

28th March 1941

THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

Volume II, 1941

THIRTEENTH SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1941



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Legislative Assembly

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 28th March, 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.

EXECUTION OF SERVICE AGREEMENTS BY CERTAIN WORKS MISTRIES ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

516. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether Works Mistries appointed on the North Western Railway prior to 1st March, 1938, have signed service agreements?

(b) Is it a fact that only members of subordinate service sign such agreements?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the negative, which other classes of labour service on the North Western Railway have executed agreements on one rupee form with the administration? If none, how is it that only Works Mistries from the labour service on the North Western Railway were asked to execute service agreements?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Daily rated Workshop and Shed staff who have put in three years' service. The latter part does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know why the work mistries are being treated differently? Are they not subordinates?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I do not think they are subordinates.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Are they inferior servants?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: That ought to be within the knowledge of the Honourable Member. He has asked me a number of questions on this subject.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: As agreements are not being taken from the subordinates, may I know why agreements should be taken from these men?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I think agreements are being taken from subordinates.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: My information is that they are not being taken. Will the Honourable Member kindly inquire in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: My recollection is that I have answered a number of previous questions on this subject to the Honourable Member. The mere execution of a service agreement does not involve an adequate reason for classifying a man in a particular group of service. It is based on different considerations.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Why should there be any agreement at all?

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

STEPS FOR AN INDO-AFGHAN TRADE PACT.

517. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Foreign Secretary please state if the necessity for an Indo-Afghan Trade Pact was brought to the notice of Government by the Frontier Chamber of Commerce, Peshawar, several times? If so, what steps have Government taken so far to bring about a trade pact between the two countries?

(b) Were there any explanatory trade talks by Government with His Excellency Sardar Abdul Majid Khan, the Afghan Trade Minister, in 1939 at New Delhi? If so, what was the result of these talks?

Mr. O. K. Caroe: (a) and (b). As was stated in answer to question No. 18 asked by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar on the 3rd February, 1939, discussions were held with an Afghan Trade Delegation led by Sardar Abdul Majid, Afghan Minister of Economics. These were of an explanatory nature, but detailed examination has been made since of the possibility of concluding a trade pact between India and Afghanistan. All such negotiations are however complicated by the fact that Afghan trade is in the main controlled by a monopoly system of State Trading Companies, whereas in India trade is not subjected to State control. The Government however maintain a trade agent in Kabul to advise Indian traders of promising opportunities for expansion of Indian exports. It is relevant that the figures of Indian piece-goods exported have arisen from some Rupees 24 lakhs in 1937-38 to Rs. 28 lakhs in 1939-40, while for tea the rise for the same periods has been from Rupees 3½ lakhs to Rs. 8 lakhs. With regard to imports Government bear constantly in mind the interests of Indian traders, particularly in the matter of provision of rupee exchange.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I ask whether at any stage of the negotiations and before the conclusion of the pact, Government intend to associate non-officials—traders or otherwise?

Mr. O. K. Caroe: No, Sir, not in the international negotiations. It will not be possible to associate them actually with negotiations with a foreign Government.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: What is the objection if Government associate non-officials in this particular case before concluding the pact?

Mr. O. K. Caroe: Because the negotiations are very delicate.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: What is the stage at which these negotiations stand at the present moment?

Mr. O. K. Caroe: It would not be advisable in the public interest to disclose it.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I ask if Government intend before the ratification of the pact to put that agreement before the Assembly?

Mr. O. K. Caroe: It is not intended to ratify any pact or to enter into any pact. It is intended to explore possibilities of improving trade between India and Afghanistan on specified lines and not to enter into a formal pact.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know what are those specified lines?

Mr. O. K. Caroe: The various lines of trade in which India is interested in Afghanistan, for example, dried fruits and so on.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I want the specification of those lines?

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

MUSLIM OFFICERS EMPLOYED BY THE CALCUTTA, MADRAS, BOMBAY AND KARACHI PORT TRUSTS.

518. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (on behalf of Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait): Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state:

- (a) seeing that the figures supplied in answer to my starred question No. 99, asked on the 16th November, 1940, show that there are only three Mussalmans out of 252 officers in the Calcutta Port Trust and that during the last sixteen years only two Muslims were recruited out of a total of 88 officers recruited, whether he is prepared to issue instructions for the reservation of a number of next vacancies for Mussalmans only to make up the great disparity that these figures disclose;
- (b) the number of officers employed by the Madras, Bombay and Karachi Port Trusts, separately, and the number of Muslims among them also separately for each Port Trust;
- (c) how many recruitments were made in the officers' grade in each of the above three Port Trusts since 1925 and how many of them were Muslims; and
- (d) whether Muslim representation in these services is adequate; if not, what steps the Honourable Member contemplates to place Muslim representation on a satisfactory basis?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) and (d). As I explained to the Honourable Member in reply to part (c) of his question No. 99 asked on

the 16th November, 1940, the power to fill appointments under the Port Trusts, vests by law in the Commissioners, their Chairman or Deputy Chairman, except in the case of a small number of high posts. On a previous occasion the policy followed by the Government of India in regard to direct recruitment was brought to the notice of Port Trusts with a suggestion that they should adopt a similar policy as far as possible in regard to their services. I am prepared to ask them to re-examine the matter again, but have no authority to issue instructions in the matter.

(b) The number of officers holding posts on a maximum salary of Rs. 500 and above on 31st March, 1940, was 16 at Madras, 106 at Bombay and 31 at Karachi. There were no Muslims at Madras, two at Bombay and two at Karachi.

(c) Such information as is readily available is being collected and a statement will be laid on the table in due course.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Have the Central Government the power to compel the Port Trusts to accept a communal ratio in service?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: No, Sir. As I have already said, I have not got the power to issue instructions in that matter.

PARCEL CLERKS AT THE DELHI RAILWAY STATION.

519. ***Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state the total number of parcel clerks at the Delhi Junction Railway Station and the number of Muslims among them?

(b) How many of these are day duty jobs and how many of such jobs are occupied by Muslims?

(c) How many parcel clerks were transferred from February 1940, to June 1940, and how many of them were Muslims?

(d) Will he please state the reason for the transfer of so many Muslim clerks, when non-Muslim clerks with much longer service were retained in Delhi?

(e) Is he aware that there is a great amount of discontent among the Muslim parcel clerks on account of discriminatory treatment meted out to them as against non-Muslims in the matter of transfers, night duty, promotions, etc.?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) 91, of whom 21 are Muslims.

(b) 23, of which four posts are held by Muslims.

(c) Seven, of whom four were Muslims.

(d) Transfers are ordered in the interests of service, and the length of service at a particular place is not the criterion.

(e) No.

COLLECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF WATER RATES ON POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH OFFICIALS OCCUPYING GOVERNMENT QUARTERS IN SIMLA.

520. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state what the assessed value of the Posts and Telegraphs estate in Simla is and on what actual figure is the free allowance of water made?

(b) What is the composition of the said estate and what classes of officials are housed thereon?

(c) Is it a fact that the Posts and Telegraphs authorities act as agents for the Simla Municipality in the matter of assessing and collecting their water rates? If so, on whose authority?

(d) Is it true that the said estate is assessed collectively, whereas, if separately assessed in independent unit blocks, the tenants would be eligible to a far larger allowance of free water? If so, why is this privilege denied to the staff?

(e) Are Government prepared to review all bills and respective collections made hitherto on account of water and also excess water, separately, and refund any and all wrong debits made? If not, why not?

(f) Has any one of the various Inspecting Officers of the Posts and Telegraphs Department examined this question in the last decade with a view to improving the lot of the staff with regard to water and excess water rates and if so, when and with what result and if not, why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) to (d). These parts reproduce parts (c) to (f) of Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali's unstarred question No. 66 on the 16th November, 1940, and I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies then given.

(e) No, as recoveries were made according to the orders in force at the time.

(f) No, as no representations on the subject were received from the staff.

**DELAY IN PENSIONARY SETTLEMENTS OF CERTAIN RETIRED POSTS AND TELE-
GRAPHS DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS IN THE PUNJAB AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER
POSTAL CIRCLE.**

521. *Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Will the Honourable the Communications Member please state the number of officials of the Posts and Telegraphs Department located in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle who have retired from the service during the six months ending the 31st December, 1940?

(b) What is the time generally necessary in dealing with each such case finally from the date of retirement?

(c) Under the rules, are grants of anticipatory pensions made in each case tentatively, whilst the cases are being disposed of finally? If so, when and at which point does the payment of anticipatory pension commence?

(d) How many cases are there within this Circle where, regular wages having once ceased, neither anticipatory nor final pensionary dispensations or dues have been granted for three, four, five and six months continuously and, if so, why?

(e) Are Postmasters General of Circles required to hasten and conclude pensionary settlements with the least possible delay? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) 119.

(b) This depends on the circumstances of each case.

(c) The payment of anticipatory pension is sanctioned in cases in which the grant of final pension is likely to be unduly delayed.

(d) Of the 119 cases mentioned in reply to part (a), the number of cases in which no pension or anticipatory pension was paid for 3, 4 and 5 months were 15, 2 and 1 respectively. There has been no case of this kind pending for 6 months.

Of the 15 cases pending for 3 months, the delay in 6 was due to the officials concerned having proceeded on invalid pension, which made it impracticable to verify their services in good time before their retirement. The delays in other cases were due either to difficulties in verifying the services of the officials for want of records, etc., or to the necessity for recovering amounts overpaid, or to other causes of a similar nature.

Of the two cases pending for 4 months, one was delayed owing to the retention of an official beyond the prescribed age limit and in the other the pension papers could not be prepared because at first the whereabouts of the official was unknown and when his address was available he refused to sign the pension papers.

The case pending for 5 months was delayed because the official had been held financially responsible in an embezzlement case. He appealed to the Postmaster General against the decision of recovery from him of a portion of the loss, his appeal was accepted and orders were passed for payment of his full pension.

(e) All officers are expected to deal with such cases as expeditiously as practicable.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With reference to part (e), of course the officers are warned to go on with these cases soon. But when are these pending cases to be decided? Will they take a long time? That is the question in part (e).

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I took part (e) as being quite general in its terms. Progress is always being continued.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: About these cases that are pending, are they disposed of soon?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: They are being disposed of as time goes on.

NON-TRANSFER OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE, "L" DIVISION, LAHORE.

522. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is the Honourable the Communications Member aware that the present Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, "L" Division, in the Punjab Circle has been holding the charge of that Division for the last nine years continuously?

(b) Is he aware that orders for his transfer were issued more than four years ago, but later on cancelled?

(c) Is it a fact that under the Departmental rules an officer cannot be posted to the same station continuously for more than eight years and cannot hold charge of a division for more than four years?

(d) Is he aware that the said Superintendent was transferred out of Lahore in November, 1936, but he remained in Lahore?

(e) Is he also aware that orders of his transfer out of Lahore were again issued in August 1940, but were cancelled in January 1941?

(f) Is it a fact that the approval of the Local Government is necessary to the return of an officer on a tenure post for a period in excess of four years? If so, was the same obtained in the above case?

(g) Will he please state the reasons for retaining this officer in Lahore beyond the prescribed period, and is this policy followed uniformly? If so, will he please state such cases?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) It is not a fact that the present Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, "L" Division has been holding charge of that Division for the last nine years continuously.

(b) Orders for the transfer of this officer who was then holding the post of Assistant Postmaster General were issued in December, 1936, but were later modified and not cancelled.

(c) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative and to the second part in the affirmative.

(d) Orders were issued on the 10th December, 1936, transferring the officer out of Lahore but these were modified by the orders issued on the 14th December, 1936, under which he was posted to the "L" Division with headquarters at Lahore.

(e) Orders for the transfer of this officer out of Lahore were issued in September, 1940, and not in August, 1940. They have not been cancelled.

(f) The reply to the first part is in the negative; the latter part does not arise.

(g) The officer has not been retained in Lahore beyond the prescribed period. The rest of the question does not arise.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: What is the usual period for which a person is stationed at a place?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: There is no fixed period. There are certain periods laid down for charge of Divisions. It is four years maximum for charge of a particular Division.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: For this particular post, what is the period?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Four years.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Has he not been retained for more than four years?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No.

PAUCITY OF INDIANS IN THE SUPERIOR ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE RAILWAY PRESSES.

523. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the number of Indians, Europeans and Anglo-Indians in the Superior establishment of each of the Railway Presses?

(b) How many permanent, officiating and temporary appointments have been made in each of the North Western, East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Railway Presses since 1st January, 1939, and how was each vacancy filled up and by whom?

(c) What are the qualifications, etc., of each man so appointed?

(d) What is the procedure for filling up these vacancies in each of these Presses and are they advertised? If so, in which papers?

(e) Will he please state whether he is satisfied that no Indian qualified for each of these appointments was available in the Press or outside?

(f) What efforts were made each time to secure suitable Indians for these appointments?

(g) Is he aware that there are quite a large number of Indians with British qualifications and otherwise fully trained for the superior jobs, but they are not considered at all?

(h) What action does he propose to take to see that Indians are given their due share in these appointments?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) Of the five gazetted appointments in the presses, three are held by European and two by Indians.

(b), (c) and (d). Information is being collected and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(e) No; but I would observe that where appointments are made from within the service, no preference is shown for members of any race or community.

(f) Information is being collected as regards appointments from outside railway service and a reply will be laid on the table in due course.

(g) No.

(h) I have no steps in contemplation at present, as it is not clear that any are required.

PROMOTION TO GRADE II OF CLERKS IN THE DIVISIONAL OR DISTRICT OFFICES ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

524. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (on behalf of Maulana Zafar Ali Khan): (a) Will the Railway Member kindly state if it is a fact that the initial scale of pay that governed for over 15 years the clerks employed in the Divisional or District Offices on the North Western Railway and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway stopped at Rs. 60?

(b) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state (i) the reasons on account of which the system of automatic promotion to grade II after completion of ten years' permanent service in these offices was sanctioned last year on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and (ii) why this principle cannot be adopted on the North Western Railway?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) Yes.

(b) (i). I understand the action of the General Manager, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, was based on the desire to remove the anomaly created by an employee on the new scales of pay drawing more than Rs. 60 sooner than an employee under the old scales of pay.

(ii) The cases are not analogous.

DUTIES OF CLERKS OF GRADES I AND II IN DIVISIONAL OFFICES ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

525. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (on behalf of Maulana Zafar Ali Khan): Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the duties performed by grade I clerks working in the Divisional Offices on the North Western Railway include:
 - (i) noting and precis writing;
 - (ii) checking and upkeep of accounts; and
 - (iii) compilation of statistics;
- (b) whether their duties involve possession of a thorough knowledge of the various State Railway Course; and
- (c) whether these clerks have been representing for a number of years that there is actually no line of demarcation in the duties performed by the clerks in grades I and II?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) The duties vary with the particular appointments, but I understand they do not involve an elaborate knowledge of accounts and statistics.

(b) Staff are expected to be conversant with the rules connected with their work.

(c) I understand that the clerks did make the representation referred to.

MUSLIMS APPOINTED TO CERTAIN POSTS IN THE DELHI TELEGRAPH ENGINEERING DIVISION.

526. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (on behalf of Maulana Zafar Ali Khan): (a) Will the Honourable Member for Communications be pleased to state whether, since the formation of the Delhi Telegraph Engineering Division, any Muslim Accountant was ever posted in this Division? If not, why not?

(b) Was any Muslim Head Clerk posted in the Delhi Telegraph Engineering Division during the last fourteen years? If not, why not?

(c) Was any Muslim clerk ever posted in the Establishment Branch in the Delhi Telegraph Engineering Division during the last fourteen years? If so, for how long, and if not, why not?

(d) Will he please state the number of vacancies, permanent as well as officiating or temporary, that occurred in the posts of Telephone Operators and mistries during the last two years, and how they were filled, community-wise and the educational qualifications and their ages at the time of appointment to those vacancies?

(e) Is it a fact that according to the rules in force, two or more near relatives cannot be posted in the same office? Are these rules being observed in the Delhi Telegraph Engineering Divisional Office?

(f) Is the Honourable Member aware that in 1940 the services of four Muslim Telephone Operators who were all matriculates were dispensed

with, while non-matriculantes were allowed to continue as Operators? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) This question should have been addressed to my colleague, the Honourable the Finance Member.

(b) The last Muslim Head Clerk retired in 1928 since when no Muslim has been posted as Head Clerk. The reason is that postings of Head Clerks are not made on communal considerations.

(c) Yes, three; one for two years, one for one year and one for four months. The last part of the question does not arise.

(d) Five appointments of telephone operators and five appointments of telephone mistries were made in the years 1939 and 1940. In each case two were Hindus, two Muslims and one a Sikh. All were matriculates except two Hindus. A statement of their ages is laid on the table. As regards temporary vacancies the information is not readily available.

(e) The rule referred to by the Honourable Member states that it is desirable that members of the same family should not be transferred to the same office. I understand that this rule is being observed in the Delhi Engineering Division.

(f) Particulars are being secured from the Delhi Engineering Division and a further reply will be laid on the table in due course.

Statement.

<i>Ages of Telephone Operators.</i>	<i>Ages of Telephone Mistries.</i>
Hindus, 25 and 21	Hindus, 23 and 21
Muslims, 21 and 20	Muslims, 25 and 23
Sikhs, 23	Sikhs, 21

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: With reference to part (e), may I enquire if the Honourable Member is aware that in the Construction Branch the head clerk has his own brother in the same branch and also a son-in-law of another brother, all in the same branch. I am prepared to give names if the Honourable Member is prepared to enquire.

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I have no information in the matter.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: I can give the names here and now on the floor of the House.

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: If the Honourable Member will give them to the Director General, it will suffice.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

DEDUCTIONS FROM WAGES OF GANG STAFF ON JACOBABAD-KASHMIRE SECTION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

216. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With reference to the Honourable the Railway Member's reply to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 181,

asked on the 20th November, 1940, regarding deductions from the wages of gang staff on Jacobabad-Kashmore section of the North Western Railway, will he be pleased to lay on the table of the House the information promised by him?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: The matter is still under examination.

PRIVILEGE PASSES TO ADOPTED CHILDREN ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

217. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) With reference to the Honourable the Railway Member's reply to parts (c) and (d) of my starred question No. 54, asked on the 12th November 1940, regarding privilege passes to adopted children on the North Western Railway, will he be pleased to state the result of his re-examination of the question?

(b) With reference to the Honourable Member's assurance in reply to part (e) of the question referred to above, that equal treatment in the matter of passes will be accorded to children of the employees of all communities what steps have been taken to modify rules so as to allow pass privilege to adopted children after the birth of legitimate children, as is done in the case of step children?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) and (b). The question is under examination.

EXCESSIVE FEE CHARGED BY DOCTORS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

218. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With reference to his reply to parts (a), (c) and (d) of my unstarred question No. 2 asked on the 5th November, 1940, regarding excessive fees charges by railway doctors on the North Western Railway, will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the result of his examination?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: The matter is still under consideration.

SECOND CLASS DUTY PASSES TO INSPECTORS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

219. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) With reference to the Honourable the Railway Member's reply to part (b) of my unstarred question No. 41, asked on the 12th November, 1940, regarding second class duty passes to Inspectors on the State-managed Railways, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether any decision has been taken on the recommendations? If so, what is the nature of this decision?

(b) What is the nature of the recommendations?

(c) If no decision has yet been taken, when is it likely to be taken?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a), (b) and (c). The matter is still under examination and a decision may be reached next month.

COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN SUBORDINATE RAILWAY SERVICES.

220. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the decision of the Railway Board on

Recommendations Nos. 5 and 14 of Mr. Hasan's report on the representation of Muslims and other minority communities in the Subordinate Railway Service?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway Board rejected any arrangement which may savour of communal discrimination in respect of existing employees?

(c) Is it a fact that the General Manager, North Western Railway wrote a letter, No. 831-E./281-XVI, dated 8th March, 1940, to all Divisional Superintendents to the effect that in making selections for training, other things being equal, preference should be given to members of minority communities?

(d) Do Government propose to cancel these orders? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to part (a) of Mr. H. M. Abdullah's starred question No. 234 asked on the 19th September, 1939.

(c), Yes.

(d) The question is under consideration.

COMMUNAL RESERVATION IN INFERIOR AND LABOUR SERVICES ON RAILWAYS.

221. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the Government of India, Home Department Resolution, dated the 4th July, 1934, regarding reservation of appointments for minority communities on the Railways, it was clearly stated that the Resolution did not apply to the inferior and labour service employees? If so, why is there reservation of appointments in the inferior and labour services on Railways on communal consideration?

(b) Do Government propose to act strictly according to the Resolution mentioned above? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: (a) Yes, but paragraph 2 of the Supplementary Instructions connected with this Resolution made it clear that this exclusion was subject to any special orders that may be issued in respect of any particular class of inferior servants. The reservation referred to in the second part of the question is in accordance with special orders issued.

(b) The action of Government is not at variance with the instructions on the Resolution referred to. The second part does not arise.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST BANDIPORE POST OFFICE FOR WRONG DELIVERY OF LETTERS.

222. Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: (a) Will the Honourable the Communications Member please state whether the Postal authorities received complaints of the public of village Bandipore in 24-Pargana District in Bengal against the Bandipore post office concerning repeated wrong delivery to Bandipore Sishu Vidyalaya School of postal letters for Bandipore U. P. School in the same village? If so, what action has been taken against the said post office?

(b) Is it a fact that, in spite of these complaints, letters are still being wrongly delivered?

(c) Is it a fact that this has caused discontent amongst the Muslim and Scheduled class communities, to whom the Bandipore U. P. School belongs?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) One complaint was received from the Secretary, Bandipur U. P. School and another complaint was received from the Secretary of the Bandipur Sishu Vidyalaya, which claimed to be the only Upper Primary School at Bandipur. Inquiries showed that there were two institutions in the village and the Superintendent of Post Offices was asked to issue instructions for the delivery of all postal articles and money orders addressed to the Bandipur U. P. School to the school bearing that name.

(b) There have been no complaints of misdelivery since this decision was taken.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan (Leader of the House): Sir, it is possible that official business that still remains to be transacted during the Session may not be concluded tomorrow. I have, therefore, to request you to appoint sittings of the House for Monday and Tuesday next for the transaction of official business. If the business is concluded earlier, then I shall request you to cancel any remaining sittings.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Very well. It will perhaps suit the convenience of the House if the Chair directs accordingly, that is to say, there will be sittings on Monday and Tuesday if the official business is not finished tomorrow. But if it is finished, there will be no further sittings on Monday and Tuesday.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that Mr. H. M. Abdullah has been elected to the Committee on Public Accounts.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Monday, the 24th March, 1941, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Commerce, four nominations were received. Subsequently one member withdrew his candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare **Haji Chaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan**, **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya** and **Mr. J. D. Boyle** to be duly elected.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1940-41—*contd.*

DEMAND NO. 3.—TAXES ON INCOME INCLUDING CORPORATION TAX—*contd.*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume discussion of the following motion moved by the Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, Honourable Members have taken this opportunity to make certain observations on the selection of Members of the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal, and I am glad to have the chance of dispelling certain misunderstandings which appear to have arisen, and of dealing with a certain amount of criticism which has appeared and which to the best of my knowledge is entirely groundless. Let me remind the House of the statutory conditions which had to be fulfilled in relation to the appointment of Members of this Tribunal. Section 5-A of the Income-tax Amendment Act of 1939 provides for the appointment of:

"an Appellate Tribunal consisting of not more than ten persons to exercise the functions conferred on the Appellate Tribunal by this Act."

It further provides:

"The Appellate Tribunal shall consist of an equal number of judicial Members and accountant Members as hereinafter defined."

Sub-section (3) says:

"A judicial Member shall be a person who has exercised the powers of a District Judge or who possesses such qualifications as are normally required for appointment to the post of District Judge; and an Accountant Member shall be a person who has, for a period of not less than six years, practised professionally as a Registered Accountant enrolled on the Register of Accountants maintained by the Central Government under the Auditors Certificate Rules, 1932."

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): These are the minimum qualifications.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes.

"Provided that the Central Government may appoint as an Accountant member of the tribunal any person not possessing the qualifications required by this sub-section if it is satisfied that he has qualifications and has had adequate experience of a character which render him suitable for appointment."

We need not concern ourselves with that proviso because the appointments which have been made are within the scope of the main sub-section. These I think are the main provisions to which I need draw the attention of the House. I might mention sub-section (4) which says that the Central Government shall appoint a judicial member of the tribunal to be the President thereof. Although the Act permits the appointment of ten members we have made a start with only six. The idea is to have three tribunals functioning in different places, each tribunal consisting of one judicial and one accountant member. Now, I should like to indicate to the House the procedure which was actually followed by the Central Government in selecting the three judicial and three accountant members who at present form the personnel of the Tribunal. After careful consideration we came to the conclusion that the best method of

obtaining the judicial members would be to consult the High Courts. And we wrote to the High Courts and we very carefully brought to their notice the exact desiderata for these appointments. I will quote from the letter which we sent:

"The tribunal will be the final court of appeal on questions of fact; on questions of law there will still be a further appeal to the High Court. The intention of the Legislature was that the Tribunal should be a responsible and impartial body capable of giving sound and unbiassed decision on the cases which come before them. Both in order to secure the confidence of the tax-paying public in the tribunal and to protect the public revenues the Central Government are particularly anxious to see that the personnel are the best that can be obtained having regard to the circumstances, and in securing this object they would appreciate very much the advice and assistance of the Honourable Judges."

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Was this sent to all the High Courts in India?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: When was it sent?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: In the course of last summer. This was addressed to the Bombay High Court, the Oudh Chief Court, the Calcutta and Patna High Courts, the Madras High Court, the Judicial Commissioner's Court, Peshawar, the Nagpur High Court, the Lahore High Court and the Allahabad High Court.

The High Courts sent up their various recommendations and the Government of India went carefully through the list and the candidates submitted for their consideration. My Honourable colleague, the Law Member, naturally assisted me in dealing with this matter. I can assure the House that the only consideration which affected Government was the question of securing suitable personnel for this highly important Tribunal. I know that certain criticisms have appeared in the Press. I can only say, having considered those criticisms, that they are due to a lack of knowledge of the individuals concerned and in some cases to complete misunderstanding of the status and qualifications of the individuals concerned. It is a delicate matter to deal with the merits of individual appointments, but I may say that this matter has been given my careful attention in close consultation with my Honourable colleague, the Law Member, who is naturally the Government of India's specially qualified adviser in matters relating to judicial or quasi-judicial appointments. The gentleman who was appointed as President was very warmly recommended by the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court and his qualifications and record certainly supported that recommendation.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: May I know what his qualifications and record are?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not know that the House wants me to go into detail. The gentleman in question was admitted to the Bar in 1920 and in 1922 was enrolled as an Advocate. He was later appointed as a lecturer in the Law College. In 1926 he was enrolled as an Advocate of the Lahore High Court. In 1936 he published an excellent treatise on the Law of Evidence. He was appointed Assistant to the Advocate-General in 1937, a post in which he came to the special notice of the Lahore High Court and in which he distinguished himself. The Lahore High Court spoke of him in very high terms.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: What experience does he possess of income-tax law?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Apart from dealing with income-tax cases, I must take this opportunity to emphasise that income-tax law is merely one section of the law. It is not a very wide field of law and if I were to be restricted to such lawyers who happen to have been practising more or less exclusively in this field, I have no hesitation in saying that it would not be possible to constitute a Tribunal of this kind satisfactorily. It is not a fact that there are a sufficiently large number of persons of the requisite calibre whose practice is devoted more or less exclusively to income-tax cases. I must dispose of that suggestion. That would lead me to the ridiculous position that I must pick up whatever I can find in a comparatively narrow field. But the gentleman in question has dealt with income-tax cases and important income-tax cases. In relation to other members of the Tribunal, one of them was a leading Advocate of the Chief Court of Oudh. He, as a matter of fact, had a considerable practice in income-tax cases. He had been legal adviser to the Commissioner of Income-tax of the Central and United Provinces, and had to some extent specialised in income-tax cases. He also was strongly recommended by the Chief Court of Oudh. Similar considerations apply to the third member who was spoken of by the High Court in terms which certainly indicated his suitability for this kind of appointment. In face of a procedure like this when we have consulted all the High Courts in India and have obtained their suggestions and in addition have obtained the personal views of Chief Justices and so on, I cannot understand on what basis irresponsible critics can come forward and suggest that we have acted in an arbitrary and unwarranted manner and have appointed persons who are not suitable for a high office of this kind.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): How are these critics irresponsible?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I say that compared with the procedure which we followed the superficial and light-hearted criticisms which have been thrown out by people are irresponsible because we went through what I consider the only reasonable method of obtaining persons of the requisite status and qualifications.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: May I ask another question? Did the Calcutta and Bombay High Courts make any recommendation?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Yes; certainly they did. We considered the recommendations of all the High Courts . . .

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: And those candidates were not suitable?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The recommendations made by the various High Courts had to be taken in conjunction with the remarks which they made: a High Court in making recommendations would say, for instance, "The only persons that we are able to recommend are so and so and these are our remarks on them". It is not merely the fact that names were submitted. You have to take into account the nature of their experience and qualifications, and if I may say so, the warmth of

the recommendation and the degree of value which the High Court itself attaches to its own advocacy of particular names.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to Bombay and Sind there will be a joint tribunal: may I know if the Chief Court of Sind was consulted in this appointment?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I mentioned the High Courts who were consulted. Certainly the Bombay High Court was consulted. I understand that the Chief Court of Sind did not make any recommendation: they were consulted, but they had apparently nobody to recommend.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Is it not a fact that the Calcutta High Court suggested the name of a person who has now been appointed as a High Court Judge?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I may say that other High Courts also sent in names which included the name of individuals who have since become High Court Judges or Chief Court Judges. You have also to remember that a person in that position has to accept the post; and, moreover, it is not possible for the Government of India to appoint people who wish to be free within a month or six weeks or two months to go away to another post. This post could only be offered to an individual who, at any rate, for a reasonable period, would be free and would be prepared to continue to hold this post.

As regards the accountants, the procedure which we followed was to put the matter to the Public Service Commission: the accountant members were selected through the agency of the Federal Public Service Commission who interviewed a considerable number of candidates and, finally, made their recommendations; and the appointments were made in accordance with the recommendations of the Public Service Commission. I know of no more suitable method that could have been followed in regard to those appointments.

I think I have dealt with all the points which were raised. I do not know if there is any other information which Honourable Members wanted in relation to them.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: I should like to have some information about the Tribunal. The Honourable the Finance Member said that this Tribunal will work in three parts or places. What will be the exact nature of the work done by the three parts or sections?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: At present the intention is to distribute the work on a territorial basis: that is to say, for the facility of assesses one Tribunal is to be placed in Calcutta, one in Bombay and one in Delhi. Of course they will also, to some extent, be peripatetic, but those are their centres, and it is intended as far as possible that a judicial and accountant member shall form the Tribunal in the first instance.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: The work will be divided into three zones and the President of the Tribunal will supervise the work of the different parts?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The President of the Tribunal has certain functions: he has to devise a procedure for the working of all Tribunals, and I cannot say off-hand what other functions he will perform in relation to the work of the other Tribunals. Obviously, questions of a certain nature might be referred to him.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Where will he be?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: He will be in Delhi.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 4—SALT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 93,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of 'Salt'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 93,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of 'Salt'."

There is an amendment in the name of Mr. Chattopadhyaya and Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra—to discuss policy, *i.e.*, to urge manufacture of salt in Bengal. How does that come in now? Does the Honourable Member want to speak on the motion? He cannot move the amendment.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): I wish to speak on the motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He cannot discuss the question of manufacture of salt in Bengal on this motion.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: The Finance Member has asked for an additional sum of Rs. 93,000 on the ground of salt that the salt tax belongs to the Centre although I am speaking on provincial salt. We have received complaints from Bengal about the indifference of the Central Government with regard to the manufacture of salt in Bengal—an indigenous industry

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss that.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: I do not have much more to say but I do not know why I should not be allowed to discuss it on this ground.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair has given the reason. It is not within the scope of the motion. The Honourable Member cannot discuss a question of policy like that on a Supplementary Demand.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: It is a question of necessity, not of policy.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There were occasions when the Honourable Member could have discussed that: that occasion has passed.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: We all know that the Indian National Congress had launched a movement with regard to the manufacture of salt, and as a result of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact that prohibition order was removed, and Bengal had an opportunity to manufacture salt, but neither the Bengal Government. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Again the Honourable Member is referring to the same question. He knows he cannot discuss it. The Chair has given its ruling quite clearly.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: In that case I shall resume my seat. But it is a question which is very vital to Bengal, and, therefore, I should be allowed. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It may be so, but the Honourable Member cannot discuss it now.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Sir, without discussing the policy, I may mention that the Bengal Government pocketed a large sum of money out of salt revenue and did not spend it for giving protection to the salt industry.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the usual practice is that before the Supplementary Demands are placed before the House they are first placed before the Standing Finance Committee, but in the Note appended as the explanation for the demand, we do not find any reference to the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee. So I want to know what is the meaning of the note under (3)—“Readjustment necessitated by the writing off of certain engineering works”; what is this writing off, and what is the readjustment?

Then again there is another item—“entertainment of additional staff during the current financial year owing to increase in office work and also to check the smuggling of dutiable goods from the Portuguese territory”. I want to know what was the extent and volume of that smuggling, and why and to what extent it was more acute. Some information on these points must have been given to the Standing Finance Committee, had the items been placed there.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid I cannot satisfy the Honourable Member in any detail in regard to his questions, but as regards the Standing Finance Committee, I should point out that it is not the

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

invariable practice to place Supplementary Demands before the Standing Finance Committee. If Supplementary Demands arise from causes which do not involve new decisions or the creation of a new service, if they arise from merely unforeseeable causes and have nothing to do, so to speak, with policy or new services, then we do not consider it necessary to place them before the Standing Finance Committee.

I cannot tell the Honourable Member why the smuggling of dutiable goods from Portuguese territory became a more acute problem this year. I can only state the fact that it was so, and as more staff had to be employed, the Collector of Salt Revenue, who is also the Collector of Customs, found it necessary to ask for this additional assistance. Smuggling is like a war that goes on on a very large frontier and at different times the enemy raids you, the enemy attacks you at different places, and wherever you find him you must cope with him. I cannot tell the Honourable Member what was in the mind of the enemy or the smuggler which made the authorities take special steps in this section of our defences at this particular time. A large part of the excess under Bombay is due not so much to this additional staff as to the fact that there was increased production of salt at Kharaghoda, and that means that working expenses were also greater than had been anticipated. Owing to war conditions there has been an increased demand for salt at certain times, and where possible we have to adjust ourselves like any other business to that extra demand.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the item under c. 6—Salt purchase and freight? Where was this salt transported, by whom and for what purpose and who paid the freight?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid I am not familiar with the details of this. I think we have, in addition to manufacturing salt ourselves in certain centres, we also have a system whereby we give licenses to private individuals for the manufacture of salt and purchase salt from them at fixed prices. I think that applies in certain parts of the country, in Bombay and possibly Madras to some extent.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Freight?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The freight is the cost, I suppose, of taking the salt to the depot.

Mr. Husenbhai Abdullabhai Laljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Why was it necessary to write off certain engineering works?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I think this may have been connected with the attempt to produce at Khewra powdered salt for use of Bengal. That was a project which at one time at the suggestion of certain Members of this House was embarked upon. It turned out, I regret to say, to be a failure and it is possible that . . .

Mr. Husenbhai Abdullabhai Laljee: Is that written off every year because the amount spent was a large one, or is some proportion written off every year?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am afraid I cannot say whether it is being written off in instalments or whether it was a single write-off.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: The Honourable Member can see our difficulty.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The details there are, but I cannot possibly name the head.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 93,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of 'Salt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 7—STAMPS.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of 'Stamps'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of 'Stamps'."

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I find that Rs. 5,12,000 is the amount of the Demand. It is intended for press charges and contingencies. What is this contingency? And what are the matters that are meant to be covered for the expression "contingencies"?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, the additional sum of Rs. 5,12,000 asked for under contingencies is due to increase in the requirements of paper for embossed envelopes, increase in the reserve stocks of imported paper owing to war conditions, increased expenditure on the printing of Defence Savings Certificates and Defence Savings Stamps for which provision was not made in the Budget because those issues were not contemplated at that time.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Nothing about defence securities—only stamps?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Defence Savings Certificates also come under this head apparently,—Security Printing Press charges,—the Security Printing Press is a *quasi* commercial concern and its expenditure fluctuates with the demand for its productions. It is, therefore, not possible to make a close estimate of its requirements.

Pandit Wilakantha Das: May I ask if it is all due to the war?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I cannot say. The increased demand for embossed envelopes is not necessarily directly due to the war. But there it is; the demand has grown and we have to cater for it, as I said before, like any other commercial institution.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of 'Stamps'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 15—HOME DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,25,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of the 'Home Department'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,25,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of the 'Home Department'."

There are two amendments with respect to this Demand. Does the Honourable Member, Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani, want to move his amendment?

More Issues of the Urdu Version of the "Indian Information".

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Yes, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,25,000 in respect of 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

If you look at the details of this demand, as given in the Schedule, you will find, Sir, that it covers six items of expenditure. One item is due to purchase of additional photographs and newspapers and also additional postal and telegram charges for increased circulation of *Indian Information* in English, and issue of Urdu and Hindi versions. In this connection, I will simply ask that the *Indian Information* should be freely supplied to the Urdu papers also. I remember once having met the Officer in charge of the Information Bureau at Simla and I urged upon him the necessity of supplying such information to the Urdu paper *Ittehad* in Bihar. But I find that no attention has been paid to this. So far as the Urdu papers are concerned, I think there is a list of these papers in the Information Bureau, but the *Indian Information* is supplied to a very few of them.

As regards items (e) and (f) which cover the expenditure of the staff of the Supervisor of Indian Civil Service Probationers and Training of Probationers at Dehra Dun, I believe this is a new service and I hope a good

beginning has already been made. It will give us consolation if this training is given in India for all time to come. With these words, I move my amendment.

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

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,25,000 in respect of 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Bengali, Oriya and Assamese Versions of the "Indian Information".

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,25,000 in respect of 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 25,000."

The *Indian Information* should be published in all languages. That is the object of my amendment. In my amendment I am asking that the *Indian Information* should also be published in Bengali, Oriya and the Assamese languages. At present it is published in English, Urdu and Hindi. I maintain that it should be published in other languages also. Sir, I move:

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

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,25,000 in respect of 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 25,000."

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Sir, this demand seeks to cover a variety of subjects which cannot be understood from a perusal of the note that has been appended at the end of it. In the first place, I am struck by the heading "B. 3—Other charges" and the amount under the head is Rs. 1,10,800. Even under the heading 'Details of the foregoing' on page 7, we find that the same item is reproduced but no details are given. In the first place, it will appear from the foot-note that one officer was re-employed on retirement. There is one item to this effect. With regard to this, we must have information from the Honourable the Finance Member as to why was a man, who had already retired from service, re-appointed? What were his special qualifications for which this special concession was extended to him? Secondly, there was an appointment of an additional officer on special duty. We would like to know what are the special duties which are entrusted to this gentleman? What are the qualifications for this post? Was this post advertised properly? Was it a selection post or was he recruited through the Public Service Commission or through any other agency so as to ensure that the special duties which he will have to discharge may be discharged by virtue of his efficiency or special qualifications? No indication has been given about that.

Then, I come to Item (d), about which my Honourable friend, Mr. Chattopadhyaya, has already spoken. If information is to be broadcast about the Indian political situation or the International situation, it is necessary that it should be conveyed in as many Indian national languages as possible, so that it might reach all classes of people. I think to exclude Bengali from this category is a crime on the part of the Government of India.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: It is a height of folly.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I call it a crime on the part of the Government of India, because it is the eighth largest spoken language in the world. Now, it is useless to have news broadcast in languages which cannot be understood by millions of men. I have no desire to hamper the propaganda activities of the Government. I am only suggesting that if they want their propoganda to be effective, they should see to it that the languages which are widely spoken and understood are made the vehicles for the dissemination of the news and I want to draw the pointed attention of the Department to this aspect. In the cut motion which we have tabled we have mentioned Bengali, Assamese and Oriya as the three languages in which information is to be published. Bengali is understood throughout Assam and Orissa and Bihar though there are people, who presume that it is not understood in those provinces after their separation from Bengal. I submit that information should be furnished in these languages.

Again, under item (e), we find that a Supervisor has been appointed for the Indian Civil Service probationers. This is the first time we hear of the creation of a post like this. No indication of it was given to the public at any time before and we are faced with this item in a Supplementary Demand. What are the functions of this Supervisor? What is he to supervise? These are Indian Civil Servants. They have passed certain examinations. They are presumed to have had good training. Is this officer to play the role of a guardian to these young men? At least we do not understand from the demand itself what is the exact function which this gentleman is to perform in relation to the future Indian Civil Servants. What are the qualifications of this gentleman and how has this post been filled up? I detest if he is appointed on a communal basis. It should be on merit and merit only.

An Honourable Member: Do you want a Bengali?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: No. I am not anxious for it. I do not care so long as the best man is selected. The post is apparently a very important one. Is he going to play the role of the monitor to the future administrators of this country, because the I. C. S. people are the *de facto* rulers of this country. We want to be assured that the best man has been appointed on consideration of merit and efficiency only, and I would also like to know whether this gentleman is an Indian or a non-Indian.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney (Nominated Non-Official): How do you know he is a gentleman?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: One has to presume that. I think it is desirable that the Honourable the Finance Member, when he comes forward with a demand of this nature, instead of simply moving it, should make a speech and give us full details. He knows very well that on past occasions we never refused these supplementary demands but it is very difficult for Members of the Legislature with some sense of responsibility about them to vote demands, without knowing what those demands are meant for.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Are not these demands placed before the Standing Finance Committee?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: No, Sir. As the Honourable the Finance Member has said just now, this demand was not so placed. The difficulty with us, therefore, is that we are absolutely in the dark about the manner in which the money is sought to be spent. In these days when there are so many things in the air, the Honourable the Finance Member will excuse us if we are a little inquisitive. Then, Sir, what is this item of "additional photographs and newspapers". I do not know if they are purchasing newspapers. Government have got their communiques and their subsidised press agencies. I do not know if the Government have started journals of their own and control the editorial board.

An Honourable Member: Purchase of newspapers.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: This expression "purchase of newspapers" is not sufficiently explanatory. I do not know if this is meant to cover Honourable Members purchasing newspapers, to have information. Look at the amount that is sought to be taken under this head. These points must be made clear. Then photographs. Photographs of what or of whom?—of the Members of this House or of the Members of the Executive Council? If you give a sort of laconic note and say 'purchase of photographs and newspapers' it is very difficult for us to vote for it. I would request the Honourable Member to explain these points particularly in view of the criticism of the activities of "the Bureau" on account of the war. Up till now, since the outbreak of war, we have not been told by the Government what kind of expansion had taken place in this particular field. We are left to the region of conjecture and speculation. Only two weeks ago, we had a debate in this House on propaganda and publicity on a cut motion by my Honourable friend, Mr. Griffiths. Beyond that discussion, the Government never took upon themselves to explain what they had been doing in the direction of propaganda and publicity, though in this demand we find that they want this vast amount for expansion of the activities of the Bureau on account of the war. So, I expect the Honourable Member to clear up all these points before we can vote for it.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: My Honourable friend, Pandit Maitra, in the course of his speech, said that the people of Orissa understand Bangali. I do not know if the Honourable Members of this House know that Orissa is the Cinderella of the Indian Government, and, if I may say so, of many Indian politicians. One prominent Member of this House once asked me, while I was speaking on some problem concerning Orissa: "Where is Orissa? Is it near Assam?" It is a fact that formerly about half of the Province of Orissa was a part of Bengal . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member need not discuss all that.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Many Oriya leaders and educated Oriyas happen to know Bengali, and, therefore, Bengali language will do for Orissa. That is a great mistake. Orissa includes a large slice of territory which was till recently in Madras Presidency. A portion was in the Central Provinces and more than half was for the last 25 years in Bihar. So the people of the present Province of Orissa do not understand Bengali nor Hindi nor Tamil nor Telugu. Orissa has a population of a crore, perhaps it would be very much more according to the new census

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar: Non-Muhammadian): Give the figures of the old Census.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: and it is absolutely necessary for a crore of people who know neither Hindi, nor Bengali, nor Telugu, nor Tamil.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: But you say your people speak Bengali?

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Yes, when the main portion of Orissa was under Bengal some 28 years ago, some of the people knew Bengali but now for a generation it has been separated from Bengal. Yet the impression perhaps still remains amongst many of my Bengali friends that our people in general still know and speak Bengali; but that is not a fact. So it is necessary that the Information Bureau should take note of the fact that all information should be given in Oriya language also.

I understand some newspapers are subsidised. That is what "newspapers" mean here in the explanation to the demand, the Government purchase a number of newspapers—perhaps supply the information to them from their Bureau, purchase them and distribute them. Perhaps that is the arrangement and that is what is meant by the expression "newspapers" here. I do not know whether there is a grant from the Central Government to the Provincial Governments for that purpose. But I know, the Provincial Government of Orissa do the same thing; they supply the information to some newspapers, purchase them in thousands and perhaps distribute them free. I should like to bring to the notice of the Government that this kind of giving information is not at all effective, especially in war time. I should like the Government Members to learn what I have to say.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, my Honourable friend ceases speaking as soon as some of my Honourable friends begin to chat, I think my Honourable friend had better go on.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are plenty of Honourable Members here to listen to what he has to say. He had better go on.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: If the Honourable the Home Member wants really that information from the Government Bureau should be distributed, so that people may have some confidence in the information, to some extent at least they should take to other means, they should think of other papers, these subsidised papers are no good. They are not at all liked or believed by our people and to depend

upon them is a mistake and I should like to say that Government, even in their Information Bureau, should take note of the popular feeling if they at all want to popularise the news which they distribute through their Information Bureau.

An Honourable Member: Pro-Government propaganda.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Yes, that propaganda is necessary at this critical time, but it should not be made in the old bureaucratic method.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali (Lucknow and Fyzabad Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the only item to which I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable House is that mentioned on page 7—(a) in the notes:

“(a) Due to (i) the pay of an officer re-employed on retirement becoming voted, and (ii) appointment of an additional Officer on Special Duty.”

Sir, one does not understand why there should be a paucity in India of young men to be recruited rather than, in this time of stress, take on retired officials again and again. Sir, the Indian youth is impatient, not only for service and to fill his stomach and belly and satisfy his family's requirements, but also to serve the Government whenever there is any opportunity for him to do so. Sir, under the stress of unemployment, it is not only here, but we find on different occasions in this very House that supplementary grants and other demands are put before the House, only saying this much, “to provide for retired officers”. Sir, there ought to be some good reason for taking on old, retired people into service back again.

An Honourable Member: Old is gold.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Yes, but gold has to be tested, when one becomes old, he does not remain true gold. So long as the man is fit, it is all right, you can have any amount of work from him, but when the time comes for retirement, this policy of the Government of India ought to be given up now. Therefore, Sir, I submit that even the name of the officer is not mentioned, nothing is said as to why he has been re-employed or what are the causes of his reemployment, and still we are asked to vote a sum of Rs. 17,800. That shows that at least the pay of the officer may be about one thousand rupees a month or something like that. Therefore, Sir, for such sort of expenditure India should not be taxed additionally at the present moment. Then, Sir, there is another point in “(a) (ii) appointment of an additional Officer on Special Duty”. Sir, if there is some special duty in connection with the war, that may be justified, but why should there be any special duty appointments in this Home Department? Is it simply to provide for some antiquated or secret service, or what? It does not say anything, but only this,—“an additional officer”. But why should there be an additional officer? Are the officers holding appointments in the Government of India not enough? What is the reason for this special duty? Therefore, Sir, I oppose this demand.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Sir, I wish to say a word on the question of principle. The details have been discussed and I do not wish to say

[Dr. P. N. Banerjea.]

anything about them. Sir, here we find that a number of new posts has been created or is going to be created and there is a large expenditure for the expansion of activities in certain Departments. Now is it not right that these matters should be placed before the Finance Committee? If not, what is the use of having the Standing Finance Committee? Sir, I hope, in view of this fact, unless we receive a satisfactory reply from the Honourable the Finance Member, we are prepared to reject this demand.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: On this demand I find that the information given is very scanty. Referring to clause (c) of the Notes at page 7, I find that the money was required "due to expansion of the activities of the Bureau on account of the war". We have not been told what expansion has been made. I would like also to know how this Bureau is constituted, we have never been told before about that. I wish to know how it has been expanded, also how in the expansion the officers and the staff were recruited. This is the information I ask for under that head. Then coming to paragraphs (e) and (f) I think that the training institution at Dehra Dun is a new one altogether. Therefore, we require full information with regard to this institution. I take it that the I.C.S. probationers were formerly getting training in England and now they are being given instruction in Dehra Dun training institution. If it be so, then I shall be glad to see that that institution has been started in India. We have always been saying that expenses in England, overseas allowance and others, are very heavy, and I should be glad if this institution will be for all time. I should like to know from the Finance Member or the Home Member, if this institution has been created only temporarily for a year or it is going to be a permanent one. When examinations are being held in India for the I.C.S., it is in the fitness of things and also very convenient to give every probationer training in India.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: What about British recruits? Should they be trained in India?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I should like to know that too. Is this training institution exclusively for Indians or also for British recruits? I should like to know from the Honourable Member what will be the allowance given to these probationers. Will it be the same allowance that they were getting in England when they got their education there, or how much it is. As regards F. 2, Pay of Establishments, Rs. 1,000—I do not know whether the charges of the Supervisor come under it or not, and how much is for the staff and how much for the Supervisor. In F. 3—Other Charges, the item is for Rs. 9,000. We do not know what this Rs. 9,000 is for. Anyway, when new things or new institutions are created, or expenses of a new kind, we ought to be given full information and I expect the Honourable Member to make a full statement on this point.

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell (Home Member): Sir, I have been asked to explain a very large number of points, and if I were to enter fully into a discussion on every subject that has been mentioned in this debate, Honourable Members would have to book their seats for this afternoon. However, there is one general point which has been raised by Pandit Maitra, and that is, that it is difficult to understand the manner in which

these Supplementary Grants are presented. I am not responsible for the way in which the information is printed in this book, but I think I can assure Honourable Members that every service for which Supplementary Demands are made is a service which has been sanctioned in the ordinary course, under due financial scrutiny and under the usual financial procedure. This is not a way of stealing through services which have not been scrutinised in the ordinary manner. These Supplementary Demands are very largely for purely formal purposes and because the grant for some approved service has not been fully provided for. That is the reason; or it may be that some new services are included in the Supplementary Grants, but if they have been, then they have been subjected to all the scrutiny which a new service ordinarily receives.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: We are entitled to have information on that. The mere scrutiny of an Executive Councillor does not meet with the needs of law. We are entitled to know what kind of scrutiny it has been subjected to.

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: My Honourable Colleague, the Finance Member, will deal with that particular point. I will deal as far as I can with the various questions which have been raised in the debate.

Pandit Maitra asked for information about the item "Other Charges", Rs. 1,10,800 under B. 3, that is, under the Bureau of Information. This item consists of a number of smaller items, such as, travelling allowance which is due for the tours of publicity officers in connection with the general programme of publicity, hill journey allowances for some portions of the establishment taken to Simla, house rent and other allowances,—a very small item,—and the largest item is contingencies. That item of contingencies contains a very large number of different items, such as, purchase of photographs for publicity purposes and for supply to newspapers. That was one of the questions asked.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What are these photographs? Whose photographs?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: News photographs for the purpose of publicity. If the Honourable Member will look at *Indian Information*, he will find a certain number of these photographs reproduced in that publication.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Are these photographs intended to be supplied to newspapers?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: That is what they are for.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do not the journals pay for the photographs which the Honourable Member supplies to them?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: Journalists are not so generous that they pay us for publishing the photographs; it is the other way round.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know how many publicity officers there are?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: I was explaining what sort of items come under this head, contingencies. Contingencies absorb Rs. 97,900 out of the total of this demand for Other Charges. Purchase of photographs for publicity purposes is one. There is a certain amount of supply of clothing to inferior servants. Then comes cost of additional newspapers supplied to External Affairs Department for publicity work, and the cost of newspapers purchased in India for sending abroad. Then again increased rates of subscription to Indian newspapers due to war.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): What are these newspapers? Can we have a list of their names?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: I could not give off-hand a list of their names to the Honourable Member. A very large number of newspapers are examined in the Bureau. As I was saying the amount refers to purchase of newspapers, for instance, in Tamil, Gujarati and Bengali—the Honourable Member will notice—required in connection with war publicity work. Then again increase in postage and telegram charges for the issue of Urdu and Hindi versions of *Indian Information*. The Honourable Member must remember in talking about *Indian Information* that the more copies we distribute the higher are our postal and telegraph charges. They do not go for nothing. The other items are small things, purchase of a radio and so on. But I should say one of the chief items there is the purchase of Indian newspapers in this country and the other is postal and telegraph charges for the distribution of *Indian Information*. Honourable Members will see that although this item is apparently rather large, the item under "Other Charges" is made up of a number of things which are essentially incidental to the expansion of the Bureau as it has taken place in war conditions.

I was asked what the expansion of the Bureau consists of, and in fact the Honourable Member, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, expressed complete ignorance of the constitution of the Bureau and he said that the House has never been informed. Well, Sir, this Demand is not presented for the whole cost of the Bureau, and I did not anticipate that I should be asked to deal with the matter from A to Z. All the Government are asking is a Supplementary Demand and I have come prepared to give Honourable Members such information as I have about the Supplementary Demand. But if the Honourable Member is interested in the Information Bureau and if he really wants to know what it is doing, I am perfectly certain that the Principal Information Officer would be only too glad to take him round and show him exactly what is being done. That is one of the things which has been repeatedly announced by the Principal Information Officer, that he is at all times at the disposal of Honourable Members to let them know what work is being done. I personally should be glad if any Honourable Member who takes such gratifying interest in this subject would go there. I will not attempt to deal with the whole of the Information Bureau, but I can answer questions as to what the expansion has been in staff. There have been four Information Officers, five Assistant Information Officers, one Journalist in English language, six journalists in Indian languages, eight Assistant Journalists—English and Indian languages—and a certain number of clerical staff—not a very large number—including some stenographers

among them and clerks engaged in the distribution of the matter. As Honourable Members will realise the quantity of matter which is being distributed from the Information Bureau to all Indian newspapers and, of course, the production of *Indian Information* itself do involve a very large amount of distribution work which has got to be performed punctually if it is to serve the purpose of the newspapers which it is intended that this organisation should serve. I hope that will be sufficient indication of the nature of the expansion itself.

Now, I come to I.C.S. Probationers. My Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, was interested in this and I am glad to find that he was because it is an experiment which has been forced upon us by war conditions and which looks extremely promising. Formerly, as Honourable Members know all the probationers, whether European or Indian, were trained in England, out of touch with Indian conditions and this year, as circumstances at home were not favourable for that sort of training, a camp has been established at Dehra Dun where the whole of the last year's batch of probationers are being trained together, both Indians and Europeans. There are 29 probationers. Of these eleven are Indians recruited by competition and nomination in India, and six Indians and twelve Europeans who were recruited by selection in England. That is to say, the whole of that batch whether Indian or European are being trained together under identical conditions at Dehra Dun. I have myself visited Dehra Dun and seen them under instruction and I can assure Honourable Members that the camp is very well and economically run and that the opportunities which the probationers of the same year are obtaining for getting to know one another and studying together are to my mind most valuable. And although it has not yet been decided—it was started as a war measure—it has not yet definitely been decided what should be done in future years, I think, however, that the results of this trial are so promising that it is very likely that this may become a permanent institution. I was asked who the Supervisor of the Camp was. The camp is in charge of Mr. Pinnell, I.C.S., a Bengal civilian who was formerly Secretary to the Governor of Bengal previously to this appointment.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Do I understand the Honourable Member to say that amongst the boys trained at Dehra Dun are four English lads from England?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: Twelve were brought out from England to be trained in India.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: It is most marvellous.

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: But the lads have expressed no surprise about it themselves.

I was asked for details about an officer re-employed on retirement and the appointment of an Additional Officer on special duty, that is item (a) in the note. The officer re-employed after retirement is the late Lieut.-Colonel Walker who was appointed Officer on Special Duty in the Home Department for air raid precaution work. He was an expert in air raid precaution work

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Was he not a Civil Surgeon in Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: He was a military officer. He was an expert in air raid precaution work and was intended to be placed on special duty to assist the provinces in organising their air raid precautions. His pay was at first non-voted. He was in service as a military officer and as such provision was made for him on the non-voted side of the Home Department grant. Subsequently, on his retirement, his pay became voted, and it, therefore, became necessary to apply for a Supplementary Grant on the voted side. That really illustrates the point that I was making just now, that these grants are not in every case a new service but they are to meet formal requirements.

An Honourable Member: What is the salary?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: I cannot tell the Honourable Member his monthly salary but the actual amount provided for his pay from the period 4th July, 1940, to the 6th January, 1941, was Rs. 7,435.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Is this in addition to his pension?

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: Presumably so. Honourable Members will be aware that this officer was killed on duty in an aeroplane accident on the 6th January. He was going on tour from Delhi in order to inspect air raid precautions in other provinces and the aeroplane crashed here and he was killed. Then the officer on special duty referred to in item (a) (ii) is Major Craster who is on the retired list and was appointed as Officer on special duty with the Home Department before taking up his appointment as Superintendent of the Deoli Detention Camp. As there was no provision for him in the original grant of the Home Department, a Supplementary Grant became necessary.

Now I think I have dealt with the minor points and I turn to the question of *Indian Information* in regard to which there have been two different cut motions. One is the motion of Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani who wishes the grant to be reduced by Rs. 100 in order to urge more issues of the Urdu version. It is entirely gratifying to me and to the Principal Information Officer that there should be so much appreciation of the value of this Urdu edition. The Urdu and Hindi editions are, as Honourable Members probably know, specialised editions of the English version of *Indian Information*; that is, they are not mere mechanical translations of what appears in the English edition but they contain matter which is likely to be of special interest to Urdu and Hindi readers. I have here in my hand an actual specimen of the Urdu issue. This magazine is to be issued twice a month in each of the three languages, i.e., English, Urdu and Hindi and its copies are distributed free of charge. This Urdu edition is already sent to all libraries and reading rooms in the Punjab, the United Provinces and North-West Frontier Province and most of the libraries in Bengal, Bihar and the Central Provinces. It is also sent to all universities in India, to all high schools in the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province and Baluchistan and most of the high schools in the United Provinces, Bengal and Bihar where Urdu is taught. It is also sent to all known Urdu newspapers and periodicals in British India; it is again sent to Indian States and to Indian States, and finally it is sent to any one who asks for it.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar: Non-Muhammadan): In addition to the Urdu edition may I ask that the Hindi edition also should be sent to the libraries in the Central Provinces and other places because most people who come to the libraries understand Hindi much better and not Urdu. I do not object to the Urdu edition being sent but let the Hindi edition be also sent because it will be read by a larger number of people.

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: I appreciate the Honourable Member's suggestion and we will certainly verify whether the Hindi edition is being given the circulation for which there is a demand. But, in general, in regard to the Urdu edition my point is that we do not supply copies to individuals unless they have asked for it. We supply to all these other institutions but no one who has asked for a copy has ever been refused. All the numbers which are printed and distributed are in accordance with the actual demands and it would not be economical to print them in larger numbers and send copies to people who may not want them. That is as regards Maulvi Abdul Ghani's motion.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur (South Madras: Muhammadan): Sir, on a point of information, the Honourable Member has not mentioned anything about Madras. There are some high schools run by Government as well as private institutions where Urdu forms the medium of instruction. I do not find any mention of such schools where it is sent.

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: Of course if any such school wanted it, it has only to ask for it and it will be sent; but I will again bring that suggestion to the notice of the Principal Information Officer.

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.

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: Sir, I have only one point left, to deal with, of the subjects touched on this morning, and that is Mr. Chattopadhyaya's cut motion urging that there should be Bengali, Oriya and Assamese versions of *Indian Information*. I should like to point out to the House that this production, *Indian Information*, is not intended to compete with the local press in general circulation among the public of each province. It is supplied to persons or institutions whose general role is to keep the public informed such as newspapers, chambers of commerce, libraries, universities and institutions of that kind. But it is not intended to be regarded as an ordinary newspaper. Now, for the purpose for which it is conceived, it has been produced in the three languages which are most widely known and understood throughout India. Those are English, Urdu and Hindi

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: No. Hindi is not understood in Bengal.

Another Honourable Member: Nor English, Sir.

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: I did not say that these languages were universally understood; but I said that those were the languages which were most widely understood and I understand that of the major communities, one claims Hindi as its most universal language and the other claims Urdu. That is the reason why the production *Indian Information* has so far been published in those three selected languages. The remaining Indian languages are not in any sense all-India languages, not even in the sense in which Hindi is an all-India language. They are languages limited to definite provincial areas. That is the difference. Now, there are in India 12 major languages, not to mention 200 sub-variants. If the policy were to produce *Indian Information* in, say, the Bengali language, we should be led on at once with demands for its production in, say, Gujarati, Tamil, Marathi, Telugu and Kanarese and other languages . .

An Honourable Member: Eight crores of peōple talk the Bengali language!

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: Large numbers of people talk Kanarese. That is the difficulty. The only other point that I want to explain to the House is this: that to start production in any new language of *Indian Information* involves a minimum starting cost of Rs. 30,000 a year; so that if only the languages mentioned in this cut motion were taken up, that is, Bengali, Oriya and Assamese, we should be let in at once for an additional expenditure of Rs. 90,000 a year, not to mention, as I explained, the further demands for production in other local languages which would inevitably come into existence; and of course, when I say the initial cost is Rs. 30,000, that is only at the time of the first production. But as the demand increases for *Indian Information* in any language, then of course the cost goes up. That is the real reason for which I am afraid I must oppose this motion in principle, although actually I have considerable sympathy with it and I wish we could give an undertaking of this kind. But I am afraid we could not do so when it involved such a very large commitment of public funds. However, I think that the Information Bureau will regard it as an encouragement that this demand should have arisen, and of course in the future we always have to consider demands of that kind against the value of the results to be obtained from any particular expenditure.

I think I have now dealt with all the major points raised in the debate so far as I was able to follow.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Sir, I rise to a personal explanation. Earlier in the debate when the Honourable the Home Member was discussing the training at Dehra Dun, I interjected and asked the question: "What is the composition of these trainees?" My question was misplaced and misconceived. It was a *faux pas* on my part, because I thought he was referring to the training in photography of which he spoke about earlier in his speech and was located at Dehra Dun, and not to the I. C. S. training centre. I wish to explain it lest my question should be misunderstood.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I wish merely to deal with some remarks which fell from Dr. Banerjea regarding what he called

various new posts which have not been referred to the Standing Finance Committee. As I explained earlier in the day, the criterion of whether a matter should go to the Standing Finance Committee depends upon whether it is a new service or not. If it is a new service a genuinely new matter which is being undertaken, then it goes to the Standing Finance Committee; but if there is an expansion of an existing service, then that does not necessarily go to the Standing Finance Committee, because the Committee would be overwhelmed with masses of cases. It is only where the expenditure involved is considerable that it is considered necessary to place it before the Standing Finance Committee; and for that purpose the criterion we have adopted is Rs. 1 lakh non-recurring and Rs. 25,000 recurring.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, I find there is a certain amount of misunderstanding when reading these notes or Supplementary Demands. So far as I know anything about Supplementary Demands, you have got to make a distinction as the Honourable the Finance Member mentioned just now, between old items and new items. If there is an increase of expenditure on an old item, a very short note suffices for your purpose; but if you have got a new item, it is definitely necessary that you should show that it is a new item, that it has not been in the budget before, that it was not possible to put it in the budget—specially under conditions under which we work today—and, therefore, you bring it as a Supplementary Demand; and for such items a full explanatory note is necessary or a more complete explanation from the Member in charge while introducing the Supplementary Demand. Here you have both these cases in this Supplementary Demand. All of them, except (e) and (f), fall within the first head, namely, extra expenditure incurred for items for which provision has already been made; while the last two are new items.

As a matter of fact, if we had not read about them in the newspapers, we would not have known anything about this new training centre for the I. C. S. probationers. It appeared in the newspapers, the name of the officer in charge was published in the papers and so we came to know all about it. Surely this House has a right to know, when you put up a demand of this sort, a little more from the explanatory note itself so as not to make it necessary for the Honourable the Home Member to give a long explanation for the first time in this House about the institution of these camps. As a matter of fact, it ought to be marked separately as a new item. In other Governments I know it is done, and I think the Honourable the Home Member will perhaps remember that in past days when he had to deal with budgets he had to put up old items and new items in separate lists. He will recollect that most probably the House always caught hold of new items, and nobody looked at the old items, as new items were shown in separate lists. In times like these specially we are bound to have new items, and you cannot help it. Under these circumstances, a new item list for Supplementary Demands would be a facility to both sides of the House.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I explained that when new items are placed before the Standing Finance Committee, they are indicated in these notes, but there is always room for difference of opinion. Now, in regard to the training of I. C. S. probationers, this is an obligation of Government which has always existed and which has always cost

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

a good deal of money. The only change that has happened is that owing to the war, instead of our being liable for the training in England, we have now made alternative arrangements in India. Well, I do not know whether that can be called really a new service on account of this change in locale from England to India. We have had to pay for officers who have been performing functions of training probationers in the United Kingdom before, and now for the first time arrangements have to be made here. It so happens that the individual appointed is an I. C. S. officer, but it could not have been inconceivable that officers who have previously been employed for training in England might have been transferred to India. That, I consider is an accident, but the essential point is,—have the Government undertaken for the first time expenditure for an object which had never existed before, and I claim, Sir, in this case the answer is in the negative.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Sir, the question which has been raised by the Honourable the Finance Member is of more than usual importance. Nowhere, unfortunately, the distinction between new service and extra expenditure in the name of extension of an old service has been made clear before and if we allow the explanation which the Finance Member has given to go unchallenged, it will give unnecessary latitude to him to avoid placing matters before the Standing Finance Committee for its consideration. Taking, for example, the particular point to which reference has been made by my friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, and also by the Finance Member, I think nowhere up to this time in any of the Budgets that we have been presented with during the last 12 years did we find at any time a provision like the one mentioned here,—I mean the training of I. C. S. probationers. That kind of expenditure was never shown in the Budget in the past. Whether this has been done now as an accident owing to what has happened in England or not is a different thing. It might have gone under a different heading altogether, but in the form in which it comes here specifically for the consideration of this House it is entirely a new item, and from that point of view, I must say it is a new service created, for which the sanction of this House is being asked in the form of this demand. It may be that our expenditure in England on this item might have been defrayed by us, but in the demands placed before this House, a specific item to that effect has not at all been shown. Assuming it was shown there,—it is one thing to incur expenditure in England, Scotland or Canada, but it is another thing when a similar expenditure has to be incurred in India. It is certainly a new expenditure for which the Indian taxpayer has to make provision. I think the House will agree that this ought to be considered as a new service, and the procedure which my Honourable friend follows generally in regard to new services ought to have been followed in this case also. In regard to new services, the matter is always referred in the first instance to the Standing Finance Committee and then it is brought back to the House, and in this case also the same procedure should have been followed.

Secondly, Sir, the test which the Finance Member has given is this,—if in the case of old services also the expenditure incurred comes to say a lakh of rupees

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Non-recurring.

Mr. M. S. Ansy: If in the case of old services the non-recurring expenditure comes to say a lakh of rupees, the matter is referred to the Standing Finance Committee. On that point, I can only say that it is possible even on existing services some more expenditure might have to be incurred by Government and it may not be possible to bring every item before the Standing Finance Committee, and I suggest that the limit of one lakh should be reduced to Rs. 50,000, because that will give the Committee a better idea of the reasons why the Budget is exceeded every time. In that case it would not be improper to bring the non-recurring expenditure which goes up to Rs. 50,000 before the Standing Finance Committee before it is brought here in the form of supplementary demands.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,25,000 in respect of 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Then, the question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,25,000 in respect of 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 25,000."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Now, the Chair will put the original demand. The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,25,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of the 'Home Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 19—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 72,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of the 'Commerce Department'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 72,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of the 'Commerce Department'."

Creation of new Posts of Import and Export Trade Controllers and their Offices.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 72,000 in respect of 'Commerce Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

This appears to me to be new service.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Will the Honourable Member speak a little louder?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: If we look at page 9 of the schedule of Supplementary Grants, the footnote says: "Due to the creation of the posts of Import and Export Trade Controllers and their offices after the budget was framed." I do not know whether the creation of these posts was thought of before the original budget for 1941-42 was in the process of preparation or after that. If the need for these posts was felt before the preparation of the original budget, I think it would have been better if the amount was included in the original budget, and it would have facilitated our consideration, because the original budget has already been passed and this supplementary budget is now going to be passed. It may be said that that budget would only include for next year. But these posts are new ones and, therefore, it would have been better if they had been included in the new budget. There is no necessity shown for the creation of these posts and the offices connected with them. Before the creation of these posts and their offices some arrangement might have been made for controlling the import and export trade. I hope the Honourable Member concerned will throw light on this aspect of the matter. As regards the offices of the Import and Export Trade Controllers, I cannot say whether the appointments have already been made or they have still to be made. If they have finished the appointment of the members of the offices, then it would not serve my purpose if I draw attention to representation of Muslims according to the Home Department Resolution of 1934. If the appointments have been made, I shall be thankful to the Honourable Member concerned if he can satisfy us that they have considered the claims of communal representation in the case of the new posts created and their offices. With these words I move my amendment.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Amendment moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 72,000 in respect of 'Commerce Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Pandit Nilakantha Das: This is also a new service pure and simple, and this has not been placed before the Standing Finance Committee. The House ought to know when these posts were created and their offices, and how much has actually been spent during the year and what is the expenditure anticipated, whether it is recurring or temporary, or non-recurring, how much of it is recurring, how much non-recurring. This information is generally given in the Standing Finance Committee, and without knowing the implications we are faced with a supplementary demand. We, in fact, do not know whether all this money, Rs. 72,000, will have to be spent before the 31st March. If it is not so, then it must have been included in the budget of 1941-42. Only the money required for 1940-41 should have been placed here as a supplementary demand.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: So it is.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Then, again, this being a new service, we have got many things to know about these Trade Controllers. Trade and commerce, though managed by a Government Department,—we have a right to know whether non-official commercial people, people connected with trade are associated at all in this control, and, if so, in what manner. This is a thing which vitally affects the economic position, the fiscal position of the country, and at a time like this there should be complete co-operation between non-officials and officials in matters of trade and commerce.

When this control post is to be created the House ought to inquire and know in what manner the Government are going to control this export and import trade and for what purpose and to what extent the control will be effective for the promotion or for the safeguarding of our economic and fiscal interests. At this stage at least, we want to know this information before we can give our vote for this demand.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Sir, this demand, as has been pointed out, relates to the appointment of two important officers, namely, the Import Trade Controller and the Export Trade Controller. We have not yet been told the functions of these offices or of the officers who fill these posts and I am not also sure if there is one or more Trade Controllers. It is in the singular number. I want to know whether this control extends to the whole of India or is confined only to the ports. In the course of my speech on the Finance Bill, last year, I pointed out that there was a good deal of set back in India's export trade owing to the loss of markets outside due to international complications. I also pointed out that, as a result of that, there was stagnation of stocks in the country entailing lowering of prices. It was my firm conviction then, and it was supported by the data from the commercial organisations in this country, that some step ought to be taken by the Government to stimulate India's export trade. In other words, I suggested that the initiative should be taken by the Government of India to see that markets that have been lost to India as a result of the outbreak of the war should, as far as possible, be found elsewhere by negotiations with other countries with which India was not technically at war. The Honourable the Finance Member did not agree with me at all that there was shrinkage of exports at that time and he seemed to think that everything was going on well and that it was my unfounded apprehension. Curiously enough, after the lapse of one month, I read in the papers that an Export Advisory Council was set up with the ostensible object of stimulating exports from India and I believe that Government had two or three meetings of the Export Advisory Council. The House is probably aware that there is a Controller of Shipping in these times and also those who want to export commodities to countries outside India have to obtain a certificate from the Government of India assuring the Government that it was not going to enemy countries. But the fact remained that only five per cent. of the total tonnage of shipping was available for these exports. Sir, when the Government seriously thought of capturing India's lost markets elsewhere, the House is aware that two estimable gentlemen, Messrs. Gregory and Meek, had been sent to America to see if they could be persuaded to take some of India's produce and later on we had a report which was lauded to the skies by my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, if for nothing else but for the draft and some figures which are contained. Nothing tangible has come out so far.

Today we find in the demand that two posts have been created, one for controlling Indian import trade and one for controlling Indian export trade. When did the Government first come to a decision that an officer like the Import Controller or the Export Controller should be appointed? Am I to understand that the Export Advisory Council has been liquidated and its place has been taken by this official agency? We are not in a position just now to know the exact duties assigned to the Import Trade Controller. It may quite well be that this Import Trade Controller is to see that goods from enemy countries may

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.]

not come to this country but I want to know if the Customs Department of the Government of India is not able to take care of this business. What is the special justification for putting up or starting an organisation like the Import Controller's Office and what is also the justification for setting up an organisation like the export control. We have not heard anything from the Honourable the Commerce Member or from any other responsible Member on the Treasury Benches as to what purpose is going to be served, what benefit is going to be derived as a result of the creation of these offices. Sir, in this connection I would like to know what are the qualifications laid down for the appointment of these Import Trade and Export Trade Controllers. Was the commercial opinion and the opinion of the commercial organisations in this country obtained when Government decided to create these new posts? Has there been any machinery set up by the Government by which these two offices may maintain active touch with the indigenous commercial opinion? If not, it is very difficult for me to understand what useful purpose is going to be served by the creation of these two offices.

Sir, I think the Honourable the Commerce Member knows very well that Indian mercantile opinion has always been in favour of having a machinery by which the disastrous effect of this complicated international situation may be minimised so as not to affect dangerously the trade position of India. These posts, when they came to be created after the Budget, must necessarily mean that they have been all of very recent origin. We were not given any idea before of their necessity or their utility. I, therefore, think that the Honourable the Commerce Member should at least explain to us what is sought to be gained by the creation of these offices. Moreover, he has to explain where these offices are located, and what are the specific duties allotted to these offices and officers, and whether they want to continue this as an *interim* measure during the period of the war, or it is going to remain a permanent institution in the scheme of the Commerce Member's programme. Sir, unless I get a satisfactory explanation, I cannot support this demand.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Sir, I wish to say a word about the attitude of some of the Honourable Members occupying the Official Benches in regard to the questions which are being raised here on the Supplementary Demands. There is, it seems to me, a great deal of intolerance of criticism on their part. Only a short while ago the Honourable the Finance Member used the words "irresponsible critics". I do not know exactly whom he referred to by this expression. If he referred to Honourable Members of this House

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I did not.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: I am glad to know that he did not, but he ought to have used his language more carefully because his language has given a great offence to the Members of the Opposition.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I was referring to the irresponsible criticism which appeared in the Press.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: I thank him for the clarification. But I wish he had used clearer language. If he had referred to the criticism which had

appeared in the Press, even then he should not have been intolerant of their criticism. The Press must do its duty, the Press pointed out that there were cases of favouritism and jobbery on the part of the Government, and it was necessary for the Government Benches to clear their position. What did the Honourable the Finance Member do? He shifted the charges of favouritism and jobbery to the shoulders of the Honourable the Law Member when he said that: "I had the assistance of the Honourable the Law Member". He ought to have been in a position to justify the appointments made. I am sorry to have to say that he was unable to justify those appointments and he has not been able to satisfy all the inquiries that were made. Sir, in regard to all these questions, there are questions of principle involved and these questions of principle should be considered by them with patience. I must say that the Honourable the Finance Member is generally very polite and courteous, and what made him forsake his urbanity on this particular question I do not know. He should not be completely put out whenever there is criticism and he should not get excited. Let us hope that in future he will meet all the points that are raised with patience and forbearance.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Sir, I shall first say one word with regard to the word "irresponsible" used by the Honourable the Finance Member. . .

Mr. J. D. Boyle (Bombay: European): On a point of order, Sir, how does this arise out of this—creation of new posts of Import and Export Trade Controllers and their offices?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): If a remark is made by one Honourable Member in the course of a debate, then other Honourable Members are entitled to reply to that remark.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Sir, I never wanted to say anything more than this, that he should not have said that the whole of the Press was irresponsible; he should have pointed out the particular Press which was irresponsible. However, I leave that point. Now coming to the point, I would draw the attention of the House to the constitutional aspect of this demand. The question arises whether this is a Supplementary Demand. I find here that it is stated that these two appointments were made after the Budget was passed. That clearly shows that these appointments were not in the contemplation of the Government before the Budget, and what I have understood as regards the Supplementary Demands is this, that if at the time of the Budget a certain amount has been allowed for particular demands—and those grants have been made for particular purposes—then with regard to the business, or the payments, or the salaries to the particular staff which is at that time existing, if anything further is needed afterwards; after the Budget, in regard to the same subject, in regard to the same business, in regard to the same salaries, and if the business requires more than some thing which has been spent over it, and if this is asked for, that would be a supplementary demand; otherwise it would be a new demand altogether. As is clear from this note that has been submitted here, this is due to the creation of the posts of Import and Export Trade Controllers and their offices, after the Budget was framed. Do I understand that this question with regard to these two officers was under contemplation before, and it was placed before the Finance Committee or some such committee that had to

[Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.]

do with it, or it was even in some way brought before the House, or it was done in such a manner as any demand that would be asked for after the Budget was finished would be submitted? That not having been done, I feel that this is not a Supplementary Demand at all, and unless and until we are satisfied after we hear the Honourable the Commerce Member, this will be a question really for the Chair to decide, I submit, whether it is a Supplementary Demand or not.

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Member for Commerce and Labour): Sir, I am afraid there has been a great deal of misconception over this Supplementary Demand. In the first place, I should like to say that there are two kinds of Supplementary Demands: demands for a new service which has been brought into existence after the last Budget was passed and which could not have been foreseen at the time the last Budget was framed, and *Supplementary Demands* which relate to excess expenditure on items provided in the *original* Budget. This particular demand really comes under the latter category. The question of export control or import control is one which is generally dealt with by the Collectors of Customs. They have the power to restrict certain imports or to regulate certain exports. . . .

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Where is the second category defined? The Honourable Member said that there are two kinds of Supplementary Demands. I would like to know from the Honourable Member, where the second category is defined.

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The first kind the House will come to a little later when, for instance, the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research demand comes up—which is an altogether new service.

With reference to this, it is the Collectors of Customs who deal with export and import restrictions. After the war broke out, there were a number of additional restrictions which had necessarily to be imposed in connection with our policy of economic warfare. The imports from enemy countries had to be prohibited, and somebody had to be in charge of it, to see that these imports do not come in. Then exports to certain countries, neutral countries, which were in a position to pass on those exports to the enemy countries had also to be regulated, and though there was no prohibition in this case, the quantity had to be restricted. A system of quotas had to be applied. For well nigh six to eight months after the war, this duty fell on the Collectors of Customs and I am thankful to say that they were discharging the duty very well. That is why there is no provision for this in the original Budget which was put before the House on the last day of February, 1940. But very soon it became clear to me that the question was so complicated, the number of instances in which these export and import restrictions had to be followed were so many and, particularly after the debacle in Europe and the collapse of France, Holland, Denmark and other countries, the work had so increased that it was not possible to expect the Collectors of Customs in addition to their ordinary and normal work to carry on this work also. Therefore, the Commerce Department felt that additional officers had to be employed. So, it is really an increase in the

service under the Customs; it is not a new service at all. Additional officers had to be employed who would take over from the Collector of Customs part of the duties which they were hitherto performing. These officers came into existence on the 1st of July, 1940, that is to say, about four-months after the first Budget was placed before the House.

The Export Controllers deal with permits and the granting of quotas for export of commodities from India to various countries. With all our desire to increase the export of raw products and even our manufactured goods, I hope the House will agree with me that our policy of economic warfare must also be pursued whereby essential commodities do not reach the enemy either directly, which is very rare, or, what is far more possible, indirectly through neutral countries. It is for this purpose that we have to take into account the total exports to certain foreign countries, allot them among the various exporters, see that quotas are granted and see that persons receive licences for exporting. All that paraphernalia is conducted through the help of these Export Trade Controllers. Similarly, when the policy of the conservation of dollar exchange had to be taken up, we had necessarily to think of a certain number of Import Controllers also functioning in the same way. As a matter of fact, even to this day the Collectors of Customs at Karachi and Madras have this additional duty thrown on them both with reference to export control and import control, and the only relief that has been given to them is in the form of Assistant Export Controllers and Assistant Import Controllers. In Bombay and in Calcutta, as the House will easily realise, because they are the largest ports from which large quantities go out or come into this country, special Export and Import Controllers had to be appointed and the Collectors of Customs are completely relieved of this duty, so that they can attend to their normal duties.

• **An Honourable Member:** Is there no duplication of work?

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No. This is essentially a different kind of work altogether. It is a new kind of work though the nature is the same. It is a work which can be easily separated from the normal work of the Collector of Customs.

An Honourable Member: Are these Indians?

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The Import Trade Controller and the Export Trade Controller in Bombay are both Indians. One is a Hindu and the other a Mussalman.

An Honourable Member: So the balance is maintained.

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I want to give the fullest information to the House so that I may not have supplementaries afterwards. The Export Trade Controller in Calcutta is a European and the Import Trade Controller there till recently was a Bengali Hindu. That officer having come up to the Commerce Department Secretariat here, we are now thinking of appointing another person. What his class or creed will be I am unable to say at the present moment.

Mr. Husenbhai Abdullabhai Laljee: Their pay is not included in this?

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: They are non-voted. They are I.C.S. officers.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: May I ask if this control has anything to do with the position of the trade in this country, such as, its development, or is this control meant only to carry on economic warfare?

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The purpose of this is in pursuance of our policy of economic warfare but, naturally, the activities of these officers have a very direct bearing on the trade and commerce of the country. My Honourable friend, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, raised that question and thought that the Export Advisory Council which had been set up may well be abolished and the work be taken up by these Export and Import Controllers. It is just the other way. When this particular work was being done by the Collectors of Customs, Government felt that it was advisable to associate with this export control work a body of commercial people who can lay their complaints before Government, and in the light of these complaints or grievances the export control policy may be so adjusted from time to time that while, on the one hand, the essential purpose of economic warfare may not be lost sight of, on the other hand, all unnecessary impediments to trade and commerce may be removed and the grievances minimised as far as possible. It was in pursuance of that policy that an Export Advisory Board was constituted about the middle of last year when the control policy was becoming graver and graver. In addition to the Export Advisory Board, over which I have the honour to preside and it meets regularly once a quarter as far as possible, in different parts of India, in addition to meeting at the Centre of the Government, we have constituted Local Advisory Boards in all the four ports, namely, Karachi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. The Export Advisory Officer at these ports presides over the meetings of the Local Advisory Boards except in Bombay where my Honourable friend, Sir Homi Mody, being the Vice-President of the Central Advisory Board, takes the chair of the Local Advisory Board also. It is in that way that the commercial and business men come in contact with the work of the Export Trade Controller and advise him and he, in turn, is guided to a certain extent by the views they put forward in carrying out what I frankly admit is not an easy task for an Export Trade Controller or an Import Trade Controller.

An Honourable Member: Do they belong to exporters or importers?

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: They are sent by the various Chambers of Commerce and must be concerned both with export and import work. They are not all nominated by the Government of India. They are representatives of the various organisations. The Federation of Chambers of Commerce sends two representatives. The Associated Chambers of Commerce sends two representatives. The Grain Merchants Association, which is the biggest body in charge of the export of grain, sends a representative. The local Chambers of Commerce, Indian and European, send a representative to the Local Boards. In all cases as far as I can remember, except a very small percentage of nominations which Government makes to see that interests not otherwise represented are also there, it is the elected representatives of the various commercial organisations that form the members of both the Central Advisory Board and

the Local Advisory Boards. It is in that way that we hope to carry out what I again say is a difficult task. It is one of the most difficult tasks that has ever confronted the Commerce Department or the officers who are directly responsible for this work.

As regards the further question raised by Maulvi Abdul Ghani, I may say that most of the staff employed by these Export and Import Advisers are staff which have been taken from the existing Customs Department staff because they have the necessary experience of it and I am assured that in any consequential vacancies which are filled, due consideration is given to the communal Resolution of 1934.

One last point that my friend, Mr. Maitra, raised was whether this organisation was going to be a permanent organisation. From what I have said it will be clear that this organisation has come into existence purely to meet the temporary difficulties created by the war and there is certainly no intention of making this organisation a permanent organisation.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Sir, I rise on a point of order. I have heard the Honourable the Commerce Member and I am thankful to him for explaining the whole thing. But I am not yet convinced about the constitutional question. My point is that it is not a Supplementary Demand at all. As explained by the Honourable the Commerce Member and I also referred to it, a Supplementary Demand relates to an excess to what has already been granted. The Honourable the Commerce Member said that this is also an excess amount. I submit this is not an excess demand when this was not under contemplation then.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab: Muhammadan): Is this the point of order that the Honourable Member is raising?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Please state your point of order in a few words.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am giving it in my own words. The Honourable the Commerce Member said that subsequent to the passing of the Budget, it appeared to the Customs Officer that certain new officers were necessary for new purposes.

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It was not a new purpose.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: It was for war purpose, it was not ordinary purpose, nor ordinary work and, therefore, they were appointed.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member is not raising a point of order. He is only making a speech.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am saying the point of order in a few words. I am not yet satisfied that this is an excess grant,—in excess of what was already budgeted for.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: On the points raised by the Honourable Member, may I make a few observations? I would refer the Honourable Member to Rule 50 of the Indian Legislative Rules from which

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

it would be perfectly clear that both types of Supplementary Demands exist. The Rule says:

"An estimate shall be presented to the Assembly for a supplementary or additional grant when :

- (i) the amount voted in the Budget of a grant is found to be insufficient for the purposes of the current year, or
- (ii) a need arises during the current year for expenditure for which the vote of the Assembly is necessary upon some new service not contemplated in the Budget for that year."

I do not understand the point of order raised by the Honourable Member, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I do not press my point of order, Sir.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: There seems to be some confusion . . .

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Are you raising a point of order?

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Yes, Sir. There is a confusion between supplementary grant and excess grant which are entirely different things.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): That is not a point of order. He is only distinguishing between the two.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghan: Sir, in view of the explanation given by the Honourable the Commerce Member, I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 72,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of the 'Commerce Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 22—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 37,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of the 'Central Board of Revenue'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 37,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of the 'Central Board of Revenue'."

Pandit Nilakantha Das: There is a note which says that this additional expenditure refers to allowances of the Director of Inspection, Income-tax and the Excess Profits Tax Adviser and their staff. I want to

know whether this was placed before the Standing Finance Committee. If they are a new service what was the reason why they were not contemplated during the budget preparations.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: This was placed before the Standing Finance Committee. I regret it has not been indicated.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Was it placed at the meeting on 9th September? I also wanted to know if the expenditure on this service is really more than 50,000, for we have got to grant only Rs. 37,000?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The total amount which is being demanded here is Rs. 37,000. The total cost of the service is placed before the Standing Finance Committee in respect of Director of Inspection and it was just short of Rs. 20,000 in 1940-41 and Rs. 40,000 in subsequent years.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 37,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of the ‘Central Board of Revenue’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 27—POLICE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,54,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of ‘Police’.”

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,54,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of ‘Police’.”

Contribution for the Cost of Civic Guards.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir: I move: .

“That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,54,000 in respect of ‘Police’ be reduced by Rs. 1,81,300.”

Sir, the sum of Rs. 1,81,300 is for the payment of proportionate cost of civic guards to different provinces. The purpose of this civic guard has been mentioned as giving help to the public in case of disturbance or danger. But there are organisations which are willingly co-operating with the authorities in the various provinces and they are not paid. But in spite of their co-operation unnecessary restrictions are being imposed in the various provinces simply because they wear a particular kind of uniform, (say) khaki. In the place where I reside there is an organisation called the Muslim League. They obey all the orders framed under the Defence of India rules and have stopped all their activities, but on the day of *Id* last which is an important festival they went to offer their prayers in khaki uniforms, and they were for that reason taken to task. They were only pardoned after they had given a sort of apology. Their only fault was that they were khaki uniforms. Rules 48 and 59 of the Defence of India Rules provide that the wearing

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: Sir, is the Honourable Member relevant? He appears to be complaining that other volunteers, not the civic guard, are interfered with in the performance of some functions.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Was the Honourable Member speaking about the civic guards or any other organisation?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I was talking about the civic guards.

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: I understood the Honourable Member to speak about the Defence of India Rules.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I was only saying, as an example, that these guards have been created to help the public in case of disturbance. I was saying that the expenditure on these civic guards and the necessity of having them might be very well avoided if the authorities in the various provinces had paid attention to the rules framed under the Defence of India Act. As they are not paying that attention to the rules this expenditure has needlessly arisen.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Yes, the Honourable Member is in order.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I was submitting that rules 48 and 59 impose certain conditions. Rule 48 prohibits the wearing of any uniform which might lead one to believe that the person wearing the uniform is posing as a Government servant, either Indian, British or foreign. But if there is no chance of any deception the authorities should not bar the activities of any organisation unnecessarily. Rule 59 says that unless persons wearing the uniform are out to violate

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): What is the point which the Honourable Member is making?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I am submitting that the rules framed by the Government of India are quite clear. One is about deception and the other relates to likely prejudice of the public safety, maintenance of public order or the defence of British India, etc. If these two elements are absent from any uniform of an organisation which is helping the public cause also it should not be unnecessarily interfered with. They can reduce the expenditure by taking the help of the public. I know wherever you find the Muslim League volunteers they wear a long green badge which is conspicuous from a very great distance. That badge is not only green but it bears a white crescent mark. So no one can be deceived. And when they have given an undertaking that they are not going to overawe or violate the conditions laid down by the established authority they should not be needlessly interfered with, rather their help should be had. So this unnecessary expenditure might very well be avoided by asking the various Provincial Governments to take the help of such organisations who are willing to co-operate with them. I hope the Government will in future stop such unnecessary restrictions.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Amendment moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,54,000 in respect of 'Police' be reduced by Rs. 1,81,300."

Mr. M. S. Aney: Sir, I want to have some explanation from the Honourable the Home Member as to the special reasons why such additional expenditure on police has to be incurred during this year in every province. For example, in Bombay, we find that the demand for additional expenditure on police comes to about Rs. 2,17,700 in excess of what was provided in the budget. Similarly, in Bengal it is Rs. 1,04,400 and, in the Punjab, it is Rs. 1,89,600. Were the conditions in these provinces so abnormal during the year that it was necessary for the Government to incur this additional expenditure on police in these provinces? I thought, so far as we could judge the situation from newspapers which we read every day that there was nothing abnormal or unusual in the situation in any of these three provinces to merit the extra expenditure in these three provinces particularly.

As regards civic guards, I have to say nothing. It is a new expenditure which the Government have incurred on account of the war. But so far as the extra expenditure on police is concerned, I do not think—at least to our knowledge there has not been any very abnormal situation existing so that our budget estimates should have fallen so much below the actual requirements.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I stand to support the cut motion moved by Maulvi Abdul Ghani. The policy of spending money on civic guards is one which is resented by the whole of the Indian nation. The very existence of the civic guards has not been approved by this House at all. The question of spending money, more or less, on that body cannot arise and this House can never be prepared to vote for a grant which is against the wishes of the entire House. How has the civic guard come into existence? It is only by a complete distrust of all private organisations that exist in India today, whether they belong to the Muslim League, or whether they belong to the Congress or to the Ahrars. Every one of these are voluntary organisations which could be utilised at the time of war; and every one of these organisations which could be utilised for the defence of India is being banned by this Government; and they are spending and wasting the money of the taxpayer over people who will be of absolutely no use if any kind of trouble comes to India. What are these civic guards? They are given pensions, they are given gifts, they are given presents merely to go on parade sometimes and to show their faces to the officers in order to be in their good books: it is only such people who join the civic guards. What use are they going to be to India in case of any trouble? Absolutely no use. Just as it is said that the policeman comes after the storm is over, these gentlemen will come out of their houses only when the difficulties have vanished

Mr. M. S. Aney: Like the municipal fire engine which comes after the fire has burnt out!

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: They reach there after the storm; but you create the storm.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: The storm is created by other people, not by me. They say they are making preparations for meeting war emergencies and the word 'war' has been introduced here. What I protest against is the policy of the Government in suppressing the indigenous

[Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi.]

voluntary organisations and setting up against them organisations which are to be paid from the money of the taxpayer and which would be of absolutely no use or service in any real emergency in this country. What injury has the Muslim League done to this Government that the volunteers of the Muslim League cannot be trusted with this work? Only the other day Maulana Zafar Ali Khan stood up and moved an adjournment motion about the Khaksars. What was their fault? They were moving in single file, one behind the other. They were making no demonstration against this Government. What have the Ahrar volunteers been doing? They were only going to different meetings and taking out processions and keeping order. But Government say: "You are not allowed to do that." The Government will extract money from the taxpayer and pay these civic guards.

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

But for these voluntary organisations you would not have to pay a single pie from the revenues of India. My submission is that unless the Government take courage in both hands and start trusting India and Indians and the Indian organizations and leave their present policy of distrust and repression in which they are indulging

Mr. M. S. Aney: Their hands are already engaged: they have no other hands to take courage.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: I doubt very much if the hands of the present Government are engaged because if they are engaged at all they are engaged only in repression; and if they take their hands off from this repression they will be in a better position to take the help of these voluntary organizations in India. May I ask the Government if they really think that these mercenary persons who are paid large sums from the public revenues can ever be of any real help in any emergency? Has not this country always been defended by people who have got the real interests of the country at heart and who do not care for money and such like? Can the country be helped by these persons who are well paid from the public funds and who are there merely because they are in the good books of the officials who pay them? The simple position is this: the organisation of civic guards as constituted at the present day is not needed by India and is considered by the taxpayer to be an absolute waste of money and we cannot grant a single pie towards the cost of maintaining these people. With these words, I support the amendment.

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): May I ask my Honourable friend whether he was speaking for the Independent Party of which he is a member, or whether he is speaking independently of his Party?

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: The Independent Party consists of independent members.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Sir, while discussing the question of additional police and civic guards if we consider the various non-official bodies of volunteers as serving the country and the Government at this particular

time, a controversy is sure to arise. Such a controversy I shall avoid. I shall simply narrate some personal experience which will speak for itself about the civic guards organisation. Of course, I do not find in the list here the names of small provinces like Orissa, Assam, Sind and the North-West Frontier Province. But I believe in the Standing Finance Committee's report, in the additional police force, these names have been included. In some cases their demands are being considered and some have been given. I believe somehow or other in some of the bigger circles these provinces have been included, though civic guards have not yet been organised in these small provinces they will sooner or later be organised, and if these provinces do organise civic guards one-third of the expenditure will be given to them by the Central Government. Organisation of civic guards like additional police is a necessity in all provinces—big and small—at this critical time. So I will now narrate my experience in Orissa.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Where is Orissa?

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Orissa is the cinderella of the British Government. After the war began, I must confess that I had lost all faith in the philosophy of the spinning wheel and the ethics of non-violence

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Why?

Pandit Nilakantha Das: I lost all faith in non-violence ethics, and this was one of the reasons why I gave up the presidentship of the Provincial Congress Committee

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: For how long were you the president?

Pandit Nilakantha Das: For many years I had been the president and I wanted to co-operate with the Government. I received a letter for joining the War Committee. There was a ban from the Congress, and in spite of that ban, I offered my services to the Government, and I received a letter from the District Officer. I offered my services, but I told them that I did not know the character of the services that I should have to render. So I particularly mentioned that if they organized, among other things, civic guards and did such and such things, I was with them out and out, for I consider that this is a time when if you organize civic guards, such volunteer organizations, will be very useful in keeping up the moral tone of the people, and in maintaining internal peace and order if such a need arises, because most of us are afraid of internal disorder in the country overtaking us at any time. But nothing came out of my offer. One day an officer came and asked me—'Why don't you join the War Committee?'. I said I was ready to join, but I asked him what they were going to do in that committee, except collecting a little money. I said if they wanted Rs. 5 or Rs. 50 I could give them that, but did they want anything more? Did they want real popular and non-official co-operation? Did they want my co-operation? They did not want my co-operation. I had told them that they should have additional police force with popular sympathy and support, and they should organize civic guards; they should also popularise recruitment to the army, etc. But none would listen to it. Sir, we do come out and offer our co-operation,—we know where the shoe pinches,—we know how to approach our people, we know how to make the war measures popular, we have been among the people, we have been

[Pandit Nilakantha Das.]

representing the teeming millions even in this House for the past 20 years,—but you don't want our co-operation. I am ready to offer my co-operation, but none wants it. They simply asked me for a subscription of Rs. 5. Even so, I also said I would go to the people and ask them for money,—but if they ask me for what purpose the money is wanted, I could not tell them the object. I could not tell them that it was meant for our equipment or for our war. I could not tell them that they should guard their hearths and homes themselves and get themselves prepared for other emergencies. They could only be asked to pay money for things intended for their own good—they should be convinced that they serve their own cause. This conviction should be carried to them. But the authorities have been blind to the popular demand, they have been blind to the popular sentiment all these years, and even at this critical time, they are not taking advantage of the real co-operation that is being offered by a large class of the population. As I said, we are ready to co-operate. There are many among us who have by now realised that the non-violence ethics and spinning wheel philosophy will not save our land, these things will not give us independence, we also do not demand from you that you should undertake that by such and such a date you should give us independence. You cannot give us independence, nor can you lay down a time limit. Many of us know that. But all the same, we also know that this is a time when we should get ourselves prepared for taking up the defence of the country in hand when it is so much needed, and this will give no strength and confidence to manage our own house just after the war. If you do not accept our co-operation with this object in view, if you do not allow us to take charge of our country, to guard against internal disturbances and disorders, ask us to recruit our youngmen to the army, no good will come out of wasting money like this. You have not trusted us for the last 180 years, and even at this critical time you are pursuing the same policy of distrust which will lead you nowhere. So I support the amendment with the narration of my personal experience. I think I have explained the whole position. Now you should decide whether you should waste money like this till doomsday or whether you should accept the hand of real co-operation which is sincerely offered by those who know how to deal with popular sentiment in this country and how to prepare our people against crisis that may occur at any moment.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Sir, I have tabled a motion like this, and so I wish to support this motion. Sir, civic guards are included in the police budget. The inefficiency of the Indian police is as much proverbial as the proverbial poverty of India. Civic guards are formed and are included in the police category. Is it for the purpose of adding to the efficiency of police or for making the service more inefficient? The police is not sufficient to maintain peace and order, and so perhaps the civic guards have been organized and included in the police to assist them. Sir, in Calcutta we have some experience of the work done by civic guards. Their only duty is to shout in case of black-out practice for any possible air raid and to tell the people that they should live in the dark for a certain period, and that they should not peep through the windows. Our Congress friends also shout and say 'don't go to war' and they are sent to jail, whereas the civic guards, who in the name of war shout and tell the people there will be a war and to guard against it, are

paid something. Sir, these civic guards are an anomaly. They are absolutely of no use. We have in Bengal hundreds of volunteers who are well trained and well equipped and who are able to maintain peace and order, but they are all suspects in the eyes of the Government. The Government cannot trust them, and, therefore, they discovered a way to offer employment to a few youngmen by asking them to form themselves into civic guards. And what are they paid? They are paid six annas a day, and twelve annas a day to inspector. If that is a fact, how can they be expected to discharge their duties if they have a duty at all to discharge? Really, we are at a loss to understand the real object for which civic guards have been organized. Government do not give out the real object for the institution of civic guards. In Bengal there have been internal disorder and troubles in many places. Have these civic guards been of any use in any of those places, have they been of any good either at Dacca in the recent riots or at Khulna, where there is going on much internal trouble? Have these civic guards been of the slightest use in any part of Bengal whenever rioting or internal disorder broke out? So far as I know, they have been of practically no use whatever to anybody except to themselves. Why should the Bengal Government, or for the matter of fact, why should the Central Government continue to pay these people and maintain them out of the taxpayer's money? If Government, really meant business, these people would have been given proper training.

What training have they got? They have not got any training. They are not equipped with any weapon of defence, they have been given mere batons. This is really a parody of defence. We have seen them—weaklings, unhealthy, young persons, who had no food, who had nothing to fall back upon. (Interruption.) Poor unemployed people, they mostly are and if the Government want to employ these unemployed youths I have nothing to say, but I may say they are worse than useless. Regarding their training, Government are indifferent, regarding their equipment, they are absolutely indifferent, and with regard to their usefulness, no one has been found useful for any purpose, at least so far as Bengal is concerned. Our troubles in Bengal are mostly in villages. We hear that in England, if the Germans invade England, they will have to fight inch by inch. The British Government have organised every village, and every man will fight for protecting his country. If really our present Government believes that there may be a war in India, then they should not create such a force as civic guards. They should put their trust in those people who really feel for India, who love India, who love independence. They should trust these people to form volunteers and militia to defend the hearths and homes against both internal and external troubles. Therefore, this sum of Rs. 1,80,000 which has been set apart for these civic guards is absolutely useless and is a waste, and the Honourable the Finance Member should rather divert it to more useful purposes. Instead of wasting this money, a better purpose would have been served if he could transfer this amount to research and not waste the amount on feeding these useless people. With these words, Sir, I support the amendment.

The Honourable Sir Reginald Maxwell: The demand which the House is asked to pass covers two items, one, additional expenditure on police, and the other, contribution to the cost of civic guards, and I would deal

[Sir Reginald Maxwell.]

first with a question asked by Mr. Aney about the additional expenditure on police. As I think he recognised, war conditions give rise to additional duties for which police are required. To give just a single instance, the possibility of sabotage is a reason for strengthening the police in certain conditions, and various other requirements arise which necessitate extra police being entertained over and above the staff ordinarily necessary in peace time. The provincial police are called upon to perform certain additional duties in connection with the interests of the Central Government, such as, for instance, guarding the Central Government's buildings and installations, or taking measures in regard to the surveillance of enemy foreigners or other foreigners. Therefore, the Central Government has undertaken certain liabilities for the payment of additional strength of police which has been necessitated by war circumstances. That liability was undertaken in the year 1940, and it is for an item of additional police for which no provision could be made in the budget estimates for the year 1940-41. That answers Mr. Aney's point.

As regards civic guards, the reason for entertaining them is to a large extent the same; that is, war circumstances give rise to the need of additional security staff for various purposes. The staffs required for those purposes need not necessarily all be of the same character or training. It would be a waste of time to employ policemen who are fully drilled or trained in the investigation of crime, for certain simpler types of duties. Then, again, it is necessary also to prepare beforehand for any emergency which may arise and not wait until the emergency is upon you and then begin thinking how you are going to strengthen your internal security staff. And circumstances might arise in which you might find it necessary to relieve a certain number of the police by persons who had, at any rate, some qualifications for that kind of work. Therefore, it is a matter of ordinary precaution in a way, to have as a sort of reserve something outside the ordinary police, on which you do not incur very high expenditure except when it is actually wanted for use. By entertaining civic guards the provinces are able to supply themselves with a moderately disciplined force which can be used in certain emergent circumstances but which is not costing them a tremendous lot in the meanwhile. Those civic guards are similarly helping to perform certain functions on behalf of the Central Government. They may be used to some extent for guarding the Central Government's buildings or installations, railway bridges, this, that or the other, and, therefore, the Central Government has agreed to pay the provinces a certain contribution. That is the contribution asked for in this Supplementary Demand, and it is a liability which arose in 1940 and, therefore, could not be provided for in the budget estimates. But at the same time I would ask the House to remember in relation to other things which have been said about civic guards, that they are not a central organisation, they are not a central force. They are entirely a provincial force. We have to rely on the provinces to provide the personnel necessary for certain purposes and all we do is to contribute to the cost, and that is all the House is asked to do in passing this Supplementary Demand. (Pandit Nilakantha Das rose to interrupt). I am not giving way to the Honourable Member.

We do not take the responsibility for every detail of the employment of the civic guards. The provinces are perfectly well able to apportion their strength to the various purposes for which they are required. There-

fore, it is not really relevant to the demand which is now before the House to argue that the civic guards are not of a good quality, or they ought not to be used for this or that purpose. We are satisfied that it will strengthen the position *vis-a-vis* any emergent war position to have civic guards available in the provinces and that they will be—and they are—well worth the contribution which the Central Government asks the House to vote for them. The other arguments used by my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Ghani, as a reason for rejecting these guards were entirely irrelevant. He entered into a certain amount of discussion about a notification issued under the Defence Rules regarding drilling and uniform and volunteer organisations generally. I did not quite follow what the Honourable Member's argument was unless it was that civic guards should be washed out and that all these duties should be left to be performed by irregular volunteer organisations. At any rate I have some confidence in saying that the policy followed by the Government of India in regard to volunteer organisations generally and in regard to the regulation of the use of uniforms and performance of military evolutions by such bodies has had the general support of this House and of the country. More particularly I might point out that in any emergent position you cannot have a number of independent volunteer organisations wearing different uniforms of an unrecognised kind, performing internal security functions. They must be one body which can be recognised by its uniform and which cannot be confused with any other unauthorised body. The public in a time of emergency must know to whom they are to turn. Therefore, I think that these arguments which have been raised about volunteer organisations are not relevant and I hope the House will not consider them but will pass this Supplementary Demand.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, I am rather surprised to hear the Honourable Member from Bengal, Mr. Chattopadhyaya, describing the quality of the civic guards from his part of India. His description was that they were unemployed good for nothings, that they were half starved and worse than useless. Well, Sir, he can speak for his own province. Whether he is right or wrong, I am not in a position to be able to say. My own impression is that that he is exaggerating but I can speak with a little knowledge of my own province and I can inform the House that there was a rush to join the civic guards. There is a very high standard laid down for education and physical fitness. There are very few who are not graduates. All have been medically passed fit and a large number were rejected. They are a fine body of men who expect to do useful work. When you get a class of men like this, of the standard of education that these men have, to hear them run down, as my Honourable friend did, is rather deplorable and so far as the Bombay civic guards are concerned, I would suggest that my Honourable friends come to Bombay to have a look and if they find them better than any of those organisations in which they are interested, then I hope next time they will be candid enough to get up in this House and speak the truth.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Who will pay the travelling allowance?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Patriotism will make you pay the travelling allowance. If you have not that much of patriotism and ask Government to pay your travelling allowance, you ought not to be here. Well, Sir, it is a great pity to hear in this Honourable House these criticisms which

[Sir Cowasji Jehangir.]

are so untrue. They may be true of Bengal. I am not in a position to contradict my Honourable friend but perhaps there are others from Bengal who will speak with greater knowledge. As to my friend, Mr. Kazmi, a Member of the new Independent Party, I would leave him to his Leader, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney, for disciplinary action.

Several Honourable Members: I move that the question be now put.

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

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

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

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,54,000 in respect of 'Police' be reduced by Rs. 1,81,300."

(On a division being challenged, Mr. President asked those in favour and those against to stand up in their places. Four Members were for the amendment and the rest against.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The "Noes" have it.

The motion was negatived.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,54,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of 'Police'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 28—PORTS AND PILOTAGE.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 30,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 30,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

There is an amendment in the name of Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani. He wishes to discuss, on this motion, the question of "increased expenditure", but he is at liberty to discuss that on the demand itself, without moving a cut motion.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Can I do that?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Certainly he can discuss that; any Honourable Member can discuss that.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, the demand requires an additional expenditure of Rs. 30,000, but I do not think that the ports at Karachi, Calcutta, and Bombay deserve to have any great increased expenditure.

Mr. J. D. Boyle: Why?

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Because they are very unsympathetic towards their staff. Sir, from the question No. 518 asked by my friend, Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait, which was as follows:

“(a) Seeing that the figures supplied in answer to my starred question No. 99, asked on the 16th November, 1940, show that there are only three Mussalmans out of 252 officers in the Calcutta Port Trust. . . .”

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I cannot hear anything.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better speak up.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I am referring to question No. 518 of today

Mr. J. D. Boyle: On a point of order, Sir, does this arise?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot discuss that question of policy; there is no question of policy on a Supplementary Demand.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: All right. I am simply opposing this demand on the ground that they are very unsympathetic towards Mussalmans as I find from the reply of the Honourable the Communications Member given today on the floor of the House.

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow (Member for Railways and Communications): Sir, this has nothing to do with the Port Trust. The Port Trust does not come into this grant at all; this is a Commerce Department grant.

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

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 30,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of ‘Ports and Pilotage’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 30—SURVEY OF INDIA.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 57,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of ‘Survey of India’.”

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

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 57,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of ‘Survey of India.’”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 32—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 64,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of ‘Geological Survey.’”

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

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 64,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of ‘Geological Survey.’”

Revival of the Calcutta Compensatory Allowance.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: I wish, Sir, to confine myself about the revival of the Calcutta compensatory allowance which has been included here and which was long ago abolished, and now they are going to revive that compensatory allowance. I move, Sir:

“That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 64,000 in respect of ‘Geological Survey’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

I want to know what circumstances have arisen that the Government are going to revive the old compensatory system of allowance which was abolished after careful scrutiny, and I hope the Government will throw some light and give some reasons for reviving the compensatory allowance.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Surely a point like that could easily have been discussed on the motion for the demand itself? However, the Chair will, put the amendment. Amendment moved:

“That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 64,000 in respect of ‘Geological Survey’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Sir, I also have an amendment standing in my name?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member need not be in a hurry. The object of the Honourable Member’s amendment is to “discuss the increased activity of the Department during the war”? The Honourable Member cannot move an amendment like that. The question can be discussed on the motion itself.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I am only asking for some information.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can speak on the motion. He cannot move an amendment like that.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I am not discussing the question of policy. Sir, I only want to know some facts. In connection with this demand there appears a footnote which says that "the excess is due mainly to the revival of the Calcutta Compensatory Allowance and to the increased activities of the Department due to the war".

Sir, I do not understand how the war has caused a spurt of geological activity or what is exactly meant by saying that there has been increased activity in geological survey due to the conditions of the war. One can understand that the war has entailed on this Department additional expenditure in researches on metals or ores which may be necessary for war, but there is no indication of that in the note. I would, therefore, ask the Honourable the Commerce Member to explain to us in what respect and to what extent have the activities of the Geological Survey Department have registered an advance so as to necessitate an additional grant of Rs. 64,000.

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Sir, let me dispose of first the short question raised by Mr. Abdul Ghani regarding the compensatory allowances in Calcutta. These allowances were granted to these officers from the year 1924 onwards. In 1937 by a Resolution of the Government of India these allowances were proposed to be discontinued, but subsequently on reconsideration it was decided that they should not be discontinued. As this is a Central service, Class I, the officers appealed to the Secretary of State and it was decided that these compensatory allowances should be continued for these officers and that the original Resolution of the Government of India of 1937 should be confined to those officers who entered service after the 1st of May, 1937, and that is how this Supplementary Grant is necessitated.

As regards the question that has been raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Maitra, I may inform him what he obviously knows perhaps that the Geological Department in every country is one of the Departments which is intensely busy when a war breaks out. Many minerals are required for the purpose of the war and investigations have to be carried out with greater intensity than ever before. When the war broke out in this country in September, 1939, it was immediately realised by the Director General of Geological Survey that his Department would have to do much more work than ever before. The Director General took upon himself the task of publishing a pamphlet or a memorandum regarding the possible utilisation of several minerals which had been discovered in small quantities before by the previous geological surveys and how those surveys could be brought up-to-date and the kind of minerals that could be produced which would be of the greatest help to the country during the period of the war.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it a publication of the Government of India?

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It is a confidential publication of the Government of India. This was prepared in January, 1940, within three months of the outbreak of the war.

[Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar.]

In pursuance of this publication several geological parties had to be sent out; new officers had to be employed; and Provincial Governments in their turn also required that certain geological investigations may be taken in hand immediately. I need not elaborate the various surveys that have been conducted. I may, however, give Honourable Members indication of some of the most important surveys that have been conducted.

Honourable Members are aware that the question of sulphur and sulphuric acid is one of the most important questions. We did not get pure sulphur in this country so far and we had to import it. The use of sulphur is necessary not only for the defence services but its use is obvious for civil industries as well. For instance, the sugar industry cannot go on with the manufacture of white sugar without a certain amount of sulphur and in the early months when the war broke out we had the greatest difficulty in seeing that sulphur was imported into this country. That is one organisation that has been set in motion by Dr. Fox and we are now in a position to state that sulphur, almost in its pure state, is to be found in two parts of the country. It is found in Koh-i-Sultan in British Baluchistan. A survey has been made there and the geological parties are at work. It has been assessed that 30,000 tons of sulphur almost in a pure state are immediately available and with the help of the Supply Department and perhaps with the help of the commercial interests we hope to place this on the market very soon, partly for the purposes of the defence and partly for the requirements of the civil industry. Then, again, take the question of bauxite from which aluminium is prepared. Surveys have been made and bauxite has been discovered in very good qualities in the Sherwaroy hills in the Madras presidency and in other parts of the country. That mineral will be of the greatest interest. A survey of the Bihar mica fields has also been undertaken with a view to the formation of a plan to secure the maximum output of mica during the war. The export of mica, as the Honourable Members are aware, has increased rapidly. We are exporting it to the United States of America as a result of the recommendations of Dr. Gregory and Sir David Meek. It is also bringing very necessary pecuniary assistance to the miners and the labourers involved in the mines of Bihar. The Geological Survey of India has also helped in the preparation of bleaching powder from lime stone which has been discovered from Sankari Drug in the Salem district. I can go on with a long list of these things. But I need only say that it is gratifying to note that such a small increase in the staff has been responsible for so much good work in such a short time.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, in view of the explanation given by the Honourable the Commerce Member, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 64,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 38—EDUCATION.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of ‘Education’.”

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

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of ‘Education’.”

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know who are these Central State scholars?

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): The scholarship is given every year by the Government of India to people from the Centrally Administered Areas and the scholars are sent overseas. In this particular case, the excess on the original provision is due to two reasons. One scholarship was extended on the very strong recommendation of the scholar's Professor in the London University. The scholar was a doctor and he was doing some useful research work there. In the other case, the scholar, owing to the outbreak of war in September, 1939, could not immediately proceed overseas and that was just the time when the High Commissioner was making up his budget; so, no provision was made. Subsequently, he has gone overseas and we have to meet the expense this year.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is this scholarship awarded for prosecuting technical, scientific or literary studies?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not think that there is any restriction placed. Usually, I think, it has been of a scientific character.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: May I know the amount of the scholarship?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I could not say that off-hand.

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

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of ‘Education’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 40—PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,98,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of ‘Public Health’.”

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

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 15,98,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of ‘Public Health’.”

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 46-A—SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I move:

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,54,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of ‘Scientific and Industrial Research’.”

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

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,54,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of ‘Scientific and Industrial Research’.”

Importance of the Work and the Constitution of the Board.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Sir, I move:

“That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,54,000 in respect of ‘Scientific and Industrial Research’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Sir, if this war has brought any ray of hope to this country, it is this setting up of this research Board. I have personally visited this office in Calcutta and I really found that they were doing useful work. The grant sanctioned by the Government is absolutely inadequate. With a view to draw the attention of the Government to the importance of this work, I have tabled this amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can discuss the whole thing without this amendment. The Chair would tell the House that no Honourable Member can gain priority by tabling an amendment like that which is not necessary and which is out of order. However, the Honourable Member can go on.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Sir, a few minutes ago, when discussing the grant for civic guards, I said. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It has nothing to do with this grant.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: I meant to say that instead of wasting money on civic guards it should be granted for useful purposes like this. This will really help India in creating industries in the future and, therefore, I request the Honourable the Commerce Member to see that he gets more grants for this purpose and encourage this research work as best as he can. With these words, I support the motion.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Sir, I have generally been a critic, sometimes a stern and severe critic of Government measures. But at the present moment, I find myself in the happy position of supporting the Government.

But my only complaint is that the sum provided here is not sufficient and a great deal more money will be required if research work is to be carried out to the fullest extent. I would also urge upon the Government that this Research Board which has been established for war purposes should not be abolished when the war is over, but should be continued as a separate research department for purposes of industrial and scientific development in the country.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Sir, I should like to know the nature of the work that is carried on in this Board, I want to have some illustrations of the work carried on and the character of the work which is intended for the promotion of our industrial development. This is so interesting a thing and I should like the Honourable the Commerce Member to give us some information.

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Sir, I shall take another opportunity, if Honourable Members who are interested in this subject so care, to arrange a talk perhaps from a more authoritative person, the Director of the Scientific and Industrial Research Bureau himself on the work that has been carried out so far by this Board and on what it hopes to do. But I may briefly state what was the purpose of this Board and how it has been functioning. With reference to the first point that the grant is inadequate at least on the Supplementary Grant that has been proposed it does not seem to be a correct position, because the original grant for this Board was five lakhs and we have been able to spend only Rs. 3,64,000. That was because it was the first year when the Board was instituted. Broadly speaking the idea of the scientific and industrial research is to harness all the available industrial research workers in the country, to get their experience pooled and to set them on such kinds of research work as each of them or groups of men may be most capable of doing. The Board of scientific and industrial research gets once every quarter applications for grants either for scholarships or stipends to scientists or for grants for appliances, plant, machinery required, chemicals and so on, and it scrutinises the whole of these applications—about 200 applications are received every quarter—takes up these researches which are most promising, rejects those applications on which research has already been done or with reference to which there is no need for further research and then puts these proposals before the Board of scientific and industrial research. A small committee of that Board then scrutinises further these applications, selects the kind of research that should be undertaken and with reference to the applications made by the various scientists recommends the amount that should be given either by way of scholarship or for plant and appliances as are necessary. Then the award is made to those scientists who work under the supervision of a research committee with reference to each kind of research. Then a certain number of researches of one kind are grouped under one research committee, other researches under another committee and these research committees in their turn are composed of the most eminent scientists in India drawn from various places and the members of these committees watch the progress of research that is being made by individual scientists who have applied and got a grant from the Government. For instance to mention only a few research committees that have been established: the vegetable oil committee, the fertilisers committee, the drugs committee, the cellulose research committee, the scientific instruments committee, the sulphur committee, the graphite carbon and

[Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar.]

electrode committee, the molasses committee, the glass and refractories committee, the vegetable dye committee, the fuel research committee and in addition to that at the last meeting, three very important committees have been constituted regarding heavy industries and so on—the internal combustion committee, among others.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: But the grants are very small for these.

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The grants are proportionate to the demands that have been made and the grants are recommended by the scientists themselves on these committees who know best how much is required and what amount can easily be expended during the year. The recommendations of these Committees come up before the Government and the Government finally approve these recommendations and I can say with confidence that, virtually, in ninety-nine per cent. of the cases the Government have so far found themselves in a position to accept the recommendations made by these technical bodies. These technical bodies must be in a position to judge what is required by these various scientific research scholars. It is on this basis that this Board is working. I have myself very high hopes of this Board. I have taken keen personal interest in the working of this Board; certain discoveries have already been made which are capable of industrial utilisation and that is why the Government have constituted what is called the Industrial Research Utilisation Committee whereby enterprising industrialists can take advantage of the research and put it on the market as an industrial concern. About eight items of such research have so far been found mostly at Alipore Test House by the scientists under the direct control of the Government of India and the Director, Dr. Bhatnagar, has prepared pamphlets of these researches and by the end of this month I hope to have them circulated to various Chambers of Commerce and industrialists and invite applications from those industrialists to exploit these researches. Those applications are going to be considered at a meeting of the Industrial Research Utilisation Committee which has been convened for 12th May and as a result of that consideration I believe these industrialists will take advantage of these researches. I may say that Government have already received offers from individual industrialists agreeing to pay certain royalty, agreeing to found scholarships for research scholars if some of these researches with patent rights are handed over to them. The question is one of selection of the proper industrialists and there Government hope to be guided by the recommendations of the Industrial Research Utilisation Committee. Sir, I feel that this is a most promising committee that has come out of the war and it is my hope that we may find a justification for continuing this Board.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, I want to make one suggestion and that is that after the remarks made by my Honourable friends behind the Finance Member will keep a double look-out on the expenditure of the Board.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Sir, I should like to know whether this Industrial Research Board would like to work in co-ordination with the National Planning Committee with which certain Provincial Governments were co-operating for some time.

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The recommendations of the National Planning Committee are not before me. Its report has not yet been received and I understand it is still under preparation. But so far as I have followed it it is entirely on a different basis from the purely research side of the work which this Board is undertaking. The National Planning Committee did not plan research. This is working in co-operation with the universities and scientific bodies in this country.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Has any new industry been brought into being as a result of the researches?

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Certain industries have been brought into being, specially industries for war purposes. The results of the investigations have been given over to the Supply Department and through the Supply Department these industries have been brought into existence. For instance, anti-gas cloth is one of the things that are being manufactured in this country. I do not want to go into more details for obvious reasons.

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,54,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of 'Scientific and Industrial Research'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 47—AVIATION.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 24,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of 'Aviation'."

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 24,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1941, in respect of 'Aviation'."

There is a cut motion in the name of Mr. Chattopadhyaya who wants to discuss the manufacture of aeroplanes in India.

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: Sir, I submit that the motion is entirely out of order. In this demand there is nothing relating to the manufacture of aeroplanes.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This motion cannot be moved.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Sir, I will not speak on the cut motion, but on the general question. In the morning papers every day we find with regard to the manufacture of aeroplanes in India . . .

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I submit, Sir, this is still out of order. The Honourable Member does not become in order by not moving his motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must continue himself to the subjects included in this demand.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: I want to know what arrangements have been made for aviation in India. Our young men should be trained but without aeroplanes this training is of no use. Consequently, when we speak of training our young men for piloting we also have to think of the manufacture of aeroplanes in India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a different proposition. This demand is confined to the training of pilots.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: The training of our young men depends on the possibility of having aeroplanes in India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go into that question on this motion.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: I request the Honourable the Communications Member to give us an idea of the present position with regard to aviation in India.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Sir, I strongly support this demand, but I wish to ask what Government have so far done in order to make the people of India air-minded. Aviation is a very important thing at the present moment. Not only is military aviation important for the purposes of defence but civil aviation may be regarded as the handmaid of defence aviation. In that view of the thing it is absolutely necessary that the people of India should be made air-minded. Some time ago, an institute known as the Gliding Institute was started by a friend of ours who is, unfortunately, no longer in the land of the living. That institute did not receive any support from Government and its activities had to come to an end.

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: Sir, I submit this is not in order. The grant is asked for a specific purpose which has been specified.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is not in order in dealing with the Gliding Institute. He must confine himself to the items mentioned in this demand.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: What I want Government to do is to encourage civil aviation to extend better than it has done in the past.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question here is whether any amount should be granted for the particular purpose for which it has been asked.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: I do not object to the amount being granted. I would gladly agree to a larger amount but Government should take proper steps to make the people air-minded.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Sir, I find there is money for grant-in-aid to flying clubs and the Delhi Flying Club must be one of them. I understand that sometime ago Muslim candidates were selected for emergency Commissions in the air force and 8 of them were entrusted to the Delhi Flying Club for training. But the club was so unsympathetic towards them that it turned them out one after another. On this ground I consider that the grant given to the club is not justified as it is anti-Muslim.

The second point is that the grant to the Patna Flying Club is very inadequate and I think this amount should be increased.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Sir, with reference to this demand, I should like to know from the Honourable the Communications Member whether the scheme of having 2,000 trained mechanics a year has already been put into operation, and, if so, what is the stage of the development of that scheme. I find the demand is intended for training 300 pilots and 2,000 mechanics a year. At the same time there is an indication in the note that this training period will be spread over a period of two years. There is no indication in the foot-note whether Government have decided on any definite progressive policy of increasing year by year the number of pilots as well of trained mechanics. It is also necessary for the Honourable Member to inform this House whether the pilots who are going to be trained up will require training for a period of two years or less. Secondly, whether the ancillary services such as those of ground engineers are also included,—whether special training is going to be given under this head to our young men to have a thorough knowledge in aeronautical engineering. It is equally necessary to have, along with this training in aerial geography. This is a demand which I think is a very important one, and I would not grudge the Government a larger amount if Government provided the full machinery by which will be ensured an increasing flow of trained mechanics, trained pilots and trained ground engineers who will be able to take charge of the aviation service of this country. The facilities which were available to this country for having training in civil aviation were so meagre and were so costly that since 1936, when we voted in this House a sum of Rs. 90 lakhs for the development of civil aviation in the days of Sir Frank Noyce, we have not got many pilots or ground engineers. War has necessitated a new programme of accelerated activity in this direction and I want to know from my Honourable friend, the Communications Member, whether full facilities are given to our young men to be enrolled as recruits from all provinces, whether his department has got branches in different parts of India to impart the training, whether he has seen to it that the cost of receiving this training has been minimised and whether steps have been taken by the Government to make civil aviation in this country popular so as to attract our young men to it as a career to take to. Sir, I hope my friend will give full information in his reply. Sir, I support the demand.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Sir, the Standing Finance Committee's Report of the 9th September, 1940, says at page 11:

"Candidates for both categories of training will be selected by regional selection boards set up for the purpose on which the Director of Civil Aviation in India and the Air Forces will be represented, and on selection, will be required to sign an

[Pandit Nilakantha Das.]

undertaking to serve in the Air Forces if called upon to do so. No guarantee of enrolment in the Air Forces will be given, but it is anticipated that a large percentage of the trainees who successfully complete the training will be absorbed."

And on the next page it says:

"It is hoped to commence the training not later than the 1st December next."

Thereby perhaps is meant the 1st December, 1940. For about four months, therefore, this has been in existence. The Honourable Member will perhaps admit that this number of 300 pilots and 2,000 mechanics is very inadequate. However, I should like to know whether this institution, under any denomination, is going to be permanent and retained after the war. The second point is, how this selection of candidates by the regional boards is going to be made from different provinces and how these regional boards have been formed; what qualifications are required of the trainees and how students are being helped and in what number and to what extent in their training. On all these points I should like to have some information. It is a very necessary organisation and every one should support it and we should see that it grows.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not know if the Honourable Member wishes to reply now

The Honourable Sir Andrew Clow: I think I will take some little time to reply.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 29th March, 1941.