

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report

Volume III, 1947

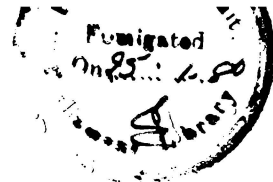
(10th March, 1947 to 24th March, 1947)

THIRD SESSION
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
1947



A. B.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

President :

The Honourable Mr. G. V. MAVALANKAR.

Deputy President :

Khan MOHAMMAD YAMIN KHAN, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen :

Syed GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

Mr. P. J. GRIFFITHS, M.L.A.

Sardar MANGAL SINGH, M.L.A.

Shrinati AMMU SWAMINADHAN, M.L.A.

Secretary :

Mr. M. N. KAUL, Barister-at-Law.

Assistants of the Secretary :

Mr. A. J. M. ATKINSON.

Mr. HASAN MOHAMMAD KHAN.

Mr. N. C. NANDI.

Marshal :

Captain Haji Sardar NUR AHMAD KHAN, M.C., I.O.M., I.A.

Committee on Petitions :

Khan MOHAMMAD YAMIN KHAN, M.L.A. (*Chairman*).

Syed GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

Shri Sri PRAKASA, M.L.A.

Mr. C. P. LAWSON, M.L.A.

Sardar MANGAL SINGH, M.L.A.

CORRIGENDA

to

Index to Legislative Assembly Debates, Volumes I to V, 1947

(3rd February, 1947 to 12th April, 1947)

- Page 11, transfer line 9 above line 6.
- Page 13, omit line 12 from bottom and transfer line 11 from bottom after line 32 from top.
- Page 17, omit line 6 from bottom.
- Page 19, insert "Reserve Bank of India (Second Amendment) Bill. 3092, 3095-96, 3099, 3104." above line 20 from bottom.
- Page 27, insert "Publicity by certain newspapers of the recommendations of the Select Committee on — before the presentation of the report. 1538-39." over line 2 from bottom.
- Page 29, omit existing line 9 and in existing line 25 for "BISCUIT(S)—" read "BIRD(S)—".
- Page 36, omit lines 7 and 8.
- Page 42, after line 16, insert "CIVIL SUPPLIES—".
- Page 43, for line 2 under "COACH(ES)—", read "Air conditioned — on G.I.P., B.B. & C.I., M. & S.M. Railways. 2905-06."
- Page 46, above line 4 from bottom, insert "Terms of reference of Armed Forces Nationalisation Committee. 2940."
- Page 51, under "COTTON—", in line 3, for "907-07" read "906-07".
- Page 58, above line 12 from bottom, insert "Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation. 1966."
- Page 60, for existing line 5, read "Functions of the Commodities Prices Board and matters connected therewith. 1626-42."
- Page 62, under "DEMONETIZATION—", for "2399" read "2390".
- Page 65, last line, for the illegible figure read "3140".
- Page 78, under "FORCES—" after line 3, insert "See also 'Army(ies)'".
- Page 80, in line 3, for "Allied" read "Armed".
- Page 84,—(i) omit line 2;
(ii) above line 32 from bottom insert "Consideration of Clauses. 510, 528, 945."; and
(iii) omit line 30 from bottom.
- Page 86, under "GOVERNMENT SERVANTS—" after line 4, insert "See also 'Employee(s)'" and omit line 6 from bottom.
- Page 100, under "HOUSING—" in line 2, after "re-housing" insert "scheme".
- Page 103, in line 9, for "1958-69" read "1968-69".
- Page 107, for line 28 from bottom, read "INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES BILL—"; and omit line 24 from bottom.
- Page 110, above line 11 from bottom, insert "Motion re—".
- Page 122, at the end of last line, read "Simla. 3068-69."
- Page 123, omit line 3 from top.
- Page 127, under "LANGUAGE—" after line 3, insert "order in addressing the House in a vernacular and ruling by Mr. President that an Honour-".
- Page 134, omit line 5 from bottom and in last line, for "890-92" read "990-92".
- Page 138,—(i) under "MANUFACTURE—" in lines 13 and 14, for "dry-stuffs" read "dyestuffs";
(ii) under "MANU SUREDAR, MR.—" omit line 4, and in line 5, insert "2753 59" before existing page numbers.
- Page 140, in line 35 from bottom, for "drystuffs" read "dyestuffs".
- Page 144, under "MATTHAI, THE HONOURABLE DR. JOHN—" after line 3, insert "Construction of new lines. 1950."

- Page 149, under "MOMBASA—" for the illegible figure read "96".
- Page 153, under "MUTINY—" after existing figures read "763-64".
- Page 154, for existing line 10 from bottom read "Recommendations of the Armed Forces Nationalisation Committee. 1758." and omit line 8 from bottom.
- Page 156, under "NAVY, ROYAL INDIAN—" in line 7, for "the Committee" read "the report of the Committee".
- Page 161, below last line, insert "See also 'Factory(ies)'"
- Page 162, for existing line 16, read "OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY—" and omit lines 1 and 2 at top of the page.
- Page 169, under "PIPERADIH COLLIERY—" for "3389" read "3388".
- Page 172, omit line 7 and transfer the next line after line 1 under "POSTAL EMPLOYEE(S)—".
- Page 173, under "PRESS(ES)—" omit line 1.
- Page 180, for line 7 from bottom, read "Increase of — fares below Re. 1. 1228-29."
- Page 184, in line 10, the missing figure is "1097".
- Page 191, in line 18, for "2920" read "2926".
- Page 199, omit last line.
- Page 204, omit line 3 from bottom.
- Page 205, for existing line 3 from bottom, read "strike. 19-20."
- Page 206, at the end of last line, insert "Provinces. 169-70."
- Page 214, for existing line 18 from bottom read "SKELTON—".
- Page 220, at the end of line 9 from bottom, insert "1313-14".
- Page 223, in line 21 from bottom, for "strike as" read "strikers at".
- Page 224, under "SUGAR—" insert "Question re—" as first line.
- Page 226, under "SUNHEMP—" for "1608. 07" read "1606-07".
- Page 232, in last line, for "89" read "88".
- Page 251, line 19 from bottom, for "3396" read "3395".
- Page 252, after line 7, insert "Motion re—".

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 11th March, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

STRIKES IN THE COALFIELDS OF BENGAL AND BIHAR DUE TO LOW WAGES AND EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN UNDERGROUND

828. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Labour please state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there have been labour trouble and strikes in the coalfields of Bengal and Bihar due to low wages, and women labour being employed underground;

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government in this matter;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government propose to take up a scheme of labour welfare and social insurance, for labour in general; and

(d) if so, the basic improvements that would follow from this scheme of labour welfare and social insurance?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) and (b). For a brief statement of the causes of industrial unrest in the coalfields and of the measures taken to allay this unrest, I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to the question No. 66 put by Babu Ram Narayan Singh on the 5th February. The ban on the working of women underground which was temporarily lifted during the wartime was re-imposed with effect from 1st February 1946. This has nothing to do with the strike situation.

(c) and (d). Government intend promoting a number of measures designed to bring about an improvement in living and working conditions of workers. Some of them will be legislative and others will take the form of agreements between employers and workers. It is difficult to comprise within the form of an answer to a question all the measures that Government intend taking in this direction. If the Honourable Member has in his mind the Health Insurance Scheme, I may state that the Workmen's State Insurance Bill as introduced in this House last November provides for a combined scheme of sickness, disablement and maternity benefit insurance. This scheme is intended to be applied in the first instance to workers in factories using power and employing 20 or more persons. Once a proper administrative machinery is created and is functioning, the intention is to extend the scheme of insurance to as many categories of workers as possible.

Seth Govind Das: As the Honourable Member has said that it is difficult for him to give a comprehensive reply about the welfare measures which the Government is intending to take in this respect, will the Honourable Member be able to make any comprehensive statement in the near future as far as these measures are concerned?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I may be making a statement—it may not be a comprehensive statement—in reply to the cut motion which is already before the House.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member aware that women continue to be employed underground in coal mines in certain Indian States?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am not definite on that point, Sir.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member make enquiries into that matter, and find out how the Indian States stand in regard to this question having regard to the fact that the restriction is the result of an International Convention?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I will ascertain.

AMENDMENT OF AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE RULES.

829. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently amended the Auditor's Certificate Rules 1932, to reduce the period of articulated clerkship for the Registered Accountancy Course from four to three years in the case of Commerce graduates and such other graduates as have secured 60 per cent. of the aggregate marks in their degree examination;

(b) whether it is a fact that the amended rule places M.A.'s and Honours graduates on a par with B.A. (Pass) graduates who will all have to undergo four years course of articulated clerkship;

(c) whether Government are aware that the courses prescribed for Honours and M.A. Examinations are more advanced and the standards of valuation of papers higher than those for the ordinary B.A. (Pass);

(d) whether Government are aware of the discontent felt by M.A.'s and Honours graduates in the matter;

(e) whether their attention has been drawn to a letter of protest against the amended rule which appeared in "The Registered Accountant" of July 1946;

(f) whether Government have received any other representation against the amended rule; and

(g) whether they propose to consider the desirability of removing this grievance of M.A.'s and Honours Graduates? If not, why not?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. Under the amended rule 36 of the Auditor's Certificate Rules, 1932, all persons, who have passed a Degree Examination, will be required to undergo four years' practical training, except those who have passed the Degree Examination with Accounting, Auditing and Mercantile or Commercial Law, or obtained at least 60 per cent. of the total marks in the examination.

(c) Yes.

(d) No, the M.A.'s and Honours graduates have always been placed on a par with ordinary graduates in so far as the duration of articles is concerned.

(e) and (f). No protests have been received. Suggestions from certain individuals to the effect that the concession should also be allowed to M. A.'s and Honours graduates were received after the amendment was published in the *Gazette of India* for criticism. These suggestions were not accepted as it was felt by Government that first class graduates and those who had passed the Degree Examination with Accounting, Auditing and Mercantile or Commercial Law were better equipped to pick up practical work than ordinary M. A.'s or Honours graduates.

(g) For the reasons already given it is not considered desirable to re-open the question.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know if in the representations he has received, these M.A. gentlemen ask for more money for themselves or if they are anxious that B.A.'s should be paid less?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: There is no question of M.A.'s and B.A.'s wanting money. The question is that if a man wants to be trained as a Registered Accountant, he has to undergo apprenticeship or training with a certain Registered Accountant. That period of training normally is four years, but in certain special cases mentioned here, namely in case of those who have taken a course in Accountancy, Audit or Commercial Law, they are given an exemption for one year. So, they undergo training for three years.

INDIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO U. N. R. R. A. FOR RELIEF WORK AND COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF ITS INDIAN STAFF

830. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state what contribution for relief work has been made by the Government of India to the United Nations Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Association during the year 1946-47?

(b) Is any amount likely to be contributed by India for the year 1947-48?

(c) What is the total strength of the staff of the United Nations Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Association?

(d) How many of these are Indian nationals, Muslims and non-Muslims?

(e) What are their salaries and allowances?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) No fresh contribution was made, but expenditure was incurred during the year against the original contribution of rupees eight crores.

(b) No.

(c) 17,572 (as on 31st December, 1946).

(d) 33 Indian nationals of whom three are Muslims and 30 non-Muslims.

(e) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement of posts held by Indians under UNRRA together with salaries drawn by them.

Serial No.	Positions	Salary per annum	Community
		Rs. per annum.	
1	Director and Liaison Officer (New Delhi Office).	24,550	Sikh.
2	Regional Medical Officer	22,850	Hindu.
3	Regional Chief Economic Analyst and Information Officer.	20,150	Indian Christian.
4	Economic Analyst and Information Officer.	19,250	Hindu.
5	Industrial Rehabilitation Officer	18,750	Do.
6	Accountant, Grade II	16,950	Do.
7	Finance officer	15,200	Do.
8	Field Accountant	15,200	Indian Christian.
9	Accountant Grade 9	12,600	Hindu.

Serial No.	Positions	Salary per annum	Community
		Rs. per annum	
10	Accountant Grade 9	12,550	Hindu.
11	Camp Welfare Officer in Italy	11,700	Ditto.
12	Auditor	10,350	Indian Christian.
13	Assistant Procurement Officer	9,922	Hindu.
14	Junior Accountant	8,600	Sikh.
15	Ditto	8,600	Hindu.
16	Assistant Depot Master	8,150	Muslim.
17	Administrative Assistant	7,796	Hindu.
18	Secretary	6,075	Anglo-Indian.
19	Administrative Assistant	5,950	Hindu.
20	Secretary	5,950	Indian Christian.
21	Ditto	5,950	Hindu.
22	Stenographer	5,950	Ditto.
23	Accounts General Assistant	5,670	Ditto.
24	Stenographer	4,964	Ditto.
25	Typist	2,835	Ditto.
26	Ditto	2,520	Ditto.
27	Messenger	756	Muslim.
28	Ditto	756	Hindu.
29	Sweeper	252	Ditto.
30	Driver	945	Muslim.
31	Reports Officer in Washington	10,620	Hindu.
32	} Information as to the exact salaries and designations of 2 persons in Italy is awaited.	..	Hindu.
33			

N.B.—(1) The living allowances for China and USA are as follows :—

China	CNC 26,000 per day or about Rs. 26.
U. S. A.	U.S. \$6.00 per day.

(2) The Administration has a Provident Fund the employees contributing 5% and the employer 7½%. An employee becomes eligible for the Administration's contribution after he has completed six months service, but he does not have any share in the interest accrued to the Fund.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member tell this House that if three crores contribution was made by India in a year of distress for the relief of others, whether this country received anything from any part of the world for the relief of the food crisis through which we were passing?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: Several questions were asked on this point and when a motion was placed before the House for discussion as to whether a further contribution of two crores should be made to U. N. R. R. A., the little assistance that we received from the other countries was mentioned in my speech. Beyond that, we have received nothing.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of this experience of India that in our distress nobody comes to our help, will Government now examine the policy of hesitation with regard any such request for international help which may be asked in future, because charity must begin at home?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The question is always examined from all points of view and this will certainly be one of them.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member give us an idea as to what this Association is doing for India as such besides giving a few jobs to its nationals?

Mr. Manu Subedar: India is not eligible.

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: This Organisation was for the relief and rehabilitation of the countries occupied by the enemy.

TEMPORARY HUTMENTS AND BUILDINGS IN NEW DELHI

831. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary for Works, Mines and Power Department please state the number of temporary hutments and buildings of brick erected for war purposes in New Delhi within a circumference of four miles from the Council House?

(b) How many of these are lying vacant and since when?

(c) Are these going to be demolished? If so, when? If not, why not?

(d) What is the area of land occupied by these structures?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) and (d). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) The following buildings are lying vacant for the last few months with the exception of the last building which was vacated by Defence Department only on 1st March 1947:—

(i) Barracks in 32 Ferozeshah Road.

(ii) Censor Office building.

(iii) Officers' Transit Mess in Travancore House.

(iv) WAC(I) Hostel in Ferozeshah Road.

(c) There is no proposal to demolish any of these buildings unless and until any of them become surplus to requirements, or the sites on which they stand are required for permanent construction, or the cost of repairs and maintenance becomes prohibitive or because of any other commitment which makes it obligatory on Government to demolish that building.

List of Temporary Buildings Constructed within a Circumference of 4 miles from Council Chamber

Name of the building	Area of the land occupied by the building	
1. R. A. F. Signals Communications Centre, 'Q' Block	61,100	Sq. ft.
2. 'F' Block	154,125	Ditto

Name of the building	Area of the Land occupied by the building			
3. 'H' Block	64,720	Sq. ft.		
4. 'J' Block				
5. 'K' Block	134,547	Ditto		
6. M. T. Section, Store Room & RAF Tiffin Room	33,258	Ditto		
7. W.A.C. (I) Hostel, Sikandara Road	98,580	Ditto		
8. Mutapan Lines	30,000	Ditto		
9. W. A. C. (I) Hostel, Ferozes'ah Road	98,580	Ditto		
10. (i) B. O. Rs. Barracks at Irwin Stadium (ii) Dining and Kitchen Hall for BQRs at Irwin Stadium (iii) W. A. C. (I) Hostel, Irwin Stadium (iv) Servants qrs. and L trines attached with B. O. Rs. Barrack at Irwin Stadium. (v) Guard Room at Irwin Stadium (vi) Institute Bldgs. for B. O. Rs. at Stadium.	250,018	Ditto		
11. Trade Testing School, Cornwallis Road				
12. GHQ Bus Stand at Shers'ah Road, New Delhi				
13. Censor's Office				
14. 'L' Block. } 15. 'M' Block. }			82,000	Ditto
16. GHQ Transport Coy., Office accommodation North of North Block.			63,000	Ditto
17. 'P' Block	154,976	Ditto		
18. Officers' Tiffin Room 'P' Block	2,054	Ditto		
19. Hindu & Muslim Tiffin Room	2,471	Ditto		
20. GHQ Signals Bldgs. at Plot No. 115	100,000	Ditto		
21. GHQ Barracks in Plot No. 108	7,040	Ditto		
22. GHQ Transport Coy. in Plot No. 108	7,666	Ditto		
23. GHQ Barracks in Block No. 121	42,159	Ditto		
24. GHQ Barracks in Block No. 118	60,854	Ditto		
25. GHQ Signals Block No. 119	11,172	Ditto		
26. Block No. C1. } 27. Block No. C2. }	84,217	Ditto		
28. Auto Control Centre				
29. Security Police Barracks	20,556	Ditto		
30. Kashmir House 'D' Block	144,235	Ditto		
31. 'E' Block	68,768	Ditto		
32. Block 36 (Civil)	13,040	Ditto		
33. Block G (Excluding RAF)	48,745	Ditto		

Name of the building	Area of the land occupied by the building	
34. Block A	33,689	Sq. ft.
35. Block B	70,454	Ditto
36. GHQ Army Post Office	25,942	Ditto
37. GHQ Cinema	1,152	Ditto
38. Officers' B. O. R. Tiffin Room	6,465	Ditto
39. M. I. Room in Block No. 37	6,804	Ditto
40. King Edward Road Mess (160 Officers)	297,136	Ditto
41. 4, 6, 8 Aurangzeb Road Mess	130,386	Ditto
42. Queen Victoria Road Mess (232 Officers)	116,000	Ditto
43. Shershah Road Mess (120 Officers)	120,600	Ditto
44. Wellesley Road Mess (90 Officers)	98,000	Ditto
45. Wireless Village, Ridge	67,685	Ditto
46. Government Quarters in the Compound of Tibbia College Hostel (292 single and married clerks).	132,000	Ditto
47. Temporary Barracks on Parliament Street	7.70	Acres
48. Temporary Barracks on Gurdwara Road	4.50	Ditto
49. U. S. Chapel on Parliament Street	.90	Ditto
50. Theatre Communications Building, Connaught Place	3.56	Ditto
51. Barracks on Queensway	44.00	Ditto
52. Headquarters Buildings, Connaught Place	3.70	Ditto
53. Taj Officers' Quarters on Queensway.	5.82	Ditto
54. Keeling Road Hospital.		
55. Servants' Quarters.		
56. 1688 Enlisted Men's Barracks on Curzon Road	11.58	Ditto
57. 298 Officers' quarters on Curzon Road	13.30	Ditto
58. 500 Officers' quarters on Queensway	9.60	Ditto
59. 5 tons Ice Plant at Canning Lane	1.71	Ditto
60. Motor Pool at Canning Lane	1.30	Ditto
61. Wellington Barracks on Kutab Road	4.00	Ditto
62. 200 Beds American Hospital on Kutab Road	24.99	Ditto
63. American Ware House on Factory Road	31.52	Ditto
64. American Transmitting Station at Safdar Jung	22.68	Ditto
65. USA Receiving Station at Ridge	1.00	Ditto
66. Technical Trainees Camp at Bella Road	18.89	Ditto

Name of the building	Area of the land occupied by the building	
67. FEB Hostels at Curzon Road and Mansingh Road } 68. All India Radio Hostels at Curzon Road. }	10	acres
69. Temporary offices, Cement Godowns, shops Dispensary Patient Wards and Ambulance Garrage, New Delhi (Lodi Road).	1.50	Do.
70. Jodhpur Mess	106,950	Sq. ft.
71. Transit Mess and Hutments in Travancore House	82,721	Do.
72. Sangli and Princess Park Mess	290,400	Do.
73. Petaudi House (Hutments)	97,176	Do.
74. Mandi House (Hutments)	70,308	Do.
75. Married Officers Hutments (243 Nos.)	6,018,944	Do.
76. Supply Offices, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi	970,200	Do.
77. Office Buildings on Jamnagar & Bharatpur Plots	580,948	Do.
78. Akbar Road Hutments	138,160	Do.
79. Jaisalmer House Hutments	41,764	Do.
80. Kotah House Hutments	39,840	Do.
81. Mansingh Road Hutments	9,384	Do.
82. 60 Servants' Quarters	9,000	Do.
83. 'N' Block.	79,330	Do.
84. Security Police Barracks.		
85. Race Course Camp	292,984	Do.
86. Dispensary and Garage in front of North Block	2,170	Do.
87. New Wellington Camp	158,560	Do.
88. Old Wellington Camp	158,942	Do.
89. Lodhi Road Mess	75,976	Do.
90. 109 Officers' Shop—South Block	13,482	Do.
91. Temporary office Buildings in North and South Blocks	12,420	Do.
92. Workshop for I.T.B.	9,588	Do.
93. Garages for mechanized vehicles.	17,108	Do.
94. Broadcasting House Hutments	12,203	Do.
95. Married B. O. Rs. Barracks on Factory Road	123,264	Do.
96. Single clerks' Quarters on Kitchener Road (500 quarters for 1,000 clerks).	Not readily available.	
97. GHQ Transport Company, North Avenue	16,753	Sq. ft.
98. Extension to M Block and Church Road Hutments	93,000	Do.
99. Barracks in 32 Ferozshah Road	Not readily available.	

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the fact that many Members of this House want to construct their own bungalows in Delhi, because the present ones are rather small, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of demolishing the WAC(I) Hostel, which is now lying vacant, and making available that land either for lease or for sale to the Members of this House, so that Members of this House may be able to build their own bungalows?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The WAC(I) Hostel was handed over to us only ten days ago. We are considering the question of utilising the building. But the land belongs to the Anjuman-i-Taraqui-Urdu and we have to carry on negotiations to find out if we can retain that land. If we can do so, I expect that Government officers themselves will need all the accommodation which is available there. The question of building sites for private persons is quite a distinct matter and it is separate from the question of accommodation for Government servants. If my Honourable friend wants a building site to build his own house, there are other sites allotted and he may approach the Chief Commissioner who deals with applications from private individuals for building sites.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Apart from the particular building in question, will the Honourable Member give an assurance to this House that no buildings will be demolished in Delhi until new building work has started and can accommodate people and that all these buildings which are thus vacated would be brought into use for human habitation, not merely for officials but partly also for non-officials, as soon as possible?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I have already stated the four circumstances in which alone the buildings will be demolished. Ordinarily they will not be demolished and they are being utilised both for officials and partly also, to a certain extent, for non-officials. In fact, we have to accommodate a number of press correspondents and other people who are non-officials in some of these buildings. Every effort is being made to utilise the accommodation available to the best possible advantage.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that preference generally is given not to non-officials but to officials as far as these buildings are concerned?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir. The buildings were constructed for officials and preference is definitely given to them.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the fact that the Chief Commissioner of Delhi has refused to give any land to the Members of this House, because none is available, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of making available the site (32 Ferozeshah Road) where the barracks are now located and which I am sure will be demolished?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: 32 Ferozeshah Road belongs to a private individual. It is a private building which was taken over by the Americans, probably as a result of a private agreement. Then they constructed two temporary buildings on that land. Now that the Americans have vacated it, negotiations are going on with the private owner whether we can do anything with these two buildings. The land does not belong to the Government and Government cannot make it available to anybody.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know whether the Government has got any expert advice from their engineering Department as to the life of these buildings?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The life of the building will depend upon each particular building. But, generally speaking, the semi-permanent structures which were constructed in wartime with timber and other materials of rather flimsy nature are expected to have a life of about three to four years. That is the expert opinion of the Public Works Department.

Shri Sri Prakasa: More than three or four years have passed since the buildings were constructed. May I know why they have not yet fallen?

Mr. President: Next question.

PROSPECTING LICENCES AND MINERAL LEASES

832. *Mr. Mann Subedar: Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state:

(a) the number of (i) prospecting licences, and (ii) mineral leases subsisting in this country in respect of various minerals;

(b) whether the obligations to work these concessions involved in the terms of such (i) prospecting licences, and (ii) mineral leases, are being carried out; and

(c) the steps that Government propose to take in those cases where the licensees or lessees have failed to fulfil their obligations to produce to the extent indicated in the terms given to them?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) A Review of the Mineral Industries of India and Burma during 1939 was published by the Director, Geological Survey of India in 1941. Complete information showing the present position is not available.

(b) and (c). The responsibility for working the Mining Concession Rules rests on the Provincial Governments and Administrations concerned. It is for these Administrations to take suitable action where the obligations to work the concessions under prospecting licences and mineral leases are not being carried out. The question of revising the Rules governing Mining Concessions is now under consideration.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Is it a fact that certain big corporations, particularly in oil, have secured various concessions which they are not working and is it a fact that they have secured these concessions, so to say, to shut out other people from securing them? If that is so, from the point of view of the community, production which is very badly needed being reduced, will Government take some steps from the Centre to enquire from the provinces whether there are any such cases and then formulate some kind of common policy?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: This question was very fully discussed at the Mineral Conference which was convened last month and the matter is engaging the attention of the Government.

Seth Govind Das: In view of the rich mineral resources of the Central Provinces, is it a fact that in the last conference it was pressed by the C. P. Ministers on the Government of India to help the province, so that early steps may be taken to exploit the mineral resources of the province?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Will the Honourable Member please repeat his question?

Seth Govind Das: In view of the fact that there are great mineral resources in C. P., is it a fact that at the last conference the ministers of the Central Provinces pressed upon the Government of India to give such help to the province as would enable it to develop its mineral resources?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Every province was anxious to be given priority.

Seth Govind Das: In view of the fact that the C. P. has richer mineral resources than any other province in India they urged upon the Government of India the need for their help?

Shri Sri Prakasa: Every province has.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Have the Government of India in the department of geological Survey any hand in the grant of prospecting licenses?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The executive action lies entirely with the Provincial Government concerned.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Does it mean that the Government of India in the Geological Survey Department has not got any definite policy with regard to the development of the mineral resources of the country?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The Geological Survey Department is certainly a Central Government Department and we have a policy for expanding that department. We have a five year plan for a large scale expansion of the Geological Survey. The Geological Survey actually surveys the whole country and finds out the occurrence of minerals. The question of development of the mineral resources is, however, entirely a provincial subject and there the Government of India have no hand in the matter. The whole question was discussed at the last Mineral Conference and the matter is now engaging the attention of Government.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: For purposes of coordination and correlation of the development activities of this country have the Government of India no hand in the issue of licenses?

Mr. President: For purposes of prospecting?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Yes.

Mr. President: The answer is clear. It is the responsibility of the provincial government concerned.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I want to know whether the Government of India have any hand in the issue of prospecting licences?

Mr. President: This was already replied to. The matter is entirely provincial.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the recommendations of the Conference which met during the last month?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The proceedings I believe were laid on the table of the House but I can give the Honourable Member a copy. It is a lengthy document and I could not briefly summarise the recommendations here.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Were the proceedings of this conference placed before the Standing Committee of this House in connection with his Department?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I do not think so. I do not think there has been a meeting of the Standing Committee since but I believe the proceedings were laid on the table of this House.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it a fact that in the granting of these licenses the Central Government is not even consulted by either the provincial governments or even the States?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir.

GEOLOGISTS AND METALLURGISTS IN THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

833. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state what is the total number of persons working in the Geological Survey of India?

(b) How many are Indians and how many are foreigners?

(c) What steps are Government taking in order to increase the number so as to be able to deal with the task of closer survey of the country's mineral resources?

(d) Is it a fact that young graduates, including those from the Dhanbad School of Mines, are not being taken in large numbers to assist in field work and to acquire practical experience?

(e) Have Government laid down a definite policy for increasing the number of competent men, both as working geologists and metallurgists?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) The total number is 360 which includes 71 Gazetted officers and 289 non-gazetted officers.

(b) 353 Indians and seven others.

(c) The Geological Survey of India is being expanded as rapidly as possible. Before the war, the number of Gazetted officers was 27. It is now 71 and further expansion is contemplated in the next few years. Attention is also invited to the reply to part (e) of this question.

(d) No, Sir. The difficulty is to get a sufficiently large number of recruits with minimum qualifications.

(e) As regards Geologists, Government recently appointed a Committee to make recommendations with regard to the improvement of Geological Education in India. The Committee has submitted its report and its recommendations are being carefully examined. Government have also appointed a committee to make recommendations with regard to the reorganisation and expansion of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad which imparts instruction in Geology and in Mining Engineering.

As regards metallurgists, the Sibpur Engineering College and the Benares Hindu University offer facilities for training in metallurgy. Their present output of trained students is 27 per year. It is expected to increase this number by about 100 per cent. by 1950. There is a proposal to set up two Higher Technical Institutions and when they are set up they will be producing about 40 metallurgists per year.

Government are further granting Scholarships to Indian students for overseas studies in Geology and Metallurgy. On their return they will be available for employment under Government or in mining and metallurgical industries.

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to field work, it has been reported to us that Indians are kept out on the plea that they do not hold the necessary qualification. May I therefore enquire whether the qualification of Dhanbad degree is not adequate qualification for doing field work, which is after all merely assisting the senior man who is doing the work? If that is so, why are not Dhanbad graduates put to field work which is the most important part of the work?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: As far as I know, we are trying to recruit as many people with minimum qualifications as possible. Now, minimum qualification naturally varies with the kind of appointment. Senior appointments are made through the Federal Public Service Commissions; other appointments are made by the Director of Geological Survey of India. As I said in my reply, out of 360 officers, 353 are Indians and only seven are others. It cannot be said that Indians are being kept out.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The allegation that I heard definitely was that Indians are being kept out of field work which is a very important ground for gaining experience and if Dhanbad graduates are adequate with minimum qualifications why are not Government expanding the number of gazetted officers and what are the instructions of Government to the Public Works Department with regard to minimum qualifications put down? Surely these instructions must have gone from Government to the Public Service Commission who are merely working the qualifications as defined by Government?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The qualifications of superior officers are a good degree in mining or geology; for field work the qualifications are slightly lower, but I will enquire into the matter and tell my Honourable friend. I personally know nothing about it. My information is that every possible effort is made to recruit these people. I might also add that Government recently sanctioned certain scholarships for further training in metallurgy and other things to these

Dhanbad people and although the stipend or scholarship is Rs. 100 a month, not a single candidate appeared. It seems that Dhanbad graduates are just snapped up by the industries generally.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Out of 71 gazetted officers, how many are Muslims?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I want notice.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government taking any steps to provide suitable employment to those government scholarship holders who have been sent abroad and who have qualified themselves in higher studies in metallurgy?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That is a question for the Education Department. But I believe that point is always kept in view before sending scholars abroad.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am asking the question of finding employment for them?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That is the whole question attended to by Education Department.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: After the last war similar scholars who have been sent abroad at Government expense and who returned after qualifying themselves had to remain unemployed for a number of years wasting their time, because Government would not provide them with suitable employment?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: I do not know what happened after the last war. I know this time things will be better managed.

ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN OFFICERS WITH NON-INDIANS IN GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

834. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state how many men are now outside the country qualifying themselves either as geologists or as metallurgists, and how many of them are assisted from Government funds?

(b) Do Government propose to give an assurance that for every piece of work in connection with geological survey undertaken by a non-Indian officer, an Indian officer will invariably be associated?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) The number of students sent outside India by Government is 22 for Metallurgy, 18 for Geology and three for Geophysics. In addition, five students have been selected for Metallurgy, four for Geophysics and one for Geodasy who have not yet left the country. The number of students outside India on their own is not known. All the students sent by Government are being assisted either by the Central or Provincial Government or by both.

(b) There are now only five non-Indian Field Officers in the Geological Survey of India and Indian Officers are closely associated with their work.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the nature of assistance which the Government of India are providing to non-scholar Indians who are there abroad studying metallurgy at their own expense?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That question might be addressed to the Education Department.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Are any conditions attached to the grant of scholarship?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The usual conditions that are attached to scholarships granted by the Education Department governing overseas scholarships.

PROPOSED BUREAU OF MINES.

835. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state what is going to be the constitution of the Bureau of Mines which is proposed to be set up?

(b) How will it be linked with the Provinces and the States and have Government considered the question of having an Advisory Board attached to it?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) and (b). The question of establishment of a Bureau of Mines is under the consideration of Government. The other points raised are also under consideration.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Government examine the possibility of some kind of central co-ordination voluntarily on the part of States and Provinces with regard to the rules, royalties, rate of concessions and also with regard to the use of statutory Government of India officials by States and Provinces? Will the Government of India examine this also while they are considering the matter?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir. That point is always under examination. The last Mineral conference was definitely an attempt at co-ordination between the Central Government, the Provincial Governments and the States. This question was thoroughly discussed at the Mineral conference and it is being actively pursued how exactly co-ordination is to be effected in the present constitutional uncertainty. Government are closely examining the question. As regards the States, I might add that there is one senior liaison officer of the Geological Survey of India who has been specially appointed to look into the geology of States and help them in their investigation.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government any arrangement by which a State can avail itself of the services of senior officials of the Geological department and are any States taking advantage of this arrangement?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: Yes, Sir. One senior officer of the Geological survey has been specially earmarked for helping the States and a number of States are taking advantage of his service. He is in fact very busy with the States now.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that even some of the provinces in India have not been fully surveyed and certainly most of the States are very imperfectly surveyed, will Government see that a complete survey of the country is done as early as possible?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That is always the aim of Government. But we are very much handicapped by want of staff. It will take very many years before a complete survey of the geological possibilities of the whole country is completed.

REPARATIONS SANCTIONED FOR INDIA BY THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION.

836. ***Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of reparations which have been sanctioned by the United Nations Organization for India;

(b) whether a list of properties available as reparations was received by Government;

(c) the authority that made the selection of properties of different enemy countries that were allotted to this country as reparation;

(d) whether Government have been able to get those properties, if so, what they are;

(e) if Government have not yet got those properties, when they expect to get them;

(f) how Government propose utilising those properties;

(g) whether Government propose allotting those properties to different Provinces or whether they propose reserving them for Central administrative needs;

(h) whether Government propose circulating a list of those properties to the Provincial Governments and consulting their needs; and

(i) whether Government propose to appoint a committee of Industrialists to inspect those properties and give their advice regarding the use and disposal of those properties?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Reparations are being exacted from Germany and Japan. So far as Germany is concerned division of reparation among claimant countries was decided by the Paris Conference and the decisions were embodied in the Paris Agreement. In terms of that Agreement India is entitled to receive two per cent. of general reparations called category 'A' and 2.9 per cent. of Industrial and other capital equipment called category 'B'. The question of Japanese reparations is still under discussion in the Far Eastern Commission at Washington on which India is represented.

(b), (d) and (e). The allocation of German reparations to claimant countries has been entrusted to the Inter-Allied Reparations Agency which has been set up at Brussels in pursuance of the Paris Agreement. India is represented on the Agency by a Delegate and an Alternate. So far, three lists of German plants have been received from the Agency and bids have been made by Government for 19 plants. India's bids for nine of the 19 plants have been considered by the Agency and two plants and some machines out of a third plant have been allocated to India. Arrangements are being made for their transportation to India and it is expected that they will arrive in India in a couple of months or so. Bids in respect of the remaining ten plants are still under consideration of the Agency.

(c) When the list of properties is received the list or abstracts from it are circulated to the Chambers of Commerce and to the appropriate Industrial Associations. On the basis of the replies received and after considering the advice of their technical officers and purchase officers and the reports of the Industrial Panels set up by the late Planning and Development Department, decisions are taken by Government on whether to bid for a particular plant or not. The general aim is to secure for India those plants which utilized as single units or divided and allotted to existing factories are best calculated to advance the Industrial development of the country.

(f) and (g). It is proposed to utilise the plants allocated to India to the best interests of the country. Government have not laid down any definite policy regarding the disposal of the plants but their intention is to allot the entire plants or parts thereof to private industries which are most suited to utilise them for the benefit of India as a whole. If a plant or part of it is required for use for any Government sponsored industrial scheme such plant or part thereof may be retained by Government for that scheme.

(h) Lists of plants declared available for reparations delivery are circulated to Provincial Governments and suggestions made by those Governments are taken into consideration in selecting plants to be bid for.

(i) When a Government bids for a plant that Government is committed to taking the plant though up to ten per cent. of the machinery may be rejected on account of obsolescence or damage. Missions of not more than four experts at a time are allowed to inspect the plant, to advise on dismantling, packing, the preparation of inventories and the rejection of machines and to receive the technical data regarding the operation of the plant. This is work for technical experts and not industrialists. Technical experts of the Government of India are being attached to the Inter-Allied Reparation Agency to deal with this work. Where a plant calls for more highly specialised technical advice Government propose to utilize the services of consulting engineers who will not only supervise the dismantling but will be prepared to undertake the re-erection of the plant in India if so required. If the plant can be allotted to an industrialist before dismantling begins that industrialist will be allowed to appoint his own consultants. Otherwise the consultants employed will be appointed by the India Supply Commission on behalf of the Government of India.

The Inter-Allied Reparation Agency attaches the greatest importance to speed in dismantling and removing plant once an allotment is made.

Seth Govind Das: With respect to clause (c) of the question, will the Honourable Member see that priority is given first to the Provincial Governments and not to the private concerns?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: So far as (c) is concerned, what I mentioned was that the list of properties is circulated to the Chambers of Commerce and the industrial associations but in reply to (f) and (g), I mentioned that if a plant or part of it is required for use for any Government sponsored industrial scheme, such plant or part thereof may be retained by Government for that scheme. Naturally, so far as the retention is concerned, Government have the first claim.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to part (c) of the question will you kindly permit me to ask my Honourable friend Seth Govind Das as to who his enemy countries are?

Seth Govind Das: I am not entitled to give a reply.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Having regard to the very low amount of reparations which India has received and having regard to the fact that several new industries want to use patents and devices which were German before, may I know whether Government is making any attempt to secure exceptional permissions, if necessary, to use some of these German patents in the meanwhile when Germany is still being considered an enemy country and is occupied?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: All requisitions which are received for the use of such patents are sent to the proper quarters and attempts are made to secure them.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if 'proper quarters' mean His Majesty's Government and if so, may I know whether in view of the new status which India has acquired it is not possible to make a better and more effective attempt in order to use some of the patents and devices which the Germans had and which our people want to use in an emergency?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The proper quarters would not be His Majesty's Government in this case but it would be the Administrations set up by the occupying forces in Germany.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are there any Indians among those specialists who are representing the Government of India and who are attached to the Inter-Allied Commission on Reparations?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: There are Indians.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is there any choice left to India in the matter of selecting the plant which falls to her lot?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The lists are circulated. We choose the plant for which we want to bid. Then it is a question whether that plant is allotted to us or not. So far as the bid is concerned, the choice is certainly ours.

837. *[Withdrawn.]

IMPOSITION OF FINES ON THE FRONTIER TRIBESMEN.

838. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the total sum derived by way of fines imposed on tribesmen on the Frontier for the last five years?

(b) Do Government propose to discontinue the imposition of fines as a mode of punishment and resort to other methods of punishment on tribesmen?

(c) What is the amount of fines imposed in recent weeks on the Frontier Tribesmen?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (c). In recent weeks a fine of Rs. 75,000 was imposed on the Nandihar tribesmen and has been paid up in full. Further information is being collected by the local Administration but is not yet ready. It will be placed on the table of the House when received.

(b) No. The imposition of fines is a recognised method of punishment in most countries of the world and there is no reason why offenders in the tribal areas should be exempted from it in cases in which it is appropriate.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member tell us what the currency is in which these tribesmen pay the money and whether these tribesmen have a Reserve Bank with a Nasik Press to print as much money as they like?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: So far as I know, there is no branch of the Reserve Bank in the Tribal areas.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What is the currency in which the money is paid? If it is Indian currency, how do the tribesmen get hold of this currency?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I imagine it is paid in hard cash, in silver mostly but I am not quite sure but there is no doubt that it is Indian currency. There is no other currency.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is this silver against rupees?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: When I said 'silver' I meant rupees in Indian currency, which is the current coin.

Shri Sri Prakasa: How do they get hold of it?

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: If my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa will have a talk with me, I shall explain the position to him.

REPRESENTATIONS FROM SHIPPING INTERESTS AGAINST HEAVY TAXATION.

839. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether Government have received any representations recently from shipping interests regarding heavy taxation which the Indian Shipping Interests consider as adversely affecting the industry of India?

(b) Do Government propose to make a declaration of their policy in this regard?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) and (b). No. No such representations have been received and there is no reason to believe that Government's present taxation policy militates against the Indian Shipping industry.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government examined the position of shipping companies under the new schemes which are now in the Budget and if so have they found any ground for special treatment of these companies which are practically in distress?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: When the taxation proposals are made by Government, it is for the industry to make out a case for exemption if it thinks that it has got certain special grounds for exemption. No such request has been received from the shipping industry, so far as the Commerce Department is concerned.

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY FOR RURAL AREAS.

840. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state:

(a) whether any comprehensive power policy has been formulated with a view to supplying cheap electricity for improving the rural life in India;

(b) whether Government propose to supply cheap electricity to the villages for agricultural farming, cottage industries and local arts and crafts; and

(c) the progress made in connection with the Government proposal to establish Statutory Electricity Boards to develop electrically backward areas in general and rural electrification in particular?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) and (b). It is the policy of Government to promote rural electrification, as will be clear from the broadcast talk given by the Honourable Mr. C. H. Bhabha of which a copy is laid on the table. Electric Power Development, which covers rural electrification, is, however, primarily the responsibility of Provincial Governments. The Government of India have been assisting the Provinces and States by giving expert advice, where needed, and encouraging them to undertake Rural Electrification Schemes.

(c) The Electricity (Supply) Bill, 1946, which provides for the setting up by Provinces of Statutory Electricity Board, was introduced in the Legislative Assembly in February 1946 but the motion for circulation could not be moved either in that session or the Autumn Session of 1946. The Bill was circulated for eliciting public opinion by executive order in March 1946. It is hoped to refer the Bill to Select Committee during the current Session.

THE HON'BLE MR. C. H. BHABHA'S BROADCAST

Electricity in Rural Areas.

"One of our most urgent tasks today is to create administrative conditions under which it will be possible for Government to play a positive role in large rural electrification schemes. The Government of India have already made a beginning in this direction by their proposal to establish Statutory Electricity Boards charged with the specific duty of developing electrically backward areas. But a great deal more still remains to be done. It is my earnest hope that a comprehensive power policy will be formulated in the near future which may enable Government to discharge our obligations to the rural population at least to some extent."

The foregoing is a passage in a broadcast talk given from the New Delhi Station of A. I. R. by the Hon'ble, Mr. C. H. Bhabha, Member for Works, Mines and Power, Government of India.

He said :

I would like to indicate in a few words what I conceive to be the right objectives underlying any programme of an electrical development in this country. To my mind, these are briefly, first, an overall increase in the production of electricity; secondly, the generation of this increased quantum of power in the most efficient units, and its distribution over a wide area through integrated power systems; and, thirdly, the development of the electrically backward areas generally, and of rural areas in particular. It is on this last aspect of electrical development that I would like to say a few words this evening.

Three years ago, an important conference of several leading Power Engineers in this country, both official and non-official, was held under the auspices of the Government of India. Not much publicity appears to have been given to this conference, possibly because these Power Engineers made some far-reaching recommendations which the then Provincial Governments and the Central Government were not in a position fully to implement. One of these recommendations read as follows :—

"The Conference has considered the question of the economic supply of Electricity to rural areas. In view of the importance of raising the standard of living of the agriculturists, who comprise the vast majority of India's population, we consider it imperative that, in planning for further electrical development, the essential needs of the rural community should be adequately catered for. The Conference notes with regret that in very few cases have the needs of non-urban population been met spontaneously by commercial licensees. On the other hand, the rapid spread of rural electricity in zones controlled by state schemes, notably in Mysore, Madras, the U. P. and Baroda, convinces the Conference that electric power can be made available to the villager if the promoters or grid schemes are willing to operate on strictly limited profits—and adopt a long-term economic view."

This was said as early as 1944, but the position still remains substantially unchanged and will continue to remain so for many years longer, unless energetic steps are taken to redress the balance of the past.

Electrical Deficiency in Rural Areas.

How is this to be achieved? It is necessary to set out some basic facts before an answer can be attempted. The total amount of electrical energy generated per year in

this country is approximately 4,000 million kilowatt hours, equivalent to about a week's production of energy in the United States of America. Extremely small as this overall production is, the distribution is faulty and inequitable. Over 42 per cent. of the total energy generated is consumed in the two cities of Bombay and Calcutta; and if we take into account the figures for other large cities like Ahmedabad and Cawnpore, we find that over 50 per cent. of the total amount of energy generated is utilised in these four cities which together contain only 1.6 per cent. of the total population of India.

The figures just cited are a measure of our electrical deficiency in our rural areas. This would have been no cause for despondency, if electricity were only a luxury. Very often, people in this country complain about and criticize the absence of electric lighting in our villages, quite forgetful of the fact that the electrical development of a country is not measured by the size of its lighting load but by its agricultural and industrial load. In other words, domestic lighting is by no means the most important use of electricity and the standard of our rural masses can be effectively raised only if we can supply cheap electricity to them for agricultural farming, cottage industries and local arts and crafts. Undoubtedly, with the advent of electricity in our villages, a healthier standard of living will definitely spread throughout this country with its 700,000 villages. With the utilisation of electricity too, a new type of dwelling is bound to develop with consequent benefits to the health of our village folk.

But the most important use of electricity in rural areas would be its increasing use for the supply of perennial irrigation through power-operated wells and for development of cottage industries. Similar use of electricity for the reverse process of de-watering areas which are now water-logged or areas where the sub-soil water has risen very high, is equally important in some parts of the country. Cheap power will encourage the establishment of modern hygienic dairy and poultry farms and the processing of agricultural products to a stage very much nearer, than at present, to their manufacture into finished products. It will further assist in the establishment of village industries closely associated with basic agricultural operations.

Parallel Measures to ensure success of electrification.—Cheap power, by itself, would not work all these miracles; it will have to be harnessed for the purposes that I have just mentioned, under wise direction and able guidance. Whether the existing pattern of country life in our villages will enable our rural folk to take advantage of the supply of cheap power, if and when it is available, is a difficult problem of social organisation to which our social workers and administrators must address themselves. Rural electrification projects will yield handsome dividends, only if they are accompanied by suitable parallel measures in the field of rural development. These should include :—

- (a) suitable legislative and administrative action for consolidation of holdings, co-operative farming and improvement of agricultural and veterinary practices including supply of cheap manure and implements and the improvement of live stock;
- (b) a scheme of pre-processing of agricultural produce before its despatch to urban centres;
- (c) the establishment of power-driven medium scale industries under Government direction and control for the manufacture of agricultural implements and the simpler necessities of life;
- (d) the establishment of small units of modern dairy and poultry farms under expert supervision and guidance;
- (e) the provision of model dwelling houses of the simplest type to demonstrate and encourage domestic uses of electricity;
- (f) liberal supply of agricultural finance and rural credit on easy terms coupled with scaling down of debts and reduction of litigation; and
- (g) the development of simple types of village co-operative which will eventually take over from Government the direction, supervision and control envisaged in the fore-going proposals.

State to play positive Role.—I do not consider it necessary to refer to the many technical problems of rural electrification, except to say that the responsibility for introducing electricity in our rural areas must develop on the State or quasi-State authorities like Statutory Boards. Electrification has not proceeded at the same pace in rural areas as in urban areas, primarily because private companies have hesitated to enter a market which, in their view, offers few opportunities for high returns on invested capital. The State alone can take the long view which discards the immediate profit motive and is prepared to launch upon a long-term programme of development. And it is just as well to emphasise that no extensive rural development schemes for electricity will ever be feasible unless the State takes into account the large indirect benefits accruing to the general public.

A word more, in this connection, of the efforts needed for spreading electricity in rural areas seems necessary. The lesson taught by the famous Tennessee Valley Authority in the extension of electricity to rural areas is well worth emulating. The great increase in prosperity in the Tennessee Valley since 1937 is largely due to the extension services and their specialists who carried on a regular campaign by meetings, demonstrations and other assistances like hire purchase schemes. These workers were specially trained in rural electrification at various centres before being entrusted with their jobs.

Except in some limited areas of Madras and the United Provinces and in a few enlightened Indian States, rural electrification has so far made little headway. Most of our Provinces have neither the organisation nor the technical ability necessary to initiate any vigorous scheme of rural electrification.

One of our most urgent tasks today is to create administrative conditions under which it will be possible for Government to play a positive role in large rural electrification schemes. The Government of India have already made a beginning in this direction by their proposal to establish Statutory Electricity Boards charged with the specific duty of developing electrically backward areas. But a great deal more still remains to be done. It is my earnest hope that a comprehensive power policy will be formulated in the near future which may enable Government to discharge our obligations to the rural population at least to some extent.

Seth Govind Das: Are any negotiations going on with the Rewa State for having a big hydro-electric scheme in that State?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: There is a scheme for having a dam on the Sone river. The scheme is known as the Rihand scheme and negotiations are being carried on by the Government of the United Provinces with Rewa and Bihar and a few other States concerned.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know if there is any idea of supplying electricity to the rural areas for domestic purposes? If so, will the Honourable Member take care that the current supplied is D. C. and not A. C. current and if it is A. C., it is not of more than 110 voltage?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The supply will be of what is considered by the experts to be most suitable.

Shri Sri Prakasa: And not by the women and children who die?

Mr. President: Next question.

INCREASED EXPORT OF HIDES.

841. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the export of hide has increased during the current financial year; if so, by what amount;

(b) the percentage of increase in prices of shoes etc., during this period; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the slaughter of cattle has also increased during this period?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) Yes. A statement showing exports of raw buffalo and cow hides during ten financial years ending 1945-46 and seven months April to October 1946 is placed on the table.

(b) So far as Government are aware the increase in the price of shoes during the current financial year as compared with the last one varies from ten to fifteen per cent.

(c) No figures are available about the total number of cattle slaughtered. I would however refer the Honourable Member to the reply given on the 17th February 1947.

Statement

Export of hides and skins (Raw) —In tons. (Raw Buffalo, Cow and their Calf Skins but excluding raw goat and sheep skins.)

1936-37	1937-38	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42
24,211	21,609	15,407	11,878	7,231	8,915

1942-43	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46	April 1946—October 1946
4,442	3,402	1,046	572	5,239

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made to relate the prices of shoes and chappals with the prices of hides?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: I do not think there is any exclusive connection between the two. So far as the prices of hides are concerned, there is no substantial increase. The increase in price may be due to other factors in the cost of production.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then why is it that when the essential raw material for shoes, that is, hides, has not increased in its price, such a continuous rise of prices amounting to 10 to 15 per cent. during the last year is being allowed in regard to the prices of shoes?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: There is no question of allowing the increase, because the prices of shoes are not controlled. But, as I said, apart from the cost of the hide, there are several other materials which are used and the price of which has gone up. Then, there is the labour factor and the wages have gone up. So, naturally, there would be some increase in the price of the article.

MONOPOLISTIC PRICES OF KEROSENE AND PETROL.

842. *Mr. Mann Subedar: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Works, Mines and Power, be pleased to state under what circumstances and for what reasons Government agreed to increase the prices of kerosene and petrol?

(b) Are Government aware that kerosene and petrol prices for India are monopolistic and are being settled by a pool?

(c) Have Government the power to protect consumers against an undue rise in prices of these and other articles, where the prices are fixed on a monopolistic basis by the pool?

(d) If so, under what law?

(e) When did they exercise these powers last?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) There has been no recent increase in the prices of kerosene and petroleum. In fact prices have gradually decreased since the 5th September 1942 for Kerosene and the 22nd January, 1944 for petroleum.

(b) Kerosene and petrol prices in India are based mainly on the Gulf parity price for imported kerosene and petrol and partly on the prices of indigenous production as settled by the then Honourable Member in charge of Commerce with the representatives of the Oil Companies towards the end of 1939. The totals are pooled every six months and an average price is worked out which is normally kept unchanged during this period. The arrangement is worked by a

Committee known as the Lawson Committee consisting of representatives of all the organized Oil Companies under the Chairmanship of the General Manager of M/s. Burmah Shell and Company. The half yearly pool prices are subject to Government approval.

(c), (d) and (e). Government have the power to control the prices at which petroleum and petroleum products may be bought or sold under sub-section (2) (c) of section 3 of the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946. These powers have not so far been exercised.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that the prices of petrol were reduced when Rumanian and Russian petrol came in some years ago and that this Gulf parity merely means the cost of transporting oil all the way from U.S.A., may I know whether Government have examined that India is not prejudiced by the manner of fixing this price because the cost of transport from the Persian Gulf to India is very much lower?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The oil throughout the world is controlled by certain oil interests about which my Honourable friend knows far more than I can pretend to know. The custom all over the world is that prices are based on Gulf parity, which means the price of petrol in the Mexican Gulf. It is the price as published in the U.S.A. where the biggest production takes place. To this is added what is called an origin differential, that is, the cost of transport from the Gulf to the country where it is sold. The custom throughout the world is that this origin differential is charged irrespective of where the actual supply comes from. Even for petroleum from the Persian Gulf, India has to pay the cost of transport as if that petroleum was brought from the Mexican Gulf. The only advantage that we got from the Conference of 1939 which the then Honourable Member in charge of Commerce had with the Oil Companies was that the origin differential was fixed at the pre-war rates. That means that any increase in the cost of transport during war time, was not added to the cost of petroleum in India and, to that extent, this agreement has certainly helped India. I may also add that prices, as I said, have been decreasing for the last two or four years. The pre-war price of petrol was As. 10/6 without taking into consideration taxes and import duty. In September 1939, it was As. 10/6 and it rose to Re. 1/1 on the 22nd January 1944. It has now gone down to As. 11/6. Similarly, with kerosene. It was Rs. 2/14 in September 1939, rose to Rs. 5/14 in September 1942 and has now gone down to Rs. 3/7. Similarly with inferior kerosene it was Rs. 2/6 before the war, then rose to Rs. 5/-/6 and is now Rs. 2/9/6.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that His Majesty's Government has the controlling interest in the Persian Gulf Oil Companies and that the Anglo-Persian Oil Company has also the controlling interest in the B.O.C., will Government examine the vulnerable position in which India is with regard to oil prices and take such steps as in their wisdom they think fit to protect this country against exploitation?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That question is very actively under consideration.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that the Government is going to remove the control on petrol and kerosene oil shortly?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The question of removing the control is also under consideration; but so long as these commodities continue in short supply, it is difficult to remove the control altogether.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the present prospects for the adequate supplies of kerosene oil in India? Are they likely to increase or are they increasing?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The prospects of increase in the supply of kerosene are very bright. But there are two bottle-necks. One of them is the non-availability of tin plate and black plate. The supplies are there but they cannot be moved because there are no containers and the possibility of other types of

containers is being at present examined. If that possibility materialises, I expect that there will be an increase in the supply of kerosene very shortly. The other difficulty is, of course transport on railways and the question of tank wagons. That also is being examined.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is there any possibility of petrol rationing being removed in the near future?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That question may be addressed to the Transport Department which deals with rationing.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member tell me where I can get petrol for As. 11/6 a gallon in Delhi?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: That is the price of petrol at Port, that means where it is landed. To that has to be added the excise duty, taxes, cost of transport, and other charges. The price in Delhi is not what I am quoting; I am quoting the price at Port.

ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

343. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) what diplomatic contacts the Government of India have with the Governments of countries in Latin America, notably, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Peru and Chile;

(b) whether any efforts are being made to establish Embassies in those countries; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of sending personal representatives to those countries to explore the possibilities of improving our relations with them?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) Diplomatic Missions have not so far been exchanged with countries in Latin America.

(b) The Government are considering the establishment of diplomatic Missions in a number of countries including the countries of Central and South America.

(c) Government do not consider it necessary to send any such representatives at present, though they will consider doing so later, should it at any time appear desirable in the interests of India's relations with those countries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Was any effort made at the recent International Conferences when our representatives must have met representatives of these countries to carry on exploratory discussions with a view to facilitate an early opening of Embassies in these countries?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir, there were such discussions and they were very satisfactory. The difficulty now is not the lack of desire on the part of the other countries or on our part, but mechanical difficulties of finding ways and means and selecting suitable people to fill these posts.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Could the Honourable Member give us an idea of the average cost of each Embassy?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what the average would be because they must vary greatly. I am afraid I could not give this information now, but if the Honourable Member desires I could supply him with such estimates as we have.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that some of these countries are also agricultural countries and happen to compete with India in International markets, and some others are interested in the production of tin and oils and their services may be found to be extremely useful in India's economy, will the Government of India realize the urgency of establishing International relations with these countries, particularly in Latin America?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Government of India have considered all these matters and have tried to make up a list of relative priorities, I cannot say off-hand where these countries come, but I do believe that one or two of them are in the first list of priority.

ALLOWANCES TO BURMA-INDIAN IMMIGRANTS OR REFUGEES

844. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are insisting that all those Burma-Indian immigrants or refugees who have been in receipt of Government advances or allowances should go back to Burma by June or July as their allowances would be stopped by that time;

(b) if so, the reasons for stipulating such a condition;

(c) if the reply to part (a) is in the negative, do Government propose to reassure these refugees that they are free to go or not to go to Burma in the near future;

(d) whether Government are aware that conditions of labour, wages, housing and security available for Indian labourers in Burma are not satisfactory and that there is a great demand from them for passages for India who are offering black-market rates for a berth on the decks of ships sailing for India; and

(e) whether Government propose to give due publicity in the principal centres of Burma-Indian refugees about the difficulties of conditions of living obtaining in Burma for all Indian workers?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a), (b) and (c). No pressure is being brought to bear on evacuees to leave for Burma now or indeed at any time. On the other hand, evacuees have been advised that only those of them who own land or house property in Burma or are businessmen who have their own arrangements for accommodation, food, etc., should go at present. Certain proposals regarding the progressive winding up of the existing scheme of financial assistance to evacuees, so as to terminate it by the 29th February, 1948, are, however, under consideration. If these proposals materialise, evacuees in receipt of financial assistance will be afforded certain facilities to return to Burma. Assistance will be discontinued to those of them that fail to take advantage of the facilities offered.

(d) As regards the first part of the question, Government of India have received reports that the condition of Indian labour is far from satisfactory. As regards the second part, the position regarding shipping for repatriation from Burma has improved and no complaints of the nature referred to have been received by the Government of India in recent months.

(e) In March 1946, the Government of India gave wide publicity to the fact that the cost of living in Burma was reported to be very high and that there was acute shortage of accommodation and transport. Government believe that this state of things is now widely known to evacuees; but the suggestion that further publicity regarding the difficult conditions of living in Burma should be given will be considered.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the facilities that Government of India propose to provide to the evacuees if they wish to go back to Burma on the cessation of the payment of these allowances?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member has not got it quite correctly. We are trying to send them back as early as possible. Those who want to go back, we are telling them that you can go now. If they say we cannot go, the allowances stop automatically because we cannot just go on paying allowances. There is no necessity for them to go if we go on

paying them allowances here indefinitely. So if a chance is given to them, and if they do not take advantage of the facilities offered, the assistance will be discontinued. The facilities—I am speaking from memory—are the cost of transit plus other expenses on the journey.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But in view of the considerable difficulties that are being experienced by those who have already gone to Burma, will Government consider at least the advisability of exploring possibilities for providing employment for these people in India when they stop these allowances?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: The Honourable Member should be aware that this question affects not only these people from Burma but tens of millions of people in India; it applies to all the people who have been and are going to be discharged from war factories. It is a very difficult position for them as well as for other services. On the other hand there is a demand—and a rightful demand—for retrenchment, all round, and that retrenchment immediately produces these difficulties. How those poor people are going to look after themselves? These people from Burma have been paid allowances now for six years on a fairly good scale. We propose to pay them still so long as they cannot go back to Burma, but it is an impossible situation for them—neither to return to Burma nor to do anything here and just go on getting allowances from us.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know from the Honourable Member as to when these evacuees will be cleared out of Chunar so that my house which has been commandeered under the D. I. R. for their behoof may be given back to me?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I am extremely sorry to hear that the Honourable Member has been inconvenienced, and my attention was not drawn to this fact, but if we can afford him any help in Chunar we shall certainly do so.

PROPERTY OF ENEMY COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

845. *Mr. G. B. Dani: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any properties belonging to enemy countries in the Central Provinces and particularly in Berar; if so, what they are;

(b) whether negotiations are being carried on with any party or parties for their disposal;

(c) whether Government are aware that they have not been advertised for sale;

(d) whether Government propose to advertise their sale and dispose them of by public auction or after inviting sealed tenders; and

(e) whether Government propose to lay on the table of the House a list of all such properties vested in the custodian of Enemy Property or firms so far as Central Provinces and Berar are concerned?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a), (b) and (e). Messrs. Toyo Manku Kaisha and the Japan Cotton Trading Company Limited each had a cotton ginning and pressing factory at Amraoti. These factories are at present vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property, who is negotiating for their sale to the Amraoti Taluk Agricultural Association through the Provincial Government of C. P. and Berar. The negotiations have not so far been finalised.

(c) Yes.

(d) The procedure to be followed in regard to the sale of these properties is under consideration.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I repeat my question to my Honourable friend Mr. Dani and ask him also as to who his enemies are?

Mr. President: That is well known by now.

STATISTICS ON WAGES FOR AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

†846. *Sri V. Gangaraju: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have got any statistics on wages for agricultural labourers;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to place those statistics on the table of this House; and

(c) if the answer to (a) above be in the negative, whether Government propose to arrange for the collection of such statistics in the various Provinces?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Some Provincial Governments publish quinquennial Agricultural Wage Census Report. According to information available, the reports, except in the case of the Punjab and Bombay were all published pre-war. The latest Punjab and Bombay Reports relate to the year 1942-43.

(b) Government would obtain available copies of the reports and place them in the Library of the House.

(c) Government have already taken up with Provincial Governments the question of instituting an enquiry into agricultural labour conditions in various provinces to ascertain the systems and quantum of wages and perquisites paid to agricultural workers, their earnings, regularity of employment, working and living conditions with a view to consider what steps should be taken to improve their conditions of employment and to enable them to reach a reasonable standard of living. A scheme for the regular collection of statistics on agricultural wages is also under consideration of the Agriculture Department.

REPATRIATION OF INDIANS FROM JAVA AND SUMATRA

847. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs please state whether in view of the unsettled conditions in Java and Sumatra Government propose to make necessary arrangements for the repatriation of such Indian civilians as are anxious to return to this country?

(b) If so, what facilities do Government propose to afford to them?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). Steps have already been taken to repatriate from Java and Sumatra those Indian nationals resident there who were desirous of returning to India. Last autumn the Government of India chartered two ships, at an approximate cost of Rs. 2,00,000, for this purpose and since then a number of Indians have been brought back to India in paddy ships. In all more than 3,000 persons have so far been repatriated. Few Indians who wish to return to India now remain in Java and Sumatra and arrangements are being made to obtain passages for them as soon as possible.

RESTRICTION ON REMITTANCES TO INDIA FROM INDIAN NATIONALS IN FRENCH INDO-CHINA

848. *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: (a) Will the Honourable Member for External Affairs be pleased to state the action taken by Government on the representations made by the Indian Association in Indo-China-Saigon on behalf of the Indian Nationals in French Indo-China, who are experiencing difficulties to make remittances to their families in India on account of the restrictions imposed by the Government of India and at what stage the matter stands at present?

(b) Were any representations made to Government in this connection, by Sri V. Nadimuthu Pillai, Member of the Constituent Assembly, describing the conditions of the Indian Nationals in Indo-China, and citing reference to the

† Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

replies to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 441, asked by Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar on 22nd February 1946, regarding the exchange facilities to Indian Nationals in French Indo-China to send money to their families in India?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government of India promised to expedite the matter; if so, at what stage does the matter stand at present, when Government have appointed an Indian Consul in French Indo-China?

(d) Was any final report received by Government on this matter?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of instructing the Vice-Consul at Saigon to conclude the debt settlement and remove the exchange restrictions to facilitate the Indian Nationals to make remittances to India freely?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) to (e). Government have received representations from Mr. V. Nadimuthu Pillai and from representatives of the Indian community in Indo-China in regard to the refusal of the French authorities in Indo-China to allow remittances by Indian nationals in that country. They are aware that this refusal has resulted in hardship to those persons in India who would have been beneficiaries from such remittances.

Every effort is being made to reach an agreement with the French Government, through negotiations in Indo-China and directly with the French authorities in India, for the removal of the prohibition on remittances from French Indo-China to India. Negotiations with the French authorities have reached an advanced stage and the Government of India hope that a final settlement will now not be long deferred.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: May I know how long it will take?

The Honourable Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru: I have just said that we hope to come to a settlement soon. It is very difficult for me to fix a time.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

IMPORTATION OF STEEL FOR BUILDING PURPOSES

849. *Mr. Mann Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state what steps have Government taken to encourage the importation of steel for building purposes, of which there is a great shortage in India?

(b) Have any licences for such imports been asked for and, if so, how many?

(c) Is it a fact that Government are refusing licences for such imports and, if so, why?

(d) Have Government examined the possibility of abolishing import duties on steel useful for building purposes with a view to encouraging imports?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: (a) The Iron and Steel Control Organisation have made enquiries from U.K., U.S.A. and Australia regarding the availability of iron and steel for all purposes including building for export to India, but have so far been unable to secure any imports owing to the shortage of steel in those countries.

(b) Licences for 11,452 tons of structurals and bars, 2,862 tons of sheet and 22,634 tons of pipes, tubes and fittings have been issued for imports from foreign countries.

(c) Till recently import licences were granted to any person who could substantiate his application with definite proof of availability. From June 1946 to the end of January 1947 licences were, however, restricted to imported materials of which the selling price was not more than Rs. 100 above the declared price in India of similar materials. In view of Government decision to make all imports of steel of the controlled categories in future on its own account, and to equalise the prices the issue of import licences was discontinued. The question was, however, discussed further on Saturday the 1st March, at the

meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee of the Legislature attached to the Department of Industries and Supplies when it was decided to give facilities to genuine consumers to import steel for their own use. In accordance with this decision instructions have been given to the Controller of Steel Imports and a press notice is being issued by him.

(d) As the Honourable Member is aware, the iron and steel industry enjoys protection upto the 31st March 1947. The question of continuance of this protection is at present under examination and the possibility of abolishing the import duty on steel useful for building purposes will also be considered in this connection.

DIRECT TRADE AGREEMENT WITH U. S. A.

850. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether, in view of the fact that discriminating tariff against the United States *vis-a-vis* Britain under Imperial preference cannot continue, Government propose to consider the desirability of negotiating a direct trade agreement with the United States of America on the lines of the Indo-American Aviation Agreement?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: No, Sir. The Government of India feel that in view of the forthcoming International Trade and Employment Conference it will be inadvisable to take up at this stage the question of negotiating a direct trade agreement with the United States of America.

HOARDING AND PROFITEERING PREVENTION ORDINANCE.

851. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance is still in force in the Centrally administered areas; and
(b) if so, whether Government propose to repeal it?

The Honourable Mr. I. I. Chundrigar: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 13th March 1947, when it will be answered by the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies.

BANNING OF CONSTRUCTION IN 'GANDHI NAGAR' COLONY IN DELHI

852. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the existence of a small colony named "Gandhi Nagar" with a population of 6,000 on the other side of the river Jamuna?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India has banned all further constructions in this area?

(c) In view of the scarcity of houses in Delhi, do Government propose to lift the ban on constructions in this locality?

(d) Considering the nearness of this Nagar to the city, do Government propose to encourage the development of this Nagar?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: The subject is one for the Health Department. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 17th March 1947, when it will be answered by the Secretary of the Health Department.

OBJECTION BY MYSORE TO CONSTRUCTION OF DAMS ACROSS LAXMANA-THIRTHA RIVER IN COORG.

853. *Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Coorg Administration has drawn up schemes for constructing Dams across the rivers Laxmana-thirtha (South Coorg) and Harangi (North Coorg) in order to irrigate about 12,000 acres of land?

(b) Are Government aware that Mysore Durbar has raised some objections in this connection as these rivers are the tributaries of the river Kaveri whose waters are now utilised by Mysore through Krishnaraja Sagar Dam?

(c) Has this matter been referred to the Government of India for necessary action?

(d) If so, when?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Yes. The extent of land to be irrigated by these schemes is about 9,000 acres—6,000 acres by the Harangi Project and 3,000 acres by the Lakshmanathirtha Project.

(b) So far as the Government of India are aware, the Mysore Government have raised objections only in regard to the Lakshmanathirtha Irrigation Project.

(c) and (d). Yes. The Chief Commissioner, Coorg, proposed in December 1945 that the Government of Mysore should be advised to withdraw their objections. The Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission was consulted and the Chief Commissioner was requested in April 1946 to supply certain further details. The reply of the Chief Commissioner has not yet been received.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

SUPPLY OF TABLE FANS IN RESIDENCES OF OFFICERS DRAWING RS. 600 P.M.

77. Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Secretary of the Works, Mines and Power Department please state whether Government are aware of the past practice to supply table fans on hire during summer season to occupants of Government residences in order of priority of their applications irrespective of their pay?

(b) Are Government aware that the practice has since been modified and that the fans are now supplied only to such officers as are in receipt of Rs. 600 per mensem and above?

(c) Are Government aware that this has involved a great hardship on low paid Government servants in view of the fact that the number of ceiling fans in their residences is much smaller than those in the residences of officers drawing pay of Rs. 600 p.m. and above, who can easily afford to hire fans by private arrangements in market?

(d) Do Government propose to revive the old practice, in view of the fact that the war is now over?

(e) If so, do Government propose to give effect to the change from the 15th March 1947 when the Summer Season is likely to start?

Mr. B. K. Gokhale: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c), (d) and (e). Government do not appear to have received any complaints although the new rules were introduced in 1945 on account of shortage of table fans and the difficulty of buying new ones. The matter will be reconsidered when the supply position becomes easier than it is at present.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

Second Stage—*contd.*

DEMAND No. 24—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR—*contd.*

Labour Policy of the Government of India—contd.

Mr. President: The House will now proceed with the cut motion moved yesterday by Mr. Joshi to discuss the labour policy of Government.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram (Labour Member): Sir, I fail to understand with what object my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi moved
12 Noon this cut motion. The intention of a cut motion is either to censure Government or to draw their attention to something.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): To censure Government if the reply is unsatisfactory.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I am coming to that. If it is to censure Government I am afraid my Honourable friend has not made out any case in his speech for censuring them. If it is to draw their attention, I am afraid he has placed before Government no new items which Government has not already taken up. Therefore I said I fail to understand his intention in moving this cut motion. All the same for the information of the House, and not for Mr. Joshi alone, I shall place before the House the steps that this Government has already taken or propose to take in order to improve the condition of the working classes of this country. As soon as we took charge of this Government, I convened a series of conferences in order to discuss a five-year plan of work to improve the condition of the working classes. And Mr. Joshi is well aware of that scheme; a copy of the scheme was sent to the All-India Trade Union Congress of which my Honourable friend happens to be the General Secretary.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I did not plead ignorance of that scheme.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: And the scheme was discussed primarily in the conference of provincial Labour Ministers, after that at a conference of State Labour Ministers, and then at a conference of representatives of employers and workers at which the All-India Trade Union Congress was also represented. Now, I will refer to the items which Mr. Joshi has placed before the House and before Government to be taken up, and I will show from the scheme which we have formulated and which is to be executed in the next five years that all these items are covered by our scheme; rather we have got a larger number of items which are bound to ameliorate the condition of the working classes to a greater extent than Mr. Joshi has suggested. He has suggested minimum wages in organised industries, housing, health insurance, employment insurance and retirement benefit. These are the five items which he has suggested to be included in the five-year programme. He has also suggested other things regarding strengthening of the staff of the Labour Department, putting the tripartite labour committee on an independent basis, and giving a freer hand to the executives of the Labour Department in order to carry out their programme. I propose, Sir, to examine, in some detail, the proposal that Mr. Joshi has made and the work which we have already undertaken or propose to undertake in the near future.

At the very outset, I want to make it clear that one of the major objectives of Government policy will be to secure to the workers the highest practicable standard of living. I have made it clear on more than one occasion that no industry which cannot afford to pay living wages to its workers has a right

to survive. If that industry is indispensable in the interest of the community or the nation it may be subsidised by the community; but the industry cannot have a right to subsist on the exploitation of the working classes. And I can assure the House and assure the working classes that so long as I am here I shall work with that objective in view.

Mr. Joshi began by comparing the conditions in this country with the conditions in America and other western countries. I for one admit that the condition of the working classes in this country is far from satisfactory; I admit that the working classes here in India are getting ten times less pay than the working classes in other countries get. But may I draw the attention of Mr. Joshi to the fact that our country is ten times less industrialised than those other countries? May I draw his attention to the fact that we are still at least a century behind the industrially developed countries of the west? As a practical man I have always thought that there is no reason why the condition of the working classes of this country should not be brought to the same level as in other countries. But this cannot be done overnight; it will take some time. Only a miracle man can do it overnight; not a human being who has to face a number of limitations brought about by a first-class war and dislocation of the social order not only here but in all countries. But all the same we have been persistently trying to improve the condition of the working classes,—the working classes not only in organised industries as Mr. Joshi suggests, but also of those who are far more numerous than the industrial labour.

We have formulated a scheme to cover all categories of labour, all categories of working classes and it is our intention to improve their condition. Perhaps it may take sometime but several factors have to be taken into account in judging our progress. I may for the renewed and fresh information of Mr. Joshi give out the items of the programme which are included in our five years' plan. They are:

Statutory prescription of minimum wages in sweated industries and occupations,

Promotion of 'fair wage' agreements.

Steps will be taken to secure for workers in Plantations a living wage.

It is also proposed to set up an enquiry into the earnings of agricultural labourers. Upon the results of the enquiry will depend here nature and the extent of the measures necessary to protect the wages of these classes of workers from sliding below the minimum.

Reduction in the hours of work in mines to bring the working hours in line with the hours of work in factories which have been recently reduced from 54 to 48 a week.

Legislation to regulate hours of work, spread-over, weekly rest periods and holidays with pay for other classes of workers not now subject to regulation, e.g., those employed in shops and commercial undertakings, road transport services, dock and municipal labour.

Overhaul of the Factories Act with a view to the prescription and enforcement of right standards in regard to lighting, ventilation, safety, health and welfare of the workers. Conditions of work are to be improved, particularly in unorganised industries and work places to which the present Factories Act does not apply.

Revision of the Mines Act to bring about similar improvements in the working conditions in mines.

Organisation of industrial training and apprenticeship schemes on a large scale with a view to improving the productive and earning capacity of workers and enabling them to qualify for promotions to higher grades.

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Provision of adequate housing for workers to the extent of the resources, both of man power and materials, that can be made available for this service.

Steps will be taken to secure for workers in plantations, mining and other categories provision of housing.

Organisation of the Health Insurance Scheme, applicable to factory workers to start with, for the provision of medical treatment and monetary relief during sickness, maternity benefit on an extended scale, medical treatment in the case of disablement and the substitution of pensions during periods of disablement and to dependents, in case of death, in place of the present lump sum payments.

Revision of the Workmen's Compensation Act with a view to extending to other classes of workers the benefit provided for under the Health Insurance Scheme in respect of disablement and dependent benefits.

A central law for maternity benefits to secure for other than factory workers the extended scale of benefits provided under the Health Insurance Scheme.

Extension to other classes of workers, the right, within specified limits, to leave with allowances during periods of sickness.

Provision of creches and canteens.

Welfare of the coal mining labour and welfare of the Mica mining labour.

Over and above this, we have been pressing the need of strengthening the inspection staff in the provinces. We have already started training of Factory Inspectors. We are strengthening the Inspectorate of Mines. The items which Mr. Joshi has suggested are more than covered in this five year programme. The only difference that he would like to make out is that the minimum wages should be prescribed not only in the sweated industries but in all "organised" industries, the word 'organised' is quoted from his own speech.

As regards minimum wages in organised industry, the workers in those industries which have been organised into trade unions by the efforts of leaders of workers who claim to have been working among the working classes of this country, are in a position to secure for themselves something which may be regarded as a minimum wage, if not a living wage. The conditions of those workers who are not organised is worse. They are not in a position to assert themselves or to secure for themselves even a minimum wage. At the first stage it is necessary to help such workers who are not organised or in a position to bargain with their employers to secure a minimum wage. So our intention is in the first instance to take up the sweated industries and if it is found necessary to expand its scope not for the organised industrial workers but for other categories of workers. It will be done.

As regards organised industries it is proposed to promote fair wages agreements between the employers and the employees and if necessary to have a legislation to that effect. We are also proceeding with the work of standardisation of occupational terms and wages in major industries and the determination of the differential in wage rates as between various organisations in an industry. We have already taken up the work of standardisation of occupational terms.

As regards plantation labour and other categories of labour we are thinking of forming tripartite organisations for each industry. A Plantation Labour Conference was held in January last and an agreement was reached between Government, employers and workers, that a quick enquiry into Family Budgets should be conducted with a view to ascertaining the present level of earnings and the normal requirements of workers and that as soon as the investigations are concluded, there should be a conference to discuss and settle rates of wages for plantation workers. The enquiry has been set on

foot. Pending the enquiry, employers in Assam and Bengal tea gardens have already agreed to the grant of an *ad hoc* increase of dearness allowance equivalent to 25% of the basic wages.

Government intends setting up tripartite organisations for different industrial organisations and industrial committees will go a great length in securities like coal, cotton, textile, jute, hide and leather and others. These tripartite organisations are working for the workers improvements in their wages and social security measures.

It is necessary to examine the question of wage adjustments not merely for the benefit of industrial workers, but also of the vast mass of workers on land. Owing to the vastness of the subject, the unorganised condition of workers, the absence of adequate data and the disparate conditions obtaining in the different parts of the country, we cannot hope to solve the problem by the device of industrial committees. The first requisite is to get a clear idea of the conditions of the problem and this might be obtained only by instituting a comprehensive enquiry into the earnings, opportunities of employment and the standards of living of agricultural workers in the various parts of the country. The Labour Department has drafted a questionnaire and it has been circulated to provincial and a number of State Governments and certain select Economists for their comment and criticism. As soon as their comments are received, the questionnaire will be finalised and the enquiry will be started. It is a huge task which will have to be undertaken with the co-operation of provincial and State Governments. It is noteworthy that a number of State Governments are taking interest in this enquiry. Government are moving as fast as possible in the matter of wage-fixation but it is very difficult to reach satisfactory voluntary agreements between employers and workers. Then the Government will consider the question of introducing legislation to set up Wage Boards with statutory powers of fixing wages.

The Health Insurance Bill has already been introduced in the Assembly. A comprehensive amendment of the Factories Act has already been taken up and will be introduced in this session of the Assembly. An officer has already been detailed to study the question relating to unemployment, old age and retirement pensions. It would take a little time before tentative conclusions can be formulated to serve as a basis of discussion. In this connection I may point out that in our country it is not a question of unemployment only of a comparatively small number of industrial workers. Our country is suffering mainly from unemployment and under employment. Vast masses of workers working in the villages are unemployed for a major portion of the year and they are under employed even during the working period. The whole question is how to utilise our man power. The difficulty is not lack of intention on the part of Government, but the difficulty is how to develop the country. Today every Honourable Member in the House will agree with me that in spite of the best intention of the Central Government in spite of the best intention of the Provincial Governments to take up new schemes for the development of the country and of the respective provinces in spite of the best efforts of the industrialists to have new industries developed in this country, there are difficulties which we have to face in securing machineries and in securing materials and qualified personnel and thus expanding the resources of the country. While considering the improvement of the working classes, we will have to take into consideration the limitations which we have to face due to abnormal conditions. I do not want to take up more time of the House. I have already taken a lot of time of the House, but I may assure Mr. Joshī, Mr. Guruswami and other friends that the Government do not wish to wait for their suggestions before taking action. Government has already taken up schemes for the amelioration of labour. Government will of course welcome any suggestion and constructive criticism from friends. But I may

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say that we are already proceeding on these lines and so there is no justification for any criticism. It may be that in Mr. Joshi's assessment, we might not be moving as fast as he would like us to do. But I may assure him that we are as anxious as he is to get our measures through. But the difficulties are here in the Assembly itself. My Honourable friend Mr. Joshi and his other labour friends took up rather much of the time of the House in repeating the same arguments and they took several days over a single Bill which could have been finished in a few hours. By taking more time of the House, they prevented Government from bringing forward other measures which would be beneficial to working classes.

As regards strengthening our department, I agree with him, but the difficulty is in getting suitable men. Ever since I took charge of this department, I have been trying to get suitable men to place them in charge of certain sections. So far we have been relying only on provincial governments to give us officers. In spite of repeated requests, we have not been able to get suitable officers from them.

As regards the Standing Labour Committee I should like to take one or two minutes on that point. Mr. Joshi is confusing the whole issue when he compares the Standing Labour committee with I.L.O. The I.L.O. is not an institution attached to one particular government, but the I.L.O. is an Association of sovereign States and its aim is to bring about an improvement in international labour standards and ensure that the countries compete on even terms. The I.L.O. has not forged new standards of labour policy and administration. Some countries are advanced and others are less advanced. The I.L.O. attempts to narrow the gap between the more advanced and less advanced countries. Many countries vote for the conventions, but do not ratify them. According to the constitution as amended at Montreal last year, Member States are required to explain every year why they have not ratified the convention. This obligation is likely to introduce an element of realism in voting and it may well be that fewer conventions will be framed in the years to come, as no country would hereafter rush to vote for a convention which it may not be able to implement. The Indian Labour conference on the other hand is an advisory body set up to advise government on measures which should be taken to improve labour standards. Constitutionally both the Centre and the provinces have full legislative authority in regard to labour matters and it is impossible to set up in India a conference similar to the I.L.O. It is only when the Centre ceases to have legislative authority and all power vests in the provinces that it may become necessary to have an organisation where fully autonomous provincial governments and the States will come together and discuss standards of labour policy and administration. If the constitution of the Indian Labour conference under such circumstances includes a provision that the participating governments must give an account why they have not implemented the decisions of the conference, they are bound to vote only for such measures as they may be in a position to implement. The pace of reform will be slow. While it may be possible to iron out differences in standards from province to province, State to State, it is by no means certain that the Conference would be an instrument in forging new standards of labour policy and administration for the country as a whole. So long as the present Constitution remains, it is premature to consider a change. I do not agree with the views that the Standing Labour committee should continue to have a place on an independent footing with an independent Chairman and a Director paid heavily, as heavily as the Director of I.L.O., or as much as the Secretary to the Government of India here. As a matter of fact when the Tripartite labour conference is there and when we

are going to have a number of industrial committees for various trade and industry, there is no necessity for the Labour committee. I personally feel that in particular trade and industry, it is those persons who are specialised in that industry who will be helpful in giving suggestions and advice to the Government. We are going to have a number of industrial committees for various industries and trades. In that view, I do not agree with my Honourable friend's suggestion on that point. As regards other suggestions, as I have already remarked, we have taken up those items and are proceeding with them as fast and as expeditiously as we can. We are all anxious, as much as Mr. Joshi, to see that the working classes in this country get better living conditions than they have at present.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Labour' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

DEMAND NO. 11—CABINET.

Welfare of Scheduled Caste.

Rao Bahadur N. Sivaraj (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Cabinet' be reduced by Rs. 100,"

My object in doing so is to discuss the welfare of the community which I have the privilege of representing in this Honourable House. Of late, a feeling has come over the members of my community that the Government of India is trying to undo what little has been done by the Government of India hitherto. In other words my anxiety is to see that the position of the scheduled castes with reference to the benefits or such benefits as the Government of India confer upon the people of this country is stabilised. Whether it is due to the pre-occupation of the members of the Interim Government with their own affairs or it is due to the avowed policy of ignoring the claim of the scheduled castes, the fact is that for some time past the recognition that has been given to our community is being gradually taken away. I can quote a number of instances but in view of the little time at my disposal, it is not possible to do so. However I will indicate the tendency. I will take one instance. Whenever the Government of India sent out delegations from this country overseas, they always made it their policy to try and find out if they could not get representatives from the scheduled castes to be put on these delegations. Of late I have seen that a number of delegations have gone out and in not one of them even an inquiry is made as to whether they could not select a Scheduled castes representative. I also find that with regard to the qualifications which have been prescribed for recruitment to the Foreign Service they have put the qualifications so high that it will really result in shutting out the members of the Scheduled castes. That was not the policy adopted by the Government hitherto so far as the recruitment of the scheduled castes was concerned. A minimum qualification sufficient to carry the responsibility of the office was insisted on but now I find in the advertisement for Foreign Service that very high qualifications have been prescribed.

Again, Sir, we feel that in spite of the Government Resolution fixing the quota of representation for the scheduled castes in the Central services, no attempt has so far been made to find out whether that Resolution is being carried out and we have always suggested to the Government of India that an administrative officer should be appointed to inquire into this question and see from time to time whether a department or departments are really getting round this rule. We are afraid that the Government Resolution is not being

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carried out in many instances and the Government shuts its eyes to such happenings. I would personally suggest to the Government of India that a scheduled caste man is not needlessly shut out in the matter of recruitment to the services and that in order to see to this a representative of the scheduled castes should be put on the Federal Public Services Commission. That is a demand that we have always been making. No doubt it is true that the F.P.S.C. must rise above all prejudices but consisting as they do of human beings and particularly in these days, as human beings are so excited communally and otherwise, we fear that justice is not being done to us even by the Federal Public Service Commission. So, I think that the Government of India ought to take care to see that they give us representation on the Federal Public Service Commission.

Then with regard to the Education Department, something has happened recently. There are two scholarship boards. One is the General Scholarship Board for sending a certain number of Indians about 800 in number, overseas for training. The other is the special one created to distribute the number set apart for the scheduled castes by the Government of India for purposes of higher education. In the General Scholarship Board representation has always been given to the scheduled castes in order to see that the members of the community get their advantages there but now I find that no representation is given and what I am afraid has happened is that they said that so far as the general scholarships were concerned the scheduled castes are not entitled to it, that they are not entitled to a reservation of these scholarships and they must be relegated entirely to the scheduled castes board and this is a matter which has caused great concern to us.

Then we feel that far from our quota being taken away from the General Scholarships Board, more ought to have been given, having regard to the fact that we have been kept back all these years and there should be a further increase in the quota that is allotted to the Scheduled Castes Scholarships Board.

Sir, I feel that so far this problem of the scheduled castes has been tackled as a social problem. I feel also that most people who talk about the welfare of the scheduled castes and their betterment think that they can do it just when they want to do it, just as it pleases them to do it but from our point of view the problem of the scheduled castes is a very serious one. It is becoming increasingly serious and it is becoming a major problem. I see already signs of our people demanding these things as a matter of right and not as a matter of concession. They refuse to take it as a gift from anybody and that is due to the fact that during these two wars quite a number of people have been overseas and if I stand here today and raise this question, it is because of the feeling that has come over the members of our community that they should now demand these things as a matter of right and take them as a matter of right and that they should not hang on to the coat tails of one or the other in order to establish their rights.

I may also tell Honourable Members of this House, through you, that we consider this question of the scheduled castes from the point of view of humanity. Very often our position is misunderstood and misrepresented. I can assure you on my own behalf and on behalf of the scheduled castes that our object is not to dominate either the Hindus or the Muhammadans. We should be thankful if we are protected in the clash that arises very often between the Hindus and Muhammadans in the various provinces. But our position is this that we want to assert ourselves humanly. I want freedom for India and Indians in order that I might enjoy and share it. Many may be happy in this House that we are getting freedom very soon but we feel that that freedom may not be of such great use to us, for we fear that it may

be exercised to our disadvantage. Mr. Attlee says that he would not hand over India to the depressed classes. In fact, he says that they expect nobody to hand over this power to the depressed classes. I do not know what exactly is the significance of that statement. But does he know that the original rulers of this country—I need not quote names—were the people who belonged to the scheduled castes. Sir, our fight is not one for political power, as I said, but our method of approach to the solution of the question of the scheduled castes is different. Our fight is almost ideological. We feel that we were once free and it is because of a particular system of society that we have been treated as untouchables. Even the constitution of the villages in India shows that we are ideologically opposed to the Hindus from the very outset and that is why we do not come under what is called Hinduism. But it is the Brahmanical system of society that has treated us most ungenerously. It is because of that treatment that we have lost all the opportunity that we normally should have for our children being sent to the schools who are between the ages of 8 and 11. Whereas the caste Hindu children are studying and playing in schools, our children have no such facilities. Then you prescribe first class qualifications for us. How can the Government expect that class of people from our society? We, therefore, feel that the Government ought to treat this question as a major problem because it concerns the welfare and happiness of 60 million people, who, if they are kept in their present conditions in this country, might be a source of danger to the peace and prosperity of this country.

Secondly, we are afraid having regard to the very vast and rapid changes that are taking place in the political field of this country and also having regard to the fact that the present Interim Government is functioning in sectors, that our interests may be forgotten and probably ultimately negated. So, we feel that in future the subject of the welfare of the scheduled castes must be made a Central subject and this from two points of view. In the first place, we want to remove ourselves from the troubles and turmoils of provincial clashes between various parties in the provinces and, secondly, God alone knows how the provinces nurse their funds and how they utilise them but they have not enough resources to tackle this big problem. It is for these reasons that we want that the subject of the welfare of the scheduled castes ought to be made a Central subject. In fact, that is one of the demands of the Scheduled Castes Federation. We fear that instead of making it a major problem and a subject for Central Administration, what little has hitherto been done is being sought to be taken away. With these words, I move the motion.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

“That the demand under the head ‘Cabinet’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): **Mr. President,** Sir, I do not belong to the scheduled caste but I wish to say that the Party to which I have the honour to belong has very great sympathy indeed for the scheduled castes and their legitimate rights and demands. I am glad my Honourable friend Mr. Siva Raj has begun to think in terms of rights and not in terms of favours. I only wish that he himself and his Scheduled Castes Federation had thought in terms of rights while we were all fighting for freedom against British Imperialism and for freedom for our country. I wish to remind him of the fact that for the last 27 years it is Mahatma Gandhi who has been exhorting the Harijans themselves and the other scheduled castes to fight for their rights and not to hang on to the coat tails either of British Imperialism or even of Hindu or Muslim Imperialism inside our own country. I am rather surprised at the attitude

Mr. President: I might mention, at this stage, one thing to the Honourable Member. The time for the Unattached Members will be over by 1-15 and I think it would be better if the Honourable Member (Rao Bahadur Siva Raj) has an opportunity of hearing what the Government has to say on this subject. So, speeches may be short.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I shall be brief in my speech. I am surprised that he is thinking that scheduled castes do not belong to the Hindu fold and I cannot agree with him. I have as intimate a contact with scheduled castes as my Honourable friend can possibly claim although he is born in one of them. I can assure him that they consider themselves as Hindus. They may not be belonging to the Brahmanical order, but they certainly belong to the Saktaic order. The Congress has been anxious to see that as many scheduled castes people are recruited to the Central Services as well as to the Foreign Service as possible and I myself have suggested to the Honourable Member in charge of that Department that the present qualifications are rather too high and they should be reduced in order to enable scheduled castes to get into them.

As for the Education Department, I have considerable sympathy with what Mr. Siva Raj has said and I do not see any reason why scheduled castes people should be kept away from general scholarships merely because some special scholarships are being offered to them in addition.

In regard to International Conferences, I do agree that scheduled castes people also should be chosen provided they are willing to play the game like all other nationals. But in the recent past we know that our friends, including my Honourable friend Mr. Siva Raj, had been recruited and sent as delegates, but the role that they played was not quite so conducive to our national uplift as we had expected it to be. With these remarks I wish to conclude by saying that the Indian National Congress is second to none; on the other hand, it has taken the lead in trying its best to help these people to come into their own and to enable them also to stand up for their rights and not to run after favours from Attlee, Churchill or anybody else.

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj: My Honourable friend is obviously referring to the statement which I am alleged to have made overseas regarding Mahatma Gandhi's leadership. I said then that it was both a lie and a libel.

Dr. P. G. Solanki (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I heartily endorse the arguments that my Honourable friend Mr. Siva Raj has put before the House. Regarding the scheduled castes, I want to ask one question from my Honourable friends on the Opposition Benches. What is the origin of the scheduled castes and from what time the untouchability has come into this country and who were the people who gave rise to this untouchability in this land of India? I must make it clear that an attack was made upon the Scheduled Castes Federation by Professor Ranga. Sir, I myself do not belong to any Party but I am a great admirer of the works of Mahatma Gandhi. I do admit that Mahatma Gandhi has awakened the sleeping conscience of the Hindus. I realise that the Congress people and the High Command feel for the scheduled classes and for their uplift; but the bulk of the Hindus are orthodox, fanatical and keen on preserving their own superiority in society and specially over these neglected scheduled castes who are hated all over India. I admit that the movement of Mahatma Gandhi has given a great impetus to the Hindus who were half-hearted; either they had to go over to Mahatma Gandhi's way of thinking or to keep aloof. The result is that Hindu society is divided. In Gujrat the Vaishnavites and the Maharajahs are the most orthodox.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is happening in Madras? Look at the temple entry movement there.

Dr. P. G. Solanki: But temple entry is not going to fill their hungry mouths. They want to maintain themselves and their children, they want education,

clothing and all other necessities of life. I do, as I said, appreciate what the Congress people have been doing, but even there we have members and members. It has been my experience in Gujrat that one who puts on a white cap and a khaddar dress is the worst enemy of the scheduled classes. In Surat and other districts in Gujrat not one single temple has been opened to them, although Prof. Ranga wants to take credit for that. Temples may be opened in Madras but that is not going to have any magic effect on the scheduled classes in Gujrat. And let me tell you that these scheduled classes in Gujrat are much more ardent in their devotion to God than the so-called Hindus. My Honourable friend Rao Bahadur Siva Raj said that it is the imperialism of the Brahmins which the scheduled classes do not like. And I as a great admirer of Brahmins say that they ought to shed their superior mentality. I look on people who really feel for us as our friends but I am for co-operation not only with the Hindus but even with Muslims. I must admit that we are grateful to the Muslims too because under their rule, under the rule of the powerful Moghul emperors and others our people were not molested and persecuted as they have been persecuted under Hindu rule. What had happened in Poona city when Shanwar Wada's foundation was laid. A book has been published and circulated in which it has been stated that the children of mahars—little infants—were buried in the foundations of the Shanwar Wada of Poona. If any one denies that there are people who can come forward to prove it. But those days are gone; the Peshwas have gone to the dogs and now under British rule there has been some enlightenment and awakening amongst the scheduled classes. Had it not been for the missionaries and for English advent and rule I do not think the fate of the scheduled classes would have improved: What do you find in villages even now? I am prepared to show any of my Honourable friends who will take the trouble to come with me, to see how these people are treated there even now. I tell you that in my own village I cannot use the village well; I cannot get a tonga driven by Hindus; and if a Muslim tongawala takes me these Hindus will tell him not to do so. All this may surprise Prof. Ranga; but I can show these happenings in Gujrat to him. In the district Kaira of the Honourable Home Member and in other districts of Gujrat and in Kathiawar States, the scheduled classes are not allowed to enjoy any elementary rights as human beings. Drinking water even on station platforms is not provided for these Schedule castes. Last session I brought an instance to the notice of the then Railway Member Mr. Asaf Ali; a scheduled class student of the D. A. V. College in District of Lucknow. A student is naturally clean and has good habits and manners—was thirsty because he had come from a long distance to catch the train one station near Lucknow. Not finding any water for the scheduled classes he drank water from a bucket which he saw there on the platform containing water. The result was that the station master came out of his room and slapped him and handled him roughly and forced him to pay the price of that bucket and a fine in addition to it. Mr. Asaf Ali was good enough to reply to my short notice question in the last session. I am told such short notice questions are not replied without collecting information. Mr. Asaf Ali's reply to me in his letter promised to look into the matter. Unfortunately he is not here now and Dr. John Matthai is here in his place. Dr. Matthai comes from Southern India and knows the plight of the scheduled classes there. He should have sympathy with them and help them. I hope he will refer to my short notice question and do the needful. It is the persecution by the Hindus which has driven in the past, the scheduled castemen, into the Muslim and Christian folds. The Congress says scheduled castes are only six crores; some others say they are not even six crores but only two crores. They are dwindling the actual number of scheduled classes by returning them as Hindus and thus add their population to the Hindus in general. I fear that the latest move is to deprive scheduled classes of their rights and reservations which they got in the last 25 years. What will be the plight of these unfortunate scheduled classes? The foreign Government was in India and they naturally

Mr. President: Order, order. I am afraid the Honourable Member is going much beyond the scope of the motion. He need not go into the political issues or the previous history; he may discuss measures of welfare.

Dr. P. G. Solanki: Even as regards welfare I appeal to the Member in charge to provide them good houses, food, education and medical relief, and all other amenities and comforts of life. Special steps should be taken by the Government to give them such education as will bring them up to the same level with the children of the privileged Hindu classes.

Sir, I have nothing to say against the Muslims because they had tried to help these poor people when they had power—out of fellow feeling and compassion as human beings. The Hindus profess to call scheduled caste people as coreligionists but they have rampled us down. In my younger days I used to hear that the depressed classes were beyond the pale of Hinduism and now I hear Congress saying that they are part of Hindu Society. Thus they have them in the Hindu nomenclature. I appeal to the Honourable Member in charge to give all the rights and amenities to these neglected depressed classes people as early as possible. Sir, I support the motion.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Member for Home and Information and Broadcasting): Sir, with much that has been said by my Honourable friends over there Government have got the fullest sympathy, and I do not think it was necessary or advisable for my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga to put in a defence. It must be admitted that it is a case which is wholly indefensible, and we are ashamed to admit that it is more or less a blot on our society. There is no defence for the crime for which society is responsible. It is better that we recognize that fact and see what we can do to remove the blot as expeditiously as possible. With all that sympathy for the cause, I feel considerable difficulty in a variety of ways. We have just come to our own. For 200 years in this country there has been foreign rule. My Honourable friend over there says 'but for the British rule we would not have been able to make this progress'. God knows

what would have happened if the foreigners had not come to this land. That is difficult to say. But the world has not stayed where it was, and India would not have stayed where it was. The foreigners, for the sake of easy administration and removal of difficulties from their own path, created a situation in this country where everything was kept in a sort of a stalemate, and they did not interfere in the social or other customs or other matters; the progress was practically nil as the Prime Minister in England himself admitted when he said 'what have we done in 100 years?'. We see that in every debate that takes place in the Parliament this issue comes up. They may criticise us, but we have nothing to answer, because we have no defence. But for them also there is no defence. They are more guilty than we are; they have kept in this country several interests and created in the country such situations that in certain matters there was no progress at all. It was their duty within 100 years to bring in legislation and make untouchability penal in this land, but they did not do it because they were foreigners and they were afraid to interfere in this matter. I do not want to go into that. We, as I have told you, have come to our own recently. We have Scheduled Caste ministers in several provinces; they have large blocs of their own representatives; they have brought in the Provinces of the United Provinces, Madras, Central Provinces, and Bombay, bills for the removal of disabilities. I shall at once endorse what has been said by Dr. Solanki about Gujarat. There is always darkness below the lamp, and so in the province where Gandhiji started his movement the situation is bad or perhaps worse than he has described. But in Bombay the Member in charge of the Portfolio—a Scheduled Caste Member—has brought in a Bill, which has been passed. The Bill provides for the punishment of those who infringe its provisions or in any other way offend against the Bill and prevent entry into temples.

In so far as Government is concerned, they can take action in two ways: one is administrative and the other is legislative. So far as administrative action is concerned, certain complaints have been made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Siva Raj, that in foreign service they have practically been excluded and in foreign delegations that have been sent outside they have been practically neglected. I do not know about the delegations that have been sent outside, but I shall look into the matter and see if it is possible to help the Scheduled Caste candidates. If a proper representative is available, certainly we shall be glad to make all possible arrangements. So far as the standard of qualifications is concerned, it is alleged that the standard for foreign service is kept very high. I am afraid that the standard for foreign service cannot easily be lowered without detriment to our cause, but with the progress of education and the number of scholarships that have been given to the Scheduled Caste students to go outside and the scholarships that may be liberally provided in this country for their education, I do not see any reason why we would not be able to train young men from the Scheduled Castes who may be able to discharge their duties efficiently and with credit in foreign countries. Therefore, I have every sympathy for the suggestions that Mr. Siva Raj has made, and we shall do our utmost to see that all impediments or handicaps in their way are removed.

So far as administrative action is concerned, the age limit for service in the case of Scheduled Castes is relaxed; we have allowed three years more in their case. If they are over-age by three years we shall admit them in service. We have relaxed rules about fees and other matters that are ordinarily binding on other classes. Where the selection is made by departments at present—and since it is possible that the same amount of care which we wish to take is not perhaps taken and there may be a legitimate grievance—I have decided to appoint a Board for the selection of candidates to subordinate services which would look after the interest of the Scheduled Castes and minorities so that their grievance may be removed. This will ensure selection more or less on the same lines as is done by the Federal Public Service Commission for other services.

As regards legislative action, you will agree that within the short period of the Ministries' coming in the Provinces, a lot of legislation has been rushed through because we are interested in this matter and particularly because we are very far behind and want the Scheduled Castes to come up to the level so that we may have no distinction of upper and lower classes. I congratulate Mr. Siva Raj for his bold stand that he is not going to ask for any favours or hang on the tail of others, but he has asked his community to rise and go forward. We should encourage them in their sense of self-respect and dignity that they should demand their claims as a matter of right and not as a matter of favour.

So far as the question of facilities for education such as scholarships are concerned, ordinarily equal opportunities are given for all but it is quite possible that with equal opportunities the scheduled classes may not have succeeded. As to how far it is possible to relax these rules in their case, I will inquire into the matter and see if it is possible to help them. In all matters, whether brought before this House by the Honourable Members representing the Scheduled Classes or whether they make suggestions outside, they will receive the most sympathetic consideration. I will see that justice, moral justice, is done to them and they have no cause for any grievance.

Apart from this, I have to say one thing. We are coming very near to freedom and whether we wish it or not we must be prepared for it. At this stage I would like the Scheduled Classes to be ready as quickly as possible to shoulder their burden and responsibilities. After all they want their share, which is their legitimate share and they must have it. Therefore if they want their share they must be prepared for the assimilation or digestion of their share, because power is an indigestible thing. Power is not easily digestible and therefore, though they have a just right to claim their share and perhaps a little more than their share (because they are not strong enough to stand in a line with others to shoulder

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]

their responsibility), when power is coming they must be prepared to think in terms of equality. The scheduled classes must shed their inferiority complex and think in terms of equality; that is the only way to bring them in line with others as speedily as possible. I have all my sympathy for them. Once more I give my assurance that so long as we are here we shall do our best to see that no grievance remains so far as the scheduled classes are concerned.

Rao Bahdur N. Siva Raj: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my cut motion, in view of the assurance given by the Honourable the Home Member.

The cut motion was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch Till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

DEMAND NO. 16.—DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
Language Policy of All-India Radio

Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar: Muhammadan):

Sir, I move:

(The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 11th March, 1947. English translation given below.—*Ed. of d.*)

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, First of all I thank you for your ruling which gives true interpretation of the feelings of Indians. The question of India's independence is as closely connected with the freedom of the national language as body with the garment. Sir, I feel great pleasure in speaking in my mother-tongue. I am trying, that Rajaji also may understand my language. I hope Rajaji who championed the cause of Hindi in Madras must have acquired so much ability as to understand Hindustani. This thought, therefore, makes me very happy.

Mr. President: May I request the Honourable Member to speak a little more slowly so that the Reporters may follow the speech and Members who are not so conversant with this high flown Urdu may also follow it to some extent.

Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan: My time is being wasted. I hope I shall try, according to your order, to present my views in the simplest language so that members from Madras may also understand. I have not mentioned Khwaja, Nazimuddin and Bengal because, I understand, Bengal is in Pakistan and its language is Urdu. I was saying that it is a matter for happiness that I am speaking in my own language. You may recall that two years ago I gave notice of a motion in this House that we may be allowed to speak in our mother tongue, but it could not be discussed then. Everything has a time for its fulfilment and now the day has come when my desire is fulfilled. I consider it my good luck that I am the first person from the Muslim League Party to speak in the mother tongue.

Sir, through you I desire to assure the Member for Broadcasting and Information that I have not moved this cut motion, which has been named by his Department 'Katauti' (meaning deduction) to censure his Department. It is not my object. Nor do I wish to vex the people who speak other tongues. This is not my purpose at all. This motion has been brought so that the question may be discussed at length and the language policy adopted by him may be reviewed in the light of our discussion. I and the members of my party will be extremely happy and even it will be a cause of happiness to you if Hindi buds and blossoms. We do not want to oppose other languages. We want to know what language policy was followed by your predecessors especially two of them who deserve

mention, namely, Sir Sultan Ahmed and Sir Akbar Hydari. You know that Sir Sultan Ahmed was a Minister of the Government and we censured those who sat on the Government benches. What sort of time was it when we spoke of the occupiers of the Treasury Benches that they danced at the instance of the White Hall. We also used to say that they were the representatives of a Satanic Government. Now we have to see what decision has been given in respect of the language policy by our top-leader, a responsible man who is at present holding the post. I remember because I was a Member of the Committee which Sir Akbar Hydari set up and to which Mr. K. M. Munshi, President of Hindi Sahitya Sammelan sent a note. All this happened in my presence. At that time also it was thought necessary for the good of India that there should be one language which may be understood by people from Khyber Pass to Cape Camorin and from Karachi to Chittagong. It was our effort then and it should be our effort for the future that we should have one language for our country which may be understood by all its people. Sir, there is no need to give many proofs to establish the status which Urdu enjoys among the languages of India. It is true that to our misfortune our country has so many languages and dialects that, perhaps, no other country possesses. We have, however, to find out if there is a language which may become the medium of expressing and conveying our views to other people. We must find out how Urdu came into being. Who made it? When we turn the pages of the Indian history we find that during the time of Mahatma Buddha, Arab Merchant used to come to India. They traded on the coast of India which is the home of Rajaji. The result of this association of Arabs and Indians was that some Arabic words came into use here. This was the foundation of this language in India. After that Muhammad son of Qasim came to Sindh and for a time Sindh remained under the Arabs. Historians

say

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): To which language does the word 'Historian' belong?

Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan: Since you would not have understood, the word 'Muwwarakhin' so 'historian' was used. I was saying that it was very difficult at that time to distinguish an Arab from a Sindhi. Later when Boguls and Chengez Khan came they brought Turkish with them. The language of India at that time was Brij Bhasha which enjoyed the same position as Urdu enjoys today. Mahmood Gaznavi brought Persian with him. My object in recounting all this is to show that Urdu is made up of many different languages. It cannot be called the language of the Muslims alone because Hindus have always taken a greater part in forming it. It has been called by different names—sometimes Urdu, sometimes Hindi, sometimes Hindustani and sometimes 'Rekhta'. 'Urdu' is a Turkish word. It means an army. In short it flourished and gradually became very popular. It has a power of attraction and it became the common language of India. A dictionary, Farhang-i-Asafia by name contains 54 thousand words in all. My object is to show that Urdu is a mixture of many languages. It contains 22198 Hindi words, 7589 Arabic words, 500 English words, 6041 Persian words and 181 words of Portuguese, Turkish, French etc., 17550 words are from other nationalities but the largest number is from Hindi. Sir, this is the language which I ask the Honourable Member to make the language of our country. You may member and you may refer to the old file that at the time when Mr. Fieldon was here he asked three or four questions from the listeners of radio to find out the number of Urdu listeners and English listeners. From the facts and figures obtained at that time it was found that out of the languages of India listeners of Urdu were in greater majority. It is our misfortune that the listeners in English were in a very large majority. It was to be so because it is the language of our rulers. Slavery is ingrained in us that we want to listen in the language of our masters instead of in our own language.

[Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan]

An Honourable Member: That time has gone.

Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan: Yes, that time has passed. By the efforts of my friends Mr. Thakar Das Bhargava, Pundit Paliwaiji and Lala Deshbhandhu Gupta we have seen the day when we are speaking in Urdu and for this I am grateful to them and especially to the President who allowed me to speak here in this language. Probably Sardar Sahib does not like cinema shows but if he would take the trouble and pay a visit to cinemas in Delhi he will see that shows in Urdu draw greater houses than those in other languages. Sir, the Honourable Minister is acting on the policy of making Hindi the language of the country. With due deference I would request him not to act upon this policy because he knows that in All-India Radio Urdu-knowing personnel that is, Muslims are less in number. Muslims have not got employment there under the 1934 scheme. The result of this policy will be that Hindi will spread in different places and Hindi staff will have to be increased and the complaint of the Urdu-knowing people will remain as it is now—nay it will increase since no Hindi knowing Muslim will be available for employment there. Sir, it is a pity that in places like Lucknow and Delhi where Urdu was born; and where it budded and blossomed they desire to give 60 per cent to 70 per cent to Hindi. You might know that at the time when Delhi became desolate Mir Taqi Mir went to Lucknow where poets were still honoured. There in a mushaira (a meeting at which poets recite their poems) where nobody knew him he recited these couplets:

“O people of the east why ask of our abode in jest; taking us as strangers
Delhi, the chosen city of the world; the abode of the cream of the
age which has been laid waste by fate, is the gloomy place to
which we belong.”

Sir, these are the places where, even in the present age, Hindu poets still exist in appreciable number. I do not talk of the poets of the past. Even at the present time there are Hindu poets who hold a higher station than many of the Muslim poets.

I want to say in this connection that so far as language is concerned Urdu language is spoken from Khyber Pass to Cape Camorin. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru says: “Urdu is a sacred inheritance come down to both Hindus and Muslims from their ancestors and it is absolutely indivisible.” This is the opinion of Sir Sapru. Member for External Affairs, I mean Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru, who is not present in the House, was once asked by certain Nationalist Muslims regarding the opinion of Mahatma Gandhi who had said that Muslims must learn Hindi and Hindus must learn Urdu. They asked him whether Mahatma Gandhi meant that Urdu was the language of the Muslims whereas it was the language of the Indians. Punditji differed from Gandhiji's opinion and said that he should not have said that; he should have rather said that those who know Urdu should learn Hindi and those who know Hindi should learn Urdu. There is nothing against learning languages. Punditji further said that he was an Indian and that Urdu was the language of his family and his mother tongue. He had learnt English in England but that had made no difference in his mother tongue.

These two are the worthy sons of India, in whom Indians will always take pride. I would therefore request the Member for Broadcasting and Information to review his decision and restore the prestige of Urdu as it enjoyed in the past. Twenty minutes are about to be over and I close my speech, Sir, with following couplet:

“O Asad, if there is any means of friendship between the Shaikh and
the Brahmin, it is Urdu language.”

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

“That the demand under the head ‘Department of Information and Broadcasting’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa; Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the motion which has been very ably moved by my learned friend Nawab Siddiq Ali Khan. I do not want to indulge in the question of the origin of the language. I would only content myself by saying, as has been very ably shown to the House, that Urdu is a common heritage of this country and it belongs to both the Hindus and the Muslim who form the biggest majority of the population of this country. It is the only language which has assumed the position of the *lingua franca* in this country and is probably understood and spoken by the largest majority living in this land. I would now draw the attention of the Honourable the Home Member to one fact, and it is this that with the advent of the Interim Government, which is presumed to be a national government, we had expected that the so-called claim for the Hindustani language would receive a better treatment than it had received in the past. Different Parties in this country and particularly the Congress Party have been claiming that Hindustani was the real language of this country and it was also a common heritage. But soon after the Department was taken charge of by the Honourable the Home Member we have unfortunately begun to notice that other elements have intervened and recently innovation has been made by which a division has been made between Urdu and Hindi, and the percentage given to Urdu is ridiculously low. I have reason to say this is in a place like Lucknow, which has been the centre of Urdu culture, the proportion of Urdu is nearly 20 per cent. What we suspect is that this policy has been worked up for purposes other than those which have been claimed for Hindi language. As the Mover of the cut motion said, we have no quarrel with the advancement of any particular language but what we feel is this. It will adversely affect the entire character of the All-India Radio and the composition of the staff therein. The Honourable the Home Member himself knows that in this country it is very difficult to find a Muslim who would also be an adept in Hindi, although it has not been difficult to find Hindus who are also adept in Urdu as Urdu is common language here. The result will be that it will adversely affect the percentage of Muhammadan employees, which has already shrunk and is disappointing. I would just give the Honourable Member a casual figure which has been given to me. In the higher posts the position of Muslims is like this: Chief Engineer, nil; Assistant Engineer, nil; Engineer-in-Chief (high power transmission), nil; Research officers, nil, Gazetted posts of the rank of Station Engineers, 4 per cent. only; Assistant Engineers, less than 8 per cent; Technical Assistants, less than 7 per cent. (Interruption) My Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir says "what has this got to do with the language?" I have already said that what we are afraid of is that it will entirely change the composition of the All-India Radio in the matter of staff and everything else, because language is the principal subject on which depends the entire development of the All-India Radio organisation.

I would not like to refer in great detail to the news items, but I would remind the Honourable the Home Member about the correspondence which he had with my Honourable friend and colleague, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang. I refer to his letter dated the 25th February 1947 and Syed Sahib's reply dated the 8th March 1947. I have got those letters with me but I do want to read them to the House. I would, however, only refer to this point. Although the Honourable the Home Member was trying to argue in favour of the fact that no prejudicial treatment was meted out to the news relating to the Muslim League leaders, he had to confess himself in one place that in the case of the news of a certain statement made by Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar in Patna on the 6th it was not possible to put it as a news on the 7th November 1946 because Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar was in Delhi on that day. I do not think it is a good argument. Then, he also said something about certain statements of Qaed-e-Asam Jinnah which were very concise. I

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman.]

am speaking about the composition of the Relief Committee. The All-India Radio gave the composition of the names but did not give out the short statement which the Qaed-e-Azam had made. The position, however, could not be made very clear in the correspondence that the Honourable the Home Member had with Syed Sahib. By mentioning all these facts what I want to impress upon the House is that we feel that there has been a sort of prejudicial treatment against the Muslim League. I shall be glad if the Honourable Member will at least make us feel that this inference of ours is not correct or that this impression which has been created in the minds of the Muslim members has not got a very strong grounds.

Then, Sir, I would also refer to another incident which has been brought to my notice. It is said that certain officers of the All-India Radio who were Arabs have been sent to Arab countries on propaganda work. They have been asked to induce the Arabs to attend the Conference which is being organised by the Congress group. This, again, gives the impression that the All-India Radio organisation is being treated not on the basis of being a national asset or being an organisation which is paid by the tax-payers of this country, but is being maintained for the welfare of a certain class of politicians or a particular community. I have been rather frank in my statements because I hope the Honourable the Home Member will try to give us an adequate reply to the effect that we have not got very good grounds for the suspicion that we are having. So these two officers were particularly sent for this purpose.

Mr. President: I am afraid the Honourable Member is going into a subject which is not relevant to the question under discussion. The cut motion has been moved to raise a discussion on the language policy of the All-India Radio and not the policy of sending employees to foreign countries for propaganda.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I submit to the Ruling of the Chair. About the language policy, as I said, we do not feel that it can be split up into two sections of so called Hindustani for which the Congress has been fighting for or making bold claims, that is splitting it into Hindi and Urdu, at the same time giving a very small proportion to Urdu which is spoken and understood by nearly 70 to 80 per cent of the population of this country. As the Honourable Mover has rightly pointed out, Urdu is not associated with any religious sentiment of Muslims, nor can it be said to be of Islamic origin. It is a combination of all the languages that have been in existence in this country. Words have been taken from Sanskrit, from Persian and from other ancient and primitive languages. This constitutes the Urdu literature. With the advent of political reforms in this country, with the advent of national government in this country, I should feel that the real policy of such a government should be to give an impetus to a language which is the common heritage of both Hindus and Muslims, who form the biggest majority population. Instead of doing this, we are really surprised to learn of the move recently adopted to bisect the language and then again give a very small proportion of talk in Urdu which is the language claiming a large number of adherents in this country and which has the highest reputation in this country. I do not want to indulge in giving particular phrases or words which are used in radio broadcast. It may take a long time. It will also be difficult for me to reproduce the exact phrases and words. I must bring home to the House that there is a definite impression in the country that the policy pursued by the All-India Radio is definitely prejudicial to the interests of the people who claim Urdu as their mother tongue. In conclusion I suggest that the All-India Radio should follow the policy which has been pursued in the past and the policy which has been outlined recently by bisecting the languages into Hindi and Urdu and giving a small proportion to Urdu should be abandoned. With these words, I support the motion.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadan Urban): (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 11th March, 1947, English Translation given below.—*Ed. of D.*)

Sir, with your permission I have, for the first time, found an opportunity to speak here in my own language. I congratulate my friend, Nawab Siddiq Ali Khan for the clear voice and the high level with which he gave expression to his sentiments. He tried not to give voice to any narrow communal sentiments in his speech. Placing his ideals on national basis he supported the case of Urdu to make it the *lingua franca* of India. I congratulate him heartily for his excellent effort and I express my gratefulness for all that he has said. But, the thoughts which he has expressed about the origin of languages in India, I feel, do not stand to reason and are not historically sound. He said that some merchants from Arabia came to our country and foreign words got mixed with our language. This he said was the beginning of the Urdu language. With due deference I would request my friend kindly to see the book 'Linguistic Survey' by Sir George Greason, the eminent Linguistic scholar. Sir George writing most authentically about the origin of the Indian languages said that all the Indian languages including those that are spoken in provinces are Aryan in origin except three languages namely, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu. I believe Sir George's statement is not based on shallow research but from the point of view of a scholar of history he wrote what he saw. The respective languages spoken in the different Provinces of India such as, Mahratti, Gujrati, Kanarese, Rajasthani, Bihari, Bengali, Assamese, Oriya, Punjabi, Sindi and even Pushtoo are all derived from Aryan languages. You will be surprised to hear that my friend Abdul Ghani Sahib drinks 'Paya' and not 'doodh' in Pushtoo. We say 'we are going to gaon' (a village); they say 'we are going to gram'.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: (North West Frontier Province: General): I do not know what the Honourable member is speaking about me. He must speak in a language which I understand.

Mr. President: Let the Honourable member proceed.

Pandit Balkrishna Sharma: Such excellent Sanskrit words are still found in Pushtoo. Sir, the question of language has unfortunately become very complicated in our country. The cause of this complication is not that Hindus and Muslims of this country are, in obstinacy, engaged in foolish discussions—nay the cause is historical. I do not want to go into details of these causes but I want to say it in a few words that if we want to make a language the *lingua franca* of India we will have to see which of the existing languages contains more Sanskrit words because only that language can become the *lingua franca* and will be understood in all the provinces of India. Bengali, Bihari, Assamese and Oriya are parts of Hindi while Gujrati, Mahratti, Kanarese, Sindhi, Rajasthani, Tamil, Telugu and other Dravidian dialects contain a large number of Sanskrit words. That is why the people of all the provinces of India—Hindus and Muslims understand only that language which contains more Sanskrit words. They never understand a language which is not seasoned with Sanskrit. I always speak in Hindi in the sessions of All-India Congress Committee. I was surprised when some of the delegates including Shrimati Kamala Devi told me that they could understand what I speak, but they could not understand what Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru speaks. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad is peerless. He speaks pure Urdu which flows from the lips of the Maulana like the pure water of the Ganges and we relish his speech. We respect eloquent Urdu which produced poets like Zauq and Ghalib. Who would not esteem a language which produced a poet like Allama Iqbal? But, to insist that Urdu is the *lingua franca* of this country is absolutely unjust. I suggest that we should recognize two languages—Urdu and

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Hindi—as our national languages. For God's sake do not try to promote an inaccurate and non-sensical thing under the name of 'Hindustani'. I am afraid on account of this 'Hindustani' questions will come before us which will create great complication. You will have to coin new words. You will have to compile a dictionary for the people. You cannot keep your masses illiterate. You have to add to their knowledge. But, from where will you get your words? My friend, Mr. Siddiq Ali will pardon me if I tell him from the historical point of view, Urdu has been a fertile ground for narrow and communal views. Sharar has rightly said, "O Sharar, the nightingale of Sheraz envies Nasikh; the streets of Lucknow have now become Isphahan."

The progress of Urdu has been based on the principle of dropping Hindi words from the language of the country. Unfortunately, at one time the theory of obsolescence was made the drop of progress of Urdu. Once the Muslim poets of Deccan started expressing their views in Hindi and they used Hindi and Sanskrit words but soon after efforts were made to drop the language of the country. Urdu has, unfortunately, been fed by the theory of obsolescence and the dropping of Hindi words. What else is this, if it is not our misfortune? Today, our Muslim brethren are not to be blamed if they take no pride in the Sanskrit, the civilization and the ancestors of their country. They honour Rustom and Sohrab and take pride in them although in the eyes of the orthodox they were infidels, but they take no pride in Bhim and Arjun who are their true ancestors. Sir, unfortunately in this country, I do not know, for whose sins—may be for the sins of caste Hindus,—Indian Muslim have non-Indian views and bear hatred to the civilization of this country. Hatred has penetrated deep in the minds of the Indian Muslims. With due respect I would request my friends, Nauman Sahib and Siddiq Ali Sahib that they should come out of the error in which they have been living all along. Let us both try to raise to the Zenith of progress, the civilization, the language and the literature of our country. Whichever is the language of the country whether Urdu or Hindi you will have to make drastic changes in it. For instance, let us take Urdu to make it the language of the country. You will have to change its form. This form will conform with Sanskrit, the language of the country. A language with a generous sprinkling of Sanskrit can be the *lingua franca* of India. We can draw upon Sanskrit for our new words. We will not have to look upon either Persian or Arabic for such words. Try to teach your children pure *desi* words. It will be right and proper if our children use *sapekshawad* instead of 'Relatively'. Word '*Sāpekshawād*' sits us. It will widen our civilization. My complaint to the Home Member is that he has presented Hindi in an uncouth manner and ugly form. They have killed Hindi. It is most improper and a great injustice to Hindi. My friend just now said that Government have been unjust to Urdu. It is not so. The new declaration of policy recently announced shows that in Peshawar they have given no place to Hindi, only Hindustani has been given one per cent while Urdu has got 50 per cent. In Lahore, out of the 75 per cent. they have given only 15 per cent to Hindi. In Bombay, Calcutta and Dacca Hindustani, Hindi and Urdu have been given equal places. In fact, injustice has been done to Hindi. If a Department of Government labours under the misconception of inventing a new language that Department lives in Fools' Paradise, I have not much time so I do not want to go into details. Mr. President has rung the bell intimating that my time is over and I resume my seat.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, in this country for a long time we have had to plead that Indians should be able to have the right to govern themselves; we have had to plead that we should be free from alien political domination. Today, Sir, we have to stand and plead—those who are at least 75 per cent. in this land have to

plead—that their language, a language which has come down from the hoary past and which for milleniums has been spoken and understood and developed by the natives of this land, should not be killed or injured. It is an unnatural state of things. There is no question of any communal element about this matter; there is no idea of any rivalry or ill-will towards any section or community or towards any language. It is a simple matter of fact, of simple common sense, and of the simple requirements of the people of this land. My Hon'ble friends Mr. Siddique Ali Khan and Mr. Nauman, both of whom I congratulate on the felicitous and pleasant manner in which they have presented their case, have pleaded that in the All-India Radio language policy, Hindustani—they have not denied that they meant "Hindustani" to stand for Urdu—should continue to have the place which it has had. Sir, I have no quarrel with Urdu. I should be happy to see it develop much more than it has developed so far. But, Sir, if Urdu has to develop at the cost of Hindi, if it has to drive out Hindi from Hindustan, country of Hindus,—mind you, Sir, we are not living in Arabia, we are not living in Iran, we are not living in a country the indigenous language of which has been either Arabic or Persian,—I plead, Sir, that if the development of Urdu means that in this country there should be no Hindi, if it means that in this country children of the soil who have been bred and brought up in traditions of old Hindu culture should not be able to listen to words which for thousands and thousands of years their forbears have used and which have been familiar to them, I will confess that I will have no sympathy with such a proposal.

Sir, it has been stated today by the mover of this cut motion that the number of muslims employed in the A.I.R. is already very low and that if Hindi is given a place in the A.I.R. programmes, new appointments will have to be made thereby further reducing the already inadequate number of muslim employees. Now, Sir what has been the position? Ever since the All-India Radio came into existence, ever since Mr. Fielden was the first Controller, we had an Assistant Controller, Prof. Bokhari, who was a devoted scholar and protagonist of Urdu. He was innocent of Hindi. He developed the whole organisation in a manner that there was practically no room for Hindi in it. Sir, as long ago as 1940, in reply to some questions in this very House the then Honourable Member in charge, Sir Andrew Clow, gave answers which indicated that out of four Hindustani news translators employed by the All-India Radio to prepare Hindi news bulletins none had any experience of Hindi journalism while three of them had experience of Urdu journals. To select these translators the Radio authorities called 30 Muslims and 16 Hindus. This was in 1940. The position today is, if any thing worse. Only a few months back in reply to another question in this House, the Honourable Member in charge stated—I am reading from Vol. VII—No. 1, page 74 of Assembly debates, dated 28th October 1946—The total number of members of the Hindustani staff possessing degrees or Diplomas in Hindi in the A.I.R. Delhi Station was two, and in Urdu it was 22. The number of degrees or diploma holders in the Hindustani staff who had as their first language Hindi was three, and those who had as their first language Urdu was 21. Number of posts held in Hindustani programme Section by middle pass persons:

Hindi (1) Permanent	.	.	.	.	.	—
(2) Temporary	.	.	.	.	.	4
Urdu (1) Permanent	.	.	.	.	.	5
(2) Temporary	.	.	.	.	.	26

In the totals there were 14 Hindi, 48 Urdu; 13 Hindi, 49 Urdu; 3 Hindi, 12 Urdu; 17 Hindi, 65 Urdu.

This was a few months back. That was with regard to the staff. I do not think any comments are needed.

Then, there is another difficulty. Even the Hindu portion of the staff have been so selected that they know Urdu but do not know Hindi. Unfortunately in this country a communal colour is given to things. Therefore the question

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was dealt with as one of employment ratio between Hindus and Mussalmans. But the trouble was that even the Hindus who were appointed as these figures will show did not know Hindi; they were scholars, they were experts they were devotees of Urdu; they did not know Hindi. What is essential is that the correct proportion of the total staff should be scholars of Hindi who should be able to do justice to it. Actually, if I may give an instance. The All-India Radio publishes two magazines about its programme—*Awaz* and *Sarang*. Now, Sir, for the Hindi magazine the gentleman who was appointed Editor, did not know Hindi. That is how things have gone on. If I had time I would have shown by further figures and other details how these things have gone on.

Sir, the result of all this has been, if I may crave the indulgence of this House, that the Hindustani that we have been getting from the All-India Radio has been like this. Sometime back the Lucknow station announced a forthcoming *kavi sammelan*, and the announcer took the trouble to explain it to the listeners as: "*Hindi zaban ka mushaira*," and went on to add, "*Is shero sukhun ki mahfil men sare Hindostan ke mashhur shora hissa lenge*."

This was a *kavi sammelan* being announced! There was another item some-time, a little gramophone music—Hindu devotional music—from the South which was announced as:

"*Iska musannif janubi Hindostan ka mashhur ustad Natraj hai. Devi ki puja se jo masarrat paida hoti hai uska ismain izhar hiya gaya hai.*"

Other words commonly used by the A.I.R. are of similar nature. As example I can mention:

Maghrib and *Mashrik*; *majun-i-murakkab*; *Bahar-i-Taghazzul*; *zamzama-i-Taghazzul*; *Bazm-i-Tarab*; *Kaif-o-naishat*; *Jalil-ul-Qadar*; *Bazm-i-Tasawwar*; etc.

These are just examples. Everyday from every station such language is poured out. If a poll were taken it would be found that not even 5 per cent. of the total population of India could understand it. Leave alone the common uneducated man, even among men with high education only a very small percentage can follow such high flown Arabicised and Persianised Urdu. And all this goes by, the name of 'Hindustani'. I could give hundreds of similar illustrations of the language used by the All-India Radio. But, I have no time to go into these details. If that is the language which is being broadcast, I will appeal to my Honourable friends, Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan and Mr. Nauman, and other friends, to tell us if it is justice to the people of this country. Many things have been referred to which I should have liked to go into, but the little time allowed will not permit of my doing so. Therefore all that I will say is that a grave injustice has been done so far to the people of this country. As I said at the beginning, there is no communal aspect about this. This country stands for a particular thing. This country has had a particular culture; a particular civilization; it has a certain name and a certain position among the nations of the world. The tradition and feature of that culture have been that every section of the people has an honoured place in it:—Mussalmans, Hindus, Christians, Parsis, Jews, every one. But, Sir, the country as a whole has stood before the world as one particular picture. Let us not destroy that picture. When a man wants to tune in India, he may be sitting in New York or anywhere else in the world, the picture he wants to conjure up before his mind's eye is not of Iran, not of Persia, not of the *bulbul*, and not of the *nargis*, but of the India which has come down from thousands and thousands of years, of the *kokila* and of the *lotus*, of the *Shri Pada Charan* and of the *Kamalapatra*. It is as important a heritage

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: The whole of India is not Benares!

Pandit Govind Malaviya: of my Honourable friend, the Khan Mr. Abdul Ghani, as it is mine, and if my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Ghani Khan, will only look at it from the correct perspective he will realize that while the *Shri Pada Charan* and the *Kamalapatra* continue, there will be no difficulty about Pashto also existing,

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: What is *shricharan*?

Pandit Govind Malaviya: But that if the old and ancient civilization and culture of this land and the honour that India has always evoked, were to go down, nobody any where would care either about Pashto or about Urdu. Whatever we may do therefore, let us not destroy the India which she has always been by ruining its outward form—the language of at least 75 per cent. of her people.

Now, Sir, there is this decision which the Government have announced. I am sorry that on the basis of this Resolution, which we feel does not do even fair justice to the cause of Hindi, criticism is being levelled against the Government. If there were time I would have shown item by item how this Resolution of the Government falls short of what should have been done. In very many ways it is not only hard against but actually unfair and unjust towards Hindi and towards the people whose language is Hindi and who contribute more than three-fourth of the total funds for running this department. This decision does not accept even the unanimous decisions which had been arrived at by a Committee which the previous government had appointed, on which both Hindus and Muslims, both Urdu and Hindi protagonists, were represented. It modifies even those unanimous decisions and it does not take decisions on other points at all. Yet today we find that this has been attacked here and outside as a communal move on the part of the Government. I feel that this is wrong and unjust.

Sir, I wish to submit, like my Honourable friend Pt. Balakrishna Sharma, that Hindi and Urdu should both be allowed to develop on independent lines. If the Government must continue its effort to create a new third language, we have no objection to it. Indeed, we shall be happy. But that language, as my friend said, must be a language which will draw its support from the indigenous past of this land, a language which will be such as will be understood by the average man every where.

My Honourable friend Mr. Nauman said that Urdu is the language which is understood by the largest majority. I am reminded here of the figures given by no other than Prof. Bokhari to the Standing Advisory Committee. Leaving aside a number of other things which would add to the number, he said that 7,75,88,735 people understood Hindi and 57,04,377 understood Urdu. Those were the figures given by no other than Prof. Bokhari. According to many others the figure of those who understand Hindi in this country comes to 22 crores atleast. But let us leave that alone. Even assuming Prof. Bokhari's figures to be correct, the language of eight crores of people should have some place as against the language of 57 lakhs of people. Therefore if Hindustani is to continue, it should be of such a nature that everybody should be able to understand it. I do not want that it should be filled up with a large number of high and difficult Sanskrit words which only a few may follow. Let it be composed of simple words which everybody will understand. But what is essential is that if new words should have to be found to express ideas, then let them be drawn from the indigenous background, from the language of India, and not from outside. What I beg is that Hindi should not be killed, the ancient language and culture and tradition of this land should not be killed. Let not injustice be done to 75 per cent. of the people.

Sir, my time is up. I have done. Shame itself, Sir, would blush to think that to keep up a foreign, an extraneous tradition; to keep up an exotic language which has no root in the soil; to keep up a language which not more than probably a crore of people in one corner of the land can follow; 22 crores of people of

[Pandit Govind Malviya]

This land should be made to suffer and upon their heads should be foisted the burden, not only the intellectual and linguistic burden, but also the financial and the cultural burden, and strain, of having to carry on their shoulders a language which they do not understand and which they do not follow and which has no relation with their life, either social, cultural, religious or sentimental. Sir, I earnestly beg my Honourable friend to think over the matter and not to press the cut motion he has moved.

Khan Muhammad Yamin Knan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Kural): (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 11th March, 1947, English Translation given below.—*Ed. of D.*)

Sir, as the question of language is before the House I think it proper to speak in the language I believe should be recognised as the national language of India and all Indians should speak in it forgetting the foreign language. I am not enamoured of it nor is it my desire to speak in a language which for its Arabic, Persian or Sanskrit words cannot be understood by our masses, by our people in the bazars and by the labourers. I will, therefore, speak in a language which I hope every Indian brethren will understand.

My learned friend Pandit Balkrishna Sharma who hails from my Province spoke in a language the 10th part of which, I desire to assure him, I could not understand. If of the language I am speaking Pandit Balkrishna Sharma says that he has not understood the 10th part of it or that he has understood only the 10th part of it I will admit that I have committed an excess. I believe that only that language can be the common language of India which is spoken by the people and in which they transact their business. I do not call that language the common language of India which is coined by somebody with a desire to invent a language. Language is that which is actually spoken and by which a person can make himself understood to others. The question of Hindi and Urdu on which a discussion has begun here I believe is the result of our going on the wrong path. We must adopt only the language which we daily use in our homes. If we leave it and begin to speak in the languages of the learned—whether of Sanskrit or of Arabic or of Persian—which cannot be understood by the masses, we are wrong. Urdu and Hindi have been brought before the House in a particular way. In my opinion both have misunderstood each other. Regarding Urdu I say that the meaning of Urdu is Cantonment. When the armies of Emperor Shah Jehan gathered together in one place from all parts of India and began to live together the soldiers talked together in different languages in the Cantonment. Gradually a common language emerged and it was named Urdu because everybody in the Emperor's Cantonment could understand it. The Army of Emperor Shah Jehan had Turanis, Iranis, Rajputs, Hindustanis, Pathans, Bengalis, Gujratis, Mahrattas in short men from all places. Their commingling together and talking with each other caused the emergence of a language which everybody could understand. Just as you see in the Cantonment that a bread dealer can speak some English and speaks a mixed language which is not his tongue: this language is called Urdu. Muslims who came from foreign countries spoke Arabic or Persian they never spoke Urdu. All other languages are contained in Urdu or Hindustani. Aryans who came here at first were not the natives of India. My friend Pandit Govind Malaviya has said that we should adopt the indigenous language. Panditji probably knows that when Aryans came they brought one or the other language with them. Sanskrit is not the original language of India. Aryans are not aborigines of India. They came from a foreign place. Sanskrit was probably brought by them. When they came here they did not use Sanskrit with the aborigines. Sanskrit was not being spoken here even before the coming of the Muslims. There were *Pali*, *Gujrati* or *Bhasha* in use. Sanskrit has never been the language of the people in India. It was the language of the Brahmans and they did not allow others to read it—nay its reading by others was a crime.

Prince Dara Shikoh took permission to study Sanskrit and translated into Persian some important Sanskrit books including Upanishada. The Upanishada were thus brought before the world otherwise nobody knew them. Most probably some American or German scholar might have translated them from Sanskrit; but now it has been translated in English, Persian and Arabic. My object in re-counting all this is to prove that Sanskrit has never been the spoken language of India. It is not found in use in India 1,500 years ago—nay not even 2,500 years ago. The whole of the literature of Buddhism is in Pali. Sanskrit was not spoken during the time of His Holiness Gautam Buddha. The language at that time was Pali. I want to draw the attention of Panditji to the fact that Iranis belong to the same stock to which Aryans belong. They also came from the place from which Aryans came. Persian and Sanskrit both are derived from the same source. It is therefore wrong to say that Persian language has no relation with Sanskrit. I, however, believe that we should not enter into such discussions. We should rather look to our present condition. The fact is that the Muslims brought one language and the Aryans brought another language. Before their coming many languages were prevalent here. By the commingling of all these languages, a language emerged in which I am speaking now in my province in every village and in every home, this language is understood. I believe that if I speak the same language which I am speaking now in C. P. people will understand me. If I speak it in Bihar everybody there will understand me. If I speak it in the Punjab and in Peshawar people will understand me. If Sir Cowasji Jehangir has understood me here I believe the people in Bombay will also understand it. This easy language is Hindustani. Words Hindi and Urdu are misnomers. The word Hindi was introduced by the Arabs. They called the Muslims of this place *Hindi* Muslims. When I went to Palestine I was introduced to people as a Hindu Muslim. Hindi is understood there as Indian. The fact is that when Muslims came here they called the people of India as Hindus. Later on when they became resident here the Arabs instead of calling them Muslims called them Hindi Muslims. When the English came they called both of us—Hindus and Muslims—Indians. In short, the word is not connected in any way with nationality but it is connected with the country. We should, therefore, speak a language which may become one common language of India and which may be understood by each and every one. We should not say that because you speak this word I will not utter it. And since you have spoken these words in your speech we will select and speak such words in our speech which will not be understood by you. If Pundit Balkrishan Sharma had made the speech which he has made here, in Cawnpore, where majority of people belong to labour class not a single labourer would have understood him. We should therefore speak in a manner that everybody may understand us. At this time when we are going to take over our country we should try to form a language of such easy words as would be understood by each and every person and you may give expression to your thoughts in your speech. It is not necessary that you should speak selected Arabic or Persian words in your speech. Once my friend Mr. Paliwal and I were in a meeting. Mr. Paliwal had brought his speech written in Hindi. I have never read a written speech. I spoke extempore in the language in which I am now speaking. My friend however had written speech in Devnagri but the language was the same as my language. Another gentleman, however, who was the President of the Reception Committee spoke in a language which nobody could understand in the meaning. I could understand only three or four words. I asked the gentleman if the speech he had delivered was prepared as an essay or for the people who were present in that meeting. My object in saying all this is that we should promote the language that we speak everyday. Urdu contains some words from Persian and Arabic and the rest are from other languages. The grammar of the Urdu language is the same as that of Hindi. There may be Sanskrit words in Hindi of which I have no knowledge but the grammar is the same.

[Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan]

Since the Government of India is now in our hands we must have one language. The script may be Urdu or Devnagri. In our Province it has been easily solved. Every person who wants to take up service or law as his profession has to learn both the scripts. The records in the offices have all along been kept in Urdu. They cannot be destroyed now. So it is necessary to learn both Urdu and Devnagri. In our place nobody can be employed as an executive officer unless he knows both the languages. You may call it, instead of Urdu, Hindustani or any other *Bhasha*, I would not mind it. I want to say that the language should be one with two scripts. We must endeavour that the language is not such as can be understood by one person only. Our endeavour should be not to destroy the language which is now being spoken by both Hindus and Muslims.

Mr. M. R. Masani (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I would like to congratulate the last speaker on the good sense with which he has placed his views before us and also on the fact that his was the only Hindustani speech which I could follow. I do not know whether Sir Cowasjee Jehangir will bear me out, but I certainly feel that the language which the previous speaker employed would find very wide understanding even in the City and Province from which I come.

Now, Sir, as I said, I come from a part of India which can follow simple Hindustani, but which neither speaks the Hindi nor the Urdu language, if the two languages can be classified apart. In fact, I know some people who claim that we from Madras and Bombay alone speak genuine Hindustani, because the language that we speak can be accused of neither being pure Hindi nor being pure Urdu. That, I admit, is rather a negative qualification.

I would like to remind the House that, while we agree with the Government policy that the common language of Hindustani is the one commonly spoken and understood in the northern part of this country and the people of the South may be quite prepared to bow to that and try to learn the common language of the North, their troubles are greatly increased when the people of the North start quarrelling among themselves and claim the adherence of those who are not yet wedded to either group.

Now, Sir, I was distressed at some of the speeches that preceded that of the last speaker. It was particularly depressing to hear some remarks, for instance, that fell from my friend Pandit Govind Malaviya when he referred to Hindustan as "the country of the Hindus." It made me wonder what the rest of us were doing here in that case.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I said they had all an honoured place in India, every one of them.

Mr. M. R. Masani: I hope he did not mean it, but he did refer to Hindustan as the land of the Hindus. I think it was a most unfortunate remark to let fall, and I do suggest that he will do much better to bear in mind the words of Iqbal:

Hindi hain ham, watan hai Hindustan hamara."

Hindustan, Sir, is the country of the Indians, and not of the Hindus or any other section of the people. Those of us who believe in a United India have to be doubly sure that we do not indulge in expressions which might lend support to the two nation theory.

Now, Sir, the Government's *communiqué* and policy have been attacked and criticised on the one hand by Mr. Nauman and on the other by my friend Mr. Bal Krishna Sharma as erring on one side or the other. I am one of those who do not adhere to either school. I would like to lend my support to the policy that the Government have laid down in their *communiqué* and I do so,

not because I am in a position to judge as to the proportion of the spoken word items that should be broadcast either from Lucknow or Peshawar or Lahore or Delhi, but because the emphasis there is on a common language—Hindustani. I am happy that the Government *communique* says that Government feel that the great body of listeners does not wish that Hindustani should be smothered in the controversy between the protagonists of literary Hindi and literary Urdu." That exactly is the position of the large mass of people of this country, and I particularly support this because radio can be a very effective instrument of mass education. It is in that respect like the cinema, and the cinema industry have in a way set a very good example to the radio and to other instruments of this character, because it is realised by them that the object is to cater to the needs of the masses and not to those of Pandits on both sides. There are many other ways in which Hindi and Urdu can be developed through the written word. The whole field of journalism, of literature and of books is open to them, but these instruments of mass education and propaganda, like the radio and the cinema, should be dedicated to the service of the common people who are interested, not in developing pure literary forms, but in evolving a language which form a common medium of expression for large masses of people.

I would particularly like to draw the attention of the House to the concluding sentence of the *communique* which says:

"The conclusions, of necessity keep in view the general objective referred to above and strike a balance between the needs of the general body of listeners and the requirements of those among them with literary tastes."

While there is no doubt that this is a sound policy to follow, I hope that increasingly the emphasis will be on the great body of listeners and not on those who want to develop their literary taste.* It was from this point of view that Mahatma Gandhi resigned from a sectarian pressure group, *the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan*, which has been exerting its best to make Government veer round to their point of view. Those of us who stand behind Gandhiji in wanting the common national language of *Hindustani* therefore rejoice at this *communique* which tries to hold the balance even. No two experts seem to agree on this point, but I am glad that Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan, in moving this cut motion, has expressed his adherence to a common national language. That I think is the common ground between him and the Government of the day. It may be that ideas as to the exact content of that common national language may vary from one person to another, but the main thing which this discussion has brought out is that there is a large measure of common ground between the critics of the policy of this Government and its defenders—in that both of them have declared that they do want one common national language for this country.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Sir, I had no intention of speaking on this cut motion but the beautiful and poetic speech of my Honourable friend Pandit Govind Malaviya has irritated me to express myself on this question. I could not understand what my friend Mr. Balkrishna Sharma was talking about. He mentioned my language, my country and myself several times. I know, he could not make himself harmful because he is a lovable person. Whatever he might do, you cannot have any ground to find fault with him. Of course, he is Hindi-mad, but he is a very nice gentleman and we would like to sit by him. The pathos in the speech of my Honourable friend Pandit

* P. M. Govind Malaviya made me weep. He gave us the picture of the helpless millions, of his own lotus and *Shri Charan*. I do not know what he means by all that. But one thing which I found objectionable in his speech was that he said that India was the land of Hindus. My Honourable friend Mr. Masani also took objection to that statement. I know that he would like to talk like that now that he is becoming free, but I would like to assure him that India belongs to Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and every other community that inhabits this country. We, the Pathans, have given our

[Khan Abdul Ghani Khan]

blood, our time and our youngmen for this country just as any other Pandits have done in India. But you cannot say that India belongs to the Hindus. India belongs to all the people from Khyber to Umbuctoo. We, Indians, have a very unfortunate habit—I do not know where it has come from—that we always like to mix up our history and our power with our hoary past of 3,000 years. Even a simple and a practical thing like the language of a country has not escaped this description. After all, a language is an ordinary tool for expressing our ideas and there is no point in mixing it up with ancient things and old traditions. My Honourable friend Mr. Mohammad Yamin Khan said that we must find out a language which can be called the language of the common man in India and which every Indian will be able to understand. In this House you have a very select audience, people whose intelligence is above the average and yet you find that most of them speak neither highly Persianised Urdu with Arabic words in it nor can they understand Hindi with a lot of Sanskrit in it. Sir, listening to the speeches on both sides, I have discovered many things. But one thing which is very obvious is that most people on both sides, whom my Honourable friend Mr. Masani called Pandits, are under the impression that the language of India should be either a symbol of the hoary past or of the Mughal Empire. The first and the only duty of a language is to explain the ideas of one man to another and no more. Looking at the point from both sides, it is obvious that a compromise is badly indicated. The language of the common man of this country—not of the learned Pandit or the scholarly Maulana—should be the language of India, which is known as Hindustani. The language of India should be the language of a common man and when that common man grows up intellectually, his language will also grow with him. The fear of Mr. Balkrishna Sharma is very difficult to understand. What does the common man care about this? When he is big enough and when he grows up individually, then he will himself be able to find out the proper words for his thoughts. Man has never failed yet to name a thing as long as he knows it. It is no use forcing Arabic down the throat of Indians nor is it of any use forcing Sanskritised Hindi down their throats. Let the Pandits keep their lotus flowers and *Shri Charans* and let the Maulanas keep all their classical Persian and similies. That is all I wanted to say. We must save the Indian from both extremes and the discussion today has shown one thing very clearly. My friends on this side are as much prejudiced against Urdu as my friends on the other side against Hindi. There is no difference between the two.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

Pandit Shri Krishna Dutt Paliwal (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): (The Honourable Member spoke in Hindustani. For Hindustani text see Appendix to the Debates for the 11th March, 1947, English translation given below.—*Ed. of D.*)

Sir, my object in taking part in this discussion is to support Hindustani. The speeches that have preceded my speech are all strong arguments in favour of Hindustani. Let us take them one by one. My friend, Siddiq Ali Khan spoke in pure Urdu and as an answer to that my friend Pandit Balkrishna Sharma spoke in pure Hindi. The languages, used by both prove that neither Urdu nor Hindi can become the *lingua franca* of India. The supporters of both sides spoke in English. They spoke neither in Hindi, nor in Urdu, nor even in Hindustani. My friend Mr. Nauman supported Urdu in an English speech and my friend Pandit Govind Malaviya supported Hindi by speaking in English. None of them spoke in Hindustani. This is the strongest argument that India needs Hindustani. My speech which has been referred to by the Deputy President was neither in Hindi nor in Urdu. It was in Hindustani and that was why he could understand it. The Chairman of the Reception

Committee spoke in Hindi and some person spoke in Persian-mixed Urdu. None of the two is the language of India. It is an admitted fact as said by Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan that there should be only one language in India. It is plain that English cannot be that language. It has been forcibly thrust upon us by our rulers. How many of the India's masses know English? What is the percentage of English knowing people? How can we make it the *lingua Franca* for India. For the *lingua franca* of India we shall have to chose one from the languages prevalent in India. Nawab Siddiq Ali Khan is the strongest proof that Hindi cannot be the *lingua franca* of India and Pandit Balkrishan Sharma is the strongest argument that Urdu cannot be the *lingua franca* of India. If we call our *lingua franca* Hindi, it is objected to by one side and if we name it Urdu the other side takes exception to it. Under these circumstances none of them can be made the common language. But we have to make one common language for India. That is why I say that the greatest gift of Mahatma Gandhi to stop the dispute between Urdu and Hindi is that he has tried to give currency to Hindustani. That is why I say that the decision given by the Home and Broadcasting Member Sardar Patel to promote Hindustani by means of the Radio is the right step that he has taken and this House must support him heartily. No fourth language can find usage in our country. There are many difficulties in the way. One of them is that in this House there are Indian members who understand English but do not understand Urdu or Hindi and they are against learning Hindustani. As my friend Siddiq Ali Sahib said that we are given too much to speak English. We speak English but we refuse to speak Urdu or Hindi, this is a common phenomena and English has the way on the languages of this House. So far as I am concerned I have been delivering speeches in Hindustani for the last 20 years. I am the editor of *Sainak* a daily in Hindustani. I write all its articles in Hindustani. In 1926-27 I read a book "Youth Movement in China". In one of its chapters it was described how people in China brought about a linguistic and literary revolution. In a vast country like China manifold dialects are spoken. They publish not only their daily and weekly newspapers in these dialects but monthly magazines also. Sir, to convey our messages to the masses we have to form such a simple language as will be understood by the people. My friends Mr. Govind Malaviya and Pandit Balkrishan Sharma have said something about culture. Does culture belong only to educated people? We will have to bring civilization to the masses in their own language. You speak of culture! How did Bhagwan Buddha who was mentioned by Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan convey His ideals to the people? He gave His message to the people in their own language and you know how His ideals spread. Similarly, you will see that Swami Tulsi Das did the same. His Ramayana is more famous than Balmikis' Ramayana. The latter is not held in such importance as the former. Similarly, Guru Nanakji gave expression to his ideals not in Sanskrit, Persian or any other language but in the language of the people and so he succeeded in spreading them. Today also as Pandit Balkrishana Sharma said and there was a discussion between him and Abdul Ghani Sahib that we have to educate the masses; can we educate them by means of Sanskrit? Mr. Deputy President has rightly said that the language in which Pandit Balkrishana Sharma has spoken can never be understood by the labourers of Cawnpore. Cultivators and farmers in villages who form 75 to 80 per cent. of India's population cannot understand such speeches. We will have to make a mixed language betwixt Hindi and Urdu which may be called Hindustani. There can be no other language. The decision in favour of Hindustani is therefore absolutely right and this House must lend it its full support to it. There is, however, one thing of which I must apprise you. In this connection two difficulties will have to be surmounted. The first is the selection of words. If Hindi words are more the people of Urdu will complain

[Pandit Shri Krishna Dutta Paliwal]

and if Urdu words are more the supporters of Hindi will complain. This difficulty will not be easily solved. My friends Messrs Nauman and Siddiq Ali Khan have complained that Radio Programmes contain less Urdu words. I know. I have also a book with me. There are people who have made calculations that in the last eight months more than 90 per cent. of Urdu words were in use and Hindi were less than 10 per cent. The supporters of Urdu will continue saying that Radio Programmes contain 90% of Hindi words and the supporters of Hindi will go on saying that Radio Programmes have 90% of Urdu words. This struggle between Urdu and Hindi will never end. Yet, notwithstanding this struggle we have to solve this problem and to try to make Hindustani the common language of India. To decide as to which words would remain will be left to the common people. Words which the public, and the villagers would understand and in speeches and news will be understood by the masses will constitute the Hindustani language. *Lingua franca* will be the language of the masses. Literary Hindi and literary Urdu will have no room in it. They abrogate each other. So none of them can be the national language of India. In spite of these efforts the contest between Hindi and Urdu will continue. Feelings are strong on both sides and the present atmosphere is such as to aid it to continue. The supporters of Urdu complain that Urdu is being killed, while the supporters of Hindi cry that Hindi is being slaughtered. How can we escape this murder, this slaughter? The remedy has been offered by Sardar Patel. It is true remedy. Hindustani must continue. I will not go into the percentage you have fixed for it; but I will say this much that unless you give right separate places to Urdu and Hindi the difficulty will remain and the supporters of both Hindi and Urdu will blame you. You have seen that in the Advisory Committee that you set up Anjuman-i-Urdu wanted to have a separate news bulletin in Urdu. Hindi Sahitya Sammelan put in a similar demand. Both are agreed that Hindi and Urdu should both be used by the Radio. Let it be so. But Hindustani must remain. There should be no reduction in it—nay it must be improved. Hindi and Urdu remain side by side with it so that their complaints may be removed. In this way Hindustani will find ease in going forward. When there is no opposition both will help you. There will be some difficulty in promoting Hindustani. We know and it has been represented many times to the Government that programmes should be issued in both languages. It is not very difficult. You are doing it already. You broadcast from Bombay in Mahratti, Gujrati and Hindustani. Similarly, you broadcast from Madras in many languages. You can do the same here. Therefore, with due deference I request Sardar Patel to recognize Urdu and Hindi as two separate languages and as he does in the case of Mahratti, Bengali, Gujrati etc., they may be given proper places or the Programmes according to population. Hindustani must be promoted as a national language and not at the cost of Urdu or Hindi or any Provincial language. This will make matters more easy for you.

• Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, this controversy has gone on for quite a long time and I have not been able to understand why this quarrel or battle of languages has been brought into the realm of Broadcasting. I can understand this patriotic feeling of sections of a community for their mother tongue. It is so in many parts of the world and we in India are not the only people who speak several dialects or different languages. But why it should be made so prominent in the sphere of the radio has beaten me. I may say with due respect to many Honourable Members that they are a little inconsiderate. They forget for the time being that there are parts of this great country like Madras and Bombay where this quarrel of Hindi and Urdu does not exist. As the Honourable Home Member will tell you, our languages are Gujrati and Marathi: and if in my province you have to speak to the common man you will have to use those languages. This controversy leaves us cold.

The same is the case with Madras. Not to speak of the common man, I venture to suggest that some of our highly literary members from Madras could not follow this debate; I confess I did not. Sir, the radio is meant to be a method of communicating to the masses some knowledge and information and they have to adopt methods that will reach the people; why then go on talking about Hindi and Urdu? There is no doubt that as years pass we shall have to find a common language for India; we have not found it yet but it is something we have to aim at and attain. But while we are in the present position let us realise that there are millions and millions of people in this country who do not understand either Hindi or Urdu; and, as I said, if the speeches made here today were made in my province or in Madras not one word would have been understood by millions of people. I agree with Mr. Masani when he said that your speech, Mr. Deputy President, was intelligible to us ignorant people coming from Bombay. I do not know whether you spoke Hindi or Urdu but I understood you; and from that I concluded that you spoke neither Hindi nor Urdu. If you had spoken either of those I would not perhaps have understood you. If therefore the radio adopts a policy of using a language which is understandable to the largest number they will be on the right track; and if the present or the future Government can get a common language for every part of India so much the better. When we get that single common language we shall ask the Home Member to use it on the radio. But until we have got it it is no use pretending to talk about national honour. Let the radio use a language which is understood by the masses. Let this Hindi-Urdu controversy be carried outside, to the universities and to learned bodies; but leave the radio alone. The radio is not the sphere to carry on scientific arguments as to what language is the best, what language originally belonged to the country and what we should adopt. Let that be discussed in the proper sphere. All we can say is that the Home Member should see that a language is used on the radio which is understood by the common people, that Marathi and Gujrati should prevail in my part of the country, and the languages of the south should prevail in Madras. About the north I am not in a position to express any opinion. But let it be the language which you spoke, Mr. Deputy President, which can be understood. Let us who come from Madras and Bombay and Bengal have the advantage of listening to speeches in this House in a language which we can understand. Let us enjoy the words of wisdom and philosophy which fall from the lips of Honourable Members, and let us hope that this is the last debate we will have in this House about the radio and the language to be used by it.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I congratulate the Honourable Mover of this motion on his taking the debate to a high level and avoiding the introduction of any acrimony or bitterness into this question, which is a question that can easily be taken to the realm of bitter controversy. I congratulate also those who followed him, who took the cue from him and kept the discussion on a high level. And that indicates that there is a sense of realism of coming freedom.

Now, Sir, in the first place I want to disabuse the minds of Honourable Members if there is any feeling that I have introduced something new in the policy that has been enunciated in the Government press communique. Far from it; I have followed or enunciated a policy which has been inherited by us, and that policy was initiated with the introduction of broadcasting in this country. Sir, you have seen that the controversy is restricted to the realm of the literary class of people who want to mould this policy according to their taste and liking. But the policy of the All-India Radio has to suit the common listener. The Broadcasting station is a public utility concern. We have to cater to the taste and look to the viewpoint of the common listener who does not sit in a drawing room or in a library, but who has got a cheap radio or who is likely

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]

to get cheap radio in the near future, cheaper in any case than at present, and who wants to follow what is going on in this country and also outside. Therefore, Sir, the policy of the All-India Radio is to encourage a language which is understood by the common people and to a large extent that language is the language which you, Sir, used in this House and which was followed up by Mr. Paliwal. That is the policy which we propose to follow or to encourage, and therefore the two groups of people who were parties to the controversy have cancelled the arguments of each other and practically adopted or accepted the policy which has been enunciated by the Government. I wish to say one thing and that is I do not wish to quarrel with the name, but I want to say that the name that has been given to the language policy which the All-India Radio has adopted is not my innovation, is not of today or yesterday, but is an old one, and for that I will draw your attention to the words of the Linguistic Survey of India:

"Hindustani is primarily the language of the Upper Gangetic Plain and is also the *lingua franca* of India capable of being written in both Persian and *Devnagri* characters." The language which is widely intelligible in Northern India is neither Urdu nor Hindi as we know it, but a simple language which is commonly spoken and understood.

I have travelled from one end of the country to another and spoken more or less in a language which you, Sir, used in this House. I have found no difficulty in being understood by the simplest and most ignorant peasant in any part of the country, except to some extent in Southern India. But they are making up for the deficit and they have already succeeded to some extent. We have not much to do with the literary flourishes of Urdu or Hindi so far as the policy of the broadcasting station is concerned. Occasionally we may provide field for them and they may come and use the broadcasting station and give a treat to some literary people, but primarily this organisation is to be used for the common mass of people. Therefore we must at some stage lay down a clear cut policy. The policy was there. I have enunciated nothing new, but up to now the execution of the policy was left to the sweet will of the individual Station Directors. They had no clear cut policy to follow except one thing that Hindustani is the common language of the radio; that was the principle accepted from the beginning, but there was no proper policy so far as to the words to be used and the proportion in which Hindi and Urdu programmes were to be broadcast. The controversy went on for a number of years. When I took over charge of this Department I found that this was an old controversy. First this controversy took place in 1940 in the time of Sir Andrew Clow. It was then gone into by the Standing Advisory Committee. It was then recognised by the Department that the criticism of All-India Radio Hindustani policy really came from those who wished to have news-bulletins in two separate languages, namely Hindi and Urdu, but there was hardly any occasion on that ground to disturb the continuance of all news-bulletins, announcements, etc. in Hindustani. After this Sir Sved Sultan Ahmed convened a conference of the representatives of the Anjuman Taraqqi-e-Urdu (Dr. Abdul Huq, Dr. Abdul Sattar Siddique and Pt. Brijmohan Kaifi) and of the All India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan (consisting of Pandit Sampurannand, Sri Mauli Chandra Sharma and Swami Anand) and by a special invitation the Honourable Syed Hoosain Imam, Member of the Council of State, was also called. This Committee came unanimously to the decision that there should not be separate Urdu and Hindi broadcasts of news, news commentaries and announcements. The language used should be of the simplest variety, which is understood by the vast majority of the listeners in Hindustani-speaking areas. Even after that the controversy persisted and the next stage was reached when Sir Akbar Hydari in January 1946 convened a Committee consisting of the Honourable

Rai Bahadur Shri Narain Mahtha, Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Dr. Zakir Husain and Dr. Tara Chand. This Committee again came unanimously to the conclusion that the use of Hindustani as the common language for news bulletins should not be given up without a further attempt at arriving at a generally acceptable vocabulary. After this a Standing Advisory Committee was appointed by Sir Akbar Hydari, consisting of representatives of the All-India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Anjuman Taraqqi-e-Urdu and the Hindustani Prachar Sabha. Even this Committee came to the unanimous conclusion that the attempt to broadcast the news programmes in Hindustani should be persisted in. They even arrived at principles which should guide them in the selection of vocabulary, but it was only on details about the words that there was no agreement. The Committee sat for a number of days, but did not come to any unanimous conclusions on this part of their work. Therefore the work was left incomplete. The All India Radio has done a very good job of preparing a lexicon. But there has been raised some controversy so far as the words are concerned. Language is a difficult and delicate problem. But what problem in India is easy? Have you seen any? I have not. Therefore we have to solve it and we must solve it in the spirit which we have introduced in the debate today and I think it would not be difficult to solve problems if we adopt that attitude in other spheres also.

So, Sir, you will see, there has been considerable unanimity in the past so far as the policy is concerned. Therefore what the Government have done today is to fix a certain proportion and in doing that we have not done it haphazardly. We have adopted a scientific basis. We have taken the percentage of magazine circulations of Urdu and Hindi in various parts of the country. I would not like to weary the House with the details of the circulation of Hindi and Urdu magazines in the provinces concerned but I would only give a rough percentage for the various provinces.

Province	Hindi	Urdu
Delhi	47	53
U. P.	87	13
Punjab	7	93
Peshawar . . . . .	..	100
Bihar	91	9
Bengal	78	22
C. P.	93	7
Sind . . . . .	..	100

These are the percentages of the magazines in circulation in the various provinces. The total for All-India is 57 Hindi and 43 Urdu. You will see from this that the Government have taken into consideration the importance of the language, the place from which the language has originated or to which it owes its importance, and other factors. We have then drawn out a reasonable mean about which there cannot be much complaint. If we have erred, we have erred on the side of giving a little more weightage to Urdu. We have introduced parity in certain parts, particularly in Delhi, Calcutta Bombay and Dacca, because I thought that parity was a word which would disprove any criticism and

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would also show that a certain amount of weightage is given wherever necessary.

I hope, Sir, the Honourable Members who take interest in this affair will see that even outside controversies are carried on on the same level. After all Government is not infallible: it can make mistakes which can be rectified, if they are pointed out with facts and figures and in a proper spirit. I have seen criticism made outside in a very bad spirit. I do not say that any of us here have anything to do with it but if we can, it would be advisable to carry on controversies if necessary outside the House in the same spirit in which this debate has been carried on in this House. And if there is any correction to be made and any reasonable objection is raised to this policy. Government will certainly be too ready to consider it. As I said, the broadcasting stations are mainly intended for the general public and therefore let not the literary critics drag the radio into a controversy in a narrow view. That is all I have to say and I hope the Honourable Member who has moved the motion will withdraw it.

مسٹر صدیق علی خان: جناب صدر! وزیر نشر و اطلاعات نے درخواست کی ہے کہ میں اپنی تجویز واپس لے لوں اس لئے آپ سے عرض ہے کہ مجھے تجویز واپس لہنے کی اجازت دی جائے۔

Mr. Siddiq Ali Khan: Sir, Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting has asked me to withdraw my cut motion. I therefore request you to allow me to do so.

The cut motion was by leave of the Assembly with drawn.

DEMAND No. 55—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES
Inadequate Supply and mismanaged Distribution of Yarn amongst Handloom Weavers and Fishermen.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab: Muhammadan): Mr. Deputy President: I beg to move:
"That the demand under the head 'Department of Industries and Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 100."

As the House will recollect, last year during the course of the Budget Session I moved a Resolution in this Honourable House on the subject of releasing at least one third of the yarn produced by the textile mills for consumption by the handloom weavers. That Resolution led to a full dress debate and eventually the House passed it. But the net result of passing that Resolution has so far been (a Resolution of course would go no further than recommending to the Governor General in Council the course indicated in the Resolution) that the Resolution has remained practically a dead letter and the department of Industries and Supplies has paid very little attention indeed to the needs of the handloom industry. In fact by moving that Resolution in this House and by being instrumental in getting it passed in the House I became the target of a good deal of correspondence from various directions in the course of the one year that has since elapsed. I have been receiving innumerable communications from various parts of India from people who are engaged in the handloom industry complaining that they are not getting a sufficient supply of yarn and some people actually going to the extent of saying that their industry is being starved and they cannot get even enough to carry on their work for a fraction of the needs of their trade. The object of my present motion is to call attention pointedly to this subject once more. I think I need not repeat the arguments which I put before the House on the last occasion when I moved the Resolution.

It is well known that the people who depend on this handloom weaving industry are more than a crore in number in this country and the fact that this industry is being practically starved means that such a large number of people are being deprived of the means of their livelihood. If the needs of

such a large section of the community in this country are not attended to, I cannot understand what else we in this House are sitting here for.

You will see, Sir, that there was a fact-finding committee appointed by Government. That committee came to the conclusion after carrying on very elaborate investigations that for the years 1944 and 1945, 1,622 million lbs. of yarn was produced by the textile mills in India. Out of this 1,152 million lbs. was utilised by the mills themselves and 710 million lbs. was distributed not to handlooms alone but to powerlooms, and the hosiery industry. In spite of the increasing needs of the handloom industry in this country 6.3 million lbs. was exported in 1944 and 5.9 million lbs. was exported in 1945 to countries outside India.

Now, Sir, if the yarn produced by our mills is not enough to meet the needs of this country, there can be no sense, no justification and no excuse for exporting any part of it outside India. The first claim to a share in the amount of yarn that can be spared for consumption in this country is that of the cottage industries and the handloom industry. There appears to be no reason why their claim should be ignored and they should be allowed to starve.

As on the last occasion, Sir, on the present occasion as well, my contention is that it is not a matter which requires very elaborate arguments or a very long array of facts and figures. I have simply to point out that looking at the fact that this House recommended unanimously that at least one-third of the quantity of yarn produced by the textile mills must go to the handloom industry, there is very good reason for calling upon Government to give us good and adequate reasons why the Resolution of this House passed on the last occasion has been ignored and why so many complaints come repeatedly from all quarters of handloom workers complaining that they are being starved. I do not think, Sir, it is necessary for me to prolong my speech especially because there is so little time now at our disposal and the day is drawing to a close. I do not wish to detain the House longer. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Department of Industries and Supplies' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I have great pleasure in supporting the cut motion before us which has been tabled with a view to invite the attention of Government to some of the gross inequalities in the distribution of yarn. To be brief I shall limit myself only to conditions prevailing in my constituency, what is known as the Karnatak districts. Those districts are known for the number of looms as also for the quality of cloth produced on those looms. As it happened, Sir, accidentally, I received this morning a communication from a place which is known as Gajendragard in Dharwar district which is known for its excellent and good looms. The facts, as they have been placed before me, point out to one type of inequality so far as the distribution of yarn is concerned. I have had occasions to receive complaints about the maldistribution of yarn, and one of the complaints was that where in a centre they produce very fine cloth they distribute the 20s and where the looms could not produce very fine cloth they send in the 60s, with the result that both types had either to be returned as useless or sent down into the black market. That was one type of irregularity that was practised.

There is also, Sir, another types of—I could not call it irregularity—but certainly an inequality. Taking the figures for some districts of the Bombay province, we find for instance that the district of Ahmedabad, which has only 5,451 handlooms, has got an allotment of 464 bales of yarn, whereas Bijapur with about twenty-four thousand and odd of looms, almost about five times that

[Shri D. P. Karmarkar]

of Ahmedabad, gets a quote of only 542 bales of yarn. Then, again, Sir, Nasik district which has got twelve thousand looms gets only 694 bales of yarn. I will not repeat these figures nor tease the House with any details of this kind, but I have only to respectfully invite the attention of the Government to this gross inequality which is being practised. There should be a thorough analysis of the requirements of each particular area, and the yarn that is available should be distributed evenly and in accordance with the requirements of a particular area. There has been much injustice in the past towards the handlooms but now a time has come when the handlooms have shown their vitality. During a very abnormal period when people might have found great difficulties in getting cloth, the handlooms have stood very well by us. I am sure that it would be one of the foremost concerns of the present Government to see to it that the handloom industry is given its fair share of prosperity, and for the time being one of the principal means of doing it would be to ensure an adequate quantity of yarn to the handlooms. That is one aspect of the matter to which I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Supplies.

There is another aspect which I might with advantage refer to and it is this. When any allotment of additional spindles is made for a particular area, not much consideration is shown

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member can continue his speech tomorrow.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: I will not take more than a minute or two. I will finish my speech now.

What I want to point out is this. A backward province like the Karnataka which holds a large number of these looms and grows cotton in addition has been consistently refused permission to start a new mill. I should only request the Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Supplies Department to persuade his department to show more imagination, because of imagination he himself has a lot. I should request him to persuade his department to show greater imagination and greater sense of utility and make the allotment of spindles for such areas where the handlooms are requiring yarn to a very large extent. Sir, I have finished.

The Assembly then adjourned Till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 12th March, 1947.