Thursday, 16th November, 1944

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OF THE

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COUNCIL OF STATE

Thursday, 16th November, 1944

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

MEMBER SWORN:

MR. DARAB PESTONJI SETHNA (Nominated Official).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF INDIA IN CONNECTION WITH AIR SERVICE FROM AUSTRALIA TO INDIA.

77. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH: (*a*) Is it a fact that a regular air service from Australia to India across 3,500 miles of ocean, the world's longest civil non-stop service which takes about 27 hours only, has been in operation since last year?

(*b*) What are the points at which this service touches India; what are the conditions, if any, under which this foreign air service is allowed to be operated in this country and what are the international obligations imposed upon India with reference to reception, control and financial or other responsibilities in connection therewith?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The aircraft operating the service fly non-stop between Ceylon and Karachi. It is an Empire Service operated as a war measure. No financial or other obligations devolve on India.

DEMOBILIZATION OF INDIAN TROOPS IN AUSTRALIA.

78. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH: (*a*) Are Government aware that the Prime Minister, Mr. Curtin of Australia, has recently announced that the Commonwealth is prepared to approach the United Kingdom Government for securing demobilization in Australia, after the War of any personnel serving in the Australian War theatre and wishing to remain in Australia; and that similar facilities of permanent residence in Australia have been offered to the U. S. A. servicemen?

(*b*) Have Government received any offer of similar facilities for those personnel of the Indian troops who may like to remain permanently in Australia on demobilization after the War? If not, have Government recorded their protest against this discrimination on the part of the Australian authorities?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: (*a*) No.

(*b*) No. There are no Indian Army personnel serving in the Australian War theatre.

COMMISSION OF CONTROL TO ADMINISTER GERMANY AFTER THEIR DEFEAT.

79. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH: (*a*) Are Government aware that the British section of the Commission of Control to run Germany when the fighting ends, has already been set up; and will not India be given a share to send a team of civil servants of Indian nationality to control and administer occupied Germany, in collaboration with the Allied Powers?

(*b*) Have Government pressed the claims of India on His Majesty's Government to be given a hand in the administration of German territory after her defeat? If not, why not?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) No. The question has not yet arisen.

NOTE.—All questions standing in the name of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh were put by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha with the President's permission.

PLAN FOR THE EVACUATION OF INDIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMANY.

80. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH: Will Government give the main details of the plan for the evacuation of Indians, now prisoners of War in Germany, in the event of a sudden collapse of Germany, including the facilities which may be accorded to them on return to this country?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: 1. Arrangements have been made for the reception in the U. K. of all Indian Army Prisoners of War recovered from the enemy in Europe, as it has been decided to evacuate all Prisoners of War to that country in the first instance.

2. During their period of stay in the U. K. arrangements have been made to accord them full welfare facilities and funds have been placed at the disposal of the Commandant, Indian Prisoners of War Reception Group, by the Government of India, for this purpose.

3. Standing orders for the reception of Indian Army Prisoners of War in India already exist. From the port of Disembarkation in India, fit personnel are sent to their Training Centres and Depots from where they are allowed to proceed on three months leave. Those who are unfit are first sent to hospital and on discharge are sent to their Training Centres or Depots, and subsequently, on three months leave.

RELIEF FOR THE FAMINE-STRIKEN AREAS FROM THE U. N. R. R. A.

81. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH: (*a*) Is it a fact as stated by Governor H. H. Lehman that the Director General of the U. N. R. R. A. had no steps under contemplation to send supplies to India for relief there and that relief was dependent on application by the Government concerned, and no request had been received from the Government of India?

(*b*) Why did not Government ask for relief to the famine-striken areas, and also medical aid for fighting epidemics?

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAM CHANDRA: (*a*) Government have seen a report to this effect in the press.

(*b*) The question did not arise, as the amendment bringing famine or disease stricken areas in India within U. N. R. R. A.'s activities was passed only recently.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA: When was it passed?

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAM CHANDRA: I cannot give the exact date—it may have been a month or so.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA: Government have not answered (*a*), *i.e.*, whether they made an application or not.

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAM CHANDRA: I have stated that we have seen a report in the press.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Do Government propose to apply for it?

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAM CHANDRA: The question is under consideration.

NATIONAL SERVICE ENTERTAINMENT IN INDIA.

82. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH: (*a*) Will Government state in detail the activities and achievements of the National Service Entertainment in India under whose auspices notable stars like Elsie and Doris Water and Vera Eynn played their parts in entertaining British and other foreign troops in India?

(*b*) Were Indian troops admitted to these shows and other forms of entertainments? If not, what sort of entertainments were provided for them?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: A statement is placed on the table of the House.

NOTE.—All questions standing in the name of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh were put by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha with the President's permission.

E. N. S. A. entertains British Troops whereas Fauji Dilkhush Sabha is responsible for entertaining Indian troops.

E. N. S. A. entertainment for British troops opened in India on December 24th, 1943. It has gradually worked up to 25 parties. 5 E.N.S.A. stars have been in India to date. Until the formation of Fauji Dilkhush Sabha, E.N.S.A. ran a temporary ENSINDIAN service for Indian troops consisting of 10 parties. E.N.S.A. shows do not appeal to any but a small percentage of Indian troops, conversely Indian shows do not appeal to British troops. In any case, neither is barred from the others shows.

Fauji Dilkhush Sabha is responsible for providing 'live' entertainment for Indian Forces in India and Overseas. This is an Indian organisation which has been in operation since 1st April 1944; its Headquarters are in Calcutta.

It is controlled by an Inter-services Board of Control, representing the Navy, Army and Air Force, with a representative of Government of India (Defence Department) acting in an advisory capacity, and its administration as far as the Government of India is concerned is under the Directorate of Welfare. The Quality and quantity of 'live' entertainment provided by Fauji Dilkhush Sabha have improved steadily since its inception. It has now 19 medium and 9 small parties on tour in India and 7 large parties overseas. By Christmas 1944 it is hoped to have 31 medium sized and 9 miniature parties in India and Overseas.

The necessary funds and staff for the Fauji Dilkhush Sabha are provided by the Government of India.

Pan-American World Airways.

83. **The Honourable Raja YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH**: Are Government aware that Pan-American World Airways has recently applied to the Civil Aeronautics Board for two trans-ocean routes which will take the American flag "Airway Round the World" and which will operate through and embrace Calcutta in its globe-circling route? Will Government state the main details of this scheme so far as its operation is connected with Calcutta or other parts of India?

The Honourable Sir MAHOMED USMAN: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me to the first part of his question No. 57 on the 15th November 1944. As regards the second part of the question, no details are available.

The Honourable Rai Bahadur SRI NARAIN MAHTHA: Will Government try and find out details?

The Honourable Sir MAHOMED USMAN: The Honourable Member's suggestion will be considered.

International Business Conference at Rye, New York.

84. **The Honourable Raja YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH**: Are Government aware that delegates of about 40 nations have been invited to an International Business Conference from about November 10 to 18, at Westchester County Club, at Rye, New York, where they will discuss post-war world trade?

(*b*) Has India, which is interested in the subject of world trade, been invited to this conference, and, if not, have Government pressed the claims of this country to participate in this international Conference? If not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. RAM CHANDRA: (*a*) and (*b*) An International Business Conference has been called jointly by certain business organisations in the United States of America and it is understood met from the 10th to the 18th November 1944. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry received an invitation and their representatives have already gone to attend the Conference.

The Honourable Rai Bahadur SRI NARAIN MAHTHA: Who are the representatives?

The Honourable Mr. RAM CHANDRA: The members are:

Sir Chuni Lal B. Mehta,
Mr. Ganganvihari L. Mehta,
Mr. A. R. Siddique,
Mr. J. C. Mahindra,
Mr. David Erulkar,

and they have some advisers attached to them.

Note.—All questions standing in the name of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh were put by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha with the President's permission.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : What help has Government given to this Delegation ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAM CHANDRA : Government were asked for help in getting return passages from America to India, and Government are doing their best to secure such passages as may be available.

ENFORCEMENT OF INDO-BURMA AGREEMENT OF 1942.

85. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : (*a*) Is it intended not to enforce the Indo-Burma Agreement of 1942, curtailing immigration to Burma, during the early post-war period, to help in reconstruction work in Burma ?

(*b*) If so, will Government state why should Indian labourers be sent to Burma for reconstruction work, so long as the status and civic and political rights of Indians in Burma are not defined and guaranteed ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. N. BANERJEE : (*a*) and (*b*) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Indo-Burma Agreement of 1941. Apart from the prohibition imposed by the Government of India in July 1941 on the immigration of Indian unskilled labour into Burma the Agreement has remained a dead letter. The question of entering into a fresh agreement with the Government of Burma is under consideration. Both in connection with that and with any fresh proposal for sending Indian labour to Burma, the suggestion made in part (*b*) of the question will be fully borne in mind.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Will Government consult the Committee and the House before they enter into any new agreement ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. N. BANERJEE: That suggestion will be considered.

FOODSTUFFS DECLARED UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AT BIHAR.

86. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Have Government ascertained how much foodstuff, and of what varieties, was allowed to be stored in Bihar and ultimately rendered unfit for human consumption.

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN : If the Honourable Member is referring to the stocks which were frozen last year by the Bihar Government at the conclusion of the Free Trade period and were released in August last, the Government of Bihar have no reason to believe that the foodgrains were rendered unfit for human consumption nor have they received any complaints to this effect from the owners in whose custody the stocks remained throughout this period.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : This question does not mention any specific date. Has there been any occasion of grains being destroyed in Bihar during recent times ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN : Not that I am aware of.

NUMBER OF ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN INDIA.

87. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Will Government state the number of Italian prisoners of War in India ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : The number of Italian prisoners of War in India is 33,500.

CIVIL AVIATION CONFERENCE IN THE U. S. A.

88. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : (*a*) Is it a fact that the States Department of the U.S.A. has sent invitations to about 55 countries to attend the Civil Aviation Conference to be convened in the U.S. on or about the 1st November, 1944, and, if so, has India been invited. If so, who represented India ?

(*b*) If no invitation was extended to India what steps have Government taken or propose to take to ensure that no decision arrived at in the conference will be binding on India.

NOTE.—All questions standing in the name of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh were put by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha with the President's permission.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN : (*a*) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The International Civil Aviation Conference is now in session in Chicago. The members of the Indian Delegation at the Conference are :—

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, Agent-General for India in Washington . .	Leader.
Sir Gurunath Bewoor	Delegate.
Sir Frederick Tymms.	Delegate and Expert Adviser.
Mr. Gurdyal Singh	Delegate.
Mr. S. C. Sen	Secretary, delegate.

(*b*) Does not arise.

"HINDUSTANI PROGRAMME" OF THE ALL INDIA RADIO.

89. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : With reference to the "Hindustani Programme" Section of the All-India Radio, will Government give the following information :—

(*a*) The qualifications required of candidates for the posts of "Hindustani" news editors, programme assistants, announcers and other posts in the "Hindustani Programme Section" ?

(*b*) What test A.I.R. applies to judge a candidate's proficiency in writing and speaking "Hindustani" ?

(*c*) The names of schools, colleges and universities which prepare candidates for a diploma or Degree in Hindustani ?

(*d*) The number of such members of the "Hindustani" staff, as possess diplomas or Degrees in Hindustani of an university, college or school ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN : (*a*) There are no posts of Hindustani News Editors in A. I. R. The Programme Assistants and the incumbents of other posts dealing with Hindustani Programmes are required to possess a good command of English and sufficient knowledge of Hindi or Urdu or both. Some experience of literary, or dramatic work or some knowledge of music is also taken into consideration. As regards Announcers they are required to possess a good microphone voice and also a good knowledge of Urdu or Hindi.

(*b*) The linguistic proficiency of the candidates is tested through written examinations or interviews, the criterion being that they should be capable of using a simple language understandable both by the Urdu and Hindi speaking listeners.

(*c*) So far as I am aware, there are no such schools, colleges and Universities.

(*d*) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (*c*) of the question.

NUMBER OF CASUALTIES AMONGST INDIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE TORPEDOED JAPANESE SHIP NEAR PHILLIPPINES.

90. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Have Government ascertained whether there were Indian prisoners of War among the 1,250 British and American War prisoners, who perished when a Japanese transport ship was torpedoed by a submarine off the Philippines, on or about the 21st September last ? If so, how many Indian prisoners lost their lives, and how many were rescued ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : Yes. The names of the survivors only are known. There are no Indian Army personnel, British or Indian, among them. I have some later information which goes to show that there were no Indian prisoners of war on this ship at all.

EXPORT OF CLOTH FROM INDIA BY THE U. N. R. R. A.

91. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : (*a*) Is it a fact that the U. N. R. R. A. have made any proposal to export cloth from India for consumption in the liberated countries ?

(*b*) Are Government aware that there is an acute shortage of cloth in India for civilian consumption, and do they propose to reduce export of cloth out of this country to the barest minimum possible ?

NOTE.—All questions standing in the name of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh were put by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha with the President's permission.

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAM CHANDRA : (*a*) No.

(*b*) Government are aware of the shortage. The total quantity of cloth permitted to be exported is fixed after giving the fullest consideration to India's own requirements.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Have the Government fixed any quota for the coming year 1945-46 for export ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAM CHANDRA : No, not yet.

DISPOSAL OF LEND-LEASE GOODS AFTER THE WAR.

92. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Will Government state what plans they propose to adopt in view of the war nearing its end for the disposal of lend-lease goods and assets to the economic advantage of India ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON : (On behalf of Supply Department) : The important questions of policy involved are still in an early stage of discussion between the Governments concerned and the Government of India are not at present in a position to make a statement on this subject.

SAFEGUARDING OF INDIAN INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS.

93. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : (*a*) Are Government aware that a large industrial group representing about 50 industries has been formed in the Midlands (England) as the result of a conference convened by Sir George Schuster, M.P., former Finance Member, Government of India, to make a special study of potentialities of India as a market for their engineering and other products ?

(*b*) What steps have Government taken or propose to take to counter effectively this move on the part of foreign trade interests ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. RAM CHANDRA : (*a*) and (*b*) Government have seen a News Agency report to this effect. They have also seen the message telegraphed the next day by the same Agency that Sir George Schuster had stated that no British manufacturer was looking upon India as a market to be exploited and that British industrialists realised that they must work in partnership with Indian industrialists and help the latter to develop their own plans.

(*c*) Does not arise in view of the reply to parts (*a*) and (*b*).

MANUFACTURE OF LOCOMOTIVES AND BOILERS FOR RAILWAYS BY THE TATAS.

94. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH : Is it a fact that an agreement has been reached between the Government and the Tatas for the manufacture of locomotives and boilers for Railways ? If so, what are the main stipulations of this agreement ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. D. WARREN : Negotiations are proceeding between the Government and Tatas for the manufacture by the latter of locomotive boilers as a war measure and complete locomotives as a post-war measure. The agreement has not, however, been finalised yet.

The latter part of the question does not arise.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Have the Government decided not to start the factory in Kancharapara as was proposed and stated in this House ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. D. WARREN : Government still abide by their decision to start a factory at Kancharapara. That would be in addition to the factory which will be started if the negotiations between Government and the Tatas are successful.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : May I take it that Government propose to enter into competition with private firms ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. D. WARREN : No, Sir, there is no question of competition. The manufacture of boilers and locomotives by Tatas would be undertaken in full co-operation with the Railways.

NOTE.—All questions standing in the name of the Honourable Raja Yurveraj Dutta Singh were put by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha with the President's permission.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: Am I to understand that the number of boilers required annually cannot be manufactured by the Indian Railways themselves ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. D. WARREN: No, Sir. It is considered that to reach the target of boiler manufacture both towards the end of the war and after the war it would be desirable, if negotiations can be brought to a successful end, that Tatas also should undertake such manufacture in addition to the manufacture to be undertaken by the Railways themselves at Kancharapara.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Have the Government formed any expert committee to countermand the recommendation of the last committee on the manufacture of locomotives in which it was envisaged that the number of locomotives required will not be large enough ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. D. WARREN: I must ask for notice of that question. I am not aware of the deliberations to which the Honourable Member refers.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: Apart from the boilers, are the Railway workshops unable to manufacture the locomotives that would be required for their own needs after the war ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. D. WARREN: The locomotive manufacture, Sir, as has been stated in the answer to the question, is a post-war measure and it is considered that to reach the target of locomotive manufacture after the war, both railway workshops and Tata's workshops should be brought into operation.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Is it a fact that machine tools for the manufacture of locomotives are not being released by U. S. A. ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. D. WARREN: I have had no notice that any question was going to be asked about machine tools, but my information is that the machinery and plant required for the boiler manufacture is on order.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: From the U. K. or both U. K. and U. S. A. ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. D. WARREN: From both, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: What investigation did the Government undertake before coming to the conclusion that the Indian Railways would not be able to construct all the locomotives required for their needs ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. D. WARREN: The investigation was undertaken by experts on the Railway Board.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: Did the Committee that was appointed by the Government to consider this question a few years back say that State Railways could not do the work themselves ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. D. D. WARREN: I have already asked for notice of the question relating to this committee.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF SUGAR.

95. THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will Government give the following information about sugar production and distribution :—

(*a*) This and last season's production in each important province or area ?

(*b*) The stocks with the mills at the close of each of the first nine months of 1943 and 1944 ?

(*c*) The individual quota where sugar is rationed of different provinces and areas ?

(*d*) The intake or consumption of sugar of each province in the first nine months of 1943 and 1944 ?

(e) The possibility of increasing production in the next year ?

(f) The price of sugarcane and sugar on 1st October 1942 and 1st October 1944 in Bihar and U. P.?

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN: (a), (b) and (d) Statements giving the required information are laid on the table.

(c) The scale of sugar ration allowed to an individual per week in rationed towns usually ranges from 8 to 10 ozs. Calcutta, Bombay and Jamshedpur have, however, adopted a scale of 12 ozs. per week.

(e) All possible measures are being taken to raise sugar production but I am afraid that in the coming season production is unlikely to reach the level reached last year.

(f) The price of sugarcane in Bihar and U.P. on the 1st October 1942 was annas 7 per maund. On the same date in 1944 it was annas 12 per maund. Ex-factory prices for sugar on these dates as notified by the Sugar Controller for India are to be found in the notifications copies of which I place on the table.

Statement showing Province-wise production of sugar in tons

	Province.	Production for Season 1942-43	Production for Season 1943-44 (Upto 22-10-44)
1.	U. P.	6,13,243	7,27,404
2.	Bihar	2,37,671	2,12,809
3.	Punjab	6,579	11,162
4.	Orissa	2,092	1,695
5.	Sind	2,008	Nil.
6.	N.W.F. P.	3,167	6,253
7.	Madras	34,630	43,797
8.	Bombay	77,221	81,684
9.	Bengal.	16,537	13,648
	Total British India	9,93,148	10,98,452

	Indian States	Production for Season 1942-43	Production for Season 1943-44 (Upto 22-10-44).
1.	Kapurthala	4,252	17,177
2.	Rampur	21,082	32,031
3.	Deccan	18,463	20,678
4.	C. I. States	7,176	12,172
5.	Gujrat States	674	863
6.	Hyderabad	12,300	17,443
7.	Rajputana	1,450	2,179
8.	Kashmir	Nil	15
9.	Mysore	16,207	20,234
	Total Indian States	81,604	1,22,792

Statement showing the stocks of sugar held by factories in British India and Indian States in September 1943 and 1944

Serial No.	Area	Stock of sugar held on 30th September 1943	Stocks of sugar held on 30th September 1944
1	British India	2,07,636	3,33,105
2	Indian States	10,291	22,348
	Total	2,17,927	3,55,453

Estimated consumption of sugar in each province or area in British India in the first nine months of 1943 and 1944

	(First nine months of 1943.) (Tons)	(First nine months of 1944.) (Tons)
1. Assam	9,000	12,000
2. Bengal	99,000	1,08,750
3. Bihar	34,875	39,000
4. Orissa	5,250	6,000
5. Madras	49,500	60,000
6. Bombay	1,08,750	1,12,500
7. U. P.	1,02,750	1,03,875
8. Ajmer-Merwara	2,700	3,000
9. C. P.	22,500	28,500
10. Punjab	95,550	1,12,500
11. Delhi	13,875	14,250
12. N. W. F. P.	12,000	13,125
13. Sind	20,625	22,875
14. Baluchistan	3,075	3,450

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NOTIFICATION

PRICE CONTROL (SUGAR)

New Delhi, the 5th May 1942

No. Econ., Ad. (P. C.).225/42.(IV) (A).—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause 5 of the Sugar Control Order and in supersession of the Notification of the Government of India in the Department of Commerce No. Econ. Ad. (P.C.)-225/42 (IV), dated the 14th April 1942, the Sugar Controller for India hereby fixes the prices of sugar made in India ex-Factory, wherever produced, as per schedule attached.

SCHEDULE

Grade Prices of Sugar ex-factory

	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
A	..	11 9 0	11 11 6	11 13 6	11 15 6	12 1 0	12 3 0	12 4 6	12 6 6	12 8 0
B	..	11 6 6	11 9 0	11 11 0	11 13 0	11 14 6	12 0 6	12 2 0	12 4 0	12 5 6
C	..	11 4 6	11 7 0	11 9 0	11 11 0	11 12 6	11 14 0	12 0 0	12 2 0	12 3 6
D	10 15 0	11 3 0	11 5 6	11 7 6	11 9 6	11 11 0	11 12 6	11 14 6	12 0 6	12 2 0
E	10 13 6	11 1 6	11 4 0	11 6 0	11 8 0	11 9 6	11 11 6	11 13 0	11 15 0	12 0 6
F	10 12 6	11 0 6	11 3 0	11 5 0	11 7 0	11 8 6	11 10 6	11 12 0	11 14 0	11 15 6
G	10 11 6	10 15 6	11 2 0	11 4 0	11 6 0	11 7 6	11 9 6	11 11 0	11 13 0	11 14 6

II. For Crushed Sugars

	Rs. A. P.
13	12 0 0
12	11 13 0
11	11 11 0
10	11 9 0
9	11 3 0
8	11 4 0

N.B.—(1) These prices are inclusive of the excise duty. (2) Cases of sugars not falling within the schedule of grade prices above should be referred to the Sugar Controller for orders together with test certificates to be obtained from the Director of the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology at Cawnpore.

N. C. MEHTA,

Sugar Controller for India

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA
EXTRAORDINARY
Published by Authority

New Delhi, Wednesday, November 10, 1943

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD

NOTIFICATION

PRICE CONTROL (SUGAR)

New Delhi, the 10th November 1943

No. 20-SC(14)/42.—In exercise of the powers conferred upon me by sub-clause (1) of clause 6 of the Sugar and Sugar Products Control Order, 1943, and in supersession of clauses 1, 2 and 3 of the Notification of the Department of Food, No. GVIII (1)/42, dated the 1st January 1943 and sub-clause (c) of clause 7 of the Notification of the Department of Commerce, No. 1 and SC-225/42, dated the 28th November, 1942, I, N. C. Mehta, Sugar Controller for India, fix the prices of sugars as follows with effect from the date of this Notification :—

1. Price per maund of crystal sugar, for sale ex-factory, according to grade, shall be as given in the table below :—

	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
AAA	..	..	..	..	15 5 6	15 7 0	15 9 0	15 10 6	15 12 6	15 14 0
AA	..	..	..	..	15 3 6	15 5 0	15 7 0	15 8 6	15 10 6	15 12 0
A	..	14 11 0	14 13 6	14 15 6	15 1 6	15 3 0	15 5 0	15 6 6	15 8 6	15 10 0
B	..	14 8 6	14 11 0	14 13 0	14 15 0	15 0 6	15 2 6	15 4 0	15 6 0	15 7 6
C	..	14 6 6	14 9 0	14 11 0	14 13 0	14 14 6	15 0 6	15 2 0	15 4 0	15 5 6
D	14 1 0	14 5 0	14 7 6	14 9 6	14 11 6	14 13 0	14 14 6	15 0 6	15 2 6	15 4 0
E	13 15 6	14 3 6	14 6 0	14 8 0	14 10 0	14 11 6	14 13 6	14 15 0	15 1 0	15 2 6
F	13 14 6	14 2 6	14 5 0	14 7 0	14 9 0	14 10 6	14 12 6	14 14 0	15 0 0	15 1 6
G	13 13 6	14 1 6	14 4 0	14 6 0	14 8 0	14 9 6	14 11 6	14 13 0	14 15 0	15 0 6

2. Price per maund of crushed sugar for sale ex-factory, according to grade, shall be as given below :—

Grade.	Price per maund Rs. A. P.	Grade	Price per maund Rs. A. P.
13.	15 2 0	10	14 11 0
12.	14 15 0	9	14 8 0
11.	14 13 0	8	14 5 0

3. Price per maund of refined sugar, for sale ex-factory according to grade, shall be as given in the table below :—

Grain size	27			28			Above 28		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
AAA	16	6	0	16	8	0	16	10	0
AA	16	4	0	16	6	0	16	8	0
A	16	2	0	16	4	0	16	6	0
B	16	0	0	16	2	0	16	4	0
C	15	14	0	16	0	0	16	2	0
D	15	12	0	15	14	0	16	0	0
E	15	11	0	15	13	0	15	15	0
F	15	10	0	15	12	0	15	14	0
G	15	9	0	15	11	0	15	13	0

EXPLANATION.—"Refined Sugar" means sugar manufactured by re-melting ordinary sugar in water, and by suitably treating and filtering the solution and recovering sugar therefrom after boiling in vacuum pans—the resulting sugar having colour not lower than Indian Sugar Standard No. 27, and being sufficiently pure to satisfy the following test, namely :—

The specific conductivity determined at 35°C. and multiplied by 10^6 of a solution prepared by dissolving 5 grams of the sugar in conductivity water and making upto 100 C.cs. should not exceed 15, after deducting the value for the specific conductivity at the same temperature and multiplied by 10^6, of the conductivity water used.

N. C. MEHTA,
Sugar Controller for India.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: With regard to part (c) of the question, is the quota of 8 to 10 ozs. of sugar per individual weekly or monthly?

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN: Weekly.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will the Government explain the reason why the quota for Bombay and Calcutta is 12 ozs. and that for Delhi is 8 ozs.?

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN: It is not a matter of quota. It is the way how they distribute the sugar. The quota is based on the pre-war consumption of these Provinces.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: Is it a fact that there are many places where sugar is rationed, where an adult is not allowed more than 1 lb. per month?

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN: I have given you the figures so far available.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: What is the quota of sugar for Delhi?

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN: It used to be 8 ozs. At present it is 10 ozs.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Since when?

THE HONOURABLE MR. B. R. SEN: Since the last 2 months.

EXEMPTION OF PAPER CONTROL (ECONOMY) ORDER FOR PRINTING OF RELIGIOUS BOOKS.

96. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH: Have Government received any representation that the printing of the "Qoran" may be exempted from the operation of the Paper Control (Economy) Order? If so, do Government propose to extend this exemption to the religious books of other communities also?

THE HONOURABLE SIR AKBAR HYDARI: Government received representations that the printing and publication of the Qoran may be exempted from the operation of the Paper Control (Economy) Order and in consequence relaxations of the cut imposed under the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, have been granted to various publishers of the Qoran and to those of the religious books of other communities.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Would Government state if they have made any concession for any other religious books?

THE HONOURABLE SIR AKBAR HYDARI: Yes, Sir. The same concession has been granted to Gita Press for publication of the Ramayana and the Gita and to the British and Foreign Bible Society for the publication of the Bible.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Would the Government state its policy on the subject?

THE HONOURABLE SIR AKBAR HYDARI: These concessions have been granted in pursuance of a general policy relating to the relaxation of the 70 per cent. cut in favour of consumption of paper for essential uses. The granting of these concessions is an important implication of the principle on which the Paper Control Order is based, because the underlying idea is to impose a very severe cut on all consumers and then grant relaxations in favour of essential consumers, thus automatically diverting paper from less important to more important purposes.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Does the publication of text books come under the essential publications?

THE HONOURABLE SIR AKBAR HYDARI: Yes, we have given them special concessions.

NOTE.—All questions standing in the name of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh were put by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha with the President's permission.

EXPORT OF TEXTILES, ETC.

97. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH: Is there any proposal to send textile and other supplies from India for the relief of Chinese War victims, after the liberation of China? If so, will Government state the approximate quantities of textile, and varieties and quantities of other articles estimated to be sent?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN: There is no such proposal at present before the Government of India.

PRODUCTION OF JUTE, ETC., IN BENGAL AND ASSAM DURING THE LAST TEN YEARS.

98. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL: Will Government place on the table a statement of produce of jute and other principal crops in each district of Bengal and Assam during the last ten years as also of jute manufactures in each district of Bengal and Assam during the same period.

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH: Two statements are laid on the table giving such information as is available.

STATEMENT I

Statement showing the total production of jute manufactures including Twist and Yarn in India

Year	(Thousand tons)
1934-35	949.8
1935-36	1,011.2
1936-37	1,253.1
1937-38	1,311.7
1938-39	1,221.5
1939-40	1,276.9
1940-41	1,108.1
1941-42	1,258.8
1942-43	1,042.3(a)

(a) Provisional.

STATEMENT II

Statement showing produce of Jute and other principal crops in each district of Bengal and Assam

Province and District	Jute (in thousand bales of 400 lbs. each)									
	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
BENGAL										
24 Parganas	188	144	175	150	63	70	194	60	74	76
Nadia	90	163	180	181	129	159	373	151	218	198
Murshidabad	54	80	105	175	22	104	186	104	135	139
Jessore	213	200	180	188	76	186	325	267	288	343
Khulna	66	74	80	66	31	85	156	70	108	94
Burdwan	5	8	5	4	4	3	43	16	20	14
Midnapur	13	10	12	10	12	8	62	21	33	27
Hoogly	94	54	74	72	71	48	112	60	82	66
Howrah	11	9	13	10	8	7	38	12	21	13
Rajshahi	284	240	315	215	139	221	400	221	344	287
Dinajpur	181	162	228	202	107	231	399	194	375	238
Jalpaiguri	109	66	93	90	68	47	281	85	164	99
Darjeeling	7	5	6	6	4	2	15	5	8	3
Rangpur	893	684	838	888	846	930	1319	471	1018	721
Bogra	317	250	280	287	141	306	377	151	292	198
Pabna	306	240	264	251	109	242	522	216	326	249
Malda	55	1708	36	39	14	85	186	80	119	81
Dacca	1020	846	993	910	676	1168	1300	439	838	584
Mymensingh	2126	1702	2214	1552	1787	2417	2599	778	1800	1463
Faridpur	630	676	718	706	577	662	895	365	665	465
Bakarganj	107	137	130	123	90	147	206	57	166	115
Chittagong	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1
Chittagong Hill Tracts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tippera	732	600	833	752	597	912	1201	382	794	518
Noakhali	170	110	167	147	118	191	272	144	125	90
Birbhum & Bankura	Not included in the forecast						2	1	1	1
Total	7675	6486	7940	6975	5690	8232	11465	4251	8016	6065

NOTE.—All questions standing in the name of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh were put by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha with the President's permission.

Tea (in thousand lbs.)

Province and District	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
BENGAL										
24 Parganas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nadia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Murshidabad	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Jessore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Khulna	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Burdwan	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Midnapur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hooghly	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Howrah	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Rajshahi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dinajpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Jalpaiguri	75527	73678	72860	88071	81470	87258	89978	..	..	..
Darjeeling	21252	21026	24715	23699	22822	22904	23321	..	..	..
Rangpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bogra	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pabna	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malda	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dacca	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mymensingh	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Faridpur	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bakarganj	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chittagong	1581	1639	1806	1735	1986	2059	2011	..	..	..
Chittagong Hill Tracts	32	35	39	41	44	45	42	..	..	..
Tippera	..	..	..	20	17	24	25	..	..	..
Naokhali	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Birbhum & Bankura	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	98402	96678	99420	108566	106339	112290	115777	..	..	..

Jute (in thousand bales of 400 lbs. each)

Province and District	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
ASSAM										
Cachar (plains)	(a)	(a)	1	(a)	(a)	(a)	1	1	1	1
Sylhet	12	23	40	111	103	103	132	66	128	64
Goalpara	85	72	131	197	113	105	275	224	77	88
Kamrup	67	59	89	139	93	172	199	143	112	114
Darrang	29	23	30	31	47	73	77	56	55	23
Nowgong	101	127	159	164	194	184	211	140	146	71
Sibsagar	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	2	2
Lakhimpur	1	1	3	4	9	13	11	15	12	12
Sadiya Frontier Tracts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Garo Hills (Plains)	8	7	8	8	10	9	10	11	8	10
Total	304	313	462	655	570	661	919	659	541	385

Tea (In thousands lbs.)

Province and District	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
ASSAM										
Cachar (plains)	24941	22274	22277	22953	26152	28817	25644	..	..	..
Sylhet	43069	44294	40555	44364	43450	43805	44106	..	..	..
Goalpara	1632	1717	2016	2173	2272	2463	2793	..	..	..
Kamrup	1382	1476	1669	1822	1953	1831	2035	..	..	..
Darrang	33791	33216	32777	36386	40375	39887	39498	..	..	..
Nowgong	5768	5834	5342	5723	6518	6396	6519	..	..	..
Sibsagar	51605	50801	50911	53941	59444	61597	61467	..	..	..
Lakhimpur	70395	67068	67524	73887	80575	70638	77328	..	..	..
Sadiya Frontier Tracts	252	223	254	278	298	294	278	..	..	..
Garo Hills (Plains)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	232835	226417	223325	241527	261037	252723	259663	..	..	..

(a) 500 bales only.

Statement showing produce of Jute and other principal crops in each district of Bengal & Assam—contd.

Rice (thousand tons).

Province and district	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
Total*	8273	7208	9805	9084	7567	8455	6043	9821	6974	11782
BENGAL										
ASSAM										
Cachar	93	98	94	86	112	112	99	..	118	..
Sylhet	429	515	687	707	621	621	667	..	599	..
Khasi and Jantia hills	10	11	11	11	13	13	13	..	12	..
Naga Hills	18	18	18	18	27	27	27	..	31	..
Lushai Hills	24	24	24	24	29	29	29	..	24	..
Goalpara	148	141	126	127	146	146	148	..	137	..
Kamrup	187	236	235	232	238	238	196	..	270	..
Darrang	130	130	149	122	136	136	115	..	149	..
Nowgong	114	106	130	120	116	116	110	..	157	..
Sibsagar	158	166	164	152	151	151	151	..	170	..
Lakhimpur	143	136	130	119	126	126	153	..	157	..
Sadiya Frontier Tracts	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	..	4	..
Balipara Frontier Tract	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	1	1	1	..	1	..
Garo Hills	25	27	23	24	23	23	22	..	28	..
Total Assam	1481	1610	1793	1745	1742	1742	1805	1602*	1857	2104*

Sugarcane (thousand tons in terms of gur)

Province and district	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
Total*	492	560	626	483	439	526	532	457	412	480
BENGAL.										
ASSAM.										
Cachar	6	9	7	8	6	6	8	..	8	..
Sylhet	3	3	3	2	2	2	3	..	4	..
Khasi and Jantia hills	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Naga Hills	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lushai hills	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	..	(b)	..
Goalpara	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	..	3	..
Kamrup	4	4	5	6	6	6	7	..	6	..
Darrang	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	..	3	..
Nowgong	3	4	4	4	3	3	4	..	6	..
Sibsagar	8	9	9	10	8	8	11	..	12	..
Lakhimpur	6	6	7	6	7	7	6	..	5	..
Sadiya Frontier Tracts	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	..	(b)	..
Balipara Frontier Tract	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Garo Hills	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total Assam	35	39	40	41	37	37	45	47*	47	50*

Rape and mustard (thousand tons)

Province and district	1934-35	1935-36	1936-37	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
Total*	180	157	166	157	152	142	130	137	163	143
BENGAL.										
ASSAM.										
Cachar	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	..	1	..
Sylhet	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	..	1	..
Khasi and Jantia hills	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Naga Hills	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lushai Hills	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Goalpara	12	8	13	14	14	14	14	..	17	..
Kamrup	13	11	14	17	17	17	14	..	11	..
Darrang	9	0	10	10	9	9	9	..	8	..
Nowgong	10	7	8	7	12	12	10	..	6	..
Sibsagar	5	4	5	5	6	6	6	..	6	..
Lakhimpur	(b)	3	3	1	4	4	3	..	3	..
Sadiya Frontier Tracts	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	..	(b)	..
Balipara Frontier Tract	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Garo Hills	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	..	1	..
Total Assam	54	45	57	59	65	65	59	57*	54	55*

* District wise details are not available at present.
(b) Less than 500 tons.

EXPORT OF COAL TO LISBON.

99. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the news published in the "*Bharat Jyoti*" of Bombay on the 23rd July, 1944, that 8,000 tons of coal were shipped to Lisbon from Calcutta in a British ship? If so, is the news correct?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: (On behalf of Supply Department) Yes. One ship load of Indian coal out of the Ceylon quota was sent to Lisbon for reasons which it is not in the public interest to disclose.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL: Was that 8,000 tons?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: I am afraid I cannot tell you the quantity. I am replying to this question on behalf of the Supply Department. You will have to give notice.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL: It is in the question itself—that 8,000 tons of coal were shipped to Lisbon from Calcutta in a British ship.

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: Presumably that is correct. But would it matter very much if it was 8 or 6 or 10?

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL: Yes, it will. If it is 800 or 8,000 it will matter.

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: My Colleague does not wish to give the figures of coal which went to Lisbon for security reasons. So it will not be possible for me to supply the information.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will the Government collect figures of diversion of Ceylon quota and find out how much really reaches Ceylon and how much goes outside?

(No answer.)

DEFECTIVE STANDARD CLOTH.

100. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL: (*a*) With reference to the press note issued from Delhi, dated 27th July 1944, regarding defective standard cloth, will Government state what were the defects in the cloth and what was the quantity of defective standard cloth supplied by each mill?

(*b*) What rebate was taken by Government?

(*c*) What other steps were taken by Government in the matter?

(*d*) Whether under the Sea Customs Act or the Trade Marks Act these mills committed any offence?

THE HONOURABLE SIR AKBAR HYDARI: (*a*) The defects in the cloth were various, such as deficiency in the matter of picks, short length and short weight, and defects such as ends out, weft cracks and shuttle traps. The quantity of defective cloth was supplied by six mills and the quantity supplied by the six mills was as follows:—

1. 9 bales.
2. 14 bales.
3. 31 bales.
4. 73 bales.
5. 21 bales.
6. 15 bales.

(*b*) The percentage rebates taken by Government varied according to the gravity of the defects from as little as 3 per cent. to as much as 22 per cent. The total amount of rebate taken by Government was 14,893.

(*c*) The Standard Cloth manufactured by these mills is now subject to pre-inspection by the Inspection staff.

(*d*) No.

PROCLAMATION OF THE EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA.

101. THE HONOURABLE RAJA YUVERAJ DUTTA SINGH: (*a*) Is it a fact that British Indians who were permanent residents in Ethiopia in 1935, have now been enabled by a proclamation of the Emperor of Ethiopia, to file claims for damages

NOTE.—All questions standing in the name of the Honourable Raja Yuveraj Dutta Singh were put by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha with the President's permission.

caused by the Italians during the years of occupation, and that the last date for filing such claims is 9th December, 1944 ?

(*b*) What steps have Government taken to have the proclamation widely known throughout the country, so that no valid claims are barred by limitation ?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the majority of Indians, who were expelled from Ethiopia or who were allowed to remain but whose property was expropriated during the Italian occupation have been compensated by the Italians, or have since filed claims with the restored Ethiopian Government ? What is approximately the number of Indians in the categories mentioned above ; and what is the total amount of compensation received by them ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A Government Press note (copy of which I now place on the table) was issued on 4th August 1944 and appeared in many newspapers in India in different languages, on various dates during the month of August 1944.

(*c*) Government have no information except about the firm of Messrs. Mohammad Ali & Co., which was required by the Italian authorities to close its business. The firm was compensated to the extent of £228,343 by the Italian Government, as the result of representations made by the Government of India and His Majesty's Government on its behalf. The firm has also been informed of the proclamation in question.

Press Note

WAR DAMAGE CLAIMS AGAINST ITALY EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA'S PROCLAMATION—

Persons, other than enemy aliens, who were permanent residents in Ethiopia on September 11, 1935, have now been enabled by a Proclamation of the Emperor of Ethiopia to file claims for damages caused by the Italians during the years of occupation. The last date for filing claims with the Governor General of the Province or the Governor of the District in which such claimant was resident in Ethiopia is December 9, 1944. The Proclamation establishes, under the Minister of the Interior, a Reparations Commission to review all such claims and make recommendations. Persons making false claims are liable to a fine of 100 Maria Theresa Thalers (about Rs. 134) or to three months' imprisonment, or both.

The majority of British Indians who were expelled from Ethiopia, or who were allowed to remain but whose property was expropriated during the Italian occupation, or have been compensated by the Italians or have since filed claims with the restored Ethiopian Government. The present measure will, however, give an opportunity to those who are dissatisfied to file a claim for any further compensation to which they may feel entitled.

External Affairs Department,
New Delhi, August 4, 1944.

CREMATION OF DEAD BODIES IN THE BRITISH WEST INDIES COLONIES.

102. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : (*a*) Is it a fact that Hindus are not allowed to cremate the dead in the British West Indies Colonies ?

(*b*) If so, will Government take steps to move the West Indies authorities to redress this grievance ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. N. BANERJEE : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Government of India have already made representations.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF DR. SYED MAHMUD.

103. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : Will Government state whether it is a fact that Dr. Syed Mahmud was not allowed to have himself examined by his own doctors at his own expense when he was discharging blood from the mouth ? If so, why ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : Yes, Sir. Because Government had full confidence in the medical officer in charge and in the various specialists who were called in from time to time to examine Dr. Mahmud. I may add that the source of the bleeding to which the Honourable Member refers was Dr. Mahmud's gums.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: What was Government's objection to his being examined by his own doctors?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH: Because Government had arranged for a very adequate examination by their own doctors. I may add for the information of the Honourable Member that Dr. Mahmud was seen by no less than 6 specialists and one dental surgeon.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: Does my Honourable friend appreciate that patients generally prefer to have their own physicians?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH: That may be so, Sir, but it does not affect the reason that I have just given.

HEAVY CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.

104. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: Will Government state:—(*a*) whether the Report on the heavy Chemical Industry made nearly 16 years ago a strong recommendation to Government to encourage the establishment of a synthetic nitrogen industry both as an insurance against the demand of a future war for explosives and for promoting the improvement of agriculture by providing it with nitrogenous fertilizers?

(*b*) Whether a similar recommendation was made for encouraging the manufacture of superphosphate by payment of a small bounty on a tonnage not exceeding 10,000 tons per annum?

(*c*) Whether they intend to set up large plants for the establishment of the industry referred to in (*a*) and (*b*) above?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON (On behalf of Supply Department): (*a*) The Tarrif Board made no strong recommendation on this subject. The Board mentioned the existence of some difference of opinion whether synthetic nitrogen compounds could be produced on an economical scale in India but stated that the growing market for ammonium sulphate might make the erection of a small plant an economic proposition in a few years time. In view, however, of the importance of this industry to the national defence, the Board, however, also remarked that it might pay India in the long run to ensure it against national emergencies by having within the country a synthetic ammonia plant.

(*b*) Yes, Sir.

(*c*) The Government are at present considering the report of the Technical Mission appointed to advise on the production of nitrogenous fertilisers in India.

MANUFACTURE OF SULPHATE OF AMMONIA IN INDIA.

105. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: Will Government state:—(*a*) what the total capacity of tonnage of sulphate of ammonia to be manufactured in India per annum will be?

(*b*) What the total cost of the establishment of such a plant will be?

(*c*) Whether it is proposed that this industry should be owned and controlled by the Central and Provincial Governments in association with the Imperial Chemical Industries?

(*d*) Is it contemplated by Government that the plant should be supplied with electrical energy from a hydro-electric power station?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON (On behalf of Supply Department): (*a*) It is proposed in the first instance to undertake production in Government factories of 3,50,000 tons per annum of Sulphate of Ammonia for use as a fertilizer.

(*b*) The Technical Mission have estimated that the cost of a single factory to produce this quantity will be about Rs. 10·1 crores.

(*c*) No. It is the intention of Government that the factory or factories required to implement the scheme for the manufacture of Fertilizer in India should be state-owned and state-operated.

(*d*) The Mission's report and recommendations are under the consideration of Government and no decisions have yet been taken. The Mission have recommended that in the case of the establishment of a single factory it will be possible to generate practically all the required power in the factory itself.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: Will the factory be owned by the Central Government or will it be owned by any Provincial Government?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: Any Government that pays the money will have the right to own the factory.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Have Government come to any decision on whether they will have multiple factories or a single factory?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: It all depends on the demand.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: For the supply of the same quantity the technical committee reported that there might be one, two or four factories started. We want to know the decision of the Government. Has a decision been taken to centralise it in one place or to have in different places.

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: I am afraid I cannot tell you because I do not know what has been going on in the Department. But naturally Government will make a sensible decision according to the circumstances.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Is it always sensible?

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: May I know whether it has been decided to establish the factory at Harduaganj in the Aligarh District?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: I shall require notice of that.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Is it a fact that the Government has consulted only British experts, and that Britain occupies a very low position in the manufacture of ammonium sulphate less than one per cent. of the world's production?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: Evidently the Honourable Member knows these facts and has studied them; I presume they are correct.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: As a matter of fact, the United States produces the largest amount. I want to know if United States experts have been consulted.

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: I am afraid I canot give an answer to that.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR: Is it a fact that Imperial Chemicals are going to manage that factory?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: So far as I know, they already had for many years these chemical manufactures on sale in India.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR: I am referring to the Central or Provincial factory that is going to be established: are Imperial Chemicals going to manage this factory on behalf of Government?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: I cannot tell you.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will the Honourable Member convey to the Supply Member the desire of the House to discuss this subject if time permits?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: Certainly.

THE HONOURABLE SIR N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR: Does not the answer to the question say that the factory or factories which will be established will be both State-owned and State-operated?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: I am afraid I cannot give you the details. Judging from the little part that I have often taken in these discussions, there generally has been this tendency to have these factories owned by the State, because private industries will not enter into it on account of the risk of loss involved, because as soon as the war is over and the prices of raw materials fall, the farmer will find it almost impossible to buy these chemical manures at high prices. Therefore it will not be easy to get hold of private investors to risk their money in this industry and so Government are doing this. I know one State down in South India—Travancore—are putting a great deal of capital into the establishment of a factory there. It is a sort of subsidy by Government to agriculture while the war is on and while prices are high.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: Do Government propose to publish the report of the Technical Committee?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: I will convey that suggestion to the Member in charge.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will the Honourable Member state what method the Government has preferred for the manufacture of ammonium sulphate whether it is the water gas method or the atmospheric nitrogen method?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON: Which method does the Honourable Member think is the better?

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will that influence the Government?

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: May I remind Honourable Members that today is the last day for non-official business?

CAPITAL COST OF HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER STATIONS IN INDIA.

106. THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: Will Government state:—(*a*) what the capital cost of a hydro-electric power station in India will be?

(*b*) Whether the actual cost of electricity supplied by it is very much higher than that of a thermal plant when depreciation and return on the investment are taken into account?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. C. PRIOR: (*a*) The cost of a hydro-electric power station (that is the cost of the station itself and of transmitting power to where it is required) depends on many factors including its size, its location, size of the dams that may have to be constructed, the cost of transmission lines, etc. It is not possible to give any average figure that will be representative. It has been estimated that the capital cost of a hydro-electric power station in this country may vary from as low a figure as Rs. 350 to as high a figure as Rs. 1,500 per k.w. of capacity installed.

(*b*) Not necessarily. Here too relative costs depend on a large number of variable factors. In general in the case of hydro-electric projects capital costs are higher than in the case of thermal but operating costs are lower.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: Will the Honourable Member give the figure about the hydro-electric scheme for Bihar and the U. P. combined in Mirzapur district?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. C. PRIOR: I am afraid I must have notice.

BILL PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LAID ON THE TABLE

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL: In pursuance of rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table a copy of the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 15th November, 1944.

RESOLUTION *RE* RIGHTS OF INDIANS DOMICILED IN DOMINIONS, COLONIES, ETC.—*contd.*

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Discussion on the following Resolution moved by the Honourable Mr. Sapru on the 9th November will proceed:—

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to take steps to protect and safeguard the rights of Indians by bilateral Agreements between the Government of India and the Governments of the Dominions, Colonies and Protectorates in which Indians are resident or domiciled and to which in future emigration may be permitted by the Government of India."

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU (United Provinces Northern: Non-Muhammadan): Mr. President, my Honourable fried Mr. Sapru has drawn the attention of the Government and the Council to the very important question of the position of Indians abroad. He proposes by his Resolution that the rights of Indians living outside India should be safeguarded by means of bilateral agreements between the Government of India and the Governments of the Dominions, Colonies and Protectorates in which Indians are resident and to which in future emigration may be permitted by the Government of India. I have no doubt that the principle of this Resolution will be acceptable to the higher authorities. It has

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.]

been recognised in the case of the Dominions that India should correspond directly with them with regard to the position of the Indians settled there. There can therefore be no objection to the extension of this principle to the Colonies and the Protectorates.

The most important way in which an understanding can be arrived at between India and the other parts of the British Empire with regard to the Indians settled there is that India should have its own Agents in those Colonies and Protectorates. That is the first and the most important point that must be taken up in order that the question of the proper treatment of Indians should be settled satisfactorily between the Government of India and the Governments of these territories.

This House has several times asked that Agents of the Government of India should be appointed in British Guiana, Fiji and other places. It has suggested that in view of the experience gained in places like Ceylon and South Africa, His Majesty's Government should be asked to permit the Government of India to appoint their Agents in other parts of the Empire also. The Government of India have, so far as I remember, supported this demand, but His Majesty's Government, so far as I know, have failed on more than one occasion to give any final reply to the proposals forwarded to them. I think it is held by the British authorities that the question with which Mr. Sapru's Resolution is concerned, can be fully considered only after the war. I do not see, Sir, why the consideration of a matter like this should be postponed till the termination of the war. There is nothing in this question which can in any way affect the prosecution of the war. Indeed if questions relating to the treatment of Indians outside India are satisfactorily settled while the war is going on, I think it will be a great help to His Majesty's Government in persuading India to regard them as the protector of Indians abroad. It is necessary, in view of this, to my mind, that the question of the treatment of Indians abroad, should not be put aside during the war. I know that the appointment of an Agent of the Government of India in a territory does not by itself lead to a settlement of the questions affecting the Indians living there : the case of South Africa illustrates this fully. Nevertheless, I think it will be admitted that in the interests both of the Colonial Governments concerned and the Indians, it is desirable that both the Government of India and the Indian public should be in a position to receive authentic information in all questions which vitally affect the welfare of Indians.

The Colonies and Protectorates are in a very different position from a Dominion like South Africa. The Dominion of South Africa has the power to ignore in this matter even the wishes of His Majesty's Government and follow a policy which all considerations of justice and fairplay condemn. But the Colonies and Protectorates cannot follow any policy in this matter independently of the wishes of His Majesty's Government. If Agents of the Government of India are allowed to be appointed there, it will be possible for the Government of India to represent the difficulties of Indians before they have become the subject of acute agitation in this country, to His Majesty's Government. Again, Sir, in view of the attempts that are being made in Africa to bring East Africa within the orbit of the Union Government's policy, it is necessary that the Government of India should take all possible steps immediately to safeguard the position of Indians there in future. To achieve this and it is necessary that they should once more press His Majesty's Government to allow them to appoint their own agents in the Colonies and Protectorates. I cannot speak with authority about East Africa but with regard to other Colonies, I think I can safely say that the appointments of Agents of the Government of India will be welcomed by the Indians settled there. As regards East Africa too I think that the opinion there has changed considerably during the last few years, and that the proposal to appoint an Agent of the Government of India there will receive much more support than it has done in the past.

Mr. President, the more I think about this resolution, the more it seems to me that we should take advantage of the present situation, to press our demand as vigorously as possible on the attention of the British Government. The authorities who permitted us to appoint our own Agents in South Africa, Ceylon, and Burma cannot in justice refuse to allow us to act on the same principle in relation to East Africa or Fiji or Trinidad or British Guiana. I see no reason why the Government

of India should not accept the principle of the resolution put forward by Mr. Sapru and make a vigorous and determined effort once more to persuade His Majesty's Government to permit us to take proper steps from now to acquaint ourselves with the difficulties of the Indians settled in the various parts of the Empire, and to arrive at their solution by negotiation with the Colonial Governments concerned, and in the last resort with His Majesty's Government. The position cannot be worse than it is now and I think that the appointment of Agents will bring about a considerable improvement in many respects. His Majesty's Government, cannot, therefore, justly refuse our demand. In any case I trust that the Government of India, following the principle which they have accepted on more than one occasion, will agree to the resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Sapru, and assure the House that they will bring this matter to the notice of His Majesty's Government once more.

(At this stage the Honourable the President vacated the Chair which was taken by the Honourable the Chairman, the Honourable Mr. M. N. Dalal.)

THE HONOURABLE MR. RABINDRA NATH BANERJEE (Commonwealth Relations Secretary): At first glance the resolution gives the impression that the Honourable Mover wants the Government of India to negotiate bilateral agreements only with such Dominions, Colonies and Protectorates in which there is now an Indian population and into which immigration of Indians may be permitted in the future. The Honourable Member has, however, explained that the scope of the resolution is wider, and that he also advocates such bilateral agreements with countries in the Commonwealth into which immigration of Indians has practically ceased and may not be revived in future. The House should know that fresh emigration of Indians has ceased except to Burma, Malaya, Ceylon, and perhaps the East African Colonies. I also note, Sir, that the Honourable Member has used the word "agreement" in a wide sense and desires it to cover any form of bilateral arrangement that can be made towards improving the relations of our country with other commonwealth countries. I take it, Sir, that the Honourable Member thus wishes us to explore the possibilities of entering into mutual arrangements with all the countries in the Common wealth into which Indians have immigrated in any considerable numbers. The House is aware that the Government of India have already taken action to bring about bilateral arrangements of the kind envisaged by the Honourable Member. The Honourable Member will perhaps permit me to mention in this conection the well-known Cape Town agreement with the Union of South Africa, which was arrived at in 1927. This agreement was the result of sustained efforts made by the representatives of the Government of India, led by the then Honourable Member in charge of the Department. It is true that the high hopes we built on this agreement have not materialised. But that is another story. In recent years agreements have been negotiated with the Government of Burma and the Government of Ceylon. The history of these two agreements is too fresh in the memory of Honourable Members to require any detailed reference. We thought that the agreement with Burma was as satisfactory as it could be in all the circumstances of the case, but it encountered the strongest opposition in this country. Similarly, the agreement with Ceylon was rather still born because the Lower House declined to extend to it the endorsement subject to which it had been negotiated. In these two countries, where the question of the rights and status of Indians and of the future immigration of Indians has been a live issue in recent years. The Government of India have, therefore, given the system of bilateral agreements a trial as the most practical course. I may also state, Sir, that in spite of the fate of our previous efforts, the Government are still exploring the possibility of fresh agreements with these countries, particularly in the light of the very close inter-dependence of these countries and India that has been so vividly and rather painfully demonstrated in the present war. Some progress has also been made towards improving our relations with some of the Commonwealth countries by the appointment or interchange of Agents or Representatives. The House is aware that we deputed an Agent to South Africa in 1927. The status of the Agent was raised to that of an Agent-General in 1935 and thereafter to that of a High Commissioner in 1942. We also appointed an Agent in Burma in 1938 and although the post has remained in abeyance owing

[Mr. Rabindra Nath Banerjee.]

o the Japanese occupation of the country, we have recently appointed a Representative to the Government of Burma. In Ceylon, we appointed an Agent so early as 1923. Ceylon was the first Commonwealth country to depute a Representative to India. Their Representative arrived in India in 1942 and we reciprocated by appointing a Representative in 1943. A similar reciprocal appointment of High Commissioner has been made this year by the Government of India and the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia. The Commonwealth of Australia is the first Dominion which has sent a High Commissioner to India. The House is also aware that trade agreements have been made and Trade Agents interchanged or appointed with some of the countries in the Commonwealth. It will thus be seen that whenever favourable opportunities have presented themselves, the Government of India have made the fullest use of them to consolidate our relations with Commonwealth countries.

Sir, the method of improving our relations with Commonwealth countries by means of bilateral agreements has, however, its limitations. As my Honourable friend Mr. Hossain Imam indicated, and as my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru has repeated today, there are a number of Colonies and Protectorates which are under the direct control of His Majesty's Government. We have had cold water thrown on our efforts to establish closer and direct relations with some of these countries. As instances in point I may mention that overtures made by us to appoint some sort of representative or agent in the three Caribbean colonies, in Fiji and in East Africa have not met with favourable response so far. We have not dropped our efforts and I can assure the House that our efforts to persuade His Majesty's Government to offer us such facilities for improving our relations with these countries are being continued quite energetically.

Sir, this brings me to what appears to be the basic difficulty that is likely to be encountered in our efforts to extend the system of bilateral understanding. After all, Sir, bilateral understanding pre-supposes the existence of bilateral disposition to come to an understanding. Commonwealth countries which still expect to draw upon Indian labour and India's other resources for meeting their economic needs are perhaps less lukewarm in this respect, but there are others which look askance at our suggestions for an understanding. Such bilateral disposition, Sir, thus does not exist in every country in the Commonwealth. I understand the Honourable Member's reason for advocating bilateral agreements to be that it is desirable to enter into direct relations with these countries, particularly after they have obtained a certain measure of self-government. Events and our experience, however, do not justify such optimism about the willingness of self-governing units in the Commonwealth to enter into bilateral agreements. The House will appreciate my anxiety to avoid any reference to unpleasant details of this aspect of the history of Indian immigration into Commonwealth countries. But during the last generation or two the position of our nationals in some of the Commonwealth countries has deteriorated in direct proportion to the measure of self-government attained by those countries. With increasing powers of self-government some of these countries have deprived our nationals domiciled in them of civic right which they had already enjoyed, while other have made progressively difficult the position of our nationals resident in them. Indian immigration into most Commonwealth countries took place at a time when their constitutional dependence on His Majesty's Government was much greater. The Government of India agreed to Indian immigration on the understanding and in the hope that, being British subjects, Indians would enjoy full rights of citizenship in the countires of their adoption. As the House is aware, these hopes have not been fulfilled in several countries. The House will again appreciate my reluctance to enter into details during the present days of tension, but I am drawing the attention of the House to this aspect of the matter to emphasise that bilateral agreements will not be feasible in several Commonwealth countries. This principle will not work in Commonwealth countries where the growth of self-government and nationalism have created increasing antagonism towards our nationals. In spite of such unfortunate developments, Sir, very large bodies of our nationals have got irrevocably

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settled in some of these countries. If our overtures to arrive at a just and reasonable bilateral understanding regarding the status of our nationals are spurned by such countries, what should the Government of India do, Sir ? The Government of India must therefore have the option to explore alternative safeguards for the future protection of our nationals. As I have said, Sir, Indian immigrants went to these countries as British subjects. Generations ago they could not possibly visualize that a time might come when, with enhanced powers of self-government, the Government and the people of the countries of their adoption would treat them as aliens. Our nationals were encouraged to migrate to these countries for their economic development, and, as you know, Sir, it is admitted on all hands that they have made very substantial contributions towards the growth and prosperity of their countries of adoption. Even if the method of bilateral agreement fails, the Government of India cannot possibly divest themselves of their moral responsibility for the welfare of these Indians, particualrly so long as the Governments of these countries persist in denying them rights of full citizenship. Many such schemes of immigration had the backing of His Majesty's Government and the Government of India naturally acted on the understanding and in the hope that the future status of our nationals would be reasonably safe in countries which were units of the Commonwealth. I hope, Sir, the House will agree that in countries where large bodies of Indians have settled down and where the prospects of any bilateral agreement are remote, the Government of India must invoke the intervention of His Majesty's Government for safeguarding the interests of our nationals. I know, Sir, that there are many in India who do not favour such an approach to the solution of the Indian problem in these countries, particularly in countries which are yet to attain a fuller measure of self-government. But we feel, Sir, that in present conditions, we have no alternative to invoking the aid of what I may call the Paramount Power in dealing with these countries. In these countries we must therefore be allowed to protect the future interests of our nationals by bilateral agreements, if possible, or by persuading His Majesty's Government to provide safeguards in the constitution of the country if necessary. I hope, Sir, I have said enough to satisfy the House that bilateral agreements would be feasible only if the countries concerned are agreeable to a settlement of the question of the rights and status of Indians by such measures and that there are several units in the Commonwealth which are not likely to agree to such settlement. Subject to these limitations, the Honourable Member's proposal is in consonance with the policy which the Government of India have pursued so far as the most practical course. I can assure the Honourable Member that we shall examine with the greatest care all his suggestions for making a fuller and more extensive use of this method of bilateral understanding. As he has himself pointed out, our efforts in this direction ought to be more fruitful in countries with whom India has cultural affinity and which may yet require Indian labour. I can also assure him, Sir, that in our dealings with these countries whose disputes with us are more economic than racial or cultural we shall bear in mind his sage advice that we should not be the mouthpiece of what he has, rather facetiously, if I may say *so, called "Indian Imperialism" and that we should be the "mouthpiece of enlightened Indian democracy which wishes to establish on a basis of equality happy relations between India and these countries." I hope, Sir, that the Indian public, and particularly those out of them who are connected with Indian interests overseas, will also lay to heart this advice of the Honourable Member. Sir, subject to the limitations which I have explained, I accept the Resolution.

*THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (United Provinces Southern : Non-Muhammadan) : Mr. Chairman, I must first of all thank the Honourable Mr. Banerjee for accepting the Resolution with the reservations which he has mentioned. As he has pointed out, the scope of my Resolution is wider than the words "bilateral agreement" would ordinarily indicate. I use the words "bilateral agreement", as he has himself noticed, in a rather wider sense. He has pointed out that the Government of India has been pursuing as far as possible this policy of arriving at bilateral agreements with Commonwealth and Empire countries. He referred to the Capetown Agreement of 1927. Whether that Agreement has been

*Not corrected by the Honourable Member.

[Mr. P. N. Sapru.]

followed in spirit or not is a question which we shall be debating, I think, in this House tomorrow and it will be unnecessary for me to say anything about the working of the Capetown Agreement. He has pointed out that we have had bilateral agreements with Burma and Ceylon, that the Burma Agreement was not ratified by the Lower House.—I do not say wrongly, but it was not ratified by the Lower House—and that we have had some experience of these bilateral agreements. He has also emphasised that the Government are exploring the possibilities of new arrangements. I pointed out that, broadly speaking, the Empire countries could be divided—I am not thinking of the Dominions; I excluded them for the purpose of division from my purview—the Empire countries can be divided, for the purposes of the arrangements, into four regions: the Caribbean region, which includes British Guiana, Trinidad and Jamaica; then the Pacific region, in which the most important country would be Fiji; the Indian Ocean region, in which the most important countries would be Malaya, Burma and Ceylon; and the African region, in which Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika would be, from our point of view, the most important regions.

Now, Sir, we have been pressing for a long time for diplomatic representation in the Caribbean region, and it is a matter of great regret that His Majesty's Government have not seen their way yet to accepting our suggestion. It is from our point of view of vital interest that we should have representation in these areas, because the Honourable Mr. Banerjee knows that it is contemplated that there shall be a colonial fund for the development of these colonies and we should like somebody to be there who could look after the interests of the Indian nationals settled in those regions. We are hoping that these regions will enjoy greater self-governing rights than they enjoy today. It will be necessary, if that development takes place, to have some one on the spot to watch the interests of our nationals. The appointment of an Agent in these colonies was strongly pressed for by Mr. Tyson in his evidence before Lord Moyne's Commission and I hope that His Majesty's Government will not defer a decision on this question of the appointment of an Indian Agent in these regions.

Then, Sir, as I pointed out, we have interests in Fiji also. We have about 94,000 Indians there, and it is desirable that there should be an Agent in Fiji at as early a date as possible. I suggested that the High Commissioner for New Zealand might act as our Agent in Fiji also. The Honourable Pandit Kunzru has been to Fiji, and he will be in a better position than I am to tell us whether the High Commissioner for New Zealand if one is appointed, will be able to act as Agent for Fiji also or not.

Then I pointed out that we should have a clear policy in regard to the colonies in the Indian Ocean. In the Indian Ocean area we have Burma, we have Ceylon and we have Malaya. I am most anxious that the rights of Indians settled in these countries should be safeguarded in any future constitution that is devised in these countries. But there is just one word of warning that I would like to give to my countrymen, if I may say so, in these countries. I hope that the Indians in Burma, the Indians in Ceylon and the Indians in Malaya will not play the imperialist game. I am all for reasonable safeguards for the Indians who are settled there, but let them not stand in the way of the fullest self-government in these countries. They should not make it appear to them that they are in any way acting as checks or as brakes upon the natural impulse of those countries for full independence. If we in this country claim for ourselves the rights of a fully self-governing country, then we cannot with any justice deny to those countries the rights of fully self governing nations. If self-determination is good for us, it is good for the Burmese and it is good for the Malayans and it is good for the Sinhalese, and if we do not wish them to exploit our labour, we should not wish our capital or our labour to exploit their Capital or their labour. I do not think that we can build the world of tomorrow on exploitation. Therefore it is necessary to emphasise that in pressing the claims of Indians in Ceylon, in Burma and in Malaya, some regard should also be had for the indigenous inhabitants of Burma, of Ceylon and of Malaya.

I do not say that the attitude of the Burma Government or of the Ceylon Government towards is what it should be, but I do think that a free Burma and a free Ceylon will be in a better mood to negotiate with us on a more just basis than a partially free Burma or a partially free Ceylon. If you have self-government under the patronage of any third Power, then you get certain complications when you try and arrive at agreements. If I cannot assert myself against British capitalism, then I say: "Well, I assert myself against Indian capitalism". That complex will disappear when these countries feel that they have real power and that agreements between India and them will be to the mutual advantage of both. I do not therefore share the view of my Honourable friend Mr. Banerjee that our position in those countries has deteriorated as self-government has advanced. On paper it may have deteriorated. Probably it has in some ways deteriorated. But assuming that it has deteriorated, it does not mean that those countries are not entitled to the fullest measure of self-government.

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. N. BANERJEE: There is no such suggestion.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: I should not like the Indians to use their position as a minority to thwart or black the progress of the peoples of those countries towards the fullest measure of self-government, towards that independence to which they are inherently entitled.

I confess that I have an anti-imperialist ideology, but it is a consistent ideology If I am anti-imperialist in my country, then I am anti-imperialist in regard to those Indians who think in imperialist terms. I make these observations just to indicate my point of view. In regard to Burma and Ceylon, I think it is desirable from a wider and larger point of view that the question of emigration to these countries should be approached by us in a spirit of understanding and sympathy for the peoples of these countries. After all, as Indians, we represent the second largest race in Asia—I am not sure if we have greater population than China—and in the world of tomorrow China and India must play a very large part. If we aspire to be leaders in the Asiatic region, than we must show that we are capable of that ethical attitude towards life, which is demanded of countries which aspire to leadership. Therefore, I would not like, as far as I could, to invoke the support or the aid of His Majesty's Government. I should like to arrive at an agreement with a free Burma or with a free Ceylon as if I am dealing with a partially free Burma or a partially free Ceylon, the position may be a little different and a little difficult as His Majesty's Government cannot escape responsibility for a partially free Burma or a partially free Ceylon. I think we shall be nearer solution of Indian problems in these countries once they become effectively free. These are observations of a casual nature that I have to make on this resolution. I am thankful to Mr. Banerjee for having accepted this resolution, and I have nothing more to say.

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. N. BANERJEE: A word of explanation. I have made it quite clear that we should adopt the system of bilateral agreements wherever possible, but I do not emphasize the fact that, with the advance of self-government, several countries have not shown sufficient disposition for entering into bilateral agreements, and I have to bring to the notice of this House that the Government of India must reserve the right to insist on safeguards being provided in their future constitution by His Majesty's Government. There was nothing in my speech to suggest that I was in any way opposing the grant of increased self-government to any of these countries—nothing is farther from my intention—but I only tried to draw the attention of the House to the fact that there are countries where the question of the rights and status of Indians is a live one, and where the scope of bilateral agreements is extremely limited, and that the House should therefore allow Government a free hand.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: On a point of personal explanation, it was not my intention to suggest that Mr. Banerjee was having any other intention.

THE HONOURABLE THE CHAIRMAN: He has made his attitude clear.

(The Hhonourab e MR. M. N. Dalal.)

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU: There is no difference.

THE HONOURABLE THE CHAIRMAN (The Honourable Mr. M. N. Dalal): The question is that the following Resolution be adopted:

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to take steps to protect and safeguard the rights of Indians by bilateral Agreements between the Government of India and the Governments of the Dominions, Colonies and Protectorates in which Indians are resident or domiciled and to which in future emigration may be permitted by the Government of India."

The Motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION *RE* RECRUITMENT OF OFFICERS FOR CIVIL ADMINISTRATION DURING THE WAR

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR (Central Provinces: General): The Resolution that stands in my name reads as follows:—

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to drop the scheme of temporary reinforcement of the civil administration by transfer of Army Officers and recruit the required personnel for civil administration through the agency of the Federal Public Service Commission."

The Government of India issued a Press Communiqué on 25th July 1944 stating therein that as they felt the need for strengthening the civil administration, they requested the military authorities to release some Army officers for work in the civil administration, and that on their request the Army authorities have released some Army officers. On this point I had questions, answers and supplementaries on the first day of this session, and I think the House knows pretty well the gist and substance of the Press Communiqué. I shall just read one or two sentences with your permission. The conditions under which these officers are to be employed are as follows:—

The Military authorities have recognised the need for strengthening the civil administration, and a special India Army Order has been issued calling for volunteers from the Army on certain terms. These are:

(*a*) Volunteers must be under 50 years of age;

(*b*) Only officers of the Army in India Reserve of Officers, British and Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers of the Indian Army, and British Service Emergency Commissioned Officers attached to the Indian Army will be eligible;

(*c*) the deputation of officers thus lent will be for the duration of the war in the Far East and probably for a limited further period thereafter.

A Selection Board has been created which is presided over by the President of the Federal Public Service Commission, who is assisted by psychiatrists and psychologists. This Board selects officers for temporary employment in civil services. I understand that about 48 officers have been selected out of 125 applicants, and that more officers will be selected in due course of time.

Now, Sir, my first objection to this scheme is that the Government of India's statement that they are not able to get sufficient number of officers in the open market for employment in civil services is wrong and incorrect. In a country like India with a population of 40 crores, if you cannot get a few hundred officers, say 200, 300 or 400, at the most, for manning the civil services during war time it is no credit to your administration of India over the last 200 years and it is insulting to the intelligentsia of my country. I submit in this connection that a similar theory about recruitment of Indians as Army officers was trotted out by the then Commander-in-Chief on the floor of the House in the year 1933. He then said that he could not get sufficient number of the right type of officers for manning the Army services, and that therefore he was not willing to appoint more than sixty officers. Now that theory has been exploded in this war. Government, in my opinion, has committed a very great mistake, has not understood the implications of their scheme, and in a way has impeded war effort in adopting this scheme. They say at the beginning of this Press Communiqué:

"At a time when India's armed Forces were being rapidly expanded to meet the increasing enemy threat to her shores."

At such a time when a large number of officers are needed for the Army, it is very unfortunate that they had to make a demand on the Army. They say that in the

interests of the civil administration of the country they made a demand of the Army and the Army has agreed to release a certain number of officers. Sir, if the Government were to make a demand on the open market, I have absolutely no doubt that the right type of officers necessary for manning the civil services of India would even now come in large numbers and there would not be any break-down in the management of the civil administration. I want to ask my Honourable friend Mr. Conran-Smit hwhether the officers who have been selected up till now and who are now serving in the civil administration are efficient or not. I am asking this because the mode of selection is quite different now for these officers. Up till now, persons for the superior civil services were recruited by open competition through the agency of the Federal Public Service Commission. The Federal Public Service Commission carried out examinations, oral and written, and the selected officers were allotted to certain Provinces. I believe, the officers selected by the Federal Public Service Commission or its predecessors in no way mismanaged the civil administration of the country. In fact, the civil administration is being applauded by the highest authorities and the officers selected by the Federal Public Service Commission are regarded as efficient, trustworthy, and honest in their work. Then, why has this new method been introduced? Why do you require psychiatrists and psychologists to select your officers for the civil administration? Are you afraid of open competition? Why do you feel shy of open competition?

The next point that occurs to me is this, that in giving effect to this scheme, the Government of India have directly damped the enthusiasm of many yougths of India to enter the Defence Services. My personal experience is that many young friends who came to me after the publication of this Communiqué told me definitely that the Army do not require any more officers as they have released officers for the civil administration, and therefore they do not want to enter into the Army. The point is, are you really doing any good either to the country or the country's war effort by introducing a scheme of this sort? Sir, the transfer of officers from the Army to the civil administration has caused great heart-burning to the officers of the other Departments of the fighting services. Some of the officers on leave of the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force spoke to me and asked why there should be discrimination and why they should not be allowed to come under the scheme and to join the civil services, though temporarily. Sir, I think that before Government took any steps to introduce this scheme they did not consider fully the after-effects of the scheme. If they had decided on the scheme in the interests of the prosecution of the war and the best civil administration of India, I think they would never have come to the conclusion that the transfer of army officers is essential for the civil administration.

Sir, then there is the proportion of 50 Indians and 50 Europeans. When further reforms are promised to us, when after the war we expect to get more reforms—my Honourable friend says " more exploitation " ; I wish it should not happen—when we are promised further reforms, if we are to get more share in the administration of the country, I should say that Government should have seized this opportunity to change the ratio and decide that the civil services should be manned by Indians alone. Instead of that, we find that the old ratio of 50—50 has still been kept. The question may appear to some of my Honourable friends not of very great importance, but it has very great and serious implications and I think it is likely to create trouble in the way of recruitment to the fighting services. I therefore submit, Sir, that the Government should drop the scheme and should draw on the open market for recruiting their officers for the Civil services. Sir, I move.

THE HONOURABLE RAJA CHARANJIT SINGH (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I agree with my Honourable friend the Mover of this Resolution that appointments to the civil administration should be made through the Federal Public Service Commission. But I am afraid there seems to be some misapprehension regarding the employment of military officers. I do not think it is the intention of the Honourable Mover that service in the Army should be considered a disqualification. Those who enter the Army have to appear before one of the Selection Boards appointed by the G. H. Q. and have to undergo certain out-door and intelligence tests. If they pass these tests, then they are given a commission. If later on any of them wants to be transferred to the civil side, he is not transferred straightaway. He has to appear again before the Federal Public Service Commission Selection Board just

[Raja Charanjit Singh.]

like other candidates. Only those who come out successful are transferred to the civil side. I am sure this is what the Honourable Mover would like the procedure to be.

*THE HONOURABLE SIR A. P. PATRO (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, we are beginning to see that already so many people are being dumped into the services of the country. To bring this sort of army personages brought into competition for the civil service is one thing that I cannot understand. The Indian Civil Service is intended for civil service, civil work and these people who are in the army ought to be given army appointments and not civil appointments. What is the training that they would possess? The training would not be sufficient for the purpose of civil work. It is not a desirable thing that they should be brought into the civil side. They have not got the training and the qualifications required for the civil side. They are really soldiers who are brought into the civil side. This is rather an anomaly. They are soldiers and their tendency is to do justice summarily. Is the administration to be conducted in a summary fashion or is it to be conducted on administrative principles and justice and equity? This method of bringing army men into civil jobs is dangerous. We are asked by the Secretary of State whether among Indians there are properly trained people to occupy positions of importance here. But without any question whatever the Secretary of State wants to dump military people here. Is it just from the point of view of the present day administration. The administration consists of bureaucratic arrangements. It has nothing to do with the people or their convenience. Bureaucrats can have their own way. It is true that this is only a temporary arrangement. But how long will this go on? It is not stated. Therefore temporary reinforcements will become permanent in the course of a few months. Everything in this country is started on a temporary basis, but they become permanent. With regard to taxation also, temporary taxation becomes ultimately permanent. It is the same case with regard to these appointments. They will be permanent soon. What is the need for temporary reinforcement? Is there any such necessity? Are not Indians available to occupy these positions? Is India so denuded of people that you have to bring in these army people. It seems to me that the Government should see that temporary reinforcement of civil administration by transfer of Army officers is not made. They have a line cut out for them. To bring in military men for civil appointments seems to me to be absurd. The administration will not be able to do justice to the vast civilian people. It seems to me that the whole thing is absurd. We never gave our consent to it and we would protest against any attempt by the Government to bring in the army people into the civil service. We have enough personnel in the civil service. We want to have civil service tried in civilian work. We want to have propositions in order to see that the civil service is not in the form in which it was conducted, and we want to abolish the civil service. And it seems to me absurd to bring in a proposition of this kind and I hope Government will think twice before they make an attempt of this kind.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH (Home Secretary): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel it is incumbent on me to intervene in this debate earlier than I should otherwise have done partly because of the observations made by my Honourable friend Sir A. P. Patro. Sir A. P. Patro is an old friend of mine, and from my knowledge of him I should have expected him to have, shall I say, acquainted himself more fully with the details of the scheme before he attacked it in the manner that he did. My Honourable friend Mr. Kalikar has shot at me a series of rhetorical questions which also reveal that he is unfortunately not cognizant of the details or the object of the scheme. It is for this reason that I have taken the rather unusual step of addressing the House at an early stage in the debate.

One of the questions which my Honourable friend Mr. Kalikar addressed to me was intended to lead to the inference that Government had not given full consideration to the matter before they had recourse to this purely temporary scheme

*Not corrected by the Honourable Member.

of reinforcement of the civil administration. Now, Sir, I am reminded of an interesting debate which took place on the floor of this House in 1941 on a Resolution moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Sapru. He will no doubt remember that debate; it was an almost historic one, being punctuated throughout by communal explosions on the part of my Honourable friend, Mr. Hossain Imam. During that debate, in which Government were asked to suspend recruitment of Europeans to the I. C. S. for the period of the war, I made it clear that I felt the gravest forebodings as regards what would happen if, as then seemed likely, Government were compelled to suspend wholly, or in part, recruitment to the Civil Services. Well, those forebodings have been fulfilled in the sense that the full effect of stopping recruitment for civil services, that is, permanent recruitment, has now begun to be felt, and felt very severely, both at the Centre and in the provinces. I only mention this to show that the charge of not having given full consideration is quite unjustified. Government had been more than aware of what they were doing all the way through. I think, Sir, the best possible way of approaching this Resolution is for me to tell the House what exactly we are doing. It is perfectly clear to me from what has been said that Honourable Members, at any rate those who have so far spoken, do not fully understand the position. I may say at once that the Secretary of State is in no way responsible for this temporary scheme. Possibly consideration for an old friend made my Honourable friend Sir A. P. Patro blame the Secretary of State rather than the Home Department; but the fact remains that the responsibility is ours.

THE HONOURABLE SIR A. P. PATRO: Therefore, all the more necessary to condemn you.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH: Yes, I stand condemned in the estimation of my Honourable friend, but not in my own.

Sir, I had hoped that after the full information I gave in response to questions on the floor of this House, and more particularly after the statement made by His Excellency the War Member on that occasion, my Honourable friend would not have pressed this Resolution. But in spite of the information which I gave him and which I had hoped would have convinced him, he has unfortunately remained unconvinced and has pressed his Resolution.

Sir, the facts are that these army officers are being temporarily released from the army for the period during which they serve in the civil administration. I stress the word " temporary ", because it is a purely temporary scheme. They are not becoming members of the services. My Honourable friend Sir A. P. Patro definitely talked about their becoming members of the services. They are not even temporary members of the services.

THE HONOURABLE SIR A. P. PATRO: They are.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH: I beg to differ from the Honourable Member. I ought to know, being responsible anyhow for part of the scheme. They are being posted, to Provincial Governments chiefly, to hold posts where they are most needed and for which their qualifications best suit them. Now, what we had in mind particularly was that these army officers, who have had some training and will not therefore be raw in the sense that the men taken from the open market are raw, should be used to some extent to relieve regular members of the I. C. S. and Indian Police and other services to enable those officers who are now doing jobs, for example, in Civil Supplies, in posts outside the regular line, to go back to their regular jobs in the administration. The officers who are so posted cease for the time being to be members of the armed forces; they become temporary members of the civil administration. As for the period of their employment, it has been stated in the Army Order that they will serve for the period of the war in the Far East and for a certain period thereafter. The reason for that is that we anticipate that immediately after the war is over a number of officers will retire and a lot of officers will want to take leave, and on top of all that, we shall not have the normal recruits, who would have been under training in the ordinary way for the last two or three years, coming in to take their places. My Honourable friend Sir A. P. Patro is unconvinced—I see that he is shaking his head.

[Mr. E. Conran-Smith.]

That is, broadly, the intention of the scheme, and in the light of it I would like to deal with the three main objections which have been taken by the Honourable the Mover. The first is that Government should have had recourse to the open market. The second, I regret to say, was based on a racial argument ; and the last was, if I understood rightly, broadly that the machinery of selection was not the right one. Well, as I said at the beginning of my remarks, the rhetorical questions addressed to me by the Honourable Mr. Kalikar showed that he had not himself appreciated in the least what the present position is or what the difficulties are. He quoted something from 1933 which struck me, with all respect, as completely irrelevant. The situation in 1933 was entirely different from what it is in 1944. There was no totalitarian world war in 1933 and what he said in that regard was really beside the point.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : I do not think my Honourable friend has understood me. What I said was that in 1933, the then Commander-in-Chief also said that he was not getting sufficient number of right type of recruits to man the Defence Services of India, and that therefore he had to reduce the number to sixty. But this theory has been exploded in this war. Under this scheme the civil authorities or the Home Department say that they are not getting the right type of officers from the open market, and that therefore they are getting officers from the Army.

1 P.M.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : I have understood my friend perfectly correctly. The reason given according to him on that occasion is, as I shall explain, entirely different from the reasons compelling us now to have recourse to the Army for reinforcement of the civil administration. The position is that the demands on the open market by the Armed Forces and allied organisations have depleted that market of the right type of candidates whom we would desire to have for the civil administration. Now, my Honourable friend has painted a rosy picture, there is no other word to describe it, of the conditions in the open market. But if he were responsible for finding people in that market to hold civil posts temporarily, he would find that the real story is a different one. I am speaking with authority. The Federal Public Service Commission and some Provincial Governments who are in the best position to judge because they are the actual authorities to recruit these officers, say that the number of suitable candidates coming forward for these temporary posts is inadequate. Had we been able to get from the open market enough qualified candidates, we should not have gone to the military authorities and asked them to spare—I use the word 'spare' deliberately—some officers to help us to carry on the administration until regular recruitment can be resumed. I should add perhaps that it is, of course, partly because these posts are temporary that the right type of young men are not coming forward. What we are getting, and hope to get, from the Army is exactly the type of young Indian who would have been competing for the civil services had it not been for the suspension of recruitment. Those are the people who would have been coming forward, and those are the people we hope to get. I am aware that Government have themselves created the present situation because they agreed to suspend recruitment, but in the dark days of 1942 first things came first, and there was no doubt that if the free flow of recruits for Emergency Commissions was not to be impeded, it was essential to suspend civil recruitment, so that the attractions of a settled civil career would not impede the free flow of recruits to the Army. As I said, when we did that, we realised that, as years went on, the strain on the civil administration would become more and more severe. I believe that Honourable Members know that a Service can in such circumstances carry on for a year or two, but it does so in the expectation—that fresh men will be trained and be available in two or three years time to fill ordinary posts in the administration. In the circumstances of suspended recruitment, however, that of course does not happen.

I referred just now to the fact that we hoped to get the same type of men as would have been applying for civil posts in the ordinary way. I should add that we also hope to get a leavening of older men who have had some experience, possibly of supply work, and that leads me to a further important point which my Honourable friend Sir Patro overlooked, and certainly the Mover too, and that is that the provinces, particularly Bengal, were clamorously demanding, reinforcements of

experienced men. All provinces are short of manpower, and there are limits to the demands which we can place on them for reinforcement of Bengal. So, apart from anything else, we had to find, as far as we could, experienced men to keep the administration in Bengal going. Now, I suggest to my Honourable friend, Mr. Kalikar, that when Bengal was crying for help, for us to have told them to go and recruit more raw hands in the open market would have been a poor solution for which they would not have thanked us. What we did was the only possible thing to do : we made demands on the Army for men, with some experience as far as possible, and we gave Bengal priority. As I told the House the other day, the first batch of recruits from the Army were sent to Bengal.

I do not propose to say very much on the subject of the 50/50 ratio except to express my regret that Mr. Kalikar thought fit to introduce this argument in respect of a strictly temporary scheme at a time when we are engaged in a war against a common enemy. I would again refer to what H. E. the War Member said the other day when he told the House that the Civil and Military authorities were co-operating in a common effort against a common enemy. That, I think, is the answer to my Honourable friend, Mr. Kalikar.

I would also ask whether if his house were burning or if he were being attacked by a burglar, he would complain because the man who helped him was white. What we are in fact doing is carrying out the first duty of a State in time of war, which is to make the best use of the man power available where it is most wanted.

I could not in the least follow why my Honourable friend said that young men were being discouraged by this policy. In so far as our policy has definitely been to encourage them to go into the Army, they have of course been discouraged from going into civil jobs, and that I think is a short answer to what Mr. Kalikar said.

The last objection raised was to the method of selection. Well, Sir, the method we are employing retains the merits of recruitment through the Commission, and at the same time it is believed to be more thorough and searching than a simple interview would be. Obviously a competitive examination is out of the question. I believe it is a general experience that this type of selection board assisted by psychiatrists and psychologists has proved a satisfactory method of selection for what we may call reconstruction services or temporary services. The connection with the Commission is, of course, kept up by the fact that the Chairman of the Commission is president of the Board.

I do not think my Honourable friend wants me to answer all his rhetorical questions, although I have made some notes of them. He asked Government whether in their opinion the present members of the Services were or were not efficient and if they in any way mismanaged the administration of the country. My answer to the latter is of course in the negative. To this next question, " Are you afraid of open competition " the answer is " No,". To his question, " Is it a fact that the Army do not require any more officers ?" The answer is that the Army do, and that is why we are maintaining our principle of making no permanent appointments at present to the Civil Services. He also spoke of the transfer of Army officers. That is, of course, an incorrect description. They are not being transferred ; they are being temporarily released, to be used in the civil administration during this time of crisis.

I think I have covered most of the points made by the speeches so far delivered and I hope I have cleared the misunderstandings which were obviously in the minds of the Honourable Sir A. P. Patro as well as of the Honourable the Mover. If I have not, and if there are any more points of doubt, I trust I may have an opportunity of clearing them later. I would also express the hope that I have now convinced the Honourable Mr. Kalikar that Government were discharging their responsibility for efficient administration in the only possible way in the circumstances of the war.

The Council then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Council re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, the Honourable the Chairman (the Honourable Mr. M. N. Dalal) in the Chair.

*THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (United Provinces Southern : Non-Muhammadan) : Mr. Chairman, the Honourable Mr. Conran-Smith intervened,

*Not corrected by the Honourable Member.

[Mr. P. N. Sapru.]

and intervened at an early stage of the debate, to explain what he considers is the position in regard to the temporary employment of army officers in the civil services. He has told us that the scheme which has been adopted by Government is of a purely temporary nature. He has referred to a Resolution of mine in 1941—I think I moved that Resolution on the 27th of March or 27th of February 1941—in which I had advocated temporary suspension of the British element in the services. Now, as he knows, the Resolution did not suggest complete suspension. It suggested suspension of British recruitment and he opposed that Resolution on the ground that by doing so, Government would be pre-judging the constitutional issue. I do not think, Sir, that he can use legitimately that Resolution as an argument against the point of view which Mr. Kalikar has taken——

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : On a point of explanation, Sir, I did not intend that at all. I was merely referring to the Resolution to recall to my Honourable friend's mind the views which I had then expressed as to the effect on the civil administration of suspending a large part of permanent recruitment.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : We knew in 1941 what the effect of suspension of recruitment on the civil administration would be and therefore we suggested a different method of solving that problem. What we suggested was this. Suspend recruitment by all means in England and recruit entirely in India. He told us that army officers are being only temporarily employed. They will be temporarily relieved of their army duties during the time that they serve in civil administration. But this temporary period is going to last till the end of the war and for some time after and you need army officers in war time and some time after. The position is this. Either the army is over-staffed, either you have more officers than you need in the army, or it is not over-staffed. The fact that you can spare a number of officers from the army shows that the army is over-staffed. I confess I am unable to see what the fallacy in my argument is. If you can spare about 500 odd men from the army, obviously the army has 500 odd more officers than it needs. You say you are not dispensing with their services in the army ; you are only relieving them temporarily of their duties in the army, so that they may be able to devote their time and energy to civil administration. While the reason why you have expanded the army in this country is that there is a war on, if you can spare 500 men from the army, it follows—and I hope that that is not the conclusion to which the Honourable Mr. Conran-Smith wishes us to be driven—that there are more officers in the army than the army needs ; otherwise, how can you spare anyone ? The other argument that he used is that the provinces need men, particularly Bengal. We had the Bengal famine and a number of officers are needed to cope with the difficulties of administration in these days and that the best type of person is going into the army and it is difficult to get through the competitive examination the proper type of person today for the civil services. That, I think, is the argument here. I am reading from the Press communique :—

"Continuing demands made on the open market both by the armed forces and by organisations ancillary thereto have seriously reduced the man-power of suitable calibre available for recruitment to civil posts and Government have been obliged to turn to the Army as the only source from which adequate reinforcements can now be obtained."

Now, I shall examine this argument a little more closely. Let us take the figures of students at our universities. Can it be said that during war-time the number of students at the universities has declined ? There is a tendency even in war-time for the number of students in universities to go up. And, after all, you recruit your men from the universities and colleges and schools. If it can be shown that, as a matter of fact, in spite of recruitment to the army, the number of candidates in the universities and colleges and schools has not declined, then I think it is a legitimate inference that the quality will not suffer if you recruit your services in the old way. There is no reason to think that the quality of the first-class men at the universities has declined as a result of the war or as a result of young Indians joining the army in large numbers. There is a sufficient amount of talent in our educational institutions to man the civil services.

Sir, I quite agree that we need a large number of our young men to join army careers. The Honourable Mr. Kalikar and the Honourable Pandit Kunzru have taken a good deal of interest in the question of the Indianization of the army, but I think simultaneously with the Indianization of the army the Indianization of the civil services can also proceed. The fact that you are recruiting 1,000 or 500 Indian officers for the army is not likely to affect recruitment for the civil services. It has not been shown that the quality of recruitment for the services would have suffered if recruitment had been confined to the civil side and you had recruited your men in the ordinary way through the Public Service Commission by open competition, with such communal adjustments as you might have considered necessary.

Sir, another argument which has been used is that the type of officer proposed to be selected is exactly the type which would have been competing for posts under the civil Government. But the answer to this line of argument would be this. This type of officer will have an opportunity after the war of competing for the civil positions, for I think in his case some concessions in regard to age are going to be made. Therefore he is not going to be deprived of any opportunity of serving in the civil services because he happens to be serving in the army today. The opportunity of serving in the civil services is not being denied to him because he is serving temporarily in the army today.

Before I sit down I should like, if you will permit me, to make one or two observations. The Honourable Member Mr. Conran-Smith referred to the question of ratio, and he was surprised that the Honourable Mr. Kalikar should have brought up the question of ratio——

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : Not surprised. Distressed.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : I hope my Honourable friend Mr. Conran-Smith will forgive me if I say that it is racialism for anyone to be distressed at the idea that we want the ratio to be disturbed. We want that ratio to be disturbed very violently, because India is the land of Indians and Indians have a right to rule this country, wisely or unwisely. We want to be in our country what you are in your country, and if you claim to be fighting for freedom, if you claim to be fighting for democracy, if you claim to be fighting aggression and all that, you must show in your actual life that you are fighting those very evils in this very country of India. I am rather amazed at this argument. As a matter of fact, we have been very patient on this question of Indianization. An enquiry was to have been instituted in 1942, and that inquiry has not yet materialised. The fact of the mattter is that the war is being used for Europeanizing the services, for dumping upon this country as many Europeans and as many Britishers as possible.

Sir, there were many other arguments, but I will leave them to be dealt with by the Honourable Pandit Kunzru. I should like to say a word about industrial psychology. I am somewhat interested in this question of psychology. I know something of psychology and I know that these tests are extremely difficult and they have not been worked successfully even in older countries. We have not had enough experience of them. If you want to experiment in this country, you can do that, but you must not think that we are taken in by all this cry of experts and industrial psychologists and medical psychologists and health psychologists and all that sort of thing.

Sir, there is still a very great deal to be said on this Resolution. I think this is a very important Resolution, and I congratulate the Honourable Member Sir A. P. Patro on the attitude he has adopted on this Resolution, and I hope that the Honourable Mr. Kalikar will press it to a division.

*THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muhammadan) : Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the Resolution which has been moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Kalikar, but for reasons which may be quite different from those adumbrated by my Honourable friend. Firstly, I find that much stress has been laid on the temporary character of the recruitment which is being made now. But I am afraid that it is simply a guise, and that they will be made permanent. In this I am strengthened by the following statement in the Press Communiqué :

*Not corrected by the Honourable Member.

[Mr. Hossain Imam.]

Such officers selected as are otherwise qualified and willing will be eligible to compete along with other eligible candidates for vacancies reserved for men with war service. Now how can two men start on an equal footing when one has a previous record to show and the other has a blank card attached to his name ? It is natural that those who have been in temporary service will be preferred, if not by the authorities in India, by the authorities in England, because after all recruitment for the I. C. S. and other central services will, I am afraid, still continue to be in the hands of the Secretary of State for India. It is not contemplated by the Home Department that the Provincial Governments will have the right of selecting these people. If it is the intention of Government that this power should be transferred to the provinces my opposition may not be as great as it is now, but I am afraid that it is not the intention of Government. It is simply a sort of opiate that is being offered to us to lull us.

Then, Sir, another argument which has been brought forward is that what is required is men with mature experience, but there is no mention in the qualifications that they must be above a certain age.

THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU : They can be up to 50.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : But no lower limit has been fixed, say, a man of 25 will be eligible for the post, and where will be the leavening of older and more experienced men. This point has been cited as a reason for bringing military men.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : That is one reason.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : And the other reason is quite against this. You state that you have to recruit from the Army because the eligible men have joined the Army. That means you want only junior men with three or four years' service. One is against the other. You must decide for yourself if you want young men—there is no dearth of them in India—or if you want older men, they too can be supplied. I would remind him that such a thing as listed posts existed in his service and in other services, and that provincial service men promoted to them were eligible to occupy posts ordinarily reserved for the Central Services. Now he could have taken either of the two courses—either permanently take over some of the experienced Provincial Service men in the I. C. S. posts by increasing the number of listed posts or he could have given them an officiating chance. There is a large recruitment of young men for Services in the provinces on a temporary basis, and the provinces would therefore have been able to spare their senior Provincial Service men for service in the I. C. S.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : They are being taken.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Increase their number and thereby you get the number of experienced people required.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : Their number is limited.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : It is only in this country, and owhere else in the British Empire, that I have heard of military men being taken or civil needs during war time. Movement here is the other way about. In the last war we had civilians and other Central Service men joining the war. In war time requirements of the fighting services have a greater and more paramount claim on the reserves of good and able people. What I am afraid of is that this is a convenient method of dumping, as I said the other day, of undesirables in the Army, and that the policy of Government is that safe berths should be found for these people. The other day we heard with the greatest reverence from a high military authority occupying the highest pinnacle of his service in India, and it is in keeping with that that we are fighting the steel frame strengthened by sabre steel.

Then, Sir, I have a particular objection to make. Government's ways are, like the ways of Providence, un-understandable. They first of all lay down communal reservation, but when it comes to action conveniently ignore it. This is recruitment, not promotion, and yet the Honourable the Home Secretary refuses to treat it as recruitment.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : It is transfer.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : I am afraid that this is legal quibbling. Had it been transfer there would have been no Selection Board. You have given up your case for transfer by creating a Selection Board and appointing as its President the President of the Federal Public Service Commission.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : Then it is promotion.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : If it is meant to be promotion, then it is the wrong route. For a military man promotion is to the generalship and not to the civilian side. It is demotion in that sense. Instead of being a Colonel the man will be a Mr. The greatest number of posts have been reserved in Bengal cadre, out of 48, 34 appointments have been made in Bengal. That is a province where the Muslim population is more than 50 per cent., and I do not know how small will be the proportion of Muslim officers seconded to Civil Service there. I do expect that Government would at least honour its own pledges and its own promises, but in these days of war when treaties have become scraps of paper, it is no wonder that all the notifications of the Home Department are conveniently forgotten and neglected by the Home Department itself.

Sir, I find that there is another move under this guise to which I have to take serious objection. This war is not a war primarily for the safety of India alone. It is a war of Great Britain, and as an imperiali tic war the finding of employment for military personnel should not be the responsibility of the Government of India alone. His Majesty's Government also owes it to the European Army personnel that it should take thos people who are now serving i the Indian Army in its service —if not in Dominions because it cannot do so—at least in Crown Colonies and Protectorates. Thus, the European personnel should be provided for in these possessions of the British Empire and not in India. We have enough men in our own Army, Indian officers that we cannot find employment for them all, and the least that we can do to our young men who have joined the Army is that we should reserve posts in the Central Services for them. I am not asking British Government to provide berths to Indian fficers in the British Crown Colonies. They can equiably decide it in this way—that European personnel will be provided for in the Britsih Colonies, and India personnel in India itself. Sir, I do not think that the Government are doing the right thing in taking away men with military experience to the civil side right at a time when we have to face a determined enemy at our doors and when the proportion of Indians to Europeans is already not sufficient and satisfactory. If this is a method of, as I call, dumping of undesirables, then I would protest that the civilian services should not be regarded as a dumping ground. Therefore, Sir, I support this Resolution.

*THE HONOURABLE SARDAR BAHADUR SIR SOBHA SINGH (Nominated Non-Official) : Mr. Chairman, I had no idea of speaking on this Resolution as I thought that after the Honourable Mr. Conran-Smith's explanation, my Honourable friend the Mover will withdraw his Resolution. Brilliant young men, who ought to have been a credit to any service, have joined the Army. They have offered themselves for service not for their own sake but for the sake of their country. I am glad that these young men, who are M.A.'s and M.Sc.'s, fit to sit for any I. C. S. or any higher Civil Service examination, have gone to the Army and if the opportunity arises they should be absorbed if they are suitable for the Civil Service. They should not be deprived of that opportunity because they have joined the Army. I can assure my Honourable friend that these young men, as I know, are full of character. They have joined the Army, they have learnt discipline, they have got a sense of duty in them and they will be the pride of any Service to which they go. My Honourable friend Mr. Sapru has suggested that we should support this Resolution very strongly. I think there is some mistake somewhere. It is really a storm in a tea cup. These are young men fit to go into any Service and we should not press a Resolution like this. We should encourage them so that another batch of young civilians may follow them with full qualifications.

THE HONOURABLE SIR N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR (Madras : Non-Muhammadan) : Mr. Chairman, I have found some difficulty in appreciating the case that has been attempted to be made out for this new method of recruitment

*Not corrected by the Honourable Member.

[Sir N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar.]

by my Honourable friend Mr. Conran-Smith. I propose in the few remarks that I shall address to the House to confine myself, as far as possible, to what might be termed the purely service point of view. I understand, Sir, that the difficulty which was attempted to be met by this new method of recruitment was the lack of a sufficient number of officers to man responsible posts in the Provinces, a situation that has arisen because of the drafting of a number of them to special jobs due to war conditions. If that is so, Sir, I should like to know whether all these officers are intended for service only in the Provinces, and whether it is not the intention to recruit some of them for posts at the Centre. That is one point which requires to be cleared up.

The second thing that I was unable to follow was the proposition, both in the Press Communiqué and in the Honourable Mr. Conran-Smith's speech, that the Provincial Governments expressed a wish to get a certain number of elderly men for holding responsible jobs under them——

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH: Not elderly—a leavening of older men.

THE HONOURABLE SIR N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR: I daresay, if the definition of "elderly" is something which exceeds 60 years of age, many of the Members of this House might qualify for that description though they will probably not be eligible for recruitment under this scheme because the maximum age limit is fixed there at 50. But, whatever it is, where the age of retirement is something like 55 in this country, a limit of 50 might be considered elderly from a purely service point of view. But, what they want is a set of older people for holding jobs of responsibility higher than the lowest. It is apparently intended that, by means of this recruitment and after obtaining the benefit of psychiatrist tests, you are going to recruit people whom you will insert practically in the middle of a Service. I quite realise that the Honourable Mr. Conran-Smith anticipated an objection of this sort and said that these persons will not be regular members of the Service. That may be so, but the fact would remain that several of them would certainly occupy posts which Members of the regular Services will occupy only after they have put in a certain number of years of service. Let us assume that they are appointed, say, as Deputy Commissioners or Collectors in the various Provinces. They are inserted in the middle of a Service to posts to which a number of people in the lower ranks of the regular Service look forward for promotion. It may be that, according to peace-time standards, these junior people might not be considered old enough, or to have been in service long enough, for promotion to these higher posts in the cadre. But, is it not better, Sir, to get a man with some length of service, who has done the work of that Service for a number of years, to man the higher jobs in the cadre than to take a man from the Army, albeit after psychiatrist tests, put him through perhaps a year or 18 months' training—I do not know for how long—and then make him go and take charge of a district? This is a disservice done to the regular members of a particular Service.

There is another point, a point which to some extent has been anticipated by my Honourable friend Mr. Hossain Imam. I believe the two main Services that the Honourable Mr. Conran-Smith mentioned were the I. C. S. and the Indian Police Service. Both these Services have got not only an all-India section but also a Provincial section, and the existing ranks of these two sections of the Services discharge practically identical duties. If you come across a situation when you cannot find enough members of the all-India Service for manning the higher posts of the Province, you should increase the number of Provincial Service men in these two Services and ask them to take up posts of responsibility which under normal conditions would have been held by members of the all-India Services. It certainly would have made for greater efficiency of work if that had been done. In my own Province of Madras—I believe it is the case in most other Provinces—I believe that a considerable number of I. C. S. officers have been drafted for duties away from the districts. The district posts are now manned by members of the provincial services and they certainly have not let down the civil administration. I think they have given a very good account of themselves. Why did you not take the normal method of filling up vacancies in all-India services by increased promotion of provincial

service men and why do you travel outside the ranks of the civil services and go to the army for getting people, raw, unaccustomed to civil administration, and people who after all will give you certainly less efficient work than you could expect from people who have been trained for it all their lives ? It may be that in consequence in the lower ranks of the provincial service there might be vacancies but I do not think even the Honourable Mr. Conran-Smith can contend that you cannot recruit from the open market, men for the lower ranks of the——

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : Not for temporary recruitment.

THE HONOURABLE SIR N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR : If the Honourable Mr. Conran-Smith could give me credit for some experience, for knowledge of the conditions of the country, I can tell you that you can get thoroughly competent men for temporary gazetted posts wherever you throw them open to recruitment. There are enough men in the country for all your requirements.

Then, Sir, it was said that the army and the civil administration have co-operated to meet an emergency which there was no other means of meeting under present conditions. Now, Sir, I believe—I am speaking here subject to correction—that in the army, thanks to the war, we are now building up a corps of Indian officers The number of Indian officers holding high army officer posts is still very small and most of our Indian Army officers hold posts of lesser rank. It is our ambition, and it is our intention, that in the interests of the future of the Indian Army we should develop a corps of Indian officers who at no distant time will occupy the very highest posts in the army. I am not raising the racial question ; I am not referring to the European element in the Indian Army or in the civil services. But I confine myself only to the Indian ranks of the two services. Now, if you recruit from the higher ranks of the army, taking people who are anywhere near 50, you cannot get officers of standing in the Indian Army of sufficient numbers for the Commander-in-Chief to spare any considerable proportion of them for civil duties. I am talking only of Indians. If that is so, and if he is able to spare some of them, it would mean you would have a lesser number of Indian officers in the higher ranks than you have at the present day and you would certainly thereby lengthen the time at which you can hope to see Indians occupying the very highest posts in the army. If you go down to the lower ranks of army officers, probably many of them have put in only service extending to say something from 2, 3 to 10 years. What is it that you are going to do with these people ? It is said in the Press Communiqué that the combined demand of the civil services and the commissioned rank of the Indian Army on the market for recruitment was such that it could not meet it. If you take away a certain number of officers from the junior ranks of the Indian Army, either you are going to recruit fresh men to take their places in the Indian Army or you are going to leave those posts unfilled. If you are going to recruit fresh people to take their places in the Indian Army, it means you are not reducing the pressure on this common market. If, on the other hand, you are going to leave them unfilled, was there any difficulty, assuming that you are able to satisfy army requirements after having spared these numbers from the ranks of Indian officers, was there anything which prevented you from reducing the numbers required for recruitment to the Indian Army and throw the difference on the market for civil recruitment and re-open recruitment for the civil service to that extent ? I am confining myself only to Indian recruitment. It has been therefore a matter of great difficulty for me to follow the proposition which the Honourable the Home Secretary tried to put forward, namely, that the method that the Government of India have adopted is the only method of meeting a situation which was acutely difficult for them to meet. I do not expect that there will be any Indian officer who would be senior enough and who would occupy a post of sufficient rank in the army to be selected by this method of recruitment coming to occupy a high civil post, say, at the Centre or even at a provincial headquarters. But the question arises, if you want to give posts in the services which would be fitting, which would correspond to the rank which a man has held in the army, the people who are likely to benefit from that sort of recruitment will be only the non-Indian element which is recruited from the army. We have I believe, for instance, a Lieutenant-General who is a Secretary to the Government of India ; it may be you may get a Lieutenant-Colonel

[Sir N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar.]

and others who might become Deputy Secretaries and Joint Secretaries and so forth. If that should happen, Sir, I think it would be an added injury to the members of the regular services who by the amount and efficiency of their work have been qualifying themselves for the very highest posts in the civil services. I think, Sir, that I must say that I have not been convinced of the case which has been made for this recruitment.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Mr. Chairman, my Honourable friend Mr. Conran-Smith has opposed the Resolution moved by the Honourable Mr. Kalikar mainly on two grounds. It was necessary for Government to obtain the desired number of officers for the commissioned ranks of the army. In order to recruit these officers they decided in 1942 to stop recruitment to the superior services. If the old method of recruiting candidates for the civil services is resumed, it might impede the flow of recruits into the army. That was, I believe, the first reason given by him for opposing Mr. Kalikar's Resolution. The second ground was that the men whom Government were now trying to select for responsible posts in the civil services would normally have been the men who would have offered themselves for such positions. To summarise what he has said, there is no valid reason for objecting to the method adopted by Government partly because it is necessary to ensure that the war effort is not hampered and partly because the candidates who will be selected by the Government will be of the same calibre as would have been obtained had another method of selection been adopted. Mr. Chairman, even at the present time, when, according to my Honourable friend Mr. Conran-Smith, the Federal Public Service Commission and the Provincial Governments have reported that the supply of suitable candidates for responsible civil posts of a temporary character is very limited, Government are recruiting civilians for temporary jobs. They have not adopted the principle that every man must first join the army and that he should subsequently be drafted to civil posts only with the consent of the military authorities. They have not yet announced that they will select candidates for temporary posts in future entirely through the army. They cannot therefore urge as a matter of principle that it was necessary for them to ask the military authorities to spare a certain number of officers to occupy civil posts which could not be left vacant any longer.

Again, Sir, I cannot accept the argument of my Honourable friend opposite that the supply of qualified candidates for responsible positions is utterly inadequate to the needs of the situation. Before I accept the assertion of the Home Secretary, I should like to know what efforts were made by Government to secure candidates of the proper standard. Did they approach the universities from which before the war candidates for the superior civil services were drawn ? Did they ask the Vice-Chancellors to help them in this connection ? If they did not do so, I do not think that they can fairly argue that at the present time, had they adopted a different method, they would not have been able to obtain the desired number of recruits with proper qualifications.

Sir, in viewing the question before us, we must bear in mind the cardinal fact that the military authorities have not willingly allowed military officers to apply for civil jobs. It is quite apparent from what my Honourable friend Mr. Conran-Smith said today and from what fell from the lips of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief three or four days ago that the military authorities have agreed to release a certain number of officers temporarily only under compulsion. It is an open secret that the army has not got as many officers as it needs. If it is under-manned, on what grounds can the civil authorities put pressure on His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to allow a few hundred military officers to be appointed to civil posts ? When this consideration is taken into account along with the other arguments urged by me, it seems that the Government have adopted not merely an unnecessary but a wholly unjustifiable course.

I have another reason also for strongly condemning the method that the Government have chosen. I am not opposed to the men who have joined the army being offered opportunities of getting permanent appointments in the civil services. We have asked our educated young men to choose a military career, even though it may be of a temporary nature ; we have asked them in the interests of the country to acquire military training and to fit themselves for the leadership of their own

army. We cannot therefore shut the avenues leading to civil appointments to these young men. But my Honourable friend Mr. Kalikar has not proposed that Indian military officers should never be given an opportunity of applying for civil jobs; all that he has suggested is that there should be no reservation for them and that as far as possible candidates for civil posts should be chosen from amongst civilians at the present time.

4 P. M.

I shall now proceed to state another ground on which I am opposed to the course which Government have adopted. His Excellency the Viceroy in his address to the Central Legislature in February last assured all those who had joined the army and helped Government in carrying on of the war, that their interests would not be neglected after the war. Apart from this we know that special efforts are being made in every province to provide for the settlement of the demobilised soldiers. In other ways too attention is being paid by Provincial authorities to the needs of the demobilised soldiers. To give only one instance of what I mean, the Governor of the United Provinces, referring to post-war educational expansion, said that whatever limitations financial grounds might impose, he hoped that it would at least be possible to extend education in those districts from which soldiers had been recruited, so that their sons might receive that education in the early years of their life to which the services of their fathers entitled them. I suspect in view of all this, that it is the intention of Government, or that Government are feeling their way towards the appointment of military officers permanently in the civil services on the excuse that they would be needed for many years to protect the interests of the soldiers. I am afraid, Sir, that I have exhausted my time, but if you will be so indulgent as to give me three or four minutes more, I hope that neither you nor the House will regret it. I feel that Government, by trying to appoint a certain number of officers drawn from the Army to civil posts, are trying to test public opinion: they are trying to see to what extent this innovation would be acceptable to the public. I do not know whether the suspicion which I have just given expression to, is well-founded or not. I personally think that there is every fear that military officers might be permanently added to the civil cadres in order ostensibly to protect the interests of the soldiers, but in reality to militarise the administration, if I may say so, to a certain extent. The danger, in my opinion, is not an imaginary one, and we cannot therefore object too strongly to the present method of selection.

There is still one more point which I should like to state before I sit down. My Honourable friend, Mr. Conran-Smith, referred to the difficulty of obtaining suitable recruits from civil sources now, and deprecated opposition to the Government's move on racial grounds. I wish to say nothing with regard to the first point, because it has been ably dealt with by several speakers, particularly by my Honourable friend Sir Gopalaswami Ayyangar. I see no reply to his argument that if there is a paucity of men in the higher ranks of the civil services there is no reason why Government should not obtain men from the Provincial Civil Services and no great strain would be thrown on any Provincial Civil Service in this way. The communiqué refers not to the I. C. S. and the Indian Police but to as the civil services, but if there are a number of civil services for which men are needed, it is possible for Government, without putting an undue strain on the Provincial Services, to choose a small number of men from each of the appropriate Provincial Services from which officers can be selected and fill up the vacancies in the higher ranks. Again, I should like to ask in this connection a question: why is a leavening of older and more experienced men needed if their services are required only temporarily. We know that young men who joined the I. C. S. were put in charge of districts with a service of 5 to 8 years only. When the Islington Commission took evidence it was found that as a rule men with 6 or 7 years experience began to officiate as Collectors. Well, if you can appoint raw young men, to such responsible posts as those of Collectors, why can't you take young men from the Universities or from the Provincial Services and appoint them to the posts that are now vacant?

As regards the racial argument, I will point out to my Honourable friend opposite that the reason for which the combined competitive examination for the I. C. S. was stopped was a large increase in the number of successful Indian candidates. This argument may not have been put forward explicitly by the higher authorities, but it will be clear to anybody who considers the facts that competition was favoured

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.]

so long as the number of Indian candidates was small, and that it was stopped when it was found that a much larger number of Indians was succeeding than was desired by the higher authorities. I do not, therefore, think that my Honourable friend has the slightest ground for objecting to the Honourable Mr. Kalikar's opposition on the score of racialism. It is the existing system that is based on racialism and we have every reason to demand that it should be done away with at least during the war. The British Government may not think very highly of the qualifications of Indians, but, even granting that, the efficiency of the administration will not go down seriously if you increase the number of Indians slightly in the responsible posts for 2 or 3 or 4 years. With these words, Sir, I give my hearty support to this Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. V. KALIKAR : Sir, I regret to state that I am not convinced by the arguments advanced by my Honourable friend Mr. Conran-Smith in opposing my Resolution. I am very grateful to my other friends who have supported me and who have replied fully to the arguments advanced by the Honourable the Home Secretary. They have left practically nothing for me to say in reply. The misunderstanding that I thought was created in the mind of my Honourable friend Sardar Sir Sobha Singh has been fully replied to by my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru. My Honourable friend Mr. Conran-Smith said—if I followed him correctly that if my house is burning and if a white man extinguishes that fire, I should not take objection to it. My answer to that is, " Yes, if a white man has extinguished that fire, I will entertain him to a very good dinner ; I will treat him as my guest ; but I will not allow him to occupy my house as a master. If he wants to occupy the house from which he has extinguished the fire, I will not allow him to do so as a master and I will ask him to go away. I will certainly treat him as a friend and guest but I will not allow him to be a master of my house, though he tried to extinguish the fire in it."

One word more and I have done. These superior services were manned by European officers who had University Degrees. Now, many of these Europeans who have got Emergency Commissions were merely Sargeants. They have no University Degrees. They have been promoted as Emergency Commissioned Officers. I leave it to the supporters of the view of my Honourable friend Mr. Conran-Smith to decide for themselves whether they will be in a position to man the civil administration of this country in this way.

Sir, I am unable to accept the argument of my Honourable friend Mr. Conran-Smith and I press my Resolution to a division.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : Sir, I am afraid that I made a mistake because I assumed too much knowledge of the problems of administration now facing Government on the part of Honourable Members of this House including my Honourable friend Sir Gopalaswami Ayyangar. It is not a fact, as some Honourable Members have apparently assumed, that recruitment in the open market is not going on. Recruitment in the open market is proceeding as far as possible. This temporary scheme is something separate from that. My Honourable friend Sir Gopalaswami Ayyangar, in championing the Provincial Services, brushed aside my reference to the temporary nature of this recruitment and the fact that it is not permanent——

THE HONOURABLE SIR N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR : May I ask, Sir, why he has drawn the inference that I brushed aside his point ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH : I am sorry that the Honourable Member does not like that word but he did retort to me that I might credit him with greater experience. I have known Sir Gopalaswami Ayyangar for a long time. I know he has a great deal of experience. But I think I might say that his experience is not as recent as mine or as that of the Governments who are at present struggling with this problem. Sir Gopalaswami Ayyangar put forward the idea that we should have recourse to promotion of Provincial Service officers, as if it was a new idea which had not occurred to anybody. I can assure my Honourable friend that Provincial Service Officers are being used to the fullest extent and if he wants further proof of that, I would tell him that Provincial Governments, being unable to meet the demand of the Centre for I. C. S. officers, have been asked to let

us have Provincial Service officers to fill I. C. S. posts or to fill posts normally held by I. C. S. officers and more than one Provincial Government have regretted their inability to spare their P. C. S. officers beause they are already fully utilised. That, I think, is a conclusive answer to the point taken by my Honourable friend Sir Gopalaswami Ayyangar.

THE HONOURABLE SIR N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR: I hope the Government of India have examined that contention of Provincial Governments.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH: The Government of India are quite satisfied that Provincial Governments are making the fullest use of their own Services, and let me say this also that it is, I think, generally accepted that dilution by promotion has gone as far as it can be carried.

THE HONOURABLE SIR N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR: I object to that word "dilution".

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH: I am sorry but I do not think there is anything wrong with the word. Dilution by promotion merely means that you promote people to posts which would normally be held by a particular Service. I see nothing at all offensive or wrong in that.

THE HONOURABLE SIR N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR: Dilution implies a weakening, does it not?

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH: I am not going to argue with the Honourable Member, but I suppose in some cases it might mean a weakening, and unfortunately, owing to the strain which has now been thrown on the administration, there is some weakening. It is clear from the speeches of my Honourable friends opposite—I am speaking particularly now of the Honourable Pandit Kunzru—that a great deal of the opposition to this policy proceeds from suspicion. I doubt however, whether Government ever shown such ingenuity as that with which the Honourable Pandit Kunzru has credited us when he suggested that this is a subtle scheme for testing public opinion as regards their reception of a policy of militarisation and of appointing military men for civil posts. Pandit Kunzru himself has put an answer in my mouth when he said that it was quite unjustifiable for Government to press His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to release military officers when it was known that the demand for military officers was still acute. That incidentally answers Mr. Sapru's point. My reply is to ask Honourable Members if they really think that the Civil Government would go to the length of pressing the Commander-in-Chief in the middle of a war to release officers he can ill afford to release if they did not really need them or if the need was not an urgent one. That I think is the short answer to my friend Pandit Kunzru's point. I should like to make one other point clear particularly because it is a point of doubt apparently arising in the minds of those who do not suspect Government in this matter and do not attack their policy. I know they feel some uncertainty on this point. It is whether these military officers who are taken on temporarily will have any superior claim to permanent appointments hereafter. As I have made plain more than once, that is not the intention of Government. The intention is that all people who render military service should, if educationally qualified, be eligible to compete for these war-reserved vacancies and those officers who are taken temporarily to help us when we most need help will be in the same position as other officers who have rendered war service; that is to say, they will compete equally with the latter for these vacancies after the war. That meets in part the point that this was a subtle scheme to make temporary people permanent.

There are one or two individual points. I think I have made it quite clear already that this scheme involves no reflection whatsoever on the existing civil services and we have never said, as Mr. Sapru suggested, that the quality of the candidates now being turned out by the Universities has declined. I would repeat again that the attractions of a temporary post in the Civil Government are not very great and the best men are as we desire, going in to the army. I do not want to deal again with the racial argument, although Pandit Kunzru worked himself up over that subject. My real point is that for a purely temporary scheme like this when you want all the help you can get in a common effort to win the war against a common enemy it is quite unnecessary to attempt to place a ban on the European

[Mr. E. Conran-Smith.]

officer. I made a jesting remark to Mr. Kalikar about a burning house. What I meant was this. When Bengal was suffering from famine and needed all the help she could get, it was not for us or anybody else to object to officres of both races being lent to help her in dealing with her troubles. I mention Bengal because Bengal is the province particularly requiring help in the civil administration. And that leads me on to one more word about an expressio I used—a leavening of older men. A great deal has been made of it. What I had in mind was that Bengal asked for officers with some experience of supply work so that they could employ them in their movement directorate, to deal with the movement of foodgrains. That is what I had in mind when I spoke of a leavening of older men with experience of supply work. The Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam said that the ways of Government were ununderstandable. Quite plainly he had not understood them. I rather gathered from him that if we had applied the communal proportion rules to this recruitment he would have approved of it. I may have misunderstood him, but that is the impression he gave me. Clearly it is unsuitable to apply any sort of communal representation to temporary selection of this nature from the army. He made a very unworthy suggestion about dumping. It is answered by the facts. The facts are that these officers are very carefully tested by the Selection Board, and they are volunteers. Therefore there is no question of anybody dumping anybody on anybody else. That is my short answer to his point.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: After pruning by the Defence Department.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. CONRAN-SMITH: They are all volunteers to start with. The War Department (not the Defence Department) sifts them to see whether they are eligible, whether they belong to a class of officers which is eligible and whether for any particular reason they cannot be spared. There is no ground whatsoever for any inference of dumping to be drawn from that. One question was asked by Sir Gopalaswami Ayyangar which I ought to answer. Are these officers going to be employed in the provinces or in the centre also? My answer is that the demand is mainly from the provinces and the majority so far have been posted there, but we do contemplate taking a few for the Centre, for the Central Government Departments, particularly if we can get officers with technical qualifications, of which there are a certain number applying.

I think, Sir, I have dealt with most of the points that have been raised. The fundamental difference of opinion between us apparently is as regards the availability of suitable young men in the open market and their willingness to come forward to take purely temporary posts. On that I can only say again that those who are most closely in touch with recruiting surely ought to be believed, and both the Commission and some of the Provincial Governments—I do not say all, but some of the Provincial Governments—have referred to the difficulty they find in getting suitable men for the civil services. That is all I have to say, Sir, except that I regret that, for the reasons which I hope I have made clear, Government cannot accept my Honourable friend's Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE THE CHAIRMAN (The Honourable Mr. M. N. Dalal): Resolution moved:—

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council to drop the scheme of temporary reinforcement of the civil administration by transfer of Army Officers and recruit the required personnel for civil administration through the agency of the Federal Public Service Commission."

The question is that the Resolution be adopted.

Question put and the Council divided:

AYES—14

Ali Asgar Khan, Hon. Maulvi.
Ayyangar, Hon. Sir N. Gopalaswami.
Buta Singh, Hon. Sir.
Chettiyar, Hon. Mr. Chidambaram.
Das, Hon. Mr. Mahendra Lal.
Das, Hon. Mr. N. K.
Hossain Imam, Hon. Mr.
Kalikar, Hon. Mr. V. V.
Kameshwar Singh of Darbhanga, Hon. Maharaja dhiraja Sir.
Kunzru, Hon. Pandit Hirday Nath.
Mahtha, Hon. Rai Bahadur Sri Narain.
Motilal, Hon. Mr. G. S.
Roy Chowdhury, Hon. Mr. Susil Kumar.
Sapru, Hon. Mr. P. N.

NOES—22

Charanjit Singh, Hon. Raja.
Chinoy, Hon. Sir Rahimtoola.
Conran-Smith, Hon. Mr. E.
Devadoss, Hon. Sir David.
Ghosal, Hon. Sir Josna.
Gibbons, Hon. Mr. J. M. B.
Hissamuddin Bahadur, Hon. Lt.-Col. Sir.
Hydari, Hon. Sir Akbar.
Jogendra Singh, Hon. Sir.
Jones, Hon. Sir Cyril.
Khurshid Ali Khan, Hon. Nawabzada.
Lal, Hon. Mr. Shavax A.
Mahomed Usman, Hon. Sir.
Mealing, Hon. Mr. K. W.
Menon, Hon. Sir Ramunni.
Mukherjee, Hon. Sir Satya Charan.
Prior, Hon. Mr. H. C.
Ram Chandra, Hon. Mr.
Sethna, Hon. Mr. D. P.
Sen, Hon. Mr. B. R.
Sobha Singh, Hon. Sardar Bahadur Sir.
Warren, Hon. Mr. D. D.

The Motion was negatived.

RESOLUTION *RE* NORTH BIHAR EPIDEMIC

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA (Bihar : Non-Muhammadan) : Mr. Chairman, I move :—

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that steps be taken immediately to give adequate relief to the people of North Bihar, who are suffering on account of the prevalence of epidemics in that area and to remove the causes of the recurrence of epidemic after due investigation."

Sir, this Resolution relates to only one part of a province, but a part which has been very severely hit ; and I hope that members here who come from all over India, in spite of the local nature of the question, will take proper interest in the fate that North Bihar has come to meet.

This is the second time during the last 11 years that Bihar has been faced with a major disaster. We had the earthquake in 1934 which on account of its magnitude and intensity and widespread destruction caused by it cannot be forgotten for centuries, nor are the people of Bihar ungrateful enough to forget the help rendered to them at that time by the Government of India, the Indian National Congress, the Marwari Relief Society, the Servants of India Society and a host of other institutions and individuals. Now after the lapse of ten years it has fallen to the lot of Bihar again to undergo another affliction which is far worse and far more unkind. Those who died during the earthquake did not have to undergo the pangs of a slowly approaching death and did not have to see the sight of their near and dear ones—relatives and friends—lying around them, pining for food and medicines and praying for death as the only means of deliverance. After the earthquake of 1934 the number of deaths officially reported was 7,252. This the then Governor of Bihar described as apalling. This time the number of deaths officially reported up to about the end of first week of August from the epidemics of cholera and malaria was 1 lac, 96 thousand. This the present incumbent of the same high office at a press interview in my town of Muzaffarpur described as disturbing though not appalling. I do not want to quarrel with the words used on the above two occasions by the head of the provincial administration, nor do I want to cast any reflection on one representative of Government as against another. The reason, however, for the difference in the manner of description is obvious. Government could not have been charged with the responsibility of having brought on the earthquake but can legitimately be charged with having brought on the epidemics and having allowed it to ravage the countryside unchecked. All I want to show is the attempt on the part of Government to shirk responsibility for the result of a continued policy of criminally neglecting the work of looking after the health of the people—nutrition, sanitary conditions of living, and medical facilities. The death of two hundred thousand people in the course of a few months in a small part of the country, not resulting from an earthquake or a volcanic eruption, but from epidemics could not have been tolerated in any other country and would have put to shame any civilized Government and would have made them crawl on their knees from door to door asking for forgiveness. Then, Sir, while considering the numbers of deaths let us not forget the system of collecting vital statistics which is not very reliable. Government admitted here day before yesterday how faulty their system of collecting food and crop statistic was. And in Bihar during the epidemics the figure of deaths supplied was so unbelievably low that Government ordered a re-census. It is commonly believed that up to date about 4 lakhs people have died from this year's epidemics.

[Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha.]

In Bihar—particularly in North Bihar—people face every year small scale seasonal epidemics of cholera and malaria and the Government both at Delhi and Patna are quite complacent about it. Even so this year the local authorities in North Bihar did not care when early cases came to their notice and thought perhaps that their reputation for prosecuting war efforts would come to jeopardy if the higher authorities discovered that they were devoting their time to such insignificant matters as epidemics and neglecting the sale of War Bonds and Cash Saving Certificates. The Bihar Press which started publishing reports about the prevalence and severity of the situation was disbelieved and a local Patna daily was warned for indulging in stunts and creating a scare. It was only after H. E. the Governor himself paid a visit to the affected areas and satisfied himself that the number of deaths from Cholera and Malaria had reached an appalling figure of two lacs that the severity of the epidemic came to be placed beyond all manner of doubt. What a tragedy that two lacs of people should die before Government should realise that there is something for them to do or to take notice of! The North Bihar Epidemic Relief Committee was formed on 19th June under the Commissioner, Tirhut Division; and such Congress leaders as had come out of jail formed an all-party committee which they called the Bihar Central Co-ordinating Relief Committee. The Congress had a fund of two lacks known as the Bihar Central Relief Trust Fund which had been confiscated by Government during the last political disturbances. The Ex-Prime Minister and the Ex-Finance Minister of Bihar were appointed President and Secretary of this Committee. The Committee appealed for the release of its funds and workers. Government proceeded in their usual distrustful and ponderous way and released the funds very hesitatingly in instalments and released only a few of the Congress workers, although at a public meeting at Patna on 13th August the Ex-Prime Minister made the most unqualified offer of co-operation.

As a good deal has already appeared in Press and the Honourable Dr. Kunzru will, I hope, say something of what he saw with his own eyes during his extensive tours in the affected areas, I have no intention of taking up the time of the House by relating the plight of individual villages. Suffice it to say that actually there are villages that have lost about one-third or more of their population and there are many families that have been wholly extirpated and without any help in the shape of food or medicine reaching them. In Darbhanga District the Kosi floods synchronized with the spread of epidemics and made the suffering of the people unbearable. Those who visited the area saw that for months people had to spend days and nights on raised platforms, their cattle standing in thigh deep water. They had no boats to go across to fetch food, no dry land to cook them, and no water to drink except flood water. Sir, an Indian villager in these conditions resigns himself to his fate. Only if he were conscious of his condition we would any day have a revolution in this country.

> "Who made his dead to rapture and despair,
> A thing that grieves not and that never hopes,
> Stolid and stunned, a brother to the ox."

Before any attempts were made to fight the spread of cholera it had already spent its force and done most of the damage it could. Suitable arrangements on any appreciable scale for the treatment of cholera cases there were none as there are none even today. The only prevalent device in Bihar when cholera breaks out is to disinfect the wells and tanks with bleaching-powder. We experienced a woeful want of medicines. Besides anti-cholera vaccines, Cholera Phage has been from time to time used in Bihar in so far as they have been made available and with a good deal of success. Whereas the demand for Cholera Phage alone this year was about one hundred thousand ampules a day, the greatest that the Patna Phage Laboratory could produce was in the neighbourhood of 3,500 to 4,000 ampules per day. Perhaps the shortage could have been made good by obtaining Phage from elsewhere but no steps to my knowledge or the knowledge of most people in Bihar appear to have been taken by the Provincial or the Central Government. If Government have any intention of seriously handling cholera epidemic in future, we must have many more Cholera Phage laboratories in this country, until some more effective remedy, having both preventive and curative properties and capable of being

used on a mass scale without much medical skill, can be found. I am making this suggestion as I do not hope that this Government will ever be able to provide facilities for saline injections on a large scale, train men who can do so and keep a good medical reserve of men for the purpose.

Malaria is still raging in most parts of Bihar in an epidemic form and not until the end of February its virulence is likely to subside. The military authorities sent to Bihar about 30 doctors who were put incharge of Malaria Centres where quinine substitutes are distributed free. But 9 of these doctors have been withdrawn instead of more being sent out. There is very poor arrangement for treatment of cases of kala-Azar, dysentery, hook-worm, scabies, etc., which are very prevalent. Another crying need is the arrangement of tube-wells in the flood affected areas where neither malaria nor cholera can be successfully tackled for want of good drinking water.

Besides, the problem of nutritive diet in Bihar is no better than in the worst affected parts in India and has been rendered much worse by widespread epidemics and floods and must be seriously tackled.

Now Sir, a word about the Relief Organizations working in Bihar. The following, mainly speaking, are working there : *viz.*, Government ; Tirhut Epidemic Relief Committee ; North Bihar Relief Co-ordinating Committee, which is worked by Congressmen mainly ; the Marwari Relief Society ; and the Servants of India Society. The Provincial Government have deputed 4 doctors and a number of epidemic doctors. They have donated only 1,400 blankets, 40 maunds of milk-powder and have sent 3,700 bottles of Horlicks. The last item has been paid for by the Tirhut Epidemic Relief Committee formed by Mr. Senapati, Commissioner, Tirhut Division, whose enthusiasm for relief work cannot be questioned. We have also received one thousand maunds of barley. The fund of the Tirhut Epidemic Committee when I left Bihar was Rs. 2,12,000 of which, I am sorry to say, it has spent only seventy thousand so far.

The Viceroy has donated one lac of rupees. The Tirhut Epidemic Relief Committee, from out of local donations, is running 16 free kitchens for convalescing patients. The Marwari Relief Society are running two hospitals. The Servants of India Society one. The Darbhanga Raj is constructing 4 hospitals and the Tirhut Epidemic Relief Committee 5 ; the Congress Committee have opened 71 medicine distributing centres. All these are working *some* under allopathy, *others* under Vaidyas and Hakims. The Bettiah and the Hathua Raj are also doing their little bit. It will thus be seen that whereas the whole responsibility of saving human lives is and should legitimately be that of Government, much of what has been done or is being done is by private agencies. But inspite of what has been or is being done jointly I repeat with the authority of no less a person than the Commissioner, Tirhut Division, now appointed Relief Commissioner, what he said some time ago in a Press interview that the extent of relief given to sufferers has reached hardly *one per cent.* of the requirement. It is not possible for the Government of Bihar to obtain all the medicines required without the help of the Government of India nor is it possible for them to obtain the services of all the medical men needed. The Government of India should try and release about a hundred more doctors from the Army for epidemic work for another six months to come. A certain number of army blankets and mosquito nets have been sent to Bihar for being distributed to persons suffering from malaria, but the quantity is very small and does not go anywhere near the requirement. One great need of the hour is the supply of milk. It is not possible to arrange fresh milk for distribution and consequently I find it necessary to ask the Government of India to give Bihar an adequate supply of milk powder for the use of indigent patients and what is most important of all is that the Government of India must give the Provincial Government enough money to enable them to tide over the crisis. Let me now come, Sir, to this most vital part of the problem which has a far reaching bearing on North Bihar both in point of health and material prosperity. The chief problem of North Bihar leading to periodical epidemics, destruction of food crop and responsible for keeping large areas under water is bad drainage. The last earthquake very largely disturbed the topography of the country and changed the course of many rivers and caused depression of large areas of land. I put forward this problem recently at a public meeting in a village in Muzaffarpur District which was presided over by His Excellency the Governor of Bihar and he was good

[Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha.]

enough to promise that he will be willing to consider this question in so far as it could be tackled within a limit of half a crore of rupees. I need not say that for a problem so vast as this half crore of rupees will not be sufficient. But, the problem is so important and the advantages resulting from a good drainage system are so great that the Government of India should extend their helping hand to the fullest extent so that vast areas of land that are now under water, or remain under water during the most part of the year, are relieved of stagnation and released for profitable cultivation. This is a question which if wholeheartedly dealt with would make North Bihar not only a very healthy place, but also make it perhaps the most fertile part of India. I am tempted to quote here what the Public Health Commissioner of the Government of India incorporated in his Annual Report for the year 1940, which, I believe is the latest available on the subject. He said,—"The Director of Public Health, Bihar, reports that during 1940 malaria was prevalent in all the districts of the province, its incidence being particularly high in the districts of North Bihar." He went on to say that "In these districts there are many rivers which flow from the foothills of the Himalayas and discharge themselves in the Ganges. The areas covered by these rivers have suffered from epidemics of malaria ever since the earthquake of 1934."

The cure of a permanent value which the Public Health Commissioner suggested and which I want to urge is canalization of rivers and drainage of *chawns*. There is one river in North Bihar which, however, presents a problem of a different character. This river is the Kosi, which has come to be called the sorrow of Bihar. The Kosi moves at an average of one mile a year. She is now moving in the western direction. For two years she keeps the inundated area totally bereft of habitation and even when water recedes the area affected cannot grow anything for another ten to twelve years. The usual width covered during floods is between six to nine miles and the length about sixty to seventy miles. This has been the behaviour of the Kosi for the last one century, and therefore she could not be said to have taken the Government by surprise this year and they can have no explanation for not being ready with boats and with arrangements to provide food and medical relief at the shortest notice. But these things continue to happen for years and years and no one is even called to account for them in this country which is said to be reposing severely behind the Imperial Shield. But today I am here to beseech than to criticise and I wish to ask the Government of India to appoint a Kosi Commission in order to find out how this river can be harnessed and whether it is possible to move the affected people to some safer area where they can live and do their cultivation. This is, I realise a difficult problem. I have thought of asking the Government of India and not the Provincial Government for a Commission for this purpose because the Government of Nepal are also involved in this matter.

My next request to the Government of India is to have more Malaria Research Laboratories in this country. I believe, the Government have only one Malaria Research Station and that is in Delhi and this Station too has no clinical side. This is a great shame. Undoubtedly the most important public health problem in this country is the prevention of malaria. The problem is of such magnitude that I am not surprised if the half-hearted efforts made so far have proved to be insufficient to place any effective check on the incidence of this disease in large tracts of this country.

Lastly, Sir, I request the Government of India to issue a directive to the Bihar Government to proceed very cautiously in the matter of the sale of Defence Savings Certificates in rural areas affected by epidemics. The commendable atmosphere created in favour of these Certificates by the National War Front is great and it will be to the credit of the Government of this country if they insisted on the exercise of the fullest check by the Provincial Authorities in so far as the sale of these Certificates is concerned in rural epidemic areas. I admit the utility of these Savings Certificates within certain limits; but, I maintain, Sir, from what I know of the villages in Bihar that even on a liberal computation not more than five per cent of the people are in a position to produce and sell a surplus. Besides, what off-sets their surplus is the prices of goods they have to purchase, whose prices have risen out of all proportion to what the agriculturists have to sell. I am aware of the assurance that the sale of

these Defence Certificates must involve no coercion, but when the Government aim at a certain target in individual areas a certain amount of coercion unavoidably creeps in and, human nature being what it is, over-zealous officers, anxious to secure listed jobs and to advance their ambitions, forget the limits within which they must keep themselves.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN (Leader of the House): May I make a suggestion, Sir? We shall be rising at about 5 o'clock and, as my Honourable colleague is going to accept the Resolution, he may be allowed to speak now in order to shorten the debate.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA: For the benefit of the subject under discussion, which I consider very important, it will be very necessary that my Honourable friends from Bihar—Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga and Mr. Hossain Imam—and also Dr. Kunzru who have visited the affected areas and made an extensive tour of North Bihar should enlighten the House about the seriousness of the situation and the needs of Bihar.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN: If we adjourn the House at 5 o'clock and your Resolution is not finished, we shall have to wait for three months more.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA: Then the best and perhaps the only advisable course is for the Government Member to speak now.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN: We want to close the debate at 5 o'clock unless you want to have it at the next Session, to which I have no objection.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA: If we take it over to the next Session, of what utility will this Resolution be? We would like to hear the Honourable Member now.

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH (Education, Health and Lands Member): Sir, I should like to say at once that I do not wish to minimise the disaster which has befallen Bihar, and particularly North Bihar, during the past six months. Cholera is of course always present in Bihar but this year it assumed the form of a virulent epidemic and the cholera mortality was higher than in any year in the past thirty years except 1918 and 1930. The epidemic began to develop in the Sitamarhi subdivision early in April shortly after the Sitamarhi fair. It reached its peak in June when there was a reported mortality of over 4,000 deaths a week. It began to decline in July and since then there has been a considerable improvement, the figures for the last two weeks of October being 597 and 744. There has recently been some increase in the incidence in Muzaffarpur. Unfortunately this serious cholera epidemic has been succeeded by a wave of malaria in certain parts of the province where conditions favour the spread of malaria. Although the malaria epidemic has not been as severe as last year, it has nevertheless given cause for concern.

The main responsibility for measures to deal with epidemics of course rests with the Provincial Government but we have done what we could to assist them. In June I sent the Additional Public Health Commissioner to visit Bihar for consultation with the Provincial Government and to study the situation on the spot. He toured extensively the province. One of the chief difficulties facing the Provincial Government was the lack of sufficient personnel and I am glad to be able to say that the military authorities again gave much needed assistance. They lent the services of 22 army doctors. These military medical officers have done valuable work and they have been extremely popular wherever they have worked. The Bihar Government have increased the number of temporary epidemic doctors first to 80 and then to 100 and have also recruited a number of inoculators and vaccinators. They have also appointed an Additional Commissioner to be in charge of relief operations in North Bihar, to organise relief and co-ordinate the activities of both official and non-official agencies. A senior I. M. S. officer released by the military authorities has been appointed Additional Director of Public Health for North Bihar. It has been possible to provide all anti-malaria drugs required by the Provincial Government. We supplied 11,000 lbs. quinine and 28 million tablets of substitutes. We thus arranged for anti-malaria drugs to be available in every malarious village and free supplies have been made available to dispensaries and to non-official relief organisations.

[Sir Jogendra Singh.]

To remove the causes of these epidemics is of course a long term matter. Cholera cannot be eliminated until water supply and sanitation are vastly improved. Medicines are not of much use in cases of chronic under-nourishment. Anti-malaria measures on a very large scale are required before malaria can be controlled. The Provincial Government, however, have a number of schemes under examination for the improvement of the rural water supply and the drainage of water-logged areas. They have, therefore, decided to revive the Tirhut Waterways Division of the Public Works Department which was abolished on the outbreak of war. The clearing of water-hyacinth is also being actively encouraged and additional trained public health staff is to be recruited as soon as personnel is available.

My Honourable friend Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha drew attention to the need of sinking tube wells. Under the Grow More Food campaign the Government of India is prepared to assist in sinking of as many tube wells as the Provincial Government may ask. I cannot too highly applaud the private charity and organisation which have rendered such conspicuous services in the cause of relief.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : May I request the Honourable Member to clear up the point ? Does he mean to say that tube wells will be sunk only in those areas where there is a possibility of growing more food ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH No. Tube wells can serve both ends. They can supply drinking water as well as irrigate. Wherever you sink a tube well you can get these two services quite easily.

Then, I can also assure my Honourable friend that any request on the part of the Provincial Government will receive our very earnest consideration. We are anxious that every assistance should be rendered to Bihar. Regarding what he calls the sorrows of Bihar, I can tell him that if our scheme for the Commission for land utilization goes through, this Commission will examine and see how these areas can be protected from inundations. In the United States of America, the Tennessee Valley Scheme, to which I would draw special attention of Honourable Members, has been carried out ; it not only protects the areas from floods but supplies irrigation for areas that need water, supplies waterways for carrying goods from these areas, and generates hundreds and thousands of kilowatts for industrial purposes. And there are rivers in India which can be in the same way harnessed. I think Sone also passes through Bihar. Sir William Stampe is of opinion that a similar scheme can be built which we might call the Sone Valley Scheme.

Regarding malaria inquiry and research, I agree with the Honourable Member that we need research in Bihar and Bengal, and extensive preparation to fight and defeat this medious enemy of health. We have a Malaria Institute here. I am hoping that after the report of the Bhore Inquiry Committee we may be able to extend the activities of malaria research. Our Honourable friend Mr. Sapru is on this Health Committee and I am sure this part of the programme will receive his very earnest attention. I think too much stress cannot be laid on one or two points which have come to be regarded as social medicine. Social medicine depends on better housing, better homes, better feeding. There is better protection against disease than better living conditions. Professor Ryle, who happens to be in India, told me that even in England the one room house was full of all kinds of diseases but the four room house was free from all those diseases which invade the one room house. Our great problem in the villages and towns to which consideration should be given is to provide better houses for the people and, still more important, to provide good nourishing protective food. When we shall be able to do it I cannot tell, but it is these problems which need very serious attention and they ought to be tackled within a fixed number of years.

Sometimes, when people hear of large figures such as Rs. 10,000 crores, they say, " This money we will never be able to find. " But if you divide it and spread it over the population, and divide it and spread it again over a period of years, you will find it comes to no more than about Rs. 16 per head of population a year . We are near planning for better health, better food production, better education, we may also plan for more money, and on that planned money build up a new and a better India. This work I hope will be undertaken by younger generation. It is not

impossible. Nothing is impossible. It is not beyond our means to make a better and a more prosperous India. But it needs concerted attention, as much attention as we give to politics, to be given to economic problems, health nutrition, and education.

It is regrettable that this year in a province like Bihar there should be an epidemic raging and taking such a toll of life. But all that could be done under the circumstances has been done, and I can assure the Honourable Member that any request received from his Government will receive our very best attention. As I mentioned, a Health Committee is now investigating the whole problem of health. I mentioned the other day that we have secured the advice of some of the leading experts who are now touring the country. We hope that the Bhore Committee will be able to report early in the Spring of 1945. From the talks that I have had with these experts I have no manner of doubt that housing and sanitation are the most important factors in securing health.

It is my hope that Government will, in co-operation with provinces, as a result of the Health Committee's report, evolve a health policy there by securing better living conditions for the people. Our plans will require planned money, as I have told you, and a constant endeavour by us all, people and the Government to do what is needed. We can do it if we are all determined that to carry out the plans which are now under preparation and if the present generation is ready to make sacrifices so that those who follow may have a better life. Sacrifice and co-operation are the law of life.

Sir, I accept the Resolution. I can assure the Honourable Member that both the prevention of disease and the building up of better health conditions in Bihar will receive earnest consideration from the Government of India.

THE HONOURABLE MR HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muhammadan): Sir, it is very late and therefore I will confine myself to very important matters. I think there must be something terribly wrong with the present constitution of the Government which requires large sacrifices to be made before it can be moved. This is not a solitary example. The calamity that befell North Bihar remained unattended to for a length of time which is surprising. In spite of the fact that we are fortunate in having as Governor a man who is very mindful of the public, who is not wedded to red tape and who has got initiative, the machinery was such that he could not be moved until he saw things for himself. I wish that the Central Government would devise means whereby such calamities are controlled before they assume such widespread shape. The calamity in North Bihar is further accentuated by the fact that it is one of those populous areas where the pressure of population is the highest in India. Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga have got more than a thousand people per square mile.

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH : May I inform the Honourable Member that the birth rate in Bihar has been declining in the last three or four years which I have not been able to account for. I have been looking into the figures.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : May be due to the absence of young men on military service.

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH : You have not sent so many men to the Army.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : I was saying that in North Bihar there are certain permanent problems which require to be looked into. Public health in North Bihar suffers greatly from stagnation of water, marshes and rivers which are not trained as they are in civilised countries.

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH : You must have a Health Survey Department.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM : Bihar is particularly unfortunate in being handicapped by a conservative Government and an inelastic purse. Our purse strings are drawn so tight that the first thought that enters the mind of a Bihar official is whether he can get the sanction for expenditure. In spite of the surpluses they have created, in spite of the additional taxation that they have placed on the shoulders of landlords, and in spite of every effort of ours, they are so terribly afraid

[Mr. Hossain Imam.]

of debt, as you must have known in the case of Sone Valley Project. Our experience is—I do not ask them to be generous, and they are not unmindful of their duty—they cannot be moved unless they are goaded by the Centre to do something, and it is with this view that I have intervened in the debate to ask our progressive and very helpful Member in charge of Education, Health and Lands, to go to that area and see things for himself and get Bihar Government to take effective steps. I support the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE THE CHAIRMAN (the Honourable Mr. M. N. Dalal): In view of the fact that Honourable Member has accepted the Resolution do you want to make a speech ?

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA: I just want to ask one question. I am very thankful to the Honourable Member in charge of Education, Health and Lands for the very sympathetic reply that he has made. I should have been delighted if he had given me answers to the two or three points I raised—first, as regards sending out more doctors, second, sending, as I said, some milk powder and blankets. Of course I am glad to state that we now feel in Bihar that we have received quite good quantities of quinine substitutes and we now find them in every village ; but, there are very few doctors to treat cases in a regular way, and there is no nutritive food available for convalescing patients, and particularly children.

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH: Regarding doctors, we in the Centre have no doctors to spare : we can only go to the Army and beg them for doctors. They did give us doctors, who as soon as the conditions improved had to go back. So far we have received no request from Bihar Government for medical assistance. As regards milk powder and blankets, my Department does not deal with them, but I will try to find if there is any charitable body that distributes them.

THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM: The Army has got a large stock of milk powder.

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH: Whether they can spare it for civil population I cannot tell, but my impression is that both malaria and cholera have subsided, and your need is not so great as before.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA: The American Friends Service Committee have brough into India a large quantity of milk powder and if the Government of India would negotiate with them, we shall, I hope, obtain a decent quantity.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: That Committee is already trying to distribute milk in North Bihar, but what is wanted is that the quantity of milk available for poor and suffering children in North Bihar should be augmented.

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH: Which Committee is it ?

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU: The American Friends Service Committee is like the British Friends Ambulance Unit. What Government have now to do is to get more milk, and I think the most practical way of getting it will be to impress on the military authorities the urgent need for it in North Bihar.

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH: I can give no undertaking, but I will see what I can do in the matter.

THE HONOURABLE THE CHAIRMAN (the Honourable Mr. M. N. Dalal): The question is that the following Resolution should be adopted :

"This Council recommends to the Governor General in Council that steps be taken immediately to give adequate relief to the people of North Bihar, who are suffering on account of the prevalence of epidemics in that area, and to remove the causes of the recurrence of epidemics after due investigation."

The Motion was adopted.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 17th November, 1944.