrived in India in January, 1951, and stayed for about 6 weeks.

*Lieut. Gen. R. A. Wheeler, Engineering Adviser, and Mr. J. H. Connors arrived in India on the 10th May, 1951, and left on the 30th May, 1951.

(c) The Government of India are not aware of the expenditure incurred as the responsibility for the same is that of the International Bank. The Government of India only provided

office accommodation and other office facilities and some small contingent expenditure on these visits.

(d) Government of India have not received any copy of the report of the first mission consisting of Dr. Lund and Mr. Burgess. Mr. Connors' report has been received by the Government. It is a confidential document. The Mission that has just left, has yet to present its report to the Bank.

(e) The main recommendations in Mr. Connors' report relate to employment of a sufficient number of technical experts at all levels, and securing of suitable land in sufficiently big blocks for the reclamation operations of the Central Tractor Organisation. These questions had already been under the consideration of Government and all necessary action has been initiated and in fact completed in certain respects.

FOOD AGREEMENT WITH CHINA

*4916. **Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi:**

(a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the terms of the latest agreement with China regarding purchase of food grains from that country?

(b) Are Government experiencing any shipping difficulty in the way of importing the said food grains from China?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) I regret that it will not be in the public interest to disclose at this stage the terms of purchase of foodgrains from China.

(b) No. It has been possible for Government to find adequate tonnage for lifting grain from China.

FOREST LAND

*4917. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the acreage of land under forest in the Indian Union and its percentage to the total land area of the country;

(b) how much of it is merchantable forest; and

(c) how much is under the management of the (i) Central Forest Department; (ii) State Governments; and (iii) private bodies?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The area of land under forest in India is of the order of 207,770 square miles

(about 128 million acres) which constitutes 19.2 per cent. of the total land area of the country.

(b) About 117,597 square miles (76 million acres) are accounted for by merchantable forest.

(c) The Central Forest Department, by which the hon. Member presumably means the Inspector-General of Forests and his staff, do not directly manage any forest areas.

State Governments control an area of 151,537 square miles (96 million acres) of forest. The forest area under the control of private individuals is about 54,766 square miles (35 million acres).

NATIONAL FOREST POLICY

*4918. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) in details the National Forest Policy followed by the Government of India;

(b) how much of unclassified and unreserved Government forests has been improved during the last ten years; and

(c) how many persons have been trained in Silviculture since 1947 (year by year)?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The policy which is being followed by the Government of India is contained in Circular Letter No. 22-F dated the 19th October, 1994. The salient features of the present policy are:

(i) retention of sufficient forests to preserve the climatic and physical conditions of the country,

(ii) need for securing sufficient forests for the general well-being of the people,

(iii) cultivation which comes before forestry must be genuinely permanent and must not reduce forest lands below the minimum requirements of the country,

(iv) satisfaction of the wants of the above four conditions have been satisfied.

(v) revenue to be realized to the fullest possible extent after the above four conditions have been satisfied.

The subject 'Forests' is included as item 19 in List II—State list of the seventh schedule of the Constitution of India. While some of the major states are following the above policy in its broad outlines, in some States

there have been departures from it. The question of introducing a common policy for the Forests of India was recently taken up by the Central Board of Forestry and a Drafting Committee has been formed to draw up the future policy in the light of the changed situation.

(b) The information has been called for from the State Governments and will be placed on the Table of the House when available.

(c) Year	No. of persons.
1947	951
1948	132
1949	188
1950	165

The above figures give the total of all officers and Rangers trained in Dehra Dun and Coimbatore. All of them have been absorbed in the various State services of India.

FOOD PROCUREMENT IN MADHYA PRADESH

*4919. **Shri Kannamwar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the State of Madhya Pradesh has reached the procurement target of the current year; if not, what are the reasons for the shortage in the current procurement?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): They have already exceeded their original target. The original target was 105,000 tons. Procurement up to the 15th May 1951 amounted to 122,514 tons. They have now revised the target and raised it to 190,000 tons.

BARASAT-BASHIRHAT LIGHT RAILWAY

*4920. **Shri A. C. Guha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any reports about the unsatisfactory workings of the Barasat-Bashirhat Light Railway and the Bengal Provincial Railway;

(b) whether there has been any strike in those railways;

(c) whether some officers of the Railway Board recently went to West Bengal;

(d) whether Government have come to any decision about the future of these two railways; and

(e) whether there has been any proposal to render any financial aid to the present managements of these railways?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. On the Barasat-Bashirhat Light Railway.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). The entire question is under consideration of the Government of West Bengal who are acting in close consultation with the Government of India and a final decision is likely to be taken shortly.

PLANE CRASH NEAR CHIDAMBARAM

*4921. **Shri Jnani Ram:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether an aeroplane crashed near Chidambaram on the 6th May, 1951;

(b) if so, the details of the accident; and

(c) the number of casualties?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes. I presume the hon. Member is referring to the crash that took place at Karumbakam that is near Chingleput.

(b) and (c). A private, two-seater aircraft, piloted by the owner, Shri Raja Rao, and carrying one passenger, took off from Madras aerodrome on 6th May 1951 at 02.20 hours. It crashed near Chingleput at approximately 3 A.M. on the same day. The aircraft was completely destroyed and both the occupants were killed.

ESCAPE OF PRISONERS FROM BIJAWAR JAIL

*4922. **Shri Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) whether any number of prisoners or undertrials who belong to a gang of dacoits have in this week broken open the Bijawar Jail and run away with arms and ammunition;

(b) whether any deaths have occurred as a result of clash between the jail guard and the runaways; and

(c) whether any policeman or Government employee who was on duty in the Jail is also reported to be absconding?

The Minister of States Transport and Railways (Shri Gopalaswami): (a) to (c). On May 21, 1951, five undertrial prisoners in the judicial lock-up at Bijawar managed with the help of the Constable on duty to escape from custody with three rifles and one hundred cartridges after shooting a Constable. The Constable on duty who aided in the escape was shot dead.

on the 23rd May by a Police pursuit party in an encounter. One of the escaped persons has been rearrested. Two rifles and eighty cartridges have been recovered.

FOOD PROCUREMENT BONUS

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

(a) if the Government of India have any control over the expenditure by States of the fund realised from procurement bonuses, and if so, the nature and extent of control; and

(b) how the bonus given to West Bengal Government has been spent—giving the details of the schemes and plan so far executed and undertaken and amount so far spent and the balance in hand?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes. The amounts realised by the State Governments as food bonuses cannot be spent by them unless the expenditure is sanctioned by the Government of India on approved schemes designed to increase either production or procurement of foodgrains. According to the Government of India's policy, 75 per cent. of the food bonuses earned by the State Governments is to be utilised for financing food production schemes and the remaining 25 per cent. for food procurement schemes. In the case of food production schemes, the balance of expenditure not covered by the bonus will be shared between the Government of India and the State Governments on 50:50 basis out of 'Grow More Food' funds.

(b) Statements giving the details of the expenditure approved out of the food bonus earned by the West Bengal are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XKVIII, annexure No. 25].

The expenditure so far approved for food production schemes is Rs. 197.06 lakhs, and the food bonus available for adjustment against this expenditure is Rs. 136.82 lakhs. The expenditure approved for food procurement schemes is Rs. 4.43 lakhs against Rs. 45.61 lakhs earmarked for the purpose, leaving an unspent balance of Rs. 41.18 lakhs.

COFFEE CULTIVATION AND PRODUCTION

404. Shri Thimmappa Gowda: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total acreage of land in India where Coffee is grown?

(b) What is the total production of Coffee in the years 1948, 1949 and

1950 and the quantity that was exported in each of these three years?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The area under coffee in India in 1949-50, the latest year for which figures are available, was 218,031 acres.

(b) The production and exports of Coffee during 1947-48, 1948-49 and 1949-50 were as under:

Year.	Production*	Exports
	(lbs.)	(lbs.)
1947-48	34,970,897	5,014,016
1948-49	36,161,059	70,112
1949-50	49,291,410	6,220,368

*in terms of cured coffee.

Similar figures are not available by calendar years.

RATIONING

405. Shri Barman: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cities and towns and the population involved thereby in 1950 under statutory rationing;

(b) total rural population under non-statutory rationing in 1950;

(c) the total rural population under statutory rationing in 1950; and

(d) the modification of rationing under parts (a) to (c) above in 1951 as contemplated at present?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) On 31st of December, 1950, 353 cities and towns with a population of 38 million were under statutory rationing.

(b) On the same date about 76 million people in the rural areas were under non-statutory rationing.

(c) The number of rural people under statutory rationing on the same date was about 7.4 million.

(d) The rural areas of Madras excluding the districts of Malabar and Nilgiris, and of Rajasthan have since been de-rationed, involving a population of 28.4 millions. In Bihar, Government have undertaken distribution of foodgrains in all the affected districts through Fair Price Shops, and in West Bengal modified rationing is being extended to all high priced areas of the State resulting in an increase in the rationed population of these two States by about 3 million. No further changes are contemplated at present.

B. N. RAILWAY ADVERTISEMENTS

406. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the names of Newspapers and Periodicals in Madhya Pradesh, which are entitled to receive advertisements and public notices for publication from the B.N.R. administration?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): The following dailies and periodicals published in Madhya Pradesh are at present on the approved list for purposes of receiving advertisements and public notices from the B. N. Railway:

S. No.	Name	Place of publication.	Language
--------	------	-----------------------	----------

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

Dailies.

(1)	Hitavada	Nagpur	English
(2)	Nagpur Times	—do—	—do—
(3)	Jai Hind	Jubbulpore	Hindi
(4)	Lokmat	Nagpur	Hindi
(5)	Nava Bharat	Nagpur	Hindi
(6)	Maharashtra	Nagpur	Marath
(7)	Taran Bharat	Nagpur	Marathi

Weeklies.]

(1)	Agradoot	Raipur	Hindi
(2)	Karmavir	Khandwa	Hindi
(3)	Mahakoshal	Raipur	Hindi
(4)	Shubh Chintak (Bi-weekly)	Jubbulpore	Hindi
(5)	Swarajya	Khandwa	Hindi
(6)	Bhavitavya	Nagpur	Marathi
(7)	Chavata	Nagpur	Marathi
(8)	Hindustan	Amraoti	Marathi
(9)	Inquilab	Nagpur	Marathi
(10)	Mastribhumi (Bi-weekly)	Akola	Marathi
(11)	Samadhan	Nagpur	Marathi
(12)	Surajya	Nagpur	Marathi

Other Periodicals.

(1)	All India Reporter (Monthly)	Nagpur	English
-----	---------------------------------	--------	---------

1	2	3	4
(2)	Rashtrabhasha (Monthly)	Wardha	Hindi
(3)	Udyam (Monthly)	Nagpur	Hindi
(4)	Udyam (Monthly)	Nagpur	Marathi
(5)	Shri Guru Deo (Monthly)	Amraoti	Marathi and Hindi

IMPORT OF DATES

407. Dr. M. M. Das: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities of dates that have been imported from Iraq into India during 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52, to date;

(b) whether the import trade has been carried on from Government to Government level;

(c) how the imported dates have been distributed to different States and the quantity granted to West Bengal for the years 1950-51 and 1951-52; and

(d) whether the dates are sold to the people as a rationed or non-rationed article of food?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) The following quantities of dates were imported from Iraq:

1949-50—30,320 tons.

1950-51—51,605 tons.

1951-52. The information has not been compiled as yet. Except for the following quantities which were purchased and imported by the Government of India the remaining quantities were imported by the trade:

1949-50—nil.

1950-51—17,500 tons.

1951-52—The Government of India have contracted to purchase 8,000 tons. Against this 4,300 tons have been received upto 26th May, 1951.

(b) No.

(c) The distribution to various States was made as indicated below:

Name of State	1950-51	1951-52
	Tons	Tons
(1) Madhya Pradesh	3,000	..
(2) Bombay	7,000	..
(3) Bihar	3,000	4,000
(4) Uttar Pradesh	2,000	..
(5) West Bengal	2,000	..
(6) Hyderabad	100	..
	17,500	4,000

The Government of West Bengal did not wish to have any further quantities.

(d) The dates are sold as a non-rationed article of food.

CLAIMS AGAINST RAILWAY ADMINISTRATIONS

409. Shri Kishorimohan Tripathi: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of claims received against each of the Railway administrations during the year 1950 in respect of loss of or damage to goods;

(b) what the value claimed against each administration was;

(c) how many of these claims have been finally disposed of, indicating figures administration-wise; and

(d) what was the longest and the shortest period taken under each of the administrations in disposing of the cases referred to in part (c) above?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XXVIII, annexure No. 26].

(b) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when ready.

पालामू, बिहार में ग्राम्य डाक खाने

४१०. श्री मोरारि: क्या तैयारी में यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(ए) बिहार में पालामू जिले के गांवों में उप डाक खानों की संख्या क्या है ;

(बी) पत्र बांटने के लिए कितने ग्राम्य डाकियों को रखा गया है ;

(सी) वर्ष १९४९ तथा १९५० में पालामू जिले के ग्राम्य क्षेत्रों में नये डाक खाने खोलने के लिये कितने प्रार्थन/पत्र प्राप्त हुए ;

(डी) चालू वर्ष में पालामू जिले में खोले गये नये डाक खानों की संख्या क्या है ; तथा

(ई) पालामू जिले में कितने नये डाक खाने खोलने का विचार है ?

VILLAGE POST OFFICES IN PALAMU, BIHAR

410. Shri Oraon: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sub-post offices in the villages of Palamu District of Bihar;

(b) the number of village postmen employed for the purpose of delivery of letters;

(c) the number of applications received in 1949 and 1950 for the opening of new post offices in the rural areas of Palamu District;

(d) the number of new post offices opened in Palamu District during the current year; and

(e) the number of new post offices proposed to be opened in Palamu District?]

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 2.

(b) 5.

(c) 13.

(d) Nil.

(e) 1.

CATTLE CENSUS

411. Shri Raj Kanwar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any regular cattle census has been held in the country;

(b) if the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether the results of such census will be tabulated in a volume and published in due course;

(c) what are the names of the cattle included in the census; and

(d) whether Government have considered any proposal to hold a regular cattle census decennially and if so, what is their decision thereon?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes. A Livestock Census is at present being held in the country and is expected to have been completed by 31st May, 1951.

(b) Yes.

(c) Cattle (bulls and cows); Buffaloes; Sheep; Goats; Horses; Donkeys; Mules; Camels; and Pigs.

(d). Government have been conducting a quinquennial Livestock Census regularly since 1920. The Census due in 1950 was postponed to 1951 in order to synchronise it with the proposed F.A.O. Agricultural Census. From now on it is expected that the decennial

Census of human beings will coincide with the Census of livestock.

NON-FERROUS METALS FOR RAILWAYS

412. Pandit M. B. Bhargava: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of non-ferrous metals imported by different railways for their requirements from outside the country and also the total quantity and value of the same purchased in India from indigenous sources during the years 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51;

(b) the total quantity and value of non-ferrous metal scraps disposed of by the different railways during the said years;

(c) the total quantity and value of reconditioned non-ferrous metals purchased by the railways from the factories in India and the price at which the same was purchased; and

(d) whether the railways have any workshop or factory for reconditioning non-ferrous metal scraps to meet their own requirements, if so, at what place and what is its productive capacity?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): The information asked for by the hon. Member is not readily available and is being collected from Railways. The same will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

POST OFFICES IN ASSAM VILLAGES

413. Maulvi Wajed Ali: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Post offices in rural areas in the State of Assam;

(b) the total number of such Post Offices opened in Assam during 1950-51, and total number proposed to be opened during 1951-52;

(c) the total number of combined Post and Telegraph Offices in Assam, and the number of those opened newly during 1950-51, and those proposed to be opened during 1951-52; and

(d) the average distance between one village post office and the other, within the State of Assam, and Manipur State?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 658 Rural Post Offices on 1st April, 1951.

(b) Rural Post Offices opened in 1950-51.—12.

Proposed to be opened during 1951-52.—75.

(c) Total combined P. and T. Offices.—160.

Opened during 1950-51.—7.

Proposed to be opened during 1951-52.—18.

(d) Assam—7 miles.

Manipur—14 miles.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS OF AGARTALA

414. Shri G. S. Guha: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is through connection by telegraph between Agartala and the various Divisional Head Quarters in Tripura State without East Pakistan territory intervening;

(b) if not, are Government considering the question of establishing through telegraphic communications between such places?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No. Telegraphic communication between Agartala and Kailashahr, a Divisional Headquarter in Tripura State passes through East Pakistan.

(b) Yes, a proposal to link up Kailashahr with Agartala by wireless is under consideration.

VILLAGE POST OFFICES IN MANIPUR AND TRIPURA

415. Shri G. S. Guha: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether post offices in all villages and areas with a population of over 2000 have been established in the States of (i) Manipur and (ii) Tripura; and

(b) whether mails to Agartala from all places in Tripura State are carried by routes wholly within the State?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes. The attention of the hon. Member is also invited to the replies given to parts (a) and (c) of the Starred Question No. 3577 put by Shri A. C. Guha on the 27th April, 1951.

(b) No. Mails from five outlying stations in the Tripura State to Agartala have to be conveyed through the intermediary of the Pakistan R.M.S. Services under the normal International Postal procedure, in the absence of direct routes across the State.

WATCH AND WARD SECTION OF INDIAN RAILWAYS

416. Shri Kamath: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reorganize the Watch and Ward Section of the Indian Railways, so as to provide for Central direction and control; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposed Scheme?

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanaiah): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

INCREASE OF BASIC RATION IN BIHAR

417. Shri Kamath: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a P.T.I.

report from Madras dated 18th May 1951 (vide *The Times of India*, Delhi edition of 19th May 1951—page 5 col. 4)—that the Bihar Government have decided to increase the basic ration in that State to 12 oz. with 4 oz. extra for manual labourers;

(b) whether the report is correct;

(c) whether the Centre has been consulted in this matter; and

(d) when the basic ration will be restored to 12 oz. in all the States?

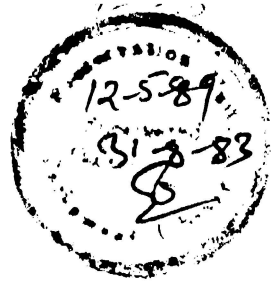
The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri K. M. Munshi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

Tuesday, 5th 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—301
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 Commis- sion.	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
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	10466—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 re Air Services.	10515

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 re Delimitation of Constituencies Orders, 1951	10515—615

**THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES**

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

10192

10193

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

Tuesday, 5th June, 1951

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

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

9-39 A.M.

**MOTIONS RE. DELIMITATION OF
CONSTITUENCIES ORDERS, 1951**

Mr. Speaker: We will now proceed with the motions re. Delimitation of Constituencies Orders, 1951. We shall follow the procedure that we followed yesterday. I shall just call the names of the hon. Members and they may simply say that they move. I am calling out the Members. I think I called them yesterday also. I gave them time up to one o'clock. They are absent even today. The matter is on the Order Paper. So there is no question of their being given any further chance if they are not present now. Shri R. K. Chaudhuri is absent.

Shri Chaliha (Assam): I moved a motion yesterday; it is in Supplementary List No. 2. That covers Mr. Chaudhuri's motion.

Mr. Speaker: Then, of course, he need not move that motion if it is covered by a motion which is already before the House.

BIHAR ORDER

Shri Ramraj Jajwara (Bihar): I beg to move:

(For text of motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 2).

Shri Himatsingka (West Bengal): I beg to move:

(For text of motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 2).

199 PSD.

SAURASHTRA ORDER

Shri C. C. Shah (Saurashtra): I beg to move:

(For text of motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 2).

Shri Hathi (Saurashtra): I beg to move:

(For text of motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 2).

PART C STATES ORDER

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

(For text of motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 2).

MADHYA BHARAT ORDER

Shri Radhelal Vyas (Madhya Bharat): I beg to move:

(For text of motions see Appendix XXXIII, Annexure No. 2).

Mr. Speaker: So the absentees are: Shri R. K. Chaudhuri—He need not move his motion as it is covered by the motion moved by Mr. Chaliha—Mr. Haque, Mr. Subbiah and Dr. Gangadhara Siva—His absence does not matter as the same motion is going to be moved by Mr. Sidhva.

In case these Members are present by one o'clock, then we might consider as to whether they should be given a further chance, otherwise, the motions will be barred tomorrow.

Dr. Deshmukh: What about other motions with respect to other States?

Mr. Speaker: They will come tomorrow. For them, the limitation expires the day after tomorrow. There was a difference of two days in laying the Orders on the Table of the House and if today is the last day for the first set, the 7th will be the last day for those motions.

RESOLUTION RE. BETTER MANAGEMENT OF CERTAIN EVACUEE PROPERTY—Concl'd.

The Minister of State for Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): I am thankful to the hon. Members who spoke yesterday and welcomed the resolution which I have placed before the House. Some welcomed it openheartedly, others rather tardily and at least one hon. Member indulged in the usual tirades against me and my Ministry. I will come to the individual points raised by hon. Members a little later on.

To begin with, I would like to deal with the amendment moved by hon. Mr. Guha and also some legal points raised by other hon. Members of this House. It will be observed that I have moved for taking powers to legislate on the items mentioned in the Seventh Schedule, List II, entry 18 only partially. Mr. Guha wants me to include land tenures including the relationship of landlord and tenant and the collection of rent. I regret that I am unable to accept this amendment. The object with which I propose to bring forward the legislation in this House is a very definite and a limited one. It is to separate the admixture of non-evacuee interest from the evacuee interest in a property where they are jointly held. Now that can be done ordinarily through the process of the civil courts. If in a property there are mortgagor and mortgagee interests, one of which has become evacuee property and the other has not, the ordinary procedure would be that the custodian or the other person concerned files a suit in a court of law. Similarly in case of joint properties, it would be open to the Custodian or the other co-sharers to file a suit for partition but the number of such suits would be very large and it may take many years to decide. Therefore, the idea is to lay down an expeditious and quick method of separating these interests. The legislation which I propose to bring has nothing to do with the relationship between the landlord and the tenant or the collection of rents. For that reason, I regret that I cannot accept the amendment of Mr. Guha. My hon. friend, Mr. Sidhva.....

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA
in the Chair]

Shri A. C. Guha (West Bengal): May I ask for one clarification? If there are two landlords, one is an evacuee and another is a non-evacuee, what would be the position?

Shri A. P. Jain: In that case under the Bill which we propose to bring

the Custodian could act in any of the four following ways: Either he pays the non-evacuee and takes over the whole property or he hands over the whole property to the non-evacuee and realises his money or he sells the entire property and distributes the money in proportion to the interest of the evacuee and non-evacuee or he divides the property by metes and bounds. These are the four ways in which the Custodian could proceed.

My hon. friend, Mr. Sidhva thought that this Parliament was possessed of sufficient powers under entry No. 41 of List III of the Seventh Schedule. I am afraid, that it is not so. Entry 41 refers to "custody, management and disposal of property (including agricultural land) declared by law to be evacuee property". Now the first essential is that the property must be evacuee property and then Parliament will have the power to make laws with regard to custody, management and disposal. Here it is neither a question of custody nor of management nor of disposal. It is a question of separating the admixture of non-evacuee interest from the evacuee interest and it will not be covered by entry No. 41. The Law Ministry has very carefully examined this question and they are of the opinion,—and I hope others will share that opinion—that we are not possessed of sufficient power to enact that law under entry No. 41.

Shri Sidhva (Madhya Pradesh): At a later stage, would not the question of disposal come?

Shri A. P. Jain: When the question of disposal comes, then, we will come under entry 41. Today, it is only a question of separation.

Mr. Sidhva was also labouring under another misapprehension. This resolution has been brought under article 249 of the Constitution. He thought that if we act under article 249, we shall have to obtain the consent of the State Governments. That is not so. The powers given to Parliament under article 249, as adopted under article 392, are absolute powers. Immediately after this resolution is adopted, this Parliament will be in a position to enact laws on these subjects. We have been more cautious. I do hope that the period of 18 months which will be available to us in the first instance, or which may later on be extended under the provisions of article 249, will be enough for us to proceed and achieve the object that we have in view. In any event, we are in correspondence with the State Governments and if necessary we can bring forth another legislation after obtaining the

consent of the States under article 252. Articles 249 and 252 are independent of one another.

After discussing these points of law, I come to certain points raised by hon. Members. Lala Achint Ram complained that there was not enough notice of the resolution. He said that the resolution had been handed over to him as also to other Members of Parliament on the night previous to the day when it came up for discussion. That is so. I may illuminate Lala Achint Ram about the facts. So far as my Ministry is concerned, we gave notice of this resolution on the 29th May. My Ministry does not prepare the agenda for Parliament. It is for Parliament Secretariat. When they thought that they could safely put this resolution on the agenda they did it. If Lala Achint Ram had at all taken care to look at the agenda paper, he could have seen that this was the last item put on the second provisional list. There were several important Bills which would ordinarily have come up before for discussion. Among them, there were the Representation of the People (No. 2) Bill, the Government of Part C States Bill, and the Employees' State Insurance (Amendment) Bill. If, in the ordinary course, those Bills had come up for discussion, they might have taken several days before this resolution could come before the House. For some unforeseen reasons, those Bills had to be postponed. It is not the fault of Parliament Secretariat either. At any rate, it is not my fault that this resolution was placed in the hands of the Members on the previous night.

Lala Achint Ram said that he could not understand the resolution and he wanted to seek the help of Dr. Tek Chand. So far as Dr. Tek Chand is concerned, I had a talk with him about this resolution long before. If Lala Achint Ram could not understand, I could provide him with knowledge, but not with understanding. At any rate, I want this House and the public outside to judge whether criticism of that kind is an honest and *bona fide* criticism or otherwise.

Lala Achint Ram made another complaint that I was guilty of another sin in not bringing forward this resolution earlier. I could have brought it six months earlier or nine months earlier. I remember when I was at school, there was a friend who used to say that if you have to catch the train at 12 o'clock and reach the railway station at eight o'clock, you have better chances of getting into the train than if you reach the station five or ten minutes before its arrival. I have

never understood the logic of that friend and I do not understand Lala Achint Ram's logic today. Everything has to be done at the proper time. The question of evacuee property has come before this House more than once. Recently, there were some questions about the evacuee property. It was made clear that after the June, 1950 conference, our Prime Minister wrote certain letters to his opposite number, Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, about evacuee property. We wanted to come to a settlement with Pakistan about evacuee property. Unfortunately, we could not. I think the correspondence of the Prime Minister continued right up to the end of 1950 or even the beginning of 1951. Surely, we could not take unilateral action unless the matter had been first taken up between the two Prime Ministers. It was only after that that we could take action. At any rate I can assure the House that no harm has been done. So far as compensation is concerned mere separation of evacuee and non-evacuee interest will not help unless claims are processed and evacuee property valued. In fact, if I had brought forward this proposal earlier, I would have done an injury. The House knows that our Custodians, who are now proposed to be given this work, have been overworked. Large numbers of properties had to be discovered, and large number of cases were pending decision. There has been some respite now and I hope that it will be possible for the custodians to finish their work. If we had made this law, say, a year ago, I submit that either we would have had to set up a separate machinery or the work of taking over of the evacuee property would have been delayed. I think this resolution has come just at the time when it should have come. It is neither too early nor too late.

The last point about which Lala Achint Ram was rather vehement was certain remarks which I made about the Claims Organisation. Not only had he distorted completely what I said, but he went to the length of saying that what I said must be expunged from the proceedings of this House. That remark of his, I make bold to say, is based on his utter ignorance of parliamentary procedure. What I said was not only perfectly within order, but I should say that it was something which I should have said, and I will repeat it today. Speaking about claims, what I said was:

"We have made some progress. Personally speaking, I am not ashamed of the progress that we have made."

Then, I said: "I am experiencing that the type of man who is coming

[Shri A. P. Jain]

forward for Claims Officership is not so well qualified". Then, I said:

"I attach great weight to the efficiency and integrity of these men (Claims Officers)—I know it is a very difficult type of work and if it is entrusted to persons who are not fully efficient, or whose integrity is not unquestioned, difficulties may arise."

I ask this House what sin have I committed in making these statements? I am the person in charge and I have been sanctioning the appointments. The latest list which has come to me for appointment may be placed before any tribunal consisting of High Court Judges and I am sure they will agree with me that the latest list is inferior to the lists that have been coming before. Men who had been rejected during the first scrutiny have now been recommended.

10 A.M.

Hon. Members must have seen the offer which I have made to Pakistan and published in the Newspapers today. I have made an offer to Pakistan that I am prepared to associate Pakistan with the work of the assessment of the value of property left behind by non-muslims in Pakistan, as also with the work of the evaluation of the evacuee property here. I want to work honestly, fairly and above board. I am not afraid of the representatives of Pakistan coming here and acting as observers. The House will also remember that more than once suggestions have been made that the matter of the evacuee property may be referred to some impartial tribunal; maybe, one day we may have to go to the International Court; I am not sure about it. Maybe that some day an international tribunal may be appointed and before that tribunal the question of the evaluation of the evacuee properties in the two countries may be in issue. Am I expected then to take up anybody and appoint him as a Claims Officer? So long as I am here I am not prepared to accept a proposition of that kind. I attach the highest importance to the honesty and integrity of the officers. I want to assess this property in an honest and fair manner. I am answerable not only to this Parliament, but also to the public at large and perhaps also to international opinion which is concerned with the question of evacuee property. I shall follow the method that I have prescribed.

Shri J. R. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh): May we know what is the total number

of Claims Officers who have been appointed?

Shri A. P. Jain: Yes, I am coming to that.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): What is the exact difficulty? Is it one of funds or want of men of the required status, qualifications and integrity?

Shri A. P. Jain: I am coming to that.

We have already issued orders for the posting of 166 Claims Officers, out of which 158 have been posted already, that is to say, they have started working. We have issued orders sanctioning the appointment of over 200 officers. The average weekly disposal is 7,269 and in the last week, ending on the 23rd May, 1951, the disposal was 8,371. This Claims Organisation has been set up during the last six months. Yesterday I said that I did not feel ashamed of the success that we had achieved. Today I go further and say that I feel proud of the success we have achieved. If you look.....

Lala Achint Ram (Punjab): What have you achieved during the last four years?

Shri A. P. Jain: Not during the last four years, but ever since the Claims Act was passed and we started work under it. Well, the Claims Organisation that we have set up is bigger than the entire machinery of the civil courts in some of the States and a Ministry that can create such a machinery in about six months time has no reason to feel ashamed of it. Things, after all, cannot be done in a day, and when we are taking up a novel work of this kind, we have got to proceed with caution. May I ask whether there is any precedent anywhere where some lakhs of properties have been left behind and have to be assessed without the assistance of papers, or local inspection? Are there precedents where lakhs of properties of all types and descriptions have been evaluated? We have taken up this work of a novel nature and I will proceed with all the caution, honesty and integrity that I happen to possess. I have gone to the farthest limit to meet the wishes of the hon. Member to whom I have just now referred. He is a member of the Standing Advisory Committee and this is not the first time that he has levelled his tirades against the Claims Organisation. He has.....

Lala Achint Ram: I will do so as long as I am not satisfied.

Shri A. P. Jain: You may not be satisfied, but I do not mind it.

He raised this question in the Advisory Committee and said that this work must be finished in six months. He said,—I am reading from the minutes of the committee:

"H.M. expressed his inability to get the work completed within the stipulated period on account of obvious difficulties though he assured the member that it will be completed as quickly as possible. However, he suggested that a committee consisting of Lala Achint Ram and two other members may be appointed who will be delegated all powers to co-ordinate and complete this work within the period prescribed by Lala Achint Ram."

Lala Achint Ram: It was not appointed.

Shri A. P. Jain: You were offered, but you did not accept it. After such a refusal, to come to this House and...

Lala Achint Ram: I have not refused it.

Shri A. P. Jain: I am not going to offer it now.

Lala Achint Ram: I will not accept it either, if that is the spirit of co-operation in you.

Shri Amolakh Chand (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, on a point of order. Can the hon. Members address each other direct, instead of the Chair?

Shri A. P. Jain: I will not address individual Members.

Dr. Deshmukh: Will the hon. Member who raised the point of order, please take out the *pan* from his mouth and then speak?

Shri A. P. Jain: I can assure the House that I have been doing my best and nobody can do more than his best. It is my desire that the claims must be assessed honestly and in the shortest possible time and I am prepared to accept any reasonable suggestion that is given to me. The House will remember that I appointed an informal committee consisting of five Members of Parliament. They have made some suggestions and they have suggested that I might advertise the posts. I approached the Home Ministry and the Home Ministry was good enough to accord me that permission. I have advertised those posts. I can assure this House that I will appoint as many persons as are good enough to do this and as quickly as possible. No

body can be expected to do more than his best.

My hon. friend Mr. Guha objected to certain remarks that I had made in answer to certain questions yesterday. That is not related to the present discussion, but I am only referring to it to assure Mr. Guha that I did not mean any general reflection on the East Bengal refugees. Certain persons have deserted and I am sorry for that. It is painful to see persons deserting the camps or the rehabilitation centres. We are trying to provide as many facilities in these rehabilitation centres and camps as we possibly can provide. I am trying to improve the condition in these camps. I dare say I have looked into minute matters connected with these camps and centres. When I went to Orissa I visited these camps. I tried to remove their difficulties. I tried to meet their complaints. In fact I am here to provide as many facilities and amenities as can possibly be given to the displaced persons. If at any time I am unable to do so, I am unhappy about it. That is my misfortune. This Ministry exists for the service of the displaced persons and we try to render this service in the best possible manner that we can.

I have, I believe, covered most of the points that were raised yesterday and.....

Dr. Deshmukh: What about the State land laws? Will they not be abrogated to the extent that Parliament legislates in this regard?

Shri A. P. Jain: Our law will not primarily concern laws relating to the land. We shall take power to separate the evacuee interests from the non-evacuee interests so that we may take possession of the evacuee interests. As I have said, if we go by the ordinary courts of law, it may take five or ten years and our objective may thus be defeated. Therefore it has been proposed to confer the necessary powers on the custodians—of course on judicial custodians—who may quickly separate the two interests.

Dr. Deshmukh: Will the ordinary law of the State remain intact?

Shri A. P. Jain: I think so.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

That after the words "over land", occurring in line 11, the following be inserted:

"land tenures including the relation of landlord and tenant, and the collection of rents."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: Before I put the resolution to the House, I might inform the House that under article 249 of the Constitution for this resolution to be declared as passed, it is necessary that there should be a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members present and voting in the House. I would therefore put this resolution to the House and would like to find out if there is unanimity in regard to this resolution. If there is no unanimity, then I shall have to call a division. I therefore put the resolution to the House:

The question is:

"Whereas for the better management and disposal of certain evacuee property, it is necessary to make laws providing for the separation of the interests of evacuees from those of non-evacuees, and such laws may *inter alia* relate to certain matters enumerated in the State List;

This House do resolve in pursuance 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 June, 1951, make laws with respect to the following matters enumerated in entries 18 and 30 of the State List, namely:—

rights in or over land; transfer and alienation of agricultural land; money-lending and money-lenders and relief of agricultural indebtedness."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: I understand that there is complete unanimity.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): There might be some neutrals.

Mr. Chairman: If there are any Members who are neutral, they may stand in their seats. I take it the House is unanimous. I therefore declare that this resolution is carried unanimously by the House.

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (NO. 2) BILL—*Contd.*

The Minister of Law (Dr. Ambedkar): Sir, with your permission, I would like to move certain formal and consequential amendments to the Representation of the People (No. 2) Bill as it has emerged from the second reading. I beg to move:

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

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

"That the Bill as amended, be passed."

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): Before the Law Minister proceeds to move these amendments, may I remind you of what I requested the hon. Speaker yesterday that this House is entitled to have notice of amendments. I must record my protest against this in the most emphatic terms that these lists of amendments were received not even last night but only this morning at about seven o'clock—just an hour before we left home for Parliament. I feel that in the circumstances the Law Minister may put off moving his amendments till tomorrow and that Members be given adequate time to scrutinize and examine the amendments and to give notice of any amendments to these amendments, because on a casual reading of the amendments—of course I have had no time to read them fully—I find that some of them at least are not merely consequential, but go beyond the nature of mere consequential amendments. If, in spite of this, there is a move anywhere in this House or regretfully or unfortunately on the part of the Chair, to adopt a procedure which might result in shutting out discussions, I feel that, in so far as this Bill is concerned—one of the most important electoral Bills—it would be detrimental not merely to the House in building up traditions for the House but also in the interest of the nation. I must request you to hold that these amendments have come very late and House must be given at least a day for examining the amendments and for submitting amendments to them.

Shri I. R. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh): I associate myself with the suggestion made by Shri Kamath that as these amendments have been sent to us this morning, we might be given some reasonable time to see whether in our opinion they fit in with the scope and object of the Bill. I do not mean to raise any technical objection. I am never in that habit.....

Shri Kamath: Mine was not a technical objection either.

Shri I. R. Kapoor: Therefore I am associating with Shri Kamath's suggestion. We are very particular about this Bill and are anxious to see that no amendment—even though it might have been carefully looked into by the hon. Law Minister—should be allowed to be incorporated in the Bill unless we have had a reasonable opportunity of analysing it.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): I think the suggestion made is correct.

reasonable and I hope that you will be pleased to accept it. After all we are resorting to a novel procedure which I dare say we do not observe in regard to ordinary Bills. Under those circumstances, it is but fair that hon. Members of this House should have an opportunity of seeing what consequential amendments are proposed and if there is any necessity for the same. They should have a fair opportunity of giving notice of any amendments they wish to move. There are many other measures that can be taken up today.

Mr. Chairman: I would like to know the reaction of the hon. Law Minister.

Dr. Ambedkar: I contend that these amendments are purely formal and consequential. There is nothing which raises the question of substance. However, if Members think that they need some time, I have no objection to the matter being taken up tomorrow subject to the other business of Government.

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): The next item on the agenda may be taken up.

Mr. Chairman: I quite see the reasonableness of the request. There are 31 amendments but most of them must be formal. It might be possible that there might be one or two contentious matters. I would rather like that we did not waste the time of the House so that by the time other Ministers arrive.....

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): Will it be possible to take this up after two or three hours or tomorrow?

Hon. Members: To-morrow. We can take up other Bills for today.

Mr. Chairman: So the House agrees that this Bill will be taken up tomorrow. In the meantime we will take up the other items on the agenda.

MARKING OF HEAVY PACKAGES BILL

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to give effect to the International Convention drawn up in Geneva on the 30th day of May, 1929, for the marking of weight on heavy packages transported by sea or inland waterways, be taken into consideration."

There is hardly any necessity for me to explain this Bill. It is explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. The Convention concerning the marking of the weight on heavy packages transported by vessels adopted by the International Labour Conference in 1929 has been accepted by this country in 1931. Therefore the only point on which I have to offer an explanation is why it was not passed into law immediately thereafter. It was then found that the port trusts had the power to make bye-laws giving effect to the Convention. Therefore the major port trusts made bye-laws and it was not considered necessary to have a separate law. But in 1948 the I.L.O. asked us whether we would extend the application of the Convention to other ports, such as minor ports, because they also had to handle heavy packages. We undertook this and that is why the Bill was introduced last year. It is a pity that though it is a minor, simple and non-controversial Bill it had to be delayed for such a long time.....

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): Every Bill is a simple Bill.

Shri Santhanam: If the hon. Member cannot use his discrimination I cannot help it. He is welcome to read the Bill and find out whether it is simple or complicated. I claim.....

Shri J. R. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh): The hon. Member can make anything simple very complex.

Shri Santhanam: That also is a privilege of hon. Members.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill to give effect to the International Convention drawn up in Geneva on the 30th day of May, 1929, for the marking of weight on heavy packages transported by sea or inland waterways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3—(Obligation to mark weight etc.)

Amendment made.

In clause 3, after "plainly" insert a comma and "durably".

—[Shri J. R. Kapoor]

Shri J. R. Kapoor: I beg to move:

To clause 3, add the proviso:

"Provided that in cases or circumstances specified by rules made under this Act where it is difficult to determine the exact weight, only

[Shri J. R. Kapoor]

an approximate weight may be so marked."

Under clause 5(b) it will be permissible for the Central Government by notification in the official Gazette to make rules, specifying the circumstances in which the approximate weight of the heavy packages, instead of their correct weight, may be stated. That rule-making power is there. I think it is necessary to add a proviso here, so that the rules made thereunder will have the force of a specific provision of the law as contained in clause 3.

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

To clause 3, add the proviso:

"Provided that in cases or circumstances specified by rules made under this Act where it is difficult to determine the exact weight, only an approximate weight may be so marked."

Shri Kamath: Sir, I have an amendment to this amendment. In effect it is a verbal amendment. It is the same as Mr. Kapoor's except that it seeks to substitute the word "exact" by the word "correct" as in the Bill moved by the hon. Minister.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: In the proviso I have suggested in my amendment the words used are "exact weight" in line 3. Instead of that Mr. Kamath wants the substitution of the words "correct weight".

Shri Kamath: In the Bill itself the word used is "correct" and nowhere does the word "exact" occur. In keeping with the Bill itself I have used the same word.

Shri Santhanam: I would suggest the amendment of Mr. Kapoor might be changed by substituting the word "correct" for "exact". I am prepared to accept the amendment in that form.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: I would suggest to the Minister to accept the amendment in the form in which I have tabled it. Whatever weight will be specified on the bundles will of course be the correct weight; it may not be exact. It is not the intention of anybody that under any circumstances the correct weight should not be labelled. The weight may be correct, but it may not necessarily be exact. An approximate weight would nonetheless be correct, though it may not be exact. I have therefore tabled an amendment to clause 5 also where I have suggested that in part (b) for the word "correct"

the word "exact" be substituted. I do not want the impression to go out that under the garb of this difficulty our intention is not to give the correct weight. The weight is correct, though not exact.

Shri Santhanam: Scientifically speaking there is no such thing as an exact weight. It depends upon the number of decimal places. No weight can be called exact except to a certain degree of accuracy. It may be correct to the pound or correct to an ounce or correct to a certain fraction of an ounce. Therefore the word "exact" is more than anybody can define, whereas "correct" would meet the trade practices. The word "approximate" also will have to be defined by rules to specify what amount of variation there may be from the correct weight. I have no doubt whatsoever that the word "correct" is the proper word, and inasmuch as that word is already used the wording of this amendment also should conform to it—we do not want to have two terms like "exact weight" and "correct weight". There is no question of anybody *mala fide* putting a wrong weight and getting off. Here it is a question between approximate weight and correct weight. The approximate weight cannot be called the correct weight as in trade practice weight is calculated to the nearest pound. Supposing the weight varies by two or three pounds, it cannot be the correct weight—it can only be the approximate weight. But it is possible to say that though it is to the nearest pound, it is not exact in terms of ounces or decimal points. Therefore, the word "exact" better be kept in the realm of science and not be brought in the field of trade practices.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: May I remind my hon. friend.....

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is willing to accept the amendment of Mr. Kapoor or of Mr. Kamath?

Shri Santhanam: Mr. Kamath's.

Shri Kamath: May I submit a few words, Sir, in elucidation of the point made by my hon. friend, Mr. Santhanam. This is one of the few occasions I find myself in wholehearted and entire agreement with Mr. Santhanam, and I am sorry to see that my friend, Mr. Kapoor refuses to see light even where the light is so blinding and so obvious. I do not know whether Mr. Kapoor has been a student of mathematics, but the word "exact" really has the connotation which Mr. Santhanam has put on it just now. For instance, take a package of 99.98 lbs. That will be the

exact weight mathematically, but certainly I do not think under this Bill that weight will have to be specified. They will make it 99.5 lbs. or perhaps 100 lbs.—that will be the correct weight—they will not say 99.58 lbs. Therefore, it is not too late for Mr. Kapoor to see the light, where it has been made so obvious and blinding. When there has been a flash of light in this House, I hope he will see his way to accepting the amendment, though the sense of the amendment which I have moved is in no way different from his. And if he so desires, I am willing to share the honours with him in this case, and if he is so willing to have his amendment moved—if it can be so arranged—in this way, and the Minister can accept his amendment with my verbal amendment. It may be done in any way that the House desires.

Mr. Chairman: Now the hon. Minister is prepared to accept Mr. Kamath's amendment. May I ask whether Mr. Kapoor wants his amendment to be put to vote or he wants to withdraw it?

Shri J. R. Kapoor: I want to withdraw it, Sir.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn

Mr. Chairman: Then Mr. Kamath's amendment.

The question is:

To clause 3, add the proviso:

"Provided that in cases or circumstances specified by rules made under this Act where it is difficult to determine the correct weight, only the approximate weight may be so marked."

The motion was adopted.

Shri S. C. Samanta (West Bengal): I beg to move:

In clause 3, after "and conspicuously" insert "with indelible ink".

Though the amendment moved by Mr. Kapoor in this connection has been accepted, in order to make it more clear I hope the hon. Minister will accept this amendment.

Shri Santhanam: It is not possible to accept it because indelible ink may not be usable on a particular form of packages and the word "durably" meets all the needs of the case.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Then I do not press my amendment.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill

Clause 4.—(Penalty)

Shri J. R. Kapoor: I beg to move:

For sub-clause (2) of clause 4, substitute:

"(2) It shall be the duty of every company or other body corporate, consigning heavy packages to nominate a person whose duty it shall be to see that such packages are marked in accordance with the provisions of section 3, and in the event of contravention of the said provisions such nominated person shall be punishable under sub-section (1)."

Should, however, this amendment of mine not be acceptable to the hon. Minister in charge of the Bill, I would move an alternative amendment to the following effect.

I beg to move:

In sub-clause (2) of clause 4, for "director" substitute "managing director".

Sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Bill reads thus:

"If any person contravenes the provisions of section 3, he shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees."

This is all right so far as it goes and I have nothing but support to offer in favour of it. But then sub-clause (2) runs as follows:

"If the person contravening the said provisions is a company or other body corporate, every director, manager or secretary thereof shall, unless he proves that the contravention took place without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent such contravention, be deemed to be guilty of such contravention."

A vicarious responsibility is intended to be fixed on every director, manager or secretary of the company.

Shri Santhanam: If my hon. friend will be satisfied, I may say that I will be prepared to accept the alternative amendment confirming the provision to "managing director". It is not possible to accept his first amendment because it is too cumbersome and it makes a new offence of non-nomination, but I am quite willing to confine responsibility to the managing director.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: I think Sir, I must be satisfied, because half a thing is better than none at all.

Mr. Chairman: Then Mr. Naik may move his amendment.

Shri S. V. Naik (Hyderabad): I beg to move:

In sub-clause (2) of clause 4, for "every director, manager or secretary" substitute:

"the managing director, managing agent, manager, secretary, or any person appointed in his place,"

Of course the hon. Minister is prepared to accept "managing director" in place of "director" but I seek further to include any person appointed in the place.

Shri Santhanam: This is a minor offence punishable with a fine of Rs. 500, and I do not think such elaborate provisions are necessary.

Shri Kamath: In list No. 4, Sir, I have amendments Nos. 3 and 4 standing in my name, but as regards No. 4 an identical amendment to that effect has been moved by Mr. Kapoor. Amendment No. 3 says:

Omit sub-clause (2) of clause 4.

Both the amendments go together.

Shri Santhanam: It is the same...

Shri Kamath: Has he moved for omission of the sub-clause?

Shri J. R. Kapoor: I have not moved for omission of the sub-clause.

Shri Kamath: Then if that is necessary I would move. I beg to move:

Omit sub-clause (2) of clause 4.

Shri Santhanam: We cannot possibly omit it, because if it happens to be a company can we say that companies should not mark heavy packages but only individuals should do so? It will be absurd.

Shri Kamath: If it is lost, there is a new clause substituted, and.....

Shri Santhanam: I have already accepted the amendment of Shri Kapoor and that meets the situation, because otherwise every company has to make a nomination and mere non-nomination would become an offence punishable. It would be only adding to the number of offences.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Even if sub-clause (2) is omitted, the company will not be under an obligation to nominate

anybody. Thereafter clause 4 will simply read thus:

"If any person contravenes the provisions of section 3, he shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees."

The question will then arise that if the person guilty is not an individual, it will be a body corporate that will be liable. In that case the company will be fined, because a company under the law is also a person. So, I think the amendment of my hon. friend Mr. Kamath should be accepted to simplify matters. The purpose of the Bill and of the Government will be served better if we have got only sub-clause (1) and sub-clause (2) is deleted.

Shri Himatsingka (West Bengal): I support the amendment moved by Mr. Kamath. I think in a Bill like this it is not necessary to make any vicarious liability on every Manager, Secretary or Director. As a matter of fact this principle of vicarious liability was introduced, in cases where somebody could be put forward by the company to take the punishment, when the company expected to make huge profits. This is not a case like that. It will be an ordinary case of violation of some packages not being marked and if the company is penalised that should be regarded as sufficient.

I think sub-clause (2) is absolutely unnecessary in a Bill of this nature where there cannot be any deliberate intention of avoiding liability and the punishment inflicted on the company will be sufficient. I therefore support Mr. Kamath's suggestion that sub-clause (2) be deleted. If that is not acceptable, then the word "every" has to be substituted by the word "the".

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay (Uttar Pradesh): I submit that sub-clause (2) of clause (4) is absolutely unnecessary. I have also tabled an amendment to that effect and support the amendment of Mr. Kamath. It will be seen that the provision that has been made here is uncertain and vague. It says that the directors, the managing directors, and secretaries shall be prosecuted and anybody who comes forward and proves that he has nothing to do with it will get free. I think this sort of procedure for prosecution of people under the criminal law is highly improper. There should be one particular individual on whom the responsibility should be fixed. It is therefore sufficient if the company is made responsible and proceeded against. My submission, therefore, is that sub-clause (2) is absolutely unnecessary and should be deleted.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari (Madras): I am not quite sure if my hon. friends who object to this sub-clause are familiar with the practice now obtaining. For one thing it may not occur at all, because a shipping company has to accept a package and in the process of accepting it I think they would scrutinise whether the package is properly marked or not. In normal business practice no package is accepted without the weight being marked on it. I do not, therefore, think that a contingency like this is likely to arise. But even if clause (2) remains, it is very problematical if the persons enumerated therein are likely to be found guilty by a court of law. There has recently been a case before the Supreme Court where the offence involved is of a far more heinous character than that contemplated in this Bill, where persons have been prosecuted for passing of a particular article as being manufactured in one country while it was manufactured in another. It was held by the Supreme Court that the offence has not been brought home to the persons who had been originally convicted. So, even if the sub-clause is left as it is it is very unlikely that anybody would suffer therefrom, because of the general attitude that courts take and particularly because of the recent decision of the Supreme Court. It would be equally innocuous, so far as the ultimate objects of the Bill are concerned, if the hon. Minister obliges the House if it is so insistent about it, by allowing this sub-clause to be dropped.

Shri Santhanam: My difficulty is that the clause is similar to section 4 of the Geneva Convention Implementing Act, 1936. As the House knows, it is not easy to prosecute a company in general and it is always necessary for the precise and quick operation of law that particular persons should be made liable. After all the penalty prescribed here is only a small one and the company will pay.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: A company is usually prosecuted under the company law.

Shri Santhanam: In all laws of such type which we have introduced and passed in Parliament we have always specified the persons who will be prosecuted and I, therefore, suggest that the clause as it is may be accepted; or for the word "every" we may say "the managing director, manager, or secretary".

Shri J. R. Kapoor: The word "every" must remain because there are sometimes more than one managing director.

Mr. Chairman: That would mean all the three will be prosecuted.

Shri Santhanam: The word used is "or", that is one of them will be prosecuted.

Mr. Chairman: But who is to decide that?

Shri Santhanam: The person who has to enforce that Act. Therefore, it is to avoid this in all such legislation...

Mr. Chairman: In all such legislation the complaint is that there is vicarious responsibility put on the directors etc.

Shri Santhanam: Hitherto we have had no complaint that such vicarious responsibility has led to numerous prosecutions or any kind of harassments.

Mr. Chairman: I will now put the amendments. Does Mr. Jaspat Roy Kapoor want me to put his amendment to the House? And which amendment does he want to be put?

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Only No. 5.

Shri S. V. Naik: I do not press my amendment.

Shri Kamath: My amendment seeking to delete sub-clause (2) may be put to the House.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Mine may be put first and it can be put later on.

Mr. Chairman: If it is omitted the second amendment will not arise. I will therefore put the first amendment seeking to delete it.

The question is:

Omit sub-clause (2) of clause 1.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

In sub-clause (2) of clause 4, for "every director" substitute "managing director".

Shri Kamath: Without the definite or indefinite article?

Shri Santhanam: Not necessary

Mr. Chairman: This is the amendment put.

Shri Kamath: There must be a "a" or "the" before the words. Otherwise it is not English.

Shri Santhanam: There may be more than one managing director. "Managing director" will do.

Shri Kamath: There must be an article before "managing".

Mr. Chairman: The amendment made only reads like that and there is no article. I am bound to put the amendment as put by the mover of the amendment.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Are you putting my amendment, Sir?

Mr. Chairman: Yes.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: My amendment is different. It is:

In sub-clause (2) of clause 4, for "director" substitute "managing director".

Mr. Chairman: I was under the impression that the hon. Member had accepted the amendment in the form that for the words "every director" the words "managing director" be substituted. But if he does not agree then I will place his amendment as he has moved; that is, that only the word "director" be substituted by the words "managing director".

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Yes.

Shri S. V. Naik: Sir, I was under the impression that the word "every" was going to be removed and therefore I did not press my amendment. Because my amendment definitely stated that for the words "every director, manager or secretary" the words "the managing director, managing agent, manager, secretary, or any person appointed in his place" be substituted. I wanted to drop the word "every". But as I was given to understand and as I was under the impression that he was dropping the word "every" I accepted it and did not press my amendment.

Mr. Chairman: I am sorry that amendment cannot be revived.

Shri S. V. Naik: He has done it at the last moment.

Mr. Chairman: May be. But it is not for the Chair to decide. The hon. Member did not ask his amendment to be put to the House and I am afraid he has lost the chance.

I will now put Mr. Jaspat Roy Kapoor's amendment as proposed by him, without any difference.

The question is:

In sub-clause (2) of clause 4, for "director" substitute "managing director".

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: 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.— (Power to make rules)

Shri J. R. Kapoor: I beg to move:

In part (b) of clause 5, for "circumstances" substitute "cases or circumstances".

Shri Santhanam: I propose to accept it.

Shri S. V. Naik: I beg to move:

In part (b) of clause 5, for "be stated" substitute "be marked".

Pandit Munishwar Dutt Upadhyay: I beg to move:

In part (a) of clause 5, at the end, add:

"and the type of material used for marking, so as to give it some durable character".

Mr. Chairman: Amendments moved:

(i) In part (b) of clause 5, for "circumstances" substitute "cases of circumstances".

(ii) In part (b) of clause 5, for "be stated" substitute "be marked".

(iii) In part (a) of clause 5, at the end, add:

"and the type of material used for marking, so as to give it some durable character".

Pandit Munishwar Dutt Upadhyay: My submission is that the provision that is being made is that there should be some sort of mark. For that purpose I think it is very necessary that that mark should be durable. As I find in the power to make rules this is not provided for—it is "specifying the conditions as to the manner of marking of all heavy packages, the manner of packing and the type of covering to be used"—I want to add there "and the type of material used for marking, so as to give it some durable character". Because, unless the character of the material used for marking is durable I think it is almost useless. Even if the mark is made, if it is removed the object of the Bill is not fulfilled. Therefore I want that there should be some rule regarding the durability of the mark also. For that it is necessary that some rule should be framed which

might provide for the material to be used so as to make the mark durable.

Shri Santhanam: I accept Mr. Kapoor's amendment which, I think, is the same as Mr. Kamath's amendment. And I have no objection to accepting Mr. Naik's amendment also, that is, for the words "be stated" the words "be marked" be substituted. But I am afraid I cannot accept Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay's amendment for the simple reason that there may be any number of articles by which these things can be durably marked and we cannot expect any authority making rules to know all the materials. But the words "as to the manner of marking" in the clause will make it clear that the thing is durable. We do not want that some patentee should come to our Ministry and say: "This is the only durable mark" and get off with it. Therefore it is no good making rules specifying the actual material; there are so many processes, chemical materials and secret patents etc. We do not want to interfere with any such process.

11 A.M.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

In part (b) of clause 5, for "circumstances" substitute "cases or circumstances".

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

In part (b) of clause 5, for "be stated" substitute "be marked".

The motion was adopted.

Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: I would like to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1.—(Short title etc.)

Amendment made:

In sub-clause (1) of clause 1, for "1950" substitute "1951".

—[*Shri Santhanam*]

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill

The Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill

Shri Santhanam: I beg to move.

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

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

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

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We shall take up the resolution to be moved by hon. Mr. Mahtab.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): Before you ask the hon. Minister to address the House, may I ask what exactly is the procedure contemplated today? We are moving up and down the List of Business, sometimes here and sometimes there. So it would help us if you will kindly indicate to us at this stage as to when you will come up the list or down the list, what Bills will be taken up and at what stage and time. I am not as intelligent as you are, and there is certainly confusion here. I have not come prepared for anything at all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I ask hon. Mr. Gadgil whether the Rajghat Samadhi Bill which stands in his name can be taken up after this resolution?

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

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then the Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill standing in the name of hon. Mr. Santhanam can be taken up. So after this resolution we will take up the Rajghat Samadhi Bill, and the Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, then the Indian Standards Institution (Certification Marks) Bill and then the Scheduled Areas (Assimilation of Laws) Bill. That is sufficient.

Shri Kamath: I must submit for your earnest consideration that the Rajghat Samadhi Bill which is an important Bill—I hope the House will not deny it—was not included in the List of Business after its introduction, till perhaps only this morning and the House has been taken by surprise as regards this Bill, and we who are interested in this Bill have not had any

[Shri Kamath]

time at all to give notice of amendments.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I request the hon. Member to make these observations when we take up the Rajghat Samadhi Bill?

Shri Kamath: All right, Sir. I thought that you had decided finally to take it up.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have just indicated the order. Anyhow let us see if there is such an inconvenience to the hon. Members. If they feel that they are taken by surprise, we shall consider what ought to be done.

RESOLUTION RE. CONTINUANCE FOR FURTHER ONE YEAR POWERS OF PARLIAMENT TO MAKE LAWS WITH RESPECT TO (i) TRADE AND COMMERCE WITHIN STATE AND (ii) PRODUCTION, SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF GOODS

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Mahtab): I beg to move:

"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 or 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 House will remember that in order to deal with the situation which arose on account of the Korean War towards the end of June, 1950, Parliament passed a resolution on the 12th August, 1950 under article 249(1) of

the Constitution and took power for a period of one year from the 15th August, 1950 to make laws in respect of trade and commerce within the States' subjects and production supply and distribution of goods which were also subject to the provisions of entry 33 of List III. In pursuance of this resolution, the Supply and Prices of Goods Ordinance was promulgated on the 2nd September, 1950 providing for the control of prices of certain goods and the supply and distribution thereof. This Ordinance, the House will remember was replaced by an Act of Parliament on the 23rd December, 1950. The Supply and Prices of Goods Act, 1950 has thus been in force for the last nine months and the House will be interested to know as to which commodities came under this law. Non-ferrous metals including brass, unwrapped and semi-manufactured bicycles, cycle parts and accessories, cycle tyres and tubes, electric bulbs, caustic soda, soda ash, tanning materials, wattle bark, wattle extract etc., raw rubber, casein, infant foods, sulphur, tannery wool and chrome ore. Most of these articles, as the House will notice, which came under the law are either imported or manufactured out of imported materials. and the same circumstances which prevailed upon Parliament to take over this power continue to exist today. Stock piling and rearmament programmes on a very large scale are going on in many countries, and therefore, there is a world shortage in goods specially like non-ferrous metals, sulphur, caustic soda, soda ash, casein etc. There has, therefore been considerable shortage in this country of all these materials which are essential for industrial purposes. There has been short supply of most of these commodities, especially recently on account of the shortage of imports. In the absence of control, there will be a tendency for these goods to be cornered and the prices also to rise to abnormal levels.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): The Minister has strong lungs and he can speak louder.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let the hon. Minister proceed.

Shri Mahtab: If the hon. Member does not think of interrupting, he can also hear well.

We have used the law not only to fix the prices at reasonable levels with reference to the landed cost, but also to control the distribution wherever necessary. This House will be interested to know in what way the powers have been exercised under this law. It is not that control has been exer

cised only over price; in various other ways, the powers have been differently exercised in the case of different commodities. There has been price control on cycle tyres, tubes, electric bulbs, caustic soda, soda ash, infant foods, tanning materials, bicycles and casein. There has been control on movement and distribution on raw rubber, tanning materials, sulphur, tannery wool, casein and non-ferrous metals. Controls were exercised with regard to infant foods in the way of restricting the quantity that may be sold on any one occasion. Similarly, control has been exercised with regard to infant foods, caustic soda, soda ash, and sulphur by restricting the quota that may be held by the consumers. Caustic soda and soda ash have been banned for sale by the consumers.

Then, orders have been issued under this law to submit monthly stock returns with regard to non-ferrous metals, bicycles, bicycle parts and accessories which include about 24 items, cycle tyres and tubes, electric bulbs, caustic soda, soda ash, infant foods, casein and sulphur. Those hon. Members who have seen the various notifications must have noticed that an order has been issued for maintenance of proper accounts with regard to cash transactions. We have issued an order for the exhibition of price lists. All these steps have been proved to have a great salutary effect on the general trend of the prices. As the House knows, the Central Government only announces the policies and fixes the prices. The actual administration of the controls is left to the State Governments and necessary powers have been delegated to the State Governments under that law. From all the reports received from the State Governments, it is seen that this law has been very well received in most of the areas and that there has been a salutary effect on the prices not only of things that have been brought under control, but indirectly on other goods also.

In order to advise the Government in the fixation of prices, a Prices Advisory Board has been constituted. The Board at its first meeting gave their advice generally which was accepted by the Government and accordingly prices were fixed. Here, I may mention that immediately after the passing of the Ordinance, we took the prices which were prevailing on the 30th June as the basic prices and fixed up the prices of several commodities in an *ad hoc* manner. Subsequently, after the meeting of this Advisory Board, a detailed consideration was given to the prices of various commodities, and accordingly, there

were some modifications and those modifications were accepted subsequently.

The House perhaps will be interested to know as to how this law has worked, in the sense, how many have been brought to book under this law. Unfortunately, this subject has come before Parliament before I have had full reports from all the State Governments. After this law was passed, a section in the Preventive Detention Act was brought to the notice of the Government. At one time, the House was informed that the Prime Minister drew the attention of the Provincial Governments to that very section of the Preventive Detention Act which was taken advantage of by various State Governments as a result of which, about 234 persons are now under detention.

Shri Kamath: All over India?

Shri Mahtab: Yes.

This law by its very nature is essentially preventive, to a great extent, against any rise in prices. Today, we cannot properly assess as to what would have been the prices but for this law. But, it is sure, prices would have gone very much up and would not have remained as they are today but for this law which was enforced quite in time. The House will remember how prices were going up steeply immediately after the Korean war and how practically a racket went on with regard to many commodities specially those commodities which are essential for industrial purposes.

As I have already said, the conditions which were prevailing in August last year are still persisting and probably, the conditions are more acute today than they were at that particular time. In the present conditions of the country, there is necessity to keep to Parliament the power which it possesses under that particular resolution. The time limit for that particular resolution was only one year. This is a resolution only to extend that period. I do not think there will be any serious objection to it and I sincerely expect that this resolution will be passed unanimously.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Resolution moved:

"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 neces-

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

sary in the national interest that Parliament should for a period or 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."

Shri Kamath: I am labouring under a slight handicap to which I adverted in the course of most of the interruptions which I made. For some mysterious reason, the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry could not raise his voice high enough, and perhaps partly the distance that separates him and me—I mean the physical distance—was responsible. But, anyway, what cannot be cured, must be endured. I could not go on interrupting when he was averse to being interrupted. So many things, and so many items of precious information that he perhaps gave in the course of his speech, escaped my hearing. Therefore, if I base my remarks on certain things which I think I heard from the Minister, which he really did not utter, I hope he or his diligent Deputy would get up in his seat and correct me, as I proceed. I do not mind being interrupted; I welcome interruptions and if after even every sentence I am interrupted by the Minister or his Deputy, I shall be happy, and I shall be happy to be corrected if need be. I am not like the Minister who perhaps was not willing to be interrupted, I do not know why, even though he was inaudible. Certainly, hon. Members are entitled to know what a Minister is saying. If the Minister is inaudible, then, certainly it is within the rights of the House to demand to hear him. Even if one Member is not able to hear the Minister, he has the right to ask the hon. Minister to repeat. Otherwise, what is the use of sitting here, not being able to hear what is being said.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is all this necessary?

Shri Kamath: I must say, Sir, that this is an important resolution. Every time we raise a protest that the Minister is not audible, either we are called to order or it is said, let the Minister proceed. That is the procedure being adopted in this House. This is a serious matter and I must say that this sort of thing should not be encouraged.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister I thought was making every effort to raise his voice and make it as loud as possible. But, there are certain limitations. An individual may speak only at some pitch.

Shri Mahtab: And another interesting thing is, it was audible to all except Mr. Kamath.

Shri Kamath: Even if that be correct—and I repudiate even that, because it was inaudible to many more—even if one hon. Member says that the words were not audible, his complaint is legitimate because he is entitled to hear them properly.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister thought that the hon. Member was hearing all right, but was asking for some information which could be asked for later on.

Capt. A. P. Singh (Vindhya Pradesh): But Sir, this thing happens often in this House. We cannot even hear the questions that are put sometimes, and neither the replies given by the Ministers, especially those who are sitting behind. It is for that reason that they generally talk among themselves and then the Chair takes them to task for that. They talk among themselves because they are not able to hear what is going on. So my request is that it should be clearly stated here that the Ministers and also hon. Members should speak loudly so that they may be heard by all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have understood it.

Shri Kamath: If an hon. Member does not hear, he makes a request to the Chair, but if the Chair calls him to order and then the Minister proceeds on, then the Member is helpless.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not think it is the intention of the Chair to put any handicaps on any hon. Member. I hope all hon. Members will speak loudly and there will be no exception in favour of the Ministers. So far as this particular occasion is concerned.

I think the Minister made every effort to be heard as much as possible. It is rather unfortunate that.....

Shri Kamath: But, Sir, it is no use saying that an hon. Member is in the habit of interrupting the Ministers.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It was thought that the interruptions were made not because the Minister was not audible, but because the hon. Member wanted to obtain some information.

Shri Kamath: Every Member has his own habits and every Chair has its habits too.

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): I may inform my hon. friend that ear-phones are now in the O.G.L. and if he wants he can easily get them now.

Shri Kamath: The Deputy Minister seems to treat this as a joke. This is a serious matter and hardly a thing to be treated in a light-hearted manner. I hope he will not repeat this performance hereafter.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are we not to proceed in an orderly manner? The Deputy Minister need not have provoked the hon. Member with his remarks.

Shri Kamath: Let the Deputy Minister find out what aids he himself requires and supply them. I am not in need of any aid from him or from anybody else.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member knows that a little fun now and then is not out of place.

Shri Kamath: And even this mike that is in front of them, the Ministers do not make use of properly.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Deputy Minister must know that we sometimes do not take a joke in the right spirit.

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, I am sorry if the hon. Member is offended at what I said. I did not mean any offence. I was only pointing out that if in spite of shouting, the hon. Member is not able to hear, then something must be wrong somewhere.

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): And Mr. Kamath knows that when he hits hard, in fairness, he should be prepared to receive hard hits too.

Shri Kamath: I am perfectly prepared for giving and taking, and Mr. Gadgil himself knows, and remembers how he had to receive some. I am quite prepared for hits either inside the House or outside.

And now, Sir, coming to the resolution.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We have already spent ten minutes.

Shri Kamath: Coming to the resolution before the House I submit that this item on the List of Business has been brought in more or less as a surprise. It has become the practice in this Parliament to bring in a long list of business at the fag end of a session. In this respect the House has been treated—I will not say with contempt—but with disregard and I feel that the reason apparently is that as far as this House is concerned, Government is assured of a solid majority, whatever may be the Bill or resolution that they may bring forward. But this is hardly the manner in which parliamentary traditions should be built up. We are now the first Parliament of the Sovereign Democratic Republic and it is up to the Ministers, including the Leader of the House to see to it that Parliament is not treated in this cavalier fashion. This is an important measure intended to extend the powers granted to Government and information about it was given to Members only at about seven o'clock this morning when they were preparing either to go to their breakfast or some were in their bath or about to leave for Parliament. I for one could not have more than a cursory glance at this resolution. It is hardly right for Mr. Gadgil and Mr. Mahtab to say that this matter had been introduced long ago and that the House has been seized of it. This particular resolution was not included in the List of Business at any time so far in this session. May I ask the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs who is sitting there, quietly reclining on his seat as if he is absolutely deaf and blind to what is going on in this House, whether even for a moment, with so many bees buzzing in his Department, he looks at the List of Business that comes daily before the House?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: What is the good of spending more time on this? We all know that the measures to be taken up were—the Representation of the People (No. 2) Bill, the Government of Part C States Bill, The De-limitation Orders and the Constitution (First Amendment) Bill. The Constitution (First Amendment) Bill has been passed. And on account of some further adjustments they had to postpone the Government of Part C States Bill. A statement was made on the floor of the House regarding this and it was agreed that in the interest of all, this Bill may be postponed. Re-

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

garding the Representation of the People (No. 2) Bill, some more amendments have to be finalised before the Bill can be taken up and completed. And different groups are sitting together and dealing with the delimitation of constituencies. And so now suddenly we find there is no work to be taken up and so the only alternative left was to deal with these other matters. There is no harm in dealing with them. Such contingencies do arise.

Shri Goenka (Madras): But, Sir, there should be more time allowed to Members to consider this matter which is of such importance. We got information of this subject coming up today only this morning. We have had little or no time to study this question now. The House should not be treated in this manner.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am in full agreement with the observations of the hon. Member. There must be sufficient time allowed to Members to study the subject. And surprises should not be sprung on them. But I am trying to explain how this thing has arisen. If I find that a large number of Members want to speak on this subject and they require further time, we will consider it today and it need not be completed now. We can come back to it at some other time.

The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): There are some amendments that have been agreed upon to the Representation of the People (No. 2) Bill and these could not be finalised and so that Bill could not be taken up now. This resolution which should have been taken up tomorrow has therefore been taken up today.

Shri Goenka: This is a matter in which people are kept under detention and we are trying to extend the period of detention by this measure. This is a serious matter and requires certain investigation and study.

Shri Mahtab: I am afraid the hon. Member is completely wrong and he knows he is wrong. People cannot be detained under this law.

Shri Goenka: I will tell him who is wrong.

Shri Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras): This is an important matter in which Government ought to have given us detailed information as to why this is being brought. No such information has been given. They should have circulated the information, as to what

action has been taken during the last nine months on account of the resolution that has been already passed and what are the things that they propose to do. We want detailed information as to the reason for which they want this extension. We are completely in the dark. So I would suggest that Government may circulate a detailed note today or tomorrow and we may take up the resolution on Friday or Saturday.

Shri Himatsingka (West Bengal): I am a member of the Advisory Committee that was formed in connection with this matter and though I have written two personal letters to the Minister for certain information some five or six weeks ago, I have not received the information. I wanted to know when and how the prices of certain articles had been increased. Barring one meeting in about September 1950, there has been no other meeting nor has any information been given or anything discussed with the Advisory Committee that was formed, nor was the matter placed before them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: When was notice of this resolution received?

Hon. Members: This morning.

Shri A. C. Guha (West Bengal): This is at the bottom of the List of Business and was hardly anticipated for discussion today.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is it necessary that this should be finished now in view of the feeling here that before they come to any conclusion on this, hon. Members would like to have a statement as to how these laws worked during the last nine months. If the other matter had been discussed, the hon. Minister would not have brought this. If it is so, why should not he furnish the House with all details. After all if the vote of the House is wanted, the hon. Members should have detailed information.

Shri Mahtab: This resolution is to be discussed by the House and some decision has to be arrived at before a particular date. Except that there is no urgency in the matter. It will be easy for us to supply information as required if hon. Members are specific. We cannot supply information at random. Until now I have not been able to understand what information is wanted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let the discussion proceed and if points arise in discussion.....

Shri Ramalingam Chettiar: That will be waste of time. In the absence of

Information from Government it will be useless. A note ought to be circulated to us as to why they want the extension. The hon. Minister made a speech in which he mentioned a number of things, what he has done etc. We could not even follow what he was saying. It will be wasting the time of the House if we go on discussing it without knowing the facts.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am not able to follow this objection for this reason that whenever a resolution is moved, there are cases when some brief note may be given and there are other cases where the Minister moves the resolution and gives the details in his speech as has been done today. If hon. Members are not able to catch the points, how can that prevent the discussion of the resolution. Hon. Members will speak on this resolution and if they are not able to get any information, I will ask the Minister to supply it.

Shri Kamath: Do we take it that you waive the notice in regard to the resolution?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It has already been done.

Shri Kamath: As you have finally decided that we must discuss it, come what may, I shall proceed to offer a few observations *in vacuo*—because there is no information furnished, as Shri Chettiar said. I do hope that when that information is supplied either today or tomorrow, you will be pleased to give me another chance to speak.

Shri Mahtab: May I know what information he wants?

Shri Kamath: Hold yourself in patience. We have heard your speech.

Shri Mahtab: I am getting an impression that the hon. Member has not read the resolution at all.

Shri Kamath: Your impression is wholly wrong. The Minister's impression is wholly wrong, and I hope he will try to think before he speaks.

Shri Mahtab: You should do the same.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I do not want such repartee, whether on this side or that. The hon. Member need not shout. All of us are not deaf. It is not as if the hon. Member is not able to hear his voice. He need not shout.

Shri Kamath: My voice is made like that by God. The House adopted this resolution—an important one, in my

humble judgment, last August—during the August session which was called as an emergent session following the outbreak of the Korean war, and the Minister said then that prices had risen; and at that time it was felt that owing to the misery and distress from which the people were suffering on account of high prices, it was necessary to control prices and along with it, the production, supply and distribution of essential goods. The hon. Minister has read rapidly the various commodities that were brought within the purview of this resolution but I am sorry to say that my memory is not strong enough to contain the names of commodities that he has read out to the House. That is the first information I would like to have from him.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am feeling the sense of the House here and I am not so helpless. I would adjourn this debate. There is no good accusing the hon. Members here. I was not able to make the hon. Minister speak louder so that all hon. Members could hear. In fact a statement is called for. I am not prepared to go on with this and I will adjourn it. I will proceed with other legislative business. The hon. Ministers also must be a bit more accommodative and this is a very important matter. This was never contemplated to be taken up today and hon. Members have rivetted their attention to other business. There is no use rushing this matter. There should be a spirit of accommodation.

Shri Mahtab: With all respect to the Chair I might submit that in this particular matter I did not want to rush it through the House but rather the Minister himself was rushed. Therefore with all respect I should say that I was not as anxious as the Chair himself was for going on with the agenda. As a matter of fact I was sent for from my room to move the resolution which has been admitted and put on the agenda not by me. I am really compelled to say this because of your observations.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That ends the matter. Nobody is inconvenienced—neither the Minister nor the House. When such emergencies arise the Ministers are obliged to bring all the materials here to keep the House going. I understand the difficulty of the hon. Minister. Having regard to the way in which the resolution has been received by the House today and the information which the House wants I would urge upon the Minister kindly to consider if the resolution cannot be taken up some other day. So the discussion on the resolution stands over.

Shri Kamath: Does it stand over, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members who want any information may give their points in a typed letter to the Secretary and he will pass it on to the hon. Minister, so that he may know what are the points on which information is required.

Shri Karmarkar: Sir, we shall exercise our discretion and give a note. If hon. Members want to know the number of persons detained it will be difficult for us to give. We shall use our discretion and give sufficient information which will be considered satisfactory by a man of reasonable commonsense.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Rajghat Samadhi Bill may be taken up.

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): I beg to move:.....

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): Why cannot some other Bill be taken up, Sir?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Already amendments have been tabled and therefore it should not be a surprise to them. To give hon. Members, who are interested particularly in this Bill, some time Mr. Santhanam may move his Bill in the meanwhile. After the completion of this Bill the other one may be taken up.

Shri Gadgil: There is nothing surprising in this Rajghat Samadhi Bill. The Samadhi is there and the Bill was introduced in March. If any amendment is given at the 11th hour and 59th minute I am prepared to consider it.

Shri Kamath: If you waive notice for amendments, on that condition the Bill may be taken up.

INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of State for Transport and Railways (Shri Santhanam): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

This is a wholly formal Bill. The shipping companies, Indian as well as foreign, recruit almost all the seamen under Indian articles for service on their ships at the ports of Calcutta and Bombay. Before seamen are accepted for employment they undergo a medical

examination. Until March 1950 the crews used to be examined only by doctors appointed by the recruiting shipping companies. The examination by company's doctors was done perfunctorily. Instances of seamen dying overseas of long term diseases within a period of two to three months of their selection were not infrequent. An *ad hoc* survey conducted a few years ago showed that 30 per cent. of the crew recruited were physically unfit. There were also complaints of corruption against the companies' doctors. The question of seafarers being examined by Government doctors instead of companies' doctors was then considered and it was found that there was no provision in any of the existing enactments under which it could be done and that fresh legislation was necessary. It was however thought preferable to try persuasion and to get the representatives of seafarers and shipowners to agree to a scheme of pre-entry medical examination by Government doctors. The matter was discussed with the representatives of seamen and shipowners and their voluntary co-operation to a system of examination by Government doctors was secured. The examination by Government doctors was introduced about the month of March 1950 at the two principal ports of recruitment of seamen, namely, Calcutta and Bombay. This procedure is in line with the I.L.O. Convention No. 73 concerning medical examination of seafarers adopted at Seattle in 1946.

Since the introduction of this scheme there has been a certain amount of opposition to it in Calcutta inspired mostly by non-Indian seamen, who form the bulk of the recruits at that port. Some seamen have challenged the legality of the scheme and taken the matter up to the Calcutta High Court, which in the course of its judgment observed as follows. I would like hon. Members to listen to this, because that is the justification for this Bill:

"There can be no doubt that the system of medical examination by Government doctors is a salutary one and is eminently desirable in the interests of seamen and shipowners. But the system must be put on a sound footing having the sanction of law and well defined rules should be framed laying down a reasonable standard of fitness and also for conducting the examination in a proper and reasonable manner, providing safeguards against the abuse of the functions by the officers entrusted with the examination."

Misled by interested parties into thinking that the High Court had condemned the scheme as illegal, the Calcutta seamen began early in February this year to boycott all the musters. On this some questions were put and answered in this House. The boycott however was called off on the 28th March on Government granting certain concessions pending the finalisation of the physical standards in consultation with shipowners and seamen.

It is therefore necessary to provide a clear and legal basis for the medical examination scheme, which is already under consideration. We also consider that this opportunity should be taken to provide for making rules to regulate normal standards, qualifications, etc., which the seaman must possess before he can be engaged in a ship. At present there are no minimum standards prescribed. The shipping companies prefer to recruit old hands with a long tradition of seafaring service. In view of the technical developments in engine room it is necessary that the new hands should have a preliminary course of training.

A small beginning has been made by Government in the matter of providing training to suitable candidates desirous of a career on sea. We have two training ships which have been recently renamed in accordance with Indian tradition and we are training a certain number of seamen in both the ships, one at Calcutta and the other at Vizag. In course of time we expect to increase the training and to give all the seamen the necessary training. Therefore we are making provision under this Bill to enable us to bring it into operation when we have trained a sufficient number of seamen.

This Bill provides only for two things. Firstly, to enable the Government to continue the medical examination which is already there under proper safeguards: and secondly, in the future when we have trained a sufficient number of seamen to insist that only those trained seamen should be recruited from the Indian ports.

There is a great necessity in this country to break new ground in the matter of seamen. Hitherto it has been monopolised by a certain small section of the people. While we do not want to interfere with the normal avenues of employment of the existing people we want to obtain the best results out of this recruitment and make all the communities in India eligible and fit to enter the seafaring profession. I expect that in course of time we shall have a big merchant navy and the number of seamen who will find em-

ployment will be large. Besides that we hope that shipowners throughout the world will continue to recruit a large number of seamen from this country. We are making arrangements to provide for both contingencies.

Therefore in this Bill we are taking powers for these two purposes and I hope that the House will give us these powers and I can assure them that we shall see that as many Indian nationals as possible are trained and put into service in the mercantile marine.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, be taken into consideration."

Shri A. C. Guha (West Bengal): I welcome this Bill wholeheartedly. I consider the purpose of the Bill, as stated by the hon. Minister, deserves the full support of this House. I know of a recent case where about 80 young men trained at Calcutta in the ship *Andrews* were put up for pre-recruitment medical examination but due to some political manoeuvrings and outside pressure, were not able to be recruited. And this is not an isolated instance. This is an effort to continue a monopolistic control over our merchant navy. Therefore, I support this Bill wholeheartedly. In doing so I hope that Government will also take some measures so that those young men who have been trained and are quite fit for our merchant navy may be recruited at an early date and the Government may not yield to pressure from outside or from some mischief-makers.

In this connection I should like to state that there are certain individuals within the recruiting organisation in Calcutta about whose past and *bona fides* the hon. Minister should make enquiries. As the hon. Minister may be aware, some of these persons were banned from entering India or from attending at the time of the medical examination, but somehow or other that ban has been removed. I do not know how the department was persuaded to remove it. I would request that if it is necessary the ban should be re-imposed so that such mischief-makers may not be present at the time of recruitment and sabotage the plans for nationalising our merchant navy.

Shri Khandubhai Desai (Bombay): I support the Bill that has been placed before the House by Shri Santhanam. This measure has come none too soon. Since independence there has been a growing desire and urge on the part of our countrymen for the development of Indian shipping. The way the sea-

[Shri Khandubhai Desai]

farers are recruited or engaged for work in ships is, in my opinion, a matter calling for a very responsible consideration on the part of Government. As we all know, most of our shipping is in the hands of foreigners, that is to say, our maritime development so far has been limited. We are trying to develop our merchant navy but then it depends to a very large extent on the number of our nationals that we have got engaged in shipping. Also, the unfortunate circumstances in which the country was for the last 150 years before independence, also were responsible for the undeveloped state of our shipping.

It is not as though we had not got a sufficient number of our nationals to work in our ships moving about the world but as a result of partition the crew handling the various ships have now come under the category of non-nationals or nationals belonging to a foreign nation. And in the modern world it is very dangerous to leave the manning of such a great national industry as shipping in the hands of foreign personnel. Therefore, I say the time has come when our nationals should not only be recruited for manning our ships but they should be encouraged to become fit for this work. The training that is being given at the two centres will to some extent mitigate some of these difficulties but I feel that the number of men that will be turned out from these two training ships will be very limited. I suggest that taking advantage of the powers that this short but important Bill confers upon them, Government must draw up and place before the House a plan to enlarge the training facilities for Indian nationals in the matter of sea-faring. At present I believe most of the ships touching Indian ports recruit the seamen they require from, particularly, the ports of Bombay and Calcutta. It is left to the option of the shipping master or the ship company to recruit whomsoever they want to, but now that powers are sought to be taken by Government in the matter they should see that the recruits possess a certificate of medical fitness issued by the authority appointed by the Government. At the same time, in order to encourage the Indian nationals to take more and more interest in shipping, more of them should be trained and a preference should be given to them in recruitment. I fear that as long as we are dependant on foreign ships and our position in this matter remains helpless, the Government will have to follow the technique of development a little gradually, but then they should be firm and see that the

powers taken under this Bill are very effectively utilised. The purpose which the hon. Minister has in view would not be served if only the powers are taken and are not properly exercised. And in exercising them Government should take the first opportunity to create a sort of a special agency to look after the interests of seamen recruited from among the Indian nationals, and other matters like their treatment and discipline on the foreign ships in which they may be engaged. Otherwise, the objects which the hon. Minister has in view will be frustrated even after the Bill is passed. Of course this is neither the time nor the occasion for me to enter into the whole question of recruitment of seamen on the ships. It is a very complicated business. In the ports of Calcutta and Bombay a sort of vested interests exist. These vested interests, in collaboration with the shipping companies are doing everything possible to see that the recruitment of Indian nationals is not being accelerated. This is a question to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister.

12 NOON.

With these few words, I wholeheartedly commend this Bill to the House.

Dr. Deshmukh (Madhya Pradesh): I am glad the importance of this Bill has been emphasised by several hon. Members of this House. As has been pointed out by my hon. friend who has just sat down, the whole of the seamen's service is at the present moment over-weighted with people who have very little love for the country and who really belong to some place outside India. I have had some personal knowledge about recruitment in the port of Bombay. In spite of our efforts, and in spite of the fact that the persons who were waiting for recruitment were displaced persons who have had experience of seafaring for a number of years, a number of difficulties were brought in the way of their adequate recruitment and we found that even the hon. Minister at Delhi was not in a position to help them to any great extent. So I am happy that this Bill contains provisions not only for adequate medical examination, but the qualifications for recruitment are also going to be laid down. Along with this, it should be possible by executive order for the Central Government to create some sort of a Central recruitment agency. That would be very desirable, because apart from seafaring, a service which these people render, there is the question of security also involved. For that purpose it is not only necessary

that proper qualifications should be laid down, but there should be a certain amount of enquiry into the antecedents of people to be recruited. It is from that point of view that I hope the whole matter will be very carefully examined and placed on a sound and satisfactory footing.

So far as training is concerned, my hon. friend the mover of the motion has pointed out that there are two ships where training is imparted. According to my information, they train officers only and not ordinary seamen.

Shri Santhanam: They do not train officers; only ordinary seamen.

Dr. Deshmukh: It is gratifying that arrangements for the training of seamen have also been made. I would like my hon. friend when he replies to tell us the number of people trained and what his calculation about annual recruitment is. He may also tell us whether our training is likely to keep pace with the rate of recruitment, etc. All these things I hope would be examined. Our navy and merchant shipping at present are extremely inadequate.

Apart from what I have stated as to the difficulty about recruitment, it is a common experience to see all sorts of obstructionist tactics being adopted by vested interests, like strikes etc., in the various docks. It is therefore very necessary that the system of recruitment and the personnel recruited are placed on a different footing and the complaints that the Indian nationals do not receive enough scope removed.

Shri Biswanath Das (Orissa): I stand to welcome the Bill and congratulate the hon. Minister for having thought of bringing this important Bill even after a lapse of four years. The agitation for recruitment of Indian nationals and their training in ships plying in Indian waters emanates from the date of the Industrial Commission of 1914. Unfortunately this aspect of the question was not taken up very seriously. We are now having a sort of double dependence in the sense that we have to depend on foreign ships for transport and secondly we have to depend very largely on foreign nationals as seamen. This dependence has gone so deep that even for ordinary work, Indian owners have to depend on non-national seamen. This places a heavy responsibility on the Government of India for adequate recruitment and training of Indian nationals in this regard.

I feel that the training that is so far given and the limited number of

people that are recruited are not adequate to meet the demands in this regard. I would, therefore, urge on the Government to take up this problem seriously and see that recruitment of more hands is done. In Calcutta I understand that about 80 persons are recruited annually. Eighty persons are not enough. I think far more recruitment is necessary and training also.

Having said that, I would like to suggest that the number and area of recruitment should be extended. I am afraid at the present moment recruitment is confined to specified areas. I would plead with the hon. Minister in charge to see that the area of recruitment is being widely extended to all the coastal areas. I think Indians who want to take to seafaring careers should be given an opportunity. At least in the coastal areas of the Republic fullest scope should be offered, irrespective of the fact that one comes from one State or the other. In this, at any rate, no parochial feelings should be allowed to come in.

A lot has been said about the fact that the shipping companies have not the least desire to concede to our demands for reasons best known to them. Therefore, a certain amount of pressure is necessary. Our passing this Bill will not take us far unless active steps are taken. Then again, the unfortunate incidents that have been referred to by my hon. friend the first speaker, the representative from West Bengal, should be seriously taken up by the Ministry and an enquiry instituted to find out if the facts are correct. No non-national, however great or influential or rich or powerful, should be allowed to interfere with the system of recruitment in India. With these words I again thank the hon. Minister in charge of the Department and request him to see that the points that have been raised in the course of the debate are given attention to.

Giving evidence before the Indian Industrial Commission in 1914 certain navy officials have recorded their views regarding the mettle that is available in Orissa and Madras. They have stated in very clear terms the great seafaring qualities of the fishermen operating in the sea coast areas of Orissa and Madras. So Government should try to utilise the capacities and the expert seafaring qualities of these fishermen to the best advantage of India as a whole.

Shri Santhanam: I have hardly any point of difference with any of the speakers who have spoken before me. So I shall confine myself to a few

[Shri Santhanam]

remarks in amplification of what I said in the beginning.

As I told the House, we have got two training ships, *Bhadra* which is stationed at Vizag and *Mekhala* which is stationed at Calcutta. They have nothing to do with the officers. We have got separate arrangements for training officers, both navigation officers and engineering officers. This Bill is not concerned with them at all. These two training ships are only to train seamen, the dock crew, the engine crew, as well as the miscellaneous crew needed for the ships. The capacity of these two training ships is 760 per year. There will be no difficulty in expanding this capacity, if needed. But our immediate problem is to utilise these two ships to the maximum capacity and to see that all the trainees are put in the ships. In this matter, it is no good to elaborate and to speak much, but it is necessary much more to take action for the simple reason that I do not want that any impression should go abroad that the Government of India are to any extent whatsoever hostile to those seamen, whether they are national or not, who have been traditionally manning the ships. The second reason is that our own mercantile marine is comparatively small and the opportunities for our seamen are not confined only to our own mercantile marine but we want them to be employed in foreign ships also. So we cannot take a very narrow nationalistic attitude in this matter. If we take too narrow a nationalistic attitude, then it may work hardships, it may result in a disadvantage to the country rather than an advantage. Therefore we want to proceed cautiously as well as in the most liberal spirit in such a matter. If we can train 760 seamen per year and put every one of them into the ships for the next few years, there will be no difficulty in expanding our training for more men. Our immediate necessity is to see that these men are taken in, in a spirit of goodwill and friendship by those who are now manning the ships. It is no use trying to put half a dozen Indian seamen, in a spirit of hostility, with one hundred or two hundred who are already working in a ship. We should not blame also the ship-owners and the captains who are a little afraid of bringing in new elements into their crew. We have to break down their resistance and we have to teach our crew to be friendly with the existing seamen. And we have to see that all these obstructions are removed.

My friend Mr. Guha spoke of the difficulties which the trainees were faced with in a recent recruitment at Calcutta. To some extent he was correct, but it was not so bad as he suggested. Out of eighty trainees who came out on 5th May, 1951, fifty-two were put into service. That is, all the trainees who were fit for dock service were put into service and out of the engine room crew twelve persons were given employment. We are contacting the ship-owners and their associations to see that as many trainees as come out of our training ships are put in service.

Shri A. C. Guha: May I enquire if it was not true that certain trainees who have been trained in the ship *Andrews* at Calcutta stood before the medical board and the medical board could not recruit them, only about two weeks ago?

Shri Santhanam: It is not a question of medical board at all. They had to stand in musters. The usual arrangement is that all the seamen have to stand in musters and the ship's captain comes along and chooses the people. We cannot, we have no power to compel any captain of any ship to choose any particular person. In fact, we only see that he is persuaded and induced to select our people because of their better appearance, etc. In this connection the House may be amused to hear that one of the objections of the old seamen was that our trainees were looking much smarter than they, and they objected to their smarter appearance and smarter outfit! This is a matter in which old traditions and practices and customs have to be overcome, and we are taking all possible steps. If it becomes necessary—I do not think it may—we will take up the question of recruitment and calling musters under our own direct agencies. But that may not be very advantageous because we do not want the ship-owners to turn to other ports for recruitment of seamen. We must keep their goodwill so that they continue to recruit all their men from our ports and we may be able to put our trainees into service. So we are approaching this matter with the greatest resolution but also with the greatest caution.

Mr. Khandubhai Desai suggested that it is no use passing a Bill unless we propose to take action. I can assure him that we are already taking action at least so far as one part is concerned. As regards the other part we shall be able to take action when once we have got a sufficient number of trainees. Therefore I can assure him that this will not be a dead letter

and that it will be put into operation to the maximum possible extent.

I am afraid my hon. friend, Mr. Biswanath Das is under some misapprehension. So far as the trainees to these training ships are concerned, it is open to every national. It is open to all parts of India and we are encouraging all parts of India, and especially the maritime parts to send recruits and if my hon. friend will assist in getting hold of proper recruits from Orissa for being put in our training ships, we shall be very happy. One of the training ships is stationed near the borders of Orissa, that is, in Vizagapatam. It is therefore open to hon. Members belonging to Orissa, the Government of Orissa and everybody else to suggest us recruits and I assure him that we shall consider them with the greatest sympathy. He will also admit that at least in the earlier stages, we must see that we take only the best material and turn them out, so that they may create a new tradition of service and the shipping world may look to these trainees for their needs.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know what the Government have done to publicize the dates of recruitment? We want always the recruitment of the best; there is no question about it.

Shri Santhanam: I do not know what and how he wants us to publicize. I think that all the people who are interested in sending seamen know of the existence of these ships. If the hon. Member is not aware, then I am afraid, he has not cared to read our report which was supplied to him along with the Budget papers. I hope I will not be transgressing the limits, if I suggest that it is also the duty of the Members here to popularize this, each in his own State, and write to us, if necessary, for providing facilities for the recruits.

Shri Biswanath Das: How could we know the dates of recruitment? Local publicity is required and I want to know the extent of publicity given.

Shri Santhanam: I am willing to send copies of our speeches to all the State Governments to take the necessary action. As there is practically unanimity about the Bill, I do not want to take more time of the House. I move.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act,

1923, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 and 2 were added to the Bill

The Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill

Shri Santhanam: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion Moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

Shri Khandubhai Desai: I am glad that this Bill will be passed in a few minutes and there is complete unanimity over this. There is one point to which I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. It has been admitted and we all know that the percentage of our nationals in the ships is very low and it has to be increased and the process of recruitment and training to be given to our nationals should be accelerated. I think that it would not be possible unless the Government take steps to encourage our healthy young men to get into the seafaring service and with that end in view, I would strongly urge upon the Government to devise ways and means so as to attract our youngmen to the service.

Shri Santhanam: I entirely agree with my hon. friend. We are already subsidising these people. In fact, we are training them at our own expense. They are brought to the ship; their lodging and board is there and I think they get a little pocket money; we are also giving them all the other assistance necessary till they are put in the ship. We will also consider in due course what we can do to give them more amenities; we offer seamen's homes in the various ports and we shall take every possible step to give them both direct and indirect inducements to enter this career and make a success therein.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

RAJGHAT SAMADHI BILL

The Minister of Works, Production and Supply (Shri Gadgil): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the administration and control of the Rajghat Samadhi in Delhi, be taken into consideration."

[Shri Gadgil]

The object of this Bill is to ensure the proper maintenance, preservation and administration of the Rajghat Samadhi which has been built in memory of Mahatma Gandhi. The means proposed to ensure this end is the establishment with certain powers of a Committee consisting of seven members of whom four will be non-officials and the Chairman of the Committee will be nominated by the Central Government. This Committee will look after the management of the Samadhi and will do all such and reasonable and necessary things to ensure that the Rajghat Samadhi is properly maintained, controlled and administered. Among other things, it shall make proper arrangements for the watch and ward of the Samadhi. It shall organise and regulate periodical functions at the same. Some of the functions referred to by me just now include Sarvodaya Day, weekly Friday Prayers, Gandhi Jayanti and it shall also be empowered to control access to the Samadhi. The Samadhi has been up till now being maintained by a Committee which has been appointed by the Government of India but it was advised that it will be better if the Committee is appointed in pursuance of a legislative enactment. Hence this Bill has been introduced. I think there should be no disagreement over the Bill. There are certain amendments put down and certain amendments are also likely to come up. I am prepared to consider them on their merits.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved.

"That the Bill to provide for the administration and control of the Rajghat Samadhi in Delhi, be taken into consideration."

श्री भट्ट : माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह बिल जो हमारे सामने आया है यह एक इतिहासीय बिल है, और हमारे मंत्री जी ने इस बिल को बहुत संक्षेप में और गम्भीरतापूर्वक पेश किया है। हम लोग जो बड़ा राजघाट समाधि पर जाते हैं तो देखते हैं कि उस की शक्ल ही बदल गई है और वह एक बहुत ही सुन्दर चीज बनने जा रही है। ऐसे पवित्र और तीर्थस्थान जैसे स्थल की व्यवस्था किसी कायमी कमेटी के हाथ में ही नहीं आसकती है और इसलिए यह समिति

है कि यह बिल लाया गया है। मैं जानता हूँ कि वहाँ अब किस प्रकार की व्यवस्था हो रही है और आगे जा कर किस प्रकार की व्यवस्था होने वाली है। सुन्दर हरियाली वहाँ बन गई है। लेकिन मैं दो एक बातों की तरफ माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। एक तो यह है कि जहाँ समाधि है वहाँ से कुछ दूर पर जूते खोल कर जाना पड़ता है। आम तौर से सुबह और शाम को तो जो आदमी वहाँ जाते हैं वह वहाँ जा कर चन्द मिनट के लिए खड़े रह सकते हैं या बैठ कर ध्यान कर सकते हैं। लेकिन अगर कोई आदमी नौ या दस बजे जाता है या दोपहर को चार बजे वहाँ जाता है तो जूते खोल कर खड़े रहने से उस का ध्यान विचलित हो जाता है। वहाँ सीमेंट का फर्श है। तो माननीय मंत्री जी को सोचना चाहिये कि उस के बजाय वहाँ पर कपड़ा या टाट रखा जा सकता है या नहीं।

दूसरी बात यह है कि जो लान्स (Lawns) हैं वह बहुत ही सुन्दर बने हैं। लेकिन उन में जगह जगह पर अगर छाया हो जाय और वह छाया छतरी, छाते, के रूप में हो तो दोपहर को आने वाले लोगों को भी वह एक आशीर्वाद हो जायगा। मैं जानता हूँ कि हजारों आदमी इस तीर्थ स्थान के दर्शन करने के लिये दूर दूर से आते हैं। मैं यह नहीं सुझाना चाहता हूँ कि राजघाट समाधि का नाम कुछ और रखा जाय, बापू समाधि हो या माँधी समाधि रखा जाय, यह तो नहीं सुझाता हूँ, क्योंकि यह चीज महत्वपूर्ण हो गई है। दिल्ली में आने वाले लोग राजघाट जाते हैं और वहाँ समाधि के दर्शन करते हैं और जानते हैं कि यह बापू की समाधि है। लेकिन इस के बारे में एक अच्छी रीति के उस का इतिहास भी वहाँ पर रखा जाना

तो लोगों को मालूम हो जायगा कि यह क्या चीज है।

चीकदारों के लिए सारे दिन धूप में खड़े रहना या बैठे रहना भी मुश्किल चीज है तो ऐसी सब बातों के बारे में भी अब जो कमेटी बनने वाली है वह ध्यान रखेगी ऐसी आशा है। साइकलों के लिए, गाड़ियों के लिए तांगों के लिए कैसी व्यवस्था रखनी चाहिये, मेले के दिनों में क्या व्यवस्था हो और अलग अलग दिनों के लिए क्या व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये, इस सब का ध्यान, आशा है, वह कमेटी रखेगी और उस का इन्तजाम करने के लिए जो कमेटी इस बिल के द्वारा बनने वाली है लाभकारी चीज होगी। हम आशा करते हैं कि जो समाधि एक पवित्र तीर्थ बन गया है उस के महत्व और गौरव को यह कमेटी और बढ़ाती रहेगी।

(English translation of the above speech)

Shri Bhatt (Bombay): The Bill that has come up before us is an administrative one and has been brought forward by the hon. Minister in a very brief form. Whenever we go to Rajghat we find that its appearance has all changed and that it is going to be a thing of beauty. It was but proper that the management of such a sacred place of pilgrimage should be entrusted to a permanent committee and hence this Bill is quite timely. I know the present position and can realize what the future prospects are going to be. The place has turned into a beautiful oasis. I should, however, invite the hon. Minister's attention to one or two things. In the first instance, one is required to take off one's shoes at some distance from the Samadhi. Now it is possible for a person to stand there barefooted for a few minutes or sit down for a while and do a little meditation morning and evening but if you visit it at nine or ten o'clock in the day or at four o'clock in the afternoon you cannot stand barefooted for that interferes with your meditation. The floor is cemented. I would request the hon. Minister to consider if it cannot be covered with cloth or matting. Secondly, I wish to say that although the lawns are exquisitely laid they should be pro-

vided with shade in the form of umbrellas or canopies so that those who visit the place at noon might also be benefited. I know that thousands of people come from far and wide to pay a visit to this place of pilgrimage. I do not wish to suggest that the Rajghat Samadhi should be given some other name, that it should be changed into Babu Samadhi or Gandhi Samadhi. The place has come to acquire an importance. Visitors to Delhi go to Rajghat, have a look at the Samadhi knowing it is Babu's Samadhi. If, however, a history of the place in a proper form were kept on the spot it would help people to know the place better.

It is also difficult for the *Chaukidars* to keep sitting or standing in the sun all day. It is expected that the committee now going to be formed would see to all that and also provide stands for cycles, cars, tongas etc. for fair and non-fair days. We hope the Committee would add to the importance and glory of the Samadhi which has now become a sacred place of pilgrimage.

Shri Kamath (Madhya Pradesh): We welcome the Bill that has been brought before the House and moved a little while ago by the hon. Minister of Works, Production and Supply. This Bill was, in my humble judgment, long overdue. But, it is gratifying to note that even in this penultimate session of Parliament, before this Parliament winds up itself, some definite action has been taken in respect of Mahatma Gandhi's Samadhi in Delhi.

There was when, a year or 18 months ago, people, not merely myself and my hon. colleagues in this House, but many outside the House also wondered why Government, dedicated as they are to the ideals and principles of Mahatma Gandhi were indifferent or rather appeared to be indifferent to the proper maintenance of Mahatma Gandhi's Samadhi in Delhi itself. The Samadhi is situated in the very city where the Ministers carry on the administration and it was heart-breaking to see that right under their very nose, this National Memorial should appear to be neglected. However, the Minister seems to have awakened or been goaded into this action, and it is, as the saying goes, better late than never.

There are certain aspects of the Bill, however, on which I would like to lay a little stress. Firstly, as regards the Committee that is proposed to be constituted for the administration and control of the Samadhi, according to clause 4 of the Bill, that Committee shall consist of the president of the

[Shri Kamath]

municipal committee and six nominees of the Government, three officials and three non-officials. It pains me to see that even in the year of grace 1951, three years—even more than that, maybe three and a half years—after India was divided and became independent, even now the Minister—I do not blame him individually, maybe Government as a whole—has a sneaking love for nomination, and they still do not seem to pay adequate importance to the method of election, especially considering that Parliament of the Sovereign Democratic Republic with the representatives of the entire nation is sitting here, and they come and meet them every day, each in his own way. Once the Ministers leave the premises of Parliament they seem to forget that there is a Parliament sitting. Sometimes they even seem to regard the existence of Parliament as not a happy thing so far as they are concerned. Some of them would like to do without Parliament and carry on as they deem fit.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is this the occasion for a general discussion of the efficiency of Parliament?

Shri Kamath: But, Sir, they at times seem to ignore Parliament as a whole and.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the hon. Member wants election in place of nomination, he can move an amendment to.....

Shri Kamath: I have tabled an amendment and I will move it at the proper time. I want to enlarge the membership of this Committee not merely in quantity but in quality also, by including in the Committee persons who will be elected by the people assembled in Parliament. After all Government is a passing show. Governments and Ministers come and go. Today's Ministers will not be seen tomorrow, yesterday's Ministers are not seen today. Government is a changing phenomenon. But if you include this salutary principle here, that Parliament shall elect certain persons to serve on this Committee, it will help to inspire confidence in the people outside whom we sometimes are apt to forget, that so far as the administration of this Samadhi is concerned, for which not merely the Ministers but the entire nation has got profound reverence and pays homage to the Father of the Nation, they will feel satisfied that their representatives will be there. The people, I am constrained to say, cannot have the same amount of confidence in

the Government as they have in Parliament and therefore it is incumbent upon us to see that this Parliament elect at least two or three members to serve on this Committee so that the Father of the Nation's Samadhi may be adequately served by the nation as a whole.

Then there is another point where Parliament has again been ignored and that is in clause 7 of the Bill. It is said in sub-clause (2) of clause 7:

"All bye-laws made under this section shall be subject to the condition of previous publication and shall not have effect until they are approved by the Central Government."

The other day in connection with the Electoral Bill I had the pleasure of moving that the rules made by the appropriate authority should be laid before Parliament and approved by Parliament. The Minister then agreed in principle but said owing to practical difficulties because election was an urgent affair, it might be difficult for Government to obtain the approval of Parliament before they could be put into effect. That was a cogent argument, and a reasonable one and therefore that amendment was not pressed. Here it is my view—and I have no doubt that the House will agree with me—that there is no such urgency as was the case with the Electoral Bill. The Committee has been empowered to make bye-laws for various purposes namely:

(a) the manner in which meetings of the Committee shall be convened, the quorum for the transaction of any business thereat and the procedure at such meetings;

(b) the appointment of such persons as may be necessary to assist the Committee in the efficient performance of its duties and the terms and conditions of service of such employees;

(c) the duties and powers of the employees of the Committee;

(d) the submission of accounts, returns and reports to the Committee by any of its employees.

On these matters I would submit that Parliament must have its say.

Shri Khandubhai Desai (Bombay): Why?

Shri Kamath: My hon. friend asks why. Let him ask himself in all

earnestness as a Member of Parliament who is discharging his duties very efficiently and satisfactorily in this House, why is it that a labour leader like my friend Mr. Khandubhai Desai

Shri Khandubhai Desai: Procedure regarding the meeting of Parliament.

Shri Kamath: There are functions mentioned here, and not merely procedure.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Mostly administrative.

Shri Kamath: There is no harm, and certainly there is gain if the bye-laws and the rules made by Government under clause 6 come to Parliament for approval.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are they such intricate matters?

Shri Kamath: Do you mean to say that Parliament deals only with intricate matters? If that is your view, you are entitled to have your own views but you will, I hope, give me the liberty of holding my own views in the matter and therefore I would suggest that so far as this particular matter is concerned, I feel that the Samadhi is something in which the Nation is interested and Parliament is vitally interested, and therefore I would suggest that not merely the rules made by Government but also the bye-laws made by the Committee appointed by Government—I suppose the Committee is going to have six officers of Government—should come before Parliament for information of the House, and if Parliament thinks that they should be revised or modified in any manner, Parliament should be empowered to do so before they take any effect. This is a very straight and simple suggestion of mine. Unless the hon. Minister stands on either false sense of prestige or takes the view that it is a simple matter and so, need not come before the House, there is no harm and there is no reason why he should not accept my suggestion that the rules and the bye-laws should come before Parliament for approval. I do not question the wisdom of the Minister in this regard. He is a man of the world and has experience in many activities, and I am sure he will make very salutary rules in this regard. But he will lose nothing at all if they are brought before Parliament. If Parliament thinks necessary it can revise them, modify them or leave them as they are. In both the amendments I am only seeking to enhance, maintain and promote the authority of Parliament and it is vital that every measure should come before

the House. It is very necessary in the formative stage of our democratic life that Parliament should have a say wherever it is necessary or desirable. Otherwise, with the efflux or passage of time Parliament may not, I fear, attain that importance and that effectiveness which a democratic set-up requires and the authority, the power and the voice of Parliament may be weakened in public affairs. I want to avoid any such development taking place and therefore I have been insisting in simple as well as complex matters, in straight as well as in crooked matters—in whatever way they may be described—that in the formative years Parliament must have the last word and Government which is supposed to be responsible to Parliament should really be so.

I hope that this matter will be borne in mind by the Minister and his Deputy—who is ably assisting him just now—and they will see that the Bill is modified in this regard before it is passed.

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I think we shall proceed to the clause by clause stage when hon. Members will have an opportunity to speak.

Shri J. R. Kapoor (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I have to submit something with regard to the scope of the Bill, which may not be relevant when the clauses are taken up. I shall take just five minutes.

This Bill has not come before us a day too soon, for it is now three and a half years ago Mahatmaji was assassinated. But, I admit Government has not been sitting idle: they have been trying to give a proper shape to the Samadhi during all this period.

On this occasion our thoughts go back to the 30th January 1948 when to our great shame our own countryman assassinated the Father of the Nation. At this juncture when the country is passing through a crisis we feel the absence of the Father of the Nation. Had he been alive he would have guided us through the crisis and shown us in what manner the future of the country could be made bright and brighter still.

While we support this Bill we would have very much liked that the scope of the Bill had been extended and some definite steps had been taken by Government not only to preserve and to make proper arrangement for the maintenance of the sacred Samadhi, but steps should have been taken to erect

[Shri J. R. Kapoor]

a suitable memorial at the place where Gandhiji was assassinated. I feel unhappy and I have no doubt in my mind that almost every Member here is feeling unhappy and the country as a whole is unhappy that nothing has been done so far to erect a suitable memorial at the place where the Father of the Nation was assassinated with the great name of Ram on his lips. Soon after the unfortunate incident there were reports that the great house of the Birlas with its traditions of charity and munificence would be prepared to hand over the Birla House to the nation, to be preserved as a sacred and suitable memorial to the Father of the Nation. But I do not know what happened later on and we did not hear further on the subject. I know it for a fact that some correspondence also passed on the subject between the Birlas and some members of the Cabinet and there was some talk of the place being given over by the Birlas or being acquired by Government. I do not know the details of that correspondence nor do I know in detail as to what the Cabinet thought on this question, but if the views and wishes of the country were to be taken into consideration I think Government can easily come to the conclusion that the whole country wants that that place should be carefully preserved as a sacred place where everyone from any nook or corner of India can go to pay homage to the Father of the Nation. I am inclined to believe that if only a word were to be passed on to the Birlas that this is the will and desire of the nation they will certainly be prepared to hand over those lands and buildings to the nation; I have no doubt in my mind, charitably inclined as the great house of Birlas has been, that it would come readily forward to meet the wishes of the nation. And if only in Parliament today we somehow express this will and desire of ours, if some hon. Members only by one sentence support the suggestion of mine so that unmistakably it could be made known to the Birlas that this is what we want, I have no doubt in my mind that those lands and buildings would readily be handed over to the nation. But even supposing they have any disinclination to do so, we should be prepared to acquire those buildings. I see no reason why buildings and lands necessary for a great purpose should not be acquired by Government. It may be said that such acquisition might cause inconvenience to the occupants there. Surely it will but every acquisition whether it be of a hamlet or of a big house will put the owner and occupant thereof to inconvenience.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is the Rajghat Samadhi Bill and therefore only a few words might have been said, but the hon. Member is going on elaborating on the other point. Many other things could have been done within this time. I hope the hon. Member will now conclude.

Shri J. R. Kapoor: Many other things could have been done but I am stressing only one particular thing which is of greater importance than any other thing. I do not think the scope and purpose of this Bill can really be fulfilled unless and until we extend the scope to include the lands and buildings where Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated and where he lived last. This is a matter of considerable importance. I am making this observation in no light-hearted manner. I think this is a very suitable opportunity when a subject over which the entire nation has very strong and definite feelings should be discussed in this House and Members should express themselves on it. I would make a very earnest and respectful appeal to the hon. Minister in charge of the Bill and more so to the hon. Prime Minister to seriously consider this subject and adopt ways and means to respect the views and wishes of the nation.

I was submitting that it may be said that if those premises are acquired it will mean inconvenience to the occupants and the owners thereof. Surely it will be so. But as I said such inconveniences are inevitable and the inconvenience of one individual or a few individuals should not be considered when the views and wishes of the entire nation are to be respected. I would not dilate on this point, because I think I have not to convince anybody here that the suggestion that I am making is worthy of acceptance. Since, none need be convinced, because everybody is already convinced not only here, but also outside the House, I can only hope and trust that this suggestion of mine will be accepted. It is too late now to bring this into the four corners of this Bill. But sooner rather than later I hope Government will give careful consideration to this suggestion and take immediate steps to respect the wishes of the country in this respect.

Shri Gadgil: Whatever suggestions have been made by Shri Gokulbhai Bhatt will be taken into consideration by the Committee that will come into existence as a result of the enactment of this Bill.

Now, two points have been raised by my hon. friend Mr. Kamath. One was that there must be a Member of Parlia-

ment 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.

His second suggestion was that the rules that will be framed under clause 7 should be placed before Parliament, and he brought the whole apparatus of reasoning about delegated power and the new tyranny, etc., which I think is hardly relevant, if not ridiculous. The supremacy of Parliament is well-established by the very fact that I have come before this hon. House for the Bill to be enacted. Perhaps it may be of some use if I tell my hon. friend that in the modern world Parliaments usually concern themselves with laying down general principles and embodying them in suitable Acts. The rest of it is always done by the executive, because otherwise the work before Parliament would be so much that even if it sits for 24 hours of the day and all the 365 days of the year, Parliament would not be able to cope with the work. Hence there is nothing in which I have offended the letter of the spirit of the Constitution by merely asking for power to make rules with respect to the conduct of meetings, with respect to the appointment of *chaprassis* and *chowkidars* there. I think Mr. Kamath has done too much about it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the administration and control of the Rajghat Samadhi in Delhi, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2. —(Definitions)

Shri S. N. Das (Bihar): I beg to move:

In part (a) of clause 2, and wherever it occurs in the Bill, for "Committee" substitute "Samiti".

1 P.M.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

In part (a) of clause 2, and wherever it occurs in the Bill, for "Committee" substitute "Samiti".

The motion was negatived.

Shri S. N. Das: I have another amendment. I beg to move:

In part (a) of clause 2, and wherever they occur in the Bill, for "Rajghat Samadhi" substitute "Mahatma Gandhi Samadhi".

Hon. Members: We have not got a copy of the amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: With respect to amendments notice of which has not been given earlier but notice was given only today, I would allow them to be moved and waive notice only in case Government is willing to accept those amendments. With respect to the other amendment I thought the hon. Minister said that he was accepting it. Otherwise hon. Members may take it that without adequate notice it will not be right for me to impose these amendments on the House.

Shri Kamath: There was no notice that this Bill would be taken up today and the hon. Minister, if I remember aright, before the discussion started on this Bill told the House that even if the amendments come at the eleventh hour, or even the zero hour, he would be prepared to consider them. Therefore Members must be allowed to move their amendments. The Minister may reject them ultimately, but that does not matter. We are not worried about it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All right. But I have already seen a list of amendments tabled by Shri Gokulbhai Bhatt and some others. Then, notice of consideration was given a long time ago and several times it has been appearing on the Order Paper together with those amendments. Therefore hon. Members must be ready. In regard to the other amendments, if the hon. Minister is willing to accept any of them I have no objection to waive notice.

Shri Gadgil: What I said was not that I was willing to accept them but that I was willing to consider them, because the point was made that the Bill came up before the House suddenly.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now the matter has been settled. Let me dispose of clause 2.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4.—(Composition of the Committee)

श्री भट्ट : मैं पहला संशोधन नहीं रख रहा हूँ, बल्कि दूसरा रख रहा हूँ। मेरा संशोधन इस प्रकार है :

For sub-clause (2) of clause 4, substitute:

"(2) The Central Government may appoint any person referred to in sub-section (1) to be the Chairman of the Committee."

यह एक है। और दूसरा जो श्री सिधवा के नाम पर है, वह भी मैं पेश कर रहा हूँ।

[Shri Bhatt: I am not moving the first amendment but the second one. My amendment is as follows:

For sub-clause (2) of clause 4, substitute:

"(2) The Central Government may appoint any person referred to in sub-section (1) to be the Chairman of the Committee."

This is one. And I am also moving the second one that stands in the name of Shri Sidhva.]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: How?

श्री भट्ट : आप की इजाजत से।

[Shri Bhatt: With your permission.]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member is not here in his seat. It is not such an important matter.

श्री भट्ट : ठीक है। तो जो मेरा संशोधन दूसरे नम्बर का है, केवल उसे ही मैं पेश कर रहा हूँ।

[Shri Bhatt: That is right. So I am moving my second amendment only.]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment moved:

For sub-clause (2) of clause 4, substitute:

"(2) The Central Government may appoint any person referred to in sub-section (1) to be the Chairman of the Committee."

Shri Gadgil: With respect to this, as it does not change the main structure of the clause I am prepared to accept

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is he accepting it? I thought it was conditional.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I speak subject to correction. The main point seems to be that on account of this amendment no outsider will be appointed as Chairman. That is the main point. Is it not?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: 'Any other person' is omitted.

An Hon. Member: Could we not take this up tomorrow?

Shri Kamath: It is rather an intricate matter!

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Could we not hold it over till tomorrow?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: As you like, Sir. This is a simple point and there is no great difference. Here it is said that seven members are to be appointed but Government may appoint as Chairman one from the seven or it may be an outsider. The outsider will then become a member. My hon. friend's amendment limits that choice to seven members. Personally, I think it is not a big point but it is better to leave it open. It may be that the person who has not been nominated, a very suitable person from outside, is a desirable Chairman. Normally, he will not be taken. So it is better to leave that choice to Government.

Shri Gadgil: In view of what the hon. Prime Minister has stated, I would reconsider my own statement and plead for the clause as it is.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the hon. Member desirous of pursuing this matter?

श्री भट्ट : मुझे इस में आप्रह नहीं करना है क्योंकि उन को इस में तकलीफ हो रही है, हालांकि सिद्धान्त के तौर पर यह गलत है। मैं इस को वापस लेता हूँ।

[Shri Bhatt: I do not insist as this is causing inconvenience to him, although this is wrong on principle. I beg to withdraw it.]

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Cannot this stand over till tomorrow?

Shri Gadgil: I have no objection

**MOTIONS RE. DELIMITATION OF
CONSTITUENCIES ORDERS, 1951**

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Before the House adjourns certain matters of importance have to be placed before the House. This is with reference to the list of Members who were absent and did not move the motions at 9-30 A.M. today in regard to Delimitation of Constituencies Orders. I shall read out the names.

PART C STATES ORDER

Dr. M. V. Gangadhara Siya (Madras): I beg to move:

(For text of motions see Appendix XXXIII, annexure No. 2).

Shri Channiah (Mysore): I beg to move:

(For text of motions see Appendix XXXIII, annexure No. 2).

RAJASTHAN ORDER

Shri M. L. Varma (Rajasthan): I beg to move:

(For text of motions see Appendix XXXIII, annexure No. 2).

Shri Asawa (Rajasthan): I beg to move:

(For text of motions see Appendix XXXIII, annexure No. 2).

Shri R. C. Upadhyay (Rajasthan): I beg to move:

(For text of motions see Appendix XXXIII, annexure No. 2).

BIHAR ORDER

Shri Kshudiram Mahata (Bihar): I beg to move:

(For text of motions see Appendix XXXIII, annexure No. 2).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: So, the hon. Members **Shri R. K. Chaudhuri**, **Shri Haque** and **Shri Subbiah** are absent.

The House then adjourned till Half Past Eight of the Clock on Wednesday, the 6th June 1951.