

THE

14th February 1941

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

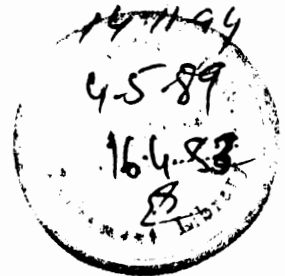
Volume I, 1941

(11th February to 27th February, 1941)

THIRTEENTH SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1941



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Legislative Assembly

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THE HONOURABLE SIR ABDUR RAHIM, K.C.S.I.

Deputy President:

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Panel of Chairmen:

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MR. M. S. ANEY, M.L.A.

MR. L. C. BUSS, M.L.A.

MR. N. M. JOSHI, M.L.A.

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Assistants of the Secretary:

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KHAN BAHADUR S. G. HASNAIN.

Marshal:

CAPTAIN HAJI SARDAR NUR AHMAD KHAN, M.C., I.O.M., I.A.

Committee on Petitions:

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SYED GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

MR. L. C. BUSS, M.L.A.

SIR ABDUL HALIM GHUZHNAVI, M.L.A.

SIR H. P. MODY, K.B.E., M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 14th February, 1941.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

64. *Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is not a fact that Railway Advisory Committees were created under the Convention of 1924?

(b) What are the functions of these Advisory Committees?

(c) How far are their decisions binding on the Railway administration?

(d) Do the Railway administrations give their reasons for not accepting the recommendations of the Advisory Committees?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: (a) No.

(b) The function of these Committees is to give advice to the Railway Administrations on any matters affecting the general public interest or convenience, for example, alterations in time tables and passenger services.

(c) The decisions of these Committees are recommendations which are not binding on the Railway Administrations.

(d) Yes.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: As regards part (a) of the question, may I know whether the creation of the Advisory Committees is not mentioned in the Convention of 1924?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: It is mentioned.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: When these Advisory Committees are mentioned in the Convention, then it means that they were established under that Convention?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: It surely does not mean anything of the kind. I can mention the Legislative Assembly in drawing up some Conventions, but it does not mean that the Legislative Assembly was constituted by that Convention.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: If it is not binding, then the members are permitted to send Resolutions to the Advisory Committees. Can the General Manager or the Agent refuse to accept the Resolutions in that case also?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I have not attended any meetings of these Advisory Committees, but I do not think that they have passed Resolutions. It is for the General Manager to determine the subjects that can suitably be discussed.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the separation of the railway budget from the general budget was made on certain conditions which were provided in the Convention of 1924, and one of the conditions provided in that Convention was the establishment of the Railway Finance Committee and the Advisory Committees?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I do not think the Railway Standing Finance Committee is mentioned in this question.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Has the Honourable Member got a copy of the Convention?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: The Railway Finance Committee is not mentioned in this question.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: The question on the paper is about the Advisory Committees?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: The Honourable Member asked me whether the Advisory Committees were created under the Convention, and I have replied in the negative. A copy of the Convention will be found as an Appendix to the Railway Report which is in the Library of the House.

HIGHER INITIAL SALARY FOR ANGLO-INDIANS ON RAILWAYS.

65. *Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has made a rule in accordance with which all Anglo-Indians are recruited on an initial salary of Rs. 55 per mensem, while Indians are employed on the same job on Rs. 25 or 30? If so, what are the reasons for such a discrimination, and are Government prepared to remove the racial discrimination altogether?

(b) In case a higher start is given to Anglo-Indians on account of their high standard of living, are Government prepared to give a higher start to the Mussalmans in proportion to their high standard of living?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member apparently has in view the orders contained in the Government of India's Home Department Resolution of 1st May, 1939, which was published in the *Gazette of India* of 6th May, 1939. Questions regarding this Resolution should be addressed to the Honourable the Home Member.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: May I ask whether this particular special increment to the Anglo-Indians is confined only to the railway services or does it extend to all the services under the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: It covers certain services.

Sardar Sant Singh: Was the Railway Department consulted when this increase in the pay was given?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: Yes, Sir.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if they took any objection to this financial burden being placed upon the railways?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: In all cases the advice given by the Departments to the Government of India is confidential.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the Railway Board consulted the Railwaymen's Federation on this matter, as, I believe, they consult them on all important matters?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: No, Sir.

Lieut.-Colonel M. A. Rahman: Is there any standard laid down as regards the living of the Anglo-Indians by the Railway Department?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: It is not for the Railway Department to lay down the standards of living for particular classes of their employees.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask how much financial burden has been placed upon the railways by this Resolution of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: I would require notice of that question.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Was it not possible for the Government to place this subject for the consideration of the Railway Standing Finance Committee before saddling the railways with this additional expenditure?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: The decision was not taken by the Railway Board. It was a general decision of the Government.

Mr. M. S. Aney: If any expenditure is ultimately to be shifted on to the Railway Board and to the railways, is it not proper and equitable that the Standing Finance Committee, which has been appointed for the sake of advising the Railway Board, should be consulted before the actual burden is shifted on?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: When proposals affect more than one Department, then it is obviously a matter within the discretion largely of the Finance Member.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Does the Honourable Member mean to say that in certain matters the Standing Finance Committee for Railways and the Railway Board have no choice at all even if financial commitments are involved?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: The Railway Board are naturally consulted, but I can conceive of cases affecting certain other Departments

besides the Railway Department, and the Honourable the Finance Member may feel that this was a general rather than a railway matter.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Would it not be proper that before any commitment is made like the one under discussion, the Railway Board and the Standing Finance Committee for Railways should be consulted before the Government of India come to any decision on matters of that kind?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: The Railway Board is consulted.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Why not the Standing Finance Committee?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: There are now, I believe, two Standing Finance Committees. It depends on the Honourable the Finance Member to decide which is the appropriate Committee before which to take a proposal for a substantial increase.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the Indian Railways are administered on commercial and business lines, may I ask whether the difference between the ordinary pay for a job which is occupied by an Anglo-Indian and the difference of increased pay which is given on the ground of his race is paid by the Railway Department or by any other Department of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: It is borne by the Railway Department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether, according to the rule of the commercial management or business management, larger salary is given to certain classes of people on the ground of their race?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: The Board is obliged to manage the railways according to the provisions of the Government of India Act, and it was in pursuance of that Act that this action was taken.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask if there is a similar discrimination in the case of the Europeans being employed in the same posts?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: There is a provision for overseas pay in most Departments.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: May I know whether, in the opinion of the Honourable Member, the standard of living of the Mussalmans is not as high as that of the Anglo-Indians of the same type?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: I am afraid I am not prepared to give advice to the House on the standards of living.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is there anything in the Government of India Act to allow of that differentiation being made?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: The actual difference was made, as I said, in pursuance of the express provision of the Government of India Act.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Does the Honourable Member know that provision?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: I believe the provision is mentioned in the Resolution to which I have referred. It is section 242 of the Government of India Act.

GOVERNMENT POLICY ABOUT WATCH AND WARD DEPARTMENT.

66. *Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the present policy of Government about Watch and Ward Department?

(b) Is it administered by the Chief Commercial Manager, or Chief Operating Superintendent, or any special officer?

(c) Is it not a fact that in most cases of theft the railway servants are implicated?

(d) Have Government compiled any statistics about the reduction of the claims and the savings to the Railways on account of the establishment of this Department?

(e) What is the manner of recruitment to this Department?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: (a) I am not sure what information the Honourable Member desires. If he wishes to know the object of maintaining watch and ward organisation, the answer is that the object is to protect property belonging to or entrusted to the railways.

(b) On the East Indian, Great Indian Peninsula and Eastern Bengal Railways, the officer who administers the department is a Police Officer obtained on loan from Provincial Governments and he works under the direction of the General Manager, Chief Traffic Manager and Traffic Manager respectively. On the North Western Railway the Watch and Ward staff work under the direct control of Departmental officers.

(c) No.

(d) No statistics of the nature alluded to by the Honourable Member are available.

(e) The method of recruitment on the four State-managed Railways is as follows:

North Western Railway.—Chowkidars are recruited from ex-military men. Head Watchmen are promoted from chowkidars. Posts of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors are filled partly by promotion and partly by recruitment of ex-military officers.

Great Indian Peninsula Railway.—Watchmen are mainly recruited from ex-military men or policemen. Posts of Chief Head Watchmen and above are filled by direct recruitment.

Eastern Bengal Railway.—Inferior posts are filled by direct recruitment. Posts of Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors are filled by promotion.

East Indian Railway.—Watchmen are appointed by recruitment of ex-military men or men of similar type. Posts of Head Watchmen are filled by promotion. Lower and upper subordinates are appointed partly by promotion and partly by direct recruitment.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to part (c), may I know if Government have any record or information that any of the employees were ever implicated in theft cases in the watch and ward department?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: The question put to me was 'in most cases'.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I want to know if there is any case in the knowledge of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I do not recollect any particular case at the moment, but I am quite willing to believe undoubtedly there have been some cases.

Maulvi Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury: What percentage of cases?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: Quite impossible to say.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: With reference to part (e), may I know whether the Senior Inspectors are eligible to be promoted to the rank of lower gazetted officers?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I want notice.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: With reference to part (b), may I know if there are not three different methods adopted in different railways? Has the Honourable Member got any experience or has he made any investigation which of these three different methods is the best?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I presume that what is adopted in a particular area is suited to that area. I am not a believer in strict uniformity in these matters.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Has any representation been made by the police officer in charge of Dhamangaon railway station on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, to the effect that for want of adequate number of chaukidars the number of thefts from the goods shed at that station is increasing during the last few years?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I have seen no such representation.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Will the Honourable Member kindly enquire from the railway administration about this matter?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: If the Honourable Member is aware of the fact, I am quite willing to take it from him.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to part (e), if the method of recruitment is not uniform on all railways, will the Government of India consider the advisability of introducing a uniform method in all the railways?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I have just replied to that question in the negative.

Mr. Lalchand Navalsai: May I know if this system of Watch and Ward works out more economically than the former system of getting the work done with the help of the police?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I could not say.

POSTING OF ANGLO-INDIANS AS ASSISTANT INSPECTORS IN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

67. *Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is the policy of Government to post only Anglo-Indians as Assistant Inspectors in the Workshops? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: No; the latter part does not arise.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know whether it is a fact that at the moment all the Inspectors happen to be Anglo-Indians?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: The question relates to Assistant Inspectors. I have no particulars about Inspectors.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: May I tell the Government that it is a fact. It is not the policy, but it is the practice of the Government to have Anglo-Indians as Inspectors. There is a difference between policy and practice.

(No answer.)

PURCHASE OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA AND THE ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAYS.

68. *Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways lay on the table of the House all communications between the Government of India and the Secretary of State about the purchase of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India and the Assam Bengal Railways?

(b) On which date did the Government of India discuss the question of purchase of these Railways in the Executive Council?

(c) What was the decision of the Executive Council?

(d) Why was the question of purchase not discussed in the November Session of the Legislative Assembly?

(e) Why was it laid before the Central Railway Advisory Council after the end of the Session of the Assembly?

(f) On what ground was the decision taken to purchase these Railways during the war?

(g) Is it not a fact that the decision was arrived at before the consultation in the Central Railway Advisory Council?

(h) Did the Government of India consider the proposal of having the Home Board of these Railways transferred to this country?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) As the correspondence in question is confidential, I am unable to comply with the Honourable Member's request.

(b), (c) and (g). As the agenda and discussions of Council meetings are secret, I am unable to give the Honourable Member any information except that a decision was taken, after the conclusions of the

Central Advisory Council were available, to give notice of termination of the contracts.

(d) and (e). Government considered that the question of purchase could be most satisfactorily examined by the Central Advisory Council, which reflects non-official opinion in both Houses.

(f) The main facts and considerations relevant to the purchase were set out in the memoranda presented to the Central Advisory Council, of which copies have been furnished to all Honourable Members.

(h) No.

Maulvi Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury: May I know whether the decision to purchase the Assam Bengal Railway is final?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: Yes, Sir.

Maulvi Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury: From which date will the purchase take effect?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: It becomes effective from 31st December, 1941.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that in this case, as in most cases, Government make up their mind and afterwards they come before the Advisory Committee in order to get support for the decision which they have arrived at otherwise?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: Government naturally form provisional conclusions in the first instance. They do not put the case before they have examined the thing, but before coming to a final decision, Government would obviously have to take into consideration the views expressed by the Central Advisory Council.

Maulvi Abdur Rasheed Chaudhury: May I know why Government have not considered the question of transferring the Home Board to this country?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: Because there would be no particular advantage even if the Home Board and the shareholders were agreeable to that course.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know when Government intend to purchase the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: The same date as the Assam Bengal Railway that is 31st December, 1941.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: May I know whether, as a result of the purchase of railways, particularly the Assam Bengal Railway, any particular set of employees will be thrown out of employment and their services terminated?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: That will have to be considered.

COLLISION OF TRAINS BETWEEN HARIGAUN AND FAIZABAD STATIONS NEAR TUNDLA.

69. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state if an enquiry has been made into the circumstances under which No. 144-Down Passenger train collided with 418-Down Goods train between Harigaun and Faizabad Station only about seven miles from Tundla, as reported in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 22nd January, 1941, page 5?

(b) What led to this collision?

(c) Is it a fact that seven persons only were injured? Was there no death?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) Yes.

(b) The admission of two trains to one section.

(c) Yes. There was no death.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member in a position to say why there was this collision?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I have said that it was due to the admission of two trains to one section.

Maulvi Abdur Rasheed Ochaudhury: Why were two trains admitted into the same section?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: It was due to error on the part of somebody. That is under investigation.

STEPS TO IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF GRADE 1 CLERKS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

70. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state what arrangement has been made to improve the condition of grade 1 clerks employed on the North Western Railway?

(b) Since when is the question of amalgamation of grades 1 and 2 and providing a flow up pending?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that dissatisfaction and discontent among those clerks is increasing?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take to ameliorate their hard condition?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) No arrangement has been made.

(b) The question of amalgamation is not pending. As I stated last year during the discussions on the budget, "there can be no question of amalgamation".

(c) No, but I am aware that a number of men who have been on the maximum for some time feel that they have ground for discontent.

(d) Government cannot accept the view that the absence of a number of higher posts sufficient to secure rapid egress from the top of a grade is in itself a legitimate cause for complaint. But the Railway Board

are examining, in consultation with the General Manager, the question of whether the existing distribution between the two grades is in accordance with present requirements.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is there any prospect of coming to an early decision on this subject, or will it remain pending as it has done for several years past?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: I should like to see an early decision. It of course involves investigation of the actual conditions in different divisions, but I know that the General Manager is anxious to reach a decision as early as possible.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member expedite the decision?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: So far as it rests with me, I shall see that there is as little delay as possible.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know whether on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway the commercial staff and this cadre has been amalgamated for the benefit of both?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: I submit that hardly arises.

LIMITED HIGHER CLASS ACCOMMODATION ON 19 UP DELHI EXPRESS.

71. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware that because of very limited accommodation, first and second class passengers do not get sleeping accommodation on 19 Up Delhi Express at Howrah and that in some cases, a few passengers were left out at Howrah on the East Indian Railway on a few occasions?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that one first and one second class compartment is reserved for ladies and, in spite of accommodation being available in ladies' compartment, lady passengers are allowed to travel in gents' compartment and that this causes discomfort to all others?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that on some days there is no servants compartment on 19 Up train and there was none on the trains which reached Patna Junction on 10th November, 1940 and 11th November, 1940?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that normally second class compartments on this train are of rickety type?

(e) Is he aware that there is an unusual jerk felt on the 19 Up train when it starts or stops at a station, and that it was worst on the train which left Howrah on the 26th January, 1941?

(f) Is he aware that on this train the lights are very unsatisfactory with light of about 10 candle power?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: (a) No; but I would add that accommodation can be reserved on this train.

(b) I understand the statement in the first part is correct. As regards the latter part no compartments are set aside for gentlemen unless they have actually reserved a compartment.

(c) No, but if the Honourable Member observed this, I would not question his statement.

(d) and (f). No.

(e) No; I have no record of any special jerk on the day in question.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know if the Honourable Member made any enquiry from the railway administration to that effect?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: No special enquiry regarding special jerks.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to part (b), may I know whether when the Ladies compartments which are reserved for ladies go vacant, why they should be permitted to travel in gentlemen's compartment and thus cause trouble to others?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I have explained that there are no gentlemen's compartments.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: If you set apart a certain compartment for ladies, it naturally means that the other compartments are reserved for gents.

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: Not in the least. If a compartment is reserved for non-smokers, it does not mean that they cannot go into a smoking compartment.

Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad: Shall I give my own experience? In spite of a ladies' compartment going vacant, certain ladies insisted on travelling in my own compartment; and, in spite of my request to take away the label from the ladies' compartment so that I might go there, it was not done.

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: The Learned Doctor should not be so fascinating.

OVERCROWDING IN SECOND CLASS COMPARTMENTS ON CERTAIN TRAINS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

72. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware that there is overcrowding in second class compartments on 1 Up, 2 Down, 5 Up and 6 Down trains on the East Indian Railway and sometimes sleeping accommodation is not available?

(b) What is the number of second class compartments on 1 Up, 2 Down, 5 Up and 6 Down trains of the East Indian Railway and how many of them are reserved for ladies only?

(c) Is it not a fact that the number of second class passengers increased on these trains during 1939 and 1940, as compared to previous eight years' averages?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that pass-holders also travel on these trains and that the families of Railway servants take advantage of their being known to the railway staff?

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware that the lighting arrangements in second class compartments on these trains are not satisfactory?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) I am prepared to accept the fact that accommodation is on occasions inadequate but this is unavoidable if there is a rush of passengers.

(b) There are several types of composite first and second class bogies on the East Indian Railway but I understand that on 1 Up and 2 Down Mails there are normally three four-berth second class compartments each in the Delhi and Kalka carriages. Of these one four-berth second class compartment only is reserved for ladies. I regret I cannot give similar information regarding 5 Up and 6 Down.

(c) I do not know.

(d) I understand that during holiday periods, when public demand for accommodation is heavy, the issue of passes to railway servants is restricted to the absolute minimum and that even those holding passes are precluded from travelling by 1 Up and 2 Down Mails. The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative.

(e) I am not aware of this but will bring this part of the question to the notice of the General Manager, East Indian Railway.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to part (b) regarding 5 Up and 6 Down, will the Honourable Member inquire as to how many First and Second class bogies are run on these two trains?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I doubt if it is a matter of great public interest.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: It is a matter of public interest because I myself was detained at Patna Junction in spite of my having a First Class ticket on the 23rd December of this year for want of accommodation in 6 Down.

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I am afraid during Christmas the trains are extremely crowded, and the mere fact that accommodation was cramped then would not show that the train is normally inadequate for the number of passengers appearing.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Cannot special arrangements be made at that time when it is known that more passengers will travel on these special occasions?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: We do make special arrangements, but people come in at intermediate stations and there is a limit to the number of trains and rolling stock that can be put on.

OVERCROWDING AND TICKETLESS PASSENGERS IN SERVANTS COMPARTMENTS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

73. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware that servants compartments are very rarely checked and that "ticketless passengers" often take shelter in servants' compartments on practically all trains on the East Indian Railway between Howrah and Delhi and *vice versa*?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that police constables, chaprasis and menial staff of Railways also create overcrowding in first and second class servants' compartments?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that, actually one servant of a second class passenger on 19 Up (East Indian Railway) was left over at Allahabad on the 24th January, 1941 as overcrowding in servants' compartment made it impossible for the servant to get in?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: (a) I have no reason to suppose that the check exercised on servants compartments on the East Indian Railway trains running between Howrah and Delhi is any less frequent than on other third class compartments.

(b) and (c). I am not aware of this but will arrange for these parts of the question to be brought to the notice of the General Manager, East Indian Railway.

INCONVENIENCE IN BERTH RESERVATION AT CALCUTTA AND PATNA.

74. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware that a lot of inconvenience is felt in reservation of berths in first and second class compartments at Calcutta on the East Indian Railway, because telephone calls are not properly attended to and ticket numbers are not noted, in spite of numbers being intimated on telephone and that wrong spellings of names are made?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that at Patna Junction in the case of the compartments which are attached to the Up and Down trains on the East Indian Railway equal difficulty is felt in obtaining berth reservation in first and second class compartments?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: The answer to both parts is in the negative; but I shall send a copy of the Honourable Member's question to the General Manager, East Indian Railway, for such action as may be necessary.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is the Honourable Member aware that these reservations are not made unless and until one purchases a ticket? As this causes inconvenience why should not reservation be made when reservation fees are paid?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: For the reason that everybody is not honest and by paying a small reservation fee for three imaginary friends a man could reserve the whole compartment for himself.

*** Sardar Sant Singh:** Is the Honourable Member aware that sometimes bogus reservations are made, and while the reservation tickets are in the compartments, the persons are not there, with the result that tips and bribes go on?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Olow: That is what we are trying to prevent by insisting on the production of a ticket.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to this question, I may point out that I have seen reservations in Calcutta of which 50 per cent.

do not turn up, and, in spite of ticket numbers being tendered by other people, they were not accepted although no tickets were tendered by the other people.

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I have no information of that.

ENGINE ACCIDENT NEAR BHUSAWAL, GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

75. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some engine broke down at the front and rear wheels near about Bhusawal on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway either on the 30th or 31st January, 1941 and the passengers were detained for over two and a half hours, and that the occurrence took place at about 15 miles from Bhusawal?

(b) Is it a fact that this was due to the rickety condition of the engine and rotten condition of the rolling stock?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state who is responsible for sending out such engines and what action is proposed against him, and if the reply to part (b) be in the negative, what circumstances were responsible for such accident?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) Yes; the engine of 27 Down Express failed at mile 292/15 between Nimbhora and Raver and about 16 miles from Bhusawal on 30th January. The train suffered a detention of 2 hours and 22 minutes.

(b) No.

(c) The first part of the question does not arise. The engine failed due to the fracture of the right driving side rod.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: If the answer to part (b) is in the negative, what is the reason? Was it a worn out engine and no one was responsible for seeing it before it was sent out?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: No, Sir, I have no reason to suppose that it was a worn out engine. It had only travelled 27,000 miles since it was last overhauled, whereas normally it runs 120,000 miles between overhauls.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER.

OVERCROWDING IN THE THIRD CLASS ON 19-UP AND 20-DOWN DELHI EXPRESS TRAINS.

7. Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there has been very acute overcrowding in third class on 19-Up and 20-Down Delhi Express trains since the last three months on all occasions and particularly between Howrah and Patna Junction and Cawnpore and Delhi?

(b) What records are available for checking this by the administration of the East Indian Railway?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I have called for information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

MESSAGE FROM H. E. THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received a Message from His Excellency the Governor General:

"In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 67-A, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935, I hereby direct that the heads of expenditure specified in that sub-section, other than those specified in clause (v) thereof, shall be open to discussion by the Legislative Assembly when the budget for the year 1941-42 is under consideration.

(Sd.) **LINLITHGOW,**
Governor General."

New Delhi;

The 31st January, 1941.

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE SCHEMES FINANCED FROM THE GRANTS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman (Finance Member): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the Report on the progress of the schemes financed from the grants for rural development:

A statement of the progress up to the end of November, 1939, of the schemes financed from the Government of India's grants for rural development in the provinces and the local administrations was presented to the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State on the 30th August, 1939, and 12th September, 1939, respectively. The statement below furnishes particulars of the progress since made upto the end of November, 1939. Allotments from the second grant have, during the period covered by this report, been made to Madras, Bengal, Central Provinces and Berar, North-West Frontier Province, Orissa, Sind and Ajmer-Merwara. The balance to be allotted at the end of the period was Rs. 74,68,510 which will be made available to the provinces and the local administrations as and when required.

MADRAS

	Allotments from the Government of India's grant.	Expenditure upto November, 1939.
	Rs.	Rs.
Village communications	4,47,540	4,29,228
Rural water supply	5,26,810	3,58,390
Rural sanitation including a Health Unit	3,00,000	1,79,118
Discretionary grants by Collectors	48,650	48,376
Anti-malarial operations	50,000	49,946
Establishment	2,035
Total	13,73,000	10,67,093

2. A total sum of Rs. 8,03,767 was resumed from the above allotments as indicated below for redistribution on a contributory basis.

	Rs.
Village communications	15,440
Rural water supply	1,67,232
Rural sanitation	1,20,821
Discretionary grants by Collectors	274
Total	3,03,767

The net allotment thus stood at Rs. 10,69,283 and the expenditure at Rs. 10,67,098.

3. The progress made in the execution of the several schemes during the period under report is as follows:—

(i) *Village communications*.—A sum of Rs. 1,670 was spent during the year under this head. There is only one work to be completed and it is in progress. In all about 90 miles of earth work formation, 43 miles of metalling, 185 miles of road construction and improvements to about 75 miles of existing tracks and roads have been completed, besides construction of numerous culverts and bridges.

(ii) *Rural water supply*.—A sum of Rs. 5,875 was spent during the year under this head. Out of 650 well works and seven protected water supply schemes for which the grant was sanctioned, all the protected water supply schemes and 645 well works have been completed. The remaining works are still in progress.

(iii) *Rural sanitation and anti-malarial operations*.—No expenditure was incurred under these heads.

(iv) *Discretionary grants by Collectors*.—A sum of Rs. 6 was reallocated from the resumed amount to meet an item of expenditure previously incurred.

(v) *Poonamallee Health Unit*.—The Poonamallee Health Unit scheme has completed four years and two months out of the sanctioned period of five years. The staff of the Health Unit consists of one First Class Health Officer, one Woman Medical Officer, four Health Inspectors, four Health Visitors, nine Midwives, one Clerk, one Attender, eleven Peons and nine Ayahs. The work done by this staff during the period of twelve months ending 30th November, 1939, is detailed below. The corresponding figures relating to the preceding twelve months are given within brackets.

(1) *Vital statistics*.—There were 1,850 (1,937) births and 1,208 (1,147) deaths in the Health Unit area. While the birth rate fell by 2·8, the death rate rose by 0·57 per mille. There were seventeen deaths from maternal causes, fourteen from small-pox and 348 infant deaths, the maternal death rate being 8·8 (4·5) and infant mortality 188·11 (155·89). The high maternal and infant mortality is attributed to cases not related to the Health Unit area and to adverse seasonal conditions, respectively. The cause of every death continued to be investigated and placed on record.

(2) *Epidemic diseases*.—For the first time after its inception the area of the Health Unit was completely free from cholera infection during the period under report. Small-pox, however, occurred throughout the year in some part or other of the area and 64 (50) attacks with 14 (10) deaths were recorded. One hundred and fifty-two cases of chicken-pox and stray cases of enteric were also noticed.

(8) *Preventive measures.*—In the absence of cholera infection, only 121 individuals were inoculated in suspected cases. A regular vaccination campaign was started from the beginning of the period under report and maintained right through, the total number of individuals vaccinated having been 14,528, the highest number attained during any year since the inauguration of the Health Unit. The vaccination was systematically carried out from village to village after the preparation of a preliminary house survey. Protective inoculation was also carried out for controlling enteric infection.

(4) *Maternity, infant, and pre-school hygiene.*—This branch of work continued to be the chief activity of the Health Unit and very much appreciated by the public. During the period under report the midwives of the Health Unit conducted 1,272 (1,355) cases of labour out of 1,850 (1,937) births. If the number of maternity cases attended to by other midwives working in the area of the Health Unit is also taken into account, the percentage of births which received skilled assistance was 77.8 (76.7). The Health Unit staff attended to confinements at the houses without any payment and continued to pay visits for ten days after confinement to see that everything went on well. Subsequently the infants were followed up during their infancy and pre-school period for guiding the mothers.

Besides conducting delivery cases, the Health Unit staff attended also to various other items of work. Three hundred and sixty-three clinics were held. 98.8 per cent. of expectant mothers were registered. The midwives recorded 20,233 ante-natal and 9,979 post-natal visits; the Woman Medical Officer paid 2,315 home visits while the Health Visitors paid 24,892 home visits and 8,681 ante-natal and 2,640 post-natal visits, besides 8,266 visits to infants and 5,567 visits to children below school going age. 7,449 cases of minor ailments were treated and 437 cases were referred to hospitals for treatment. Cod liver oil was dispensed in 1,756 cases.

(5) *Health education.*—Various methods were adopted for educating the public on the subject of health. The Health Unit staff delivered 830 lectures with magic lanterns, 137 with cinema and 362 without the aid of either. They also talked on numerous occasions in schools, in houses and in clinics. Domestic hygiene, cholera, small-pox, plague, malaria, hook-worm, tuberculosis, temperance and other matters formed the subjects of these lectures and talks. Fourteen health exhibitions were held and health propaganda was continued through leaflets.

(6) *Hook-worm.*—Hook-worm infection was fairly widespread among school going population. Mass treatment was given to them, the total number thus treated having been 1,851, while as many as 714 people were given treatment for the disease in the two dispensaries situated within the area of the Unit.

(7) *Laboratory work.*—Simple tests were carried out in the Unit while the blood and water samples were sent to the King Institute, Guindy, for report. Numerous tests of urine, faeces and blood were carried out by the Health Unit staff. In the matter of hook-worm, representative samples were examined to find out the intensity of the infection.

(8) *General sanitation.*—The question of village sanitation is still a big problem in the absence of a paid staff. An attempt was however, made to make one village carry out some definite items of work one after the other. The first item taken up was the provision of manure pits for each of the households either in their own backyards if sufficient space was available or in a common site outside the village. In another village, nearly 25 householders were induced to pay a small fee of four annas each per month for engaging a special servant for daily cleaning their surroundings. This considerably improved the sanitation and served as an object lesson for others.

Through the efforts of the Health Unit staff, 746 houses were white washed, ten windows were provided to houses, 5,374 backyards were cleaned, 3,980 fly and mosquito breeding places were eliminated, forty-five soakage pits were provided and ten earth drains were constructed. The construction of private bore-hole latrines was encouraged by the offer of concrete slabs at one-third cost and 100 such latrines were provided for houses. One Panchayat in the area of the Unit put up a trench latrine while another provided four public latrines with two seats each, two-thirds of the cost being met from the Government of India's grant for Rural Reconstruction.

(9) *Water supply.*—Provision of protected water supply by means of bore wells was continued during the year and six successful borings were completed. The work was executed with the aid of a contribution of Rs. 5,000 from the District Board supplemented by free local labour and also small contributions by the Panchayats by way of providing platforms and in certain cases pumps. These bore wells were put to a severe test during the last summer when there was a general scarcity of water, and without exception they continued to yield good drinking water. Three of the existing open wells were also covered up and provided with pumps.

(10) *General amenities.*—There were only three medical practitioners for a population of over 48,000 in the Health Unit area. As this was found inadequate, arrangements were made for another Doctor to visit one of the villages of the Health Unit on three afternoons each week for which he was paid a small remuneration by the villagers and the District Board. The success of this scheme induced the starting of a similar arrangement for another group of villages.

A vegetable market was put up at Poonamallee by a private party at a cost of Rs. 4,000. Village radio sets were installed in two villages included in the Unit. The trunk road passing through the area of the Unit was concreted.

(11) *Public Health training.*—The Health Unit is now being used as a regular training centre for the Rural Medical Practitioners who are expected to take up public health work within a radius of 5 miles of their headquarters. Already 115 Medical Practitioners in four batches have been trained. In addition to this, the B.S.Sc., and L.P.H. students of the Madras Medical College and the students of the Health Visitors class are regularly deputed for a short practical course. Of late, Health Officers selected to be in charge of Health Units in other provinces spend a few days at Poonamallee to equip themselves before starting work in their own provinces.

(12) *Expenditure*.—The expenditure on staff and equipment during the twelve months under report was Rs. 23,518-8-7, of which a sum of Rs. 15,692-6-11 was met from the Rural Development Grant and the balance of Rs. 7,826-1-8 was contributed by the Rockefeller Foundation. A sum of Rs. 1,180-9-10 was also spent on the provision of protected water supply from the District Board contribution of Rs. 5,000.

4. *1936-37 allotment*.—In addition to the grants of Rs. 14 lakhs on the rural population basis and Rs. 26,453 from the reserve already sanctioned and referred to in the previous report a further allotment of Rs. 1,17,620 was made to the districts from the reserve kept with Government for expenditure on approved categories of schemes. The following statement shows the distribution to the several districts:—

Name of district.	Amount sanctioned on rural population basis.	Amount sanctioned from the reserve.	Total allotment.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Anantapur	33,830	8,100	41,930
Arcot (North)	71,170	6,670	77,840
Arcot (South)	81,670	..	81,670
Bellary	29,170	5,500	34,670
Chingleput	51,330	500	51,830
Chittoor	50,170	..	50,170
Coimbatore	80,500	..	80,500
Cuddapah	31,500	6,500	38,000
Godavari East	61,830	8,000	69,830
Godavari West	39,660	15,100	54,760
Guntur	65,330	..	65,330
Kistna	39,660	15,000	54,660
Kurnool	36,170	8,000	44,170
Madura	64,170	12,253	76,423
Malabar	1,20,170	..	1,20,170
Nellore	50,160	7,000	57,160
The Nilgiris	4,670	15,960	20,630
Ramnad	53,670	6,330	60,000
Salem	82,830	8,170	91,000
South Kanara	46,670	9,000	55,670
Tanjore	73,500	1,000	74,500
Tinnevely	56,000	6,000	62,000
Trichinopoly	60,670	4,330	65,000
Visagapatam	1,15,500	660	1,16,160
Total	14,00,000	1,44,973	15,44,973

Besides, a sum of Rs. 50,000 from the reserve has been set apart for expenditure on the improvement of livestock and another sum of Rs. 50,000 has been allotted for expenditure on the employment of special staff in connection with the formation and encouragement of Co-operative Societies for consolidation of holdings.

5. The following statement shows the progressive expenditure from the grant and cash contributions upto 30th November 1939 on the various categories of schemes :—

	Amount spent from grant.	Amount spent from contributions.
	Rs.	Rs.
Rural water supply	2,99,745	1,01,066
Rural sanitation	45,980	15,807
Village communications	1,72,329	67,657
Encouragement and development of Co-operative loan and sale Societies	40,593	77,884
Formation and encouragement of Co-operative Societies for consolidation of holdings—		
I. Expenditure on special staff	729	..
II. Expenditure on items other than staff	81	2
Poonamallee Health Unit scheme	27,912	18,348
Establishment	2,225	..
Total	5,89,594	2,80,764

6. The progress of the schemes during the year under report was as follows :—

(1) *Rural water supply*.—The total number of works approved for execution was 1,721, out of which 905 were completed, 612 were in progress and 204 were not started. A sum of Rs. 2,13,156 was spent in all the districts under this head. The completed wells are handed over to the district or the Panchayat Board concerned for maintenance.

(2) *Rural sanitation*.—Out of 520 works sanctioned, 228 were completed, 81 were in progress and 211 were not started. These works related mainly to the provision of latrines, construction of drains and control of malaria. A sum of Rs. 45,225 was spent under this head.

(8) *Village communications*.—Out of 486 works to be executed, 221 were completed and 151 were in progress and 64 were not started. A sum of Rs. 1,10,795 was spent under this head. In all, about 147 miles of roads have been completed. After completion the roads are maintained by the local boards concerned.

(4) *Encouragement and development of Co-operative loan and sale Societies*.—Subsidies amounting to Rs. 5,900 were sanctioned from the grant for the construction of three godowns, one in each of the districts of Cuddapah, Ramnad and Salem, estimated to cost Rs. 24,485 in all. Loans to the extent of Rs. 15,000 were also sanctioned from Provincial Funds for two of these godowns. Subsidies for the construction of 46 godowns in all were sanctioned, of which fifteen were completed and eleven were in progress.

(5) *Formation and encouragement of Co-operative Societies for consolidation of holdings*—A sum of Rs. 50,000 has been reserved for expenditure on the employment of special staff for work connected with the organisation and supervision of Co-operative Societies for consolidation of holdings.

The employment of six junior inspectors of co-operative societies has been sanctioned at the rate of one in each of the districts of West Godavari, Nellore, Anantapur, North Arcot, Trichinopoly and Ramnad, for a period of three years. Very little work was however done till 30th November 1939. Consolidation was completed only in six cases while it was in progress in ten cases. The expenditure incurred amounted to only Rs. 729 on staff and Rs. 83 on other items.

(6) *Improvement of livestock.*—A sum of Rs. 50,000 has been set apart from the grant for expenditure on the improvement of livestock. The amount is to form the nucleus of the Provincial Livestock Improvement Fund. The constitution of a Provincial Board for the purpose of collecting contributions is under consideration.

BOMBAY

	Allotments from the Government of India's grants.	Expenditure up to 30th Novem- ber 1939.
	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Agricultural schemes including animal husbandry	2,78,664	2,20,221
(2) Industrial schemes	40,784	29,490
(3) Public Health and sanitation	1,05,800	77,640
(4) Rural water supply	80,829	46,262
(5) Village communications	94,609	75,865
(6) Education	66,723	62,584
(7) Propaganda in the districts	31,588	31,588
(8) Special agricultural and industrial schemes	32,562	29,866
(9) Miscellaneous	26,064	24,875
(10) Unallotted reserve	3,04,377	..
Total	10,62,000*	5,98,391

* Includes allotments from Rs. 5,00,000 (second grant) earmarked but not yet allotted by the Government of India.

2. *Agricultural schemes including animal husbandry.*—The distribution of seeds of improved varieties of paddy, sugarcane, cotton, nachni, wheat, bajri and tobacco was carried out on an extensive scale in almost all the districts of the province.

In the Belgaum district 45,787 lbs. of improved paddy seed and 5,05,000 sugar cane sets of improved varieties were supplied to cultivators.

In the Dharwar district 95,600 sets of improved variety of sugarcane and 515 bags of Mugad paddy seed were distributed.

In Kanara improved seeds of onion and paddy and 12,000 sugarcane sets were distributed. Assistance was given to the cultivators to plant 288 coconut seedlings, 950 graft mangoes, 1,050 pineapple suckers, 100 graft chikus and 150 graft pomegranates.

In Ratnagiri 19 dusting machines were supplied to Taluka and Petha Development Associations, and many mango growers took advantage of them.

In Kolaba seeds of improved varieties of jack-fruit, kokum, cashew, myrabolam, etc. and lemon seedlings were distributed as part of a campaign to encourage the development of *Varkas* or upper lands. 400 grafted mango plants were supplied to the villagers at the concessional rate of 0-12-0 each. A subsidy of Rs. 665 was given to the poultry farm at Karjat. A poultry kamgar who was engaged for the purpose visited 38 villages and surveyed their poultry methods. Some Rhode Island and White Leghorn birds and about 1,000 eggs from the Karjat Farm were distributed.

In Belgaum 4,000 plants of different kinds of fruit trees and 4,440 pine-apple suckers of an improved variety were distributed to the cultivators through the Taluka Development Associations and District Rural Development Board. Fourteen improved gul furnaces were also constructed in the sugarcane tract under the supervision of the Agricultural Department. The services of trained masons appointed by the Village Improvement Association, Belgaum, were supplied free to the cultivators for the purpose.

At Yedhalli in the Bijapur district 5 cows, 5 calves and one breeding bull were maintained.

The pumping plant set up at Kasap in the Kolaba district irrigated an area of 14-1/4 acres. Two Bilsar *rahats* set up on the banks of the Kundalika river irrigate each an area of 4 acres of sugarcane and vegetable crops. Another *rahat* at the demonstration centre at Varasai in Pen taluka irrigates 1-1/2 acres. The demonstrations have resulted in the organisation of the Patalganga Valley Development Syndicate to work a scheme on comprehensive lines.

Twenty-seven bunds with waste weirs were constructed in Athni taluka of the Belgaum district under the supervision of a bunding overseer in the employ of the Rural Development Board.

In the Ahmedabad and Kaira districts grants were given to Taluka Development Associations for providing improved seeds, improved implements, mango grafting and other agricultural operations. Four dust guns for dusting the crops with sulphur and other insecticides and five electromagnets for making experiments in electro-culture were given to the Matar Taluka Development Association. Implements like chaff-cutters and plant pullers were also introduced and seeds of improved variety and fruit plants were distributed at concession rates. Malis were engaged for grafting mango trees. A small grant of Rs. 10 was given for erecting hen houses in a poultry farm. Fowls were distributed at concession rates to the people and a model poultry farm is run at Anand for demonstration purposes.

In the Broach and Panch Mahals district Rs. 256 were spent on purchasing and maintaining five bulls.

In the Surat district, wheat, pine-apple sucker and juwar seeds as also plant pullers were distributed at concession rates at a cost of Rs. 575 while a stud bull was purchased and maintained at a cost of Rs. 800.

In the Thana district various schemes as shown below were encouraged at a cost of Rs. 5,808:—

- (a) Spread of improved varieties of seeds.
- (b) Development of Varkas land.
- (c) Development of Ulhas river valley.

- (d) Silage making.
- (e) Powdering of bones by charring process.
- (f) Grain depots.
- (g) Control of betel-vine wilt disease.

Pure strains of improved varieties of paddy were obtained and supplied to the cultivators. Development of *Varkas* land was encouraged by supplying 764 mango grafts, lemon and guava plants at half the cost price while cashew-nut and jack-fruit seeds were supplied for spreading their cultivation. A mali was engaged to train the cultivators in horticultural operations by demonstrations in their gardens while a field-man was engaged to visit betel-vine gardens in order to instruct the cultivators in controlling the wilt disease. The scheme to utilise the tail water from the Tata Power Houses launched at Yeranzade was extended to the neighbouring village of Dhoke by installation of another pumping plant and cultivators were thus enabled to grow irrigated crops. Demonstrations were held to explain to the cultivators the advantages of silage making and better manuring such as treating with Bordeaux mixture, making manure pits for storing natural manure and preparing bone meal. Two more poultry farms were opened at Wada and Mokhada. A field-man was engaged for instruction to the neighbouring cultivators in protecting their poultry from disease.

In the Bombay suburban district horticultural classes were held with the aid of the Agricultural Department.

In the Ahmednagar district bunding operations were conducted at a cost of Rs. 800.

In the West Khandesh district eight bunding kamgars and one horticulture demonstrator have been appointed. Demonstrations in crushing bones and preparing manure and in charring them were given at three villages. A sum of Rs. 600 was allocated for purchasing wheat strain No. 168 and Pusa 4 and Akola Bajri. A tree planting day was celebrated and over a lakh of trees were planted. A sum of Rs. 2,000 was given to the Dhulia Goshala for purchasing cows. Rs. 100 were given to the Dhulia Agricultural School for the purpose of poultry improvement.

In the Nasik district, useful work in propaganda, seed distribution and demonstrations has been done. Rs. 1,000 were sanctioned for popularising terracing as a remedy for soil erosion. About 2,800 fruit trees have been planted. Rs. 75 have been allotted to each taluka and petha for making advances to villages for purchase of fowls. In the Poona district Rs. 50 have been allotted for the purchase of a stud bull. Pure bred cocks were distributed among cultivators for improving local breed.

In the Satara district improved implements of agriculture were purchased and supplied to poor farmers free of rent. A grant of Rs. 800 was given to the Taluka Development Association, Man, for purchasing improved seeds for the purpose of lending them to poor agriculturists in the Man petha and to take in return after harvest a slightly larger quantity

of the same kind of corn. About 400 grafts of Alfonso and Payari mangoes were distributed at a concession rate. To encourage poultry farming grants of Rs. 40 each were given to two persons.

The schemes for the improvement of poultry in villages and for the encouragement of pedigree poultry keeping by grant of premia to poultry farmers for maintaining farms were continued.

During the year under report 272 cockerels have been distributed in over forty villages. Out of these 171 were White Leghorns, 61 were Rhode Island Reds and 40 were Black Minorcas. The organisation of poultry improvement in various districts is making good progress. The graded stock is found yielding larger number of eggs better in size by about 40 per cent.

In addition premia were granted to eight approved poultry farmers who are co-operating with the Livestock Expert to Government in poultry improvement.

In the Sholapur district two bunding classes were organised.

3. *Industrial schemes.*—In Kanara, two coir looms at a cost of Rs. 106 were bought for the Industrial School at Honavar.

In Ratnagiri, instruction was given in improved methods of weaving.

A wool-weaving demonstration centre was opened at Bijapur with a view to reviving the industry for the benefit of the Kurbar (shepherd) population which forms nearly 1/8th of the population of the district. Four pupils completed their course in the centre and eight are under training. A stipend of Rs. 6 per mensem is paid to each student. Stipends at Rs. 15 per mensem and Rs. 10 per mensem have been granted for higher training to two students of the district who have joined the artisan course in the Government Hand-weaving Institute, Poona.

A scheme for bee-keeping has been undertaken at Nandgad in the Belgaum district and a demonstrator appointed.

In the Kaira district bed tape making machines and carding and spinning machines were supplied to four and five villages respectively. Small grants were given for spinning wheels and spinning and weaving accessories. In the Broach and Panch Mahals district a grant of Rs. 250 was placed at the disposal of the District Local Board for making demonstrations in the methods of paper-making industry.

In the West Khandesh district an agricultural, cattle and industrial show was arranged at Kasara. A grant of Rs. 50 was sanctioned to the industrial section of the show.

In the Nasik district the Weavers Society at Vinchur has been given an annual grant of Rs. 200 for a period of 8 years with a view to encourage the weaving industry. In the Satara district a grant of Rs. 50 was sanctioned to the weaving class at Nerli.

4. *Public Health and sanitation.*—In Dharwar, 4 earth augers were bought for use in digging bore-hole latrines in the black soil area.

In Bijapur, 9 combined manure pits and latrines were constructed for demonstration purposes one in a village of each taluka and petha at a cost of Rs. 25 each.

A few dais were trained at the Civil Hospitals at Bijapur, Kanara and Ratnagiri.

A pupil midwife was deputed from Dharwar to the Civil Hospital, Belgaum, for training with a stipend of Rs. 20 per month.

In the Kaira district table dispensaries were opened in 8 villages in addition to the one at Kunjarao, taluka Anand, which was given a grant for the purchase of furniture. Four Village-uplift Committees were given grants for filling up unhealthy pits and for other sanitary purposes. Grants were also given for the construction of latrines at two villages. In the Broach and Panch Mahals district a sum of Rs. 200 was spent for preparing bore-hole latrines in Kalol while a sum of Rs. 125 was spent for cleaning the village pond of Kalak in Jambusar taluka. A small grant-in-aid was given to the table dispensary at one village, as also sum of Rs. 91 to the District Local Board for providing privies in three villages.

In the Surat district a sum of Rs. 400 was allotted for opening and maintaining table dispensaries, and Rs. 125 were allotted to the training of village dais in Maternity Hospitals and Rs. 200 for free supply of quinine in malarial tracts.

In the Thana district table and travelling dispensaries were run at a cost of Rs. 293 through the agency of primary school teachers trained by the Civil Surgeon to treat ordinary ailments. Baby and health week shows were held for educating the public in the proper care of labour cases at a cost of Rs. 300 and an anti-guineaworm campaign was systematically carried out in selected villages at a cost of Rs. 500.

In the Bombay suburban district masonry gutters at Versowa have been cleaned and maintained at a cost of Rs. 67.

In the West Khandesh district grants were given to two Village Panchayats for sanitation. Rs. 230 were spent for the construction of latrines in villages and Rs. 40 for filling up unhealthy pits in a village.

In the Nasik district the Medical Relief Association Malegaon, was given a grant of Rs. 200 annually for a period of 3 years. The scheme of training dais and teachers for 3 months with a scholarship of Rs. 10 per mensem at the Civil Hospital Nasik is being continued.

In the Satara district a Maternity Home and Infant Welfare Centre has been opened at Atit and a provision of Rs. 1,000 has been made for it. The centre is working satisfactorily.

In the Sholapur district a training class for dais was organised under the supervision of the Civil Surgeon and Vice-President of the Village Improvement Committee.

5. *Water supply.*—The construction of five bore-wells in Dharwar and seven small dams in Kolaba was completed. Three village water supply works are under construction in Bijapur. Repairs to tanks and wells were carried out in all the districts of the southern division.

In the Kaira district one village tank was deepened while another was cleared of its silt. Bunds and a retaining wall near two tanks were constructed. Two water-troughs and one well were also constructed.

In the Broach and Panch Mahals district a sum of Rs. 56 was spent as additional cost towards digging a well while a sum of Rs. 50 was spent for turning a step-well into a draw-well.

In the Surat district an allotment of Rs. 2,050 was made for water supply.

In the Thana district Rs. 200 were spent in clearing and deepening tanks and in constructing a bore well.

In the Bombay suburban district the Dahisar bunding scheme is being completed. This will prevent the sea water from percolating into the village wells and turning the drinking water brackish. A sum of Rs. 2,592 has been spent during the year on this scheme.

In the West Khandesh district Rs. 270 were spent for repairing wells and kunds. In the Nasik district several step wells in villages have been converted into draw wells and Rs. 2,500 have been earmarked for the purpose. Rs. 250 were spent on blasting rock for a cistern at Dapur village. In the Satara district an amount of Rs. 1,778 was spent on constructing new water works and on repairing the existing ones.

6. *Village communications*.—An approach road, a small bridge, local roads in five villages, slab drains, culverts, and stone pavements in some others were constructed in the Dharwar district.

In Bijapur, 4 village approach roads were sanctioned for execution and Rs. 150 were paid to the District Local Board for plans and estimates.

In Kanara, a bridge and sixteen village roads were repaired. The construction of fourteen other roads and a bridge is under consideration.

Village roads were constructed in the Ratnagiri district at a cost of Rs. 9,627.

In Kolaba, thirteen approach roads were constructed and repairs were carried out to five village roads.

In the Kaira district repairs were made to some roads while approach roads and joining roads were constructed at a total cost of Rs. 1,851.

In the Broach and Panch Mahals district a sum of Rs. 50 was incurred in paving roads with metal, while Rs. 250 were spent for repairs to the embankment of a road in the Wagra taluka.

In the Thana district approach roads were constructed with the help of popular contributions in kind and labour for improving the communication of villages at a total cost of Rs. 1,650.

In the West Khandesh district Rs. 880 were spent for road repairs with the help of villagers. In the Nasik district the villagers have constructed approach roads in 11 villages. In the Poona and the Satara districts an expenditure of Rs. 2,680 has been incurred for road repairs. The villagers

of Ambola in Shirala Mahal have repaired their village approach road without any outside help to a length of 3-1/2 miles. A sum of Rs. 25 was distributed to them as reward.

7. *Education*.—One school-building was constructed in the Dharwar district. Books worth Rs. 150 were bought in the Kanara district for village libraries.

Rs. 214 were paid to the teachers of night schools in Bijapur.

In the Kaira district libraries were opened at five villages. Equipment for physical culture was supplied to one school.

In Broach and Panch Mahals district night and day schools in five talukas are run while two school buildings and one library building were constructed and books and slates were given to poor children, at a total cost of Rs. 3,480.

In the Surat district Rs. 1,800 have been allotted for circulating libraries, conducting schools, free supply of slates, pens and books to backward class boys and constructing a school building in a village.

In the Thana district the class opened at Sanjan for imparting industrial education was continued.

In the Bombay suburban district three schools for aboriginal tribes were financed out of the grant of Rs. 1,075.

In the West Khandesh district a circulating library has been opened for the Dhulia taluka. In the Nasik district the scheme of subsidising village schools at Rs. 3, 5 and 10 per mensem is being continued. In the Poona district Rs. 180 were spent on grants-in-aid to village schools and Rs. 8 for literature. In the Satara district Rs. 1,500 were given to the Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, Satara, towards erection of a model school building. Grants of Rs. 12, 25 and 10 respectively were given to 3 village libraries. A grant of Rs. 50 was made available to the adult female education class at Udtara, taluka Wai. In the Sholapur district 7 circulating libraries were opened for the rural population.

8. *Propaganda*.—In the Nasik district the Honorary Secretary, District Village Improvement Committee, has carried out village improvement propaganda in the villages.

In the Surat district a sum of Rs. 100 was spent under this head while in Thana district leaflets detailing the methods of preparing manure were distributed.

9. *Miscellaneous*.—A sum of Rs. 100 was spent for paying to sufferers on account of a fire at Sayan in the Surat district. A grant of Rs. 1,200 for providing corrugated iron sheets for constructing tenements has also been made.

10. *Special agricultural and industrial schemes*.—In the Nasik district a grant of Rs. 5,000 has been allotted to the Agricultural and Rural Vocation School. Rs. 2,000 have been earmarked for opening Grain Banks. In the Poona district Rs. 200 were given to the Agricultural Association for purchasing improved seeds for further multiplication. Rs. 204 were spent on the pay and travelling allowance of the bunding sub-overseer.

BENGAL

First Grant.

	Allotments from the Government of India's grant.	Expenditure upto 30th November 1939.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Establishment of seed, paddy and crop demonstration centres	1,09,000	1,09,000
2. Improvement of cattle and fodder crops	1,75,000	1,75,000
3. Improvement of poultry	500	500
4. Propaganda work in districts	20,000	19,700
5. Wireless transmission in Midnapore	17,000	17,000
6. Establishment of an Agricultural Institute at Daulatpur	50,000	50,000
7. Establishment of coir spinning and weaving demonstration parties	40,700	40,700
8. Establishment of Union Board dispensaries, improvement of water supply and grant to Sriniketan	3,95,000	3,89,000
9. Attachment of agricultural farms, etc., to secondary schools and provision of play grounds and village halls	2,34,000	2,33,300
10. Grants-in-aid to Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Bratachari Movement	20,000	20,000
11. Minor drainage and flushing schemes	3,03,000	2,83,300
12. Improvement in Chittagong Hill Tracts	30,000	29,600
13. Discretionary grants to Commissioners and District Officers	2,05,800	2,05,600
Total 1st grant	16,00,000	15,72,700

Second Grant.

1. Improvement of rural water supply	3,61,700	4,54,100
2. Provision of playing fields and recreation grounds for villages and village schools	1,30,900	1,53,500
3. Improvement of village communications	2,00,900	2,37,100
4. Improvement of rural sanitation	36,300	29,700
5. Extension of cattle improvement scheme to more districts	1,26,800	1,30,000
Total second grant	8,56,600	10,04,400
Grand Total	24,56,600	25,77,100

2. *Scheme for establishment of seed, paddy and crop demonstration centres (1st grant).*—Cultivation of different crops in the various centres (approximately 450) was attended with success except in a few farms where crops were damaged by flood.

3. *Improvement of cattle and fodder crops (1st grant) and extension of cattle improvement scheme to more districts (2nd grant).*—The total number of stud bulls distributed in various districts is 1,650. About 117 lakhs of Napier grass cuttings and 385 maunds of fodder seeds have been issued. Approximately 91,200 scrub bulls have been castrated and 82,000 progeny of stud bulls have been numbered. The majority of the stud bulls are in good serving condition.

4. *Improvement of poultry (1st grant).*—A good number of cockerels, 90 dozen eggs and 200 breeding fowls were issued to the districts of Dacca,

Faridpur, Rajshahi, Malda, Bankura, Berhampore, Nadia, Comilla and Noakhali. Everywhere the scheme worked satisfactorily except in the districts of Malda, Comilla and Noakhali where disease among poultry stood in the way. The improved breed of poultry is spreading in many villages and poultry societies are being formed.

5. *Propaganda work in the districts (1st grant).*—Loud speakers and gramophones were purchased and distributed to the District Officers. Some special gramophone records were prepared and distributed. The small balance left over will be utilised for petty repairs to some loud speaker sets.

6. *Wireless transmission in Midnapore (1st grant).*—The installation and maintenance of radio sets in the district of Midnapore was entrusted to the All-India Radio. The scheme has worked successfully.

7. *Establishment of an Agricultural Institute at Daulatpur (1st grant).*—The Agricultural Institute building has been completed at a total cost of Rs. 2,44,000 out of which 50,000 was met from the 1st grant and the balance out of provincial revenues.

8. *Establishment of coir spinning and weaving demonstration parties (1st grant).*—Spinning and weaving demonstration parties were formed and located in selected districts. 330 students were admitted of whom 216 were actually trained. Out of this number 119 have taken up coir spinning for their livelihood. Vocational classes for training in the manufacture of coir have been started by various public institutions and rural reconstruction societies. Many women have adopted coir manufacture as a part-time occupation. The scheme is being continued, the charges being met from provincial revenues.

9. *Establishment of Union Board dispensaries, etc. (1st grant) and improvement of rural water supply (2nd grant).*—

	Number of projects approved.	Number of projects carried out.
(a) Union Board dispensaries	123	116.
(b) Water supply—		
Tube wells	4,505	3,751
Masonry wells	503	355
Tanks	144	123
Ring wells	420	390
Other kind of wells	216	187
Ring wells in Terai and improvement of existing sources of water supply in Darjeeling district	Fully carried out.	

10. *Grant to Sriniketan (1st grant).*—The five village Health Societies started under this scheme are all working satisfactorily.

11. *Attachment of agricultural farms etc. to secondary schools and provision for play-grounds and village halls (1st grant).*—The allotment has been almost used up. The small unspent balance is expected to be fully utilised during 1939-40.

12. *Grant-in-aid to Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Bratachari Movement (1st grant).*—The amount has been fully utilised.

13. *Minor drainage and flushing schemes (1st grant).*—It was decided that these schemes should be executed by District Boards under the supervision of the technical experts of Government. It was also decided

that one-third of the cost of each scheme as well as its maintenance charges should be borne by the District Board, the remaining two-thirds of the capital cost being met out of the first grant. On this principle thirty schemes in fifteen districts were selected and approved out of which sixteen have been completed, ten are in progress and four have not yet been taken up.

14. *Improvement in Chittagong Hill Tracts (1st grant).*—The details of the expenditure incurred are:—

	Allotment from Government of India's grant.	Expenditure upto the end of November, 1939.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Rangamati water supply scheme	5,000	5,000
2. Water supply	17,300	17,300
3. Clearing rivers of snags	200	200
4. Construction of small bridges and communications	3,500	3,500
5. Draining of dhebas	2,000	2,000
6. Agricultural and industrial improvement for exhibition	800	800
7. Agricultural and industrial improvement	1,200	800
Total	30,000	29,600

15. *Playing fields and recreation grounds for villages and village schools (2nd grant).*—The number of schemes so far completed is 401.

16. *Improvement of rural sanitation (2nd grant).*—Out of 151 approved projects of drainage, conservancy, clearance of jungle, removal of water-hyacinth, filling up of insanitary ditches, re-excavation of khals, etc., 118 projects have so far been completed.

UNITED PROVINCES

Details of the total allotment from the Government of India's grant are given below:—

	Rs.
1. Main scheme	7,00,000
2. Departmental (Agriculture) schemes	3,28,000
3. Kumaun schemes	50,000
4. Public Health schemes	3,16,000
5. Industrial schemes	70,000
6. Publicity schemes	36,000
Total	15,00,000

The last mentioned five schemes totalling Rs. 8,00,000 were finally wound up in February 1938 and unspent balances aggregating to Rs. 3,21,407 were resumed by the Provincial Government. This amount was made available for allotments under the main scheme. With the resumption of unspent balances, these schemes closed.

With the concurrence of the Government of India the rural development schemes financed by the Government of India have been amalgamated with the Provincial schemes.

The total expenditure incurred out of the Government of India's grant up to 30th November 1939 amounted to as under:—

	Rs.
Main scheme	8,19,943
Other items, viz., departmental schemes, rural communica- tions and water supply	4,67,233
Total	12,87,176

The Provincial Government have issued a separate report regarding all schemes of rural development under their control including those financed from the Central Fund.

PUNJAB

First Grant.

	Alotments from the Government of India's grant.	Expenditure upto 30th November 1939.
	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Sanitary improvements in Gujrat district	8,829	8,829
(2) Bore-hole latrines in Gurdaspur district	10,000	9,084
(3) Serum cellers	20,225	18,954
(4) Fruit growing	62,000	62,000
(5) Reconstruction of Veterinary Hos- pital at Rohtak	12,000	11,478
(6) Construction of 10 Veterinary Hos- pitals	60,000	59,682
(7) Well boring	25,898	25,898
(8) Consolidation of holdings	2,01,766	2,01,766
(9) Broadcasting	48,040	48,040
(10) Tanning scheme	75,920	75,390
(11) Water supply scheme	2,25,322	1,70,309
(12) Discretionary grants	1,00,000	98,908
Total	8,50,000	7,90,338

Second Grant.

(1) Water supply schemes	1,48,019	..
(2) Consolidation of holdings	1,81,006	1,81,006
(3) Reclamation of Chos	12,830	*14,246
(4) Village industries	4,270	*4,169
(5) Award of prizes for good cattle belong- ing to the members of Co-operative Societies	3,000	2,943
(6) Village improvement schemes through Co-operative Department	2,000	2,000
(7) Construction of a normal school for vernacular teachers to give train- ing	51,200	44,357
(8) A centre for training teachers to run Girl Guides Companies and Blue Bird Flocks	10,000	10,000
(9) Scholarships for the training of <i>Daie</i> and Nurse <i>Daie</i> in rural areas	10,500	*28,078
(10) Appointment of Lady Assistant to Inspector General of Civil Hos- pitals, Punjab	18,375	*22,864

	Allotments from the Government of India's grant. Rs.	Expenditure upto 30th November 1939. Rs.
(11) Sheep development in the South-West Punjab	5,360	5,355
(12) Development of indigenous sheep breeding in the Hariana tract	8,240	..
(13) Chakwal Tahsil Soil Conservation project	11,000	*13,932
(14) Cinema films and loud speakers	21,000	20,400
(15) Coloured pictures and posters	10,000	5,640
(16) Work in the Army	4,500	1,300
(17) Well boring	18,000	15,586
(18) Village improvement schemes through District Officers	91,547	66,903
(19) Reserve	153	..
Total	6,11,000	4,38,779

*The excess expenditure on these schemes is being met from the unexpended grant for water supply schemes, which will be recouped on receipt of the balance of Rs. 1,39,000 from the second Government of India grant of Rs. 8,50,000.

2. First grant—

(1)—(6) These schemes were completed last year and therefore need no mention except that the total expenditure incurred on scheme No. 6 amounted to Rs. 59,682 against Rs. 59,032 reported last year. The unspent balances aggregating Rs. 3,027 are being resumed by the Provincial Government and the amount will be made available for expenditure on other schemes.

(7)—(8) Total allotment of Rs. 2,27,664 made for schemes Nos. 7 and 8 was spent last year. These schemes are, however, still in progress and are now being financed from the second grant of Rs. 6,11,000 made by the Government of India in 1938.

(9) *Broadcasting*.—Total grant of Rs. 48,040 was spent on this scheme up to 31st March, 1939.

Special programmes on a variety of subjects of rural interest and utility were broadcast from All-India Radio Station, Lahore, during the period December, 1938, to 31st March, 1939.

The demand for plays has been on the increase and it has been found to be the best medium of propaganda. During the four months under report twelve plays and feature programmes were broadcast on various social evils and other characteristics of village life. Feature programmes were presented on the occasion of festivals and were a very popular aspect of rural programmes. Market rates were a regular feature of daily programme.

(10) *Tanning scheme*.—This scheme was started in the year 1935-36 with an allotment of Rs. 75,920. A part of the money was spent on the Central Training Institute at Jullundur and balance on two Travelling Tanning Demonstration Parties. An expenditure of Rs. 75,990 was

incurred against this grant up to 30th November, 1939 and the balance of Rs. 580 is anticipated to be expended before the close of the current year.

The Institute continues to be popular as the seats for chamars are always fully occupied and educated persons are also showing increasing interest in training in tanning by modern methods.

The research work started under the scheme is being continued in the laboratory attached to the Institute by the students and the Chemical Assistant who is paid from the provincial revenues.

(11) *Water supply schemes.*—With the exception of the Sakhi Sarwar and Jabbi villages water supply schemes, all the other six schemes mentioned in the last year's report have been completed and water is being supplied to the villages concerned. Accounts for these schemes have, however, not yet been finally closed.

The Sakhi Sarwar scheme is in hand but the estimate for the Jabbi village scheme has not yet been sanctioned.

Total expenditure on these schemes up to the end of November, 1939, amounted to Rs. 1,66,919.

(12) *Discretionary grants.*—A sum of Rs. 98,908 has been spent out of the total sum of Rs. 1,00,000 provided for this purpose. The general nature of this grant was described in the report for the period ending with 31st July, 1936.

3. *Second grant*—

(1) *Water supply schemes.*—No expenditure was incurred on these schemes up to the end of November, 1939.

(2) *Consolidation of holdings*—

(a) *Through Co-operative Department.*—An area of 59,268 acres has been consolidated during the period under report at a cost of Rs. 86,847, which gives an average of Rs. 1-7-4 per acre. The total area consolidated up to date is 180,889 acres. The importance and advantages of this work are self-evident requiring no details. This is the quickest method of enhancing the income of the peasant class.

(b) *Through Revenue Department.*—The two grants made by the Government of India of Rs. 50,000 each for this scheme having been spent last year, the operations are now being financed from the Provincial Development Fund.

(8) *Reclamation of Chos.*—Rs. 14,246 have been spent on the staff of two Inspectors with camp clerks and peons and ten Sub-Inspectors employed on this work during the period under report. By the appointment of this staff the work was started in the real sense and as a result sixty-two new societies were registered. The societies are doing the work of (i) distribution of income, (ii) closure of the areas, (iii) employment of guards, (iv) watbandi, (v) sowing of trees including fruit trees, (vi) notour and (vii) starting of nurseries, etc.

(4) *Village Industries*.—With this grant one canvasser and one master weaver were employed, arrangements were made for shows, and show rooms were started and machinery purchased.

The canvasser did canvassing, advertised the goods manufactured by industrial societies and secured orders for the goods and supplied the same.

Similarly the master weaver visited several places in order to demonstrate the methods of preparing new designs and samples. His visits proved to be very useful to co-operators in teaching them how to prepare new designs and solving their difficulties.

The machinery purchased has proved to be of immense value for dyeing yarn in fast colours, twisting yarn, manufacturing of broad width goods and flowered goods.

Show rooms started by the Co-operative Department at different places, particularly the one at Amritsar, which is the most important centre of commerce and trade, serve as the best means of advertising goods, booking orders and making sales.

(5) *Award of prizes for good cattle belonging to the members of Co-operative Societies*.—During the period under report prizes of the value of Rs. 2,948 were given. The system has encouraged the co-operators, with the result that membership in societies has increased. Award of prizes has made the cattle breeding scheme much more attractive and keen interest is being taken to keep good cattle for the sake of breeding and for winning prizes.

(6) *Village improvements through Co-operative Department*.—Rs. 2,000 have been spent on this work during the year. The improvements effected are (1) repairs of wells for drinking water, (2) installation of water pumps, (3) construction of bath rooms for women, (4) repairs of water springs, (5) pavement of village lanes, (6) construction of pucca drains, (7) digging of manure pits and ponds for water for cattle and (8) making of bore-hole latrines.

(7) *Construction of a normal school for vernacular teachers to give training*.—The work was completed on the 28rd October, 1939. The school is in full swing there. The contractor's final bill has not yet been passed. The expenditure on the whole will approximately be Rs. 49,797 (inclusive of cost of sanitary installation).

(8) *A centre for training teachers to run Girls Guides Companies and Blue Bird Flocks*.—The entire grant of Rs. 10,000 was spent last year. The scheme, therefore, needs no mention.

(9) *Scholarships for the training of Dais and Nurse Dais in rural areas*.—One hundred scholarships for nurse Dais and two hundred for trained Dais have been awarded to women from rural areas who gave an undertaking to serve in any appointment as Nurse Dai or Trained Dai for a period of two years or to settle for private practice in rural areas preferably in their own villages after qualification. Up to ten per cent. of the total number of scholarships have been awarded to women of scheduled castes and the number of scholarships in each district was adjusted according to the rural population of the district and due regard was paid to communal proportions.

(10) *Appointment of Lady Assistant to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Punjab*.—Dr. E. Hamilton Browne, M.B.Ch.M., W.M.S., held

charge of the appointment of Lady Assistant to the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Punjab, throughout the year except for a brief period of 3 months and 29 days when she proceeded on leave *ex-India*. She made seventy-five inspections of hospitals and dispensaries during the year up to the 30th November, 1939, in order to report on the suitability of the existing facilities available for the provision of medical aid for women by Lady Doctors especially in rural areas; and to explore all possible avenues for further extension and expansion of such facilities. The constructive criticisms and suggestions made by her proved invaluable in that the authorities responsible for the maintenance of Women's hospitals, dispensaries and sections have reacted favourably to the criticisms and have carried out the much needed improvements in the institutions maintained by them.

(11) *Sheep development in the South West Punjab.*—Seventeen sheep breeding units, each consisting of one ram and fifty ewes, have been established in five districts. Twenty-four such units are expected to be purchased during the current financial year.

(12) *Development of indigenous sheep breeding in the Hariana tract.*—On account of fodder scarcity in the Hariana tract, it has not been possible to incur any expenditure so far under this scheme. Steps, however, have now been taken to purchase some sheep.

(13) *Chakwal Tahsil Soil Conservation Project.*—Considerable progress has been made since the work was first taken up and this progress is continuing. The work has been well carried out and the expenditure thereon has not been excessive.

(14) *Cinema films and loudspeakers.*—Two complete sets of loudspeakers have been purchased. These loudspeakers were installed on the occasion of many important rural gatherings during the period under report. They have proved of great propaganda value. Sixteen millimetre films being cheaper and easily portable than thirty-five millimetre have been prepared on the following subjects for mass instruction:—

	Feet.
(i) Cattle Show, Delhi	600
(ii) Cattle Farm, Hissar	1,200
(iii) Life in the Army, I	1,200
(iv) Life in the Army, II	1,500
(v) Sowing of cotton in lines	400
(vi) Eradication of Pohli	400
(vii) Ministers' tour in Gurdaspur	200
(viii) Lahore Zoo	200
(ix) Army Life	200
(x) Grafting of fruit trees	200
(xi) Judging of villages	100
(xii) Kulu Fair
(xiii) Lessons in Domestic Science
(xiv) Erosion	450

It is proposed to make more films on "Agriculture", "Co-operation", "Domestic Science", "Cottage Industries", and "Consolidation of Holdings". Cinema shows have been organised in rural areas and the films prepared by Rural Reconstruction Office have already become quite popular with the villagers.

(15) *Coloured pictures and posters*.—Five thousand copies of pictures have been printed on each of the following subjects:—

- (1) The Daily Bath, (2) A Village Home, (3) A Village Well, (4) A Village School, (5) Straight Furrows and (6) Harvest.

Out of this stock, pictures to the value of Rs. 600 have been sold. The income from such sales will be utilised in connection with the printing of other pictures which are in the press.

A good beginning has been made and pictures are being liked by the villagers and the army, and are being preferred to the cheap Japanese stuff, now available in the market.

(16) *Work in the Army*.—Lectures have been arranged for serving soldiers and reservists by the departmental experts of this Government on the subjects of rural interest.

Northern Command have been provided with wool and needles for distribution among women welfare centres for teaching knitting to the womenfolk.

Rural Reconstruction Office is in touch with Army Headquarters and various Commands to find out other ways of assisting military authorities in teaching rural reconstruction to their Punjab personnel. Progress under this scheme has, however, been somewhat retarded by the outbreak of war.

(17) *Well boring*.—A considerable stimulus was given to well boring by the temporary abolition of the overhead charges.

(18) *Village improvement schemes through District Officers*.—A sum of Rs. 66,903 was spent up to the end of November, 1939, on village improvement schemes in selected districts, e.g., improvement of village roads, street pavement, making of drains and pits for manure and improvement of water supply in villages.

BIHAR

	Allotments from the Government of India's grant.	Expenditure up to 30th November, 1939.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Village communications	2,96,400	2,41,654
2. Rural water supply	4,20,210	5,02,579
3. Miscellaneous	1,24,115	95,917
4. Village welfare schemes	80,000	22,322
5. Unallotted reserve	46,775	...
Total	9,67,500	8,62,472

2. *Village communications*.—821 schemes relating to rural road development were sanctioned and 621 were taken up. With the approval of the Government of India, the District Officers in Chota Nagpur Division, South Bihar and some districts in North Bihar have been instructed to incur expenditure from the Rural Development grant on water supply (including small irrigation works) only, except to the extent of commitments already made for village roads in process of construction. As a consequence of this decision, the scope of the expenditure from the grant

on village communications has been restricted; but nevertheless the work of renovation and repair of old village roads is proceeding fairly successfully and beneficially wherever it is still undertaken.

As already reported last year schemes relating to village communications are on the whole not so successful as water supply schemes, the chief reasons being the greater difficulty of obtaining the necessary one-third contribution, and the lack of technical knowledge and advice available to the villagers. Apart from this the problem of maintaining the village roads already constructed is presenting certain difficulties. The roads that were built sometime ago are already getting into disrepair, particularly in the flood affected areas in North Bihar and the villagers, either owing to apathy or to poverty, are disinclined to maintain and repair such roads. Some District Boards on the persuasion of local officers have undertaken the future maintenance of roads constructed out of this grant but their number is small. The Provincial Government have at present under consideration the question of the future maintenance of such roads and they hope to arrive shortly at some satisfactory solution of the whole problem.

3. *Rural water supply.*—4,146 schemes were sanctioned and 3,260 taken up. Rural water supply schemes are more popular than village communication schemes although even in the case of wells the required one-third contribution from villagers is difficult to secure. The grant under this head was utilized for construction of wells at places where they were absolutely necessary. In the district of Saran in the Tirhut Division most of the wells constructed were of a type which would serve both domestic and small irrigation purposes, but there is still a great demand for irrigation wells. In the district of Muzaffarpur, there is still a great demand for wells for the depressed classes. In Bhagalpur Division progress in the sinking of wells has not been very satisfactory. Out of the total number of 164, 564 and 258 projects sanctioned in Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Santhal Parganas respectively only 78, 268 and 182 wells have been sunk up-to-date; the slowness of the progress being due to the rocky nature of the sub-soil, the backwardness of the Santhal population, the scattered nature of the country and the difficulty of securing one-third contribution from the villagers. In the district of Purnea, cement concrete rings have been used for the construction of wells with success. There was a proposal to sink tube wells in this district but on account of recent rise in the price of iron and galvanised iron pipes, this has been temporarily abandoned. Four tube wells were sunk out of this grant in the Supaul sub-division of the district of Bhagalpur which is subject to severe inundation from floods and remains water-logged for the greater part of the year. In the Chota Nagpur Division expenditure under this category was Rs. 2,26,372 and progress has been generally satisfactory.

4. *Miscellaneous.*—Schemes relating to the drainage of Chauras and water-logged areas in North Bihar fall under this category. 209 schemes were sanctioned and 166 were taken up. The total expenditure under this head up to end of November 1939 is Rs. 95,917. A sum of Rs. 2,115 has been spent in Supaul in filling up the depressions caused by the earthquake and improving the outfall of drainage, etc.

5. *Village welfare schemes.*—The work is carried on in four centres, *vis.*, Manair, Chapra Megh, Kuree and Mihijam. The total number of villages covered by these centres is sixteen.

Among the improvements effected the following deserve special mention:—

- (i) *Communications and water supply.*—About half a mile of village road and lanes was repaired at Manair. The Mihijam Bifgaon road is under construction. A number of approach roads and lanes were repaired at Mihijam and Chapra Megh. One new well was sunk and an old one was repaired at Manair. Fifteen old wells were repaired and four new wells sunk at Chapra Megh. One new well was also sunk at Mihijam. Besides, nearly 800 wells were disinfected during the epidemic season. All these were carried out by the co-operative efforts of villagers.
- (ii) *Village literacy and adult education.*—There are eleven primary schools in all including one Girls' School. One school building was completed at Manair and another in Mihijam. There are 71 adult schools in these centres. About 2,000 adults have been made literate during the year under review. These schools are generally financed by the villagers themselves.
- (iii) *Public Health and sanitation.*—Two village dispensaries have been established on co-operative basis. During the period under review, 2,800 patients suffering from malaria, cholera and other ailments received medical help from these dispensaries. Fortnightly "Village-clean-up-Campaigns" are conducted in the villages. All refuse or waste matter is carefully accumulated and buried under rubbish pits. Twenty-five trench and bore-hole latrines have been constructed during the period under review. One Health Association has been started in every village.
- (iv) A feature of the work in connection with the schemes under this category was the training of villagers in the preparation of suitable composts and manure pits. It is reported that during the year under review over 600 manure pits and 100 compost heaps were made in the selected villages in which the village welfare scheme is in operation.

Attempts have also been made to introduce improved implements of agriculture, improved seeds and improved breeds of cattle by demonstration, purchase of stud bulls, etc., with moderate success. Maternity and child welfare work has also been started and a midwife appointed for work in the villages.

6. *General remarks.*—Progress so far has not been as rapid as the Provincial Government would have wished, but they are satisfied that the work done has been accomplished carefully and well and has been of lasting benefit to the rural population. The reasons for the comparatively slow progress are the difficulty of securing the requisite contribution, the lack of technical advice to the villagers entrusted with the work and the large increase in the work and responsibilities of local officers on account of agrarian, communal and labour troubles. The Provincial Government have under consideration the question of devising ways and means for expediting the work.

CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

	Allotments from the Government of India's grant.	Expenditure upto 30th November, 1939.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Rural water supply	1,20,000 } 20,000 }	1,08,997
2. District Officers' discretionary grants .	1,00,000	87,965
3. Welfare of aboriginal tribes in scheduled districts	40,000 } 6,000 }	32,244
4. Cheap plan dispensaries in villages . .	15,000 } 39,409 }	54,289
5. Experiments in poultry farming . . .	10,000	9,734
6. Improved bulls for District Councils .	30,000	28,748
7. Farm in Mandla District	30,000	29,414
8. Additional Debt Conciliation Boards .	1,00,000	1,00,000
9. Cinemas on lorries for demonstration work	20,000	19,441
10. Purchase of boring plants	15,000	13,945
11. Storage accommodation for cultivators' produce	20,000	16,120
12. Travelling dispensaries in rural areas .	36,076	15,656
Total	6,01,485	5,16,553

2. *Rural water supply.*—The scheme contemplates the construction of 211 wells in the nineteen districts of the province and the improvement of water supply in raiyatwari areas by the construction of twenty new wells and one tank, repairs to forty wells and ten tanks, and the construction of a water channel. It was hoped that the entire grant would be utilised by the close of March, 1939, but the local bodies could not fulfil the condition in respect of their contributory share and most of them have applied for further extension of time to complete the works which has been sanctioned by the Provincial Government.

3. *Discretionary grants.*—As previously reported the whole of the expenditure under this head is devoted to the construction of new wells, new tanks, repairs of old wells and tanks, repair of roads, and construction of causeways on village roads. Such works number 303 of which 261 have been completed. The balance left on the 1st December, 1939, on account of forty-two works which are in progress will be expended during the forthcoming hot weather.

4. *Grant for the welfare of aboriginal tribes.*—As has already been stated in the last report the schemes sanctioned by the Provincial Government include travelling dispensaries, construction of new roads and wells or repairs thereto and a small contribution to a dispensary in the Chanda district for the treatment of aboriginals suffering from a disease called "yaws". These works are thirty-three in number. A sum of Rs. 9,000 was allotted for the maintenance of two travelling dispensaries for two years in the Raipur and the Mandla districts. These dispensaries have done useful work. It was originally intended to establish a cheap

plan dispensary at Khamla but instead of utilising the amount on this work the District Council, Betul, subsequently made proposals for spending it on the establishment of a cheap plan dispensary at Bijadehi. The proposal is under the consideration of Government. An additional allotment of Rs. 8,075 has been sanctioned towards the construction of some cross drains in the ghat portion of the link road from Khapa to Lutia in the Chhindwara district. It is hoped that the balance of the grant will be expended during the year 1940-41.

5. *Cheap plan dispensaries.*—During the period under report the construction of four additional cheap plan dispensaries at the following places has been sanctioned by Government:—

1. Sainkheda,
2. Darekasa,
3. Borakhedi, and
4. Shahpur.

The dispensaries at Kurkheda, Maunda, Atnair, Lomta, Bhamragarh, Bilaigarh, Karanjia, Sahaspur-Lohara have already been opened and those at Raipur Forest Village, Chicholi, Sainkheda, Darekasa and Kurud have been opened in local buildings pending construction of standard plan buildings.

Proposals for the establishment of cheap plan dispensaries at Baraduar and Kurud have also been sanctioned by Government but, as the allotment sanctioned for this scheme has been exhausted, the works had to be held up.

6. *Experiments in poultry farming.*—On the Borgaon farm additional accommodation to the incubation room has been added during the year at a total cost of Rs. 606 and a further allotment of Rs. 157 has been provided during the current year for some further additions to the poultry houses in order to provide sufficient accommodation for the increasing number of birds.

Fowls and eggs produced on this farm are advertised in rural areas through the agency of the demonstration staff of the Department and also by exhibiting them at the "Farmers Day" demonstrations on Government farms, demonstration plots, fairs and exhibitions. The merits of these birds and also the importance of taking up poultry farming as a subsidiary industry are impressed on the farmers on these occasions.

During the year under report the following birds and eggs were sold or distributed free for rearing:—

	Distributed free to cultivators.	Sold.	Transferred to other farms for rearing.	Total issued during the year.	Progressive total from the beginning.
Cooks	37	21	..	58	247
Hens	10	76	..	86	248
Chicks	1	24	186	211	330
Eggs		45	1,256	1,301	3,692

Besides the above, 8,448 eggs were sold for table purposes.

The amount allotted for the Telinkheri farm out of the Government of India's grant was fully utilized before the commencement of the period under report.

The remaining balance of Rs. 266 from the sanctioned allotment of Rs. 10,000 will be spent during the course of the current and the ensuing financial years.

7. *Provision of bulls for District Councils.*—In addition to one hundred and sixty-three bulls and nineteen buffalo bulls shown in the last report, forty-one bulls have been purchased during the period under report. Of these thirty-nine have been distributed to approved organisations in the province and the remaining two are awaiting distribution. The whole of the allotment will be spent by the end of the current financial year.

8. *Opening of a farm in the Mandla district.*—The construction of the central hall, quarters for the Agricultural Assistant and the implement shed has been completed during the year. No more buildings are now required for this farm. Wire fencing has been purchased for enclosing the buildings.

The running expenditure of the farm is now being met from provincial revenues.

A caterpillar tractor lent by the Engineering Section of the Agriculture Department ploughed an area of about forty-six acres of fallow land. With the aid of this tractor and by working Sabul and monsoon ploughs during winter rains, the cultivated area of the farm has been raised to 249 acres.

Suitable bulls have been obtained for heading the breeding herd which consists of twelve cows of pure mali breed from the Rotona herd and eight Murrah buffalo cows which were purchased during the last year. The herd is making satisfactory progress. Besides being a source of supply of pure milk to the residents of Dindori town, it is expected to be a useful centre for furthering cattle breeding activities in the Tahsil. The supply of milk has now been arranged on systematic lines.

A Kirloskar Kifayat Rahat and a chaff-cutter have been provided during the year. Irrigation is available from two wells and arrangements have been made to grow vegetables for Dindori village. Potato cultivation has been introduced and gave an outturn of six times the seed.

Groundnut was sown in an area of 12.18 acres of Barra soil. The crop promises a fair return per acre.

In the last rabi season, Pusa-52 gave the highest yield of 794 lbs. per acre, followed by A. 115 and A.O. 90, which gave 611 lbs. and 582 lbs. yield per acre respectively.

Various types of maize were obtained from the Kashmir State with a view to find out suitable varieties for replacing the local types.

Demonstrations were arranged on the farm, on the occasion of the *Phool Mela*, on the 26th and 27th of January, 1939. Lectures illustrated with magic lanterns were given on this occasion. These demonstrations were attended by thousands of people.

The balance of the grant will be utilised during the current and the ensuing financial years.

9. *Debt Conciliation Boards.*—All the Debt Conciliation Boards financed out of the Government of India's grant have been closed and the amount has been expended in full.

10. *Cinema outfit for demonstration work.*—Both the cinema demonstration lorries were sent out for demonstration work during the year.

Spare parts were purchased during the year at a cost of Rs. 221-2-0 for these lorries. The total progressive expenditure thus amounted to Rs. 10,441. The balance of Rs. 559 will be utilized during the next year.

11. *Purchase of two well-boring plants.*—Two bore-holes, one 6" in diameter and the other 4" in diameter, were drilled in hard black trap rock, to the depth of 116 and 77 feet respectively.

The available balance of Rs. 1,055 has been earmarked for the purchase of special tools.

12. *Storage accommodation for cultivators' produce.*—Construction of the three godowns in Chhattiagarh at Raipur, Bilaspur and Drug, and one at Kohli in the Nagpur district was completed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 16,120. Land for the orange godown, which is to be constructed at Kalambha, has been acquired only recently and the construction work will be completed before the end of March, 1940, at a cost of Rs. 8,880. The full sanctioned allotment of Rs. 20,000 will thus be utilized before the end of March, 1940.

As the Growers' Associations at Raipur and Bilaspur were already registered under the Co-operative Societies Act, business for the sale of cultivators' produce was transacted through these godowns during the last season. Some business was also done at Drug just before the rains started. The provision of these godowns enabled the members to secure better prices for their produce ranging from 4 to 10 per cent.

The godown at Kohli was also used for the storage, packing and grading of oranges which were sent to different important markets in other provinces for disposal.

13. *Travelling dispensaries.*—Out of the allotment from the second grant sanctioned by the Government of India, fourteen additional travelling dispensaries have so far been started and are working satisfactorily.

14. *General.*—From the second grant of Rs. 6 lakhs promised by the Government of India in 1936, a sum of Rs. 1,01,485 was placed at the disposal of this Government for expenditure on the schemes of cheap plan dispensaries, travelling dispensaries, welfare of aboriginal tribes and rural water supply. This amount was distributed as under:—

	Rs.
Cheap plan dispensaries	39,409
Travelling dispensaries	36,076
Welfare of aboriginal tribes	6,000
Rural water supply	20,000
Total	1,01,485

Programmes of works relating to the scheme for rural communications have been received from the Commissioners of Divisions and are held up for want of funds. The Government of India will be addressed in due course for funds.

NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE

	Allotments from the Government of India's grant.	Expenditure up to 30th November, 1939.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Drinking water supply schemes	88,769	59,402
2. Inter-village communications	16,126	1,300
3. Rural sanitation	29,832	3,579
4. Village irrigation channels	57,268	14,269
5. Village demonstration plots scheme	16,004	11,797
6. Fruit cultivation scheme	14,695	12,687
7. Discretionary grant including grant for control of hill torrents in Dera Ismail Khan	86,906	86,906
8. Improvement of village roads	5,137	5,137
9. Anti-malarial measures	15,000	15,000
10. Marketing facilities for local industries	2,106	2,106
11. Bara irrigation	4,264	4,264
12. Industrial shop	7,500	7,500
13. Manufacture of Shora Bone Meal	18,075	18,075
Unallotted reserve	32,728	..
Total	3,94,405	2,42,022

(a) No expenditure will be incurred from the second grant under the heads shown against item Nos. 7—13.

2. *Drinking water supplies.*—During the period under report forty-six water supply schemes were sanctioned. The advent of war has resulted in a steep rise in the price of pipes amounting to 25 per cent. Consequently certain schemes are being reconsidered.

3. *Inter-village communications.*—Twenty-six more schemes under this head have been sanctioned. Efforts are being made to complete the schemes before the close of the current financial year.

4. *Rural sanitation.*—Sixteen more schemes under this head have been sanctioned. Efforts are being made to complete these schemes within the current financial year.

5. *Village-irrigation channels.*—Forty-two more schemes under this head have been sanctioned. Efforts are being made to complete these schemes within the current financial year.

6. *Village demonstration plot scheme.*—This scheme was started in March, 1938. Farming on all the sixteen plots was carried out according

to the needs of that particular locality and the improvement effected is by means of employment of improved methods of tillage, improved rotations and measures to keep down pests, multiplication of improved seeds of different crops, introduction of new paying crops, demonstrations of compost making, etc. The intention was that better methods of cultivation should be brought home to the cultivator by demonstration on his own land and under his own conditions. It cannot be said that the scheme has yet been a success.

7. *Fruit cultivation scheme*.—This scheme was started in February, 1938. It is rendering every possible help to the fruit growers of this province in the way of spraying and pruning of fruit trees against insect pests and diseases, destruction of rats, picking, grading and packing of fruits, budding of the fruit plants, laying out and upkeep of orchards on modern lines. The main feature of this scheme during the year was that its working staff was divided into two units, each being supervised by a Kamdar, so as to enable it to serve simultaneously both the major fruit growing districts of this province, i.e., Mardan and Peshawar. The scheme has gained much popularity among the fruit growers.

ASSAM

	Allotments from the Government of India's grant.	Expenditure upto 30th November, 1939.
	Rs.	Rs.
Rural water supply	4,90,914	2,86,000
Village roads	2,36,814	1,50,000
Village sanitation	67,450	46,000
Discretionary grants for public utility	88,934	53,000
Boro irrigation	40,000	39,961
Cattle breeding	65,000	50,000
Total	9,89,112*	6,24,961

* Includes allotments from the second grant (Rs. 5 lakhs) earmarked for Assam.

2. Progress of schemes:—

(a) *Rural water supply*.—In the non-excluded areas 192 pucca wells and four ring wells were constructed; fifteen old wells were also cleared and renovated. Forty tube wells were sunk and reboring was found to be necessary in the case of four. The construction of eleven tanks and five bathing platforms was also completed during the period under report.

In the excluded areas eleven stone masonry tanks and sixteen pucca tanks with pipe outlets were completed. In addition to these, three wells were also constructed.

(b) *Village roads*.—In the non-excluded areas 261 miles of roads and a large number of bridges and culverts were constructed; other roads were also repaired and improved. The most important of the road projects, i.e., the Jarain-Dawki road, was completed and made over to the Public Works Department for maintenance.

In the excluded areas, the construction of forty-five miles of roads and six bridges was completed.

(c) *Village sanitation*.—The grant under this head was mostly used to improve or add to the existing sources of water-supply and communication. Expenditure was also incurred in certain places in clearing jungles and in purchasing materials for borehole latrines and pamphlets on health and hygiene for free distribution among the villagers with a view to improve their general and sanitary conditions.

There was no expenditure under this head in the excluded areas.

(d) *Discretionary grants for public utility*.—The grants under this head besides being utilised to supplement the allotments for water-supply and village roads were spent in many places on such useful items as the construction of irrigation channels, embankments, bunds and sluice gates for the improvement of agriculture, purchase and free distribution of lemon-plants, pineapple suckers, and jhara grass seeds, and purchase and free distribution of eri layings, spinning wheels, slays and weaving accessories, etc., to aid the growth of subsidiary occupations. Money was also spent on such useful objects as night schools, a leper colony and a maternity clinic.

In the excluded areas, expenditure was incurred in connection with the improvement of kindergartens and Lower Primary Schools and diversion of streams for wet-rice cultivation. The construction of the new building at Aijai for the manufacture of Lushai rugs was completed and a dyeing shed is under construction.

(e) *Cattle breeding*.—Eighty-six bulls were purchased and distributed during the year under report: of this number, seven died and nine were sold as being unserviceable. The total number of bulls at the end of the year was 211 distributed in groups over twenty centres in the province. Every effort is being made wherever possible to reduce the maximum maintenance allowance of Rs. 5 to Rs. 3. The total number of services performed was 4,906 during the year and 7,433 since the beginning of the scheme. There is a persistent demand for these bulls—a clear indication of their utility.

No expenditure was incurred under this head in the excluded areas but the sum of Rs. 5,600 set apart for the purpose is expected to be spent during the extended period.

The sum of Rs. 15,000 paid to the Livestock Improvement Association included in the expenditure figure for the preceding period was fully spent by the Association for the purpose for which allotments were made. Money earmarked for cattle breeding scheme is being spent departmentally.

3. *General remarks.*—Progress was delayed in many cases due to a variety of causes, the most important being—

- (1) unsatisfactory weather conditions;
- (2) lack of supervision owing to insufficiency of staff;
- (3) dilatoriness of the contractors; and
- (4) difficulties about contributions.

In spite of the relaxation of the original condition of local contribution, the response from the villagers in this connection was not readily forthcoming apparently because of their poverty, but whenever it came it took the form of free supply of lands and labour in most cases. There were a few cases in which the contribution was made in cash. The works have evoked a great measure of appreciation from the rural populace but signs are not wanting to indicate that their maintenance, especially of the sources of water-supply and village roads, will present a difficult problem. Some of the local authorities are already grumbling at the prospect of having to maintain them. Owing to the various difficulties experienced in the past in connection with the construction of both ring wells and tube wells and on representations made from various quarters, Government have found it necessary to leave the choice between wells and tanks to the discretion of the District Officers and their advisory committees subject to the condition that where tanks are substituted for wells adequate measures should be taken to prevent pollution of water.

ORISSA

	Allotments from the Government of India's grant.	Expenditure up to 30th November, 1939.
	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Village communications	1,31,246	1,23,282
(2) Rural water supply	3,14,921	2,27,542
(3) Village uplift	2,800	2,058
(4) Village welfare	10,000	6,150
(5) Cattle breeding	10,000	10,000
Total	4,68,467	3,69,032

2. In Cuttack District, out of 459 communication projects 397 have been completed, 55 cancelled and 7 are in progress; and out of 991 water supply projects 614 have been completed, 182 cancelled, 108 are in progress, and 142 have not yet been taken up. The Collector reports that the communication projects do not find much popular support nor are they likely to be of lasting benefit as no provision has been made for their maintenance. The progress of work has on the whole been slow, the main reasons for which are reported to be the reluctance of the local people to offer help in the shape of money or labour and to part with the lands which are necessary for the projects.

3. In Balasore, out of 143 projects for communications, the Collector reports that 78 schemes have been completed, 25 are in progress, 8 have not yet been taken up and 37 (of which 17 were partly done) were abandoned owing to the reluctance on the part of the villagers to contribute to the schemes.

Out of 415 schemes for water supply, 246 have been completed, 84 are in progress, 78 have not yet been taken up, 55 have been abandoned and one is likely to be abandoned, the villagers having taken no interest in them. A masonry well which collapsed in the course of construction was replaced by a tube well.

4. In Puri, out of 97 communication projects 95 have been completed and 2 are in progress; and out of 846 water supply projects 279 have been completed and 67 are in progress.

5. In Sambalpur, 286 projects for village communications and 969 for rural water supply were taken up. All the village communication projects and 846 water supply projects have so far been completed. The remaining 23 water supply projects are expected to be completed during the next hot weather. The Deputy Commissioner reports that there is still scope for water-supply projects and applications are coming in in large numbers from ryots for Government grant and adds that, as there is no Irrigation Department in this district, this part of the rural uplift scheme may be continued for some time to come, although it means considerable extra work to the officers who are required to check and measure the works and also to spur on the villagers where work is backward.

6. In Ganjam, 2 communication projects, 189 water supply, and 7 village uplift schemes have been completed and 39 water supply schemes are pending completion.

7. In Koraput, 70 well projects, 14 roads, 3 tanks, and 1 cistern have been completed. The Collector reports that, in spite of propaganda and encouragement, it is difficult to persuade the inhabitants to meet their share of the cost, and when they promise to give the required labour free they are inclined to prolong the period actually required for the work. Now that the beneficent activities of the fund are in evidence in the shape of visible wells, the villagers are showing a little more interest and some desire to render assistance. As elsewhere in the province, the appeal of water supply schemes is stronger than that of communications to the average villager, as tangible benefits are clearly discernible in the former, while with the quality of road work possible little difference between the existing foot paths and rural development roads is discernible. It is anticipated that the number of works in progress will evoke, if not an enthusiastic welcome from the villagers, at least a cordial reception and greater willingness to render assistance.

8. The future maintenance of roads constructed out of the Rural Development Grant has been and is still a problem. The villagers concerned are mostly apathetic about their maintenance. This difficulty was anticipated even in the early stages of this experiment, and Government are now examining the question as to the best possible means of securing the maintenance of these roads.

9. The village welfare centre at Dersardeuli in the district of Cuttack continued to work on the lines reported last year. The expenditure during the period was Rs. 2,097-1-0, the details of which are given below:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Pay of Welfare Officer	1,438	10	0
Pay of Khatidar	240	0	0
Pay of Guide	240	0	0
Allowance to Dai	54	0	0
Contingencies	124	7	0
Total	2,097	1	0

The total expenditure since the inception of the work amounts to Rs. 6,150. The staff remained the same in strength and personnel. The general features of the work done are given below:—

(i) *Public Health and sanitation*—The village roads were cleared once a week by the villagers themselves with the aid of the members of the Gram Sevak Samiti. The soiling of open spaces was discouraged and the villagers were induced to use trench latrines, as a result of which 36 trenches were dug. These trenches were filled up during the rains and vegetables were grown over them. Three tanks were cleared of weeds. One thousand and fifty feet of new roads were constructed and one well dug by the joint labour of the villagers. During an outbreak of cholera in the vicinity, people were taught preventive measures and 47 private wells were disinfected. There was no outbreak in the centre. Two wells and one pond were excavated partly by popular and partly by Government contribution. Lectures on maternity and child-welfare were delivered. Eighteen delivery cases were attended to by the Dai. Homœopathic medicines were distributed amongst the villagers. All the villagers of Gobindpokhari were vaccinated against small-pox when there was an outbreak, and the epidemic was thus checked. Five persons were induced to open windows in their houses.

(ii) *Literacy*.—Reading of newspapers and magazines was continued and a library was started. The reading club continued to work with 11 members. Literacy classes were started for adults. The number of adults made literate was 16 against 18 in the last year. During the year under report three new schools, including one school for girls, were started. Altogether there are now 7 schools with 79 pupils in all.

(iii) *Cottage industry*.—Eri-culture and spinning of eri-yarn were continued. Thirty-seven rearers produced 26 seers of cocoons. Eight persons including 4 women spun 6 seers of yarn. Some progress was made in the introduction of carding and spinning of cotton. Two spinning wheels for spinning wool and a loom for weaving Asnis were prepared at owners' cost. Three eri chaddars and 8 scarves were woven by one weaver. For weaving these articles special outfits were required and these were made at the cost of the weaver. Wool clipped from the local sheep was used. Ninety-seven sarees, 36 dhoties, 52 mosquito curtains, 4 lungis, 9 napkins, 27 bedsheets and 8 mufflers were produced at Dersardeuli and sold through the Welfare Officer. Weaving of fans from Kaincha grass was taken up by a woman.

(iv) *Agriculture*.—The following table compares the areas under the crops and vegetables introduced last year with the areas under crops this year.

Name of crop.	Area in preceding year. Acres.	Area in the year under report. Acres.
Paddy No. 2	27.00	26.6
Paddy No. 3	11.25	24.8
Paddy No. 5	4.25	2.4
Badshabhog	1.42	2.5
Daincha as green manure	11.3	11.5
Jute	2.92	4.5
Groundnut	3.22	4.5
Cotton	0.04	0.28
Kesari	2.00	Abandoned.
Potato	0.25	0.4
Onion and garlic	2.88	1.6
Winter vegetables	0.68	0.48

Brinjal and maize were grown on bari lands as in the last year. The Agricultural Department supplied seeds of cotton, ginger, and sankhasaru for trial. Sugarcane was tried on 0.04 acres and gave an outturn of gur valued at Rs. 85. Fourteen compost pits were made. Two persons reclaimed their waste lands for growing vegetables. The grafts of mango and lemon numbering 40 were supplied to 8 people at cost price. Seven ponds were improved by removal of silt for irrigation purposes at owner's cost.

(v) *Improvement of cattle*.—Forty-eight cows were served by the bull of the Utkal Co-Mangal Samiti. Twenty-five calves were born, 11 male and 14 female. They show distinct signs of improvement.

(vi) *Village amenities*.—'Purappath' was continued. Gram Sevak Samitis were organised in each village. These Samitis initiated the collection of a handful of rice daily from each household in the respective villages, as a result of which 5 maunds of rice were collected. As a result of the activities of these Samitis, 2 Bhagabatgharas were constructed in the villages of Dersardeuli and Sampur. Eleven magic lantern lectures were given. Seven new indigenous games were taught to the school boys. A competition of the indigenous game of 'Du Du' was arranged by the members of the Gram Sevak Samiti. Five picnic parties were organised.

(vii) *Disputes*.—Instead of having one Punchayat for each village, the villages were split up into 7 convenient units each unit having a Punchayat of its own. The Central Punchayat consists of 7 members having one member from each unit. The function of the Central Punchayat is to arbitrate on the inter-village disputes as well as those which cannot be decided by any unit Punchayat. Civil and criminal cases numbering 14 were settled by the Punchayats.

(viii) *Co-operative activities*.—The scheme of co-operative sale of agricultural produce was repeated. Eighteen persons deposited 122 maunds

and 15 seers of paddy and 37 maunds and 10 seers of Mug against an advance of Rs. 230. The paddy was sold in July, 1939, at Rs. 1-6-0 per maund, a rise of only one anna per maund over the harvest price. The stock of Mug was sold in December, 1939, at Rs. 4-2-0 per maund, the rise over the harvest price being As. 15 per maund. The sale proceeds realized less the advance paid were made over to the depositors.

10. *General*.—One more year has passed by since the submission of the last report. An attempt was made by the Government during the year to associate the public more closely with the work of rural reconstruction by insisting that wherever possible, the local M. L. A.'s and representatives of such associations as the Harijan Sevak Sangh were consulted in regard to the choosing of sites for the construction of wells, the usefulness of the roads, and in general the adequacy of the several schemes. The apathy of the villagers, however, still remains the chief stumbling block. The number of schemes that were begun but had to be abandoned owing to the indifference and want of co-operation of the villagers is large in almost every district, although the Government have been progressively reducing the rate of contribution expected from them. This feature is by no means confined to the backward areas of the province—Cuttack being just as bad as Koraput in this respect. In spite of these setbacks, however, the Provincial Government consider that this work should be carried on, in the hope that, as the years pass and more wells are dug and more roads constructed, the rural population will begin to appreciate their benefits and the indifference and non-co-operation now existing will gradually be replaced by greater enthusiasm and goodwill.

SIND

	Allotments from the Government of India's grant	Expenditure upto 30th November, 1939.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Agricultural schemes	35,000	47,667
2. Industrial schemes	21,600	16,873
3. Discretionary grants	81,400	75,041
4. Second grant	36,000	..
Total	1,74,000	1,39,581

2. *Agricultural schemes*.—In recognition of the fact that pure seed is still the greatest need of agriculture in the province, the number of seed and implement depots has been increased from 18 to 38. These depots sold 18,938 maunds of pure seed of improved varieties of cotton, rice, wheat, jowari, bajri, and oil seeds and 588 improved agricultural implements. They also complied with 1,025 requisitions for the hire of implements. A new departure has been an endeavour to use the depots for propaganda purposes by exhibiting at them specimens of most of the improved seeds and implements required for the province. A beginning has also been made in the introduction of an improved poultry-breeding scheme from the funds allotted under this head.

8. *Industrial schemes.*—The activities have been under the heads of rope-making, soap-making, tanning and bee-keeping.

It has been decided that soap-making is mainly an urban industry and the expenditure will henceforward be met from ordinary provincial revenues. Some work is, however, still being done in the villages. During the year the Demonstrator visited Nawabshah, Hyderabad and Upper Sind Frontier districts and 30-40 persons received instructions in those districts.

There is nothing particular to report in the progress of rope-making. A beginning has been made in the tanning industry by sending a local tanner to be trained at Bombay and he is now imparting instruction in the Hyderabad district. Much is hoped from the introduction of the bee-keeping industry. Hives have been imported from Travancore and the Himalayas and are being acclimatised in Karachi itself. So far the work done in the villages has been confined to demonstration, but it is hoped when the hives have been multiplied in Karachi, to distribute them to villagers.

4. *Discretionary grants.*—The Government of India grant under this head is earmarked for improvement of water-supply and sanitation and hygiene, which includes paving of village streets. The most substantial progress made during the year has been in the provision of tube-wells. More than 120 such wells have been constructed or approved for construction during the year, the number being appreciable in the Hyderabad, Nawabshah, Sukkur, Thar Parkar and Larkana districts. A number of ordinary wells have also been sunk or improved. Real progress has also been made in the removal of manure outside the villages and storing it under modern agricultural methods and the results are particularly notable in the four districts of north Sind. In addition to this village streets have been levelled, and pits and depressions filled up. In some districts the villagers have begun to provide their houses with more windows and ventilators. Village medicine chests (table dispensaries) continue to increase and are to be found in all villages in the selected areas, while in Hyderabad district alone there are forty-six such chests.

DELHI

	Allotments from the Government of India's grant.	Expenditure upto 30th November, 1939.
	Rs.	Rs.
I. Improvement of water supply	74,200	71,100
II. Communications	11,900	11,900
III. Reserve	13,900	13,900
Total	1,00,000	96,900

2. *I. Improvement of water supply.*—In all 334 wells have been provided or repaired at a cost of Rs. 71,100 roundly. The total includes two new wells and twenty-five simple tube-wells. The rights of user are not

always entirely clear, but it is understood that of the 334 wells dealt with 191 belong to land-owners and 143 to "others" (i.e., to chamars, sweepers, etc.). The available balance of the grant as a whole will be spent under this head—Rs. 2,100 in the current year and Rs. 1,000 in 1940-41 and 1941-42. The details are as under.—

	Ra.
Works completed and paid for	71,100
To be paid for in 1939-40—	
(a) Agricultural boring operations	500
(b) Wells in Najafgarh and Mahrauli sails	1,600
To be paid for in 1940-41 and 1941-42—	
Agricultural boring operations (Rs. 500 per annum)	1,000
Total	74,200

II. Roads and communications.—No new work has been done. The allotment and the expenditure have been adjusted in accordance with actuals.

III. Deputy Commissioner's reserve.—No important new work has been undertaken but works in progress have been completed. The allotment and the expenditure have been adjusted in accordance with actuals.

3. *Summary.*—Including actual disbursements, payments due to contractors, and all sanctioned items, the progress of expenditure against the sanctioned grant of 1,00,000 is as under:—

	Ra.
I. Improvement of water supply	73,200
II. Roads and communications	11,900
III. Deputy Commissioner's reserve	13,900
Total	99,000

Owing to the prevailing scarcity cash contributions by the villagers have not been numerous or important. Contributions have been made in the shape of labour in many cases.

AJMER-MERWARA

	Allotments from the Government of India's grant.	Expenditure upto 30th November, 1939.
	Ra.	Ra.
1. Improvement of village roads including the construction of small bridges and culverts	49,500	41,666
2. Propaganda for the improvement of agriculture and sanitary conditions	26,250	24,890
3. Improvement of livestock and poultry	6,000	2,085
4. Discretionary grant	5,000	3,178
5. Irrigation improvement including tube wells	6,750	..
6. Model villages	5,000	..
7. Radio and gramophone facilities in rural areas	1,500	400
Total	1,00,000	73,219

2. *Improvement of village roads and construction of small bridges and culverts.*—Further collection of boulders and stone metal was made on three miles of the Srinagar Kanpura road; one mile of the Bhinai Kekri road was metalled and one mile repaired and improved as a fair weather road. The works on these two roads afforded relief to villagers in the areas where distress is prevalent due to the failure of the crops.

A new road (about 7 furlongs in length) known as the "Hallowes Circular road" has been constructed on a contributory basis for the convenience of people visiting the large fairs held at Pushkar.

3. *Propaganda for improvement of agriculture and sanitary conditions.*—Three agricultural assistants aided by six demonstrators toured the villages in the district. Operations included practical experiments in the following crops sown in the cultivators' own fields:—

Wheat, barley, oats, linseed, lucerne, cotton, maize, bajra and jowar.

Demonstrations were given in the following subjects:—

- (1) Silage making; (2) preparation of bone char manure; (3) line sowing of cotton; (4) drying of cotton seeds as a preventive against pink bollworm; (5) clarification of cane juice by the activated cotton process; (6) use of improved implements including chaffcutters; (7) control of katra (hairy caterpillar) and white ants by the application of poisoned bran; and (8) destruction of field rats by poison.

The season was unfortunately unfavourable to agricultural experiments owing to the severe shortage of rain.

Three hand chaffcutters were sold. The agricultural assistants gave lectures to the villagers on the following subjects:—

- (i) care and improvement of livestock;
- (ii) fruit and vegetable farming;
- (iii) rural sanitation;
- (iv) co-operation; and
- (v) social reform.

As the agricultural staff had little to do by way of agricultural propaganda owing to the failure of rains and the famine, money was saved by employing the staff on famine works.

The free supply of medicines continued to be made to villagers in the more unhealthy tracts through school teachers in whose charge 100 medicine chests were placed. Stocks of medicine were replenished as required. The system is a success.

4. *Improvement of livestock and poultry.*—Of the three bulls of the Tharparkar and Hariana breeds maintained for breeding purposes, two are unfit. The remaining bull covered ten cows from December 1938 to July 1939. Owing to the famine and the serious fodder scarcity most of the cows have migrated, and consequently no more bulls of improved stock were purchased for breeding.

5. *Discretionary grant.*—Two Sub-Inspectors who were engaged for conducting propaganda for better living conditions in the rural areas opened six more societies in the district thus bringing the total number

of the societies to nineteen, the object of which is to reduce wasteful expenditure on social ceremonies. This scheme has, however, been postponed owing to the famine. The difficulty for the cultivator during the present famine is to support life and it would be impertinent to lecture him on the importance of thrift. He is wasting nothing.

6. *Irrigation improvement including tube wells.*—No expenditure has yet been incurred on this scheme. Government have arranged for the Geological Survey to make an enquiry during the present cold weather into the water supply and irrigation of Ajmer-Merwara.

7. *Model village.*—It is proposed to build one or more villages to serve as a model to the surrounding country side in order to improve the amenities of village life, but the scheme has been postponed till after the famine. The problem of improved irrigation is being studied, without which no village in Ajmer-Merwara can flourish.

8. *Radio and gramophone facilities in rural areas.*—One radio set with a battery has been purchased for propaganda work.

COORG

	Allotments from the Government of India's grant.	Expenditure upto 30th November, 1939.
	Rs.	Rs.
(1) Discretionary grant	17,346	12,446
(2) Water supply schemes	51,985	35,792
(3) Rural sanitation—Augurs	3,000	2,751
(4) Cattle breeding	1,740	1,576
(5) Veterinary shed	1,280	1,100
(6) Bee keeping	3,000	3,000
(7) Village communications	4,269	2,001
(8) Co-operation	600	250
Total	83,200	58,916

2. *Discretionary Grant.*—During the year under report the grant was utilised for sinking three wells in places of water scarcity and the work of four more wells is in progress. Four tanks were restored and are now in good condition. A spar-bridge across a stream in the rural area was put up and three village communications have been repaired and made fit for vehicular traffic.

3. *Water supply schemes.*—Eleven tanks were restored with good result and five wells were sunk and a channel serving irrigation purposes was repaired. The work in all these cases was done to the best advantage of the rural population and the results achieved are quite satisfactory.

4. *Rural sanitation.*—In all 719 bore-hole latrines were constructed out of which 645 were in rural areas and 74 within the municipalities. As a result of good propaganda work carried out by the Sanitary Department most of the work was done by the villagers on co-operative basis.

5. *Cattle breeding.*—Twenty-four bull calves were bought for distribution to various co-operative credit societies and to enthusiastic cattle owners with a view to improve cattle breeding in important villages. They are being reared in a suitable farm and except the one that died the others are in good condition. Centro-cerna grass seeds worth Rs. 100

were distributed freely among the rural population with a view to improve fodder for cattle.

6. *Village communications*.—Five village roads were repaired and made fit for vehicular traffic. The condition of these roads is satisfactory.

7. *Co-operation*.—A sum of Rs. 600 was re-allotted from the provision made for water supply for the construction of a building for a village Co-operative Rural Development Society on contribution basis. The work is in progress.

8. It was found early this year that the limit up to which contribution can be waived was exceeded and the principle of contribution either in kind or by free labour or in money was strictly enforced. The revenue officials have experienced great difficulty in recovering the required contribution from the beneficiaries with the result that in many cases the question of reallocation was taken up in favour of schemes in which the required contribution was deposited. A number of applications from the villagers have been received during the year particularly for grants under water supply scheme. In all cases of ready contribution the schemes have been examined and kept for consideration when further sum is drawn from Government of India's grant.

RULES RE DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS AND PESTS ACT.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the Department of Education, Health and Lands Notification, No. F. 50-13 (20)/39-A., dated the 20th November, 1940, regarding the rules framed by the Central Government under Sections 4A and 4D of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

NOTIFICATION.

AGRICULTURE

New Delhi, the 20th November 1940.

No. F. 50-13 (20)/39-A.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 4A and 4D of the Destructive Insects and Pests, Act, 1914 (II of 1914), the Central Government is pleased to make, with effect from the 1st February 1941, the following rules for regulating the transport from the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province and British Baluchistan to any other Province in British India of certain articles which are likely to carry the destructive insect known as San José Scale (*Aspidiotus perniciosus*) and thereby cause infection to crops, namely:—

1. In these rules, "infected Province means the Punjab the North-West Frontier Province or British Baluchistan.

2. The articles to which these rules apply are:—

- (a) the following plants, namely, *akik*, alder, almond, apple, apricot, beech, bhang, birch, crab apple, celtis, cherry, chestnut, currant, elm, eucalyptus, grape vine, green-gage, hawthorn, lilac, mountain ash, mulberry, oak, peach, pear, persimmon, poplar, plum, quince, raspberry, rose, strawberry, walnut and willow;
- (b) the following plant materials namely, buds, cuttings, scions, grafts, bulbs, leaves, seedlings, tubers and rhizomes, of the plants specified in clause (a), and
- (c) any articles used in packing or wrapping up any of the plants and plant materials mentioned in clauses (a) and (b).

Note.—These rules do not apply to the fruits of the plants mentioned in clause (a).

3. No article to which these rules apply shall be transported from an infected Province to any other Province in British India—

- (a) by means of letter or sample post or by air,
- (b) by road except by such routes as may be specified by the Government of the other Province, or
- (c) by railway or inland steam vessel unless the consignment is accompanied by a certificate in the form set forth in the Schedule annexed to these rules and signed by the authority specified therein.

Schedule.

This is to certify that the living plants/plant materials included in the consignment of which particulars are given below were thoroughly examined on..... (date) by..... (name and designation of official)..... a duly authorised official of the (name of Department) and that the consignment including the packing covered by this certificate has been adequately treated and fumigated with hydrocyanic acid gas immediately prior/subsequent to inspection and made free from living *San José Scale*.

Date of examination and fumigation.....

Particulars of consignment.....

No. and description of packages.....

Distinguishing marks

Description of living plants or plant materials.....

Exported by.....

Name and address of the consignee.....

Signature of certifying authority*.....

Designation.....

*Note.—The above certificate should be signed—

- (a) in the Punjab, by the Entomologist, Punjab Agricultural College, Lyallpur, or such other officer as may be authorised by the Director of Agriculture, Punjab in this behalf,
- (b) in the North-West Frontier Province, by the Agricultural Officer of that Province, or such other officer as may be authorised by the Provincial Government in this behalf, and
- (c) in British Baluchistan, by the Agricultural Officer, Baluchistan, or such other officer as may be authorised by the Chief Commissioner in this behalf.

G. S. BOZMAN,

Joint Secy. to the Govt. of India.

THE INSURANCE DEPOSITS (TEMPORARY REDUCTION) BILL.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume consideration of the following motion moved by the Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar on Tuesday, the 11th February, 1941, namely:

"That the Bill to provide for the reduction temporarily of the amounts payable as instalments of the sum to be deposited by an insurer under section 7 of the Insurance Act, 1938, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I find that this Bill attempts to be beneficial to the insurers, and, from that point of view, to give them help at this time of war is creditable to the Honourable the Commerce Member. But the benefits of its provisions are res-

stricted to those insurance companies which have their premium income at less than Rs. 80,000. And clause 5 withdraws the benefit from those companies whose premium income exceeds Rs. 80,000. With regard to this, the Federation of Indian Insurance Companies sent a representation to the Commerce Member and also to the Honourable Members of the House. They have laid down three conditions under which the benefit should be extended to these companies, as, otherwise, they say, adequate relief is not given to the insurance companies, and these insurance companies, called the younger insurance companies, are not such as to be restricted to those which have a premium income of Rs. 30,000 or less. I have put in certain amendments, and, in a House constituted like this, it is only right that the Honourable the Commerce Member should consider them and see if he can help these companies. Unless the Government are inclined to help those companies on whose behalf requests are being made, there will be no improvement in their position and these amendments cannot be passed. Therefore, I appeal to the Honourable the Commerce Member to consider this representation and see if he cannot extend these advantages to these life insurance companies.

First they say that it should apply to those companies that have been working for ten years

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are the amendments to clauses sent in by the Honourable Member. I think the Honourable Member ought to reserve his remarks till then.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: I say there will be no hope for these companies, and I am putting my case

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I think the Honourable Member had better wait till then.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Anyway, these are the general demands I am making. I am saying that it should be extended either to those companies that have been working for over ten years or that have got a premium income of Rs. 50,000 or under

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is really a specific amendment to a specific clause.

Mr. Lalchand Navarai: Therefore, I will not take more time. I am only asking the Honourable the Commerce Member to consider at least the representation they have made—it is in his hands—and give them any relief if it can possibly be given.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Bengal: European): Sir, among the more important provisions of the Insurance Act of 1938 are those contained in section 7 of that Act, where there are set out the amounts payable by insurers by way of deposit. The Bill now before the House seeks to modify, in certain circumstances, section 7. It is now provided that an insurer shall be deemed to have complied with the provisions of this section if he has paid or if he pays in accordance with the provisions of this new Bill, one-half or an amount equal to not less than one-half of the total amount that he would have been required to pay under section 7 of the Insurance Act of 1938.

[Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer.]

As Honourable Members know, the imposition of deposits on insurers is one of the safeguards to protect the public from financially unsound companies. During the last three decades there have been numerous cases where companies started with insufficient capital or upon an unsound financial basis have failed or at all events have not been able to honour all their obligations. The tendency towards the growth of such companies had by 1937 reached such proportions as to amount almost to a menace not only to the good name of insurers as a whole, but to the insuring public. Thousands of persons have in the past lost their money as a result of the operations of these unsound companies. The Government of India in order to meet this situation originally proposed even more onerous conditions than those now set out in section 7. But under pressure from this House and having regard to the real hardship that might result in certain cases, they made an important concession, and the then Leader of the House, Sir Nripendra Sircar, accepted the proposals as now set out in section 7 (3). As Honourable Members are aware, this section provides *inter alia* that for small insurers carrying on life insurance business only, these may be able to pay their deposits over a period of ten years, provided that the first deposit shall amount to not less than one-fourth of the total. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons there are set out the reasons for the proposed new concession to these small insurers. I believe that these proposals were pressed upon Government by many of the smaller companies but we believe that the representatives of all the larger companies also supported them. In these circumstances it would perhaps be unreasonable for any Member of this House to oppose the Bill. At the same time Honourable Members of this House have other duties to perform besides the duty, in some cases, of representing the views of vested interests, however important those vested interests may be. This Bill is one that concerns not insurers only but the general public, and we, therefore, have to consider it rather from the point of view of the general public and not merely, alone, from the point of view of the insurers. Nothing could be more fatal to the healthy growth of insurance in this country, especially of life assurance, if, directly or indirectly, encouragement were given to mushroom companies. It is, therefore, in that light that we have to consider these proposals.

Fortunately, we have to thank the far-sighted policy of Sir Nripendra Sircar for many of the safeguards contained in the 1938 Act; the presence of which may be held to justify the modifications now proposed. I have no doubt at all in my own mind that the Honourable the Commerce Member himself is satisfied that, with the safeguards he has at the hand of Government in the 1938 Act, he can amply justify the concessions now proposed to be made and the more lenient treatment that he seeks to give to the young proprietary life insurance companies. I am sure that he too appreciates the possible dangers that may be inherent in any measure of this kind of which unscrupulous persons might take advantage. In fact, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Commerce Member quite definitely justifies the case for the new Bill on the conditions arising out of the present war. Though in recent weeks I believe there has been some improvement in the outlook for life insurance business, there can be no doubt at all that as a direct result of the war there has been a serious falling away of business and also a considerable numbers of cases where policies have

been allowed to lapse. This in itself was a tendency that was bound adversely to affect especially the smaller and the weaker companies, however well-managed those companies might be. But a further serious difficulty presented itself before these young offices. That particular difficulty arose out of the very low rates at which Government can now borrow and the very low yield that can be obtained on Government and other trustee securities,—far lower in fact than had seemed possible when the Insurance Act of 1938 was originally passed. While, therefore, there is still always that danger of allowing undue growth in weak insurance companies who might be a menace to the public, we have at the same time to recognise, as Government clearly do recognise, that a much greater danger might be the putting into liquidation of weak companies, otherwise well-managed and pursuing a careful financial policy, as a result of conditions that we hope will in future pass away. It has already been accepted that these deposits fulfil a decidedly useful purpose, and the insurers are now compelled by law to make quite substantial deposits. Circumstances however alter cases. The circumstances today are vastly different from those that obtained at the time when this Act of 1938 was piloted through the House by Sir Nripendra Nath Sircar, and in view of these circumstances, it is, in our opinion, right and proper that in the best interests of insurance, and, may I say, of the general public who have taken out policies of life insurance, that some help should be given to the young proprietary life companies at this time. Under the Insurance Act of 1938 the Government have taken upon themselves ample power, both legislative and administrative, to deal with bad cases, and especially the cases of companies that are working on thoroughly unsound lines. We hope, Sir, that the Honourable the Commerce Member will give his assurance to the House that in adopting a policy of more lenient treatment in regard to deposits, he has no intention whatever of relaxing the much more stringent control he can exercise in other directions. Sir, I support the Bill.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa : Muhammadan): Sir, I do not wish to take much time of the House, but I merely want to say a few words in connection with the object for which this Bill has been brought forward. This measure may be in the interests of the shareholders or of the smaller companies themselves, as my friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, just pointed out, but it cannot be in the interest of the insured in this country, for we have to consider, in connection with this measure, whether it is in the interest of this country to have a number of small mushroom insurance companies with weak financial backing or a few big solid companies with strong financial background. If a company requires some relief by way of suspension of its deposits or some other concession for depositing its security money, then I think such a company has no right to exist, because, in that case, such companies may, by means of false propaganda, induce the innocent unwary public to insure their lives with them, and bring the insured into trouble later on. The fact that a company is not able to deposit the security amount or that it requires some concessions in making the deposit only indicates that it is not able to meet its commitments. I think, Sir, when the Bill was passed in 1938, every possible precaution was taken to see that the security demanded from these companies was not unduly heavy, so that it might kill the enterprise. Now the plea urged for granting this concession is the existence of the war, and I think that in itself is an argument that there should be no suspension.

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman.]

because probably, as a result of the war, at least some of the life insurance companies might be compelled to pay out more money on account of deaths in fields, than in ordinary times. Even in regard to fire insurance companies, they too might be called upon to meet a larger number of claims as a result of the war conditions now prevailing than in normal times. So I feel, and this is the view held by a large majority in the commercial world, that this suspension which is now sought to be given to young insurance companies would only encourage small and third class insurance companies to do what they like with public life and with public money. On principle, Sir, I refuse to accept the principles underlying this measure, and I oppose it tooth and nail. I feel it is absolutely wrong to give this concession to insurance companies, because this concession will be given to them at the cost of the entire public who will make their commitments by insuring with these companies. Although I know that we have a weak opposition on this side and the Honourable the Commerce Member can pass any measure that he wants to, yet I personally feel—and I did have certain consultations with commercial people of Calcutta who are also of my way of thinking,—that this measure is not at all in the interests of this country. It may be in the interests of a few people who are shareholders and directors of the companies, but certainly this concession is not in the interests of the people at large in this country. If it were possible, I would say that we should have a measure which would demand more securities from insurance companies rather than give this concession. With these few remarks, Sir, I oppose this Bill.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I had no intention to take part in this debate, but the remarks which have fallen from my Honourable friend, Mr. Nauman, make it incumbent upon me to say a few words. My friend says that it may be in the interests of the shareholders to have this leniency but that it is not in the interests of the insured or the general public. Sir, he is entirely wrong. It is in the interests of public generally that some leniency should be shown to the insurance companies. If these small and young companies are forced to go into liquidation, who will suffer? The insured and the general public as well. Then my friend says that there is opposition in commercial circles in Bengal. That is only a partial view of things. He himself may be opposed, but the general public is not opposed to this Bill. In fact, this Bill is one which looks very sympathetically at the difficulties of insurance companies. Insurance companies are now earning a very small rate of dividend, and to give them some relief is not only necessary but fully justifiable. My friend refers to fire insurance companies and other companies. This measure does not affect those companies. It affects only the life insurance companies.

Sir, I wholeheartedly support the Bill.

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Member for Commerce and Labour): Mr. President, I personally welcome this debate, particularly as two very conflicting views have been expressed on this subject. I might echo the words of a very famous gentleman who said that much may be said on both sides. I can assure my friend, Mr. Nauman, and others of his way of thinking that the interest of the insured, what he calls the public, was very much in my mind when I

decided that this Bill should be introduced in this House. I think my friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, took a more impartial view of the whole question when he put before the House both the point of view of the public and the point of view of these young life insurance companies. This Bill does not in any way attempt to go back on the very salient principles that were laid down by my predecessor, Sir Nripendra Nath Sircar, when he introduced and passed the main Insurance Bill through this House. My friend, Mr. Nauman, referred to fire insurance and other companies. May I remind him

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: That was only by the way.

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: May I remind him that the position of fire insurance companies at the present time is perhaps exactly the reverse of the position of life insurance companies. With conditions created by the war, while they may be helpful to fire insurance companies, they are certainly not helpful to life insurance companies, and they have in fact detracted much of their business.

At a conference which I held some time towards the end of last year, the insurance companies, both big and small, both the young and the old, were unanimous in their conclusion that some relief must be given to the young life insurance companies. But I want to assure the House that it was not merely the representation of the insurance companies that weighed with me or with the Commerce Department in coming forward with this Bill. Mr. Chapman Mortimer and Dr. Banerjea have both referred to another aspect of the question. We know that at the present moment life insurance companies are not doing so well as before the war. I am glad to have the assurance that within the last few weeks business is looking up and I hope that it will go on improving, but it was brought home to us that the business of these companies had fallen. And what was the consequence? They were not able to pay the deposit due from them under the Act. If they did not pay these deposits the Superintendent of Insurance has the statutory obligation laid upon him to cancel the registration of those companies. A cancellation of registration would inevitably be followed up by winding up proceedings and liquidation of those companies. I ask Mr. Nauman, who would ultimately suffer by these liquidation proceedings? The gentlemen or ladies who have insured in these companies, will be the most to suffer from those liquidation proceedings and, therefore, are the persons that will be benefited by any concession, as suggested by this Bill, being granted to these companies. It is not purely in the interests of life insurance companies that this concession is being granted. It is as much in the interests of the policyholders of these companies that this concession is being granted. At the same time, Government have taken into consideration the interests of the policyholders and that is the reason why they have hedged this concession with conditions which appear in clause 5 of the Bill. The amount that they get by way of premium and renewal premium incomes, the conditions under which they can grant bonuses, the expenditure that they can incur during this time,—all these have been made conditions before this concession can be granted to these companies. It seems to me, therefore, that on the whole, both sides of the question have been taken into consideration and Government are justified in coming forward with this Bill and giving this concession.

A very important question was raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, relating to the present condition of Government

[Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar.]

securities and the low rate of interest that is earned. I am very much concerned about that question from the point of view of life insurance companies. Whether young or old, they are faced with a problem. Insurance premia have been fixed at a time when interest rates were very much higher than they are now, and it seems to me that that is a problem which requires serious consideration both on the part of the insurance companies and on the part of the Government, and the solution cannot always be on the lines that are so easily suggested by insurance companies, namely, release of their obligations under section 27 of the Insurance Act. That is not the real solution so far as I can see. There are other solutions which must be thought of and I can only say at this stage that Government are actively considering, and I hope the insurance companies also will consider, what solution can be suggested for this state of affairs.

Deposits are going to be reduced by half, from Rs. 16,667 these young companies will pay only half that amount for the period of the war and one year thereafter, that is to say, while conditions which are now prevailing continue to prevail. They will pay from the amounts that they collect by way of renewal premiums and original premiums.

That is all I have to say at this stage. If my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, still wants to move his amendments I shall then make my observations, but I trust that in the light of all the speeches that have already been made he will realise that a much more effective answer will probably come from those who sit alongside of him than even from me.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I only want to put one question to the Honourable Member. How does he arrive at the figure of Rs. 30,000 in the case of these younger companies? Why should it not be Rs. 50,000?

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The amount of Rs. 30,000 has been worked out very carefully and is on the generous side. The deposit that has to be made by instalments is, as I said, Rs. 16,667. They are required to pay only half that deposit amount, that is, Rs. 8,000 odd. If they get a premium income of Rs. 30,000, then, according to these younger companies, they normally provide not more than 25 per cent. of their premium income, and very often not more than 20 per cent. of that income, for expenditure. If you take out 20 per cent. of that income of Rs. 30,000, that is, Rs. 6,000 for expenditure, and about Rs. 8,000 for the deposit, that makes Rs. 14,000. They have got a comfortable balance of still Rs. 16,000 from which they can pay whatever claims mature and meet other incidental expenses. That is why the amount of Rs. 30,000 has been arrived at.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: I did not want to interrupt the Honourable the Commerce Member while he was speaking, but he referred twice to the fact that certain insurers were unable to pay their premiums—I take it he meant the instalments on their deposits?

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I meant deposits under section 7.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the reduction temporarily of the amounts payable as instalments of the sum to be deposited by an insurer under section 7 of the Insurance Act, 1938, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 6, 7 and 8 were added to the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 1 were added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed:"

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MOTION RE DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE INDO-CEYLON CONVERSATIONS.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I move:

"That the documents relating to the Indo-Ceylon conversations, which were laid on the table of this House on the 11th February, 1941, be taken into consideration."

Honourable Members will recall that the talks to which these papers refer were intended to be "entirely informal and exploratory" in character. The object in view and the hope entertained when the talks were inaugurated were that by this means a basis would be found for formal negotiations at a later date on all problems of common interest requiring adjustment between India and Ceylon. Representatives from the two countries accordingly met in New Delhi on five occasions in the earlier part of November. The course of the talks is apparent from the papers that have been laid before the House. The plain fact is that the negotiations broke down at the first hurdle—the question of the status of Indians in Ceylon. The House will appreciate that this involved matters of principle on which the representatives of the Government of India neither could nor in fact did concede any ground.

These papers which are before the House were presented on the 11th of this month. On the same day, similar papers were presented in the State Council of Ceylon. Honourable Members will have seen, however, that something else took place on that day in the State Council in Ceylon. His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon took the opportunity in a message to the State Council to remind that body of the existence of certain undertakings given in the past by and on behalf of Ceylon. I regret that we have not yet received from our Agent in Ceylon the reply to our request for the exact text of His Excellency's message; but from Press reports it is clear that His Excellency gave a list of the undertakings by which he conceived the Government of Ceylon were bound and he went on to state that he had held himself bound as Governor to withhold approval, ratification or assent in respect of any Act, Regulation or measure to which the Government of India did not agree and the effect of which would be to deprive Indians of the benefit of any of the undertakings—I should make it clear that I am quoting from a News Agency report—I venture to think that His Excellency the Governor's reminder will be regarded as timely and reassuring by Indians in Ceylon and elsewhere and we must hope that as a sequel better counsels will prevail. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the documents relating to the Indo-Ceylon conversations, which were laid on the table of this House on the 11th February, 1941, be taken into consideration."

The Chair has received notice of an amendment to this motion from Sir Raza Ali. This amendment has perhaps been circulated to all the Members.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): Yes and the Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is there any objection to the requirement of the Standing Order being waived?

The Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai (Member for Education, Health and Lands): There is no objection to the Standing Order being waived, so far as we are concerned.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I will allow the Honourable Member to move it.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the following words be added at the end of the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson:

'And this Assembly regrets the failure of the Indo-Ceylon conversations as revealed in the verbatim report and supports the attitude adopted by the representatives of the Government of India which faithfully represents the point of view of Indian public opinion; and while recognising the desire of the Ceylon State Council to maintain its independence of action, appreciates the message sent by the Governor of Ceylon to that body with respect to the undertakings given by His Majesty's Government and by the Government of Ceylon to the Government of India and expresses the hope that it will serve to emphasize the importance, particularly, under present circumstances, of nothing being done by the Government and people of Ceylon which will endanger the good relations which should exist between the two countries whose interests are so intimately bound together.'

The question that is before this House is of very great importance to this country. Papers have been circulated and those papers reveal the character of the conversations that were held in November last between the representatives of the Government of Ceylon and the representatives of the Government of India. While emphasizing the importance of these negotiations I would draw the attention of this House to the important fact that countries within the British Commonwealth of Nations seem to have hit upon a particular plan in dealing with Indian settlers in those countries. Let me make it quite clear that the plan which, on the whole, seems to have been adopted is this. When a country finds that Indians who in time past rendered very great services to the country in which they have become settled are not quite so useful to that country as they were in the past, an effort is made to subject Indian settlers to political disabilities.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member ought to confine himself to the Resolution, that is, the relations between Ceylon and India, and not travel outside.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I do not think I am travelling. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair is just suggesting that to the Honourable Member.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: As a matter of fact, the political status of our people in Ceylon is the pivot on which everything else hinges and that is the reason why I was referring to that question. In fact, as the House knows. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): We are not concerned with any other countries within the Commonwealth. We are now concerned with Ceylon.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I am just illustrating what treatment we get. . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must confine himself to the terms of the Resolution before the House.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I believe I have 30 minutes at my disposal.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is no time limit, but the Honourable Member will consider the desire of other Members also to take part in the debate.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I place myself entirely in your hands. My position. .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair is not trying to impose any time limit. It is only pointing out that the Honourable Member's remarks must be relevant and confined to the motion before the House. That is all.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: We find that the Government of Ceylon has started the present campaign by subjecting Indians to political disadvantages. Very briefly I will refer to a few facts which would go to show, on the one hand that there has been a consistent course of conduct on the part of the Ceylon Government imposing political disabilities on Indian settlers in Ceylon and, on the other hand, that the action taken in this matter by His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon is perfectly justified. In the first place, I will briefly refer this House to a certain Ordinance that was passed by the Ceylon State Council. That Ordinance is known by the name of "the Village Communities Ordinance." Now this Ordinance was passed in 1938. The object of the Ordinance was to take away the right of the vote from all labourers resident on estates. I must say, in fairness to the Ceylon Government, that it made no distinction between the Ceylonese and the Indians; it took away the right of the vote from all labourers resident on estates. But it was not such an innocent legislative measure as it appeared to be on the face of it. The real object was to disfranchise a very large number of Indian labourers working on estates. The number of Ceylonese labourers involved was very small indeed; it was only a fraction of the total number of labourers resident on the estates. That is why the Ceylon Government took away this right. As a matter of fact even this uniformity was introduced after the Ordinance as originally passed had been reserved for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure. The net result of this is that a very large number of Indians have been deprived of the right of vote.

[Sir Syed Raza Ali.]

Now, the second measure, the aim of which was to bring about not only a political but also an economic strangulation of our people had a far-reaching effect. This second measure was the Fisheries Ordinance that was published on the 19th May, 1939. The real point involved was this—I do not want to go into details—that the right to fish for profit was confined only to the Ceylonese, and the definition of “Ceylonese” as incorporated in that Ordinance was: “Ceylonese was a person domiciled in Ceylon and possessing a Ceylon domicile of origin”. The important point is that the right was limited to those Ceylonese who had a domicile of origin in Ceylon. Now, as the House knows, there is a very large number of Indians in Ceylon who do not have the domicile of origin in Ceylon but who are Ceylonese by virtue of having a domicile of choice in that country. Indeed this entire class was excluded by the operation of this clause. This led naturally to a great controversy, and I must say that the Government of India and their Agent did what they could to bring about the amendment of the Bill. The Bill was reserved for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure but, since then, I am sorry to say that the Bill has been passed. No doubt an undertaking has been given by the Minister concerned in the State Council that in granting certificates, without which nobody can exercise the right of fishing for profit, care will be taken that the provisions of the Bill do not work unduly harshly against Indians. But, Sir, this is only a statement from a Minister. I may say at once that I am not one of those who are prepared to take the statement of a Minister at its face value when political passions are aroused against the Indian settlers in a particular country. I know what has happened in other parts of the British Commonwealth. Therefore, let me suggest to the Government of India that they should not attach undue importance to these statements made in the Legislature unless those statements find a place in the Statute-book itself. We know what has happened to our countrymen in India itself—how they have suffered in spite of certain assurances given in one Chamber or another.

Now I may, in passing, also refer to the Destitute Immigrants Regulation Amendment Ordinance that was passed in 1937 by the State Council of Ceylon. In this connection I would also refer to the attempts made to evict Indian cultivators from the Portwood Gardens in Kandapola. I am glad that, as a result of the efforts made by the Government of India, that proposal to evict Indian agriculturists was dropped. Be that as it may, the point is that the Government of Ceylon, during the past four or five years, have, unfortunately, been doing their level best to impose political and economic disabilities upon our people domiciled in Ceylon. I may also refer to the present state of feeling obtaining in Ceylon as described in the report of the Government of India's Agent in Ceylon at page 26; I do not think I should read that because that would take some time. I am referring to the Agent's Report for 1939, which is the last report available from that officer. Now, Sir, all these things go to show that the state of affairs in Ceylon is very unsatisfactory indeed, and it is the duty of the people of this country and of the Government of India to be quite alert and not to allow themselves to be a party to any seemingly innocent proposal which would surely be worked in the long run to the detriment of our people.

Now, coming to the conversations themselves, the House knows that they broke down because the Ceylonese Government delegates were unable

to agree to anything with regard to the political status of our people in Ceylon. I must say that we appreciate the attitude of the representatives of the Government of India in taking up the attitude which they did. The attitude of the representatives of the Government of India was moderate and reasonable. In fact, had the conversations developed and had a full discussion on some of the remaining points taken place, we would have been in a better position to judge as to what the attitude of the Government of India on these points was. But I sincerely hope that when the stage comes for a fuller discussion of the remaining points, if that stage ever arrives, the Government of India will realise that whereas the representatives of the Ceylon Government are the representatives both of the Government and of the people, the representatives of the Government of India are only the representatives of their Government and not of the people. What I mean is that there is all the greater need for dealing with the Ceylonese delegates boldly and courageously. In fact, I may say that I am surprised at the attitude of the Government of India who did not think it worth-while to invite one or two representatives either of this Chamber or of the people in this country to be associated with themselves in the conduct of these negotiations. Taking the position as it is in India and having regard to the fact that, whereas our representatives are permanent officials, the Government of Ceylon is represented by not only the representatives of the Government but also by the representatives of the people, the Government of India should not take this matter lightly but they should take the advantage of the co-operation of non-official element. The biggest Conference that has been held on the question of Indians overseas was at Cape Town in 1927. While we know that the Leader of that Delegation was a distinguished Member of the Government of India, my friend, Sir Muhamamad Habibullah, a number of non-officials were invited by the Government to be full members of that Delegation and they helped the Government of India throughout those negotiations. How they performed their duty, is a matter of common knowledge and I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything about that. After all, things have changed very considerably since 1927. We know that whereas for many years the Leader of the Indian Delegation to the League of Nations used to be an official, a non-official was appointed to lead the Delegation four or five years ago. I do hope that the Government of India, when the time comes, will not go to sleep over the question of inviting the co-operation of non-official element.

Now, I must say that great credit is due to the Governor of Ceylon for having sent the message, a portion of which was quoted by my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson. My own view is that the Governor of Ceylon did no more than his duty in sending that message to the State Council, reminding the Council and the Ministers of the undertaking which had been given by the Ceylonese Government to the Government of India and in some cases even by His Majesty's Government. In fact, had His Excellency not sent this message, I am afraid he would perhaps have failed to do his duty. I must add that I have no desire whatsoever to detract from the merit of the action taken by the Governor. The most difficult thing in this world, one finds, is to do one's duty. At times that becomes exceedingly difficult indeed and I think the action of His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon in sending that message will be appreciated not only in this House or in India alone but it will be appreciated by all those people who care even today for justice and fairplay.

[Sir Syed Raza Ali.]

One thing more and I have done. It seems outwardly that these negotiations broke down on the question of the consideration of our countrymen's political status in Ceylon. But so far as I can see, while this is perfectly true, it is sad to find that the Government of Ceylon has in the meantime been endeavouring to impose economic disabilities on our people. I believe this House will be interested to know that there is a proposal today before the Council of Ministers in Ceylon for establishing a Government monopoly in rice trade. It is proposed that this trade, which up till now, has been carried on by the Indians in Ceylon should be taken over by the Ceylonese Government and a monopoly of rice trade should be established by that Government. One would be at a loss to find any reasons good, bad or indifferent to justify that departure from a long established policy. I do not think it is necessary for me to dwell on that point but I think it is a very important matter and I must put it before this House to show as to what seems to be the real object of this move. The real object I think is this. Unfortunately, we are in the midst of a catastrophic war and if the Government of a country is so inclined, it can do many a thing now when the war is going on which it would not be able to do in normal times. Therefore, it is alleged that in order to ensure the food supply of the people, the Government of Ceylon should take over this rice trade. Now, one is unable to understand this attitude and one can find no reason why Government should contemplate this action. I have got articles that have appeared in the Ceylonese press. I do not want to tire out this House by reading them out. The real object is all too clear. The proposal to establish a Government monopoly in rice is the thin end of the wedge. When the war comes to an end, it is obvious that the Government monopoly would be entrusted to a syndicate set up in Ceylon. The object is that those Indians who are engaged in carrying on this huge trade which runs into crores of rupees should be deprived of the trade and that it should ultimately be carried on by the Ceylonese people themselves. They are introducing the Government simply as a cloak. The real object is to take away this important trade from the hands of Indians. Therefore, I think while we appreciate the attitude of the Government of India, as revealed in the reports that have been circulated to us and the manner in which they have stood up for the rights of the people, I hope they will realise that they should not relax their efforts but keep a careful watch over all that is happening in Ceylon. It may be, Sir, that appeals will be made to their sense of sweet reasonableness, they will be asked to come to terms at this juncture when the Commonwealth is involved in a life and death struggle with a ruthless enemy. All I can say is, that as the amendment suggests while we should not do anything to disturb the harmonious relations between any two countries of the British Commonwealth, we must make it clear that it is not our duty alone to work for harmony, but it is equally the duty of the Government of Ceylon not to create unpleasantness and trouble between India and Ceylon.

Before I sit down, let me point out that the writings that appeared in the Ceylon press and the speeches that were made by certain Ceylon Ministers leave not much doubt that whereas there is very little anti-Indian feeling in Ceylon, interested persons want to take advantage of the present position by enacting anti-Indian legislation both in political and economic fields. That impression is supported by a number of speeches and writings. I hope, Sir, that this debate will serve a useful purpose. It will

remind the people of Ceylon that it is not only the Government of India that very rightly stands up for the rights of the people of this country, but that this House, representing the people of this country will always give its unqualified support to such action as the Government of India may take to safeguard the rights of our people settled overseas; not only that, but that this House urges upon the Government of India not to relax their efforts and not to be a party to any concession whatsoever which is likely to be exploited by the Government of Ceylon in the future to the detriment of our people. Sir, I move the amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The original motion was:

"That the documents relating to the Indo-Ceylon conversations, which were laid on the table of this House on the 11th February, 1941, be taken into consideration."

To this an amendment has been moved:

"And this Assembly regrets the failure of the Indo-Ceylon conversations as revealed in the verbatim report and supports the attitude adopted by the representatives of the Government of India which faithfully represents the point of view of Indian public opinion; and while recognising the desire of the Ceylon State Council to maintain its independence of action, appreciates the message sent by the Governor of Ceylon to that body with respect to the undertakings given by His Majesty's Government and by the Government of Ceylon to the Government of India and expresses the hope that it will serve to emphasize the importance particularly under present circumstances of nothing being done by the Government and the people of Ceylon which will endanger the good relations which should exist between the two countries whose interests are so intimately bound together."

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I rise to support this amendment. I will not go into the history of the relations between India and Ceylon at the present moment, but it will suffice for me to say that the present position of Ceylon has been built up very largely by the efforts of Indian emigrants. What has India obtained in return? Political and economic disabilities. Is this right? The attitude taken up by the Ceylon delegation at the conference which took place a few weeks ago was most unreasonable. They insisted on certain restrictions being imposed upon the immigration of Indians into Ceylon and they also insisted that the present disabilities should continue. I am glad that the Government of India on this occasion stood by India and the Government of India and the Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai owe our best thanks for the determined and firm stand they took up on this occasion. Sir, in the past we have very often complained of the attitude taken up by the Government of India in regard to questions relating to other Colonies and Dominions. We have criticised the Government of India for their failure to do their duty by India, but a better state of things has commenced now and I hope that the Government of India in future will be as strong and as firm as they have been in regard to the negotiations between India and Ceylon. Sir, we appreciate also the attitude which has been taken up by the Governor of Ceylon who sent a message to the Ceylon State Council some portions of which were read out by my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson. He said:

"I hold myself bound as the Governor to withhold approval, ratification or assent in respect of any Act, the effect of which would be to deprive Indians of the benefit of any of the undertakings."

This is all very good. It has been said that the Governor of Ceylon did nothing more than his duty. In these days the performance of duty

[Dr. P. N. Banerjee.]

deserves thanks and our best thanks are due to the Governor for taking up this stand. Sir, my Honourable friend, Sir Raza Ali, expressed surprise that the Government of India did not think fit to take some representatives of this Assembly into confidence at the time of the negotiations. The negotiations are not yet finished. I believe there will be further negotiations because the interests of India and Ceylon are intertwined and when these negotiations take place again I hope the Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai will think fit to associate with him some representatives of this Assembly as his colleagues. Sir, let us hope and trust that the people of Ceylon and their representatives, the Ministers, will take a wider view of the position and will, in future, come to a better understanding between them and ourselves.

Mr. F. E. James (Madras: European): Sir, I desire to support the motion that has been moved by my Honourable friend, Sir Raza Ali. The dominant feeling that is left in my own mind after a perusal of the documents which have been placed on the table of the House is one of profound regret at the whole business. These conversations that were held were not formal. The talks had not reached a stage at which formal negotiations could be undertaken. They were held for the purpose of exploring the ground and one would certainly have hoped that in the course of those conversations the delegations from both Governments would have found some common measure of agreement on which they could have erected the structure of a reasonable formal agreement between the two countries. And it is surprising on the face of it that even at this stage no common basis was found. And yet, when one reads the verbatim record,—and I am exceedingly glad that the Government of India have placed that verbatim record before us,—he will realise that, judging by the attitude of the Ceylon Ministers there was never any hope of arriving at a common ground of agreement even in the earlier stages of these conversations. It is indeed most regrettable that the Ceylon ministers should have come to this country in no better frame of mind; and I should like to say that unless there is a radical alteration in the attitude of the ministers in Ceylon to the question of the important Indian minority in that island, there is no chance of any agreement being reached.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. F. E. James: Mr. Deputy President, before the House adjourned for lunch, I was making some remarks as to the attitude of the Ceylon Ministers during the course of the conversations which they had with the representatives of the Government of India; and I am bound to say that they seemed to have shown their worst side during those discussions—I use that phrase because it carries with it an implication that they have another side which I trust they will perhaps display to us on another occasion. The Government of India's attitude is, by this motion which has been placed before the House, praised and supported. I think the House may congratulate

itself upon the fact that a very strong delegation represented the Government of India in these conversations. Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai and Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar are both very doughty fighters when it comes to the question of the protection of the interests of Indians overseas; and Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai has behind him a record in this matter of which any man in this country may well be proud. Although it is true that the Government in this country is not in the technical sense responsible to the legislature, on this matter, at any rate, there is absolutely no difference between the Government and the people of the country. That has been made clear in this resolution and I hope that that observation will be well noticed in Ceylon.

Reference has been made to the action of the Governor of Ceylon. We, as legislators, admit that all legislative bodies like to have as independent a position as possible. That, no doubt, is true of the State Council in Colombo, at whose sittings I have often been present. They are not a whit behind us, Members of this House, in claiming independence for their own organ. But I must say that on this occasion it is well that the Governor has reminded them that they cannot act as though there were no other persons in the world than themselves; nor can they act as though Ceylon were not in close proximity to this country; nor can they act as though there were not in Ceylon a very important immigrant population. I am glad that the House is being asked officially to appreciate the action of the Ceylon Governor in sending his statement to the State Council. I believe that this action of his is both right and timely. Sir Andrew Caldecott is extremely popular in Ceylon, particularly among the Sinhalese population. Any one who has been to Ceylon will realise that. He is not a person who would take action of this kind unless he felt it was absolutely essential; and I am sure that it has not in any way been dictated as a result of outside pressure. This action of the Governor in regard to an important minority in the island of Ceylon carries with it a very important lesson that some communities in this country might well bear in mind. We hope in our recommendation to the House that the effect of the Governor's message will be to bring home to the Government and people of Ceylon the importance of maintaining good relations between their country and this. After all, if the situation continues to deteriorate by reason of unfettered action on the part of the Government of Ceylon, there is no knowing where it might lead us all to, it would, especially under the circumstances prevailing today, be an immense tragedy if any action of a retaliatory character were thought necessary either by this Government or by the Government of Ceylon. Let the House admit quite frankly that the presence of a large immigrant population in the island of Ceylon does raise very important questions of a political and economic character; and some of us have done our best to understand and appreciate the point of view of the Ceylon Ministers. But there is no problem raised by the presence of Indians in Ceylon which is not capable of solution provided that solution is sought as a result of co-operative effort and not on the basis of extreme demands and threats. I take it that that is the attitude of the Government of India today, for in the Press Communiqué which was issued on the 11th of February the following sentence is recorded:

"The desire of the Government of India that relations between the two countries should be placed on a firm basis of friendship and co-operation has in no way diminished, and should a prospect of a resumption of negotiations with greater possibilities of success appear in the future, they will be found ready to take advantage of it."

[Mr. F. E. James.]

I am in the fortunate position of having many friends not only in this country but also in Ceylon, and I count among my friends some of the Ministers of the Ceylon Government. I cannot believe that it is beyond their power to seek a solution of these problems from a different angle than that from which they have sought it in the past. There are bound to be extremists in every party—there are in fact: but I do believe that by and large the people of Ceylon desire to live on friendly terms with those from India who have settled in that country. As far as I am concerned and as far as this Group is concerned, we have always made it clear that in the matter of the position of Indians overseas we, who live and move and have our being in this country, live and move and have our being in the friendliest relations with the people of this country,—that we feel it is our bounden duty to support to the fullest extent possible the claims of Indians overseas to just and proper treatment. I am sure that the carrying of this Resolution by the unanimous vote of this House will have the effect in bringing the Government and the people of Ceylon to a realisation that on this matter, the Government and the people of all communities in India speak with one voice and that fortunately that voice has been echoed through His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon by the Imperial Government in Britain.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan):

Sir, I should like to quote a few words from the message of the Governor which was read to the State Council in Ceylon. These were his words:

"I hold myself bound as the Governor to withhold approval, ratification or assent in respect of any Act, Regulation or measure to which the Government of India did not agree and the effect of which would be to deprive Indians of the benefit of any of the undertakings."

I hope this is the constitutional position which he was explaining to the State Council of Ceylon. It was not a personal opinion of his that he was expressing, and I should like to know from the Honourable Member in charge what are the undertakings given by the Government of Ceylon and by the Government of India so that we may be watchful of the interests of our people.

I would further submit, Sir, that this Governor in expressing himself in the strong language that he used has earned, and justly earned, the approbation of this House and also the people of this Country. I wish the Governors of other colonies such as Kenya, where Indians are ill-treated would follow his example. He is not only to be praised for the action he has taken but he is also to be praised for the example he has set for other Colonies like Kenya where Indians are ill-treated and their rights are curtailed.....

Sir Syed Raza Ali: What about Burma?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Burma is not a colony, it is a British possession.

Now, Sir, as I have referred to the words of the Governor in which the message was carried to the State Council, it strikes me that this constitutional position existed for a long time; and if that is so, and if such measures were put into force in Ceylon as deprived Indians of their political and economic rights I should like to know whether they were put into force with the concurrence of the Government of India and

whether the Government of India did not consider them to be detrimental to Indian interests. This is a point which should be clarified on the floor of this House.

Then, Sir, we have been told, and we have also read about it in press, that the State Council as well as the Ministers in Ceylon have given a sort of threat to the effect that if the legislation which they propose to introduce and carry out is not supported by the Government they will resign. Well, let the Ministers remember that if they create a crisis like that, or if they think that they can hold out a threat like that, the Governor of Ceylon is not likely to be cowed down so easily as all that. It is not merely the Government of India which will support him in his actions, but the whole of this country will be behind him, and so he can very well rely upon the strong public opinion in this country for any measure he might adopt. I feel, Sir, that if the suggestion which was made by my friend, Sir Raza Ali, of associating non-officials with officials were given effect to whenever such conferences take place, it would strengthen the hands of the Government considerably as they will be having behind them solid public opinion. I hope that whenever such conferences are held, the result of those conferences will be made the subject matter of discussion in this Assembly and ratification sought before effect is given to the conclusions reached by the conference. I think it will be wise for the indigenous population of Ceylon to consider whether their attitude at this juncture is a right one to take. I do not think that the fact that the war is now on and might engulf Ceylon was absent from the mind of the Governor when this statement was made; for there is no knowing how the war will spread. Under such circumstances it would be sheer folly for the people of Ceylon to lose the sympathy of a strong nation which can supply both men as well as materials to protect them should their island be a prey of some aggressive power. I think it would be well for the Ministers in Ceylon to take wise counsel and agree to whatever advice the Governor has given them.

Mr. Muhammad Asghar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, we have all heard the Ceylon Governor's message. I have also seen in the *Statesman* of the 18th of this month that an adjournment motion was moved in the State Council of Ceylon over the message of the Governor. From that I shall read only a small passage:

"Sir Baron Jayatilaka stated that the Board of Ministers considered that the publication of the Governor's message was ill-timed and whether intended or not was calculated to render the task of the House in dealing with the Indian question very difficult."

Sir, I say on the floor of this House that just as Baron Jayatilaka said that the Governor's message was ill-timed, the adjournment that was moved was absolutely ill-timed in the Ceylon Legislature, particularly at this juncture when the relations between the two countries are well-known, and such an adjournment motion cannot be characterised as anything but unfortunate. The relations between India and Ceylon though perhaps in the memory of man, are very remote. From Hindu books and literature we find that the relations of Ceylon with India were of very longstanding. In view of such longstanding relations between the two countries, I thought that the delegation which came to India would be able to remove the difficulties under which Indians were labouring there, but, unfortunately, we discovered that they possessed the mentality of a foreigner. They regard Indians as foreigners, as South Africans or

[Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali.]

Canadians regard Indians. In the face of this spirit of the Ceylonese what should be our attitude? Our attitude should be, that we must retaliate if occasion arises, notwithstanding the fact that the Ceylonese may call themselves our relations. If a foreigner does a prejudicial act we resent it, but we will resent all the more such an act if our own relation does it. The result of the conference has been that thousands of rupees of India have been spent. And with what result? They came, had a talk and went away. Is the money of the Indian taxpayer to be spent like this? When they came here they ought to have come with some responsibility. I find from the Government communiqué and from the proceedings of the conference that they did not come with that sense of responsibility which Ministers should have. At page 8 I find, "..... from their point of view of substantially reducing the number of Indian population resident in Ceylon....."—that was the aim with which they came to India. How can India yield to this aim of theirs, I cannot imagine. At least I cannot call them as relations of ours. On the same page I find, "The discussion that followed the presentation of the Indian proposals merely served to bring out the unwillingness of the Ceylon Delegation to make any commitment". And this is the spirit of responsibility of the Ministers when they came here! They ought to have come with a spirit of compromise and give and take and not with their own pet ideas of relationship between this country and Ceylon. This communiqué is a very correct interpretation of the proceedings that took place. At page 4, I find, "At a later stage when asked for a list of possible future restrictions"—the fact was that our Indian Government's representatives were all along trying their best to meet all the points which the Ceylonese Ministers had in mind, but still the result was, "At a later stage, when asked for a list of possible future restrictions, one gentleman said, "It may be perhaps difficult for us, with reasonable accuracy, to supply you with the range of possible restrictions even now". Now, Sir, if you go to settle your differences with another country, is it right, is it meet, is it proper, is it reasonable for you not to have details with you of the possible restrictions that you suggest that you might impose? Is this the manner of coming to a compromise with us Indians? The House should remember that this delegation which came did not come with the idea of relieving the distress of the Indians in Ceylon, but it came only with the idea of reducing the Indian population in Ceylon. I cannot possibly look at this situation with equanimity. My own idea is that they came with the idea that they would gain something, and they thought, as in the case of India of old, they would take away something from here and perhaps the Indians are not in a position to repeat the story of Ramayana. We are prepared to repeat the story of Ramayana.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar: Non-Muhammadan): We have no Sita now to lose.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Never mind. India itself is Sita. I know that we have here a very staunch and great Brahmin like Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai who headed the Indian delegation and he would have preserved all the rights of Indians even if Sita was not there.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Who is the Ravan of the show?

An Honourable Member: Bundernaiyik!

Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali: It is for Sir Syed Raza Ali to point out. The object of the delegation was, as I said, to reduce the Indian population in Ceylon. It is at their request that the Government of India accepted this delegation, and it is not the Government of India that went out of their way to ask for any delegation from Ceylon. When they came here, it was our duty to receive them in a suitable manner, but at the same time they ought to have come with sufficient responsibility, and I think the Governor of Ceylon was quite justified in sending the message which he did to the State Council.

In such a situation how is it possible to have any commercial relations with such people? I hope the Government of India will be very careful in having commercial relations with people who cannot even tolerate the existence of Indians in Ceylon. If the Ceylonese want that lands should not be sold to Indians or that Indians should not acquire the same right of citizenship as the Ceylonese, they could have formulated their points in detail and I am sure the Indian Government delegates would have considered the restrictions that were feasible and possible. I give every credit to Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai and Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar for the way in which they tried their level best for five full days to solve the intricate question of Indians in Ceylon. The Ceylon delegates were told by our delegation that the position in South Africa was absolutely different from that in Ceylon. The modes of life of the Ceylonese and the Indians, the ways of marriage, their religion—there is a great similarity between Indians and Ceylonese, but the conditions in South Africa and other Colonies are quite different. Therefore, I think that the message that has been sent by the Governor of Ceylon is a proper one. We are much obliged to the Government of India for having placed this time all the facts relating the Indo-Ceylonese problem before us, and we shall be obliged to the Government of India if in future they take, as suggested by my Honourable friend, Sir Syed Raza Ali, non-official Members along with them in order to satisfy the Indian public opinion.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: And to strengthen their own hands.

Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali: We know that there are lakhs and lakhs of Indians in Ceylon. Indians have invested crores of rupees. If Indian labourers settle down in Ceylon, they must have equal rights with the Ceylonese. If Indians, Englishmen and others come to settle down in Ceylon at one place, they must have the same rights as the Ceylonese themselves. In conclusion, I would like to give a warning to the Ceylonese that if in any future conference they are not reconcilable to the spirit of friendship and good relationship with Indians and if they are not prepared to treat Indians on an equal footing, Indians will press for retaliatory measures. With these words I support the motion.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Sir, I support the amendment that has been moved by my friend, Sir Raza Ali, as it very admirably reflects the view which this side of the House holds on the negotiations that have, unfortunately, ended in a failure, which we all deplore. By this time I take it that all the Members of this House who have been placed in possession of the papers have gone through them and have fully understood the main points on which the representatives of the Government of India and the

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

Ceylon Delegation carried on their conversation for five days. Having gone through them myself, I feel that the two delegates approached the question from two, if not entirely antagonistic, at least entirely different points of view, which were not easy of reconciliation at least for the time being. The point of view which the Ceylon Delegation pressed was that consideration of their economic conditions compels them to reduce the numbers of resident Indians in Ceylon and they wanted the Government of India to give them some kind of solution for curtailing the numbers of Indians who on considerations of equity may be entitled to remain there but, out of deference to the views economic difficulties peculiar to Ceylon which they held, should be driven out of Ceylon. They plainly gave that opinion to the Government of India. The representatives of the Government of India must have found themselves in a very queer position. The delegation came here because the Ceylon Government wanted that there should be a conference between their delegates and the representatives of the Government of India. When a desire like that is expressed by one side of people, it is assumed that they will come in with something that might be appreciated by the other side and on which the other side might be expected to act and go to their assistance to solve any difficulty they might be feeling about. But within a few minutes of the starting of the conversations it was found that the Ceylonese delegation had nothing else to say except to complain vehemently that the Indians constituted six lakhs of the population and that they formed one sixth of the population of Ceylon and that the Ceylonese did not want the Indians to remain in that country, as it was likely to develop, ultimately, into a potential danger that might dominate the whole economic position of the Ceylonese population. That is the apprehension that was being harped upon by them from beginning to end. Repeated efforts were made by the representatives of the Government of India to ask them to clarify their position into simple understandable propositions or suggestions which can be considered and examined from all points of view but beyond making this vague assertion now and then, I have not been able to understand that they really gave us any points on which it was possible to make any definite suggestion which would be acceptable to both sides. As against that, I am glad to find that the representatives of the Government of India have tried to meet their points of view by actually suggesting to them the conditions under which resident Indians can be treated by them as citizens of Ceylon—also how far in the case of certain kind of resident Indians even, certain kinds of rights which were considered as very precious may not be extended. On these points certain definite suggestions were made. The Ceylonese Delegation probably thought that this half-hearted affair will not do. They came probably with a mandate to carry out. It may be that they had this mandate from their constituency or they created this mandate for their constituency and they found that the two Indian delegates with whom they were carrying on negotiations were not amenable to accept any one of their suggestions. Ultimately, they found after this conversation of four days, that they have not been able to clarify the real issues. Much of the other difficulties were not even talked of. The other disabilities under which the Indians are suffering have not been touched even because the very first question about the status of Indians could not be discussed and carried to the point of any solution at all. Then came a stalemate and the conference ultimately broke off.

Now, the amendment before the House simply lays down three main points. First, this House expresses its appreciation of or support to the stand taken by the representatives of the Government of India in these negotiations in defence of the rights of Indians. I believe on that point there is no difference of opinion at all. It also deplores the fact, and that is very important in my opinion, that these negotiations have failed. I attach some importance to this expression of regret, because we genuinely desire that another effort at a suitable time ought to be made to find out a practical and amicable solution of the difficulty, because it is the earnest desire of this House that the relations between India and Ceylon ought to be of a very cordial and friendly nature. It is merely a geographical accident, in my opinion, that these two territories are passed as two different countries. There is only a little channel that separates that little island from the motherland; it is something like a child which for some reason or other was forsaken and which has grown at a distance from the mother. Had India been an independent country, I am sure the separate existence of Ceylon as a separate nation would not have been possible. That is the real position. In fact all the arguments which the Englishmen use against the recognition of Ireland as a separate nation would be more appropriately, more equitably and more justifiably used by the Indian people in claiming Ceylon as a part and parcel of India. It is not merely a geographical proximity to which I am making a reference; the long, historic tradition, the mythological connection, and the cultural affinity that exists between these two countries are so many ties that go to bind these two countries together.

Therefore, if in future Ceylon really wants to prosper and has some glorious future for its people, it ought to look up to India as one of the countries whose support it should constantly have. Without the support of a country like that, it is not possible for these tiny nations in these days to grow to their full stature hereafter in such a way as to secure recognition in the comity of nations or to have an honourable place at all. From that point of view also, I think the Ceylonese delegates in India ought to have been in a position to take a broader view of the situation and should not have been carried away by certain ultra-narrow considerations which ultimately seem to have dominated their views from beginning to end. Sir, therefore, the innate desire of this House to maintain relations of the utmost cordiality between Ceylon and India is reflected in two ways in this Resolution,—first, by their expressing a genuine sense of sorrow at the failure of the negotiations and also by ending the Resolution with these words, that:

"Nothing will be done by the Government and the people of Ceylon which will endanger the good relations which should exist between the two countries whose interests are so intimately bound together."

In that way we have expressed our sincere desire for the maintenance of cordiality between these two countries in this Resolution. As we have given a suggestion to the people of Ceylon on this point, I think we also should not do anything that is likely in the least to endanger the good relations between India and Ceylon; I think we also owe a responsibility to ourselves in this matter and we ought to say nothing on this occasion that is likely to be misunderstood or likely to be seriously misconstrued by our friends in Ceylon. That responsibility we recognize. There is one thing more to which I should refer because that is one of the most important points touched upon in the Resolution. Although our

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

negotiations have failed, our desire for the maintenance of cordial relations remains there. We are fortified in this thing by the fact that there is a Governor in Ceylon at present who is determined to take a rational, practical and equitable view of the whole situation. He is not oblivious of the necessity of the maintenance of good relations between Ceylon and India and he is fully conscious of the importance of seeing that no injustice to Indians resident in Ceylon is done by any indiscreet legislation of the Ceylonese State Council. The message that he has sent at a time like this, in my opinion, betokens a high degree of statesmanship on the part of His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon. He is to be congratulated by this House not only for the timely suggestion he has made but for the courageous stand and statesmanlike stand he has taken in defending the interests not only of Indians but in defending the interests of the empire by seeing that nothing indiscreet is done by one part of the empire to another part of the empire at a time like this. That is an important implication which lies behind that message which His Excellency had sent to the State Council. I am sorry that it has created a little stir amongst the Members of the Ceylon Legislature and, particularly, amongst the members of the Delegation. We have heard of some motions of adjournment and so on, but we know that all these things sometimes do take place and let us hope that better counsels will soon prevail and that the sound statesmanship that has been implied in the message sent by the Governor to the State Council will ultimately be appreciated by the Members of the Ceylon Cabinet and the Members of the Ceylon Legislature also and that nothing will happen, let us hope, as suggested in this Resolution, to impair the good relations between India and Ceylon in the near future.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: What about the rice control?

Mr. M. S. Aney: That is exactly a thing which I think they have not a right to do.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: The Government of Ceylon should not proceed with that.

Mr. M. S. Aney: My point is this that we say that nothing should be done by the Ceylon Government that ostensibly appears to be
 3 P. M. a piece of legislation intended with a sinister purpose. I think the Ceylonese Legislature will also understand the warning that is also conveyed here that after all the people of India do feel that while those Indians resident in Ceylon who are there should be treated by the Ceylon Government as genuinely Ceylonese citizens, still it is impossible for them to forget that the people in their mother country will also have feelings for them. If a man becomes a Ceylonese, it is impossible that he should not only have no interest for this country but that the people of this country should also feel no interest in them. Such a kind of complete absence of relationship is not implied in the idea of citizenship at all. They are entitled to be citizens, because they fulfil certain conditions on which the rights of citizenship are generally recognised and granted in civilised countries. It is open to the Ceylon Government to lay down definite rules for citizenship and to come out with those

suggestions and to have a discussion with the representatives of the Government of India; and once a definition is made there, if any Indian satisfies that condition, then he is entitled to be a citizen of Ceylon. In that way alone can this problem be solved and I hope that they will be in a position to appreciate this point of view, and soon an opportunity may arise when the task that has been left unfulfilled and incomplete now will be brought to a successful fruition. Sir, I support this motion.

The Honourable Sir Gırja Shankar Bajpai: Mr. Deputy President, I feel that it might be convenient to the House, for me to say a few words on behalf of Government at this stage. I should like, in the first place, to express our real gratification that this debate has taken place and that for two reasons. First, it has given the House an opportunity of giving its verdict upon the stand that we, the representatives of the Government on this Delegation, took towards the propositions that were placed before us by the Ceylon Delegation; and secondly, because it has served to reveal once more—not that that revealing was absolutely necessary but it is of some importance—it has served to reveal once more the complete unity of feeling in this House on the treatment of all questions that relate to Indians overseas.—a unity of feeling, so far as this particular thing is concerned, of regret that we could not come to an agreement, and of hope that better counsels will prevail on the other side and that, as a result of that, a better understanding between the two countries will be established, but unity also of a resolve that so far as we are concerned, if there is to be a settlement, it must be on the basis, not merely of justice and fairplay to the Singalese but of justice and fairplay to the Indians in Ceylon. I should also like to say one other word as regards this debate. I think I shall not be presumptuous if I congratulate the House on the statesmanlike character of this debate. We have not indulged, none of us, in mere recrimination, in mere criticism, in threats. Not a bit of it. We have emphasised, what should be obvious to everybody, the traditional, the age-long, the immemorial association between the two countries. We have expressed our desire, a desire which I ventured to express in my own way when welcoming the Ceylon delegates, a desire that Ceylon should grow, grow in material prosperity, in political stature and in moral strength. And that is the desire, I am sure, of everyone in this House.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Morally.

The Honourable Sir Gırja Shankar Bajpai: As my Honourable friend, Sir Syed Raza Ali, has said, morally, which pre-supposes a capacity to adjust relations between majorities and minorities, between men of one race and men of another race in a spirit of even-handed justice and fair-play.

I do not think that I need detain the House with prefatory remarks very much longer. My Honourable friend, Sir Syed Raza Ali, who devotes a good deal of attention to the study of overseas questions, mentioned a number of questions which are still outstanding between this country and Ceylon. In the statement that was laid on the table of the House the other day, we made it clear that we did not consider it either desirable or opportune to discuss in detail questions other than the question of status, because status goes to the very root of the matter so far as our

[Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai.]

relations with Ceylon are concerned. But, as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom had occasion to say the other day, eternal vigilance is the price of safety in these days. We recognise that and, so far as the outstanding questions between India and Ceylon are concerned, that vigilance will continue to be exercised. I do not think that it is desirable to take one individual question now and go into the details of that or another particular question later and go into the details of that. My Honourable friend was concerned over the possibility of the introduction of a Government monopoly in the matter of the sale of rice. I have kept a watch on that. Only the other day I was reading a leading article not, in a planters' newspaper but a Singalese newspaper, *The Ceylon Daily News*, which was extremely critical of this proposal. I think from that I am entitled to draw the inference that there is no such thing at the present moment as either a considered proposal or as a unanimous or even a majority decision of the Ministry in Ceylon to go forward with this proposal. Doubtless, I am speaking of inferences but it seems to me that, when you have a certain set of facts before you which justify a particular inference, you should not hesitate to draw that inference. Anyhow, my Honourable friends may rest assured that, as in the past, so in the future, it will be our care and it will be our constant endeavour to see that legitimate rights in this as in other respects are safeguarded.

Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Deshmukh, wished to know what exactly the list of the undertakings given by the Governor was. I made two endeavours to get the information. It is no use my putting before you our catalogue of the undertakings that the Government of Ceylon have given in the past, they may not coincide with the message which His Excellency the Governor has sent. In order really to be on the wise side, so far as our appreciation of the position is concerned, we ought to wait until we have the text of His Excellency the Governor's message in our hands. But of one thing I am confident. Only recently I had an opportunity of paying a private and personal visit to Ceylon. In the course of that visit, I was the guest of His Excellency the Governor and had an opportunity of making his acquaintance. I am pretty confident of one thing. While he is as jealous of the rights and privileges of the people whom he is called upon to govern as the Ministers themselves, he is equally conscious of the responsibility that he owes to an important minority such as the Indian community in Ceylon. I am sure that it is in that spirit that his message was framed, that his message was sent, that his message was delivered, and we may take it that, in the framing of that message, he had fully in mind the responsibility to which I have already alluded, namely, the responsibility of safeguarding not merely the undertakings of His Majesty's Government but what those undertakings are designed to cover, the legitimate rights and privileges of the Indian community in Ceylon. I hope that it is in no way an intrusion on our part in the internal affairs of Ceylon to express our appreciation of the statesman-like act, the bold and courageous act of His Excellency the Governor. Sir, that practically brings to a close all that need be said on the subject-matter of the amendment that has been moved to my Honourable friend, Mr. Tyson's original motion.

But I should not like to resume my seat without first thanking the House for the very generous terms in which they have referred to my own share in these negotiations. I am very grateful for that. During the

twelve years that I was a Member of this House, I received nothing but kindness and generosity from all sections of the House, and I have no doubt that that has animated their judgment, their assessment, of my part in these negotiations. But I have really, if I may say so, done no more than give effect to the considered policy of the Government of India, a policy which was laid down not by me, because it is a policy which is older than even the period of my association with the Department, but a policy of a long series of distinguished predecessors, Sir Fazl-i-Hussain, Sir Muhammad Habibullah and Kunwar Sir Jagadish Prasad. That policy is that once an Indian has been settled in any other part of the British Empire or Commonwealth of Nations for a number of years, once he can establish by easily ascertainable facts the proof of permanent interest in the country, he should have complete equality of rights over the whole field of rights, be they political rights or be they economic rights. That was the position which I stated, I think, at the very first meeting to the members of the Ceylon delegation and I have ventured to repeat that today because there seems to be some misapprehension in the mind of my Honourable friend, Sir Syed Raza Ali. He seemed to think that we were fighting merely for political equality, but we were also fighting for economic equality. That is an important point, I think, that needed emphasis.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I had a good deal to say about that.

The Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I am not stating for a minute that the Honourable Member was not complete.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I thought that was the implication.

The Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I am sorry. There was nothing offensive in my implication at all.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: I do not say that there was anything offensive in it but it seemed to me that that was the implication. But I am glad to hear that it was not so.

The Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I was merely concerned to point out that if there was any misapprehension in his mind that our battle was only for political equality, then in that case I should like to remove it because our battle was for economic as well as for political equality.

Now, Sir, one word as regards the future, because that is important. True as my Honourable friend, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, who comes from Lucknow, as I do, in his Urdu verse said:

"Nishastand-o guftand-o barkhastand."

The delegates came, they met, they conversed and then they dispersed. That often happens, but that does not necessarily mean that we should now treat the possibility of a resumption of good relations

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): We ought to be able to say: I came, I saw, I conquered.

The Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: My Honourable friend is a soldier and he is always thinking of conquerors. Conquest by the sword is a thing which we, Brahmans, do not know. Conquest of ideas by persuasion, yes, that we believe in and that we practise.

Mr. M. S. Aney: I object to the remark of my Honourable friend that Brahmans do not know conquest by sword.

The Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: My Honourable friend, Mr. Aney, comes from the Deshastha Maharatta Brahman class which produced the great Peshwas who certainly were conquerors by the sword, but unfortunately, we, Brahmans in the North, have degenerated a little bit

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Am I to take it that the Honourable Member is a believer in non-violence?

The Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I am afraid my Honourable friend, Sir Syed Raza Ali, peruses newspapers a little too much in the mornings and that is why he is always thinking in terms of violence and non-violence. I was really trying to keep the discussion on the plane of argument which I believe is the plane which is peculiar and appropriate to this House.

As regards the future, to continue, I do not for a minute feel that the phase into which our relations have got is going to be everlasting. Irritation, agitation, if you like at the other end and some display of temper, yes: may be we are not immune from that ourselves in this country. But I have no doubt that as time passes, as leaders of opinion in Ceylon reflect upon what His Excellency the Governor has said, upon what we in this House have been saying, upon what some people in that country may be saying before very long, when utterances and influences like that had time to work, the door will be re-opened for a resumption of the conversations, discussions and negotiations.

Sir, one final word before I sit down. My Honourable friend, Sir Syed Raza Ali, said that the Government of India should have strengthened themselves when conducting these negotiations by associating with them or with their representatives, non-officials. Now, Sir, these negotiations were understood to be only between Governments because they were entirely informal and exploratory in nature. That is one point which I should like the House to bear in mind. The other point which I should like the House to bear in mind is that these negotiations took place not in Ceylon but in India. They took place at a time when the two Houses of the Central Legislature were sitting and when the representatives of the Government of India had available to them, whenever they wanted it, the advice of a very representative non-official body, namely, the Standing Emigration Committee of the Central Legislature. As a matter of fact immediately after the negotiations, in other words as soon as a definite stage in the negotiations had been reached, we convened a meeting of the Standing Emigration Committee in order to communicate the result of those negotiations

Sir Syed Raza Ali: It was after the negotiations with Ceylon delegation had been over that the Emigration Committee meetings were held.

The Honourable Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Yes, but equally I pointed out when a definite stage in the negotiations had been reached. Judging from the whole tenor of the support which Honourable Members have been giving to the attitude adopted by my Honourable Colleague, Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar and myself in the discussions I do not think I am

very far wrong in presuming that, even if I had consulted the Standing Emigration Committee of the Central Legislature earlier, I would have got any advice other than the one which I acted upon without actually seeking it. In this particular matter, the attitude of the Government of India and the House is fully known. But the point I was coming to is this: if a stage arises when from informal we proceed to formal negotiations, then the suggestion that my Honourable friend has made and it is a suggestion which I have had at the back of my own mind, will certainly receive full consideration. That is all I have to say.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Sir, the Secretary of State for India is very fond of repeating from time to time his conviction that the unity of India shall be maintained at all costs. But I should like to remind him that the unity of India was violated very many years ago by the British Government itself. The process of vivisection commenced when Burma which was part and parcel of India was separated from India. The process of vivisection had commenced already when Ceylon which was part and parcel of India was separated from India and treated as a Crown Colony. As my Honourable friend, Mr. Aney, pointed out very rightly only a small channel separates Ceylon from India, there is only the small island of Rameswaram in between the two which brings Ceylon much nearer to India. In fact the whole of Ceylon abuts on the southern coast of India. Had Ceylon been a province of India, then the Emperor of India—I must tell you that the King of England is not called the Emperor of England—would have under his sway, Burma, Ceylon, Aden and the present India proper. Aden, Burma and Ceylon were all once the colonies of India but owing to certain political considerations, the Government thought it best to cut Ceylon from India. The relations between India and Ceylon, from time immemorial, as has been pointed out so facetiously by my Honourable friend, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, were of a very romantic character. I had expected my Honourable friend, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, to have reminded those Johnnies, the Ministers of Ceylon when they came here, “don’t you recollect, you fellows that your King Ravana in olden times had to bow down to Rama; do not forget those incidents”. Perhaps he spent all his time in flattering them and in fawning upon them. I suggest he should have given them the rough edge of his tongue if he has any, but, unfortunately, he has none. Why allow them to come here and adopt this imperious attitude? They say the population of Indians in Ceylon is one-sixth of the total population amounting to nearly nine lakhs out of 54 lakhs. These nine lakhs of Indians according to these Barons and Ministers of Ceylon would swamp the Ceylonese. They seem to have run away with the idea that if these nine lakhs of Indians continued to live in Ceylon, they will constitute a danger, an ever increasing danger which would bring about their total extinction and ruin. If nine lakhs of Indians are such a strong power that their citizenship of Ceylon threatens the entire island of Ceylon with extinction, let it die then.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: They will not agree to die.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: They ought to agree. There is the law of the survival of the fittest and those who are fit shall live and those who are unfit shall go. I am of course one of those who concedes the right of secession to every part of India, if treated savagely, harshly and in a manner which is intolerable. But have we treated Ceylon in that manner? Had

[Maulana Zafar Ali Khan.]

Ceylon been a province of India she would have been content to remain under the banner of India. But instead of our doing any injustice to Ceylon it is we to whom an injustice is being done. They want to extern us; they want to reduce the population of India in Ceylon in a substantial manner; that is, out of nine lakhs they want to turn out six or seven lakhs. What are these six or seven lakhs of people doing there. They want to earn their livelihood. For ages they have been settled down there and some of them have acquired the right of citizenship by living in Ceylon for over five years and having their wives and children there and having a permanent interest in Ceylon. Some of them were even born in Ceylon. Sir Baron says that even those who were born in Ceylon may be turned out and will not have full right of citizenship as the Ceylonese. This is really intolerable and we cannot bear it. We Indians are really very unfortunate. We go to South Africa and the narrative of South Africa is one long tragedy. We go to Kenya and there we are turned out because we are blackies. South Africa and Kenya are under the heels of white people, but the Ceylonese and Burmese are not white and still they are treating us like that. Mr. Amery says that India consists of one-fifth of the human race; she is sending her millions to the front where they are shedding their blood to maintain the glory of England; but still we are treated as we are being treated by the Ceylonese. I should, therefore, like to know what attitude the Government of India are going to adopt in the event of the Ceylonese ministers passing a legislative measure in their House of Representatives enabling them to turn out so many lakhs of Indians from Ceylon? It seems to me that they are bent upon doing it. The message that was sent by the Governor to the Government of India, for which he has been thanked, was resented by them and they actually condemned him for doing it. Supposing they fly in his face and a few days afterwards they pass a legislative measure which when promulgated enables the authorities there to turn out Indians, what will the Government of India do? Nothing has been hinted at in the amendment from which we can arrive at the conclusion that our interests shall be safeguarded at all costs. Recrimination or retaliation may be something but what form will that retaliation take

Sir Syed Raza Ali: Sir, I do not want to interrupt my Honourable friend, but that stage, let me repeat, has not arrived. Fortunately, the negotiations between India and Ceylon have not been broken off finally. This is only a temporary phase. Therefore, why talk of retaliation at this stage?

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: This is only dilly-dallying. I think if the British Government once make up their mind and give the Ceylonese a bit of their mind this tangle would be solved at once. When the Secretary of State for India takes up a strong attitude with regard to India, cannot the Colonial Secretary take up a similar attitude in regard to Ceylon in a matter in which there is absolute injustice from that side? Something has to be done and done soon. It may go on for a year or two years while this war is going on. But our people are on the point of being turned out and before then this thing will have to be done. My Honourable friend, Sir Raza Ali, pointed out that non-official Members of this House should have been associated with the delegates who discussed the question with the Ceylonese delegates. Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai has very rightly pointed out that these talks were between two Governments and it stands to reason

that if we had non-official elected Members of this Legislature to talk with them, they also would be entitled to bring their non-official members. Therefore my suggestion, if the House and Government would care to agree to it, is that we should organise a goodwill mission of the leading men of India and send them to Ceylon to study the situation on the spot and explore all avenues of bringing about good, amicable and friendly relations between the two countries. As my Honourable friend, Sir Raza Ali, pointed out, it is not all Ceylonese who are anti-Indian. The man in the street is not anti-Indian. It is a few people with vested interests, the capitalists, who have got the power and want to lord over us and turn us out of Ceylon. If this goodwill mission goes, it will find that of the entire population of 55 lakhs there are ten lakhs of Indian Tamils who have for ages been settled in Ceylon. Then there are four lakhs of Muslims and another eight lakhs politically hostile to the party now in power, making 22 lakhs in all. If these 22 lakhs of people can be approached Sir Baron will find that other games can be played. At the same time political pressure must be exercised on the Ceylon Government to strengthen the hands of the Governor, and if this combined pressure and goodwill mission do not result in bringing about the end that we desire, then the time will have come when very strong measures will have to be taken.

What these measures will be, I leave it to the government of the day. We may be the government of the day! This motion has been discussed threadbare and every aspect of the question has been placed before the House in a very strong light. All that I should like in the end to point out is that we feel very strongly over this question; and although the Government has been treating us in a cavalierly manner, strong in their belief that they have got a majority of votes on their side—and we have not forgotten the fate of Mr. Joshi's Resolution—we know that perfectly well—but this motion affects the prestige of the British Government and of the Government of India; and when we and they are of the same opinion, I think that they will do something really to satisfy us. With these words I support the motion.

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Dr. Sir Iqbaluddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, when I read the volume of evidence presented to us two days ago, I formed just the same opinion as described by my friend, Mr. Aney, on the floor of the House. I thought those persons were speaking for the constituency that they had created themselves and they were talking in order to please that particular constituency on the dangerous principle of securing their votes for future elections. At least this was the impression I got from reading their evidence. We cannot forget that the Ceylonese here in India enjoy better privileges than the Indians enjoy in Ceylon. I would like to ask the Secretary of the Education, Health and Lands Department to tell us here how many Ceylonese are now employed in the Indian Civil Service, in the provincial services and in the various departments of the Government of India. If the figures are collected, we will find that the Ceylonese salaries budget in India is much bigger than the Indian salaries budget in Ceylon.

The second point in which we have been exceedingly generous is about the Ottawa Agreement. We know very well that the preferences ought

[Dr. Sir Ziauddin Ahmad.]

to have ceased even last year; but we are very generous and we are allowing them these preferences in spite of the fact that these preferences ought not to have been there. I was rather surprised that this particular weapon was not used by our representatives on the occasion of the conversations with these people, because I see no mention of it. But probably they thought that they should talk gracefully. We find from the cutting that I am just going to read that the case is the other way round. I thought that probably by rational argument they will make them realise that in the interests of good relations between India and Ceylon it was desirable that they should accept the reasonable suggestions made by our representatives; but in spite of the strong arguments of our representatives they did not agree to these things. They should not forget that they are enjoying peace at present because they form part of the British Empire: they should not forget they are enjoying peace because our bayonets are there to protect them. They should not forget that they are enjoying all these things because they are fully aware that we will always be there to help them. These are days in which we have to face a common enemy, and it is certainly wrong on their part to create a kind of civil war at a time when both of us are engaged in fighting a common enemy. I think the policy advocated by some of their leaders at present is a very dangerous policy and it ought to be stopped in the interests of the British Empire. Everybody knows that we do not want any hero from Oudh to go there—as was hinted by my friend, Mr. Azhar Ali—and that has got two meanings—but if the Government will only shut their eyes, then the volunteers from Tinnevely and Malabar are quite sufficient to add one more district to the presidency to which they belong. No fight will be needed. A little connivance from the Government of India will enable the volunteers of these two districts to add Ceylon as one additional district to the presidency. This is a thing which the representatives of the agitators ought to realise. I hope that the assurance of the Governor of Ceylon will have some effect—I have got a cutting before me from the *Hindustan Times* of today that is rather important and throws a good deal of light. It says:

"The political correspondent of the Times of Ceylon gathers from inquiries that the Board of Ministers will be introducing an Immigration Bill on March 4, allowing future immigrants only on passports and conditional permits of residence, and that, if after its passage in the Council it is disallowed by the Governor, they will resign."

Here is a threat given by the Ministers there: and with regard to this, I can say only one word.

Mandaki ko bhi Jukam hoga.

We can administer threats also but I thought it is the other way round that those people should administer threats to us. Another paper, the *Observer*, says:

"The Ministers have decided to introduce two Bills, one to deal effectively with any future immigration into Ceylon and the other dealing with the non-Ceylonese already in the Island."

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

"The paper says that the former is likely to impose a complete embargo on the entry of immigrants, with a reservation giving the Government authority to issue permits of immigration. The paper understands that the vital provision of the second Bill will be to issue certificates of residence, holders of which will be entitled to

continue residence in the Island. The paper also foreshadows a third piece of legislation introducing the system of licensing of traders so as to give the Government an opportunity to control trading activities in the island by non-Ceylonese."

In the end, Sir, I should like to emphasise the fact that this is not an opportune moment for the Ceylon Leaders to take upon themselves the responsibility of creating a civil war with the Indian people. We want to encourage them, we want that they should become, though small, a powerful nation in its own way, but at the same time we do not want that they should challenge our integrity and the *bona fide* rights which we have been enjoying from time immemorial. I hope that the Government which is responsible for maintaining peace in both the countries will step in, and if the worst comes to the worst, then I would repeat once more, if we allow the volunteers of those two districts that I have mentioned to settle the matter.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair will now put the motion, as sought to be amended, first, the amendment proposed being:

"That after the word 'consideration' the following be added:

'And this Assembly regrets the failure of the Indo-Ceylon conversations as revealed in the verbatim report and supports the attitude adopted by the representatives of the Government of India which faithfully represents the point of view of Indian public opinion; and while recognising the desire of the Ceylon State Council to maintain its independence of action, appreciates the message sent by the Governor of Ceylon to that body with respect to the undertakings given by His Majesty's Government and by the Government of Ceylon to the Government of India and expresses the hope that it will serve to emphasize the importance, particularly, under present circumstances, of nothing being done by the Government and people of Ceylon which will endanger the good relations which should exist between the two countries whose interests are so intimately bound together'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 17th February, 1941.