

Monday, 27th March, 1944

# COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

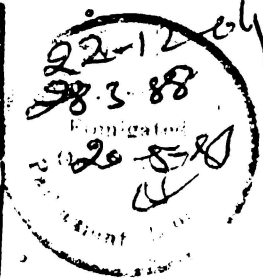
VOLUME I, 1944

*(15th February to 6th April, 1944)*

## SIXTEENTH SESSION

OF THE

## FOURTH COUNCIL OF STATE, 1944



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# COUNCIL OF STATE

Monday, 27th March, 1944

The Council met in the Council Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, the Honourable the President in the Chair.

## MEMBER SWORN:

The Honourable Muhammad Saleh Akbar Hydari (Nominated Official).

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### PERSONNEL AND DATES OF MEETINGS OF THE RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

202. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will Government lay on the table the personnel of Reconstruction Committees with less than 12 non-official members and the dates of their meetings?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN: Sir, I lay a statement on the table.

#### Statement

There are only two Policy Committees with less than 12 non-official members. These are Policy Committee No. 3B on Posts and Aviation, and Policy Committee No. 3C on Public Works and Electric Power.

Representatives of the Government of India, at these Committees will be nominated with reference to the agenda for each meeting. Similarly, representatives of Provincial Governments will be nominated by these Governments for each meeting.

The names of representatives of Indian States and non-officials on these Committees are given below:

#### *Policy Committee, No. 3B, on Posts and Aviation:*

##### *States Representatives:*

1. Nawab Khursru Jung (Hyderabad).
2. Mir Maqbool Mahmood.
3. Mr. Kishnpuri, Judicial Secy., Jodhpur.

##### *Non-officials:—*

1. The Honourable Sir Rahimtoola Chiny. Member, Council of State.
2. Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, M.L.A.
3. Mr. A. F. T. Cambridge.
4. Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi.
5. Mr. G. L. Mehta.
6. Sir Guy Cooper.
7. Mr. J. R. D. Tata.
8. Mr. Kasturbhai Lal Bhai.
9. Sir Padampat Singhania.
10. F/Lt. Rup Chand.

#### *Policy Committee, No. 3C, on Public Works and Electric Power:*

##### *States Representatives:—*

1. Sir Mirza Ismail (Jaipur).
2. Mr. N. Madhava Rao (Mysore).
3. Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar (Travancore).

##### *Non-officials:—*

1. Mr. B. R. Kagal.
  2. Mr. D. Glading.
  3. Mr. H. W. T. Hain.
  4. Mr. N. N. Iengar.
  5. Mr. Dharamsey Mulraj Khatau.
  6. Rai Bhadur Sohan Lal.
2. The first meeting of Policy Committee, No. 3C, on Public Works and Electric Power was held on the 25th October, 1943. No meeting of Policy Committee, No. 3B, on Posts and Aviation has yet been held but a meeting has been called in April.

## INDUSTRIAL MISSION FOR FOREIGN COUNTRIES

203. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL: Do Government propose to send any industrial mission to the United States or to the United Kingdom or any other country? If so, what are its functions and purposes and how will members of the mission be selected?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. S. A. HYDARI: The matter is at present under active consideration. Decisions on the points raised by the Honourable Member have not yet been made.

## SUPPLY OF QUININE TO MADRAS

204. THE HONOURABLE SIR DAVID DEVADOSS: Will Government state—

(a) Whether there was a complaint from Madras that quinine was urgently needed for treating malaria cases?

(b) What quantity of quinine was supplied to Madras during the last 8 months and how much of it was allocated for military and how much for civilian uses?

(c) What quantity was made available for use by private medical practitioners?

(d) What quantity of quinine will be supplied to Madras and when?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH: (a) No complaint has been received from the Madras Government that the quinine allotted to that Province was inadequate.

(b) and (d). The Government of India only fix the quota of quinine to be consumed in Madras every year and the necessary supplies are obtained by the Madras Government from their own stocks. The allotment to the Province for the year 1943-44 is 38,265 lbs. of quinine and 7,867 lbs. of cinchona. The whole of this allotment is for the use of the civil population. Supplies of anti-malarial drugs for military use are made separately by the military medical authorities.

(c) The Government of India have no information what quantity was made available by the Provincial Government for use by private medical practitioners.

THE HONOURABLE SIR DAVID DEVADOSS: Will Government be able to increase the quota?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH: I cannot say. The supply that was given in 1943-44, namely 38,265 lbs. of quinine and 7,867 lbs. of cinchona is sufficient for treatment of 4½ million people.

## CULTIVATION OF PYRETHRUM

205. THE HONOURABLE SIR DAVID DEVADOSS: Will Government state—

(a) Whether pyrethrum is cultivated in India and, if so, where?

(b) Whether steps are being taken for its wide cultivation by loans to farmers and other cultivators?

(c) Whether pyrethrum can be cultivated as a commercial crop and, if so, whether in the hills or on the plains?

(d) How long does pyrethrum take to come to maturity from the time it is sown?

(e) Whether pyrethrum is a specific for malaria or whether it can be used only as a prophylactic against malaria?

(f) In what form is pyrethrum used as a medicine?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH: (a) Yes. Pyrethrum is cultivated in the Punjab (Murree, Kulu, Palampur), Patiala State, Kashmir, Madras (Nilgiris), and Assam.

(b) Steps have been taken to expand the cultivation by importing seeds and supplying them to the various Provincial Governments and Indian States who agreed to participate in the Co-ordinated Scheme for cultivation framed by the Central Government. No loan to cultivators were considered necessary.

(c) It can be grown in the hills at a suitable elevation, provided the rainfall is not heavy. Whether it is a commercial proposition or not will depend on the price that it will fetch from time to time.

(d) About sixteen months.

(e) It is not a specific for malaria. It is used as an insecticide and a repellent.

(f) It is not used as a medicine. An extract of Pyrethrum is used as a spray for the destruction of mosquitoes and other insects. The extract is also incorporated in preparations used to prevent mosquitoes from biting.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will the Honourable Member indicate the height and rainfall necessary for its cultivation?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH: Well, say, about 4,000 to 5,000 ft.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: And rainfall?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH: It is difficult to say, but approximately 40 to 50 inches. It is being grown in Solan and Kandaghat.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Has Ranchi been tried?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH: I am not sure.

OUTBREAK OF SCABIES IN MADRAS

206. THE HONOURABLE SIR DAVID DEVADOSS: Will Government state—

(a) Whether scabies have broken out in Madras in an epidemic form of great virulence?

(b) Whether the Mayor of the Madras Corporation recently called for a conference of medical men and others in order to consider what steps could be taken to combat the spread of the disease?

(c) What was the cause of the sudden appearance of the disease in an epidemic form? Was it not mainly the want of green vegetables in the diet of the people?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH: (a) Government are aware of the prevalence of scabies in Madras.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) A nutrition expert has been detailed to investigate the possible association between insufficient nutrition and the prevalence of scabies.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Has the Government found any specific for this?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH: Scabies is a disease of dirt and it is said that dirt breeds some kind of organism. Scabies is very catching too. Sulphur and cleanliness are the cure. Clothes which are infected should be generally burnt up and sulphur preparation applied for about three days to get a cure.

PRICES OF GREEN VEGETABLES IN MADRAS

207. THE HONOURABLE SIR DAVID DEVADOSS: Will Government state—

(a) Whether green vegetables are selling in Madras at prohibitive prices?

(b) Whether Government are helping farmers, gardeners and others to grow more green vegetables by grants of seed and in other ways?

(c) Do Government propose to make the military and the prisoners of war to grow their own green vegetables?

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN: (a) Average prices per viss (1½ seers or 120 tolas) of vegetables in Madras were five annas and eight pies in December, 1943, six annas and one pie in January, 1944 and six annas and two pies in February, 1944. These prices are not prohibitive, though high.

(b) Yes.

(c) In order to take the load off the civilian markets Vegetable Production Schemes for exclusive supply to the military personnel stationed in the provinces are being run by Provincial Departments of Agriculture in collaboration with Headquarters of the various Commands of the Army, and financial assistance is being rendered from the Defence Services Estimates. Under these Schemes the entire off-take of vegetables is guaranteed to producers at prices previously agreed upon.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Could the Government indicate the prices which they have agreed upon?

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN: I want notice of that question, Sir.

SPREAD AND TREATMENT OF SCABIES

208. THE HONOURABLE SIR DAVID DEVADOSS: Will Government state—

(a) Whether they are aware of the statement of the expert in skin diseases in Madras that if scabies spread to the army it would be very difficult to stamp it out?

(b) Whether there was a complaint of the medical men that no sulphur preparation was available to treat scabies with?

(c) Whether Government could supply sulphur preparations to Madras for treatment of scabies and, if so, how much and when?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH: (a) No.

(b) Government are not aware of any such complaint.

(c) Supplies are available to meet the requirements of medical institutions. As regards trade supplies the Government of India have no stocks from which

trade requirements can be met but it is understood that considerable imported supplies have recently been received.

**NUMBER OF INDIAN OFFICERS IN INDIAN SIGNAL UNITS IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

**209. THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** Will Government state the total number of Indian Officers in the Indian Signal Units in the Middle East? Is it a fact that there are several units in which there are no Indian Officers?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** As regards the first part of the question, I regret I am unable to give figures in the interests of security, but the percentage of Indian officers to the total is 7:6. As regards the latter part, there is only one such unit. I should add that the percentage of Indian commissioned officers to the total number of officers in Indian Signal Corps units in all theatres has risen from 6:4 at the outbreak of war to 18.

**INDIAN TROOPS IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

**210. THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** (a) Are Government aware that there is dissatisfaction among the Indian troops in the Middle East owing to the difficulty of obtaining leave to return to India? Is it a fact that there are officers and men who have been there for two years and more without being able to get leave even for urgent domestic reasons? If so, what arrangements do they propose to remove this grievance?

(b) Is it a fact that men belonging to the Indian Hospital Corps in the Middle East are not able to get leave? What steps have Government taken to remedy this hardship?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** (a) I am fully aware that many amongst the Indian troops in the Middle East are anxious to get leave to return to India, but the whole question of leave depends upon the shipping situation. More than one representation has been made to the Secretary of State for India on the subject. I can assure the Honourable Member that the question is always under my urgent consideration.

As regards officers and men who have been overseas for more than two years, applications for leave on compassionate grounds always receive sympathetic consideration and, if granted, are considered for priority of movement.

I should add that since the Honourable Member raised this matter in question No. 25 answered by me on the 2nd August 1943, nearly 30,000 Indian ranks have returned to India for various reasons, including leave.

(b) The conditions of leave apply equally to all personnel serving overseas.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** May I ask whether the members of the Defence Consultative Committee who visited the Middle East in May, 1943, brought this matter to the notice of the Government after returning from there towards the end of May, 1943?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** It was certainly brought to my notice when I took over in August, 1943.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** Has the percentage of officers and men who can get leave on compassionate grounds been increased since then or not?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** I want notice of that question.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** Have any steps at all been taken since May last to expedite the granting of leave to people who have been there for two or indeed three years and more?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** I have already told the Honourable Member that we are constantly urging this matter, and I am doing all that I possibly can to get it put right. I am extremely interested in the matter, and, as I said, representations have been made on the highest level to try and get these men back.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** With regard to part (b) of the question, is His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief aware that the men who belong to the Indian Hospital Corps hardly get any leave, that is that

they can not get even that percentage of leave which, along with other units belonging to the Army, they should?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** They join the Army to fight in the war. If they can be granted leave, they are granted leave. If the circumstances forbid their being granted leave, they cannot get leave.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** Are Government aware that even when accommodation is available, men belonging to the Indian Hospital Corps do not get leave as the men belonging to other sections do?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** I will look into the matter; but as far as I know, they are treated on an equality with other units.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** Are Government aware that this matter too was brought to their notice in May last by the members of the Defence Consultative Committee who visited the Middle East?

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** His Excellency has stated that he is going to look into the matter.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** It is really an important matter, and I hope that His Excellency will seriously consider it.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** He has promised twice today that he is going to consider it.

**PROPORTION OF INDIAN TO BRITISH I.M.S. OFFICERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.**

**211. THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** (a) Will Government state the proportion of Indian to British I.M.S. Officers among (i) Medical and (ii) Surgical Commanders in the Military Hospitals in the Middle East? Will Government give corresponding figures with regard to the Pai Force?

(b) What is the proportion of Indian to British I.M.S. Officers commanding Indian General Hospitals and Combined General Hospitals in the Middle East and in those attached to the Pai Force, respectively?

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** I am collecting the information and will lay it on the table in due course.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Will His Excellency consider the claims of Indians with sufficient seniority for promotion along with European officers? Indian officers of sufficient seniority should be considered for command.

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF:** There is no discrimination made between Indian officers and British officers.

**NUMBER OF INDIAN OFFICERS IN THE G. H. Q., MIDDLE EAST AND PAI FORCE**

**212. THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** Will Government state: (a) The number of Officers in the G.H.Q., Middle East and the Pai Force, respectively? (b) Who looks after the welfare of Indian troops? (c) How many of them are Indians?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON:** The answer to the first part of the question is that in the interests of security I am unable to give the information asked for.

As regards the second and third parts the welfare of Indian troops is looked after by Welfare Officers, some of whom have been appointed locally and 13 have been sent from India. Of these at the present moment three only are Indians, but the policy is to increase the number of Indian officers and it is hoped to send another five to Middle East and P. A. I. C. very shortly.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** Are Government aware that this matter too was brought to their notice in May last, after the return of the members of the Defence Consultative Committee from the Middle East? What is the progress that has been made since then?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON:** I have stated the position as it stands.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** Am I to understand that Government have taken no steps during this interval to place the Welfare Section relating to Indian troops in the hands of Indian officers?



**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** That is not a question; that is your argument.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** If you want it, I will put it differently. I will ask: Have Government taken any steps since May last to place the section relating to the welfare of Indian troops in the hands of Indian officers?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON:** I have just stated that we are now replacing five Englishmen by five Indians, and that will reduce the number of Englishmen from 10 to 5, and it will increase the number of Indians from 3 to 8.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** Was anything done before this?

(No reply.)

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** Do Government propose to increase the Indianization further?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON:** It is very difficult to say.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** May I know whether Government have now accepted the position that the welfare of Indian troops should be looked after by Indian officers?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON:** That is a very good ideal; I agree with it.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** What is the difficulty in putting that ideal into practice?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON:** The Honourable Member must realize that these things cannot be done overnight. There are some people in the Army who are British, and are serving and doing their duty as well as any Indians. We cannot overnight dismiss the whole lot and replace them by Indians. These things have got to be done gradually. The Honourable Member should realize that the very fact that we are replacing five British by five Indian officers shows which way the Government policy is moving.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** Do Government think that ten months' interval is much too short for them—that it is just like a day?

(No reply.)

#### HEAD OF THE INDIAN RED CROSS ORGANIZATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

213. **THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** Will Government state who is the head of the Indian Red Cross organisation in the Middle East? Has any Indian been in charge of it so far? If not, why not?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON:** As regards the first part of the question, Colonel Sir Richard Needham is Red Cross Commissioner in the Middle East. As regards the latter part, no Indian has yet been in charge as there has been no vacancy since the original appointment was made in 1940.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** Why did Government appoint Sir Richard Needham? Did they look for an Indian who could occupy this position?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON:** That happened long before I took charge of the Red Cross. I cannot give the Honourable Member the information unless I have notice of that question.

**THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU:** Are Government aware that this matter too was brought to their notice 10 months ago?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON:** The Honourable Member says so and it must be so.

#### SUB-LETTING OF INFERIOR STAFF QUARTERS

214. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** (a) Are Government aware that a number of the inferior staff quarters in New Delhi in the Aliganj, Minto Road, Raja Bazar and the Panchkuian Road areas have been sub-let by the regular allottees?

(b) Is it a fact that reports have been made to the C. P. W. D., and in many cases, on enquiries being made, the reports have been found correct? If so, was any action in the matter taken by the C. P. W. D.? If not, why?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. C. PRIOR: (a) Yes

(b) Yes. Action is taken by the Central Public Works Department, as soon as the allegations have been investigated and proved to be correct.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: What steps are Government taking to find accommodation for those people who have got no accommodation from the Government?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. C. PRIOR: The Government of India are constructing accommodation to the best of their ability.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will these people who have sublet their houses be penalised?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. C. PRIOR: Yes.

PRICES OF COAL AT PITS HEAD OF DIFFERENT CENTRES.

215. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will Government lay on the table a statement of coal prices at pits head of different centres and the average wages paid at the end of December each year from 1940 to 1943?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. C. PRIOR: The information is being collected and a statement will be laid on the table of the House shortly.

IMPORT OF STEAM COAL FOR THE WEST COAST

216. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will Government state whether they have tried to import steam coal for the West Coast of India? If so, what steps have been taken, and what are the results? Have Government ascertained from South Africa whether they can supply us with coal?

THE HONOURABLE SIR SATYENDRA NATH ROY: The reply to both parts of the question is in the negative.

POSTINGS OF SORTERS TO RUNNING SECTIONS AND MAIL OFFICES

217. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: (a) Is it a fact that postings of sorters to running sections and mail offices are made by the Superintendent, R. M. S., and no changes are to be made by subordinate officers except as a temporary measure in case of emergencies?

(b) Is it a fact that the subordinate officers at Delhi frequently transfer sorters from one set of an office to another or one running section to another?

(c) If the reply to (b) above is in the affirmative, will Government state how many changes were made during last 6 months by subordinate officers at Delhi to meet emergencies and whether all such changes were necessary?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, to meet emergencies.

(c) 29 in running sections in six months and 40 in mail office in two months. A report is being called for.

TRANSFER OF SORTERS AT A MONTH'S NOTICE ON THE FRONTIER MAIL

218. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: (a) Is it a fact that two R. M. S. sections work in the Frontier Mail between Delhi and Lahore and one of them is a sorting section and the other is a transit section?

(b) Is it a fact that some sorters are transferred at a moment's notice from the sorting section of the Frontier Mail to a transit section of the same train without emergency?

(c) If the replies are in the affirmative, do Government propose to take suitable action in the matter to save the sorters unnecessary trouble?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

PAYMENT OF LEAVE SALARY TO SORTERS STATIONED AT DELHI

219. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Is it a fact that sorters at Delhi who take leave on medical certificate in the second or third week of a month are not generally paid their leave salary on the 1st of the month following that in which the leave is taken and are thus put to inconvenience? If so, do Government propose to take action for the payment of leave salary without delay?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN: The reply to the first part is in the negative; the latter part does not therefore arise.

PERFORMANCE OF EXTRA DUTIES BY SORTERS.

220. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Is it a fact that—

(a) Sorters are frequently required to perform extra duties in Delhi R. M. S.?  
 (b) The sorters who have worked from 9-00 to 17-00 hours are again required to work from 17-00 to 24-00 hours without any rest on payment of a small amount in the shape of extra duty allowance?

(c) The sorters, who work in Delhi R. M. S. from 17-00 hours are, without any previous notice, required to proceed to Lahore or Kalka with a running section where they continue to work till the next morning?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN: (a) No more frequently than in other comparable R. M. S. offices.

(b) and (c) Sorters in the Delhi R. M. S. are sometimes required to perform extra duty in unavoidable circumstances for which they are paid extra duty allowance at the prescribed rates. It is not always possible to give previous notice to the sorters proceeding on extra duty.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will Government consider the advisability of giving them extra wages on the lines of labour payments?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN: I do not understand the meaning of the Honourable Member's question.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Labour usually gets 1½ per hour for the additional work put in whereas Government do not give that much extra.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN: I shall have it examined.

DUTIES PERFORMED BY SORTERS IN THE REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT, DELHI

221. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Is it a fact that the work in Registration Department in Delhi R. M. S./B is heavy and that sorters are often required to perform within four or five hours as much work as can normally be performed by a man in ten or twelve hours according to time test?

If the reply is in the affirmative, do Government propose to have the matter examined and to take action for improving the conditions under which the staff is working at present?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN: No.

The reply to the latter part of the question does not arise.

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK BETWEEN SENIOR SORTERS AND JUNIOR SORTERS

IN THE DELHI R. M. S.

222. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: (a) Is it a fact that the work in the registration and parcel departments of an R. M. S. office carries more responsibility than the work in the sorting branch and that senior sorters are posted to registration and parcel departments and junior sorters to sorting department in one and the same office?

(b) Is it a fact that this system is not followed in Delhi R. M. S. and that junior sorters are posted to parcel and registration departments and senior sorters to sorting department in that office?

(c) If the replies are in the affirmative, do Government propose to take action to remove this anomaly?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN: (a) No. Postings of sorters to different branches in the R. M. S. are made according to their suitability for work in those particular branches.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

STATEMENTS, ETC., LAID ON THE TABLE

THE HONOURABLE MR. N. R. PILLAI (Commerce Secretary): Sir, I lay on the table copies of certain further amendments to the Insurance Rules, 1939, published with the Commerce Department, Notification No. 597-I (4)/43, dated the 12th February, 1944.

## INSURANCE

Simla, the 12th February, 1944

No. 597-1 (4)/43.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 114 of the Insurance Act, 1938 (IV of 1938), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendments shall be made in the Insurance Rules, 1939, the same having been previously published as required by sub-section (1) of the said section, namely:—

1. In the said Rules for sub-rule (3) of rule 10, the following shall be substituted, namely,

“(3) The Bank shall publish as soon as may be after the 1st January, in each year in such manner as the Central Government may direct a list in Form IV of deposits made with it under the Act, as at 31st December, of the preceding year”.

2. In the Forms set out in the Schedule annexed to the said Rules, for Form IV, the following Form shall be substituted, namely,

“FORM IV.

(See Rule 10.)

List of deposits under the Insurance Act, 1938, held in the custody of the Reserve Bank of India, on the 31st December, 19

Name of Depositor	Loan or Nature of deposits	Amount	Total face value	Cash	Total book value of securities and cash

## INFORMATION RE QUESTIONS LAID ON THE TABLE.

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. C. PRIOR: (Labour Secretary): Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to a supplementary to question No. 130, asked on the 10th August, 1943.

## STEPS TAKEN TO FIND SOURCES OF SULPHUR

Government have considered hot springs as possible sources of sulphur. However in none of those which have been investigated has there been any prospect of obtaining sulphur in commercial quantities. Sulphur is present in combination with hydrogen as hydrogen sulphide gas, but fine sulphur has only rarely been observed.

Two lists showing (A) the springs already investigated by the Geological Survey of India and (B) those that have not yet been visited, are enclosed. As regards the springs in list (B) it may be added that evidences indicate that the extraction of sulphur from any of them is a very unlikely proposition.

A.—The following Mineral Springs were under investigation by the G. S. I. during 1939-40, 1940-41.

District	Name of the Spring	Gases, if any
BENGAL		
Birbhum	Agnikund (Bakreswar)	Copious CO <sub>2</sub>
Do.	Brahmakund (Bakreswar)	Nil
BIHAR		
Gaya	Agnikund	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub>
Do.	Brahmakund (Tapoban)	Nil
Hazari Bagh	Duari	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub>
Do.	Hatkauna	Nil
Do.	Kawa Gandhwani (1)	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub>
Do.	Kawa Gandhwani (4)	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub>
Do.	Lachmankund	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub>
Do.	Parasnath (E. of Temple)	Nil
Do.	Parasnath (3 miles 7 fur. East of Nimiaghat)	Nil
Do.	Patalsur	Nil
Do.	Sitakund	CO <sub>2</sub>
Do.	Surajkund	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub>
Manbhum	Charak (Main)	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub>
Do.	Charak (East)	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub>
Do.	Jhanudih ((Dhanbad)	CO <sub>2</sub>
Do.	Jherbari	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub>
Do.	Kalajhor	Nil
Do.	Khamartanr	Nil
Do.	Tatloi No. 1 (on Damodar)	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub>
Do.	Tatloi No. 2 (on Damodar)	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub>
Do.	Tatloi No. 3 (on Damodar)	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub>
Do.	Sheopur (Main)	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub>

District	Name of the Spring	Gases, if any
BIHAR—contd.		
<b>Manbhum</b>	Sheopur (West)	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Usir	Nil
<b>Monghyr</b>	Bharari (Chormara No. 1)	CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Bharari (Chormara No. 2)	CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Bhimbandh (Nos. 1—4)	CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Bhowrah	CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Bhowrah (East)	CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Bhurka	CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Harsha Tuta	Nil
Do.	Lachmishwarkund	None seen.
Do.	Phillipskund	CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Rameshwarkund	CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Rishikund (Gr. I)	CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Rishikund (Gr. I, North of the pool)	CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Rishikund (Gr. II)	CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Rishikund (Gr. III)	CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Rishikund (Gr. IV)	CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Shringirikh (with spout)	Nil
Do.	Shringirikh (East of the former)	Nil
Do.	Sitakund	CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Lake, 1 mile South of Sitakund	Nil
<b>Palamow</b>	Jaroin	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub> .
<b>Patna</b>	Brāhmakund	Inert gases (N <sub>2</sub> )
Do.	Chandrama Kund	No gas detected
Do.	Ganga Kund	Do.
Do.	Jamuna Kund	Do.
Do.	Mākhdur Kund	Do.
Do.	Markandeya Kund	Do.
Do.	Rām kund (Cold spout)	Do.
Do.	Rām Kund (Hot spout)	Do.
Do.	Sitakund	Do.
Do.	Surajkund	Do.
Do.	Viswamitra Kund	Do.
Do.	Vyas Kund	Do.
<b>Ranchi</b>	Kuru	Do.
<b>Santhal Parganas</b>	Bara Paharpur	Do.
Do.	Barhmasia	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Bar Kaldam	Nil
Do.	Chitlo	Nil
Do.	Dahari Sonthali	Nil
Do.	Gamaria	Nil
Do.	Hapani	Nil
Do.	Jharipani	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Karmatanr	Nil
Do.	Lilatari	Nil
Do.	Nunbil	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Nunihat	No gas detected.
Do.	Rampur (W. of Jiajori)	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Sahari	Nil
Do.	Sidpur	Nil
Do.	Tanteswari	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Tantloi	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Trikut Pahar	No gas detected.
ROMBAY		
<b>Kolaba</b>	Sov 'A'	CO <sub>2</sub> & H <sub>2</sub> S.
Do.	Unheri 'C'	CO <sub>2</sub> .
<b>Ratnagiri</b>	Aravli	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Khed	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Rajapur (Unhala)	Not detected.
Do.	Rajwadi	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Sangameshwar (Phansavna)	CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Tural	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Urvara 'A'	H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub> .
<b>Thana</b>	Agni Kund	CO <sub>2</sub> and inert gases.
Do.	Anusaichi Kund (2)	Faint H <sub>2</sub> S mostly CO
Do.	Bhimeshwar Kund	Do.
Do.	Chandra Kund	Do.
Do.	Ganga Kund	Do.
Do.	Kothavala's Spring	CO <sub>2</sub> and inert gases.
Do.	Lachmankund	Faint H <sub>2</sub> S, mainly CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Surajkund	Do.
Do.	Vajreshwar Spring No. 8	Do.

District	Name of the Spring	Gases, if any
<b>CENTRAL PROVINCES</b>		
Chhindwara	Anhoni (Burra)	Plenty H <sub>2</sub> S, CO <sub>2</sub> .
Hoshangabad	Anhoni (Chhota)	Do.
<b>UNITED PROVINCES.</b>		
Benares	Bridhkal Well,	Little H <sub>2</sub> S & CO <sub>2</sub> .
Do.	Gaibi Well	None noted.
Dehra Dun	Bhilaru Reservoir	None detected.
Do.	Bhilaru Spring No. 3	Do.
Do.	Chafner's Khad	Do.
Do.	Company Khad Spring	Do.
Do.	Dhobighat Spring (East)	Do.
Do.	Dhobighat Spring (Main)	Do.
Do.	Iethal Spring	Little H <sub>2</sub> S.
Do.	Johu Mckinon Spring	None detected.
Do.	Mossy Fall Spring 'A' (Larger)	Do.
Do.	Mossy Fall Spring 'B' (Smaller)	Do.
Do.	Murray Spring Reservoir	Do.
Do.	Sansandhara	Abundant H <sub>2</sub> S.
<b>BHARATPUR STATE</b>		
	Golbagh Tube-Well.	None detected.
	Victoria Park Tube-Well	A little H <sub>2</sub> S.
B.—The following springs have not been investigated.		
Place	Name of the Spring	Gases, if any
Cachar	Kopili	
Sibsagar	Nainbor—3 springs	H <sub>2</sub> S.
<b>BALUCHISTAN</b>		
Bolan Pass	Kirta	H <sub>2</sub> S.
Kachhi	Lakha	Do.
Las Bela	Kan Berar	Do.
Sibi	Khattan	Do.
Spintangi		Do.
Uch	Several Springs	
<b>BENGAL</b>		
Chittagong	Bharatkund	} Inflammable gases.
	Balwakund	
	Naulakhakund	
	Kuarikund	
	Dudhikund	
	Brahmakund	
	Chandrakund	
	Surajkund	
	Sitakund	
Darjeeling	Mechi.	
	Minchu	H <sub>2</sub> S.
<b>BOMBAY</b>		
Ahmedabad	Harsol.	
Broach	Kawa.	
Cutch	Mhurr.	
Kaira	Lasundra—17 Springs	H <sub>2</sub> S.
Kathiawar	Tulsi Sham.	
Kolaba	Pali	H <sub>2</sub> S.
	Saha or Savi—3 Springs	Do.
Panch Mahals	Tuwa	Do.
Surat	Devaki Unei—Several Springs	Do.
Thana	Kokner, Several Springs	
	Satiwali, Several Springs	
<b>CENTRAL PROVINCES</b>		
Surguja	Tata Pani	H <sub>2</sub> S.
Yeotmal	Khair.	
<b>EASTERN STATES AGENCY</b>		
Athamallik	Several Springs.	H <sub>2</sub> S.
<b>KASHMIR</b>		
Baltistan	Askoli or Chongo	H <sub>2</sub> S.
	Several Springs.	
	Bisil or Behitsil	Do.
	Duchin (Dushkin)	Do.
	2 Springs	
	Khorkan	Do.
	Tosha—3 Springs.	
Changchengmo	Gokra—Several Springs	CO <sub>2</sub> .
Frontier	Chuttarum Kalla, Sher Gol.	
Jammu	Bega.	
Kargil	Appatic, Lankur.	

Place	Name of the Spring	Gases if any
<b>KASHMIR—contd.</b>		
Kashmir	Islamabad—2 springs	H <sub>2</sub> S.
	Anantnag, Ajas, Beshana, Chesmasahi Khrew, Kukarnag, Kuthair, Mattan, Voyes, Jabla, Bagla, Numbla.	
Ladakh	Pumpur	H <sub>2</sub> S.
	Knarung Chemthung, Durnchuk, Chiya, Ahimi, Kuman Khav, Matta, Panamik, Sakti, Shang, Tiri, Wanda.	
Nubar	Chusan or Panamik.	H <sub>2</sub> S.
Rupahu	Puga—Numerous Springs	Do.
Skardu	Bisal, Kungi, Kurram, Tabee, Taboo Buriq, Tharchi.	
<b>MADRAS</b>		
Bellary	Ramandrug	CO <sub>2</sub> .
Godavari	Gondala	H <sub>2</sub> S.
Kurnool	Kalva.	
	Lanjabanda—Several Springs.	
	Mahanadi—Several Springs.	
<b>ORISSA</b>		
Cuttack	Atari	H <sub>2</sub> S.
<b>PUNJAB</b>		
Kangra	Jawala Mukhi—6 Springs.	
	Lausa. Tatwani.	
Kulu	Tiva or Jiva.	
	Bashisht	H <sub>2</sub> S.
Spiti	Khelat or Sitakund.	Do.
	Manikaran, 14 Springs	Do.
Mianwali	Changrizang, 7 Vents.	
Simla Hill States (Bashahr)	Bakh Ravine	H <sub>2</sub> S.
Bhajji	Jaori, 5 Springs	Do.
Bilaspur	Suni, 10 Springs	Do.
	Bhasra.	
<b>SIKKIM</b>		
	Beopertam, Momai, Phug Sachu, Yeumtong.	
<b>UNITED PROVINCES</b>		
Garhwal	Gaurikund, 2 Springs.	
	Palia or Wazirgarh, Several Springs	H <sub>2</sub> & S.
	Tapoban.	
Tehri Garhwal Jannotri,	Numerous Springs.	

### STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON (Defence Member): Sir, I move:—

“That this Council do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, three non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Department of Supply is concerned, during the financial year, 1944-45.”

The Motion was adopted.

### STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

THE HONOURABLE MR. N. R. PILLAI (Commerce Secretary): Sir, I move:—

“That this Council do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct three non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee, to advise on subjects with which the Commerce Department is concerned.”

The Motion was adopted.

### CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH (Education, Health and Lands Member): Sir, I move:—

“That the members of this Council do proceed to elect in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, one person from among their number to sit on the Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India”.

The Motion was adopted.

## GOVERNING BODY OF THE INDIAN RESEARCH FUND ASSOCIATION

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH, (Education, Health and Lands Member): Sir, I move:—

“That the members of this Council do proceed to elect in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, one person from among their number to sit on the Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association, in the vacancy caused by the death of the Honourable Mr. V. Ramadas Pantulu”.

The Motion was adopted.

## STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN (Nominated Official): Sir, I move:—

“That this Council do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects in the Department of Food, during the financial year 1944-45”.

The Motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: With reference to the Motions which have just been adopted by the Council, I have to announce that nominations to the Committees will be received by the Secretary up to 11 A.M., on Wednesday, the 29th March, 1944, and the date of election, if necessary, will be announced later.

## INDIAN COCONUT COMMITTEE BILL, 1944

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH (Education, Health and Lands Member): Sir, I move:—

“That the Bill to provide for the creation of a fund for the improvement and development of the cultivation, marketing and utilization of coconuts in India, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration.”

“The Bill before the House seeks to establish a Committee to promote the improvement and development of the cultivation and marketing of coconuts and their utilisation. The House will be aware that similar Committees already exist to serve the interests both of the primary producer and of the manufacturer of cotton, lac, jute, coffee and tea, and I think there will be very general agreement that these Committees have all done very useful work, both in research and in development, on the agricultural, the marketing and the technological sides of their respective industries. The Bill before the House is based very largely on previous and well-tested legislation of this kind, especially the Cotton Cess Act of 1928 and the Lac Cess Act of 1930. Sir, I move.

THE HONOURABLE SIR RAMUNNI MENON (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the object of this Bill, at any rate its long term object, is to intensify the production and utilization of coconuts in this country, so that India may become as far as possible self-sufficient. The coconut industry is fairly widely distributed along the coastal tracts of India. But the West Coast of India, that is the land known as Kerala, comprising Malabar, Cochin and Travancore, is the largest coconut area in this country. This Bill will therefore be particularly welcome to the people of Kerala. I think much of the success of the measures contemplated under this Bill will depend upon the co-operation of Malabar, Cochin and Travancore and it is to be hoped that the fullest co-operation will be sought and secured between these states. I offer my hearty congratulations to the Government for bringing in this beneficent measure at this stage. I really wish I could stop on this note of felicitation, but I fear I must refer to another matter and it is a matter which deserves the consideration of all sections of this House. The Council will have observed that the chief instrument for giving effect to the intentions and purposes of this Bill is a body called the Coconut Committee which will be set up under it. The point which I wish to refer to relates to the method of constituting this Committee. To be more precise, it relates to sub-clause (g) of clause 4 of the Bill. This sub-clause reads as follows:—

“six other persons, of whom two shall be persons elected from among themselves by the elected members of the Legislative Assembly, of the Central Legislature, one shall be a person elected from among themselves by the elected members of the Council of State,”.



[Sir Ramunni Menon.]

As the point which I wish to raise involves a very important question of principle, I should like to be allowed to present my point of view in its proper perspective and I should be very grateful for your indulgence in thus elaborating it. Whatever our opinions may be—and I know we have different opinions on the subject—whatever our opinions may be in regard to the propriety of having an official bloc, a nominated element and elected members in this Council, the fact cannot be denied that the present constitution recognises these elements. Under the constitution the Council is composed of official members, elected members and nominated members. As far as I am aware, no distinction has ever been sought to be made between these different classes of members. They have all equal rights, equal status and equal duties. The provision now proposed to be introduced into the Bill really amounts to this. It discriminates against certain classes of members. To my mind to embody such a provision in an Act of the Legislature is wholly inconsistent with the spirit of the constitution and I therefore consider such provision to be lacking in constitutional propriety. Now, what is the actual practice? We know there are several Committees—we have had examples of 3 or 4 of them this morning and there are several others—to which the Council elects representatives. There are Standing Committees, Central Bodies constituted by the Government of India, such as the Board of Education, Board of Health and so on and there are also statutory bodies to which we elect representatives. The formula followed on all these occasions is—I have not got the exact words—one member or a certain number of members to be elected by the Council. Sometimes the word “non-official” is added, quite superfluously as I think, because no official ever stands for election. That being the practice, I think it is an innovation now to introduce a provision which specifies the electorate as the elected members of this Council. What is the justification for it? The justification for it is, to quote the words of the Report of the Select Committee:—

“We consider that it is desirable also to have persons to represent the interests of the general consumer. This we consider can best be done by providing for the appointment of additional members to be chosen by election from among the elected members of the Legislature.”

This is a point of view to which I for one do not subscribe. I consider that whatever the channel through which members come into the Legislature, the moment they become members, they are all individually and collectively responsible to the whole country and they are morally under obligation to protect and safeguard the interests of the whole country. I can find no justification for associating any particular interests outside the Council with any particular section of the Council. I am totally opposed to that conception. I consider that the provision now proposed to be introduced is not only unprecedented—I should like to qualify the word “unprecedented” presently—but unnecessary and devoid of constitutional propriety and quite unjustifiable. I said I would qualify the word “unprecedented”. There is one instance and only one which is an exception to this statement—and that is the election to the Delhi University Court. The provision in the Delhi University Act is a relic from the past.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** Perhaps it is in contemplation of Government to appoint a Member from this House under clause (f). If that be so, you will have no grievance.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR RAMUNNI MENON:** Well, I do not know what the intention of the Government is but I should hardly imagine that it is contemplated by the Government.

However, that is not my point, Sir. I am only raising a question of principle. I do not know how the provision in regard to the Delhi University Act came into being. I do not know the circumstances in which it was introduced and I cannot say anything about it. Now, Sir, the position being what I have stated, I should like to ask the Government whether it is really necessary to put in this clause. If what I have said commends itself to the Council generally, the remedy is perfectly simple and is easy of application. We have only to omit the word “elected” in the relevant sentence. I am not in the least

concerned with the provision for the Legislative Assembly. That is the business of the other House; they have agreed to it and it may remain so; but in regard to the Council of State I should like to ask whether there will be any objection to deleting the word "elected"—

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** Unfortunately you have not put forward an amendment though this Bill has been in your hands for several days.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR RAMUNNI MENON:** If that is your ruling the whole thing must remain as it is.

I want to make it perfectly clear that what I have said has not been actuated by any hostile feeling against the elected members. I am standing up for a principle, and it is in that spirit in which I should like my remarks to be understood.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (United Provinces Southern: Non-Muhammadan):** Mr. President, Sir Ramunni Menon has put his case against clause (g) of section 4 of the Bill, or a part of that clause, on the ground of constitutional propriety and practice. I may say that I find myself fundamentally at variance with him. If you will read the clause you will find that the election contemplated is not by the Council of State. It is not the Council of State which is the electorate: it is a certain section of the Council of State or certain people who belong to the Council of State who constitute the electorate, that is to say "one shall be a person elected from among themselves by the elected members of the Council of State". Therefore, so far as the nominated members are concerned they can have no grievance on the score that they are being eliminated from representation by the Council of State. The electorate which has been selected is the elected members and elected members have obviously been selected for this reason: that they are representatives of an electorate. My Honourable friends the nominated members will forgive me if I say that they can claim no such representative character.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR DAVID DEVADOSS:** No, that is wrong. I am here.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU:** Well, I challenge Sir David Devadoss's statement: I am entitled to say that the nominated members represent only themselves and no one else.

**THE HONOURABLE NAWABZADA KHURSHID ALI KHAN (Nominated: Non-Official)** Elected members represent a Party caucus.

**THE HONOURABLE LT.-COL. SIR HISSAMUDDIN BAHADUR (Nominated Non-Official):** If you will permit me, Sir, I should like to say something more about the nominated members.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT (to the Honourable Mr. P. N. Sapru):** You know that nominated members have at times voted against Government. I think you had better not import this controversial point in making out your case.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU:** We can, Sir, argue without importing heat into the discussion—and heat was not imported into the discussion by me—and what I say is that in every country practically there is a difference between the status of a man who owes his position to the goodwill of the authorities and to the position of a man who owes his status or position to the goodwill of his countrymen. So far as the elected members are concerned they are here not by virtue of their being acceptable to the Government of the day but by virtue of their having the confidence of those sections of their countrymen who have the vote. If you will examine the constitution of the Council of State you will find that it is composed of three elements. It is composed of the official element, the nominated element and the elected element. Now so far as the officials are concerned they have made no grievance that they are going to be deprived of a vote in selecting the representative to this body and they have made no grievance of this fact because they know that they are subject to the official Whip. If I am right, the Montagu-Chelmsford Report contemplated that the officials would be given a free vote in most cases, but as a matter of fact we know that the officials are not given a free vote in any matter. They have got to vote according to the official Whip. I hope the

[Mr. P. N. Sapru.]

Honourable the Leader of the House will not deny this statement. Therefore, they can only be regarded as spokesmen of the Government of the day; they can be regarded as representatives of the Government of the day and they do not grumble that they have not been put on the same footing as elected members of the Council of State. Now so far as the nominated members are concerned it is rather curious that on almost all questions they find themselves more or less in agreement with the Government of the day. I do not say that they are not quite honest in their convictions but it is rather surprising to an outsider like myself to find this complete merger of their identity and individuality with the Government. In our own Party, there are sometimes differences of emphasis; there are differences of opinion. I like to go one way and I know my Honourable friend Mr. Kalikar likes sometimes to go another way; Pandit Kunzru likes to go the third way and Mr. Hossain Imam likes to go the fourth way, but, so far as the nominated members are concerned, it is extraordinary that even when one of them has delivered a speech in the House on a particular occasion critical of the Government, after the speech by the Leader of the House he gets immediately convinced that the Leader of the House or the Government is right and votes with the Government!

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Are you not aware that nominated members have voted several times against Government in this House?

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir A. P. Patro voted against Government the other day.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I know; therefore I am asking the Honourable Member.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: Sir, the nominated element in the House is a very strong element.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: That is not their fault; it is the fault of the constitution.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: And in this committee also, the nominated element is very strong. If you examine the constitution of this committee, you will find that the Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research will be an *ex-officio* member. He is an official. Clause (b) says:—

"Nine persons representing the growers of coconut in India, of whom two shall be nominated by the Government of Madras, two by the Government of the State of Travancore, and one each by the Government of Bombay, the Government of Bengal, the Government of Orissa, the Government of the State of Mysore, and the Government of the State of Cochin;"

Then you come to (c). Under this clause members are to be nominated by the Governments of Madras, Travancore and Cochin, and by the Indian Merchants Association, Bombay, and the Bombay Chamber of Commerce. Excepting these two to be nominated by the commercial bodies, you may say the other three are to be nominated by the Governments. Then, under clause (d) you have got again nominated representatives of Provincial Governments. Then, under (e), you have got a representative nominated by the Travancore Chamber of Commerce. You may look upon him as an elected man. The word used here is "nominated", and I do not know what the word "nominated" connotes. Then under (f): one person is to be appointed by the Central Government. Well, there is scope here for the talent of aspiring nominated members. It is only under clause (g) that you get any representation of what you might call public interests. Therefore it is desirable that the electorate should be an electorate which can be regarded as representing the public.

The Honourable Member Sir Ramunni Menon himself admitted that the provision was not an unprecedented provision. There is a similar provision in the Delhi University Act, and he admitted that it had been there for a very long time. Well, Sir, nominated members should have thought of opposing that provision in the Delhi University Bill when it was before the House. But they have been rather careless about their interests.

THE HONOURABLE LT.-COL. SIR HISSAMUDDIN BAHADUR: May I say something about this question of nomination?

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** Let the Honourable Member finish. You will have your say after he has finished.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU:** Sir, it never occurred to them to raise this question then. My recollection is that even the electorate for the Tuberculosis Association of India consists of only the elected members of the Council of State.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** Please do not refer to anything of which you are not sure.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU:** I do not remember official members ever having taken part in the voting in the election to the Tuberculosis Association. Therefore, there is nothing unprecedented about it. As I have said, we have got official members here, and we have got nominated members, and we have got elected members. These three divisions are well known in the constitution, and special representation has been provided for one particular interest because it is desirable to give to the representatives of the public who are in touch with the consumers some interest on this body.

There is one complaint that I have got to make about this representation. I find representation for Chambers of Commerce; I find representation for members of the Legislature; I find representation for the Indian Merchants Association and the Bombay Chamber of Commerce. But I do not find any representation for trade union organisations. I think, Sir, that Labour too is entitled to representation, and I should have liked some representation to be provided for Labour also.

With these words, I support the Bill.

**THE HONOURABLE LT.-COL. SIR HISSAMUDDIN BAHADUR:** Sir, I just wanted to say something about the question of nominated and elected members. It is very difficult to tolerate this. All the nominated members are selected by the very high authority—

**THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN (Leader of the House):** Sir, may I appeal to Honourable Members not to lay too much stress on this question? I am sorry Sir Ramunni Menon has raised this. Sir Ramunni Menon has represented his view, and Mr. Sapru has expressed his view, and I think Government will give a reply. This is a very small point, and there is no use in creating bad blood between one section of the House and the other.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR DAVID DEVADOSS (Nominated Non-Official):** Sir, I had no intention of intervening in this debate. I thought the Bill was a very satisfactory Bill and it would go through without any difficulty. But the point that my Honourable friend Sir Ramunni Menon has made is that this distinction is made unnecessarily. Now, Sir, if you will pardon a personal allusion, the only person in this House who knows all about Malabar is Sir Ramunni Menon himself. He comes from Malabar and he knows all about it; he is a native of Cochin. And he knows all about the coconut industry. Well, if he is to be eliminated from this committee, I wonder whether any of those so-called elected members who come from Allahabad, Lahore and Calcutta know anything about Malabar to be able to represent it on the committee. What do they know about the conditions in Malabar? What do they know about the coconut industry? And my Honourable friend Mr. Sapru wants Labour to be represented. Labour can eat coconuts, but they do not raise coconuts. Therefore, so far as this provision is concerned, it is unnecessary; it need not have been introduced. We have got four elected members from Madras in this House. We know they do not come from Malabar—not one of them. Mr. Ramadas Pantulu, who is no more, came from Andhra. My Honourable friend Sir N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar comes from Madras. Mr. Chidambaram Chettiyar comes from Madura. The other member, who is not here, is also from Madras. Now, what do they know about the coconut industry? They all eat coconuts, they all use coconuts for their curries, but the real fact is that the coconut industry is the main industry of the west coast, what we call Kerala—Malabar, Cochin and Travancore. Therefore, if you ask me, I would certainly elect Sir Ramunni Menon, not because he is my friend, not because he

[Sir David Devadoss.]

comes from Madras, but because he is the only person who knows all about the industry.

Then, Sir, I do not want to enter into the unpleasant question of nominated and elected members. It all depends upon a man's character. If he is honest, if he is conscientious, he votes according to his conscience; whether he is elected or not does not matter. He may be elected one hundred times, but he may play the fool, or he may play something else. You know how the elected members stood away from their duties and responsibilities. Have they got a conscience? The electors have elected them. How many of those members are here—so-called elected members? Does my Honourable friend Mr. Sapru think of that? Therefore, it is unnecessary to go into all this. It is very easy

12 Noon always to cast stones at another man. When you are living in a glass house you have no business to cast stones at another man's house. The nominated members are not bound to vote with the Government. You know perfectly well, Sir, how many times I have voted against the Government. I even got a Resolution almost passed against the Government. You will remember, Sir, how our friend, Sir N. Choksey, who is now no more, carried a Resolution with regard to Quinine against the Government. We do not vote simply for the sake of opposing the Government. These people probably vote simply to oppose the Government. We do not do that. This thing is becoming very unpleasant. I want a ruling from you, Sir, that this subject should not be broached again. So far as I am concerned, to say that I do not represent anybody is a mistake. I am here nominated to represent all Christians from all over India. I was nominated in the place of Sir Harnam Singh. He was here in this Council as a contemporary of yours, Sir, for many years and in his place I have been nominated. Therefore you cannot say that I do not represent any interests. I do represent the interests of the Indian Christians in the whole of India. Therefore it is absurd to say that we do not represent anybody. No doubt Government nominate persons whom they think would do well in the Council as well as in the Assembly. You cannot blame them for that. It all depends on the particular individual. If he is honest, if he is conscientious, he does what his conscience tells him. If he is dishonest it may be that every time he goes wrong. I want this subject not to be broached over and over again! We think it is a very unpleasant thing. This has been done a number of times. I hope that Honourable Members and especially my Honourable friend Mr. Sapru will hereafter abstain from casting aspersions upon nominated members.

THE HONOURABLE SIR RAMUNNI MENON: May I offer a word of personal explanation Sir? I am very sorry that a personal reference has been made to me. I may assure the Council that I have not the remotest idea of being and I have not the faintest desire to be a candidate for election to this Committee.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Nobody suggests that.

THE HONOURABLE SIR RAMUNNI MENON: I want that to be clear.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR (Central Provinces: General): Sir, I do not want to import heat into this debate about nominated and elected members. I just want to bring to the notice of my Honourable friend Sir Ramunni Menon that if he will carefully read sub-clauses (a) to (f) of clause 4, he will see that there are 17 nominated members.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: That is true, but several men are to be nominated by Government. He referred to the Member of the Council of State.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR: Sir, he can be nominated as a Member of the Council of State under clause (f) which you brought to his notice. He can be nominated as a Member by the Madras Government. We do not deny that the Madras Members know much about this industry. But election has been conceded to this House and the other House. One shall be a person elected from among themselves by the elected members of the Council of State. According to the constitution of this House, the elected Members

are in a majority in this House and from among the elected Members only one person shall be elected. I do not see any reason why my Honourable friend, a nominated Member, should grudge the election of one member from the elected Members.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: You are right. But I will just point out to you that clause 4 reads:

"As soon as may be after the commencement of this Act, the Central Government shall cause to be constituted a Committee . . ."

So, it is the Central Government which will constitute the Committee and not the Madras Government.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR: If you read the persons to be nominated by the various Provincial Governments, you will find that the Madras Government has also got the right to nominate.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: True, of course, but they cannot nominate a Member of the Council of State as such.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU (United Provinces Northern: Non-Muhammadan): Why not; Sir? They can appoint any one; he may be a Member of the Council.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I agree if they go out of the way, but that is not usual.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR: My point in taking part in this debate was to bring to the notice of the Government one fact which has struck my mind about the rules. In clause 18 of the Bill power is given to the Government to make Rules. In the case of the Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill, Government conceded to the wish of the Members of the Central Legislature to lay the Rules on the table of the House. I want to bring to the notice of the Government that the Rules framed under this Bill also should be laid on the table of both the Houses so that if any Member wants some changes in the rules to be made, he may be in a position to do so. I wanted to bring to the notice of the Government that they should follow the procedure laid down by other Departments of the Government. Recently, Sir, we had a discussion on the Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill and on that Bill, Government conceded the wish of the House that the rules framed under that Bill should be laid on the table of the House. I hope my Honourable friend the Leader of the House will agree with me on this point. I submit that this provision ought to be in this Bill also.

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH: Sir, I have the highest respect for my Honourable friend, Sir Ramunni Menon, and I can assure him that we had no idea of neglecting or excluding the nominated Members. The question that arose was to find a consumers' representative and it was considered that the elected Members would be the fittest constituency for electing a man who would represent the consumers. It was never meant to cast any reflection on the nominated Members who are as good Members of this House as the elected Members. The Honourable Sir David Devadoss referred to the position of Cochin and Travancore in the Coconut industry. I am sure he has seen that 9 persons representing the growers of coconut in India are to be members of this Committee. That is a very fine representation. The Honourable Mr. Sapru wanted labour to be represented. There is no organisation of labour which grows coconuts and the labourers that he has in mind have no concern with the growing of coconuts. If coconut labour were organised, it would have found representation. The Assembly and the Council of State can nominate whomsoever they choose.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: What about the coconut oil industry labour?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH: That is a very small and unorganised one. But the labour that ought to be organised is the agricultural labour and it would find their representation.

I do not think I need dwell at any length so far as the objections that have been raised are concerned. But now that I am on the point I might explain

[Sir Jogendra Singh.]

the position of the coconut industry in India. It is not so very long ago since India was one of the chief suppliers of copra and coconut oil to the world. For the last 20 years India has been, to an ever-increasing extent, a net importer of copra and coconut products, our import just after the outbreak of war reaching the very substantial figure (in terms of copra) of 180,000 tons, mainly from Ceylon. The position at the moment is that the consumption of coconut is making greater and greater demands on the available supply: India is unable to meet her own needs, and, with the Philippines and Java in enemy hands, Ceylon cannot fully supply our requirements. Thrown, as we are, therefore, very largely on our own resources, it behoves us to explore and improve those resources to the best of our power so that at least we may not be dependent any longer on others for a large part of our supplies of an article which we can both grow and manufacture as well, probably, as any one else. Let us secure for our Indian coconut industry a long term benefit out of an immediate necessity.

There are only two features of the Bill on which I feel I should touch, since its nature and aims appear clearly enough from the Bill itself and the Statement of Objects and Reasons. The first is the question of finance. The Coconut Committee, like the Central Cotton Committee, will be financed from the proceeds of a cess, in this case an excise duty on all copra consumed in mills. The rate agreed upon for this between the Central Government and the Provinces and States concerned was Re. 0-2-6 per cwt. which, we reckoned, should produce a sum sufficient to finance the Committee at the outset and allow a small margin for expansion over and above the extra revenue that expansion itself might bring in. The Select Committee, to which the Bill was referred in another place, agreed to recommend Re. 0-2-6 as the rate appropriate at the outset but, to allow greater developments, unanimously decided to provide for a maximum rate—which they have fixed in the Bill at four annas a cwt.—up to which Government might, on the recommendation of the Committee, enhance the rate of duty. We propose to accept the recommendation to make a start at the rate of Re. 0-2-6 agreed upon with the Provinces and States.

Mention of the Provinces and States brings me to my last point. It happens that both the cultivation and the milling of coconuts are distributed fairly equally between the Provinces of Madras, Bombay, Orissa and Bengal on the one hand and the States of Travancore, Cochin and Mysore on the other, with Madras and Travancore predominating in their respective groups. The constitution of the Committee reflects this distribution of cultivating and manufacturing interests between the two groups and inside each group. The constitution of the Committee also provides for representation for the growers of coconut (nine), for the manufacturing side (six), for Provincial and State Governments (three), for the Central Government (two), and for representatives of the public (six, of whom one will be elected by the elected members of this House from among their own number, two will be similarly elected in another place and three will come from the three States interested). The representatives of the public were added while the Bill was before the Select Committee and they will be drawn equally from British India and from the three States interested. This addition does not materially affect the balance previously agreed upon between ourselves, the Provinces concerned and the three States. By that allocation, the Provinces and the States were each to send 9, and the Central Government two, representatives to form a Committee of 20. The Committee will now number 26, but the addition only represents the six consumers' representatives, three from the Central Legislature and one each from the three States. The intention is that when the Central Legislature has passed this Bill, drawn up on generally agreed lines, the States should immediately adopt complementary legislation to permit of the Committee being established with the least possible delay.

There is only one other misapprehension that I wish to remove, that is, regarding the headquarters of the Committee. I may mention that the Central Jute Committee has its headquarters in Calcutta, the Central Lac Committee in Ranchi, and the Central Cotton Committee in Bombay. The headquarters of the Coconut Committee would be fixed after the Committee has met at an appropriate place which the Committee recommends.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN: Sir, I just wish to make it clear to the House that the Government have got the greatest respect for the members of this House, whether they are elected or nominated. We are not responsible for this clause. I learn that this was added in the Select Committee. The original Bill that was placed before the Legislature did not contain clause (g) It was inserted by the Select Committee and Government are not responsible for it; and, as I have said, as far as the Government is concerned, we make no difference between the nominated and the elected members. We have the greatest respect for members, nominated or elected.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much for this explanation.

The Motion is:

"That the Bill to provide for the creation of a fund for the improvement and development of the cultivation, marketing and utilization of coconuts in India, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration".

Question put and Motion adopted.

...Clauses 2 to 20 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed".

The Motion was adopted.

#### STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, before we adjourn to the next day, that is the 29th, I have to mention for your information that there is some likelihood of the Finance Bill coming to our House earlier than was expected and it is necessary that every Finance Bill should be passed before the 31st of March. If the Finance Bill comes in a day or two before this House, I propose to take up the Finance Bill in this House on the 29th of March though it being a non-official day. Of course the Leader of the House will kindly arrange to give you another non-official day in substitution of that day some time early in April. Therefore I request you to be ready to proceed with the Finance Bill, because I propose to suspend the Standing Orders and take up the Bill immediately for the simple reason that there are many members here who would like to speak for a long time on that Bill and to expedite its passage.

I hope my proposal will meet with your acceptance and that you will be ready to proceed with the Bill on the 29th in case it arrives in this House before that date. If it arrives we shall proceed with the Finance Bill but if it does not come before us we shall go on with the non-official business.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (United Provinces Southern: Non-Muhammadan): If it does not come on the 29th, then when is it likely to come?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: That I do not know. It all depends on the Assembly. If it does not come then we shall go over till April. It is not in my hands. Of course if it comes over in April as was the case two or three years ago, Government will have to issue an Ordinance to bring the taxation into force under the Government of India Act. If it comes it must be passed before the 31st and therefore I have made this proposal.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa: Muhammadan): We all agree that it is very considerate of you to start the discussion of the Finance Bill as early as we possibly can. There is no reason why we should ask



[Mr. Hossain Imam.]  
for time because the Bill is before us and all those members who wish to move amendments may give notice of their amendments even now which can be incorporated in the Bill when it comes up. So far as I am concerned I only want to make one request and that is that as I shall be going to Bombay the non-official business may be fixed not earlier than the 5th.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: That is for the Leader of the House to decide.

THE HONOURABLE MR. SHAVAX A. LAL (Nominated Official): We will arrange in consultation with party leaders.

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: What about the 29th?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN (Leader of the House): Supposing on the 29th the Finance Bill does not come before the House we will go on with the non-official business.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 29th March, 1944.