

Monday, 8th November, 1944

COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

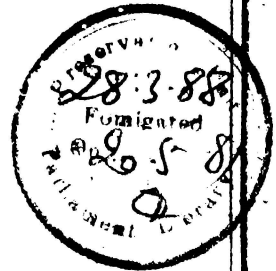
VOLUME II, 1944

(8th to 21st November, 1944)

SEVENTEENTH SESSION

OF THE

FOURTH COUNCIL OF STATE, 1944



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Council of State

President :

THE HON. SIR MANECKJI DADABHOY, K.O.S.I., K.C.L.E., G.L.D., BAR.-AT-LAW.

Panel of Chairmen :

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THE HON. MR. M. N. DALAL.

THE HON. MR. V. V. KALIKAR.

THE HON. SAYYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR.

Secretary :

THE HON. MR. SHIVAX A. LAL, C.I.E.

Committee on Petitions :

THE HON. RAJA CHARANJIT SINGH, *Chairman.*

THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNERU.

THE HON. SIR RAMUNNI MENON.

THE HON. HAJI SYED MUHAMMAD HUSAIN.

THE HON. MR. CHIDAMBARAM CHETTIYAR.

} *Members.*

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THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES
(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE FOURTH
COUNCIL OF STATE)

VOLUME II—1944

COUNCIL OF STATE

Monday, 8th November, 1944

The Council met in the Council Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi at Eleven of the Clock, being the First Day of the Seventeenth Session of the Fourth Council of State, pursuant to Section 63D (2) of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935. The Honourable the President (the Honourable Sir Maneckji Byramji Dadabhoy, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., LL.D., Barrister-at-Law) was in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN :

The Honourable Sir Cyril Edgar Jones (Finance Secretary).
The Honourable Mr. Henry Carlos Prior (Labour Secretary).
The Honourable Mr. Ram Chandra (Commerce Secretary).
The Honourable Mr. John Martin Barry Gibbons (Bombay Chamber of Commerce).
The Honourable Mr. Kenneth William Mealing (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

APPOINTMENT OF MR. PERCIVAL FEARNLEY AS BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION'S PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER IN DELHI

1. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Will Government state whether the appointment of Mr. Percival Fearnley as British Broadcasting Corporation's Press and Public Relations Officer in Delhi will impose any financial obligation on Indian revenues ? If so, to what extent ? What are the duties of this officer ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN : The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise. As regards the last part, the matter not being the concern of the Governor General in Council, Government have no definite information about the duties of Mr. Fearnley.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE U. N. R. R. A.

2. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : (a) Is it a fact that India's contribution to the U. N. R. R. A. would amount approximately to Rs. 8 or 10 crores ?

(b) What is the extent of relief in money or materials which India has received or is expected to receive from the U. N. R. R. A., in view of her acceptance of the principle of international relief ?

(c) How much of India's contribution has been devoted to the relief of those countries in which her own nationals are suffering ?

(d) How many Indians have been appointed to the higher ranks of the Administration, as well as technical staff ? What are the names of such Indians, and the designation of the posts to which they have been appointed ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAM CHANDRA : (a) The amount of the contribution has not yet been determined.

(b) India has not asked for or received any assistance from U.N.R.R.A.

(c) India has not yet made any contribution for relief purposes.

(d) Two, namely, Mr. Soorma and Mr. Gogate. The exact designations of the posts are not known.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Why has not the Government of India made any application yet ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAM CHANDRA : The Government of India has not made any contribution yet to the Fund.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Have they made any application for relief from U.N.R.R.A. ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAM CHANDRA : No, they have not made any application. As a matter of fact, India is in the very fortunate position of being able to pay for her own needs, and it is not intended that a country which is able to pay for her requirements should seek relief from U. N. R. R. A., whose resources are not sufficient even for the requirements of those territories who cannot look to any other source for help.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Does the Food Department agree with the view that India is in the fortunate position of being able to provide for her own needs ?

(No reply).

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : May I have a reply to my question ? On what authority did the Honourable Member state that India was in the fortunate position of being able to supply all her food requirements ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAM CHANDRA : I did not say that ; I said that India was in a position to pay for the food that she might need from outside.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : The question is whether the Government of India have asked U.N.R.R.A. for relief in the matter of food, and not whether they are able to pay for it.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Please ask your question. Do not discuss the matter.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : May I put a specific question ? Such proprietary drugs as penicillin and D.D.T. which are not produced anywhere in India—have the Government of India asked for them from America ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAM CHANDRA : Government have not made any request yet to U.N.R.R.A. The idea is that if in any emergency India should be short of a drug which she urgently needs, and if U.N.R.R.A. happens to have a surplus stock, then India will ask for supplies on payment.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : That is to say, we are only eligible for crumbs ?

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : What about food requirements ? Have the Government of India definitely come to the conclusion that they can provide for their own food requirements and that they need not ask help from the U.N.R.R.A. ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : May I inform the Honourable Member that we are going to discuss the food question on Tuesday and Wednesday, and Honourable Members will have ample opportunity of getting all the information they require ?

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : This question arises out of the reply given by the Honourable Member. In reply to a question here he has expressed the opinion that India is in the fortunate position of providing all the food that she needs.

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAM CHANDRA : No ; paying for it, I said.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : We are getting part of our foodgrains from England and are paying for it.

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN : So far as foodgrains are concerned it is known to the House that we have been pressing His Majesty's Government for imports, and as a matter of fact we are getting imports. That policy still remains. India has an overall shortage of about 1½ million tons of all foodgrains.

CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE OVER THE GANGES AT PATNA

3. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH: Is there any proposal of constructing a bridge over the Ganges at Patna (Bihar) linking up North and South Bihar, at a cost of about Rs. 15 crores? If so, will the bridge provide for railway as well as road traffic? When is the project likely to be taken in hand, and when finished?

THE HONOURABLE SIR SATYENDRA NATH ROY: The Bihar Government have expressed the view that a bridge over the Ganges would provide a very useful link between North & South Bihar. The question will be considered in connection with post-war development plans. I am unable at present to give any information as to the nature of the bridge, its cost or the time when its construction will be taken up.

COST OF THE WAR AGAINST JAPAN

4. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH: Will Government state:—(a) What proportion, if any, of the cost of the War against Japan is borne by His Majesty's Government and the Government of India?

(b) What has been the total cost of War up to date, which has been borne by His Majesty's Government and the Government of India, respectively?

(c) Will the expenditure relating to the expulsion of Japanese forces from Indian territory fall on Indian revenues under the category of operations that can be regarded as local defence of India?

THE HONOURABLE SIR CYRIL JONES: (a) No separate accounts are maintained of the cost of the war against Japan.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply which I gave to part (a) of his question No. 61 on the 21st February, 1944. No more up-to-date figures are yet available.

(c) Yes.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: With reference to the reply given to part (a) of the question how is the share of His Majesty's Government in connection with the war against Japan determined?

THE HONOURABLE SIR CYRIL JONES: The expenditure in connection with the war against Japan brought to account in India's books is allocated between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India in accordance with the principles of the Financial Settlement governing the distribution of defence expenditure between the two Governments.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: That means that expenditure incurred in Indian territory is charged to India, and expenditure incurred outside Indian boundaries is charged to His Majesty's Government.

THE HONOURABLE SIR CYRIL JONES: That may be regarded as a first approximation to the position.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: Does the cost of the Japanese war incurred inside the Indian territory also fall on Indian revenues, and is it that no part is borne by His Majesty's Government?

THE HONOURABLE SIR CYRIL JONES: That is covered by part (c) of the question to which I have already answered in the affirmative.

EMPLOYMENT OF ARMY OFFICERS IN CIVILIAN POSTS

5. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH: Is there any proposal to employ several hundreds of Army officers in civilian posts under Central and Provincial Governments and is it a fact that Army authorities reported that a large number of their officers could be spared from their military duties and that they could be fixed in civil jobs from now?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH: A scheme for the temporary reinforcement of the civil administration, especially in Bengal, by officers selected from the Armed Forces is at present in operation. The reply to the concluding portion of the question is in the negative. It was the Civil Government, which approached

the military authorities with a request for the temporary release of suitable Army officers to reinforce the civil administration.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : May I enquire whether the Army authorities have a surplus of officers in the Army, whom they can spare for civilian jobs ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : That is a question which should, I think, be addressed to His Excellency the Defence Member. It is obviously a matter of relative claims, but as I have explained, there was no question of the Military Authorities saying that they have a surplus of officers. It was a case of the Civil authorities asking the Military authorities whether they could spare any of their officers.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : My question is addressed to Government, and His Excellency the Defence Member can reply to it. My question is not specifically addressed to the Home Secretary.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : His Excellency the Defence Member had informed me that he has to go out on a tour and will not be in a position to attend this Council's meetings during the entire session most probably, and I have allowed him to be absent.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : We have the good fortune of having him here to day. May I ask him to answer the question I have put ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Are Army rejections dumped on the Civil Administration ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN SMITH : The officers are selected by a Selection Board presided over by the President of the Federal Public Service Commission. That Board selects officers who are considered suitable for Civil Administration. There is no question of anybody being dumped.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Were they allowed to apply for civil posts or were they selected by the Army authorities ? Were the officers allowed to submit individual applications or were they nominated by the Defence Department for selection ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : They were allowed to volunteer, i.e., they submitted individual applications.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : Are we to understand that any Army officer could apply for these posts ? Is it open to any Army officer to apply for these temporary posts ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : The Honourable Member has no doubt read the Press Communique which gave very full information about this scheme, but in case he has not I will answer his question by reading from it. The Press Communique states that the officers eligible are Indian Army Reserve of Officers, British and Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers of the Indian Army and British Service Emergency Commissioned officers attached to the Indian Army.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : No officer of the regular forces can apply ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : The Honourable Member is correct.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : May I know why the Defence authorities are recruiting officers for the Army if they can spare a few hundred officers for civilian work ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The situation is quite simple, as I see it. The Civil Administration informed me as War Member that they were in need of officers to reinforce their civil cadre and that if this reinforcement did not take place there was a danger of the civil administration being unable to carry out their duties of administering the country. If that occurred it is quite obvious that the prosecution of the war would suffer, and the war would be prolonged, and therefore I agreed, although I have not got enough officers in the Army to day, to call for volunteers from officers of the Indian Army and officers attached to it in order to provide the necessary reinforcement to the Civil Administration

A certain number of volunteers are forthcoming, and their names, as you have already heard, have been handed over to the Civil authorities, and the Civil authorities will select from these names such officers as they think are suitable for their purpose. It is a joint effort in which Civil and Military are co-operating in order to defeat the enemy. The whole position is quite simple, and, in my opinion, easily understandable.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : In view of this reply may I ask the Home Secretary why the Government of India wanted only military officers for civil duties? Why did they not take steps to recruit civilians for these posts?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : I made that point clear at a Press Conference where the same question was asked. In order that recruitment for emergency commissions in the Army might not be impeded at a time when suitable candidates for commissions were urgently required, the Civil Government suspended to a very large extent permanent recruits to civil posts. The type of officer whom we now hope to get is exactly the type of officer who would have applied for permanent appointment under the Civil Government had recruitment not been suspended. The man power is limited and a great many of the possible candidates have applied for military commissions. The army was therefore the obvious source to draw on today, and with the cooperation of the military authorities the Civil Government hope to obtain the reinforcements needed.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Is any proportion going to be observed between the British and Indian officers who are selected?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : That has also been made public on more than one occasion. The proportion is fifty-fifty.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : May we know, Sir, whether the War Department has scrutinised these applications in order to retain those who are essential for the prosecution of the war in the War Department itself?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : There has been a preliminary sifting by the military authorities of the applicants.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY AND ASSISTANT REGIONAL FOOD COMMISSIONERS

6. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : (a) Is it a fact that establishment of four Regional Food Commissioners has been expanded by the addition in each area of a Deputy and an Assistant Commissioner, most of whom are Europeans?

(b) Is it a fact that one Mr. Coyne, grain storage expert from England, arrived in India about July; and that other European experts have been appointed or are about to be appointed in the different branches of the Food Department?

(c) Will Government lay on the table a list of European and other foreigners appointed in the Food Department since its institution together with their qualifications, the amount of salaries drawn by each, and the posts to which they have been appointed?

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN : (a) One post of additional and ten posts of Deputy and Assistant Regional Food Commissioners have been created in the five food regions. Of these, three posts of Deputy Regional Food Commissioners are held by Europeans.

(b) Yes.

(c) A statement is placed on the table.

STATEMENT

Department of Food I, II & III (Gazetted).

Serial No.	Name	Qualifications	Post held	Salary per month	Remarks
				R.	
1	Mr. B. G. Holdsworth, C.I.E.	I.C.S.	Secretary	3,500	Died on 19-4-44.
2	Major General E. Wood, C.I.E., M.C.		Secretary	3,500	Since appointed D.G. M.P.

Serial No.	Name	Qualifications	Post held	Salary per month	Remarks
3	Mr. H.D. Vigor, O.B.E.	Expert attached to Wheat Commissioner, U.K.	Food Adviser	Rs. 1,000 (allowance and honoraria).	Since returned to British Ministry of Food,
4	Mr. R. H. Hutchings, O.M.G., C.I.E.	I.C.S.	Secretary	4,000	
5	Mr. W. H. J. Christie, O.B.E.	I.C.S.	Deputy Secretary.	1,800 plus special pay Rs. 400 plus Rs. 400 (S.O.P.)	
6	Mr. W. H. Kirby	An Officer of the British Ministry of Food who has had experience of rationing in England.	Rationing Adviser.	2,350 plus Rs. 177-12 (S.O.P.)	
7	Mr. G. E. Allen	Had experience of Food Control in England and then as Deputy Regional Food Commissioner, Eastern Region.	Asstt. Rationing Adviser.	1,000	
8	Hon'ble Somerset Butler.	Experience of grain trade in Burma. Managing Director Messrs. Blackwood, Balli & Co. Ltd. and then Controller of Rice and Cottons, Govt. of Burma.	Special Officer	2,750	
9	Mr. A. P. Hume	I.C.S.	Special Officer	1,900 plus Rs. 400 (special pay) plus Rs. 400 (S.O.P.)	Transferred to Sub-Dept.
10	Mr. J. Vonesch	Commercial (M/s. Volkart Bros.)	Trade Adviser	1,500 Honorarium.	Since resigned.
11	Capt. A.M. Thomson	An Officer of the Central Marketing Department who then worked as Deputy Wheat Commissioner for India and is thoroughly conversant with the trade in foodgrains.	Director of Purchase (Foodgrains).	2,000	
12	Mr. M. D. Apostolides.	Departmental Manager, Export Deptt. of M/s. Balli Bros. Ltd. Experience in Procurement, handling and shipments of foodgrains, oil seeds and cotton.	Director of grains, Karachi	2,000 plus Rs. 75 Car allowance.	
13	Dr. F. P. Coyne	B. Sc., Ph. D. Formerly Technical Adviser (Pest Control), U.K.C.C.	Director (Storage).	2,000	
14	Brig. E. J. Boughton, O.B.E., I.A.	Indian Army (Regular Commission).	Chief Director of Purchase (holding a military post).	2,500	Pay of rank.
15	Col. I. J. L. Addison, I.A.	Ditto.	Dy. Do.	2,205	Do.
16	Mr. E.W. Mathew	Commercial M/s. Huntley & Palmers, Ltd., England Recruited in India.	Director of Purchase I.	1,725	
17	Mr. W. J. Blois Johnson.	Colonial Service (Malayan Ag. Deptt.)	Director of Purchase II.	1,750	
18	Lt. Col. F. P. M. O' Sullivan, R.I.A.S.C.	Indian Army (Regular Commission R.I.A.S.C.)	Do. III	2,130	
19	Major G. N. P. Hodder, R.I.A.S.C.	Emergency Commissioned Officer.	Deputy Director of Purchase (holding a military post).	1,800	
20	Mr. J. F. Morse	Canning Expert, recruited in U. K. (of M/s. Crosse & Blackwell Ltd. England) contract officer.	Progress Officer	1,750	
21	Mr. H. Ronson	I.C.S.	Deputy Sugar Controller for India	Grades pay of B Class Pool Officer; plus Rs. 400 (Special pay).	From 7-8-42 to 19-4-43.
22	Major General G. Dola P. Beresford.	Retired Major General Indian Army.	R.F.C., Punjab Region.	2,500 (inclusive of his pension).	From 10-4-43 to 30-9-43, retired.
23	Sir Collin Campbell Garbett, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., C.M.G., C.I.E., F.R.G.S.	I.C.S. (Retired) Formerly 1. Financial Commr. Punjab Govt. 2. Chairman Recruiting Board, Defence Deptt., Govt. of India.	Do.	2,750 (including pension).	From 1-10-43 to 17-8-44, since returned to Bhopal State.
24	Mr. J. W. Thomas	B.Sc. (London) Formerly 1. Principal Hailey College of Commerce, Lahore. 2. Secy. Punjab Board of Economic Inquiry. 3. Dy. Director of Food Supplies, Punjab.	1. Dy. R. F. C. area Baluchistan. 2. Offg. R. F. C. Punjab Region	1,000 1,500	Upto 16-8-44. From 17-8-44.

Serial No.	Name	Qualifications	Post held	Salary per Month	Remarks
25	The Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. B. Braund.	Formerly Judge High Court (Allahabad).	R. F. C. Eastern Region.	4,000	Services placed at the disposal of Bengal Govt. for two months from 15-7-44 and then reverted as Judge, High Court.
26	Mr. Mackintosh Whyte.	Manager, Black-wood Ball & Co., Rangoon.	Dy. B. F. C., Eastern Region.	1,460	Resigned on 20-9-43.
27	Mr. J. D. Pringle	Formerly, Managing Dir. Burma Salt & Co. (for 7 years).	Do.	1,400	
28	Mr. J. B. Ross	Late Partner of Shaw Wallace & Co. with experience in the Commercial line.	B.F.C., Bombay	2,650	
29	Lt. Col. G. B. Nokes	R. I. A. S. C. (Retired) who has had experience of Supplies etc., for the Army.)	Dy. R. F. C., Bombay.	800 (exclusive of his pension which is Rs. 325 p.m.) plus Rs. 100 Bombay compensatory Allowance.	
30	Mr. J. R. H. Bartlett, F.A.C.I., P.C.S.	Chemist	Chief Technical Adviser.	1,950	Vacated the post with effect from 12-4-44

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : How many Deputy and Assistant Regional Food Commissioners' posts are held by Europeans and how many by Indians ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN : Three posts of Deputy Regional Food Commissioners are now held by Europeans.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : The question is if it is a fact that there has been expansion by the addition in each area of a Deputy and an Assistant Commissioner. In this expansion scheme how many posts have gone to Britishers and how many to Indians ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN : Eleven new posts have been created. Out of these 11, three have gone to Europeans.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Has any post gone to any Burman ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN : We are not recruiting any Burman.

INCREASE OF FAMILY ALLOWANCES OF BRITISH OFFICERS IN INDIA

7. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Will Government state :—(a) Why increases in the family allowance to British officers in India have recently been sanctioned ? To what class of officers these increases apply ; and will Government state the total amount of expenditure which will be borne by the Indian exchequer ?

(b) Why no similar increases have been sanctioned in the case of Indian officers ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : (a) The increases in question were granted to junior married officers with children because the allowances formerly sanctioned had been found inadequate for the upkeep of their families.

The increases apply to most junior married British Officers of the British Service and the Indian Army.

The major portion of the cost of increases granted to officers in India will be borne by the Government of India. I am unable to give figures.

(b) The question of extending this concession to Indian Commissioned Officers is now under consideration.

LEND-LEASE OF SILVER BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO INDIA

8. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Is it a fact that about 100 million ounces of silver has been recently lend-leased by the United States Government to India ? If so, for what purpose ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR CYRIL JONES : Yes. The attention of the Honourable member is invited to the Press Communique dated the 15th June and 11th July, 1944, issued on this subject.

PRODUCTION OF PRE-COOKED AND MINCED AND DEHYDRATED MUTTON FOR THE ARMIES IN INDIA

9. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : (a) Is it a fact that on the recommendation of the U. K. Dehydration Mission which toured India some months back a factory is shortly to be erected at Ranipet for the production of pre-cooked and minced and dehydrated mutton for the Armies in India ?

(b) How many such factories have been erected and where in India for the production of meat for the armies ?

(c) To what extent the slaughter of useful cattle will be lessened on the full working of these factories, for providing meat to the foreign armies in this country ; and what categories of animals will be slaughtered in these factories ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN : (a) Yes.

(b) Factories have been erected at Nowshera, Agra, Delhi, Patna and Anantapur, Madras and Poona. Two more are under construction at Amritsar and Ranipet.

(c) The production of these factories will be used to supply meat to Indian Troops only, who are operating in areas where fresh meat is not available. Goats and Sheep only will be slaughtered for these factories. The factories will not supply meat to non-Indian Troops whose requirements will henceforth be met very largely by importation.

POSITION OF INDIA *vis-a-vis* THE U. N. R. R. A.

10. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the reply of Mr. Amery, Secretary of State for India, in the House of Commons, on or about the 20th April 1944 that "the U. N. R. R. A. was set up primarily to deal with territories liberated from the enemy but he was aware that suggestions have been made in some quarters that its functions should be extended to cover other areas that might be stricken by famine or disease" ?

(b) Has not India been included as a member of the U. N. R. R. A., with huge financial obligations ? Will Government explain in precise terms the position of India *vis-a-vis* the U. N. R. R. A., in the light of the remarks of Mr. Amery quoted above ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAM CHANDRA : (a) Yes.

(b) Government of India having signed the Agreement are a member, but the amount to be contributed by them has not yet been determined. Under an amendment recently passed by the Council of the U.N.R.R.A., benefits to be made available through the Administration may be extended to areas which are of importance in military operations of the United Nations and which are stricken by famine or disease, in so far as the resources and facilities of the Administration shall permit. Famine or disease stricken areas in India may therefore be included in the scope of the Administration's activities.

RAISINGS OF COAL IN 1942—44

11. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Will Government state for each quarter of 1942, 1943 and 1944, the following facts about coal :—

(a) Total raising ?

(b) Number of labour employed in coalfields ?

(c) The market quotation of leading Coal Companies at the end of each quarter, e.g., Bengal Coal, Burrakur, Raneeungo, etc. ?

(d) The average wage including allowances ?

THE HONOURABLE SIB FIROZ KHAN NOON (on behalf of Supply Department) : (a) I place a statement giving the quarterly figures of raisings in 1942. It is not in the public interest to disclose figures of subsequent periods.

(b) The average number of persons employed daily in the coal mining industry in India during 1942 was 245,688. It is not in the public interest to disclose later figures.

(c) It is presumed that the Honourable Member requires information regarding the latest quotations of shares of the leading coal companies. This information is contained in the statement laid on the table.

(d) Full information is not readily available. A statement giving the average daily earnings, including the dearness allowance, in various coalfields in December 1942 and December 1943, is however, laid on the table of the House.

Statement showing the quarterly figures of raising during 1942

Quarter ending	Quarter ending	Quarter ending	Quarter ending
31-3-42	30-6-42	30-9-42	31-12-42
7,926,104	7,616,989	6,962,634	6,846,329

Quotations for the ordinary shares of certain coal companies at the Calcutta Stock Exchange in the last week on each quarter from 1942 to the third quarter of 1944

Name of Company	1942				1943				1944		
	March 26	June 25	Sept. 24	Decr. †	March 27	June 24	Sept. 30	Decr. †	March 30	June 29	Sept. †
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bengal	358	358	368	392	447	475	506	565	585	648	615
Bttrakur	12½	12 3/8	13 3/8	18½	14 1/8	16½	21 5/8	25 5/8	31½	37½	39½
Raneegunge	28	26	26½	26½	26 1/16	26	31½	35 5/8	44	51	48½
Amalgamated	26½	26½	26½	31½	35½	39	43	44	46	49½	44½
Dhemo Main	13	12 7/8	12 7/8	13	14½	14½	15 15/16	18½	22	28 1/8	24½
Equitable	35	34½	35	34½	35½	38 1/8	43	50 5/8	53½	65	62
Bokaro & Ramgarh	16	15 5/8	17	17½	20 1/8	19 5/8	28 5/8	31½	31	41½	37
Central Kurkond	15	14½	14½	14	14 5/8	16 1/16	18 3/8	20	23½	28½	22½
New Beerbhoom	15 7/8	15 7/8	16 1/8	16½	18 3/8	21 5/8	25½	28 11/16	31	38½	35½

*The Calcutta Stock Exchange was closed for the Puja holidays from the evening of September 19th, 1944 until the morning of October 3rd, 1944.

†Market closed in the last week of December.

Average daily earnings in December 1942-43

	Overmen & Sirdars Foremen & Mates	Miners	Loaders	Skilled labour	Unskilled labour	Overmen & Sirdars Foremen & Mates	Miners	Loaders
Jharia Coalfield (Bihar)	1 3 8	0 11 0	0 10 0	0 12 6	0 8 9	1 2 0	0 10 9	0 8 6
Raniganj Coalfield (Bengal)	1 3 6	0 10 9	0 9 3	0 11 6	0 8 0	0 15 9	0 11 9	0 6 9
Gridh Coalfield	2 4 0	0 12 0	0 10 9	1 2 3	0 10 6	0 11 3	0 6 0	...
Assam Coalfield	1 12 9	1 3 9	1 2 9	1 5 3	1 1 6	1 8 0	...	1 1 0
Punjab Coalfield	1 12 0	1 5 0	1 3 6	1 0 9	0 10 3	1 4 9	...	1 3 9
Baluchistan Coalfield	2 2 9	1 10 9	1 10 6	1 0 6	1 1 0	1 7 3	...	...
Pench Valley Coalfield (C.P.)	1 4 9	0 15 9	0 9 9	0 11 6	0 3 0	1 0 3	0 12 9	0 7 9
Jharia Coalfield (Bihar)	1 6 9	0 13 9	0 12 0	0 14 0	0 11 0	1 2 6	0 13 6	0 12 0
Raniganj Coalfield (Bengal)	1 4 9	0 14 3	0 12 6	0 14 0	0 12 6	1 1 0	0 14 0	0 12 0
Gridh Coalfield	2 5 0	0 14 6	0 11 3	1 3 6	0 11 4	0 12 0	0 8 0	1 8 6
Assam Coalfield	2 2 0	1 7 6	1 10 6	1 10 6	1 6 9	2 8 6	...	...
Punjab Coalfield	1 14 9	2 0 9	1 15 9	1 6 0	0 15 0	...	...	...
Baluchistan Coalfield	3 8 3	2 6 0	2 1 9	1 0 0	1 4 6	...	...	0 8 0
Pench Valley Coalfield (C.P.)	1 4 9	1 1 3	0 10 3	0 12 3	0 8 9	1 3 6	0 14 3	...

	Skilled labour	Unskilled labour	Females	Clerical & supervising staff	Skilled labour	Unskilled labour	Females	Females underground
Jharia Coalfield (Bihar)	0 10 6	0 7 9	0 6 3	1 5 9	0 12 0	0 8 3	0 5 3	...
Raniganj Coalfield (Bengal)	0 13 3	0 11 3	0 6 6	1 2 6	0 11 0	0 7 3	0 4 9	...
Gridh Coalfield	0 6 0	...	0 4 0	2 5 0	1 2 8	0 10 9	0 6 3	...
Assam Coalfield	1 2 3	0 15 9	0 10 6	2 2 9	1 2 6	0 12 6	0 11 0	...
Punjab Coalfield	0 13 3	0 10 0	...	1 1 3	1 1 0	0 11 3	0 4 3	...
Baluchistan Coalfield	0 12 0	...	...	1 8 0	1 0 0	0 14 3	...	...
Pench Valley Coalfield (C.P.)	0 10 6	0 6 3	0 4 9	1 2 9	0 11 6	0 7 6	0 4 6	...
Jharia Coalfield (Bihar)	0 14 6	0 9 3	0 8 0	1 3 3	0 14 0	0 9 9	0 6 9	0 11 6
Raniganj Coalfield (Bengal)	0 15 0	0 11 0	0 10 6	1 6 0	0 13 6	0 9 3	0 6 0	0 9 9
Gridh Coalfield	0 9 6	...	0 4 6	2 5 0	1 3 3	0 11 3	0 7 6	0 13 9
Assam Coalfield	2 0 0	1 12 9	1 14 6	2 2 0	1 3 0	1 6 3	0 15 6	...
Punjab Coalfield	1 7 6	1 10 3	...	1 8 6	1 4 0	0 14 0	0 7 9	...
Baluchistan Coalfield	...	...	...	2 1 0	2 15 6	1 6 0	...	0 9 6
Pench Valley Coalfield (C.P.)	0 9 9	0 6 0	0 5 3	1 4 6	0 11 6	0 8 9	0 5 9	...

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Will the Honourable Member say how it is not in the public interest ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : You cannot ask that question at all. Government are the authority to decide what is in the public interest.

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : It is easy for you to see it if only you would try.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : Will the Honourable Member tell us what is the average wage including dearness allowance in the coal areas now ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : I am afraid I shall require notice of this. I have not the figures with me. It is a Supply Department question which I am answering on their behalf.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : The question itself asks for information regarding the average wage including allowances for each quarter of 1942, 1943 and 1944. I am referring to part (d) of the question. If the Honourable Member will refer to the introductory part of the question he will find that it asks for information regarding the points contained in (a), (b), (c) and (d) for each quarter of 1942, 1943 and 1944.

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : Perhaps the Honourable Member had better read the statement which I have laid on the table and if he is not satisfied, and if he will put a question, we will give him the information.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Will the Honourable Member accept a short notice question ? There may not be time for full notice.

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : It all depends on what it is. Yes, why not ?

EXPORT OF COAL TO ITALY DURING 1944

12. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** Will Government state the amount of coal exported to Italy during 1944 ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON (on behalf of Supply Department) : In 1943 owing to acute shortage of coal Government decided to stop all exports of coal to Middle East. They agreed however to meet Ceylon's requirements which involved only a small fraction of India's production. Purely for reasons connected with the United Nations' shipping convenience some of the coal earmarked for export to Ceylon was in practice shipped to Middle East, while Ceylon's requirements to that extent were met from South Africa. The actual destination of Indian coal shipped to the Middle East is not controlled from India, and it is possible that some of it was shipped onward to Italy. Government have however no information as to its exact quantity.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Did the Government see the reply of Major Lloyd George in the House of Commons on the 17th August on the subject ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : If the Honourable Member read it, that is all that matters.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : I should like to know how the Government of India is exporting coal to Italy, while it is not giving for essential requirements in India.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : That is not a proper question and I disallow it.

COAL CUTTING

13. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM :** Will Government state the following facts about coal cutting :—

(a) The average coal cutting per person in India, U. S. A., U. K. and U. S. S. R. by hand and by power instruments ?

(b) The proportion of mines fitted with power coal cutting tools in India and the approximate estimate in U. S. A. and U. K. ?

(c) What steps have Government taken to import such tools from U. S. A., U. K. and U. S. S. R. ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON (on behalf of Supply Department) : (a) In 1942 the *per capita* output of coal above and below ground was 119·8 tons. No information is available for 1943. No separate information is available of output by hand and by power instruments: No information is available regarding the U. S. A., U. K. and U. S. S. R.

(b) In 1942, which is the latest year for which figures are available, 63 mines in British India were fitted with power coal cutting tools. No figures are available regarding the U. S. A. and U. K.

(c) All possible assistance is being given to the trade in connection with the importation of these tools from both the U. K. and the U. S. A. In addition to such orders as may have been placed by the trade Government have, of their own accord, placed orders in a bulk indent for 26 coal cutters and 180 coal drills from the U. K. and for 22 coal cutters from the U. S. A. No steps have been taken to import tools from the U. S. S. R.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : With respect to part (a) of the question, has the Government taken any steps to find out the facts about the U. S. A. and the U. S. S. R. ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : Evidently not.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Do they propose to take any action, Sir, to find it out ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : I do not think it is necessary to do so in the public interest.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : It is in the public interest to remain in ignorance !

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : I do not think we are ignorant.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT (to the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam) : Will you please make no comment ? It is not usual for members to make comments.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : I most humbly submit that the Government Member said that it is not in the public interest to find out the facts.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : He is not going to tell you how it is not in the public interest.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : May I know whether to remain ignorant is in the public interest ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : You may understand that. You need not say that. As an old member you ought to understand that.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF RUSSIA IN COAL CUTTING

14. **THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** : Will Government state whether they are aware of the achievements of Russia in coal cutting ? Have they taken steps either to get instructors from U. S. S. R. or to send intelligent Indian miners to Russia for training, if not, why not ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON (on behalf of Supply Department) : No, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Do Government propose to find out ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : No, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Why don't they propose to find out ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : It will be waste of time.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Are the Government aware that the achievements of U. S. S. R. in coal cutting are the highest in the world ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : If the Honourable Member has any information, we shall be very glad to have it.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : It is in a published book and it is a book on which an Honourable Member of the Executive Council has written a foreword.

THE HONOURABLE SIE FIROZ KHAN NOON : Then perhaps we have seen it.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Say so.

PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS OF PAPER FOR CIVILIAN NEEDS

15. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Will Government give the paper production and importation in each month of 1943 and 1944, and state the steps they are taking to increase the supplies for civilian needs in the near future ?

THE HONOURABLE SIE AKBAR HYDARI : A statement showing the production of paper in India and imports of paper into India in each month of 1943 and as far as information is available, in each month of 1944 is placed on the table of the House.

The steps that are being taken to increase the supplies of paper for civilian needs in the near future are (a) to increase indigenous production, (b) to secure larger imports and (c) to effect maximum economy in the consumption of paper by Government.

Statement showing monthly figures of Production and Imports of Paper into India in 1943 and 1944

I.—PRODUCTION			
	1943	1944	
	(Tons)	(Tons)	
January	8,755	8,301	
February	8,081	7,834	
March	8,863	8,640	
April	8,906	7,674	
May	8,850	8,024	
June	8,957	8,164	
July	9,040	8,896	
August	8,892	9,283	
September	9,022	8,952	
October	8,093	..	
November	7,252	..	
December	7,994	..	
TOTAL	102,711	75,768	(Nine months)

II.—IMPORTS.			
	1943	1944	
	(Tons)	(Tons)	
January	515	550	
February	277	743	
March	445	739	
April	436	504	
May	308	1,096	
June	151	803	
July	456	783	
August	1,161	..	
September	1,456	..	
October	1,171	..	
November	920	..	
December	486	..	
TOTAL	7,862	5,208	(Seven months)

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Will the Honourable Member explain the reason for short production as compared with last year ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR AKBAR HYDARI : Production has actually increased. In 1942-43 actual production was 100,563 tons. In 1943-44 it was 101,787 tons and in 1944-45 it is expected to be 105,000 tons. It would have been more had we had more coal.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Is it a fact that Government in one of its Press Communiqués have said that they expected to have a short supply of paper ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR AKBAR HYDARI : Yes.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : What was the reason for that short supply as envisaged in the Press Communiqué ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR AKBAR HYDARI : Because supply is short. The amount of paper which we have is not sufficient for our needs.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Short production was expected according to the Press Communiqué.

THE HONOURABLE SIR AKBAR HYDARI : Our production would have been more than 105,000 tons if we had had more coal.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

(1) FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT ARISING OUT OF THE EXPLOSIONS IN THE BOMBAY DOCKS

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Honourable Members, this morning just a few minutes before I came I received notice of three adjournment motions, which I will read to you. I may point out that the two motions, one by the Honourable Pandit Kunzru and the other by the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam, are of a like nature and I will deal with them jointly. The third one is from the Honourable Mr. Sapru, which I will deal with separately.

I will read Pandit Kunzru's motion which is substantially also the motion of Mr. Hossain Imam.

" Sir, I beg to ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the business of the Council for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the share of His Majesty's Government in the financial responsibility arising out of the explosions in the Bombay docks in April 1944."

As I have said, to the same effect runs the adjournment motion of Mr. Hossain Imam. Pandit Kunzru, I would like you to satisfy me in the first instance how it is a matter of definite urgent importance and secondly could you not have given notice of a Resolution which would have obtained for you the information you desire ?

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, it has been necessary for me to ask for leave to move the adjournment of the business of the House for two reasons. We were not definitely aware but we knew in a general way that questions relating to the respective financial liabilities of His Majesty's Government and the Government of India in connection with the Bombay explosions would be discussed between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government. We did not know when a decision would be arrived at. It was necessary for me therefore to take steps to give expression to the views of non-official members of this Council on the subject at as early a date as possible. In the second place, Sir, the reply given by the War Transport Member in the other House yesterday made it appear—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I will not be influenced by the opinion given in the other House. It is not necessary.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : It is not a question of opinion. I am not dealing with any opinion expressed in the other House, but with the reply given to a question by the War Transport Member who is the Member of the Viceroy's Council in charge of the subject to which my Resolution relates which made it appear that the Government of India's attitude was unsatisfactory. In view of both these considerations I have thought it necessary to bring forward this adjournment motion, so that the views of the members of this Council might be fully considered before the question to which it relates is finally settled. There

is a real danger, at any rate so we feel, of a decision adverse to India being arrived at before we can discuss the matter if the ordinary and uncertain course of moving a Resolution on the subject were to be adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The information which the Honourable Member seeks would have been given if he had given notice of a Resolution on that point some months ago.

***THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muhammadan) :** Mr. President, we are all grateful to the Government for the steps they have taken to relieve the Bombay distress. We have no question to ask as regards that. What we have to submit to the House is that the Government of India is taking on the burden of the compensation. That burden is being placed on the Indian exchequer now. This fact was not clear until yesterday when the War Transport Member, in the course of his reply, indicated that he had made no communication to the United Nations, and that he is in communication with His Majesty's Government on a subject which involves many legal and technical difficulties—these were the words which he used. It is because of the words which the Honourable the War Transport Member has used in the Assembly yesterday that we have raised this question of adjournment.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : I think it was quite clear without this interpretation. You probably knew very well what the Government of India was going to do in the matter.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (United Provinces Southern : Non-Muhammadan) : Will you allow me to say a few words, Sir? We could not know that the Government of India would take the line that the War Transport Member took in the Assembly yesterday. We did not know until yesterday that they would ask for a contribution from His Majesty's Government. Not being able to anticipate what line the Government of India would take, the matter became only urgent, so far as we are concerned, yesterday when the Honourable the War Transport Member gave a certain reply in the Assembly. Therefore it is that I submit that the question is one of urgent public importance. We could not anticipate the line which the Government of India was taking, and therefore could not give notice of a Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : That may be your position, but I am bound by the Standing Orders, and I do not think it is a matter of urgent public importance. However, I should like to hear the Government member on the point.

THE HONOURABLE SIR CYRIL JONES (Finance Secretary) : I do not know whether I am regarded as the Government member for the purpose of this motion, Sir ; if so, I submit it would have been well if I had received notice of the Motion—

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU : May I explain ? I gave notice of it to my Honourable friend Sir Satyendra Nath Roy, who represents the War Transport Member in this House, as the matter is one which concerns the War Transport Department.

THE HONOURABLE SIR CYRIL JONES : I think it is primarily a financial matter and that I am entitled to receive the actual terms of the Adjournment Motion. But I do not press the point. As the matter is of financial significance, there is one point I would like to make. I think it is necessary that I should make it, and I think it would be sufficient, if I make it. It is this. No question of allocation of cost in the case of a disaster like this can possibly be of such urgency as to require an adjournment of the business of the House. The disaster, as you know, Sir, happened in last April. When that disaster occurred, certain action did become urgent, such as the question of clearing the port and reopening it for traffic, of drawing up a scheme for compensation, of early arrangements for settling claims and paying compensation so as to restore confidence and enable an early restoration of the business life of the community. All that became urgent. It was a matter of patent urgency. But in cases of that kind the usual thing, the only sensible thing to do is to go ahead regardless of who pays, and argue at leisure as to who is

* Not corrected by the Honourable Member.

going to meet the cost. The question of allocation of cost is a matter of adjustment between the various parties concerned, an accounting adjustment in the books; and how that can possibly be regarded as a matter of such grave urgency as to require an adjournment of this House I am completely at a loss to understand.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Probably it will involve long correspondence between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India.

THE HONOURABLE SIR CYRIL JONES: It certainly would, Sir; and if you were to rule that this Motion is admissible in spite of what I have said on the ground of urgency, I should again have to take objection to its being allowed, on the ground that we are not at present in a position to discuss it.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Does the Honourable the War Transport Secretary want to say anything?

THE HONOURABLE SIR SATYENDRA NATH ROY (War Transport Secretary): I do not think I have anything to add on the financial issue which has been adequately dealt with by my Honourable friend the Secretary in the Finance Department. As the Chair said a little while ago, if a Resolution had been put down, there would have been a full opportunity for the discussion of all the issues arising out of the report. If there was a strong feeling in the House that the report should be debated, Government certainly would have no wish to burke the issues, and would be prepared to give a day for the discussion of the report. But I think that in that case the proper course to follow is to arrange a day by mutual arrangement after the second report has been published. At the present time only the first report is before the public; the second report has still to be published.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: When is it likely to be published?

THE HONOURABLE SIR SATYENDRA NATH ROY: I cannot give the date exactly, but I hope it will not be very long before it is published. But I do not think it will be published before the end of this session; so that, if Honourable Members wish to have a debate, it will have to be arranged for early in the next session.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: May we take it that in the meanwhile the Government of India will not accept the views of His Majesty's Government with regard to the allocation of the financial responsibility between themselves and His Majesty's Government?

THE HONOURABLE SIR CYRIL JONES: We do not yet know the views of His Majesty's Government.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will the Government send a delegation from India, say, of the Honourable Mr. Shavax A. Lal, who has been doing so much—

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: That is not involved in this.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: We want a delegation to be sent to London to settle this question of allocation of expenditure between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Honourable Member should know that I am simply concerned with the Adjournment Motion.

I believe both these Motions are not in order, and I therefore disallow them.

(2) CLOSING DOWN OF SACRED TEMPLES AT KUMBAKERKA OF SOUTH KANARA.

The next Motion for Adjournment is given notice of by the Honourable Mr. Sapru:—

"I beg to give notice that I shall move that the House do adjourn to consider a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the serious consequences involved in the shape of the closing down of sacred temples and shrines in the proposal to requisition the lands in Kumbakerka of South Kanara for military purposes."

When were they closed down?

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: In October last.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: You had time enough to give notice of a Resolution ?

***THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR** (Central Provinces : General) : Is it the Chair's ruling that on every important question no Adjournment Motion should be moved but a Resolution should be tabled ?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I do not say that. I am not concerned with that. All that I am concerned with is to see that the Standing Orders are complied with. I have to follow the Standing Orders strictly and give a decision according to them.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : I cannot give the exact date in October, but, as you know, we have to give about 20 days' notice for Resolutions, and the first non-official day was the 9th of November. Therefore, Sir, if it happened towards the end of October and I got to know of it towards the end of October, I could not have given notice in time for a Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON (Defence Member) : Sir, I have personally no information at all on the subject, and evidently it is a case of requisitioning by the Provincial Government, and this they are authorised to do under the law. If any discussion did take place here today I would not be in a position to supply the Members with any facts unless I communicate with the Provincial Government. However, in order to achieve his object I suggest to the Honourable Member that he very kindly supply me with the facts as they have been reported to him, and he can rest assured, adjournment motion or no adjournment motion, the case will receive my very sympathetic and best consideration.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : In view of what the Honourable Member has said I do not press.

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : Will he kindly write to me in detail ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : Yes.

INFORMATION PROMISED IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN : I lay on the table the information promised in reply to parts (a) and (c) of question No. 78, asked on the 21st February 1944.

NUMBER OF INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES AND R. M. S. AND HEAD CLERKS OF THE OFFICES OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES AND NUMBER OF POSTS HELD BY MUSLIMS, ETC.

(a) The total number of Inspectors of Post Offices, Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices and Inspectors, Railway Mail Service, in India is 543 ; out of which 91 are Muslims, 423 Hindus, 12 Indian Christians, 13 Sikhs, none of the Scheduled classes, and 5 Anglo-Indians.

(c) In the Income-Tax Department, recruitment of Inspectors is ordinarily made from outsiders. In exceptional cases, recruitment to the Inspectors' grade is also made from the ministerial ranks. In the Co-operative (Local Government) Department, Inspectors are recruited either direct or by selection from Sub-Inspectors employed by the Co-operative Union or from Sub-Inspectors of Co-operative Industrial Societies.

Government do not consider it desirable to recruit Inspectors in the Posts and Telegraphs Department direct from outsiders as it is essential that these officials should have practical experience of the work of postmasters and possess a detailed working knowledge of the departmental rules and procedure.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN : I lay on the table a statement showing the objects on which the aviation share of the Petrol Tax Fund was expended during 1943-44, as promised in reply to part (b) of short notice question No. 146, asked on the 28th August, 1934.

Statement showing the objects on which aviation share of the PETROL TAX FUND was expended during the year 1943-1944

Objects	Expenditure Rs.
CLUBS	
Grants-in-aid to Flying Clubs in India	95,511
Financial assistance to Indian Gliding Association	11,955
TRAINING.	
Training of a member of the staff of the Civil Aviation Directorate in certain subjects pertaining to Aircraft Inspection	228
EXPERIMENTAL.	
Aircraft.	
Construction and operation of the Wind Tunnel at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for carrying out certain tests on aircraft	35,509
Miscellaneous items.	
Transferred to the Grant for development of Civil Aviation (Civil Aviation works).	5,00,000
Grand Total	6,43,357

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I lay on the table the information promised in reply to Question No. 211, asked by the Honourable Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru in the Council of State on the 27th March, 1944, regarding proportion of Indian to British I. M. S. Officers in command of Hospitals in Middle East and Paiforce.

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

(a) Proportion of Indian to British Officers—

	Middle East	Paiforce
Medical Divisions	1 : 4	2 : 1
Surgical Divisions	2 : 1	1 : 2

(b) Proportion of Indian to British Officers Commanding Indian General and Combined Hospitals—

Type of Hospital.	Proportion—Indian to British	
	Middle East	Paiforce
Indian General	4 : 1	
Combined General	2 : 1	4 : 6

THE HONOURABLE SIR SATYENDRA NATH ROY: I lay on the table the information promised in reply to questions Nos. 17 and 251, asked on the 16th February, 1944, and the 4th April, 1944, respectively.

Question No. 17

RAILWAY FREIGHT FOR ICE ON THE BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

Prior to 15th April 1944, ice when booked from Calcutta and Rajbari to Goalundo in consignments of 20 maunds and over was chargeable at quarter parcels rate and in quantities below 20 maunds at half parcels rate. Since 15th April, 1944 however, it is chargeable at Quarter parcels rate irrespective of weight. The chargeable distances as also the freight rates per maund for ice from Calcutta and Rajbari to Goalundo by passenger train prior to 15th April, 1944 and subsequent to that date are as under :—

Station from	Station to	Distance	Rate per maund	
Prior to 15th April 1944				
		Miles	For consignments of less than 20 mds.	For consignments of 20 mds. & over
			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Calcutta	Goalundo	155	1 2 6	0 9 3
Rajbari	Goalundo	9	0 3 0	0 1 6*
From 15th April 1944				
		Miles	Irrespective of weight	
			Rs. A. P.	
Calcutta	Goalundo	155	0 9 3	
Rajbari	Goalundo	9	0 1 6*	

*This rate is subject to a minimum charge of 3 annas per parcel.

NOTE.—In addition to the above rates an increased charge of 4 annas per rupee on the freight is levied.

Question No. 251

CASHIERS IN THE B. & N. W. R. AND R. & K. R.

(a) The present Cashiers are employed on Contract basis, the contracts being terminable at six months' notice on either side.

(b) and (c). The Bengal and North Western Railway Zone contract has been with the family of the present Contractor for three generations ;

On the Rohilkhand and Kumaon Railway Zone the present Contractor succeeded his father as a Cashier in railway employment. Since 1927, however, he has been working on a contract basis.

(d) These Cashiers are not holding any posts and are doing cash and pay work on a contract basis. The question of inviting application for posts does not arise.

(e) No. The question of calling for tenders was considered and dropped as it was considered undesirable to disturb the existing arrangements.

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. C. PRIOR: Sir, a statement showing the information required in respect of the years 1940 to 1942 promised in reply to Question No. 215 asked on 27th March, 1944, is placed on the table of the House. Information in respect of the year 1943 will be placed on the table of the House shortly.

PRICES OF COAL AT PIT HEADS OF DIFFERENT CENTRES

Average Daily Wages in December 1940
COAL FIELDS

	Assam			Baluchistan			Bengal (Raniganj coalfield)			Bihar (Jharia coalfield)			Central Provinces (Pench Valley coalfield)			Punjab		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
<i>Underground</i>																		
Overmen and Sirdars	1	9	6	1	3	6	1	3	0	1	2	3	1	1	6	1	6	0
Coal cutters	1	2	6	0	9	9	0	8	9	0	9	6	0	14	0	0	14	3
Loaders	1	1	0	0	11	6	0	7	6	0	8	6	0	7	6	0	14	3
Skilled labour	1	2	9	0	13	6	0	10	0	0	11	6	0	9	9	0	14	6
Unskilled labour	0	15	3	0	8	0	0	7	0	0	7	9	0	7	9	0	6	6
<i>Open workings</i>																		
Overmen and Sirdars	1	4	6	1	6	0	0	11	9	1	14	9	0	14	3			
Coal cutters	1	3	0	0	14	3	0	7	0	0	9	9	0	11	0			
Loaders	0	14	9				0	7	3	0	6	6	0	5	9			
Skilled labour	0	15	9				0	7	9	0	9	3	0	8	9	0	9	3
Unskilled labour	0	14	6				0	7	0	0	6	9	0	5	3	0	6	0
Females	0	8	3				0	4	0	0	5	3	0	3	6			
<i>Surface</i>																		
Clerical & Supervising Staff	1	14	3				1	0	3	1	3	6	1	1	0	0	11	8
Skilled labour	0	14	6	0	8	9	0	9	3	0	10	9	0	9	9	0	13	3
Unskilled labour	0	13	0	0	8	9	0	6	3	0	7	3	0	6	3	0	8	9
Females	0	11	0				0	4	0	0	4	3	0	4	0	0	3	0
1941																		
<i>Underground</i>																		
Overmen and Sirdars	1	6	9	1	15	9	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	3	0	1	4	0
Coal cutters	1	0	6	0	10	6	0	9	3	0	10	0	0	14	3	0	14	3
Loaders	1	0	0	0	9	9	0	8	0	0	9	0	0	7	9	0	14	3
Skilled labour	1	1	3	0	11	3	0	10	6	0	11	9	0	10	3	0	12	0
Unskilled labour	0	13	9				0	7	3	0	8	3	0	7	6	0	8	6
<i>Open workings</i>																		
Overmen and Sirdars	1	5	6	1	7	3	0	12	6	0	15	0	1	3	3			
Coal cutters	1	3	6				0	8	6	0	9	3	0	10	3			
Loaders	0	15	0				0	7	9	0	8	0	0	7	3			
Skilled labour	1	1	0	0	5	0	0	9	6	0	9	3	0	7	9	0	15	6
Unskilled labour	0	14	9				0	6	6	0	6	9	0	5	6	0	7	0
Females	0	8	9				0	4	6	0	5	6	0	2	6			
<i>Surface</i>																		
Clerical & Supervising staff	1	14	6				1	0	9	1	4	0	1	0	3	0	13	6
Skilled labour	0	14	3	0	10	3	0	9	6	0	11	0	0	10	6	0	12	9
Unskilled labour	0	11	6	0	10	3	0	6	6	0	7	6	0	6	6	0	8	9
Females	0	8	3				0	4	3	0	5	0	0	4	0	0	4	3

STATEMENTS, ETC., LAID ON THE TABLE
Average Daily Wages in December 1942
COAL FIELDS

19

	Assam		Baluchis- tan		Bengal (Raniganj coalfield)		Bihar (Jharia coalfield)		Central Provinces (Pench Valley coalfield)		Punjab	
	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.
<i>Underground</i>												
Overmen and Sirdars	1	12 9	2	2 9	1	3 6	1	3 3	1	4 9	1	12 0
Coal cutters	1	3 9	1	10 9	0	10 9	0	11 0	0	15 9	1	5 0
Loaders	1	2 9	1	10 6	0	9 3	0	10 0	0	9 9	1	3 6
Skilled labour	1	5 3	1	0 6	0	11 6	0	12 6	0	11 6	1	9 0
Unskilled labour	1	1 6	1	1 0	0	8 0	0	8 9	0	8 0	0	10 3
<i>Open workings</i>												
Overmen and Sirdars	1	8 0	-1	7 3	0	15 9	1	2 0	1	3 0	1	4 9
Coal cutters	..	..	..	..	0	11 9	0	10 9	0	12 9	..	..
Loaders	1	1 0	..	..	0	6 9	0	8 6	0	7 9	1	3 9
Skilled labour	1	2 3	0	12 0	0	13 3	0	10 6	0	10 6	0	13 3
Unskilled labour	0	15 9	..	..	0	11 3	0	7 9	0	6 3	0	10 0
Females	0	10 6	..	..	0	6 6	0	6 3	0	4 9	..	..
<i>Surface</i>												
Clerical & Supervising staff	2	2 9	1	8 0	1	2 6	1	5 9	1	2 9	1	1 3
Skilled labour	1	2 6	1	0 0	0	11 0	0	12 0	0	11 6	1	1 0
Unskilled labour	0	13 6	0	14 3	0	7 3	0	8 3	0	7 6	0	11 3
Females	0	11 0	..	..	0	4 9	0	5 3	0	4 6	0	4 3

Year	Price per ton of coal at pit heads											
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
1940	9	1 0	6	7 0	3	10 0	3	5 0	3	12 0	5	4 0
1941	9	5 0	7	7 0	3	13 0	3	6 0	3	14 0	5	5 0
1942	10	0 0	13	12 0	4	8 0	4	3 0	5	8 0	13	6 0

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. N. BANERJEE: Sir, I lay on the table a statement giving the further information promised in reply to the Supplementary to Question No. 114 asked on the 29th February, 1944.

DETENTION OF MR. SURESH VAIDYA

It is estimated that the number of Indians who have been called up as conscripts and have performed military service since the beginning of the war is about 100.

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAM CHANDRA: I lay on the table the information promised in reply to Question No. 115, asked on the 29th February, 1944.

APPOINTMENT OF A EUROPEAN FIRM AS AGENTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF GUNNY AND SALTPETRE FOR MAURITIUS.

It has been ascertained that the Government of Mauritius have, at the request of the sugar millers in the Island, bulked their orders for gunnies with a single firm in Calcutta in order to facilitate imports. It is understood that this firm has entered into a voluntary agreement with other important established shippers to Mauritius about the sharing of their remuneration.

As regards Saltpetre, the report that the Government of Mauritius have appointed a European firm as their sole buying agents for saltpetre is incorrect. During 1943-44, two firms, including one Indian firm, were granted licences for the export of 500 tons of saltpetre each to Mauritius.

STATEMENTS, ETC., LAID ON THE TABLE

THE HONOURABLE SIR SATYENDRA NATH ROY (War Transport Secretary): Sir, I lay on the table copies of the following Notifications:—

(1) Notification issued by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, No. F-12 (36)/44-General, dated the 28th August, 1944, relating to the Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

(2) Notification issued by the Chief Commissioner, Coorg, No. 113, dated the 8th May, 1944, amending the Coorg Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

(3) Notification issued by the Chief Commissioner, British Baluchistan, No. 244/35-40/MV., dated the 21st February, 1942, amending the British Baluchistan Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

(4) Notification issued by the Chief Commissioner, British Baluchistan, No. 2441/18-41/M. V., dated the 17th November, 1943, amending the British Baluchistan Vehicles Rules, 1940.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, DELHI
NOTIFICATION

No. F. 12 (36)/44-General, dated Delhi, the 28th August, 1944

In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 21 and 41 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, read with the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Communications, No. R. 60, dated the 28th June 1939, the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, is pleased to make the following rules, the same having been previously published with his notification No. F. 12(36)/44-General, dated the 5th July, 1944.

Rules

1. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940 no fee shall be charged for the issue or alteration of certificates of registration relating to motor vehicles which are the property of the High Commissioner for Australia in India or any of his secretaries.

2. If the High Commissioner for Australia in India or any of his secretaries have paid or shall hereafter pay a fee for the issue or renewal of a licence to drive a motor vehicle or for undergoing a test of competency to drive, the fee shall on his application be refunded to him.

A. V. ASKWITH,
Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF COORG
NOTIFICATION

No. 113, dated Mercara, the 8th May, 1944

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 68 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (IV of 1939) and the notification of the Government of India, Department of Communications, No. R. 60, dated the 28th June 1939, the Chief Commissioner is pleased to make the following amendments, to the Coorg Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, issued with his notification No. R.F. 43/121-39, dated the 26th March, 1940 :—

Amendments

1. For Rule 50(c) of the said Rules, the following shall be substituted, *vis.* :—
“ 50 (c) The holder of a permit shall cause Part B thereof, or the Temporary Permit as the case may be, to be carried on the vehicle. It shall be produced by the driver for inspection on demand made at any reasonable time by any authorised person. ”

2. In Part B of the Form P.St.S. appended to the said rules for the words “ summary to be exhibited on each vehicle ” the words “ summary to be carried on each vehicle ” shall be substituted.

3. In Part B of the Forms P.Co.P. & Co.S. appended to the said rules for the words “ summary to be exhibited on the vehicle ” the words “ summary to be carried on the vehicle ” shall be substituted.

4. In Part B of Form P.Pr.C. appended to the said rules for the words “ summary to be exhibited on each vehicle ” the words “ summary to be carried on each vehicle ” shall be substituted.

K. CHENGAPPA,
Chief Commissioner.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF BRITISH BALUCHISTAN
NOTIFICATION

No. 244/35-40/M.V. dated Quetta, the 21st February, 1942

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 68 (2) (Z. A) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (VI of 1939), the Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan is pleased to direct that the following addendum shall be made to the British Baluchistan Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published in the Notification No. 347/M.V., dated the 1st April, 1940 printed at pages 841 to 982 of the Gazette of India, Part II-A, dated the 27th April, 1940 :—

Addendum

In Rule 4, 17 add the following as Clause ‘ C ’.

“ That—if and when required, mails will be carried at such rates as may be fixed by the Provincial Transport Authority in consultation with the Postal Authorities concerned.”

By order of

Secretary to the Agent to the
Governor General and Chief
Commissioner in Baluchistan
(Police Department).

THE HON'BLE THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR BRITISH BALUCHISTAN
NOTIFICATION

No. 2441/18-41/M.V., dated Quetta, the 17th November, 1943

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 64 read with Section 68 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (IV of 1939), the Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan is pleased to direct that the following amendments shall be made to the Notification No. 347/M.V.,

dated the 1st April, 1940, printed at pages 841 to 982 of the Gazette of India, Part II-A, dated the 27th April, 1940 :—

Amendments

After rule 5.60 of the British Baluchistan Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940 the following heading^a and rules shall be inserted, namely :—

Special Rules applicable to gas producers installed in motor vehicles.

5.61 *Definition*.—For the purpose of rules 5.62 to 5.82, the term “producer” means the whole of the equipment necessary for the generation of producer gas and its utilization in the engine of a Motor Vehicle.

Regulations of the use of producers.

5.62. (a) Every producer fitted to a Motor Vehicle on or after the 1st July, 1943, shall be of a Model approved by the Registering Authority. Every such producer shall exhibit in a conspicuous place on the generator a plate showing, in addition to the manufacturer's name and serial number, the mark as may be prescribed and assigned to the model by the Registering Authority.

(b) *Approval of model*.—Every manufacturer seeking approval for a producer model shall submit in duplicate to the Registering Authority, specifications and drawings (which should be blue prints or photostat copies) of the model he proposes to manufacture, together with a copy of the instructions for operating the producer. The thickness of the metal sheets used in the construction of the various parts of the producer shall be stated in the specifications. The manufacturer shall also give an undertaking in writing that he will submit a producer of that model to a board consisting of the Inspector of boilers, factories and electrical installation in Baluchistan, the S. O. M. E., Quetta Arsenal and the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Traffic Quetta and also to produce a bus or lorry fitted with a producer of that model at such time and place and for such tests including a road test of not less than fifty miles continuous run as may be determined by the board. No modification shall be made by any one in an approved model except with the approval of the board. The board may subject the modification to such test as it thinks necessary before approving it.

5.63. *Specifications*.—*General*.—No producer model shall be approved unless it satisfies the provisions of these rules and every producer fitted on or after the 1st September, 1943, shall be fitted in accordance with these rules.

5.64. *Material of construction*.—All materials used in the construction of the producer, except any component parts thereof that may be expressly excluded by the manufacturer in his guarantee, shall be suited to the load of the vehicle in which it may be installed and the temperature, chemical and other conditions under which it may be used and shall be such as will last under reasonable conditions of operation and maintenance for not less than two years.

5.65. *Design*.—*General*.—The producer shall be of simple design and construction and shall be capable of being installed in a vehicle in such manner as :—

(I) Not to interfere with the steering and road safety of the vehicle, or with the driver's range of vision including his view to the rear through the driving mirror or with any signals or signalling devices required under the provisions of the Act and these rules; and

(II) Not unduly to impair, the payload space and the weight distribution of the vehicles.

5.66. *Weight*.—The weight of the producer shall be the minimum having regard to the requirements of strength, rigidity, resistance to high temperature and corrosion, and to the type of the vehicle to which it is to be fitted.

5.67. *Hopper capacity*.—The effective capacity of fuel hopper shall give the vehicle an operating distance of not less than 50 miles without recharging.

5.68. *Accessibility*.—The producer shall be designed with a view to accessibility and ease of maintenance, cleaning charging and ash removal. Provision for drainage shall be made where necessary.

5.69. *Fitting*.—All installations connected with the producer shall be securely fixed. The installations shall not form a single inflexible unit but shall be connected with flexible couplings at appropriate points to relieve intermediate stresses.

5.70. (a) *Safety*.—The manufacturer shall take precautions in the manufacture of producers to ensure safety with special regard to risk from fire, gas poisoning and blow back of hot charcoal.

(b) All equipment and piping shall be free from gas or Air leaks.

Covers of the furnace and gas filters and cocks and packings shall be air tight. If a generator vent pipe is fitted, the pipe shall be connected directly to the furnace or shall branch from a pipe as near as possible to the furnace. If an escape funnel is provided for use during the air-blowing operations, the pipe shall exhaust above the roof level.

(c) Exposed surfaces at high temperatures shall be screened against accidental contact.

(d) The compartment containing the generator shall be lined with asbestos or other heat-resisting material not less than a quarter inch thick.

5.71. *Capacity of cleaners*.—The generator and the cleaning system shall be so designed that they will operate for not less than 40 miles without requiring attention or cleaning.

5.72. (a) *Piping*.—All piping shall be of substantial and gas tight construction and provided with such joints as are necessary for the effective maintenance and repair of the vehicle. Every joint or weld shall be strong.

(b) Pipe fittings shall be made of mild steel iron or copper sheet having a thickness not less than 18-BG (0.049in.) or of 22 gauge G. I. piping and shall be of gas tight construction. Flanges or piping shall be constructed from metal plate of minimum thickness 1/4 in. Cooling piping for the tuyere shall be 3/8 in. internal diameter.

5.73. *Painting*.—All parts of a producer, except those exposed to high temperatures shall be suitably painted and parts exposed to high temperatures shall be painted with a satisfactory heat resisting paint.

5.74. (a) *Lay-out*.—The whole of the producer shall be installed either outside or underneath the body of a vehicle. If the construction of the body of the vehicle is such that some part of the producer should be inside the body of the vehicle such part shall be covered so as to prevent any ill effect from gas leakage or inconvenience due to excessive heat.

(b) A public service vehicle may draw a trailer used solely for the carriage of gas containers supplying, or plant or materials producing, gas for the propulsion of the engine of the drawing vehicle.

5.75. (a) *Location of generator*.—In the case of Stage Carriages the generator of the producer shall be located at the rear in such a position as to cause as little interference as possible with the weight distribution. In the case of a goods vehicle, the generator of the producer may be located either at the rear, as prescribed for Stage Carriages, or at the front. If the generator is located at the front, it shall be fitted beside the driver's seat, inside the driver's canopy in such a position as not to interfere with visibility or signalling.

(b) The generator may be stayed or strapped to the body to provide rigidity but shall be kept away from any part of the body by at least three inches.

5.76. *Location of fuel tank*.—If the generator of the producer is fitted at the front of the vehicle :—

(i) The generator shall be mounted in such a position that it shall be at a minimum distance of 2 feet from any petrol tank or piping, if the tank is located inside the body of the vehicle, it shall be effectively insulated, and

(ii) the filling spout and any other opening shall be located on the opposite side of the vehicle to the generator and not less than 4 feet away from the generator; and

(iii) where an auxiliary fuel tank with gravity feed is fitted, the capacity of such tank shall not exceed, one gallon and it shall be located in the front portion of the vehicle as far away from the generator as practicable.

5.77. *Dimensions*.—The overall dimensions of the vehicle with the producer installed, shall not exceed those permitted under the rules.

5.78. *Cleaners—Installation*.—Cleaners using solid filter material shall be installed on the vehicle in such a manner as to allow efficient and convenient packing of the filter material.

5.79. *Clearance*.—The road clearance at the bottom of the furnace shall be not less than 12 inches when the vehicle is unladen with the hopper full.

5.80. (a) *Performance—Starting test*.—The vehicle shall be capable of moving on gas alone in not more than thirty minutes from the commencement of the starting process. For the purpose of test, the engine and the producer shall be cold at the beginning of the process.

(b) *Speed*.—The vehicle shall be capable of maintaining the following speed, when running on gas alone, on level roads :—

(i) Stage Carriages, loaded—25 miles per hour.

(ii) Goods vehicle not being a heavy transport vehicle. Loaded—22 miles per hour.

5.81. (a) *Inspection*.—When a vehicle which has already been registered is fitted with a producer, it shall invariably be inspected and tested according to these rules before the alteration is recorded in the certificate of registration under section 32 of the Act.

(b) All public service and goods motor vehicles fitted with gas producers shall be liable to an inspection quarterly by the Motor Vehicle Sergeant including a road test of not less than 25 miles.

5.82. *General provisions*.—All producers including those fitted to vehicles before the 1st September 1943, shall be of such construction and so fitted as to provide adequate satisfactory protection against danger of damage or injury arising from fire gas poisoning or contact with exposed surface at high temperature.

By order,

H. D. RUSHTON,

Secretary to the Chief Commissioner in
British Baluchistan.

THE HONOURABLE SIR CYRIL JONES : (Finance Secretary) : Sir, I lay on the table a copy each of the following Reports* and Accounts in accordance with section 169 of the Government of India Act, 1935 :—

1. Appropriation Accounts (Civil), 1942-43 and Audit Report, 1944.
2. Commercial Appendix to above.
3. Finance Accounts, 1942-43, and Audit Report, 1944.
4. Appropriation Accounts (Railways), 1942-43, parts I and II.
5. Capital statements, Balance sheets, etc., of State Railways, 1942-43.
6. Balance sheets of Railway collieries and statements of all-in costs of coal, 1942-43.
7. Railway Audit Report, 1944.

*Not printed, copies placed in the Library of the House.

8. Appropriation Accounts (Defence Services), 1942-43.
9. Commercial Appendix to above.
10. Audit Report, Defence Services, 1944.
11. Appropriation Accounts (P. & T.), 1942-43 and the Audit Report, 1943.
12. Petty corrections and first list of correction to Appropriation Accounts (Civil).
13. Corrections to Commercial Appendix (Civil).
14. Corrections to Appropriation Accounts (Railways), parts I and II.
15. Corrections to Railway Audit Report.
16. Corrections to Appropriation Accounts (P. & T.)

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH (Education, Health and Lands Member): I lay on the table copies of the Notification of the Government of India in the Department of Education, Health and Lands, Nos. F-16-3/43-A., dated the 28th March, 1944, and the 17th July, 1944.

Copy of Notification (Agriculture) No. F. 16-3/43-A, dated the 28th March, 1944

In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 4A and 4D of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914 (II of 1914) the Central Government is pleased to prohibit, with effect from the 1st May 1944, the transport from the Province of Madras to any other Province of any of the articles specified in the First Schedule hereto annexed (being articles which are likely to carry the destructive insect known as *Icerya Purchasi* and thereby cause infection to crops)—

- (a) by letter or sample post, or by air ; or
- (b) by road, except by such routes as may be specified by the Government of such other Province ; or
- (c) by rail or inland steam vessel, unless the consignment is accompanied by a certificate in the form set out in the Second Schedule hereto annexed and signed by the Entomologist to Government, Madras, Coimbatore, or such other officer as the Director of Agriculture, Madras, may authorise in this behalf.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

Articles to which this notification applies

1. The following plants (but not the fruits thereof), namely *Sophora glauca*, Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), Black Wattle (*Acacia decurrens* and *Acacia millissima*), Australian blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*) *Ulex europaeus*, Potato creeper (*Solanum jasminoides*, *Solanum seforthianum* and other climbing *Solanums*), all citrus species including all types of orange, lime, lemon, pomeloe and grape-fruit plant, apples (all *pyrus* species), all *Eucalyptus* species including *Eucalyptus spectabilis* and *Eucalyptus glauca*, *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*, *Hypericum mysorense*, *Dodonea/Bandedu* (Telugu)/*Aliar* (*Dodonea viscosa*), *Berberis tinctoria*, *Rosa* (*Rosa* species), *Gaultheria fragrantissima*, Raspberry, country pears, *Bougainvillea*, *Verbena*, *Magnolia*, *Pepper*, *Tea*, *Casuarina*.
2. The following plant materials, namely :—Buds, Cuttings, Scions, Grafts, bulbs, leaves (but not manufactured tea, seedlings, tubers, and rhisomes' of the plants specified in clause 1.
3. Any articles used in packing or wrapping up any of the plants or plant materials mentioned above.

THE SECOND SCHEDULE

Form of Certificate

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

Date of examination and fumigation.....
 Particulars of consignment.....
 No. and description of packages.....
 Distinguishing marks.....
 Description of living plants or plant materials.....
 Exported by.....
 Name and address of the consignee.....

Signature of certifying authority
 Designation.

The above certificate should be signed by the Entomologist to Government, Madras, Coimbatore, or such other officer as may be authorised by the Director of Agriculture, Madras, in this behalf.

Copy of Notification (Agriculture) No. F. 16-3/43-A, dated the 17th July, 1944

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 4A of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act 1914 (II of 1914), the Central-Government is pleased to direct that the following amendment shall be made in the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Education, Health and Lands No. F. 16-3/43-A, dated the 28th March 1944, namely :

For clause (a) of the said notification, the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

“(a) by letter, sample or parcel post, or by air or sea ; or ”

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

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NOTIFICATION
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 or 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

S. R. ZAMAN, Joint Secretary.

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAM CHANDRA (Commerce Secretary) : I lay on the table copies of a further amendment of the Insurance Rules, 1939, published with the Commerce Department Notification No. 597-I (6)/43, dated the 3rd June, 1944.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NOTIFICATION
INSURANCE

New Delhi, the 3rd June, 1944

No. 597-I (6)/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 amendment 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 :—

For rules 3 and 4 of the said Rules the following rule shall be substituted namely :—

“3. Any person signing as actuary under the Act shall be a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries London, or a Fellow of the Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland ; PROVIDED that where application is made to the Superintendent of Insurance and it is shown to his satisfaction that the employment of an Associate of such Institute of Actuaries or of such Faculty of Actuaries, or of any other person having actuarial knowledge for any specified purpose is expedient in order to enable an insurer or a provident society to carry out any of his or its obligations under the Act, the Superintendent of Insurance may grant the application and permit such person to sign as actuary for the specified purpose, subject to such conditions and restrictions as the Superintendent of Insurance thinks fit to impose.”

S. R. ZAMAN, Joint Secretary.

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN (Nominated Official): I lay on the table copies of a memorandum showing the progress made up to the end of October 1944, on the recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee.

SUMMARY OF THE PROGRESS ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FOODGRAINS POLICY COMMITTEE
CHAPTER 2.—STATISTICAL POSITION

As mentioned in the last report on the progress made on the recommendations of Foodgrains Policy Committee steps are being taken in the permanently settled areas to obtain correct acreage statistics by field enumeration as is done in the rest of British India. Bihar, Bengal, Orissa and Assam are taking active steps to introduce a system somewhat like that prevailing in the U. P. and the Punjab for reporting correct crop areas. Experimental work is also being done in Bengal and Bihar on a randomised sample survey basis to determine both acreages and yields, at least of the major food crop, *viz.*, rice.

A large scale experimental scheme costing about Rs. 90,000 in one year sanctioned by the Government of India has been carried out by the I. C. A. R. to determine the yield of wheat in the major wheat growing districts of the Punjab and the U. P. It has been estimated that the technique adopted is a good one giving an error of not more than 1 per cent. Arrangements have been made to obtain from two reliable banks fortnightly reports regarding crop and stock holding tendencies in the principal producing areas.

It may also be mentioned that at present all India forecasts of acreage and production are issued in respect of two food crops only, *viz.*, rice and wheat. The views of the Provincial Governments and Indian States have been received on the proposal to issue forecasts of *khari* food crops other than rice and are being considered by the Government of India. The question of publishing all India forecasts of *rabi* food crops other than wheat will also be taken up shortly.

CHAPTER 3.—GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

1. *Distribution of improved seed.*—In 1943-44 the Government of India helped in the multiplication and distribution of improved seed by granting loans to the extent of Rs. 93·72 lakhs and grants of Rs. 18·42 lakhs from Central Revenues in addition to Rs. 3·47 lakhs from the Cotton Fund. As a result 17·26 lakhs of maunds of improved seed were distributed.

In 1944-45 further financial assistance has been given to the extent of Rs. 75·1 lakhs as loans and Rs. 25·5 lakhs as grants out of Rs. 156 and Rs. 47 lakhs respectively of loans and grants sanctioned from Central Revenues and 4·34 lakhs from the Cotton Fund for the multiplication and distribution of improved seed to cultivators on a subsidized basis. It is expected that as a result some 6·5 lakhs of additional nucleus seed of rice and wheat will be available; and that 18·81 lakh maunds will be distributed to ordinary cultivators. As a result of these measures production is estimated to increase by 4 lakh tons of grains.

Production of vegetable seeds of European type vegetables has been undertaken in Kashmir and Baluchistan. Financial assistance has been given to these two areas and it is expected that they will be able to produce 4,50,000 lbs. of such seed this year and to be largely independent of imported seed in subsequent years. Steps have been taken to ensure that all sales are made through Directors of Agriculture. Maximum prices have also been fixed for these seeds.

2. *Compost from Town refuse.*—Under a scheme arranged by the I. C. of A. R. on behalf of the Central Government, on receipt of a special grant for the purpose, a number of biochemists deputed by all the Provinces have undergone a six-months course of training in the Bangalore process of composting night soil and town refuse. The trainees will inaugurate this work on these lines in selected municipalities of their respective Provinces and would train others for the work. The work of manufacture of compost has now started in several municipalities in each Province and it is expected that some 20,000 tons of such compost will be available for *rabi* sowings of 1944-45. Grants have also been given to the Provinces for the production of compost from vegetable waste.

The use of green manure and oilcakes as manure has also been encouraged. Some 25,000 maunds of green manure seeds have been distributed and 9½ lakh maunds of oilcakes and 9,000 mds. of bone meal given out to cultivators on a subsidised basis in 1943-44. In the current year schemes have been approved for the distribution of 28·9 lakh maunds of oilcakes, 40,000 maunds of bonemeal and 28,000 maunds of green manure seeds. The export abroad of all kinds of manures (bonemeal, oilcake, etc.) has been strictly controlled.

3. *Chemical Fertilisers.*—Supplies of chemical fertilisers from abroad are now beginning to arrive. All the indigenous production of sulphate of ammonia which could be made available for agricultural purposes has been arranged to be taken over by the Government of India. The supplies from these two sources have been pooled and quotas assigned for various Provinces and States on the pre-war consumption basis.

The question of producing ammonium sulphate in India has been actively pursued. At a meeting held in April 1944 with representatives of Provincial Governments it was provisionally decided that the plant for manufacturing ammonium sulphate should preferably be owned by Government and that technical experts from the U. K. should be asked to come out to India and advise about the nature and location of the necessary plants. The technical experts have toured all over India and their report is awaited.

The financial assistance given for manurial schemes is Rs. 53½ lakhs as loans and Rs. 27 lakhs as grants. The extra yield expected is about one lakh tons of foodgrains.

4. *Irrigation and Drainage Schemes.*—In order to bring new land under cultivation several minor irrigation schemes for pumping water from tube wells and river beds have been launched, help given to Provinces in securing priorities for the release of plant, equipment and material,

loans and grants sanctioned for the construction and repair of tanks, for the sinking and improvement of surface wells and for the reclamation of waste lands and field embankments. Altogether the loans sanctioned for these items come to nearly Rs. 63.73 lakhs, the grants sanctioned from Central Revenues to Rs. 64 lakhs and from the Cotton Fund to Rs. 18½ lakhs. As a result it is expected that a million acres of unirrigated land will be brought under irrigation, giving nearly 200,000 tons of extra food.

5. *Depletion of India's milch and draught cattle.*—The cattle position has become acute on account of increased demand for animals for cultivation, transport, milk and meat. An increase in the production of cattle cannot be dealt with in the same way as the increased production of food crops, breeding being a long range matter. It is proposed shortly to make some suggestions to Provinces and States on this important matter.

In the meantime the military authorities have agreed not to slaughter (1) all cattle under three years of age, (2) male cattle between three and ten years of age which are used as or are likely to be used as working cattle, (3) cows between 3 and 10 years of age which are capable of giving milk, other than those unsuitable for bearing offspring, and (4) cows which are pregnant or in milk.

Provinces have been asked to issue similar instructions in respect of civilian slaughter houses and to establish some meatless days in a week where possible. A number of provinces have already introduced the latter.

6. *Iron and steel for agricultural implements.*—It has been estimated that 25,000 tons of iron and steel per quarter are required to meet the minimum demands for the whole country for implement-making and repair. Owing to the very difficult supply position regarding iron and steel it was not possible to secure for the whole country more than 6,872 tons for the third quarter of 1944 and 13,996 tons for the fourth quarter of 1944, of iron and steel of controlled categories, in addition to some tonnages of scrap and defective iron and steel which will become available during these periods. For the first quarter of 1945 a combined allotment of 25,271 tons of 'good' steel and 9,020 tons of 'defectives' and cuttings of different categories has been obtained for the whole country for the purpose of (a) Agricultural Implements, (b) Consumer Goods, and (c) Unlicensed Sales. The various Regional Deputy Iron and Steel Controllers will distribute these tonnages in consultation and close co-operation with the Provincial and State Governments within their circles. The procedure for obtaining regular supplies in future has been explained to the Provincial Governments and States who have been requested to furnish timely details of their actual requirements to the Deputy Iron and Steel Controllers in order to enable them to prepare correct forward estimates for obtaining the requisite quantities from the Priority Authority.

7. *Supply of Fuel and Lubricating Oil to Agriculturists.*—Under the decentralised control system, all Controllers of Supplies are now giving first priority to fuel oil genuinely required by agriculturists. The distribution system is understood to be working satisfactorily.

8. *Regulation of Crop Production.*—In order to get more out of the land already under cultivation steps have been taken to ensure that of the present cultivated area an adequate part is sown with food as opposed to money crops. Provincial Governments have already co-operated in reducing the area under short-staple cotton and some of them have introduced or are considering introduction of statutory crop regulation.

Action for the compulsory restriction of the acreage under certain varieties of short-staple cotton was first taken by Madras. It provided that if cultivable land is not cultivated, it may be taken over for a certain period by the State and handed over to suitable persons for cultivation. It was also made compulsory for landlords to keep their irrigation works in order, failing which the State would do the work and recover the cost from the landlords.

Bombay also passed an Act in May 1944 to regulate the cultivation of crops with a view to grow more food, providing for the maintenance of the existing proportion of growing food crops and for guarding against diversion of areas under food crop to non-food crops by prescribing a minimum proportion of food crops to be grown.

9. *Land settlement in Assam.*—As mentioned in the last progress report monthly reports were called for from the Government of Assam on the progress of land settlement in that Province. These reports show that the total area newly settled during the period September 1943 to the end of August 1944 is 111,114. In addition to this, old encroachments have been regularised by granting settlement on 7,358 acres.

10. *Undermilling of Rice.*—It was reported in the last progress report that most provinces and States had followed the example of the Madras Government and had issued orders making compulsory the undermilling of rice. Certain other Provinces and States have followed suit after the said report. At present undermilling is enforced in Madras, Bombay, C. P., U. P., Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Orissa, Baluchistan and Coorg.

11. *Stores for Rice Mills.*—A committee has been formed consisting of representatives of 3 firms, which are among the largest importers and manufacturers of rice mills machinery in India to advise the Food Department on the best method of securing and distributing spare parts for rice mills, indents for which were collected from all Provinces and States. These Committee met on 16th September 1944 and its various recommendations are under examination.

In the meantime provision is being made for the importation of rice mill machinery and spare parts from the United Kingdom and North America in larger quantities.

CHAPTER 4.—EXPORTS AND IMPORTS

Exports.—There has been no marked departure from the declared policy of the Government of India with regard to exports, which is that India shall cease to be a net exporter of foodstuffs and that during the present emergency no exports whatever of foodgrains shall be permitted

except for the immediate requirements of ships, aircraft and isolated communities in neighbouring countries which depend on India for supplies. Recently it was found possible to allot 25,000 tons grain to Ceylon after meeting the requirements of deficit areas. There was no market for this surplus grain in the country and it would have gone bad if not put into consumption immediately.

Imports.—The Government of India are fully alive to the importance of arranging for imports and are continuously pressing upon H. M. G. the urgency of foodgrain imports on a scale adequate for current consumption, including military requirements and the establishment of reserves.

6,49,520 tons of foodgrains, mostly wheat, have been imported during the 12 months ending October 1944. In addition, approximately 380,000 tons wheat and wheat products are expected to be received during November, December and January. Thus the total quantity of foodgrain imports will amount to nearly 10,30,000 tons by the end of January next. H. M. G. will review the position again in November.

CHAPTER 5.—ARMY PURCHASES

Co-ordination of the army demands for foodgrains and pulses is secured through the Food Department's Basic Plans. As regards other foodstuffs, Co-ordination Committees have now been set up at all Command Headquarters and those have split themselves up into provincial, regional and functional sub-committees. Altogether about 40 such bodies are working. They provide a clearing house of information and an authoritative forum for resolving difficulties and for the expression of the view points of Civil Administrations and States. They are securing a unified and coordinated system of procurement and the various purchasing agencies are now working hand in hand and paying particular attention to the requirements of civilians as well as the necessity for conservation of stocks for breeding and for seed purposes. The main objective is that the requirements of the Army are met with minimum disturbance in the markets and every effort is made to increase production by the Army units so that the Army offtake from available supplies is reduced to the minimum.

CHAPTER 6.—PROCUREMENT

As reported in the last progress report the Government of India agreed with the Committee that a Central Government Foodgrains Monopoly is the ideal medium of procurement, but that for the time being it had to be ruled out of consideration by reason of the time factor. Since then the matter has been given considerable attention and the problems that have to be faced in proceeding towards a system of monopoly purchase have been examined. These are (a) finance, (b) storage, (c) likelihood of deterioration, (d) difficulty of finding experienced staff, (e) effect on public confidence, and (f) public co-operation.

It was decided to examine, in Provinces where monopoly purchase schemes are in force, how the practical difficulties have been surmounted by the various administrations. For this purpose a senior officer of the Food Department was deputed to visit those Provinces and States which have already established monopoly purchase schemes or a compulsory levy of grains from cultivators for the purpose of gaining first hand knowledge of the schemes in operation. He has just returned from tour and is compiling his report, which, when finished, will help Government in formulating future policy.

2. A Central Foodgrains Reserve approximating to about 5,00,000 tons was recommended by the Committee. A depot was established at Karachi to hold a part of these resources; but storage accommodation available at other ports was neither adequate nor satisfactory. The Central Government have therefore embarked upon a scheme for the construction or acquisition of additional storage accommodation for imported foodgrains at certain port towns and elsewhere. The scheme has received the approval of the Finance Department in principle, and will provide storage accommodation for a total of 1,40,000 tons. At the same time it is proposed to extend the Depot already established at Karachi to its full capacity of 2,00,000 tons and make all preliminary arrangements for an additional 50,000 tons.

In addition a scheme for the construction of more and better storage accommodation for 175,000 tons at strategic points including railway stations in the surplus producing areas is under consideration. It is proposed that the cost of construction for this scheme be shared equally between the Government of India and Provincial Governments. Replies from all Provincial Governments received in this connection are under examination.

A senior Officer of the Department of Food has also been placed on special duty to progress the various proposals for construction of storage at the ports and in various provinces.

3. The procurement systems set up by the administrations of Provinces and States show a marked diversity, varying from complete Government monopoly, as in Travancore and Cochin to the loosest form of Government control as in the N. W. F. P. All procurement systems in force pre-suppose a certain measure of movement control—the control being stricter as the scope for private trade diminishes and progress is made towards system of monopoly buying. Movements of grains under Government programmes are given a higher degree of priority by the railways than movements by private trade in cases where such private movements are still permissible. To enable the Central Government to exercise direction, superintendence, and control to a degree which is necessary to secure the effective discharge of the Central Government's responsibility for the success of food administration in India as a whole, the Provincial Governments have been asked to keep the Central Government closely in touch, through the Regional Food Commissioners with any important proposals for the modification of their existing procurement arrangements, and wherever possible, to obtain the Central Government's approval before actually introducing major changes.

4. Judicious requisitioning as an aid to procurement has been tried on occasions and has resulted in an improvement in supplies.

Supply of consumer goods

(a) *Cotton Textiles*.—Ceiling prices were again reduced in September 1944. The reduction was at the rate of one anna in the rupee on the previous reduced prices as regards cloth and somewhat more as regards yarn.

Government's action hitherto in the sphere of control of cotton textiles has been directed mainly to ensuring that adequate quantities are supplied to the Indian civil market as a whole and at reasonable prices. Government have now however decided to take on a further responsibility, to wit, that of ensuring that every part of India receives its due share of cloth. To this end India has been divided into certain zones, and Government will ensure that each zone receives its quota of cloth determined on the basis of population. Proper distribution within the zone will be the duty of the Provincial and State Governments concerned. The proportion of India's output of cotton textiles which is available for civilian consumption after Defence requirements and certain essential civil exports has been met works out to about 12 yards per head of the population per annum. This *per capita* availability has been taken as the basis of the quotas allotted to the various zones, but has been varied in certain places where the average normal consumption of the population is either somewhat greater or somewhat less than the rest of India.

(b) *Drugs*.—A marked fall in the prices of drugs has been noticeable during the past few months. This applies particularly to pharmaceutical chemicals and the important group of sulphur drugs. The fall is partly due to the import on Government account of large quantities of these items which are already being released to the trade. The supply situation in respect of proprietary medicine has on the whole radically improved although certain particular items such as Glucose 'D', Emetine and Infants Milk Foods are still in short supply.

(c) *Footwear*.—The position remains the same as previously stated.

(d) *Woollen goods*.—Towards the end of last year, roughly 50 per cent. of the pre-war capacity of woollen goods in India was released for the manufacture of woollen goods for civilian consumption. To take up this released capacity, the Industries and Civil Supplies Department placed orders on mills for certain popular lines of civilian woollen goods. That Department has so far been arranging sale of these goods to the public through a limited number of dealers appointed by the Central Government. The quantities of these goods available, which has not so far been very considerable, have been allotted to dealers in different towns in proportion to the population of the towns. In the colder Provinces we have extended this scheme more fully than in the warmer Provinces. The Central Government have appointed dealers in all towns in Northern India having a population of more than 50,000. The goods are supplied to the dealers selected, at a price fixed for mill station, and they have to sell them in retail at a price fixed by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department which allows a margin of profit of 12½ per cent. over the f. o. r. mill station price. In order to keep the goods moving into the market as quickly as possible and to keep the financial liabilities of the selected dealers as low as possible instructions have been given to mills to despatch the goods to the dealers in small lots as and when ready according to the transport facilities available. In 1945, it is hoped it will be possible to obtain a release of a capacity equivalent to 100 per cent. of pre-war production for the civil consumers.

(e) *Cement*.—On account of shortage of supplies of cement for some time past, cement for civilian users was released in small quantities and no cement was released for building of private houses or for essential repairs to private buildings. From the beginning of this year, it has, however, been decided that 75,000 tons of cement per month should be released for civilian users out of which 20,000 tons should be allotted for essential repairs to private buildings. Although allotments to this extent have been made every month, on account of transport difficulties, it has not been possible to move the full monthly allocation. Efforts are being made to ensure that as large a quantity as possible of cement for the civilian user actually moves to centres in which it is to be used.

The prices of cement have also been fixed (*vide* Industries and Civil Supplies Department Notification No. 129-C (4)/44, dated the 30th September 1944).

(f) *Electric bulbs*.—Electric bulbs are now being supplied to the civilian consumer at 29.1 per cent. of the total imported and indigenous production. The supply position has improved of late and there appears to be every likelihood of an overall average of the allotment to the general public being raised in future to about 33 per cent.

(g) *Paper*.—At present, only 30 per cent. of the Indian mill production of papers is available for non-Government consumption. This is far short of needs. It was accordingly decided that in order to release larger quantities for the civilian consumer, Government should import, for meeting their needs, 20,000 tons and release a corresponding quantity from the percentage of Indian mill production reserved by them. Orders have already been placed for this quantity which is expected to arrive in the near future. As soon as it is received, the release from indigenous production for the civilian consumer will be effected. This will increase the civilian consumers share of Indian production to 50 per cent. Ceiling prices for all varieties of Indian mill made paper, as well as strawboard and millboard and for principal varieties of imported paper have also been fixed. A scheme for the distribution of paper for non-Government requirements under which quotas have been fixed for each Province and State on the basis of supplies available and estimated requirements, has been put into operation with effect from 1st October 1944. The Provincial and State Governments will mainly be responsible for the equitable distribution of the quotas within their respective territories. Stringent measures for enforcing economy in the use of paper by civilian consumers have also been introduced by the issue of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, on 12th June 1944, so as to make available larger quantities of paper for more essential purposes.

(h) The position regarding matches, cutlery, crockery, plywood, enamel ware, electric fans and other electric goods, and domestic hollo ware remains the same.

(i) *Kerosene*.—With a view to increase the present available supplies for kerosene oil, the Government of India have decided to reduce their reserve stock which would make available about 9 per cent. extra kerosene during the winter months from 1st October 1944 to 31st March 1945.

(j) *Import of consumer goods*.—The imports of consumer goods from United Kingdom and U. S. A. in larger quantities are coming forward.

(k) *Prices under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance 1943*.—During the last 11 months of the operation of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, ceiling prices have been fixed for the following articles :—

- (1) Photographic materials.
- (2) Cigarettes.
- (3) Razor Blades.
- (4) Wines and Liquors.
- (5) Tinned Provisions.
- (6) Boot polishes.
- (7) Imported woollen goods.
- (8) Arms and Ammunitions.
- (9) Fountain pens and inks.
- (10) Sports goods.
- (11) Leather.
- (12) Japanese staple fibre yarn.
- (13) Silk fabrics.
- (14) Electric bulbs.
- (15) Vegetable seeds.
- (16) Toilet articles.
- (17) Condensed milk.
- (18) Bicycles and spare parts.
- (19) Battery cells.
- (20) Vegetable ghee.
- (21) Camphor powder.
- (22) Sissoo timber.
- (23) Campher tablets.
- (24) Imported thermos.
- (25) Clock.
- (26) Radio tubes and spare parts.

Consumer Goods—Control of Distribution—Supplies.—Under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, prices for the articles referred to in the preceding paragraph have been fixed and the upward trend of prices in the civil market has been arrested. Experience, however, has shown that with the control of prices of a particular commodity its available supplies have a tendency to go underground. While the Industries and Civil Supplies Department have taken action to increase the supplies of consumer goods in the country, price control to be really effective must be implemented by a control over distribution of supplies. This is particularly necessary in the case of imported articles.

In order to enable them to do this the Central Government have passed the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order on the 15th July 1944. The Order applies to such imported articles and articles made in India as are mentioned in the schedule attached to it. These include, for the present, a limited number of articles in common use and later on it is intended to add other articles to the list as and when necessary.

Importers and producers of scheduled articles are required to give intimation of arrivals and productions to the Controller General of Civil Supplies. Importers of scheduled articles will not be at liberty to dispose of their goods after arrival except in accordance with the instructions of the Controller General of Civil Supplies. For internal distribution the Controller General will appoint approved dealers throughout the country and it is only to them that the importer or producer is allowed to sell his articles.

To implement the provisions of this Order suitable machinery consisting for the present, of an Additional Controller General, 3 Deputy Controllers General and 3 Assistant Controllers General has been added to the Organisation of the Controller General of Civil Supplies.

CHAPTER 7.—DISTRIBUTION AND CONSUMPTION (INCLUDING RATIONING)

Transport

As already reported in the last year's statement of progress made on the recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee, a Director of Movements was appointed to take charge of the Transport Branch of the Food Department. His close association with the distribution problem at every stage has helped to plan allocations under the Basic Plan in which the transport aspect has been given adequate consideration. The Basic Plans have, therefore, been more readily accepted by the War Transport Department. A further progress has been made in getting the Provinces to prepare their programmes of movements in a manner suitable to the railway requirements. With the close watch on the progress of programmed movements it has been possible to anticipate difficulties and to obtain special measures of assistance from railways through the co-operation of the War Transport Department.

2. Special mention may be made of the action taken to secure increased shipping at Karachi in order to relieve railways of the difficult all rail movements from the North to the South. Experience showed that despatches from the North to the South were generally behind programme

and without this special assistance there was little prospect of meeting the full requirements of the south from the northern Provinces. An arrangement has now been arrived at with the War Transport Department whereby 60,000 tons of foodgrains will be despatched monthly from Karachi by steamers and country craft. This will make it possible to despatch foodgrains to the deficit areas of Travancore/Cochin, Deccan State, Malabar, Kathiawar, Bombay, etc., from Sind, Punjab etc., by the sea route.

3. Maximum use is also made of the river transport available in the Eastern parts of the country. Boats available in Bengal and Assam are being utilised for moving rice from Assam to Bengal in addition to the local movements within the two provinces. An appreciable proportion of the Assam food supplies from the U. P. and Bihar is also arranged by the river route.

4. Now that the prospects of the Lease/Lend vehicles for civil requirements have improved, the Provincial Governments have been requested to make increasing use of road transport for the movement of foodgrains. A number of Lease/Lend lorries are now operating in the Eastern States, Orissa and Rewa State, where crops could only be obtained in the interior far away from rail-head stations. These lorries have been of material assistance in easing procuring operations.

Rationing

(A) PROGRESS OF RATIONING

1. All the Provincial/State Governments in the country have accepted the need for food rationing of towns and cities and there are now 460 towns and municipal areas fully rationed or about to be rationed, representing a population of approximately 42,000,000 people who are covered by an assurance of sufficient food at controlled fair prices.

2. Bombay have already rationed 6 of their important towns, viz., Bombay, Ahmedabad, Surat, Poona, Nasik and Sholapur, also 91 smaller towns covering 90 per cent. of the urban population therein. In the Madras Presidency, 84 towns have already been rationed and district-wide rationing of Malabar was inaugurated from 15th October 1944. Rationing in Greater Calcutta including the industrial area is working satisfactorily and the rationing scheme has been extended to Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Mirsarai, Sita Kund, Double Mooring, Puchalaish Hathazapi, Fatiekchapi, Raozan, Ramgunia, Patiya, Anwara, Boalkhali, Banokhali and Satkania. Preparations for the introduction of rationing in Dacca and Narayanganj are in hand.

3. The Punjab, although a surplus province, has inaugurated rationing in Rawalpindi, Amritsar and Lahore and is shortly extending the scheme to five more of its largest towns, viz., Multan, Ludhiana, Simla, Sialkot and Jullundur. Sind, another surplus province, has rationed Karachi and Hyderabad. Nagpur and Jubbulpore have been rationed in C. P. Enumeration has already been completed by the N. W. F. P. in Peshawar and all steps have been taken for the introduction of rationing there shortly.

4. Travancore and Cochin have introduced State-wide rationing which means both urban and rural population. Mysore has already rationed its four important towns and has a scheme for State-wide rationing.

5. Rationing was introduced in Delhi in 29th May 1944. Quetta has been rationed in Baluchistan; Ajmer will be rationed shortly but partial rationing has already been enforced there from the 1st of May 1944. The Assam rationing scheme is operating in 8 towns of Assam, partial rationing in 6 towns. Shillong has not, however, been rationed as yet but preliminary steps have been taken. Abu, Mhow, Secunderabad and Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, have also been rationed.

6. The U. P. Government have introduced partial rationing in 39 regulated towns covering over 80 per cent. population in five towns, viz. Cawnpore, Lucknow, Allahabad, Gorakhpur and Jhansi and 50 to 60 per cent. in the rest. Its two towns, Azamgarh and Mau which are situated in deficit areas, have been fully rationed. A scheme for full rationing of 11 towns has now been prepared. The other Provinces and States which have introduced rationing are Kashmir in Srinagar, the Deccan States, Hyderabad, Central India and Western India States in certain towns. Bihar have introduced full rationing in Patna and Jemshedpur and partial rationing in 10 other towns. Gwalior and Rampur have also been rationed.

7. The extension of rationing has brought to the forefront several rationing problems which have been under examination, e.g., ration scales and composition, treatment of children and heavy manual workers, use of substitute grains, subsidisation, retail-prices, industrial canteens and milk supplies.

(B) SCALES OF RATION.

1. The minimum basic standard per adult per day has been laid down by the Foodgrains Policy Committee to be 1 lb., that is roughly 3½ seers per week. In actual practice, some provinces have given a slightly higher ration than the standard mentioned above. While others have not found it possible to give this standard, the tendency of surplus provinces being to give a ration somewhat higher than the standard recommended by the Foodgrains Policy Committee.

2. The Government of India in the early stages have advisedly not tried to impose strict restrictions upon the different Governments as local conditions have varied and it has required a good deal of effort to win over the people for introducing rationing.

3. The question of equalisation of ration scales is not so simple as would appear at first sight. All the foodgrains are not rationed everywhere, and at different places the question of preponderance of the industrial population varies. In the Punjab only wheat and wheat atta are rationed; in Delhi rice is included whereas in the Madras Presidency (excluding Madras city) only rice has been rationed. Moreover, the Northern and the North-West provinces claim that their people are physically so constituted as to require a relatively greater proportion of foodgrains than the people in the Southern parts.

4. The question was placed before the Central Food Advisory Council at its meeting held on 20th July 1944 which recommended as follows :—

"The Council is of the view that the present burden of an overall deficiency of foodgrains should be shared evenly by all parts of the country and deprecates the existing disparity of ration scales. It, therefore, recommends that full rationing should be introduced in every province in all urban areas and that the basic ration per head should be uniformly 1 lb. per adult per day. It presses the Government of India to bring about uniformity in both these matters throughout India without delay."

5. The Government of India is disposed to accept the recommendations of the Central Food Advisory Council these have been communicated to all Provinces/Administrations/Residents who have been asked to communicate their views urgently. The whole problem revolves round the supply position and the demands likely to be made by the deficit areas for increased quantities to raise the minimum size to 1 lb. per day. So long as there is any part of the country where the ration is lower than 3½ seers per week there appears to be little justification for having a bigger ration anywhere else.

6. The present aim in view of the overall shortage of supply (i) to equalise the size of the basic ration everywhere to the recognised minimum of 3½ seers per week per adult; (ii) to include all grains moving under the basic plan in the ration everywhere; (iii) to ration pulses as separate from the cereal group and (iv) guided by the supply position, to allow the consumer to draw any proportion of his ration in any item within the group.

(C) COMPOSITION OF RATIONS

1. So far as the composition of rations is concerned the policy of the Foodgrains Policy Committee has been to include all major foodgrains in general use in the particular areas concerned. In the Bombay Presidency, Sind, Hyderabad (Deccan) and C. P. wheat, rice, and millets have been rationed; in the Punjab and Baluchistan only wheat or atta; in Delhi and Bengal wheat and rice, and in Madras Presidency excluding Madras, only rice. Madras City has also rationed wheat with effect from 22nd October 1944. In most of the States wheat and millets have been rationed while in others rice has been added. In the States of Cochin and Travancore, rice, wheat and dry grains have been rationed whereas in Mysore it is rice, wheat and ragi.

2. It will thus be seen that the composition of rations has depended upon the staple foodgrain of the area. It will not be an easy task to include all the foodgrains, although it would be advisable to do so.

3. As rice is in acute short supply the proportion to rice that can be drawn out of the group cereals is lower than that allowed for the other foodgrains. For instance, in Bombay out of 3½ seers it is allowed to the extent of 1 seer and 10 chataks and in Calcutta up to 2½ seers as against 3½ seers of wheat. In Delhi rice is allowed upto 2 seers out of 3 seers and 15 chataks. In Cochin 5·3 ozs. is allowed out of a total ration of 12 ozs. The only place where it is allowed in a greater proportion is in Travancore where it is 8 ozs. out of a total ration of 13 ozs. Cochin has now been asked to raise the rice proportion to the Travancore level of 8 ozs.

4. In the Southern areas, including Travancore and Cochin, efforts are being made to introduce alternative foodgrains on account of acute scarcity of rice. From among the dry grains the people there prefer jowar better than bajra and in allocating the millets people's preferences for a particular kind of foodgrain are taken into consideration.

(D) QUALITY

1. The Foodgrains Policy Committee had recommended that due attention must be paid to securing adequate quality (Page 68 of the Report). The main problem that was faced in this connection was the time lag between the purchases of the initial stocks and their being actually put into the hands of the retail dealers for distribution amongst consumers. Every attempt has been made to reduce this interval to the minimum so that the quality may not be affected by prolonged storage.

2. This problem of time affecting quality gets resolved as rationing progresses and the continuity of receiving fresh stocks at regular intervals is established.

3. Quality classification of the foodgrains made in several places meets many such complaints. The grains are also now being issued after being cleaned.

4. Inspection by the receiving agent at the railway station of delivery succeeds a prior analysis at the Government laboratory of the Province where the purchases are made. Subsequently, when the grain is stored or distributed, the rationing inspectors go round for constant inspection to guard against adulteration. At the retailers' shops samples are kept in sealed bottles for verification and comparison by anyone who desires to do so.

(E) TREATMENT OF CHILDREN

Generally speaking in most of the Provinces 50 per cent. of the adult size of the ration has been fixed for the children and a child has been defined as a person between the age of 2 and 12 years. Several Provinces are now examining the possibility of giving full adult ration to children from 8 years and half rations from 0 to 8 years.

(F) USE OF SUBSTITUTE GRAINS

1. The Foodgrains Policy Committee has laid down that rationing should cover all major foodgrains in general use in the particular areas concerned and that, as far as possible, the taste and habits of the various communities should be respected; but it is also stated that no guarantee can or should be given to any section of the community that its habitual foodgrains would be forthcoming in the usual quantities. This has been necessitated by the acute shortage of certain foodgrains chiefly rice.

2. This shortage of rice has greatly accentuated the problem in the South, especially in Travancore, Cochin and Mysore. Efforts are being made to substitute rice by the other grains which are available, e.g., wheat and millets. This involves publicity, practical demonstrations and laying down proportions of the ration for each grain so that these other substitute grains may be taken up by the people. The change in diet cannot be brought about suddenly, but urgent necessity requires urgent methods of treatment. The main problem is to substitute other food-grains of equal or better nutritional value for rice.

3. Nutritional experts by devising planned alternative combinations of foods with equal or even better nutritional value have prepared actual recipes which have been circulated to the Provinces and States concerned for practical demonstration and propaganda purposes.

4. Governments in the Southern parts of the country are trying to persuade the people to realise that by mixing the so-called coarse grains with their diet, they make it more balanced and not one which almost entirely consists of carbo-hydrates.

5. Cochin State have started a scheme under which free meals consisting chiefly of bajra preparations are served to school children suffering from mal-nutrition.

6. A Nutritional Section has been attached to the peripatotic War Services Exhibition in which actual demonstrations will be given for preparing dishes from nutritional foodgrains which will be served out to the people from an attached restaurant.

(G) MILK SUPPLY

1. The question of milk supply has come to the forefront due to the acute shortage of milk in almost all the big towns of the country. Milk is not only short in quantity but it has deteriorated seriously in quality. In certain towns the poorer section of the people are unable to buy milk for their children due to the prevailing high prices. The question of increasing the supply of milk is not a simple one as it involves the improvement and conserving of cattle, cattle fodder and pasture.

2. Some Provinces have started tackling this problem by distributing milk at subsidised rates to children and/or prohibiting use of milk for such purposes as ice creams, etc. In Bombay, a 17 lakhs scheme has been enforced for supplying 1/2 lb. milk to the children at subsidised rates on issue of milk cards. In several other places export and slaughter of useful cattle have been prohibited and other measures have been taken to stop the use of milk for non-essential purposes.

3. The problem, however, requires concerted action between the Provinces and the Government of India. The question of increasing the production of milk lies within the area of Education, Health and Lands Department and the distribution with the Food Department. The Food Department is immediately concerned with providing pure milk at reasonable prices to priority consumers like children, hospitals, schools, and maternity welfare centres.

4. The Government of India have asked for information from all the Governments in the country with a view to increasing the present short supplies in big towns and issuing model order for :—

- (a) Control of the use of milk in industry for purposes other than food, e.g., plastics and glues.
- (b) The control of milk supplies to confectioners, hotels, restaurants and canteens and its use for such purposes as ice cream, cream cakes, and sweets.
- (c) The co-ordination and control of fresh milk supplies to the Defence Forces by local purchases.

6. The Education, Health and Lands Department which is responsible for increasing the production of milk has recently appointed a Dairy Development Adviser who will examine the present schemes and put up new ones for actual working.

7. Similar schemes are being prepared or envisaged for the big towns in the country like Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.

(H) SUBSIDISATION AND RETAIL PRICES

1. The question of subsidising the foodgrains sold under the rationing schemes is cropping up now and again. In most of the provisioning schemes in U. P. and Bihar the sales at least in the initial stages have been on subsidised rates, till it has been possible to bring the market prices down. Subsidisation is bound up with the price control schemes and to the extent that the prices are effectively controlled subsidisation may be rendered unnecessary.

2. At present foodgrains are sold at subsidised rates to certain categories of the essential civil personnel, e.g. to the Central Government servants drawing less than Rs. 300 p.m., to Railway employees by the Railway Department through their own distributing stores and to the coal mine labour under what is commonly known as the "Young Plan".

3. In the case of coal mine labour the standard ration is given at the controlled rates and $\frac{1}{2}$ seer of rice per attendance is given free. There is also some extra monetary payment made for attendance according to the size of the family dependents.

4. The policy of the Central Government is to discountenance any increase in dearness allowance in the shape of money as that would retard all anti-inflationary measures. Subsidisation, on the other hand, is primarily an anti-inflationary measure and a question to be considered is how far and to what categories of the people should subsidisation be extended, if at all. Its present existence in the case of the essential civil personnel is with a view to ensure that there is no weakening of such categories of workers as are essential to the nation and to the war effort.

(I) RETAIL PRICES

1. It is necessary that under rationing these prices should be kept as low as possible to enable every one to buy foodstuffs. At present the prices that are fixed at different places depend upon the cost of the foodgrains procured and the differentials allowed to the wholesalers and the retailers. These differentials differ in various provinces due to the local conditions but the differences should not obviously be very great.

2. There is of course no question of any local Government making a profit out of the rationing scheme but fixation of prices, which are revised at regular intervals, is bound to bring in a certain amount of temporary profit or loss on account of the time lag involved. This in the long run is expected to get squared up. The prices fixed on the introduction of rationing are on the basis of the previous costs of stocks purchased at higher rates. These can be high as compared to the prices ruling at the particular moment.

3. The solution of the problem of keeping the prices as low as possible is, therefore, their periodic revision in conformity with the actual costs, which is being done.

(J) HEAVY MANUAL WORKERS

1. The idea underlying the grant of a supplementary ration is that it should be given to the heavy manual workers who need a greater quantity of the cereals. Generally 50 per cent. of the basic ration is given as supplementary.

2. One of the main difficulties has been to define a 'heavy' manual worker. In some cases it is not easy to draw a line between the heavy manual worker and the manual worker. The policy is that under rationing schemes there should be no provision for allowing any privileges to any class of persons not enjoyed by all other consumers, with the exception of defined heavy workers.

(K) INDUSTRIAL CANTEENS

It has been decided in consultation with the Labour Department that (i) Industrial Canteens should be encouraged, (ii) additional quantity of rationed foods should be supplied to such canteens to be served as cooked foods over and above the supplementary ration for heavy manual workers where such quantities are not permitted.

(L) THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

1. Rationing has brought into the forefront some very important problems that the country will have to face in the near future and also when peace comes. Some of these problems are the increased production of foodstuffs, the development of cultivation of foodgrains and vegetables, the manufacture of chemical manure, of agricultural implements and other consumers goods necessary for the cultivator, the long range production of milk involving the development of cattle fodder, pasture lands and quality of cattle breeds, the raising of the nutritional level of the diet for the majority of the at present under and mal-nourished populations, the substitution of particular kinds of foodgrains with a higher nutritive value for those which have become and will remain in acute short supply for a considerable time to come, the introduction of communal feeding not only in the industrial centres but also in the schools and other similar institutions and the popularisation of alternative dishes that could be prepared out of nutritionally superior foodstuffs amongst people who have been used to eating a nutritionally deficient diet.

2. Such problems have been brought into prominence as the direct result of control of foodstuffs by the Government and the introduction of rationing on a large scale. It is obvious that these will require long range planning.

CHAPTER 8.—PRICES

The Food Department set up a Price Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Theodore Gregory, Economic Adviser to the Government of India designed to provide the Government of India with expert non-official advice on prices which would reflect the point of view of producers and of the trade. The first meeting of the Price Advisory Committee was held on the 15th March 1944 and on the recommendations of the Committee, the Government of India fixed the statutory maximum prices for wheat for the next twelve months at Rs. 9-8-0 at the primary assembling markets in the Punjab, and Sind; at Rs. 9-10-0 in N. W. F. P. and at Rs. 10-4-0 in the U. P. Maximum prices for barley and gram were fixed at 7/10ths and 8/10ths respectively of the maximum for wheat. The statutory maximum for coarse rice in the Punjab, U. P. and N. W. F. P. was also fixed at Rs. 13-8-0 per maund. Differentials on basic prices were allowed for deficit districts in the different provinces. The Indian States were asked to fall into line with the British Indian territories.

At the second meeting of the Price Advisory Committee held in August 1944, the Committee recommended that as it was impracticable to fix the prices of pulses on an all-India basis, the Provinces which had not yet controlled prices at reasonable levels should be asked to do so in consultation with the Government of India, keeping in view the controlled prices of cereals. These recommendations are being implemented by the Government of India. The Committee also considered the question whether trading in futures or options in foodgrains should be prohibited. Opinion was divided and the whole question is being re-examined.

The question of fixation of prices for Kharif grains was considered at the third meeting of the Price Advisory Committee held on 9th October 1944. The recommendations made by the Committee are under consideration and a final decision will be taken shortly.

2. The Government of India also considered the question of fixing minimum prices for major foodgrains and made an important announcement in April 1944 designed to support the wheat

market in the interests of the cultivators in which they guaranteed to purchase all wheat of fair average quality offered in the main assembling markets of the Punjab, U. P. and Sind at Rs. 7-8-0 per maund.

In May 1944, in order to support measures to encourage the diversion to foodcrops of land under short staple cotton, the Government of India announced their willingness to purchase all jowar and bajra of the 1944-45 crop offered in the main assembling markets at the floor prices of Rs. 5-8-0 and Rs. 6 respectively throughout British India except Bombay. As regards Bombay, it was felt that special prices would have to be announced in view of the measures which were being taken to compel the cultivation of foodcrops and accordingly the Government of Bombay have announced that the price of the 1944-45 millets crop will not be less than the current statutory prices.

The offer to purchase millets at floor prices was extended to the Indian States.

CHAPTER 9.—BASIC PLAN

In the formulation of the Kharif Plan (1943-44) and the Rabi Plan (1944-45) the Food Department have generally followed the formula recommended by the Foodgrains Policy Committee. The first version of the Kharif Plan was issued in October 1943. A revised version of the Plan was issued to Provinces and States in April 1944. In view of the admitted drawbacks of Indian agricultural statistics and the difficulty in assessing the requirements of the increase in population, natural or otherwise, it has not been found possible in practice to ask every area to accept the statistical surplus or deficit revealed by the formula. It is of interest to note that the rice surplus increased from the original figure of 768,000 tons to the revised figure of 919,000 tons as a result of efforts made by the Central Government to secure improvement in the declared surpluses in the sight of the statistical position.

2. The Kharif Plan operative from November 1943 to October 1944 and the Rabi Plan operative from May 1944 to April 1945 cover about 2.9 million tons of Kharif (rice, millets and maize) and Rabi (wheat, gram and barley) grains including the requirements of the Defence Services. Against this total movement target, about 1.6 million tons were despatched under the two plans up to 5th October, 1944. Out of the total quantity despatched the shares of the principal deficit areas were as follows:—

	Tons
Bengal	280,000
Bombay	334,000
Tr./Cochin	187,000

The details of quotas and despatches are given below:—

Foodgrain	Total quota allotted (15th October, 1944)	Total despatches upto 5th October, 1944	Percentage of despatches to quota
Rice	980	714	73
Millets	271	175	61
Maize	67	55	82
Wheat	1,207	645	54
Gram	357	56	16
Barley	61	26	43
	2,943	1,671	57

CHAPTER 10.—FOOD DEPARTMENT

In order to associate public and expert opinion as closely as possible with the Central Government's policy for food administration, the Government of India decided to replace the old Central Food Advisory Council by a more widely representative body specifically to advise and assist the Departments of Food and Education, Health and Lands in the tasks relating to the country's food problems with which they have to deal.

The first meeting of the Council was held in the 3rd week of July 1944 in which about 40 non-official members participated.

A Sub-Committee of the Council has been formed to look into the question of procurement and to advise Government as to the best methods of ascertaining and securing the surpluses of the growers and linking up production with procurement.

CHAPTER 11.—FOOD GRAINS CONTROL ORDER

As a result of a close examination of the various suggestions made from time to time by the Provincial and State Governments for the improvement of the form of the Foodgrains Control Order, it was decided that the existing Order, which had been promulgated by the Central Government and brought into force by the notifications of the Provincial Governments, should be progressively replaced by new Orders framed by Provincial Governments in the light of their own

requirements and adapted to suit local conditions, but based on the existing Order. The application of the Central Order to the particular province will be cancelled by notification simultaneously with the promulgation of the local Order.

The Provincial Governments and Administrations were also requested to consult the Government of India before finally publishing their versions of the Order. Draft Orders from some Provinces have been received and are being scrutinised. The Central Order will cease to be in force in the N. W. F. P from 21st October, 1944, on which date the provincial Order will come into force.

The penal clause of the existing Foodgrains Control Order has been amended so as to make it compulsory for the Court to order forfeiture of stocks in case of a contravention of the Order unless, for reasons to be recorded in writing, it is of opinion that the direction should not be made in respect of the whole, or as the case may be, a part of the property.

The Provincial Governments and Administrations have been requested to make a similar provision in their Foodgrains Control Orders.

States have also been requested through the Residents to take action on the same lines.

The functions and duties of Regional Food Commissioners have been reviewed afresh and Food Regions reshuffled in consequence of which the old Rajputana Region has been abolished and in its place following four food regions have been set up with their Residents as Regional Food Commissioners :—

- (i) Rajputana Region
- (ii) Central India States.
- (iii) Gwalior States.
- (iv) Western India States.

The food regions generally conform to the groups of States with which Residents are in political relationship.

All correspondence between the Central and Provincial or States Governments has to be conducted through the Regional Food Commissioners and Residents acting as Regional Food Commissioners.

The staff of the Regional Food Commissioners has been greatly strengthened and it is proposed to appoint Deputy Regional Food Commissioners at all Provincial Headquarters.

ADVISORY BOARD OF ARCHÆOLOGY

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 Hon'ble the President, one person from among their number to be a member of the Advisory Board of Archæology in India constituted by the Government of India.”

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (United Provinces Southern : Non-Muhammadan) : With reference to the motion which has been made by the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh, I should like to know whether this Advisory Board is some new body which has been appointed by the Government of India, and, if it is a new body, what the functions of this body are going to be, what are going to be its relations with the Central Advisory Board on Education because there is an intimate connection between Archæology and Education, what the constitution of this Board on Archæology is, and what is the proportion that our members will bear to the membership provided for the other House. Before we commit ourselves to the proposition we should like to be enlightened on these points.

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH : It is a very simple matter. It is a new Board that has been constituted to bring the cultural side of the universities into close association with the Department of Archæology. The Department of Archæology was working in isolation, and it has now been provided that an Advisory Board on Archæology may be constituted, and it will consist of :—

the Member on charge of Education, Health and Lands,
the Director-General of Archæology,
the Superintendents of the six principal Circles of Archæological Survey of India,

the Government Epigraphist for India,
six members representing the Universities of India nominated by the Inter-University Board, and one member nominated by each of the following Societies :—

the Royal Society of Bengal,
the Indian Science Congress Association,

[Sir Jogendra Singh.]

the All-India Oriental Conference,
the History Congress,
the Indian Historical Records Commission,
one member elected by the Council of State, and two members elected by
the Legislative Assembly.

I am sure that Honourable Member will agree that it would greatly facilitate the working of the Department of Archaeology and keep it in touch with the cultural side of the Universities. I think I have answered all the questions which the Honourable Member has raised, and now move that the resolution be adopted.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muhammadan) :
The Honourable Member did not give the functions of the Board.

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH : The functions of the Board are :—

to consider and advise on all the schemes that are taken up for exploration,
and

to help the Department of Archaeology to carry out its work with greater continuity and greater touch with the cultural side of Indian Universities.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : Will it be open to the members to raise questions for the purpose of being included in the agenda for consideration by the Board ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH : Certainly.

The Motion was adopted.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : With reference to the motion which
12 NOON. has just been adopted by the Council, I have to announce that nominations to the Committee will be received by the Secretary up to eleven O'clock on Tuesday, the 14th November, 1944, and the date of election, if necessary, will be announced later.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Honourable Members, I have a message to deliver to you from His Excellency the Governor General. The message is as follows :—

“ ORDER

In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 63A of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935, I, Archibald Percival, Viscount Wavell, hereby nominate the following Members of the Council of State to be on the Panel of Chairmen of the said Council of State.

In the first place, the Honourable Sir David Devadoss ; in the second place, the Honourable Mr. Manockji Nadirshaw Dalal ; in the third place, the Honourable Mr. V. V. Kalikar ; and lastly the Honourable Saiyad Mohamed Padshah Sahib Bahadur.

WAVELL,

F. M.,

Viceroy and Governor General.”

NEW DELHI ;

The 14th October, 1944.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Under Standing Order 76 of the Council of State Standing Orders, I am required at the commencement of each session to constitute a Committee on Petitions consisting of the Chairman and four members. The following members at my request kindly consented to preside over and serve on the Committee. I accordingly have much pleasure in nominating as Chairman of the Committee the Honourable Raja Charanjit Singh and as members, the Honourable Pandit H. N. Kunzru, the Honourable Sir K. Ramunni Menon, the Honourable Haji Syed Mahammad Husain, and the Honourable Mr. N. Ct. M. Chidambaram Chettiyar.

CONGRATULATIONS TO RECIPIENTS OF HONOURS

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Honourable Members, it is customary for the President of the Council of State to congratulate on behalf of the Council all Honourable Members belonging to this Council who have been fortunate enough to be the recipients of Birthday Honours. It is very gratifying to notice that this time five Honourable Members of this Council have received the high honour either of K.C.I.E., or of a Knighthood which is quite a rare thing. The Honourable Sir Cyril Jones gets his K.C.I.E. He is a very old Member of this Council whom you all know very well. You all know his merits and qualifications. You are aware that he was transplanted from the Madras Presidency where he held a very important and high post in the Finance Department, and since his arrival here he has been our Finance Secretary in this Council. He has done wonderfully good work. You must all have noticed that on the two or three occasions when the Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman was not able to be present here during the Budget debate, he has answered with great lucidity and conviction very important and difficult questions of political economy which were raised by Honourable Members in this Council. He richly deserves this honour and I have not the slightest doubt that many more honours are in store for him. (*Applause.*)

The second name which I have to mention is that of our old and esteemed friend, Sir Muhammad Akbar Hydari, who has been in this Council off and on for many years. You are all aware that he has given complete satisfaction to all of us. He is very well known to you all. He has been following in this House in the footsteps of his late revered father, who was a great man in India. I heartily congratulate him on behalf of all the Members on his getting the high distinction of K.C.I.E. I trust he will live for many years to enjoy this honour. (*Applause.*)

Of the three persons who have got Knighthoods, one is Sir Dharendra Nath Mitra. He is not in this Council just at present but he has been in this Council off and on for a long time. He was brought here when an important Bill, the Indian Companies Act (Amendment) Bill, was under consideration, by the late Law Member, Sir N. N. Sircar, and he has fully justified the selection then made. He has piloted a couple of important Bills in the House and he has shown the legal knowledge and acumen which he possesses. I congratulate him also on behalf of the Council on this honour.

The two other gentlemen who have received the honour of Knighthood are Sardar Bahadur Sir Sobha Singh and Sir John Henry Burder. Sir Sobha Singh is too well known to you all. He is a distinguished citizen of Delhi and has considerable influence. He has rendered public service in many ways outside this Council. He has received this distinction on account of his generosity and valuable public service in various capacities which he has rendered to Government. I congratulate him on this honour on behalf of Council.

The Honourable Sir John Burder was a representative of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. He was for a short time in this House. I also offer him your congratulations on this occasion.

Our colleague, Chaudhuri Ataullah Khan Tarar becomes a Khan Bahadur. He is not here today. I shall also communicate to him that the Council sends its congratulations.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: Sir, information has been received that His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to grant his assent to the following Bills which were passed by the two Chambers of the Indian Legislature during the Budget Session, 1944, namely:—

1. The Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944.
2. The Coffee Market Expansion (Amendment) Act, 1944.
3. The Coal Mines Safety (Stowing) Amendment Act, 1944.

[Secretary of the Council.]

4. The Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1944.
5. The Indian Aircraft (Amendment) Act, 1944.
6. The Transfer of Property (Amendment) Act, 1944.
7. The Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1944.
8. The Cantonments (Amendment) Act, 1944. ■
9. The Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, 1944.
10. The Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944.
11. The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1944.
12. The Delhi Muslim Wakfs (Amendment) Act, 1944.
13. The Protective Duties Continuation Act, 1944.
14. The Factories (Amendment) Act, 1944.

DEATH OF HONOURABLE MR. KUMARSANKAR RAY CHAUDHURY

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Honourable Members, I have now to perform a very melancholy duty. You all perhaps have heard of the death of our colleague Kumarsankar Ray Chaudhury. He was a Congress representative in this House, but I may say that he was an excellent man. He was for many years in this House and he always discussed his point with great complacency and in a very considerate manner. He was known to all of you and he was respected, as I understand, by most of you for his work in this Council. We have lost in him a good and hard-working member. Though we often differed with his views, I must say that he has performed his task in a manner which has won the respect of all of us. I shall, with your permission, send a message of sympathy to his relatives.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN (Leader of the House) : Sir, I beg to associate myself with what you have said and request you to convey to the bereaved family the condolence of this House.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, on behalf of my Party I associate myself with all that you have said regarding the capacity and character of the deceased member. We shall be grateful to you if you will convey our condolences to his son.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I should like to pay my tribute to the memory of our late colleague Mr. Kumarsankar Ray Chaudhury. He was a Member of the Indian Legislature ever since the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms were introduced. I understand that before he was a member of this House he was a member of the other House and he has been in this House for a long time. He was an amiable gentleman. Some of you may not have agreed with his views, but he was a person who had the courage of his conviction to put forth his views for your acceptance and he took your rejection with delight and with a sense of humour. Sir, he was a very useful member and we all mourn his loss and a message of our sympathy may be sent to his only son. Sir, I pay my tribute to his memory.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR (Madras : Muhammadan) : Sir, I associate myself with the tribute that has been paid to the memory of our late lamented friend the Honourable Mr. Ray. Sir, he was one of the oldest members of this House. His simple character, his genial disposition and the unassuming manner in which he conducted himself have endeared him to all sections of the House. Sir, as you have said, he was one of the most reasonably minded gentleman who has done very good public service. Though he took part rarely in the debates in this House, whenever he did so he made a very useful and valuable contribution to the discussions in this House. In him we have lost a very old friend and the country one of its most unostentatous and sincere public workers.

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. N. DALAL (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) : Mr. President, Mr. Kumarsankar Ray Chaudhury was a very old and respected member of this Honourable House and I think he took a very keen interest in our debates. His private life was characterised by geniality of manners and a generous temperament. I suggest, Mr. President, that a Resolution of condolence from this Honourable House be sent to his family expressing our deep sense of sorrow.

THE HONOURABLE RAJA CHARANJIT SINGH (Noniminated, Non-official) : Sir, I associate myself with what you have said.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN (Leader of the House): Sir, as the Honourable Members are aware tomorrow we are meeting for non-official business.

Government propose to set apart Tuesday and Wednesday next, the 14th and 15th November, for Food debate and Friday the 17th for debate on Indians in South Africa.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Do Government propose to give any date for the Reconstruction proposals of the Government of India?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN: No. It is not necessary at all.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 9th November, 1944.