

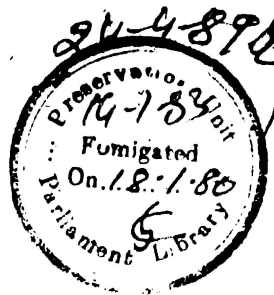
21st March 1944

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report

Volume II, 1944

(29th February to 27th March, 1944)

TWENTIETH SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
1944



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

President :

The Honourable Sir ABDUR RAHIM, K.C.S.I.

Deputy President :

Mr. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen :

Syed GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

Mr. K. C. NROGY, M.L.A.

Mr. HOOSAINBHOY A. LALLJEE, M.L.A.

Sir HENRY RECHARDSON, M.L.A.

Secretary :

Mian MUHAMMAD RAFI, Barrister-at-Law.

Assistants of the Secretary :

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

Khan Bahadur S. G. HASNAIN.

Marshal :

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

Committee on Petitions :

Mr. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A.

Syed GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

Mr. GOVIND V. DESHMUKH, M.L.A.

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

Mr. N. M. JOSHI, M.L.A.

THURSDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1944—contd.

General Budget—List of Demands—contd.

Demand No. 11—Interest on Debt and other Obligations and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt	1197
Demand No. 12—Executive Council	1197
Demand No. 13—Council of State	1197
Demand No. 14—Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department	1197
Demand No. 15—Home Department	1197
Demand No. 16—Department of Industries and Civil Supplies	1197
Demand No. 17—Department of Information and Broadcasting	1197
Demand No. 18—Legislative Department	1198
Demand No. 19—Department of Education, Health and Lands	1198
Demand No. 20—Department of Indians Overseas	1198
Demand No. 21—Finance Department	1198
Demand No. 22—Commerce Department	1198
Demand No. 23—Department of Labour	1198
Demand No. 24—Department of Posts and Air	1198
Demand No. 25—War Transport Department	1198
Demand No. 26—Food Department	1198
Demand No. 27—Central Board of Revenue	1198
Demand No. 28—India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment Charges	1199
Demand No. 29—Payment to other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of the Administration of Agency subjects and Management of Treasuries	1199
Demand No. 30—Audit	1199
Demand No. 31—Administration of Justice	1199
Demand No. 32—Jails and Convict Settlements	1199
Demand No. 33—Police	1199
Demand No. 34—Ports and Pilotage	1199
Demand No. 35—Lighthouses and Lightships	1199
Demand No. 36—Survey of India	1199
Demand No. 37—Botanical Survey	1200
Demand No. 38—Zoological Survey	1200
Demand No. 39—Geological Survey	1200
Demand No. 40—Mines	1200
Demand No. 41—Archaeology	1200
Demand No. 42—Meteorology	1200
Demand No. 43—Other Scientific Departments	1200
Demand No. 44—Education	1200
Demand No. 45—Medical Services	1200
Demand No. 46—Public Health	1200
Demand No. 47—Agriculture	1201
Demand No. 48—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research	1201
Demand No. 49—Agricultural Marketing	1201
Demand No. 50—Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology	1201
Demand No. 51—Civil Veterinary Services	1201
Demand No. 52—Industries	1201
Demand No. 53—Scientific and Industrial Research	1201
Demand No. 54—Aviation	1201
Demand No. 55—Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation met from Revenue	1201
Demand No. 56—Broadcasting	1201
Demand No. 57—Capital Outlay on Broadcasting met from Revenue	1202
Demand No. 58—Immigration—Internal	1202
Demand No. 59—Immigration—External	1202
Demand No. 60—Commercial Intelligence and Statistics	1202
Demand No. 61—Census	1202
Demand No. 62—Joint Stock Companies	1202
Demand No. 63—Imperial Dairy Department	1202
Demand No. 64—Miscellaneous Departments	1202
Demand No. 65—Currency	1202
Demand No. 66—Mint	1202
Demand No. 67—Civil Works	1203
Demand No. 68—Central Road Fund	1203
Demand No. 69—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	1203
Demand No. 70—Stationery and Printing	1203
Demand No. 71—Miscellaneous	1203

THURSDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1944—contd.

General Budget—List of Demands—contd.

Demand No. 72—Grants in Aid to Provincial Governments	1203
Demand No. 73—Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments	1203
Demand No. 74—Civil Defence	1203
Demand No. 75—Delhi	1203
Demand No. 76—Ajmer-Merwara	1203
Demand No. 77—Panth Piploda	1204
Demand No. 78—Indian Posts and Telegraphs (not met from Revenue)	1204
Demand No. 79—Indian Posts and Telegraphs Stores—Suspense (not met from Revenue)	1204
Demand No. 80—Delhi Capital Outlay	1204
Demand No. 81—Commuted Value of Pensions	1204
Demand No. 82—Interest-Free Advances	1204
Demand No. 83—Loans and Advances bearing Interest	1204

FRIDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1944—

Members Sworn	1205
Starred Questions and Answers	1205-27
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1227
Short Notice Question and Answer	1227-28
Election of members to the Standing Finance Committee	1228-34
Election of members to the Standing Finance Committee for Railways	1234
Election of members to the Central Advisory Council for Railways	1234-35
Election of members to the Standing Committee for the Labour Department	1235-36
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider—not concluded	1236-69

MONDAY, 20TH MARCH, 1944—

Starred Questions and Answers	1261-70
Motions for Adjournment re—	
Orissa Government's Ban on Public meetings, etc., for discussing Central Government's Foodgrains Policy—Ruled out of order	1270-71
Proposed Enforcement of Enhanced Passenger Fares on East Indian Railway—Disallowed	1271
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider—not concluded	1271-1315

TUESDAY, 21ST MARCH, 1944—

Starred Questions and Answers	1317-42
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1342-45
Statement of Business	1345-46
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider—not concluded	1346-85

WEDNESDAY, 22ND MARCH, 1944—

Member Sworn	1387
Starred Questions and Answers	1387-1404
Unstarred Questions and Answers	1404-07
Amendments to the Insurance Rules	1407
Election of members to the Standing Committee for the Supply Department	1407-08
Election of members to the Defence Consultative Committee	1408-1
Election of a member to the Central Committee of the Tuberculosis Association of India	1414
The Indian Finance Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider—not concluded	1414

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 21st March, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

SUITABILITY OF RATIONALISED COAL SUPPLIED TO CONSUMERS

534. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state if he proposes to enquire about the suitability of the rationalised coal supplied under the rationalisation scheme to consumers regarding (i) price, (ii) consumption, and (iii) quality?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The rationalisation scheme to which the Honourable Member refers is, I take it, the scheme devised by the Controller of Coal Distribution in the latter half of 1943 in order to obtain maximum coal despatches within the limits of available transport. The scheme was only brought into partial operation and will be superseded by the Coal Control Scheme now under consideration. In these circumstances I do not consider that any enquiry into the working of the rationalisation scheme is called for.

VACILLATING POLICY OF GOVERNMENT RE SUPPLY OF HARD COKE

535. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state if it is a fact that manufacturing of hard coke and supply of wagons were stopped to those who were not manufacturing by-products? Is it a fact that, in consequence of such stoppage, 50,000 to 60,000 tons of hard coke were accumulated in stock in such collieries?

(b) Is it not a fact that on the 3rd November last the Coal Controller for distribution suddenly released wagons for hard coke for all the collieries for booking hard coke to any consignee at any part of India without giving any notice to merchants who used to supply hard coke?

(c) What led the Coal Controlling Officer to avoid the new scheme of Provincial allotments and priority supplies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) In view of the shortage of transport and the importance, to the war effort, of maintaining the production of coal tar by-products at the maximum possible level, priority of wagon supply was given to producers of hard coke who were recovering the by-products, but whenever the wagon position permitted, collieries manufacturing hard coke without recovering by-products were given supplies of wagons to assist in the clearance of stocks. I understand that by the end of September 1943 stocks at these collieries had accumulated to about 50,000 tons.

(b) and (c). The severe drop in coal raisings in October last resulted in an unexpected surplus of wagons in the Bengal and Bihar coalfields. In order to make the most effective use of the available wagon supply, wagons were allotted to all collieries producing hard coke to enable them to clear their stocks. As the improvement in the wagon position was temporary and time was an important factor, it was not possible to obtain detailed programmes of despatches from the Provincial Controllers. Full particulars of the supplies thus arranged with names of consignees and destination stations were, however, furnished to Provincial Controllers.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In view of the fact that we have produced fresh rolling stock, I would like to ask whether the situation will be eased in the future?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The position is still tight.

FORCED ENTRY OF SOLDIERS INTO LADIES' INTERMEDIATE COMPARTMENT AT BURDWAN

536. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that on the 13th February, 1944, foreign and

Indian soldiers forcibly entered into the Ladies' Intermediate Compartment and travelled all the way by the 62 Down, and that the station staff of Burdwan did not take any step to prevent it? Will the Honourable Member enquire about the matter and state what steps he took to punish the responsible Railway staff who neglected their duty?

(b) Will the Honourable Member draw the attention of the Head of the Military Departments so that they might warn soldiers not to create such troubles to ladies on the Railway line hereafter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) In spite of special enquiries no information regarding the alleged incident has been secured.

(b) The question of discipline of military personnel travelling by rail is one which receives the constant attention of the military authorities who invariably take strong disciplinary action against proved offenders.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: In view of the fact that full details regarding the date of the occurrence, the number of the train and so on are given, may I know what information was elicited at the inquiries made?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Inquiries were made both at Burdwan and Howrah. None of the staff had any knowledge of the incident complained of. The guard of the train was specially interrogated and he stated that nobody made any complaint regarding the matter.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will the Honourable Member impress on the Railway staff to see to it that the railway employees attend to their duties on such occasions, because it has been our unfortunate experience that whenever there is trouble with the military personnel the Railway staff are absent from the scene and they do not take care.

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

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN DELHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

†537. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Divisional and Assistant Officers in the Delhi Division of the North Western Railway, community-wise;

(b) the number of Head Clerks in the said office, community-wise;

(c) if it is a fact that there is no Muslim Divisional Officer or Head Clerk in this Division, and that the number of Muslim Assistant Officers is negligible; and

(d) if the reply to (c) is in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take to post an adequate number of Muslim officers and Head Clerks to this Division?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Five European and Anglo-Indian five Hindu and one Muslim Divisional Officers and seven European and Anglo-Indian, seven Hindu, three Other Minority Community and two Muslim Assistant Officers.

(b) Five Hindus and two Other Minority Communities.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the replies to parts (a) and (b).

(d) Does not arise.

PERCENTAGE OF MUSLIM RECRUITMENT FOR DELHI DIVISION RAILWAY GRAIN SHOPS

†538. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that subordinate posts created in the Delhi Division in connection with grain shops were not advertised;

(b) whether percentage prescribed for direct recruitment of Muslims has not been observed in making appointments to these posts;

(c) if the replies to (a) and (b) are in the negative, the total number of subordinate and inferior staff, separately, recruited for the said grain shops up to date, and the number of Muslims therein; and

(d) if the replies to (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take to give Muslims their due representation to these posts?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, in spite of the best efforts to do so.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Efforts are continually being made to recruit Muslims and deficiencies will be carried forward according to the rules.

INSUFFICIENCY OF LABOUR FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING IN DELHI DIVISION

+539. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that Loading and Unloading Contractor's supply of labour in the Delhi Division is insufficient to meet the traffic requirements?

(b) Is it a fact that in the month of September, 1943, the Divisional Commercial Officer issued a telegram to the Station Master, Narela, to release wagons by engaging bazar labour, as the contract labour was inadequate, but the higher authorities issued orders to the contrary, with the result that the wagons suffered 99 days' detention?

(c) Is it a fact that the Station Master pointed out to the Divisional Superintendent that this heavy detention could have been saved at a cost of Rs. 4/7/- per wagon?

(d) Is it a fact that similar orders were issued to other stations on the Division resulting in a heavy detention of 15,000 wagons in three months? Does the Honourable Member propose to place a statement on the table showing detention caused to wagons for want of contract labour, and state why the higher authorities interfered in the arrangements made by the officer in charge of the work?

(e) Is it a fact that loading and unloading contract was entrusted to the present contractors without inviting tenders and without making any legal agreement?

(f) Is it a fact that the present loading and unloading contractor has failed to supply labour in sufficient numbers? If so, what steps do Government propose to adopt to replace him by another contractor who can do the job efficiently?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b) The facts are as follows:

Narela is a small roadside station at which traffic in only small quantities is received. During September relatively large quantities of wheat were received at Narela in wagon loads. The Station Master was given instructions by an Inspector to engage bazaar labour to release them. These orders were countermanded by the Divisional Office and the labour contractor was instructed to supply labour at once for the release of the wagons concerned. Had the Divisional Office been approached at once, the delay of 8 wagons for about 5 days that occurred would have been lessened.

(c) No.

(d) I am informed that orders were issued to all Station Masters on the Delhi Division that local labour must not be engaged without the prior sanction of the Divisional Office, but this did not result in any avoidable delay to stock. As regards the second part, I do not propose to place a statement on the table as its compilation will involve a great deal of time and labour and will not serve any useful purpose. As regards the last part there was no interference by higher authorities.

(e) Yes.

(f) I am informed that the supply of labour by the present loading and unloading contractor has been generally adequate. The second part does not, therefore, arise.

COMPOSITION OF SELECTION BOARDS FOR DELHI DIVISION

†540. *Mr. H. M. Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the composition of Selection Boards set up in the Delhi Division during 1943-44 for the following posts:

- (i) Enquiry Clerks;
- (ii) Platform Inspectors (for the first time);
- (iii) Platform Inspectors (for the second time);
- (iv) Training in T/5;
- (v) Selecting Guards for promotion in Grade III; and
- (vi) Assistants Claim Inspectors?

(b) Was the Muslim Officer in all these Selection Boards of the same status as other members of the Selection Board?

(c) What is the result of these Selection Boards, stating the position of Muslims on the approved list?

(d) Is it a fact that on all these Selection Boards there were two Hindus and one Muslim and the result was based on the majority of votes?

(e) Is it a fact that in the case of platform Inspectors there were only two vacancies, but six persons were selected, *viz.*, four for the waiting list? What were the reasons for keeping such a long waiting list?

(f) Is it a fact that all the six persons selected were Hindus?

(g) What was the number of candidates recommended for T/5, community-wise, as per list maintained in the Divisional Superintendent's Office, and the number of those selected by the Divisional Transportation Officer afterwards?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) (i), (ii) and (vi). Three District Officers.

(iii) and (iv). Three District Officers and one Assistant Officer.

(v) No Selection Boards are prescribed for this.

(b) Yes, except (iii) and (iv).

(c) I regret I cannot give the order in which the candidates have been placed, but 27 Muslims and 56 non-Muslims in all were selected.

(d) Yes, except in (iii) and (iv); the results were unanimous and not by majority of votes.

(e) Yes, as more vacancies were expected.

(f) No.

(g) In the original list there were 22 Muslims, 12 Hindus, 6 Sikhs and 3 Anglo-Indians; in the second list there were 19 Muslims, 18 Hindus, 5 Sikhs and 9 Anglo-Indians; the selection was made by a Selection Board and not by the Divisional Transportation Officer.

SUB-ASSISTANT SURGEONS RECRUITED ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

541. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that a large number of Sub-Assistant Surgeons was recruited on the North Western Railway after July, 1931, in the scale of Rs. 65-5/2-85-100-10/2-120, and whether all the doctors so recruited are licentiates;

(b) whether it is a fact that Sub-Assistant Surgeons are not permitted to practise, that their fees for attending a patient who is a member of a Railway employee's family is annas eight per visit, and that they get only third class passes for travelling on duty until their pay rises by increments to over Rs. 75;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a good deal of discontent among the Sub-Assistant Surgeons on account of their low pay and grade, and scale of professional fees and travelling passes; and

(d) whether, in view of the fact that there is now no Medical School throughout India and all future recruits to the medical service on Railways will be Medical Graduates, Government propose to abolish the distinction between licentiates and graduates, and fix one scale of pay for all graduates

and licentiates now serving in the department and for those to be recruited in future, giving the service more liberal terms?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) There are two scales, Rs. 65—5/2—85 (recently revised to Rs. 75—5—100) and Rs. 100—10/2—120 on the N. W. Railway and recruitment is made normally to the lower grade; the reply to the second part is in the affirmative.

(b) Sub-Assistant Surgeons cannot engage in private practice except with the permission of the administration; the replies to the other parts are in the affirmative.

(c) I understand that the Sub-Assistant Surgeons have made certain representations.

(d) There are Medical Schools in some provinces; Government do not at present consider that the conditions of service of Sub-Assistant Surgeons are unreasonable and need revision.

Mr. Lalchand Navalari: May I know whether in practice these Sub-Assistant Surgeons are allowed to have private practice?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I believe so, Sir.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Does the Government think that this salary which is shown here is a proper salary for a man who qualifies himself after such a long period of education in the schools?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Hitherto, I understand, there has been no difficulty in getting recruits but recently there was some trouble and the scale was revised.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: What is the revised salary? Is the revised pay sufficient to induce anybody to come up and join, when the Honourable Member knows that all the doctors are required for military service and none will be available for the Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I understand that is so but the matter is under the consideration of the Medical Section of the Indian Railway Conference Association.

MEDICAL FEES FOR ATTENDING TO NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

542. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether Divisional Medical Officers in the service of the North Western Railway are not entitled to charge any fee for attending to a Railway employee, whatever the latter's pay may be, but they can charge fee for attending to a member of a Railway employee's family at the rates of Rs. 8 per visit if the employee gets pay from Rs. 75 to Rs. 325, and Rs. 5 per visit if the pay of the employee is over Rs. 325;

(b) whether the status of a Divisional Medical Officer on the North Western Railway is equal to that of a Civil Surgeon;

(c) whether the rate of fee of a Civil Surgeon is Rs. 16 per visit from all Government servants;

(d) whether Government propose to raise the rate of the Divisional Medical Officer's fee to Rs. 16 per visit;

(e) whether a Divisional Medical Officer has any prospects of rising to a higher post in the Railway service; and

(f) whether Government propose to throw the posts of Divisional Superintendent, Deputy General Manager (Personnel), Director of Establishment or Member, Railway Board (Staff), open to Divisional Medical Officers, in view of the fact that these jobs are purely administrative and non-technical?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) No.

(e) Yes, he can achieve selection to the post of Chief Medical Officer.

(f) No.

DESIRABILITY OF ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL DIRECTORATE IN RAILWAY BOARD

543. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the several Directorates in the Railway Board dealing with separate subjects and Branches of the Railway service; and

(b) whether, in view of the fact that nearly all the Railways in India have now become State Railways and each of the Railways has got a Medical service, Government propose to establish a Medical Directorate in the Railway Board charged with the duty of looking after the interests of the Railway Medical Services and dealing with their complaints and representations?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Permanent Directorates in the Board's Office and the subjects that they deal with are:

(i) *Establishment Directorate*—Deals with all Establishment matters of all branches of Railway Services.

(ii) *Finance Directorate*—Deals with all financial matters, and the Railway Budget.

(iii) *Mechanical Engineering Directorate*—Deals with all matters affecting Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and Stores including Medical Supplies in bulk.

(iv) *Civil Engineering Directorate*—Deals with all matters in connection with Civil Engineering and with A. R. P. measures.

(v) *Traffic Directorate*—Deals with all matters affecting Transportation and Commercial work on Railways, and

(vi) *Accounts Directorate*—Deals with all matters pertaining to Accounting, Allocation and Payments on Railways.

(b) Government do not consider that any action is necessary as the Establishment Directorate deals with all Staff questions affecting personnel in Railway Medical Services.

PASSENGER BOGIES OF DACCA MAIL TRAIN CATCHING FIRE

544. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that certain passenger bogies of the Dacca Mail train running from Goalundo to Calcutta caught fire on the morning of the 5th March last, and that as a result several passengers were injured? If so, does the Honourable Member propose to make a full statement on the subject, giving all available particulars?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Brief details are as follows:

Two passenger coaches in the rear of the Down Dacca Mail caught fire at about 4-50 A.M. on the 5th. On noticing a smell of burning, the Guard applied the vacuum brake and stopped the train. Unfortunately a portion of the affected coaches came to a stand over a culvert and some passengers panicked and jumped out.

A total of 18 persons were injured—12 slightly and 6 seriously—one of whom died later. First-aid was rendered promptly by the Guard of the train at the site of the accident and at Ranaghat Junction by the Sub-Assistant Surgeon. By the 15th of March 4 passengers remained in hospital and were reported to be progressing satisfactorily.

In reply to the second portion of the question I lay on the table a statement giving all details available.

The following information has been received from the B. & A. Railway:

Description of Accident.—At about 4-50 hrs. on the 5th March, 1944, at mile 57 between Bogoola and Aranghata Bogie Third Class No. 1674 of 8 Down Dacca Mail, which was the ninth carriage from the engine caught fire. The Guard of the train on getting the smell of something burning applied his vacuum brake but by the time the train was pulled up and stopped at mile 57, the fire had spread to the next Bogie Inter and Third Class Coach. The burning coaches were isolated and with the aid of the Train Engine of 729 Up the fire was brought under control. Fire extinguishers carried on the train were also used.

Number and nature of casualties.—Total number of persons injured were 18. Slightly injured 12 including the Guard of 8 Down Dacca Mail. Seriously injured six of which one proved fatal in the Campbell Hospital.

Arrangements made for the casualties.—Of the 18 casualties, eight were brought down to Calcutta by the same 8 Down Dacca Mail and the other ten by the following 2 Down Mail to Sealadah.

First-aid was promptly rendered by the Guard at the site of the accident and at Ranaghat by the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Ranaghat.

DMO/CA and his staff, attended the casualties brought by both 8 Down Dacca Mail and 2 Down Mail and DMO/CA, arranged accommodation for them as under:

(1) Railway Guard to B. R. Singh, Hospital.

(2) Seven injured persons brought down by DA Mail were sent to Medical College Hospital. Of these, five were discharged the same day on Risk Bonds. Of the remaining two one was serious, but they are satisfactorily progressing.

Ten injured persons were sent to Campbell Hospital. One of these ten injured persons died in the Campbell Hospital on the same day (the 5th March, 1944). Of the remaining nine three considered serious. Five of the injured persons have since been discharged and only four are still (the 15th March, 1944), in the Hospital but they are satisfactorily progressing.

Passengers received injuries not on account of the burning of carriages but by jumping out in a panicky state out of the coaches which unfortunately stood on a culvert.

Of the 18 persons injured nine (9) were females.

Cause.—Bogie coaches involved were thoroughly examined after the accident and gave no indication of a hot box or any electrical defect which could have caused the fire.

A Departmental Enquiry Committee was held on the 14th March, 1944, and from all the available evidence recorded by them it has not been possible to elicit the actual cause of the accident.

Careless.—It is thought that the fire was due to use of lights such as candles or hurricane lanterns by passengers travelling in the bogie 3rd class coach No. 1674.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask the Honourable Member in connection with this question of passenger coaches catching fire, whether his attention has been drawn to a similar incident on the Frontier Mail? Will he make a statement to the House giving information as to why that happened and how many people were affected by the incident?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. I have not received information about the incident in the Frontier Mail. Inquiries have been held into this incident on the Dacca Mail and it has not been possible to elicit the actual cause of the incident. It is thought that it may be due to the use of candles or hurricane lamps by the passengers travelling.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maltra: It is not due to hot axle?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There was no evidence to show that it was due to a hot box or an electrical short-circuit.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: In case the incident was due to hurricane lamps or lights, will the Railways take proper precautions for lighting these carriages?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already told the House that we are endeavouring to obtain several lakhs of bulbs.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will these people get any compensation or are any compensation cases being considered?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I should require notice of that

GOVERNMENT POLICY RELATING TO COAL INDUSTRY

545. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for War Transport been drawn to the observations made by the President of the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers at its eleventh annual meeting held at Delhi on the 5th March last, on the subject of Government's policy relating to the coal industry?

(b) Has the attention of the Honourable Member been particularly drawn to the following observations made in this connection:

"Government have announced that they would be allowing first-class coal to be exported to meet the requirements of Ceylon and Middle East countries to the extent of 100,000 tons per month. In addition, they would be allowing another 110,000 tons of first-class coal per month for bunkering purposes at Indian ports: thus, nearly one-third of the best first-class coal raised in the country would be utilised for non-industrial purposes outside India and its use would be denied to industrial concerns in the country?"

(c) Does the Honourable Member propose to make a statement explaining the position of Government in regard to the said observations?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply I gave to his starred question No. 57 on the 9th February, 1944, which states the policy of Government as regards exports of coal. As regards bunkers, ships which bring imports into Indian ports whether civil or military and ships which transport India's exports must be given suitable coal. It is hoped to improve the raisings of good quality coal along with other qualities.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: May I ask whether it is a fact that the bunkering requirements have to be met by first class coal as stated in this question?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is so.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member in a position to state to what extent the internal demand for first class coal will be affected by the provision of first class coal for these purposes?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: To the extent to which coal is required for bunkers in Indian ports.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member in a position to assure the House that so far as the internal consumption of first class coal is concerned, it will not be affected in the least by the commitment of Government in regard to the provision of first class coal for these purposes?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. If coal is provided for bunkers, as it must be, to deal with India's imports and exports, obviously that amount less will be available for other purposes.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Has the Honourable Member received any representations on this subject?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The subject is always under consideration, weekly or even daily.

DOUBLING OF RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN DELHI AND AGRA

546. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether there was a project at any time to double the line between Delhi and Agra on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway; and, if so, when, and why it has not been taken up till now;

(b) whether he is aware that for want of a double line many of the down trains are delayed waiting for the up trains and *vice versa*; and

(c) whether in the list that has been drawn up for post war reconstruction, there is any idea of including this project of doubling the Agra Delhi chord and, if so, what place it has on the list?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) There has been no such project submitted to the Government of India.

(b) On single lines, it is impossible to avoid altogether delays to trains for crossing purposes, and the Agra-Delhi Chord is no exception.

(c) With a reduction in military transport requirements, traffic on the Agra-Delhi Chord is not likely to take up available capacity and justification for doubling this chord line, therefore, appears to be unlikely. The list of works to be undertaken for post-war reconstruction has not yet been finalised.

DESIRABILITY OF POSTING URDU-KNOWING POSTAL CLERKS IN CENTRAL PROVINCES

547. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Does the Secretary for Posts and Air propose to consider the desirability of posting Urdu-knowing clerks, at least one in each Post Office, at the Tahsil Headquarters in the Central Provinces and Berar, in view of the fact that Urdu-knowing public experiences great difficulty as the Postal staff does not know Urdu language?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to direct an enquiry to be made as to why some Urdu letters sent by me, specially to Messrs. Ghulam Ahmed Hasan, M.L.A. of Telegaon Dasasar (Berar) and Abdul Sattar Farooqi, Editor of *Al-Farooq*, Kamptee (Central Provinces), were sent to the Dead Letter Office, Bombay, and then redirected to the addressees, thereby causing inconvenience and unnecessary delay?

(c) What arrangement exists at present at Branch Post Offices in Berar, where the postal work is being done by the Marathi-knowing school masters for the delivery of Urdu letters and payment of money orders written in Urdu?

(d) Does the Honourable Member propose to consider the desirability of converting the Branch Post Office into a Departmental Sub-Post Office at Telegaon Dasasar (Berar)?

(e) Do Government propose to direct the Postmaster General, Central Circle, Nagpur, to ask the Inspector of Post Offices and the Superintendent of Post

Offices in Berar to give preference to Urdu school teachers while making appointments as they know Marathi language also?

(f) What are the names of those Sub-Post Offices in Berar where no Muslim has been posted as Sub-Post Master for the last ten years?

(g) Are Government aware that Mail Motors in Berar run late every day with the result that public experiences great inconvenience in not getting post in time?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to his starred question No. 318 on the 19th November, 1943. I may, however, add that the Postmaster-General, Central Circle, has since issued instructions to post at least one Urdu-knowing clerk to as many post-offices in the East and West Berar Divisions as possible.

(b) Yes. An enquiry will be made.

(c) Every attempt is made to have Urdu letters read by Urdu-knowing local residents and delivered to the addressees. As regards money orders written in the local Indian language, the money order clerk in the office of issue transcribes the name and address of the payees unless he knows for certain that the language used by the remitter can be read at the office of payment.

(d) The Postmaster-General will be asked to examine the proposal.

(e) The Postmaster-General, Central Circle, has already issued instructions to the Superintendents of Post Offices concerned in the matter.

(f) Government have no information and do not propose to call for the same as the time and labour involved in its collection is not justified in war time.

(g) Government have no information but a copy of the question is being sent to the Postmaster-General for such action as he may consider suitable.

CIRCLE TELEGRAPH SERVICES

548. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) the number, pay and grade of—(i) Circle Service Telegraphists, (ii) Second Grade Clerks, (iii) Telephone Operators and (iv) Mistries, employed in the Telegraph Traffic and Engineering Branches in New Delhi;

(b) the housing arrangements made by Government for the officials mentioned in (a) above, the locality and number of quarters allotted to them, and the distance of such quarters from the offices in which they work;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said officials perform their duties at all hours during day and night in all kinds of weather and in all seasons; and

(d) whether Government propose to build or allot a sufficient number of quarters during the next financial year in a locality near their offices to relieve the hardship suffered by these low paid and overworked officials? If not, why not?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: (a) A statement giving the information is placed on the table of the House.

(b) The Department has provided 141-D type, 25-E type and a certain number of Duffary type quarters for the officials of the Punjab and N. W. F. Circle in New Delhi. Of these, 43-D type quarters on the Baird Road and 25-E and 20 Duffary type quarters at Qarol Bagh are at present occupied by the officials mentioned in the reply to part (a) above. These are at a distance of about 1 mile and 3 miles, respectively, from their office.

(c) Yes.

(d) Apart from the excessive increase in the cost of building, the very serious shortage of materials and labour and the over-riding urgency of other war requirements in Delhi make the construction of more quarters extremely difficult at present. The question of providing more quarters will, however, be examined from time to time.

Number	Statement	Pay
(i) Circle Service telegraphists	55	Rs. 45-45-3-60-4-120 with a minimum remuneration of Rs. 55 p.m.
(ii) Second grade clerks	140	Old Scale Rs. 45-4-85 Revised Scale Rs. 40-40-3-85,
		<i>Grade I</i>
(iii) Telephone Operators	182	Old Scale Rs. 45-4-145. Revised Scale Rs. 95-4-115.
		<i>Grade II</i>
		Old Scale Rs. 45-4-85. Revised Scale Rs. 40-40-3-85.
		<i>Special Temporary War time-scale.</i>
		Male Operators Rs. 60-4-80. Female Operators Rs. 90-5-120.
		<i>Old Scales.</i>
(iv) Mistries	69	Rs. 120-5-145. Rs. 45-5-115. Rs. 45-4-85. Revised Scale Rs. 40-3-91-95
		N. B.—Temporary mistries are also employed on a daily wage of Rs. 2.

CIRCLE TELEGRAPH SERVICES

549. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that before 1938 there was an All-India Telegraph Service; and, if so, what the pay and grade of Telegraphists recruited therein was, and whether each of them got Rs. 40 per mensem house rent or free furnished family quarters;

(b) whether, since the year 1938 or thereabout, recruitment to the Service mentioned in (a) above has been stopped, and Circle Services have been substituted for the said service; and, if so, the pay and grade of the Telegraphists of such Circle Service;

(c) whether each Telegraphist is paid three pies per message on all messages over and above 200 per day which he sends during his duty hours; whether the amount so paid is known as pie money; and whether it is not compulsory for Telegraphists to earn pie money;

(d) whether it is a fact that Anglo-Indians recruited as Circle Telegraphists are given a starting pay of Rs. 55 per mensem, while Indians get a starting pay of Rs. 45 per mensem; whether an allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem for each Indian Telegraphist has also been sanctioned; and whether a Telegraphist is entitled to this allowance of Rs. 10 whether he earns pie money or not;

(e) whether it is a fact that the allowance of Rs. 10 is deducted from pie money in case a Telegraphist earns more than Rs. 10 as pie money;

(f) whether it is a fact that charge sheets are framed against Telegraphists who do not earn pie money although they may be despatching the number of messages per hour which they are required by the Telegraph Manual to despatch, thus spoiling the character rolls of Telegraphists;

(g) whether the Telegraphists are required to work from six to eight hours per day, are made to work for two hours even on Sundays, get no holidays except *Diwali* for Hindus and *Id-ul-Zuha* for Muslims, and whether even on these two festival days they are made to work for two hours; and

(h) whether Government propose to issue strict orders to officers concerned not to treat the Telegraphists in the way stated in (e) and (f) above?

Sir Guranath Bewoor: (a) Prior to 1931, recruitment to the service of telegraphists was on an All-India basis and the scale of pay for such General

Service Telegraphists was Rs. 80—5—100—10—250 with rent-free quarters or a house rent allowance in lieu thereof at rates varying from Rs. 15 p.m. to Rs. 60 p.m., according to locality. There were also at that time local and station services of telegraphists on lower scales of pay.

(b) Yes, since 1931. The scale of pay of circle service telegraphists is Rs. 45—45—3—60—4—120.

(c) Pie money is granted for all messages disposed of on certain circuits only which are designated as pie money circuits, in excess of 150 messages per term of duty on Morse circuits and 200 messages per term of duty on Bandot, Murray and Teleprinter circuits. The rate of pie money is 4 pies per message on Morse circuits and 3 pies per message on other circuits. It is not compulsory for telegraphists to earn pie money.

(d) and (e). The facts are not as stated. The minimum remuneration of all circle service telegraphists, whether Anglo-Indians or Indians, has been fixed at Rs. 55 p.m. in the scale of Rs. 45—120 as given in the reply to part (b) above. Where the pay admissible under the ordinary rules in the basic scale of pay is less than the minimum remuneration of Rs. 55 p.m., the difference is treated as special personal allowance to be absorbed in future increments in the basic pay. Pie money is treated as an item of remuneration which is in the nature of pay for this purpose.

(f) No standard for despatching messages is laid down in the departmental manuals. A telegraphist must send or receive during his term of duty so long as there is traffic. Disciplinary action is taken for giving an unduly low outturn, or for deliberate slowing down of work.

(g) Telegraphists are required to work from 6 hours to 8 hours per day on all days except Sundays and Telegraph holidays. Duty on Sundays averages 2 hours per Sunday calculated over every four consecutive Sundays. Ordinarily there are six telegraph holidays, viz., New Year's Day, Good Friday, King's Birthday, Id-uz-Zuha, Diwali and Christmas Day, but the observance of King's Birthday as a holiday has been discontinued temporarily during War. On Telegraph holidays also the term of duty is 2 hours.

(h) Does not arise in view of the reply given to parts (e) and (f) above.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: In reply to part (f) of the question, the Honourable Member said low outturn and deliberate slow work. Who looks after whether it was deliberate action on the part of the Telegraphist or the work was not enough to warrant that?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: There are Telegraph Masters and supervisors who are in charge and keep constant supervision of the work of the Telegraphists and it is they who can say whether it is deliberate action or whether it was a matter not within the control of the Telegraphist.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: MAY I ask whether the assigned reasons are put in the form of a charge-sheet or whether it depends on the mere whim of the officer who is in charge and who looks after such things?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: It depends on the facts and not on the whims.

NEW CADRE OF CARRIER ATTENDANTS

†550. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) if a new cadre of carrier attendants has been recently created; what the scale of pay of this new cadre is, whether recruitment to this cadre is to be made on an All-India basis; and whether the service will be transferable within the Circles only;

(b) whether recruitment to the cadre referred to in (a) will be made through competitive examination;

(c) whether Government propose to recruit 50 per cent. of the new carrier attendants from Telephone Operators according to the model of rotation; if not, why not; and

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

(d) whether Government propose to recruit the carrier attendants on a circle basis so as to give minority communities a better chance of getting appointments in better proportions; if not, why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. The scale of pay is Rs. 60—4—100—5—130 and Carrier Attendants belong to an all-India cadre and are liable for service anywhere in India.

(b) Yes.

(c) The existing rules do not provide for any reservation for departmental candidates and all vacancies in the cadre are due to be filled according to the model communal rotation. The question of reservation of a certain percentage of appointments for departmental men is, however, receiving the attention of Government.

(d) The question will be considered.

MUSLIMS AS TELEGRAPH MASTERS

†551. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Telegraph Masters employed in the Department, and the total number of Muslims holding the post of Telegraph Masters; and

(b) whether Government propose to reserve two-thirds of all future vacancies in the cadre of Telegraph Masters for Muslims in order to make up the leeway?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The total number of Telegraph Masters is 276 out of whom 6 are Muslims.

(b) No.

PROMOTIONS OF TELEPHONE OPERATORS

†552. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any fixed proportion between Telephone Operators of the First and Second Grade, and whether on a Grade I Operator being appointed Officiating Telegraph Supervisor or promoted to the post of Selection Grade Monitor or Telegraph Inspector, an officiating arrangement is made promoting a Grade II Operator to Grade I; and

(b) whether, in view of the obvious uncertainty and consequent hardship resulting from existing conditions, Government propose to fix the proportion of Grade I and Grade II Operators at 50 per cent. each?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) and (b). The proportion between I and II grade permanent posts of time scale telephone operators including monitors and telephone inspectors has recently been fixed at 50:50. Officiating promotion from the second to the first grade is not permissible as the duties of the posts in the two grades are interchangeable.

SENIOR SUBORDINATES PROMOTED TO LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE IN TRAFFIC AND COMMERCIAL BRANCHES, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

‡553. ***Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the number by communities of senior subordinates promoted to the Lower Gazetted Service in the Traffic and Commercial Branches of the North Western Railway during the last two years;

(b) if it is a fact that two posts in the Lower Gazetted Service have been recently temporarily created in the Commercial Branch of the Headquarters Office, North Western Railway; if so, whether any Muslim has been promoted to fill any of these posts;

(c) if it is a fact that three additional posts of Senior Claims Inspectors have been created in the Headquarters Office of the North Western Railway; and, if so, whether any Muslim has been promoted to any of these posts; and

(d) if it is a fact that the Traffic Officers' Association and the Engineering Officers' Association of the North Western Railway have protested against the

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

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

policy of granting extension of service to superannuated officers; and, if so, what decision has been arrived at on their representation?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) 5 Hindus, 4 Muslims, 3 other minority communities and 10 Europeans and Anglo-Indians.

(b) It is not clear which two posts are referred to. If the two latest posts created in the Commercial Department are meant, the reply to the second part is in the negative.

(c) Three posts of Claims Inspectors have been temporarily upgraded to Senior Claims Inspectors and one of these is held by a Muslim.

(d) Yes; Government's policy in this matter has been explained to the General Manager who has been instructed to explain it to the officers concerned.

PROMOTION OF SENIOR SUBORDINATES AS SUB-STORE-KEEPERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

†554. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that a selection was recently held on the North Western Railway for the promotion of senior subordinates as Sub-Store-Keepers;

(b) if it is a fact that some men out of the selected list have already been promoted as Sub-Store-Keeper;

(c) if it is a fact that it is now proposed by the Administration to cancel the selected list;

(d) if the reply to (c) is in the affirmative, the reason why the selection is proposed to be cancelled, and what is proposed to be done with regard to the remaining selected men who have not yet been promoted; and

(e) if the reply to (c) is in the affirmative, whether persons already promoted from the list of selected candidates to the post of Sub-Store-Keepers will be reverted; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Presumably a selection held in February, 1943, is meant; if so the reply is in the affirmative.

(c) The list made in February, 1943, was cancelled.

(d) The list was cancelled, as it appeared that there had been a diversity in the standards adopted; the men who were in the original list have again secured places in the revised list framed in December, 1943, and they will obtain promotion in their turn.

(e) No, because they have so far proved satisfactory in the posts they now hold.

STAFF PROMOTED TO LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE IN RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE

†555. *Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the number of clerks dealing with promotions, transfers and leave, etc., in the Establishment and other Sections of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, and the number of Muslims among them;

(b) the number of men, community-wise, promoted to the Lower Gazetted Service during the last two years; and

(c) the reasons for not observing communal percentage in the appointments made for the Rationing Scheme and coupon selling purposes in the Delhi Division, North Western Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The number of clerks dealing with establishment and allied work is 61 out of which 13 are Muslims.

(b) 5 men (of whom one has reverted) were promoted to the Lower Gazetted Service in the last two years. They were all Hindus.

(c) Presumably appointments filled by direct recruitment are referred to. In spite of the best efforts it was not found possible to recruit Muslims to the required number.

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

HOLIDAY FOR SHAB-I-BARAT NOT GRANTED TO MUSLIMS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†556. ***Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Muslim staff of the Bengal and Assam Railway Accounts Department applied for holiday on the occasion of the last *Shab-i-Barat*, an important Muslim festival, but were refused holiday by the Deputy General Manager on the ground that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, a non-Muslim Body did not observe holiday on that festival;

(b) if it is a fact that the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, in spite of the request of the Muslim staff, was not consulted; if so, under what circumstances a non-Muslim body was considered more authoritative for a Muslim festival than a Muslim body; and

(c) what action the Honourable Member proposes to take in the matter to console the injured religious feelings of the Muslim community, and to allow the Muslim staff a holiday on the occasion of *Shab-i-Barat* in the future?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative; it has been the practice to ascertain from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce whether commercial houses are ordinarily open to such festivals.

(c) I am informed that neither the Bengal Government nor the other two Railways closed their offices on the day in question and cannot, therefore, admit that the action of the B. & A. Railway has legitimately injured anyone's feelings. Persons who could be spared could have obtained casual leave for the day. I cannot undertake that a holiday will be granted for *Shab-i-Barat* in future.

SCHEDULED CASTES STAFF OF SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

†557. ***Mr. Piare Lal Kureel:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state the communal representation including that of the Scheduled Castes in the Gazetted and Non-Gazetted Staff of the Supply Department?

(b) Are Government satisfied with the present representation of the Scheduled Castes in the Supply Department? If not, what practical steps do they propose to take in order to secure their due representation in the said Department?

(c) Do Government propose to reduce the educational qualifications for the above Gazetted and Non-Gazetted posts, in the case of the Scheduled Castes? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudallar: (a) The information asked for by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) No. The attention of the heads of Departments and of Selection Committees has been drawn to the recent Government order on the subject and it is hoped that applicants from the scheduled castes will be selected in large numbers.

(c) No.

RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY INTO QUETTA

558. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon** (on behalf of **Qari Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi**): (a) Will the Foreign Secretary please state if it is a fact that entry in the City of Quetta is prohibited without special permits? If so, from what date?

(b) Is it a fact that even the *bona fide* residents of Baluchistan are also not allowed to enter Quetta without such permits?

(c) Is it a fact that, in Baluchistan, Quetta is the only City which supplies the necessities of life to the province and where medical aid is available for the inhabitants?

(d) Is it a fact that these restrictions on entry in Quetta are causing great hardship on the residents of Baluchistan and are adversely affecting the trade of the place?

(e) In view of these hardships, have Government considered the advisability of relaxing these restrictions at least in favour of Baluchies, the residents of Baluchistan?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) Yes, from the 27th March, 1943, under the Quetta (Control of Ingress) Order, 1943.

(b) No. Permanent residents can obtain a certificate of identity, exempting them from obtaining an entry permit. Moreover, migratory tribesmen, whether Baluch, Brahui or Pathan, are exempt from the operation of the order.

(c) No.

(d) No.

(e) The Supply position is still difficult, and it is not proposed to relax these restrictions at present.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to part (a) of the question, may I ask who is giving those permits? Those persons who go to Quetta, do they get their permits in Quetta itself or have they got to secure them at the place they left?

Sir Olaf Caroe: They secure them in Quetta.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to part (b) of the question, what is the cost of securing such permits? Is there any fee charged for them?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I must ask for notice. I know there is a small fee for the certificates of identity but I am not sure about the permits and I must ask for notice.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: This arises out of the original question, whether there is hardship or not and so the question of fees also arises automatically?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I have not got with me the actual fee list whether there is fee for special permits or not.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: May I know where these people have to wait before they get the permits for entry into Quetta? What are the facilities for these people to stay?

Sir Olaf Caroe: They have to obtain a permit from the Political Agent. This rule is in operation for the past one year and everybody knows this. It is also widely advertised that, except in the case of the indigenous population, permits have to be obtained.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: My question was this. Supposing a man had reached Quetta station. Is he then to apply for permit? If so, up to the time he receives the permit, where has he got to stay?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I do not understand the Honourable Member's question. Does the Honourable Member mean that the man is already in Quetta and he wants to leave Quetta and get back again to Quetta? Or does he mean that the man wants to enter Baluchistan for the first time?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: If an individual wants to go for the first time to Quetta, before he obtains this permit from the Political Agent, where is he to stay on?

Sir Olaf Caroe: Supposing the man is in Lahore, presumably he would remain in Lahore until he gets his permit.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Does it mean that the man cannot even enter Quetta railway station?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The man would write and ask for permit before he leaves his place of residence.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know whether it will not be feasible that the District Magistrate of the place from which the man may go be authorised to issue permits?

Sir Olaf Caroe: No, Sir, because the District Magistrate of the place wherefrom the man wants to go, for instance a place like Lahore, will not be in a position to say how many permits can properly be given having regard to the supply position and the fullness of Quetta and so on and so forth.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Is it possible that if a person wishes to go to Quetta, railway tickets will not be issued to him unless he produces a permit?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I do not know. I want notice.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Do I understand the Honourable Member to say in reply to part (b) that permanent residents get permits enabling them to go without these passes?

Sir Olaf Caroe: Permanent residents are exempt from having permits. The object is to prevent the population of Quetta from being enormously swollen by people wishing to go there on a holiday or for some other purpose at the end of a long railway leading to a deficit supply area.

BAN ON IMPORT OF LEATHER, ETC., TO PISHIN DISTRICT.

559. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (on behalf of **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi**): (a) Will the Foreign Secretary please state if it is a fact that import of leather, articles of leather, tea, cloth, etc., has been recently prohibited in the districts of Pishin, and parts of Chagai, for sometime past? If so, since when?

(b) Is it a fact that the alleged reason for the prohibition is that the things may not go over to Afghanistan or Persia?

(c) Is it a fact that the main source for the maintenance of the residents of these areas was trade in these articles, and that they are suffering very badly from this prohibition?

(d) In view of the great hardship caused to the residents of these parts by these restrictions, have Government considered the advisability of relaxing these restrictions, and making proper arrangement at the frontiers of Afghanistan and Persia for stopping the export of these articles to those areas?

Sir Olaf Caroe: This question will be answered by my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION FOR RECRUITMENT ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

560. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be please to state if there is any programme in the contemplation of the administrative authorities of the Bengal and Assam Railway for setting up a Committee of Selection for recruitment?

(b) What is the probable number of this Committee expected to be, and is the Bengal and Assam Administration being asked to receive the approval of the Railway Board before nominating officers to serve on the Committee?

(c) What is the quota of appointments for the Muslim community on the Bengal and Assam Railway, and what safeguards do Government propose to make for its observance by any Committee of Selection?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 45 per cent. on the E. B. Section and 35 per cent. on the A. B. Section; these will shortly be combined. The second part does not arise.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know what steps have been taken by the Railway Board to see that the quotas fixed are rightly worked?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The situation is being watched regularly.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Does the Railway Board get monthly report of recruitment?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not know whether they get a monthly report; but they get frequent reports of what is going on there. If I may say so, the Honourable Member's frequent questions more than help to elucidate the position.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is there any officer of the Railway Board watching the working of these quotas?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is there any Muslim officer?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir.

MUSLIMS IN BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

561. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of staff working in the Drawing Office, Civil and Mechanical, in the Bengal and Assam Railway, and the number of Muslims therein?

(b) How many persons were recruited in this Department during 1942 and 1943, and were these vacancies advertised?

(c) If the reply to (b) is in the affirmative, what was the number of applications from Muslims in response to such advertisements, and what was the number of those who were interviewed, and with what results?

(d) What was the composition of the Selection Committee for this purpose, how many appointments were made from the departments other than this, and what was the method adopted for doing so?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Information has been called for and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

APPOINTMENTS MADE IN THE STORE DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

562. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the total number of appointments made, temporary or permanent cadre, in the Store Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the present financial year (i.e., between the 1st April, 1943, and the 29th February, 1944) and the Communal Composition of such appointments?

(b) What was the method adopted for recruitment, and what is the number of persons taken from the same Department or the other Departments on the same Railway, and what is the number of persons recruited directly from outside?

(c) Were suitable Muslims allowed to appear before any Selection Board, what was the number of those who were granted interviews during the year, and how many of those Muslims were considered fit?

(d) What was the total number of applications received in response to advertisements, and what was the number of applications from Muslims?

(e) What was the composition of the Selection Committees set up for recruitment for the requirements of the Store Department and did any Muslim officer sit on such Committees?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Information has been called for and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

GRIEVANCES OF TEMPORARY CLERKS IN THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, DELHI.

563. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon** (on behalf of **Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi**): (a) Will the Honourable the Secretary for Posts and Air Department please state with reference to the answer to question No. 896 regarding grievances of temporary clerks in the General Post Office, Delhi, which was replied to on the 29th March, 1943, if it is a fact that the posts occupied by the temporary clerks in Delhi were created in 1937 long before the present war?

(b) Is it a fact that these clerks were engaged as season clerks but as a matter of fact they have ever since then been working continuously in posts and telegraphs offices?

(c) Is it a fact that these clerks have been carrying on their duties as efficiently as persons who entered the department as qualified clerks and the duties of these persons have been interchangeable and are interchangeable even now? If not, what are the real facts?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: (a) Nine of the posts referred to were created in 1937.

(b) Only six of these temporary clerks are working at present. Three of them were appointed in 1937 as season clerks and have since been continuing either as season clerks or as temporary clerks. The other three were appointed in 1939 and have since been continuing as temporary clerks.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative, the latter part does not arise.

INSECURITY IN CERTAIN TRAINS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†564. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if the Railway Board has been informed of the conditions of insecurity that prevail in some trains of the North Western Railway near about Kundian Railway Station?

(b) Is he aware that bands of desperate characters consisting of 25 or 30 persons whose ring-leaders are Amir Abdulla Khan Pathan of village Mochh, Mianwali District, Rabnawaz Khan Pathan of Mianwali, Ghulam Mohammad Darkhar of village Piplan, Mianwali District, get into trains without tickets armed with fatal weapons, and rob and assault the Railway passengers where the Railway Police and Railway staff are helpless?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that several cases of assault and looting have taken place during the last three months? Does the Honourable Member propose to take effective steps immediately to restore law and order in the trains?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The question should have been addressed to my Honourable colleague, the Home Member, who will reply to it on a later date.

INSTRUCTING OFFICERS AT METEOROLOGICAL TRAINING CENTRES.

+565. ***Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) the names and designations of officers giving instructions to Assistant Meteorologists and other officers at the various Meteorological training centres;

(b) the period of stay of various officers at every training centre; and

(c) the total number of officers, Meteorologists, Assistant Meteorologists and other Professional Assistants and Meteorological Assistants supplied to the Defence Department, and the number of Muslims under each head?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: (a) I lay on the table a statement showing the names and designations of the Instructors as on the 1st March, 1944.

(b) No definite period is fixed and Instructors are changed from time to time according to administrative convenience.

(c) The number of officers supplied to the Defence Services from the Meteorological Department cannot be disclosed for security reasons. The percentage of Muslims to the total number in each category is as follows:—

Meteorologists	Nil
Assistant Meteorologists	6
Professional Assistants	33.3
Meteorological Assistants	28.6

Statement.

At Poona.

Officer-in-charge—

Mr. A. K. Roy, Meteorologist.

Instructors—

Mr. K. Parthasarathy, Assistant Meteorologist.

Mr. T. G. Dhaole, Meteorological Assistant.

Mr. P. P. Joshi, Meteorological Assistant.

Mr. V. Kalyanasundaram, Meteorological Assistant.

Mr. G. S. Mande, Assistant.

At New Delhi.

Officer-in-Charge—

Dr. A. K. Das, Meteorologist.

Instructors—

Mr. K. L. Bhatia, Meteorological Assistant.

Mr. Laxmi Narain, Senior Observer.

At Karachi.

Officer-in-Charge—

Dr. S. N. Sen, Superintending Meteorologist.

Dr. H. R. Puri, Meteorologist.

Dr. S. N. Roy Choudhury, Assistant Meteorologist.

Mr. V. Ganesan, Assistant Meteorologist.

Mr. P. G. N. Nayar, Assistant Meteorologist.

Mr. N. C. Rai Sircar, Assistant Meteorologist.

Mr. R. V. Badami, Assistant Meteorologist.

Mr. S. P. Sircar, Assistant Meteorologist.

OBSERVANCE OF COMMUNAL HOLIDAYS IN SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

566. *Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Will the Honourable Member for Supply please state if it is a fact that almost all members of the Muslim community have invariably been granted leave on Muslim communal holidays, while only 40 per cent. or even less of the Hindu ministerial staff have been granted leave on Hindu communal holidays?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No Sir. In fact every endeavour is made to give the members of different communities their communal holidays, but as offices are not closed on communal holidays some staff has to be present to deal with urgent work. When a section is staffed wholly or predominantly by members of one community, the retention of a few members of that community to do urgent work on the communal holidays cannot be avoided.

Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article published in the *Mahratta*, dated the 2nd April, 1943, about the discriminatory treatment meted out to officers.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I understood that that part of the question was disallowed by you, Sir.

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

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is it a fact that the Muslim employees were not allowed *Id-uz-Zuha* holiday?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It is not a fact. I have just verified all these things. As I already said, when a section is staffed wholly or predominantly by members of one community, in such case some of the staff has to be retained for urgent work even on a communal holiday. But the rule is generally observed to release as many of the members who are entitled to that communal holiday.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: Is the Honourable Member aware that *Id-uz-Zuha* is a public holiday and not a communal holiday?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I must apologise. If it is a public holiday, the Honourable Member may take it that the staff, certainly of Muslims, are entitled to a full holiday.

IMPORT AND MANUFACTURE OF AMMONIUM SULPHATE.

567. *Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: Will the Honourable Member for Supply please state:

(a) whether Government intend, as a war measure and in order to implement the suggestions of the Gregory Food Committee, to make available in India annually, as suggested by the Gregory Committee, a quantity of 850,000 tons of ammonium sulphate;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what steps have been taken by Government to facilitate the import of ammonium sulphate in the country, and through what channels;

(c) whether Government contemplate setting up of plants for the manufacture of ammonium sulphate in this country, in collaboration with the interests interested in the chemical industry;

(d) whether it is a fact that Grady Mission had suggested in 1942 to their Government to facilitate import into India of plants for large scale manufacture of ammonium sulphate;

(e) if the answer to (d) above is in the affirmative, what steps the Government of India have taken to follow up this suggestion of the Grady Mission; and

(f) whether the Chemical Fertilizers Committee, which met some time in October, 1943, had anything to say in this matter; and if so, what their recommendations were?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) It is the intention of Government to provide 850,000 tons of ammonium sulphate or equivalent quantity of nitrogenous fertilisers per annum as early as is practicable.

(b) The Government have arranged to import through commercial channels about 42,000 tons of ammonium sulphate from North America and the United Kingdom during 1944.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) A copy of the proceedings of the committee and its recommendations are laid on the table of the House.

Proceedings of the Conference held in Jaisalmer House on the 29th and 30th September 1943, to consider the production in India of Ammonium Sulphate.

As announced in the press a meeting of representatives of Industrialists who are interested in setting up sulphate of ammonia plants in this country and also of representatives of different Government Departments concerned was held at 11 A.M. on 29th September, 1943, under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Member, in the Committee Room of the Jaisalmer House.

A list of those who attended the Conference is given in Appendix "A".

The Honourable Member made some remarks on the fertilizer (especially ammonium sulphate) position in this country and then called upon Sir P. M. Khareghat to put before the Conference his views on the subject. After Sir P. M. Khareghat had made his remarks, the representatives of the various interests were called upon by the Honourable Member to state their views. There was then some discussion on the various issues regarding the production of ammonium sulphate and in this discussion representatives of the Government departments as well as representatives of the various firms took part.

After considering the points brought out in the Conference the Honourable Member appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Sir P. M. Khareghat consisting of the following members:

Sir P. M. Khareghat, Mr. Kapilram Vakil, Mr. Davis, Mr. Gilmore, Lala Shankar Lal, Mr. Saran, Mr. Parker, and representatives of the Commerce Department, Education, Health and Lands Department, Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Food Department, Supply Development Committee, C. G. I., as well as Dr. L. A. Bhatt and Dr. M. S. Patel of the Directorate General of Supply.

The terms of reference for the Committee were as follows:

(i) What can be done within the next two years to produce chemical fertilisers, in particular, ammonium sulphate;

(ii) The Committee should consider the resources for the short-term policy and state what help Government should give by way of importation of plant and machinery to bring this industry into existence for producing ammonium sulphate. The Committee should also consider the production of ammonium chloride and how much could be produced in the light of the observations made by Mr. Kapilram Vakil and also to examine technically the suitability of this fertilizer.

(iii) The Committee should also examine the question of what technical assistance is at the disposal of those who are in a position to start this industry or think they are in a position to establish this industry. The question regarding the import of technical experts or sending from this country qualified men to foreign countries for obtaining technical information regarding the plants, etc., should be gone into. What survey should be made in this country of a more detailed character to find out the extent and the quality of available raw materials like gypsum, etc.

(iv) The Committee should also record its views as to what part Government should take in the establishment of this industry. Whether Government should be the sole, i.e., exclusive owners of the industry or should they assist the industry in other ways.

(v) The Committee should report on the general process which should be adopted for the short-term policy for the production of ammonium sulphate and other similar fertilizers. The Committee should also report on the suitability of the area where the industry should be set up taking into consideration the available raw materials as well as the supply of electrical energy. It should examine other technical matters concerning the establishment of the industry.

The Committee were asked to submit their report to the Honourable Member by 1 P.M. on 30th September, 1943. The Conference was adjourned until 2-30 P.M. on the 30th.

The Committee met from 2-30 to 6 P.M. on 29th and from 10 A.M. to 12-45 P.M. on 30th September, 1943, and submitted its report to the Honourable Member at about 1-30 P.M. on the 30th.

The adjourned meeting of the Conference which was fixed at 2-30 P.M. was postponed until 3 P.M. Copies of the report were placed before the members at 2-30 P.M. in order to enable them to go through it. The Honourable Member opened the adjourned meeting of the Conference at 3 P.M. He stated that the members had time to read the Committee's report and would like the members of the Conference to express their views on it. Several points were discussed in detail by Lala Shankar Lal, Mr. Tattersall, Mr. Davis, Mr. Gilmore, Dr. Bhatt and others. After these discussions the report was accepted by the Conference with some slight modifications. A copy of the report as accepted by the Conference is attached herewith. (See Appendix C).

(List of those who attended the Conference is given in Appendix "B").

In concluding the Conference the Honourable Member made the following observations :

"I think we might now conclude this Conference. This report is very valuable and the departments concerned will consider the report and the whole matter will be considered by Government at as early a stage as possible. It has brought out the problem much more clearly than it was envisaged at the start—and I think both industrialists and Government are more alive to the requirements of the case than they were before the conference started. Even as a short range problem there are several hurdles to be crossed and these hurdles have been brought to the notice in this report.

I think the first thing to see is the availability of gypsum in the country and turn the Geological Department on to a survey of the quantity available in this country. I am not quite sure whether Dr. Fox has not got some kind of report available, because for the last 2½ years at least he has been at this question and special geological parties have gone to Trichinopoly and other places to find the deposits of gypsum. It is possible they may have the report ready and we can ask them to furnish more particulars about it.

Then a survey has to be made about electric power and as to where this can be easily spared under the present war conditions. Then, we have to consider the question of which is the best area where an industry can be set up and, what are the facilities which the industry should have. Above all, we have to see which country is willing to export the plant, and machinery required for this purpose. Our Allies are willing to help us in a great many directions. I am not blaming anybody but in my short experience as a Supply Member I have found that the countries most willing to help us are just unable to do so, somehow or other, and therefore we should not be too much disappointed if after all this inquiry and all this attempt to get things going, we find that owing to the exigencies of war plant and machinery may not be available. I say this because I do not want to create too much hopes in anybody that it is going to be an easy matter. The most difficult problem is going to be in connection with obtaining the plant and machinery. Other things are to my mind not so difficult. The question of what facilities Government can give, whether the whole thing should be a Government concern in view of the importance of this industry or whether it should be run on ordinary commercial lines with a certain amount of Government control and direction the example of what is being done in Mysore, is before us these are comparatively minor matters. The most important thing is the availability of plant at any price and the securing of them from countries where they may be available.

In any case, we shall go through all these stages quickly and the stage may come, after the preliminaries have been settled, when the individual industrialists who have expressed a desire to participate in this may be invited to a full discussion of this subject. Nothing more remains now for me to do except to thank you.

The Conference then terminated.

APPENDIX A.

List of the persons who attended the Conference on Ammonium Sulphate on 29th September, 1943, held in the Committee Room at the Jaisalmer House.

(i) REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

1. The Honourable Member for the Supply Department.
2. Mr. A. A. Waugh, Secretary to the Supply Department.
3. Mr. W. R. Target.
4. Sir P. M. Khareghat.
5. Mr. Aftab Rai.
6. Brgd. Wolf.
7. Major Taylor.
8. Mr. R. P. Mathur.
9. Mr. Hasnie.
10. Dr. Bhatt.
11. Mr. Elwin.
12. Mr. Basu.
13. Mr. Zaman.
14. Mr. R. C. Symons.
15. Mr. Tattersall.
16. Mr. Maini.
17. Publicity Officer Mr. Naidu.
18. Dr. M. S. Patel.

(ii) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS FIRMS.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. M/s. Birla Bros | Mr. Gilmore & Mr. Stolba. |
| 2. " Dalmia Cement & Paper Marketing Co. Ltd. | Mr. J. M. Gupta. |
| 3. " Bhadani Brothers, Calcutta | Mr. Jogeshwar Pershad. |
| 4. " Delhi Cloth Mills Ltd. | Lala Shanker Lal. |
| 5. " D. Weldi & Co. | Mr. F. F. McIntyre. |
| 6. " Imperial Chemical Industries (India) Ltd, | Mr. T. Parker. |
| 7. " Kantawala Nanawati Ltd. | Mr. B. M. Trivedi. |
| 8. " Karam Chand Prem Chand Ltd., Ahmedabad | Mr. P. H. Krishna. |
| 9. " Karam Chand Thapar & Bros. | Mr. Malak Ram. |
| 10. " G. K. Khemka | Mr. Ram Lal Gupta. |
| 11. " Kilachand Devchand | Mr. Jeewan Lal. |

12. M/s. Mettur Chemical & Industrial Corporation Ltd.	Mr. C. V. Gopal Rao & Mr. A. C. K. Krishnaswami.
13. " Modi Soap Works	Mr. J. M. Saran.
14. " Parry & Co. Ltd.	Mr. S. G. Davis.
15. " Scindia Chemical Development Corporation, New Delhi.	Mr. N. K. Chopra.
16. " Sepulchre & Co. Ltd.	Mr. D. N. Chand.
17. " Shimbhaoli Sugar Mills Ltd.	Mr. K. S. Pesarich.
18. " Tata Chemicals	Mr. Kapilram Vakil.
19. " Hyderabad Chemical Fertilizers, Hyderabad .	Mr. A. Balunathan.

APPENDIX B.

List of the persons who attended the Conference on Ammonium Sulphate on 30th September, 1943, held at 3 P.M. in the Committee Room at the Jaisalmer House.

(i) REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

1. The Honourable Member for the Supply Department.
2. Sir P. M. Khareghat.
3. Mr. Aftab Rai.
4. Brgd. Wolf.
5. Major Taylor.
6. Mr. R. P. Mathur.
7. Mr. Hasnie.
8. Dr. Bhatt. *
9. Mr. Elwin.
10. Mr. Basu.
11. Mr. Krishnamoorthy.
12. Mr. R. C. Symons.
13. Mr. Tattersall.
14. Mr. Masini.
15. Publicity Officer Mr. Naidu.
16. Dr. M. S. Patel.

(ii) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS FIRMS.

1. M/s. Birla Bros.	Mr. Gilmore & Mr. Stolba.
2. " Dalmia Cement & Paper Marketing Co. Ltd.	Mr. J. M. Gupta.
3. " Bhadani Brothers, Calcutta	Mr. Jageshwar Pershad.
4. " Delhi Cloth Mills Ltd.	Lala Shanker Lal.
5. " D. Weldi & Co.	Mr. F. F. McIntyre.
6. " Imperial Chemical Industries (India) Ltd.	Mr. T. Parker.
7. " Kantawala Nanawati Ltd.	Mr. B. M. Trivedi.
8. " Karam Chand Prem Chand Ltd., Ahmedabad.	Mr. P. H. Krishna.
9. " Karam Chand Thapar & Bros.	Mr. Malak Ram.
10. " *G. K. Khemka,	Mr. Ram Lal Gupta.
11. " Kilachand Devchand	Mr. Jeewan Lal.
12. " Mettur Chemical & Industrial Corporation Ltd.	Mr. C. V. Gopal Rao & Mr. A. C. K. Krishnaswami.
13. " Modi Soap Works.	Mr. J. M. Saran.
14. " Parry & Co. Ltd.	Mr. S. G. Davis.
15. " Scindia Chemical Development Corporation, New Delhi.	Mr. N. K. Chopra.
16. " Sepulchre & Co., Ltd.	Mr. D. N. Chand.
17. " Shimbhaoli Sugar Mills Ltd.	Mr. K. S. Pesarich.
18. " Tata Chemical	Mr. Kapilram Vakil.
19. " Hyderabad Chemical Fertilizers, Hyderabad	Mr. A. Balunathan.
20. " Ganesh Flour Mills.	Mr. Kirpa Narain.
21. "	Mr. Amjad Ali.

APPENDIX C.

Report on the steps to be taken for the production of an adequate quantity of fertilisers, especially Ammonium Sulphate, in India of the Committee appointed by the Fertilisers Conference held under the Chairmanship of the Honourable the Supply Member was adopted by the Conference on 30th September, 1943.

Introduction.

1.1. The Committee first looked into the question of the need for artificial fertilisers in India. It realised that the yield per acre of most crops was very low and that it would be considerably increased in many cases if proper fertilisers and adequate water could be supplied. At the present time, there is an acute shortage of food in the country and it is essential to take steps to increase food production immediately. Hence it is a matter of great urgency to obtain the necessary fertilisers.

1.2. The quantity of ammonium sulphate consumed in India before 1939, was of the order of 100,000 tons a year. But it was understood that it would not be difficult to increase the use of fertilisers rapidly to 500,000 tons provided prices of food grains remain at a

reasonable level; even a goal of a million tons was not too high. A small country like Egypt consumed half a million tons a year. The Food Grains Policy Committee has suggested the provision of 350,000 tons a year, to reduce our dependence, on imports of rice from abroad. It was considered safest to aim at providing at least this quantity within two years. This would also serve as an insurance against famine.

1.3. It would clearly not be possible to import such a large quantity owing to shipping difficulties. Both for this reason and for others it was essential to set up plants in this country for the manufacture of fertilisers and supply it at comparatively cheap rates for increased food production. The demand on shipping space for importing such plants would not be great.

1.4. The possibility of utilising farm and town waste was also discussed. It was stated that steps had already been taken to train chemists in the use of the hot fermentation process for making manure out of town waste and it was hoped to have a few million tons of such waste converted into manure in two years. But this manure could not be easily transported and could only be used near towns. The provision of this manure would be additional to the use of artificial fertilisers and would not in any way decrease the need for the latter.

1.5. The Committee consider that in the circumstances, immediate steps should be taken to set up plants in India for the manufacture of ammonium sulphate to the tune of 350,000 tons and these plants should start production in about two years' time.

Capacity of existing plant.

2.1. The Committee next considered the present and potential capacity of the existing plant for the production of ammonium sulphate.

2.2. It appears that Mysore produces about 6,000 tons per year and there is a proposal for doubling the plant and producing 12,000 tons. This proposal is under consideration in the Supply Department. It is understood that the whole of the additional ammonium sulphate produced will be available for use as fertilizer. Of the present production only about 2,000 tons are available for use as fertilizer.

2.3. Messrs. Tata Iron & Steel Co., Indian Iron & Steel Co., the Bararee Coke Works, Kusumda, Government Coke Ovens, Giridih, and the Coke Ovens at Bhowra are between them producing about 20,000 tons of ammonium sulphate. One coke oven battery, however, is not working at present and the potential capacity of these plants is 28,000 tons. The reason for not working the battery is that there is no outlet for the additional coke that may be produced. The question of utilising the coke for other purposes was considered but it was felt that the hard coke that is produced is unsuitable for household use. It was, therefore, not considered feasible to increase the production of ammonium sulphate appreciably at the coke ovens under existing conditions. Of the present production only about half is available for use as fertilizer.

2.4. Mr. Kapilram Vakil stated that Tatas have a proposal for the production of 40,000 tons a year of ammonium chloride if a suitable new plant is put up for the production of ammonia. He anticipated that ammonium chloride could be supplied at 40 per cent. below the present price of ammonium sulphate, taking into consideration, the nitrogen content of the chemicals. The percentage of nitrogen in ammonium chloride is about 26 per cent. and that in ammonium sulphate is about 20.6 per cent.

2.5. It thus appears that the maximum capacity of the existing plants for the production of ammonium sulphate is only of the order of 34,000 tons a year, which can be increased to 40,000 tons when the Mysore plant is doubled, provided the coke ovens can be worked to their maximum capacity. It is clear that if the demand for fertilisers in this country is to be met, the greater part of the necessary plant will have to be imported and the rest made in this country. Plans and designs should, where so desired by the industrialists concerned, be obtained from abroad.

Raw Materials.

3.1. The principal raw materials for the manufacture of sulphate of ammonia from the point of view of what is likely to be available in India are gypsum and coke or other carbonaceous fuel.

3.2.1. As regards gypsum, it was reckoned that some 500,000 tons would be required a year in order to produce 350,000 tons of ammonium sulphate. Some doubt was expressed as to whether such a large quantity of gypsum would be available for a long enough time, but the Committee was informed that Dr. Sir C. S. Fox, the present Mineral Adviser to the Government of India, had expressed the opinion that there was an adequate supply of gypsum in the country. The Committee decided to accept that as a working basis.

3.2.2. A further point was raised as to whether the gypsum available would be of suitable quality. After some discussion, it was agreed that as far as could be foreseen at present, the usual impurities of silica alumina and calcium carbonate would not present serious difficulties.

3.2.3. The Committee recommend that while schemes for putting up the necessary plant must be proceeded with, enquiries should at the same time be made as soon as possible to definitely ascertain how much gypsum and what reserves thereof are available in different areas and what its quality is. This enquiry should be completed if possible in three months as no orders for plant can be placed until this enquiry is completed.

3.3. As regards coke, it was pointed out that 22,000 tons of coke would be required for the production of 50,000 tons of ammonium sulphate. The five existing plants in Bihar have between them a surplus capacity of half a million tons a year, so there is likely to be no

shortage of coke; on the contrary, the present capacity of the coke ovens is considerably more than the requirements in the near future.

3.4. The possibility of using coke ovens gas should be investigated at once as a source of hydrogen. It may be available at Giridih, Bhowra and Kuumda.

New Plants.

4.1. The Committee next considered the various proposals for putting up new plants for the production of ammonium sulphate.

4.2. Mr. Davis of Messrs. Parry & Co., Ltd., mentioned that they, on behalf of the Raja of Venkatagiri, were contemplating to put up a plant of 20,000 tons for the manufacture of ammonium sulphate from gypsum at a place, some 80 miles north of Madras. They propose to use charcoal and not coke for the production of blue water gas as a source of hydrogen and nitrogen. They are prepared to double this plant if adequate gypsum is available.

4.3. Mr. Gilmore, on behalf of Messrs. Birla Bros., Ltd., said that they were making enquiries to find out whether gypsum would be available in sufficient quantities in Rajputana and in the north of the United Provinces, with a view to set up a plant producing 36,000 tons of ammonium sulphate a year. If the necessary quantity of gypsum is available, they will consider the feasibility of even doubling the plant.

4.4. Mr. Kapilram Vakil on behalf of Messrs. Tatas mentioned that their enquiry showed that a plant for the manufacture of ammonium sulphate by the complete Haber Bosch process should not be of less than 40 tons liquid ammonia equivalent to 160 tons of ammonium sulphate per day if it was to be an economic unit. They may be prepared to consider the setting up of one plant which would produce about 53,000 tons a year.

4.5. Mr. Shankerlal was of opinion that a plant of 400 tons a day should be regarded as an economic unit. His firm are prepared to go into the question of helping in the setting up of such a plant which would produce about 120,000 tons a year.

4.6. The representative of Mettur Chemicals stated that his firm, Messrs. Seshasayee Bros., Ltd., have already submitted proposals to Government to put up a plant for the production of 40,000 tons a year.

4.7. The representative of Modi Industries, Begumabad, expressed himself as willing to put up a plant for the production of 20,000 tons a year.

4.8. The representative of Messrs. Dalmia Cement and Paper Marketing Company, said that they are willing to put up plant for producing 40,000 tons a year.

4.9. Messrs. Imperial Chemical Industries (India) Ltd., are investigating the production of sulphate of ammonia in India. No decision has yet been reached as they consider that it is essential that a complete survey should be made by technical staff before coming to a decision. They have, however, already undertaken to co-operate in full in starting the industry for making ammonium sulphate in India.

4.10. It will thus be seen that there are prospects of putting up plants for the production of 350,000 tons of ammonium sulphate. This would naturally be in addition to what is being produced at present.

4.11. The Committee considered the feasibility of setting up these plants in the immediate future. Mr. Kapilram Vakil stated that in similar cases the practice of Tatas was to place orders for different parts with different people and in this way they might be able to set up the plant in fifteen months. Mr. Davis said that his enquiries showed that it would take them twelve months to get the plant ordered from abroad ready for shipment from the date of placing the order and it would therefore be about two years before it would be in working order. It thus appeared that there was a reasonable probability of setting up the plant required in about two years, if all necessary facilities are given both in India and in other countries where most of the plant will have to be fabricated. It may be borne in mind that duplication (standardisation) of important parts of the plant where feasible would expedite supply.

Location.

5. The Committee considered that the question of location of the plant can only be determined after a close examination of the availability of raw materials, transport, power, local conditions and markets. Certain industrialists already have these investigations in hand.

Assistance to Industry.

6.1. The next point considered was the question of assistance which the industrialists would need to induce them to put the necessary plant. The difficulties in the way of rapid setting up of this large industry arise from uncertainties which can only be resolved with considerable Government assistance. Some system of substantial Government participation is therefore recommended. This might take various alternative forms and should be the subject of an immediate investigation.

6.2.1. Mr. Shankarlal pointed out that this was a national industry and suggested that a corporation should be set up on the lines of the Reserve Bank of India. Government subscribing 51 per cent. of the shares and the public being asked to subscribe the remaining 49 per cent. A suitable minimum guarantee of interest should be given to the shareholders and the maximum rate of dividend may also be fixed. The management should be in the hands of a Board of Directors with a majority of non-official public men of repute. Government nominating only three Directors and a paid Managing Director should be appointed. In this way the industry would be under national control and would be utilised for furthering the interests of the country as a whole.

6.2.2. This proposal commended itself generally to the majority of the members. The Committee recommends that this suggestion should be seriously considered.

6.3. An alternative suggestion is that the prospective industrialists should themselves form a combine or corporation and all the plants should be set up under the auspices of this Corporation. Government should purchase a small proportion of the shares, say 5 per cent. and guarantee dividend at say 3 per cent. for a fixed period. The management of the Corporation would then be in the hands of the industrialists though one or two directors would have to be nominated by Government. This would secure the benefits of unified direction combined with Government help and guidance.

6.4. If, however, Government is not prepared for either of these proposals the different industrialists would have to put up plants of their own and the nature of the help they would need from the Government is as follows :—

(i) A complete geological survey should be carried out immediately to ascertain definitely the quality and quantity of gypsum available at various places where gypsum has been located in large quantities.

(ii) Government should arrange to give expert advice to industrialists or facilities for obtaining such advice when required relating to capital and recurring cost, cost of production and so on. This advice should be from persons who have designed and worked such plants.

(iii) Government should assist the industrialists in procuring the necessary plants and building materials as soon as possible and where necessary plant for generating power as well.

(iv) Government should give an assurance that steps will be taken to ensure that there is no cut-throat competition, particularly from outside India, so that the industrialists may be able to work on a reasonable basis of profit.

(v) Facilities should be given for cheap railway transport.

(vi) Government should guarantee the offtake of the entire production for a period of five years.

(vii) The question of the writing down of the capital cost should be considered by Government.

6.5. It was also made clear that the grant of such assistance from the Government would have to be conditional on the industrialists agreeing to the sale of ammonium sulphate at a reasonable price fixed by Government after consultation with the industry.

Expert advice.

7.1. The Committee agreed that it was necessary for qualified men from India to proceed to the United Kingdom or U. S. A. or other countries for consulting experts and specialists in these fields and planning production suitable to Indian conditions as well as studying the working of synthetic ammonia plants.

7.2. There was some difference of opinion as to whether experts should be brought out from abroad. The Committee on the whole felt that it might be desirable to do so, especially when setting up new plant. It should, however, be left to the industrialists concerned to determine as to who should be brought out and Government should arrange the necessary transport facilities.

Other fertilisers.

8.1. The feasibility of using ammonium nitrate instead of ammonium sulphate was also discussed. The advantage claimed for ammonium nitrate was that it would not be necessary to obtain gypsum for its manufacture. On the other hand, it was pointed out that ammonium nitrate is deliquescent and hence a large part of it would be lost. Moreover, some members pointed out that it is unsuitable for rice production. In the circumstances, it was considered that the question of ammonium nitrate need not be pursued at present; but further enquiries about its utilisation may be made by Agricultural Departments.

8.2. It was also stated that calcium nitrate was unsuitable for India and that it might be better to try and increase production of potassium nitrate instead. The price of potassium nitrate has gone up to Rs. 800 a ton which is on a basis of nitrogen content, equivalent to Rs. 1,200 a ton of ammonium sulphate, ignoring the potash value. It was felt that it was not economic to use it at such a high price. It was stated, however, that its production, if necessary, could be increased to 22,000 tons. It could be used for tea, potatoes and vegetables although it would not be a substitute for ammonium sulphate for rice production.

8.3. As regards ammonium chloride, it is recommended that further enquiries should be made by Agricultural Departments as regards its suitability for use as a fertiliser under Indian conditions.

Conclusion.

9. To sum up, the Committee considers that :—

(i) Plants for the production of 350,000 tons of ammonium sulphate should be set up so as to start working in about two years' time. This is considered feasible.

(ii) The existing resources for the production of ammonium sulphate are only between 30,000 to 40,000 tons and the country needs ten times that amount. It is best to concentrate at present on ammonium sulphate, though the possibility of using ammonium chloride should be explored.

(iii) Transit facilities should be given to industrialists for sending qualified persons abroad and obtaining expert advice from abroad, when so required.

(iv) The location of the plants should be left to be decided by industrialists after due enquiry.

(v) The best way to start the work would be to set up a Corporation along the lines of the Reserve Bank, Government finding 51 per cent. of the share capital and guaranteeing a minimum dividend and fixing a maximum rate of dividends. An alternative is for the prospective industrialists to form themselves into a corporation for setting up the industry under unified direction combined with government help and guidance. Failing either of these the industrialists should be given various facilities, enumerated earlier in the report, and in return the industry should agree to sell ammonium sulphate at a reasonable price as may be fixed by the Government in consultation with the industry.

Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari: May I ask if the reply to part (d) is a categorical no, or if it is a case of his not being prepared to disclose the contents of the report?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It is a categorical no. I may explain that the only recommendation of the Grady Mission on this subject, I am prepared to reveal, is this; otherwise Grady Missions' recommendations are all secret. They said that the Government of India have already ordered the equipment for a plant to produce ammonium sulphate and that the Mission is prepared to use its influence to obtain early delivery of this article which relates to Mysore. The equipment itself is to be doubled. There is no other recommendation of the Grady Mission on this subject.

ILLNESS OF SYED HABIB OF LAHORE.

568. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Begum Syed Habib of Lahore regarding her husband's illness;

(b) whether Government have taken necessary steps to redress the grievances stated therein; and

(c) what reply Government have given to her?

Sir Olaf Caroe: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The matter is under consideration, but I should inform the Honourable Member that Government have already separately signified their agreement to the release of the petitioner's husband on terms.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

LOCO. INSPECTORS ETC., ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

143. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state how many Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and Parsi Loco. Inspectors, Assistant and Loco. Foremen there were on the North Western Railway on the 1st January, 1940, and on the 31st December, 1943?

(b) Is it a fact that employees for these posts cannot be recruited from abroad owing to war conditions? If so, why are not Indians referred to in (a) above promoted from lower ranks?

(c) Is it a fact that appointments referred to in (a) above have been held by Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians? If so, why?

(d) Is it a fact that eligible Indians of the communities referred to in (a) are not being freely sent up for training to be able to man these posts? If so, why? If the reply be in the negative, what are the figures of persons of the communities referred to in (a) sent up for training, separately, for each year, during 1941, 1942 and 1943?

(e) If the figures asked for in (d) above disclose insignificant numbers trained for higher jobs, what steps do Government propose to take to expedite training and promotion of Indians referred to in (a) above? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) In 1940 there were three Officiating Parsi Loco. Inspectors and one Parsi among Loco. Foremen and Assistant Foremen. In 1943 there were two permanent and one officiating Parsi Loco. Inspectors and two Hindus and one Muslim among Loco. Foremen and Assistant Foremen.

(b) Recruitment from abroad for these posts has not been made for many years; conditions created by the War have, therefore, not affected it. As regards the second part, Indians will achieve promotion to these posts when suitable senior Indians are available.

(c) No, but as in the past the grades from which promotion is made to these posts consisted mainly of Europeans and Anglo-Indians, these posts were also held mostly by them.

(d) The reply to the first part is in the negative. As regards the third part, a Training Course was held only in 1942 and 7 Hindus, 5 Muslims and 2 Sikhs were selected for such training; selection for training is, however, not made on communal considerations.

(e) Government do not propose to take any special action, as they do not consider it necessary.

CERTAIN DISABILITIES IN RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

144. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Is the Secretary of the Posts and Air Department aware of the following disabilities of the Railway Mail Service :

(i) extra duty every day in Mail Offices with an allowance of annas eight for the whole of eight hours against one day's pay in the combined offices and telegraph offices;

(ii) frequent card sorting examinations from the beginning of service to the retiring age for maintaining efficiency against no such examination at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras G. P. O. Sorting Offices;

(iii) extension of the beat of R. M. S. Sorting Sections and working hours of R. M. S. Offices specially of those working at night from six to twelve hours;

(iv) absence of holidays on Sundays and other festivals;

(v) no casual leave or privilege leave when needed except on production of a medical certificate;

(vi) greater amount of work on all Saturdays on account of the Post Office rule to stop business with the public earlier on that day;

(vii) no Outstation Allowance for first twelve hours and allowance of annas six for stays of over twelve hours against Rs. 3 for six hours to Inspectors of R. M. S. who also get accommodation in R. M. S. Rest Houses like sorters;

(viii) denial of the standard for higher Selection Grade against the recommendations of the Pasricha Committee which recommended one and the same standard for both Post Offices and R. M. S. and which are in actual operation in all the big Sorting Offices in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras;

(ix) long delay in the payment of dues of the staff;

(x) no Supervisors for Registration and Parcel Branches; and

(xi) very long and extensive jurisdiction for the Superintendent Railway Mail Service employing over 600 superior servants and 400 inferior servants as against two hundred superior servants and fifty or sixty inferior servants and also against those employed in a postal Superintendents Division?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: (i) It is not a fact that every sorter in a mail office is required to perform extra duty every day. The question of the revision of extra duty allowance is under consideration.

(ii) All sorters are required to undergo card sorting examination in the interests of efficiency.

(iii) The working hours of the R. M. S. travelling sections are fixed on a weekly basis with due regard to the conditions of service. These hours are—a maximum of 36 hours per week for day sections, 30 hours per week for night sections, and 33 hours per week for sections working partly by day and partly by night, and they compare favourably with the hours of work prescribed in other branches of the Department.

(iv) The R. M. S. staff are granted reliefs on Sundays and on post office holidays as far as the exigencies of service permit.

(v) It is not a fact that casual leave or privilege leave is not granted except on production of a medical certificate.

(vi) It is not understood why greater amount of work on any one day of the week should be a matter of grievance.

(vii) The outstation allowance is an allowance granted to meet the extra expenditure of food incurred by the staff on meals taken outside their headquarters after the first twelve hours for which period the sorters are expected

to bring the necessary food from their homes. It is not in the nature of a daily allowance granted to touring officers because travelling by railway trains and performing sorting work while so travelling is one of the essential conditions of service of the R. M. S. for which they are paid their salaries.

(viii) Selection grade posts are sanctioned in all branches of the Department according to the importance of the charges and the nature of the duties and responsibilities of the post.

(ix) Government are not aware of any such delays.

(x) Supervisors are sanctioned where they are justified.

(xi) There are no R. M. S. Divisions employing over 600 superior servants and 400 inferior servants as alleged by the Honourable Member.

ALLEGED BAD WORKING OF THE M. AND M. SECTION, RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

145. Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that when the facts about the bad working of the M. and M. Section came to the notice of the Deputy Director, Railway Clearing Accounts, he made arrangements for overhauling the work of that Section?

(b) Is it a fact that undercharges of about a crore of rupees were detected and a major portion of the undercharges has been admitted by the Military Department?

(c) Is it a fact that he has submitted a report about the work of that Section and has fixed responsibility for this bad working on the shoulders of certain officers?

(d) Is it a fact that the Director of Finance is not in favour of the Director, Railway Clearing Accounts Office forwarding the above report to higher authorities?

(e) Is it a fact that the Deputy Director is being transferred from the Railway Clearing Accounts Office? If so, for what reasons?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. A special examination of some work in this section was undertaken under orders of the Director when certain information came to his notice through the Deputy Director.

(b) Undercharges of large amounts have been detected. They are still under examination. Debits amounting to about Rs. 52 lacs have so far been submitted by the Military Department.

(c) No. The case is still under examination and the question of the submission of a report does not yet arise.

(d) No.

(e) No orders have been issued to this effect.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

146. Mr. N. M. Joshi: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state since when the Oudh and Tirhut Railway (formerly Rohilkhand and Kumaon and Bengal North Western Railways) has become State Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that the employees of the railway are still working under the Company Rules rather than under the State Railway Rules?

(c) Is it a fact that the employees of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway are not drawing the same rate of wages and salaries which the other State-managed railway employees draw?

(d) Is it a fact that, on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway, promotion from one grade to another is not made according to the system mentioned in the State Railway Establishment Code under the heading of "Promotion"?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) 1st January, 1943.

(b) A copy of the terms, under which the staff were offered re-employment under Government, has been placed in the Library of the House.

(c) Wages and salaries are not uniform on all State-Managed Railways and scales of pay on the O. & T. are those extent on the B. & N. W. and R. & K. Railways.

(d) The reference is not understood.

DISBURSEMENT OF FINES FUND ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY.

147. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state what portion of Fines Fund on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway is being spent on the Christian and Anglo-Indian Employees' account, and what part is being set apart for the employees belonging to other communities?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Information has been called for and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

POSTING OF UN-PAID PROBATIONERS AS GUARDS, ETC., ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY.

148. Mr. N. M. Joshi: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway there is a practice of entertaining unpaid probationers, who are being asked to work in the places of Guards, Ticket Collectors, Coaching and Parcel Clerks and other similar posts?

(b) Are they paid only annas 8 per day for such work?

(c) Is it a fact that they are getting annas 8 per day only for the period they are posted officially for such work?

(d) Is it a fact that a large number of such unpaid probationers do not draw more than Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 per month?

(e) Are a large number of them having more than three years of service and fully qualified being superseded by outsiders quite new to the Department in filling the vacancies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b) Substitutes who are employed in emergencies are on monthly rates of pay. These rates are being ascertained.

(c) They are paid for the number of days they are employed.

(d) The amount of pay drawn will depend on the number of days they work.

(e) The Railway know of no such cases.

APPLICATION OF STATE RAILWAY RULES TO OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY.

149. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether Government propose to apply the standard rules of the State Railways to the Oudh and Tirhut Railway? If so, when?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is not understood what particular rules are referred to. The staff already come under State Railway Rules in certain respects as laid down in the terms offered to them on re-employment under the State; a copy of these terms has been placed in the Library of the House.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): Sir, at the meeting held on Thursday last, which was attended by the Leaders of all Parties, it was agreed that the Party Leaders would do their best to secure the conclusion of the debate on the consideration motion of the Finance Bill by Friday in this week. If we fail to secure the conclusion of the debate on the consideration Motion by Friday, a serious prolongation of the Session might well be involved. I would, therefore, very earnestly appeal to the House at large, and to Party Leaders in particular, so to arrange the number of speakers and the length of individual speeches as to enable Friday next to be reserved exclusively for Party Leaders, who will, I presume, desire to wind up the Debate.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, we would like to abide by the decision that had been arrived at

Several Honourable Members: There was no decision.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The decision was that they would do their best to conclude the debate on Friday on the motion for consideration.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Only one speaker from my Party, Mr. Umar Aly Shah, has spoken so far and he did not take more than 25 minutes.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is time enough for a large number of speakers if individual speakers will not take more than reasonable time.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadian Urban): I do not think, Sir, that is feasible. So far as I am personally concerned, I said that it would take ten days if the food question was also considered in this connection. So there was no commitment whatever on my part and as for the other Leaders they only said they would try.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Leader of the House has only made a suggestion.

The House will now resume consideration of the Finance Bill.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—*contd.*

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, yesterday when we adjourned I was referring to the functioning and organisation of the Indian Territorial Force. I am glad the War Secretary is here; he knows the points on which I want to speak because I had already got into touch with him. The point is—and I can speak from personal experience, having been the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Bombay Urban Battalion of the Indian Territorial Force for over 10 years—that in spite of the recent expansion of the Force it is difficult for us to recruit an adequate number of men. I convened a conference of the industrialists only last year to persuade them to encourage their men to join the Territorial Force, and they gave a very cogent reply. They said that so long as the Indian Territorial Force does not enjoy the privileges and amenities which the Indian Auxiliary Force enjoys they were not going to do anything to encourage their men to join the Territorial Force. As a result of this discussion we made a representation to the War Department and we were able to secure one concession from Government; British ranks have been now granted to the men of the Indian Territorial Force. But there is still one grievance as regards rations and allowances, and I do submit that the War Department should do their utmost to expedite a decision on this question. Unless this is done it will be very difficult for us to encourage people to join the Territorial Force in large numbers. I go further and say that the policy of the War Department should be not to allow any distinction between the Auxiliary Force and the Territorial Force. There should be one volunteer force for this country which all Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indians should be allowed to join. There should not be these two forces, one Territorial Force and one Auxiliary Force. Now that we have got an Indian War Secretary I hope he will use his influence to persuade the Department to remove this distinction and place the two branches of the volunteer force on the same footing.

Another suggestion that I should like to make to the War Department is this. Yesterday my Honourable friend Sir Frederick James pointed out that the whole conception of Indian defence has changed. Our eyes are not now concentrated on the north-west frontier only. The whole of India is now exposed to foreign invasion. This country cannot always rely upon the professional army and the Government of the day must now take steps to promote the idea of a national army. All European schools have got the system of cadet corps. The idea is to make these boys military minded right from their school days, but in Indian Schools Government have taken no steps to promote the scheme of cadet corps. If you want a real national army Government must start at the very root from the school stage to make the people of this country army minded and military minded, so that every young man will consider it his duty to join the army and take to military service. I hope the future Government of the country will introduce compulsory military service so that whenever there is any danger there will be no chaos and no panic in the country and the people will feel that they are quite competent to defend the country against foreign invaders.

I now come to the income side of the Budget. As regards income-tax I have very little to say. The various new measures that have been introduced will

come before the House when the Income-tax Bill is taken up. But I will take up the proposal to increase the corporation tax by one anna linking the same with dividends. I take strong objection to this not because I am against the principle of indirect limitation of dividends, but I feel that sufficient measures to deal with the menace of inflation have been taken in the Finance Bill by the proposal to immobilise the whole of the excess profits and for advance payments of Income-tax and Super-tax. Standard profit is supposed to be the profit which a business would expect to make under normal conditions and out of which dividends at the ruling commercial rate can be paid. With the already heavy increase in income-tax and corporation tax since the war started, to increase the corporation tax now proposed will further reduce profits below the figure which a company would expect to have made available at normal times after meeting taxation. The effect of this, I am afraid, will be not only to check the rise in the purchasing power in the hands of the people but to reduce the purchasing power in the hands of the people even below the pre-war level. There will be special hardship in the case of railway companies, banks and public utility companies and others who have been paying very moderate dividends for umpteen years. In such cases to tax them on ordinary dividends amounts in reality to an increase in income-tax and does not act as a deterrent on extravagant distribution which is what the Finance Member is aiming at. If at all a new charge is to be levied it should be levied on ordinary dividends to the extent they exceed pre-war dividends or exceed a certain percentage on ordinary capital. If this is not done the proposal will reduce the purchasing power of shareholders below the pre-war level. The declared object is to prevent excess purchasing power and not to reduce it to below pre-war level. I am afraid I have had to go into some details because I am not sure whether my Honourable friends on the other side will accept this motion for consideration and whether we shall have an opportunity of moving any amendments. I, therefore, hope that the House will show me a little indulgence. There is one small point to which I would like to refer and that is about clause 6(2) (a), where the words "not being a company" should in my view be deleted. In the case of companies receiving dividends declared in March 1944 out of 1943 profits the increased rate of tax will be recovered both from the company paying and the company receiving the dividend. I hope the Finance Member will keep this suggestion in mind, and if the point I take is correct will come forward with an amendment asking for the deletion of the words "not being a company" in clause 6(2)(a).

Now I come to the most important principle underlying this Finance Bill and that is the proposal to ask the companies to pay 19/64th of the excess profits duty as deposit. Up to now the deposit was only 20 per cent. and the idea is to immobilise the whole of the excess profits. In principle I am not opposed to this proposal; I think this will have the very salutary effect of checking inflation. But at the same time I should like the Finance Member to take into account some other aspects of the question which are likely to work as a hardship in some cases of individuals, partnerships and companies and also in case of certain companies which have got to expand or spend some money in renovating or keeping the machinery efficient and at the highest pitch, I am not going to deal with individual cases. In the case of limited companies, it will work as a great hardship in cases where standard profits are very low. It has been made clear, I believe, to the Central Board of Revenue—they know about it—that in case of certain partnerships both registered and unregistered and firms this proposal of taking away the 19/64th deposit will be a hardship. I do not propose to lay down any general proviso which might operate against the whole principle of the Bill, but I do feel, Sir, that a slight reduction in the deposit from 19/64 to 17/64 will cover a large number of hard cases. Coupled with this, I should like the Government to reserve the power to the Central Board of Revenue to pay out a portion of this deposit to companies which, on the certificate of the Industries Department, are in need of funds for renovating or for further expansion. There is a general widespread feeling that the advance payment of income-tax and the immobilisation of the

[Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar.]

whole of the excess profit duty will cripple the resources of the companies to such an extent that there will be no scope for expansion. Therefore, Government should reserve to itself the power to refund a portion of the deposit in deserving cases where the Industries Department certifies that such a refund is necessary in the interest of further expansion of a particular concern. I am not in favour of giving a general exemption, but I do think there should be some such power in the Finance Bill, so that hard cases can be met by suitable action by the Central Board of Revenue.

There is another point to which I drew the attention of the Finance Member while we were considering the Income-tax Bill in the Select Committee. I would like that the Commissioner of Income-tax should be given power to allow extension of time for payment in the case of assesseees who can show that amounts due to them by Government for outstanding bills for goods supplied or services rendered exceed the amount of tax payable. I am personally aware, Sir of instances where a large number of bills are outstanding. If we go to the Supply Department, they say that the delay is due to the Finance Department. I do not know where the delay actually takes place. I am concerned indirectly with a concern where I know from the figures supplied to us at Board meetings that there are always outstanding to the extent of 16 to 17 lakhs of rupees, and this concern is engaged exclusively on Government work. I know in my own case where yarn was ordered for delivery in August but it was only taken delivery of recently; for seven months I had to store the goods in my godowns and I was bearing insurance charges, interest charges, godown charges and war risk. It was for supply to contractors and the contractors simply defied the Textile Department by not taking delivery. We got priority, we got delivery orders but we always used to get telegrams from the contractor "Don't despatch we don't want to take delivery". We took up the matter with the Textile Department and ultimately we were able to prevail upon them to advance us 90 per cent. payment. I realized the difficulties of the Textile Department; I agreed to store the goods provided they paid me 90 per cent., and they said that they would refer the matter to the Finance Department. They did so and there was a delay of many months. If money is due to us from Government, I suggest that the Income-tax Commissioner should be given the power to allow extension of time for the payment of deposits in advance in deserving cases.

Sir F. E. James (Madras: European): In some cases it will mean more than a year.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Yes. I know of such cases. My Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, says he knows of certain cheques which were dishonoured.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Two of my cheques given by Government have been dishonoured by the Imperial Bank.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Now, I come to the proposed increase in the tobacco tax and the proposed levy on betel nuts, tea and coffee. Sir, I have very little to observe with regard to the proposed new forms of indirect taxation, because perhaps Government must find some source of taxation because they cannot always live on borrowings. But I would like to say in this connection that Government should take care to see that the prices of these articles are strictly controlled. I have heard from Bombay that the price of betel nuts has already risen from four annas a lb. to one rupee eight annas a lb. since the Finance Member announced his proposal to tax betel nuts. I am not affected by the tax on cigarettes and betel nuts—I am affected by the tax on tea, of which I am rather fond—and I do not know how the tax on these articles will operate. (Interruption.) In Bombay we are tea-fans, not coffee-fans. It is only when we happen to go to the houses of friends from Madras that we have the pleasure of getting really good coffee.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): I suggest that you

should go to Sir Coṃvasjee Jehangir's house. You will get good coffee.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: The Finance Member has referred to his idea of levying death duties. Of course we all realize that a day must come when death duties will have to be levied but I hope he knows—I am sorry the Law Member is not here, but I am sure my Honourable friend, the ex-Law Member knows this—that as far as Hindus are concerned if I am governed by Hindu law, when a grandchild is born to me he gets his interest in the family property. He does not inherit the property but he gets an interest in it by right of birth. I am only hoping that the Rau Committee will expedite their Report and see that the whole conception of joint family law is changed and Hindu law is brought into line with modern ideas. But till that is done there will be innumerable difficulties in the way of any Finance Member, even if he is a member of a National Government, to carry out the scheme of death duties.

There is another proposal to which I would like to draw the attention of the House—the proposal to fix a maximum ceiling rate for the taxation of insurance companies. All of us who are interested in the promotion and growth of healthy insurance are grateful to the Finance Member for accepting the principle of a maximum rate of taxation in the case of insurance companies, for which life Insurance offices have been clamouring for a number of years. But I would like to bring to his notice certain aspects of the question and I would compare the proposal with what is happening in England. In England the maximum rate was fixed at 7/8 in the pound at the time of the supplementary Budget in 1940 when the rate of tax was raised from 7s. 6d to 8s. 6d. The ceiling rate is the same though the rate of tax has been raised to 10s. 6d. in the pound. There is a universal demand that the ceiling rate in India should be fixed at the rate prevailing in 1940-41, *i.e.*, income-tax at 30 pies, Corporation tax at 12 pies and surcharge 1/12th on both, *i.e.*, total 45½ pies as against 63 pies fixed in the Finance Bill. The British system is based on the following basis: 'Investment income less expenses of management or valuation surplus less 100 per cent. of surplus paid to, reserved for, or expended on behalf of policyholders, whichever is larger'. The scheme adopted in India is investment income less expenses of management on a quantified basis or valuation surplus less 50 per cent. of surplus paid to, reserved for, or expended on behalf of policyholders whichever is larger. The principle is the same but the difference is that whereas a life office in Britain is allowed all expenses of management, in India expenses are quantified and life offices are allowed on the whole about 75 per cent. of their expenses and whereas a British Life office is allowed 100 per cent. of the surplus earmarked for the Policy holders, Indian Life offices are allowed only 50 per cent. Life assurance business is still in its infancy and has been adversely affected by the recent fall in rate of interest and the gradual hardening in prices of fixed interest bearing securities has caused a downward trend in the interest earning capacity of the Life offices. I would, therefore, appeal to the Finance Member not to fix the maximum at such a high rate as 63 pies. If he cannot see his way to reduce the maximum to 45½ pies he might at least consider my suggestion to fix the rate at 54 pies, which will be fair both to the Government and Insurance companies from the financial point of view.

I will now come to the question of the control of capital issues. The complaint is that Government take too much time to decide and a feeling has been created—and I would like an assurance from the Finance Member in industrial circles—though it may be a mistaken one—that by making the issue of new capital difficult, Government are not anxious to see new industries developed or old industries expanded. There is also a feeling that generally Insurance Companies and new Banks get sanction much more easily and more quickly than concerns which are industrial floatations. I find, Sir, to-day Government have anticipated me by announcing the rate on the war risks insurance (Factories) at one per cent. Well, personally I think it is rather too high. They already had Rs. 11 crores in June 1943. I do not know what the balance is today and whether it is necessary that they should raise it.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member); Surely the Honourable Member realises that the general taxpayer earned that money by carrying the risk during that period.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: I am bringing up this matter because you cannot in fixing the rates entirely ignore the experiences gained up till now. Although it is a matter concerning the Commerce Department, the Finance Department comes on the scene because it ultimately stands to benefit

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: On behalf of the general taxpayer.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: I agree but are you using this as a taxation measure or only as an insurance measure?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It was conceived as an insurance measure because nobody else would take on the business but any profits go to relieve the taxpayer.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: That is exactly my point. I know when this question was discussed there was a minority who thought that the levy of a further premium should be kept in abeyance. I was one of those who opposed that. So long as the war is there you cannot ask Government to keep such a scheme in abeyance. What I am saying is that the rate fixed at one per cent. is still too high, but I thank the Government for reducing the rate to this level. My Honourable friend, Sir F. E. James, tells me that in Australia they have suspended the collection of any premium for 1944. In my capacity as a Member of the War Risk Insurance Advisory Committee I suggested a levy of two annas per cent. per quarter, that is eight annas per cent. for the whole year and my suggestion is now supported by what Sir James has just told me.

I now come to my next point. In the first place I would like to congratulate the Government of India for having been able to persuade Professor A. V. Hill to come over to India. His visit has been a source, and I can speak from personal knowledge and experience, of great inspiration to all of us who are either scientists or are concerned in industry or are educationists interested in the industrial and scientific development of this country. I thank also the Finance Member for making provision of Rs. 10 lakhs this year for the establishment of three laboratories, the chemical, physical and metallurgical in this country. Ultimately the grant will come to a crore. Government have taken the right step and they have realised their obligation in the matter. I entirely agree that the industrialists in this country have not yet realised their obligations in the matter.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): You are an industrialist yourself. You plead guilty to the charge.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: The other day, Dr. Banerjee on the question of extension made his own case the subject of a sermon. I am not following his example, but I can tell him that recently by imposing a voluntary levy of four years' subscriptions on all the members in the City and Province of Bombay the Bombay Millowners Association has been able to collect about four lakhs of rupees for the Department of Chemical Technology in Bombay. There is a proposal to raise the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institutes, which trains people for textile factories, to the university standard: and ultimately, Sir—and that we cannot do without statutory legislation—our ambition is to have an all-India institute located in Bombay on the lines of the Shirley Institute in Manchester.

Sir, you cannot forget, when you are on this question, the services rendered by the Tata family. Long before any Government thought of the value of industrial research, long before we had any eminent scientists, and just about the time when Sir J. C. Bose's name was coming to the forefront, it was the industrialist, Mr. Jamshedji Tata who conceived the idea of founding a research institute at Bangalore, which is now known as the Indian Institute of Science, and which has been in existence for over 30 years. Government must acknowledge that this Institute has been very helpful to them in the

war effort. I have been a member of the Governing Body of that Institute for the last nine years. I was intimately associated with the foundation and starting of the Research Department of Chemical Technology in Bombay. Naturally, therefore, I am keenly interested in the question of development of scientific research in this country, although I cannot call myself a scientist or a student of science. The whole idea should be this: that the present Board of Scientific Research—the appointment of this Board will be long remembered and for which my friend, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, deserves the thanks of the nation—should be expanded and placed on a statutory basis. No doubt Government have taken a start but I do want Government to realise that what they have done is not enough. The whole constitution of the Board ought to be changed and should be put on a statutory basis. It ought to be made autonomous so that it can work with guaranteed funds, without any interference from any Department, and go on planning and developing scientific and industrial research in this country. The financial liability between Government and the industrialists should be fixed on a fifty-fifty basis. I do not want to throw the entire burden on the taxpayer. The industrialist must be made to come out, and if the Government can evolve a scheme—I speak in my personal capacity—they might consider the possibility of each organized industry coming to an arrangement with them so as to make sure that funds are always available.

I would like to quote in this connection, what Professor Hill has said—because we are sometimes told that we are poor. This is what Prof. Hill has said:

“If a country is poor and undeveloped, let us spend more on research and not less. Let us aim at giving one percent of our national budget, one per cent. of the value of our industrial and agricultural production, one per cent. of the loss due to ill-health, one per cent. of the cost of our transport, our houses, our water, our coal, even our broadcasting to research and in 10 years we shall be getting back not one per cent, but 10, 20 or 200 per cent. in dividends”.

That is the attitude which the Government and the Industrialists ought to keep before them and they ought to organise a drive for the promotion of industrial and scientific research in this country.

Now, Sir, I am coming to the close of my speech. I see that my friend, Sir Cowasjee, is in a hurry, but I am watching the attitude of my friends on the other side.

I would make a passing reference to the Textile Control. Real and effective control was established in June 1948 and since then prices have come down by nearly 50 per cent. in cloth and 55 per cent. in yarn. If I am wrong, the Honourable the Industries Member will correct me. I was not a member of the Board in the first instance. Only recently at the request of the Industries Department I have joined it. It is a very difficult job to fix prices for thousands and thousands of varieties of articles, and I think the Honourable Member for Industries and Civil Supplies will agree with me that that job has been well done. There may be a difference of opinion as to whether the lowering of the prices has been adequate or not. My Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, the other day, in referring to the recent action of the Government in extending time, unnecessarily brought in the manufacturers. Extension of time has not been given to us at all. We never asked for an extension of time, but, on the other hand, we had been asking Government since December 1942 to pass a de-hoarding ordinance, fixing time for the clearing of stocks both by us and by the dealers. We have never received any extension of time. We are allowed to hold cloth to the extent of three months production and yarn to the extent of 2 months production. There has been no change in this position by any recent order of the Government, and if any time has been given to the dealer, I think it is due not to causes which are within the control of the dealer, but which ought to be within the control of Government, but which they say are outside their control on account of transport difficulties. That is the reason why extension of time has been given. (Interruption.) This is a matter between the Government and the dealers.

[Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar.]

I come now to the question of dearness allowance. Last year the Honourable the Finance Member asked me in great gusto and he was cheered by the other side—when he wants to get cheers from the other side all that he has got to do is to criticise the capitalists.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Baisman: All that you have to do is to criticise Government, and you get the same cheers.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Since I have been speaking from yesterday, I have got very few cheers from the other side, and any criticism that I have made is because I wanted information. If I wanted to attack Government I could have done it much more effectively if I had been sitting on the other side.

Some Honourable Members (on the Opposition Benches). Come along. Come this side.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: The Honourable the Finance Member asked us last year with regard to dearness allowance, "What did you do to resist increase in cash allowances"? You say, I am not to blame, I blame Government. I do not blame labour, I do not blame myself, but I blame Government. But what is happening is this. The Central Government is absolutely ignorant of what the Provincial Governments are doing. That is our trouble and difficulty. They are quite unaware of the history of dearness allowance in Bombay. You may say that the pace has been set by the millowners in Bombay, I agree, but in 1939 soon after the war was declared I do not remember if the Congress Government was then in office, but Mr. Nanda, the Congress Labour Adviser, was still the Adviser of Government. They asked us to run grain shops at pre-war prices prevailing in September 1939 and we were told that Government would resist any demand for cash dearness allowance. We were prepared to do that and we started grain shops, but within four or six months time came the demand for cash allowance. Government said, you must give cash, but you can run grain shops not at pre-war prices but at cost. When the cost of living index figure started rising steadily we suggested to Government that for every slab of 20 or 30 points the rate of rise per point should be on a diminishing scale. The rate for the first 20 points was a flat one of 2 annas per working day but afterwards the rate was fixed at 1.75 pias rise per point per working day, and we suggested that it should gradually diminish so that when the index figure went up the increase would not be so precipitous as in the earlier stages. This proposal was not accepted by the Government and we were asked to go on paying it at 1.75 rise per point.

An Honourable Member: Which Government?

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Bombay Government. There is another point. The Bombay Government declined a suggestion of ours when rationing was introduced that the method of arriving at the cost of living index figure should be changed and two factors should be taken into account, namely, controlled rates and availability of stocks. In 1934 when the Labour Office instituted an enquiry availability was on a much higher scale. When the availability was reduced Govt. should have arrived at a new method of arriving at the cost of living index figure. As a result of a more effective control I find that prices are now falling. I have been rather a prophet, I told the Honourable the Finance Member in the Lobby last month that I expected the index figure to fall by 10 points. It has actually fallen by 9 points, and I expect a further fall. When the price of cloth was going down the cost of fuel went up and I do not know whether the enhancement of the railway fares will be taken into account to keep up the index figure at a high level. Cloth is going down steadily, and if the present tendency continues I expect that the cost of living index figure in Bombay which is now 238 should fall to 200 within six months. I expect a gradual fall of 9 to 10 points per month. So the fall is

there and that is the only way in which you can control the cost of living and dearness allowances. My point in stating all this is to show that as far as we are concerned, even from September 1939 we realised the danger of cash payments and we were for paying in kind and we were prepared to pay the whole of the dearness allowance in kind. Our conscience is very clear in this matter.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: The Government were at fault.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Always!

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: Between the methods of cash and kind, we were for payment in kind, we were not in favour of paying in cash, but we were made to pay in cash. Once the ball was set rolling we could not change and naturally all the other industries had to follow suit. The whole trouble radiated from Bombay and it has spread all over the country and there has been trouble, for which we have been blamed by the Honourable the Finance Member.

All this discussion seems to be futile because the whole situation is so unreal. We are meeting in an Assembly where Government proposals are being turned down knowing that the Government will certify. What is all this due to? All this is due to the political situation in the country. I am not going to sit and judge whether to blame the Government or to blame the other side. But I do ask whether the situation through which we are passing is really in the interests of the country. I was reading the other day a review which appeared in the *Statesman* on Lord Wavell's book on Lord Allenby's Life, and there a quotation was given which appealed to me. Lord Allenby there in Egypt, advised the Home Government, "If you want to make a concession to a country, do it boldly and on a magnanimous scale. Don't go into the question of what has happened in the past, who is to be blamed, and what is to be done". Let the Government make up their mind. If they want to make a concession to this country, if they are really serious that this country, at least at the Peace Conference, if not now, should function as a self-governing Dominion with national ministers representing the Government at the Peace Conference,—I do not appeal to the Government of India because I know that they are helpless in the matter, but I do ask them to press upon His Majesty's Government that if His Majesty's Government mean serious business, they should forget what has happened in the past without trying to apportion blame. If they really mean business, if they are *bona fide* in their promise of self-government, then they should proceed to legislate and say, "This is our solution. You have got to take it or leave it". Large number of people will come forward to work the constitution—There are bound to be irreconcilables. Even Ireland had irreconcilables and they are in power now. There are bound to be irreconcilables in every country but they should not obstruct the policy of the Government, if His Majesty's Government mean serious business. Recent events in this country and the recent appointments to important posts have created an impression in the minds of many people that we are all progressing in the direction of the tail, that we are going backwards and, now that they are winning the war, the British are not really serious about the grant of dominion status to this country. I am not one of those who share that feeling. I have still faith in the general mass of the British people in England, if not in the political leaders of the different parties.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: That is a left-handed compliment.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: From this point of view, I welcome the recent combination of the two parties in this House. Although Government may be defeated and they may have to certify, still if these two parties forget their differences outside and work together, a situation will arise in which they will forget their points of controversy and they will learn to understand each other better. They will get into the habit of associating with each other.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): You also join.

Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar: I do not believe in the principles and methods which these Parties are following. (*An Honourable Member:* "If you join,

[Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar.]

you will believe'.) I realise that the Muslim League and the Congress represent the largest section of the public of this country and it is on that basis I am speaking here. Once they start associating with each other and understanding each other's point of view, forgetting questions which may be of great value later but are only of academic interest now, then I am sure a situation will arise in which the understanding thus created will spread outside the House and bring about a better understanding between the people of this country and if such a situation is created, my Honourable friends belonging to the various sections will have done a great service to the country.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): I heard with great interest the speech of the representative of the Bombay Orphanage, popularly known as the Mill-Owners' Association. After all, I have got before me the figures of the rise of prices month by month of the principal articles which determine my wage unit, I mean cloth, manufactured articles, wheat and rice. From this I find that the greatest culprits were the Bombay people. They raised their prices first and the figures show that rise in prices of wheat and rice followed. It is not a fact that wheat and rice began first and the mill owners followed. It is they who really began. On one occasion, they really had this advantage, that they determined the price and the Government of India accepted it—whatever they demanded. It is only recently that changes have taken place and prices have come down but still the prices are not what they ought to be. I will come to price levels later on but I should like to mention that we have to take the speech as delivered with reservation. I shall give the details later on. As my time is limited, I am not going to repeat the arguments I have already advanced, nor will I repeat what I said on a previous occasion. I shall just continue the debate, where I left it during the time of the general discussion of the Budget.

On that occasion, I gave you the history of the Paper Currency Reserve and I said that Germany discarded the paper currency in 1930. They carried on their internal business with the prestige of the Government and Ordinances and they carried on the external business by means of barter. Then I said last time that when people began to hoard silver rupees, the Finance Member had the vision to print his rupees, not silver but what they call silver alloy or rather what is called pseudosilver. He printed his paper note and he called it a rupee. It has really shocked the adherents of the classical theory of economics but the success of his efforts proved that he was right and he could not follow in war time these classical theories devised for peace time. Then he came to small coinage. There he entered into competition with the hoarder and I think his method of entering into competition with the hoarders did not prove a great success. He went on producing and the people went on hoarding, until he produced such large quantities that hoarding became impossible. The Finance Member succeeded as far as the bigger towns are concerned. He flooded the market with his over-production and the hoarders are tired of it. But the Finance Member has not succeeded in the case of the smaller towns, the villages and the country at large. I really ask him again to consider the suggestion we made on several occasions—to use the same method in regard to the smaller coins as he used in the case of the rupee. I suggested that he should introduce Rs. 2/8 notes, so that we could pay 8 annas in notes. We asked him to permit the local bankers, as was done in Moradabad, or devise some other method, the details of which I would not like to give the House now. Some method should be devised by which you could introduce the 4 anna note, as was done in many places. (*An Honourable Member*: "What about copper pice?") The copper pice is really used as washers by a large number of people.

Now, Sir, I come to the paper currency reserve. According to the figure given to us—by December 1930—we have got 880.95 crores in circulation. Out of this, we have got in the paper currency 44.42 and then we have got 14.87

crores—I do not know whether these are silver rupees or pseudosilver rupees or paper but I take it to be silver rupees. All the rest is invested in paper. So, the security against paper currency is another paper security which he calls the Indian securities and sterling securities. The extent of that security is 93 per cent. Therefore, against paper currency he has got a security or a pro-note of persons who can be trusted, that is the Indian Government and the British Government. What the security for the paper currency is, is a conundrum. Whatever people believing in the classical theory of economics may say, people in war time who are of a practical nature would not agree to this. If you are going to put down in place of a paper currency a reserve in the shape of paper, what is the use of it. Why not come out boldly and say "this is war time and special measures are needed and many countries have done it." Come out boldly and say that you believe in the printing of paper. This is perhaps much better. What about the reserve? His reserve is in the shape of what are called the sterling credit in England. This is just like writing a pro-note for my credit in Paradise. According to my belief for one rupee spent in charity Rs. 70 are credited in Paradise for me and now if I have got my credit in Paradise, will he be able to accept my pro-note on the strength of the security which I have in Paradise? Does the Honourable Member ask me that I should accept the security of some kind of credit which is built up in England or elsewhere? If there is a credit, it ought to be in cash, otherwise the credit for the entire paper is certainly no credit at all. It is an economic conundrum and the sooner we get rid of it the better. Therefore, the second point which I would like to press on the Honourable the Finance Member is that he should get rid of this classical idea of keeping paper currency reserve and go ahead with this work that we want to print more paper if necessary. At the same time, it is unnecessary to keep the currency reserve as we had it according to the classical theory.

I now come to the slogan of inflation. What is the underlying idea of this inflation? Now, we sell something to the United Kingdom in the shape of goods. According to the usual practice, we must get the money back either in the shape of goods or in the shape of treasure. These are the only two ways in which we can get the money and have the balance of our trade equated or it may be by the return of merchandise. That is to say, the exchange of merchandise and treasure must balance each other. This was the method by which we did our trade before. Now, we cannot possibly get the merchandise in place of merchandise and we are not getting treasure either. All the same, we are sending out money; so what is to be done? Now, on the one side, we establish what we call the sterling credit. Sterling credit is really the balance which ought to have been paid to us in the shape of treasure or in the shape of merchandise. The people who really did service have got to be paid something. To tell them that they have got some kind of a credit will not satisfy them. So, the Honourable the Finance Member is forced by circumstances to print more notes and to give them to those who did service. This was an unavoidable necessity and you may call it inflation or anything else. When the treasure and the merchandise are not available for the services rendered by us and the people who supplied goods must get something in return, that something can only come in the shape of bank notes and these are accumulated and are called treasure. Now, attempts are being made no doubt to bring these notes back again and put them into circulation. If these notes are brought into circulation by some method, and the method which used to bring them into circulation is now called anti-inflationary method, then the very same notes can come back into circulation again and it will avoid the printing of fresh notes. The Honourable the Finance Member is aware that the circulation speed before the war was 12.6 and a few months back it was reduced to 5. I do not know what is the figure now, but probably it is much less. Therefore, we ought to take steps to speed up the circulation so that the notes may be sent back again and it may become unnecessary to print more notes and thus increase their number. You may call it inflation or deflation, but this is

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

what is happening. In my opinion this question of inflation has very little connection with the question of price with which I will deal later on. People are really mixing up the question of price with inflation just as the theologians, when checkmated by any good argument, they always say: "You are a *Kafir*", which really means that you are not a true Muslim. So, whenever these economists are checkmated in all their arguments, they always say that it is due to inflation. So, the word inflation is used by persons who do not know its meaning. When they cannot put forward any good theory, they shirk the whole thing by saying that it is due to inflation, although they do not know what it means. When the prices soar high, they always say it is due to inflation, which they do not understand.

Now, Sir, I come to what I call the wealth of a nation. I said last time that the wealth of a country does not depend upon rupees, annas and pies. It does not depend upon your foreign credit which may be 950 crores now or 2,000 crores after the war. It does not depend upon that also. It does not depend upon your exports and imports, but it certainly depends upon your capacity to work, upon your capacity to produce an article and the natural resources of the country. These are the only two points on which the wealth of a country depends and these are the only two points which we ought to develop.

May I ask, Sir, that the Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands, should be here as he must share the responsibility and not the Finance Member alone? I also want the Supply Member to be here. After all, in the debate on the Finance Bill it is not the Finance Member alone who is responsible for all these things. His colleagues must also share the responsibility proportionately.

As I was saying, your wealth does not depend upon your gold or silver or anything else but it depends upon your capacity to do the work. As an example, I will just tell you what happened to Germany after the Great War. Germany was asked to pay 250 milliard marks after the war as a war indemnity. It comes to Rs. 1,670 crores per annum and if it is paid for ten years, it comes to Rs. 16,700 crores.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: They never paid. It was the other people's money which they paid.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: For a considerable time they did pay. They repatriated in 1929 and then they stopped paying.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: They borrowed during that time and they paid with borrowed money.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: They exhausted all the foreign credits. At any rate, they continued to pay for many years. The Finance Member and I differ only as to the period of time for which they continued to pay Rs. 1,670 crores per annum. Let us agree to differ about the number of years, but they did pay for a considerable number of years. They did not pay by means of their gold reserve or foreign credit but by doing hard work. I was in Germany myself in 1920 and 1921 and I asked these people about the payment of the war indemnity. They said they would pay. They would work day and night and they would be able to produce sufficient articles to send out in order to pay the war indemnity. That is only an illustration.

Then, I said that the wealth of a country depends upon the power of production. Therefore, it is exceedingly desirable that our power of production should increase and that brings me to the question of health. After all, if you want to increase the production power of the people, then it depends upon two important factors, education and health. By education I do not mean, reading and writing, but the capacity to economise your time by having all kinds of contrivances. All these are included in the word education. I will discuss the questions of education and health afterwards because on these two factors alone depends the production power of the country. This is the wealth of the country. But there ought to be some kind of measure. How are you

going to measure the wealth of the country? If you want to measure anything, then your unit of measurement must be a fixed and definite quantity. You cannot measure a thing which is moving backwards and forwards and which is becoming larger and smaller. So, money or rupee is really adopted as a unit of measurement, because you have to express the wealth of the country which is really in terms of rupees, annas and pies, which is really the measurement and not the wealth itself. In order that we may express mathematically the wealth of the country, it is essential that your unit of measurement must have a definite value. Therefore, I have come to the conclusion as a mathematician, which the Honourable the Finance Member, as a philosopher, ought to admit that his rupee must have a fixed and definite purchasing power, that it should not vary and that it should not be at the mercy of the representatives of commerce, like my Honourable friend, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, or upon the good will of some Minister in the Punjab. It is the fundamental duty of the Honourable the Finance Member which should be accepted that our paper which is the unit of measurement of the wealth of the country should have a fixed and definite value. In case the Government of India cannot fix the purchasing power of the rupee to which I will come later on, there is no other alternative but to find out another unit which could be fixed and made definite. When the mark went down, what did the Germans do? They devised a new unit called the Reichmark. Similarly, we will have to devise a new unit of measuring wealth and that new unit will be what I would call the wage unit. The wage unit will always be a definite quantity in terms of rupees which will be variable. The wage unit will be according to the purchasing power of the rupee, which may be sometimes, Re. 1 or Rs. 2 or even Rs. 4, because the paper rupee has got a changing value. I am glad the Labour Department is just now collecting statistics which will enable the determination of the wage units. These wage units can be expressed in terms of cost of living. When the purchasing power of the rupee is a changing quantity, it will be exceedingly useful in determining the relative exchange of two countries. Suppose you have got two countries, Czecho-Slovakia and India. In what way would you transform your krone into rupees? If the unit is the wage unit, you can then alone fix the exchange of paper currency between two different countries. Therefore, either of these two methods will have to be adopted. If the Honourable the Finance Member is prepared to have a definite purchasing power of the rupee, then that will be taken to be the unit of measurement. If he is not prepared then we will have to say good-bye to your paper rupee and adopt another unit in this country which I call the wage unit. That would be fixed and definite and its value may be variable. That does not matter.

The problem of all problems is really the purchasing power of the rupee and I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will adopt every measure in his power to have this purchasing power of the rupee fixed. I make one or two suggestions. I do not know whether he would be willing to adopt them. In the first place, he must fix the value of the purchasing power of the rupee in terms of silver, I suggest let it be by ordinance or by law. The paper rupee should always be able to purchase one tola of silver. That was the old value which really existed before the war. Of course, we will have to make restrictions. No doubt only certain Provinces should be allowed to sell under certain conditions. There should be no speculation in Bombay Exchange about the value of silver. All these things should be controlled by Government, and once they fix the value of the paper rupee in terms of silver, as one rupee per tola, then we can proceed further. If he is not prepared to do that, all your attempts are not likely to be successful.

Your second item should be gold. As regards gold, there are two methods of doing it. Keep your Reserve Bank Act, sections 41 and 42, and keep one rupee equal to one shilling six pence. Afterwards let us link it with sterling and then determine the value of the silver in terms of gold according to the conditions prevailing in England. Or you may enter into direct negotiations

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

about gold as well, and do away with one shilling six pence. That would be the better thing. I would rather continue the other thing.

In this connection I should like to refer to a point which was raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, and also by my Honourable friend, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, and that is about the sale of gold by the Reserve Bank. He pointed out that the world parity of gold is Rs. 42 a tola, while the Reserve Bank was selling at Rs. 71 or Rs. 72 per tola. Well, what should you call this transaction, except black market transaction. How do you define 'black market'? A 'black market' is a place where you sell articles at prices greater than the controlled prices. Now, Sir, the controlled price of gold is Rs. 42 per tola. When you sell gold at Rs. 71 or Rs. 72 per tola, that is much greater than the controlled price, then this is really black market. Really speaking the Reserve Bank has been acting as the black market for England and the United States of America in order to cheat the public of this country. In this connection, I should like to condemn the Directors of the Reserve Bank who have been keeping silent over this affair. I think by their silence, they have not discharged their duties to the satisfaction of the people. When they allowed the Reserve Bank, without any protest on their part, to act as a black market for sale of gold to this country on behalf of America and England, I think the Directors are open to public censure for their conduct. I would go further and say, that I demand their resignation for not discharging their duties properly and allowing the Reserve Bank to be used as a black market. I have no confidence in these Directors. They have allowed this black market for sale of gold in this country and by this transaction they are cheating the public of this country and make them lose enormously.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Perhaps under instructions from the Honourable the Finance Member.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: These Directors of the Reserve Bank are responsible to the shareholders who elected them to the Board. I have not heard a single protest from any of these Directors of the Reserve Bank drawing the attention of the public or the Reserve Bank to the black market sale of gold in this country on behalf of England and America. It is only for the first time my Honourable friend, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, draws attention in this House.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I am sure the Honourable Member must realise that there are two points of view with regard to this matter. I wish he would not attack people who are not here and who have got no opportunity to defend themselves on the floor of this House.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I have got only one view with regard to this matter. I have defined what a 'black market' is. The Reserve Bank has been selling gold on behalf of foreign powers at prices much beyond the controlled price. These Directors of the Reserve Bank are keeping silent over this matter. I leave it to the House to draw their own inference. I do not want a second view or a third view about this matter. There is only one view that is possible in this affair and that I have expressed. Let the Directors come forward and express their views. They can only say that we wanted gold in this country. But that is not the way of purchasing gold at black market prices. That is not a correct procedure.

Now, Sir, as I was saying once the price of the rupee is fixed in terms of silver, the next thing is to determine the price of wheat and rice, and cloth. These are the three essential commodities for the common man. As regards cloth, I have no doubt that the action of the Honourable the Commerce Member has brought down the price to what it ought to be. What the Honourable the Finance Member ought to keep in mind is that the price of commodities as compared to the price prevailing before the war should vary in the proportion of 100:175. Supposing the price index of an article was 100 in 1939, then in these days the maximum on account of war conditions should vary between

150 and 175, and not more than that. I find from the figures before me that these are the limits within which most of the articles vary except wheat and cloth and rice. I include iron sheets also in this category because they are also essential for war purposes. Within these limits the prices should vary and if they can bring down the prices of these articles in this manner that will be a very good work in this direction.

Before I take up some points relating to the Commerce Department I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Finance Member and Supply Member on their reappointment to their posts. I do not agree always with the Finance Member to the extent of 16 annas in the rupee but I admire the services he has rendered to this country. Before Sir James Grigg retired I had a talk with him and although I advocate the importation of a Finance Member from outside with a fresh outlook, we came to the conclusion that a person with training in Indian finance will serve the purpose much better from the Indian point of view than an outsider. I think that view has been justified by the present Finance Member. As for the Supply Member, he has been on this side of the House for a considerable time and he knows how he wanted to be treated by the Members on the Treasury Benches; now he is treating us in the same manner as he would like to be treated when he was on this side and I take this opportunity to congratulate him also.

Now, I will address myself to the Commerce Member. With regard to the pamphlet issued in the name of eight capitalists of India or,—as I would call them,—*Padampatias*, it is an unholy alliance between these *Padampatias* and the multi-billionaires of England to rob the poor Indian consumers and to kill our small industries. The communist tendencies of nationalisation of industries and the breaking down of monopolies and combines which will dominate every country after the war will eradicate such an unholy alliance. The only thing I can say is that if you accept the doctrines advanced in this book you will be nearer the road leading to communist feelings in this country. So if you want to proceed in a spirit of democracy the less we talk about these large-scale and highly paid industrial concerns the better. This tendency is not found in this country only. My Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, gave several illustrations about the misuse of these particular industries. I do not want to repeat what he said but I may mention the action by the U. K. Government in this direction. I will read a passage from an article in the *Contemporary Review* for January 1944, which says:

"Their disadvantages, in so far as their activities are monopolistic, are, in the framework of a prosperous and free country, threefold:

- (i) They restrict and determine consumers' choice.
- (ii) They decide the fate of possible competitors in their own field.
- (iii) They confront the individuals and firms which supply them with their materials with a power enabling them to determine, to their own advantage and profit, the terms of the bargain."

These are the disadvantages of monopolies. Let us see what action the U. K. Government have taken. I would ask the Commerce Member to take note of this and see how far he can follow the practice of the Board of Trade and how far we can learn from the experience of the U. K. In this very article there are a number of suggestions which are worth considering: The first is that we must have an Anti-Monopoly Act. The second is that we must have what they call publicly appointed Directors, *i.e.*, appointed by Government. They should sit on companies and I need not deal at length with what they should do. Then there should be periodic and comprehensive investigation by Government-chosen and Government-paid auditors. Then, with regard to price checking, there should be an anti-monopoly department of the Board of Trade, split up into two sections: one to review and check prices and one to give the fullest publicity to the accounts of all the combines and companies. We are really suffering from these two evils, combines and companies and we will see how the Commerce Member deals with these two problems. If he fails to find a solution of these problems now during the war he will find a spread of Bolshevik and communistic doctrines in the country.

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.]

Another thing is that the Commerce Department is acting in a peculiar manner. We know that some ports are closed in certain months. When these ports are open they say they are considering the question; as soon as the ports are closed they say we can export but we cannot do it. This kind of Egyptian dealing which some person in the department has adopted should be looked at and there should be fair deal and fair play.

Then I come to the question of education and health raised by my Honourable friend, Sir Frederick James. He mentioned the war efforts of the Aligarh University and he compared it with the Punjab. The Punjab is in a fortunate position for three reasons: they have 20 colleges against our one and these colleges are spread over two provinces, the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province. Secondly, their destinies are governed by persons who themselves are very anxious to push the war efforts, i.e., late Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan recently and Sir Khizar Hayat Khan at present, and our destinies are really in the hands of Sir Jogendar Singh who probably is unaware of the fact that there is a war going on in this country and there is such a thing as 'war effort' in which he should help. He can help a great deal by giving us assistance in carrying out the various schemes which have been started for helping the war effort. The second point is that they are under the Provincial Government and the Governor of the province while we are not under the Governor of our province and whatever the Provincial Government or the Governor says it does not find acceptance as far as the Educational Department of the Government of India is concerned. Therefore, if you want to increase the patient preparation for war and give more and more help in the war effort, I think it is very desirable that either the Education Department should realize that they are in the middle of the war and should adopt special measures or they should transfer the charge of Aligarh University from the Education Department to the Viceroy's special portfolio or some other portfolio, or hand us over to the Provincial Government, because I am sure the Provincial Government would be prepared to help us better than the Education Department of the Government of India. As it is, we are faced with many difficulties. I will give you, Sir, one or two instances: Our boys, who are taking up various jobs in connection with war, have naturally been asking for concessions. The Punjab Government have issued a special war ordinance for this purpose. We also made an effort; two years have passed away and no sanction has been received and I am sure it will take me a long time more to see it through. I have no time to narrate the whole story. Suffice it to say that we have been doing this work in order to help in the war effort, but we have not received any assistance from the Education Department. Whenever we approach for anything, they say 'it concerns the war office; it has got nothing to do with the Education, Health and Lands Department'. It is not correct. Considering the position purely from educational point of view, all the institutions that we have established now, although they have been established during the war time, will continue to function even after the war, and they will have a permanent place in the University, which aspect the Education Department hardly understands and therefore is not prepared to recognize or help in any way whatsoever.

My Honourable friend, Sir Chandavarkar, said something about the introduction of military science in schools. We have introduced military science in our University, but we have not received the assent as yet. We have got certain difficulties and everything hangs upon the assent of the Governor General in Council. We have got a number of other schemes which it is not necessary for me to repeat at the present moment.

Coming to the health side: The number of doctors, we know, is very few. There is a very great demand for them. Students from the Aligarh University who wanted to take up this profession were not able to get admission in any medical college in India; every time we tried, we failed, so that we were compelled to start a medical college also to meet the needs of the community,

to meet the needs of the war, and to meet general needs of the country. The department of Education, Health and Lands have prepared a special chart and they have collected special statistics in which they have proved that medical assistance is the lowest in India as compared to any other country in the world. In view of this position which they have themselves proved by statistics, I think it is very desirable that they should come forward to help in the establishment of medical colleges wherever it is possible to collect a large amount of money. They should be prepared to help us with words, by accepting our proposals and giving us a little grant also—never mind if these grants are not big; let them be only token grants. Then, Sir, we have established an Engineering college. You know that engineers are very badly wanted. We have given 50 engineers to the Military so far, but we have not received a single penny from the Education Department towards the maintenance of this Engineering college which has got about 350 students who are being prepared for Civil, Electric and Mechanical Engineering; we are also preparing some students for aeronautical engineering. This is the way, Sir, the Education Department of the Government of India is treating us. Look at the help they are giving to the Delhi University—I do not grudge it—but what I say is that they should not treat us as a step-child. If they are not prepared to help us, they should say so plainly and transfer us from their charge.

Now, I come to the Food Department. I would not have touched the Food Department had there been a food debate during this Session, but as there is going to be no food debate I will touch a few points. I will not enter into details however.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Here comes the Food Member.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): I thought he was never going to touch Food.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: There cannot be any debate in this House without Food.

In the first place. Sir, this department in practice is not run by the Viceroy's Council. It is run by three classes of stockists: In the first place, *banyas*; in the second place, *marwaris*; and in the third place, *Memons*. This is how it works: You get clues from stockists, then you wait for orders from this particular class in a manner which I need not discuss openly. The next point to which I would like to draw the attention of the House is that I gave notice for bringing before this House the Anti-Hoarding Bill and you, Sir, did not allow it to be moved in this House for reasons which are unknown to me. The only reason I could think about is that you would not like all these things to be told publicly. The Finance Member asked me in the Finance Committee the other day that I should hand over this Anti-Hoarding Bill to him so that he may take it up himself. I take this opportunity to pass on the Bill to the Finance Member.

(At this stage, the Honourable Member asked the Assistant Secretary of the Assembly to pass on the papers to the Finance Member.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No, no.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: He asked me to hand over a copy of the Anti-Hoarding Bill to him

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can do that outside the House.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Very well, Sir. But I do not see why I should not be allowed to have a discussion on this Bill. However, I would like to make just a few suggestions without giving any reasons because time does not permit me to go into details.

In the first place, I honestly believe that at the head of the Food Department there should be either a stern I.C.S. or an honest public man from public life. In the second place, he should have no business concern himself; he should not be a director of any firm or company himself, because it is not fair that a person who himself has got business concerns and is the director of many companies should be at the head of the Food Department.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: But does he do any . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should not go on interrupting.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Then Sir, the first Secretaries should be such persons who would take up the work in a missionary spirit. They must feel that it is their duty to feed the poor. In the third place, in any committees and associations representatives of consumers should also be appointed and, in fact, they should appoint persons who really do not share in the loot.

1 P.M. Fourthly, control the stocks. People should be permitted to keep a sufficient stock for one year for their personal use, but they should have a licence. They should declare their stock and the authorities concerned should know what stock there is in the district. I now state my further suggestions *seriatim*.

5. Expert stock experience.—The military people should not attempt to stock wheat and rice themselves. They should ask their contractors to stock for them. They are the people who are accustomed to it.

6. The purchasing authority should be one and not many and it should be the District Magistrates and no outside agents.

7. Rationing only in big towns and in industrial cities. In other places rationing is not necessary because we have enough of food.

8. The fixation of prices. That should not come before the control of stock. In my opinion, if the Finance Member agrees to fixing the price of the rupee as equivalent to one tola, it ought to be Rs. 5 a maund. This is the price which the then Commerce Member (the Dewan Bahadur) fixed two years ago and that is considered an economic price.

9. Distribution not necessarily through the old dealers, but we should have shops in every *mohalla* and quarter so that people can have easy access.

10. Supervision of the work by means of committees of consumers in whose interests the shops are opened.

11. This is very important—The penalty of misuse should be very heavy, *i.e.*, confiscation of stock or a penalty in proportion to the capital of the stocks.

12. Military supply and the supply to deficit areas should come under the control of the Central Government. They should purchase from the Provincial Governments and sell the various articles.

13. The motto should not only be "Use less food" but it ought to be "Grow more food".

We know that 45 per cent. of the culturable land is not under cultivation. That is a big amount, and out of this, 20 per cent. can come under cultivation immediately. Therefore, if you can bring such a large amount of land under cultivation, then it will certainly increase the stock. I could get the figures from the Director of Agriculture with the Government of India. If you could increase our production then many of our problems would be solved and it would require two things. One is that we assure the producers that we will purchase from them at fixed prices and we advance a little money on easy conditions. If we adopt this method then I think we will settle many of our difficulties.

As regards the propaganda for growing more food, I am glad that it is producing some results, because in the Aligarh University eight girls have taken up agriculture. They have done practical work in agriculture and they will be examined in agriculture in their annual examination. So that when the women-folk have taken up these things, it means that the people are now making an attempt to grow more food, but it is not being done on a larger scale and we ought to take steps to bring at least 20 per cent. of our culturable land under cultivation within a year or two; and lastly,

14. The Government should not make any profit from this food stock—This is not their business. If there is a profit, it should go back to the cultivators as is done in South Africa. There the Government purchase; they have got the monopoly, but whatever profits they have they give back to the cultivators and do not keep anything for themselves.

As regards income-tax, there are two points I should like to mention. One is that I agree with Sir Chandavarkar that the minimum should be raised from Rs. 2,000 to, say, Rs. 3,000. My reason is this. You have fixed a limit for the dearness allowance. In the A class it is 3,000 a year; in the B class it is 2,400; in the C class it is 1,800. Your income-tax level will be good for all. Therefore it is really reasonable that you increase the income-tax level from 2,000 to, say, 3,000, and that will really be giving a dearness allowance in the right manner otherwise it means giving with one hand and taking away with the other.

Then there is the other thing on which Sir Chandavarkar and I agree, but on the second issue of it we will never agree. I have pressed that there ought to be an excess dividend tax, and that the maximum rate of dividends should be fixed by law. Double the bank rate of interest and make it 6, 7 or 9, but make it a law that no dividend should be more than 9 per cent. of the face value of the share and whatever extra there is in any company it must come in the shape of excess dividend tax to the Exchequer. I know the Finance Member would not agree on the ground that this practice has not been followed by any other country, but we should not always be a follower. We must take a lead in some cases, and I think that in this particular case we ought to take the lead and teach the other countries that this is the way of increasing the income. I would like to move this formally, if it is permissible. But I hope Sir John Sheehy will take note of this fact and will put it in as an amendment on behalf of the Government and not leave it to the Opposition Benches to move it. Such taxation proposals must come from the Government.

Sir Henry Richardson (Nominated Non-Official): Would you give a rebate below 9 per cent.?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: No, no. The rest will come as income-tax.

I now come to roads. That is a thing which ought to be taken up carefully and ought to be considered scientifically. I am convinced in my mind that if we have two parallel roads, one for fast traffic and the other for slow, it will improve matters. Your life of the roads will be lengthened and in the long run your interest charges and depreciation will be much more than we get otherwise. I am of opinion that the question of roads should be taken up seriously. I once studied this problem, but I could not proceed for want of time. But I think it will be a paying proposition if we spent money on roads.

As regards broadcasting, I will not take it up now as I shall deal with it when the question of grants comes up.

I finish by saying that I support Sir F. E. James in his view that Government, whatever steps they take for reconstruction, ought to take the public into confidence. They should publish a small memoir and make the people realise what we are doing and then we should not wait till the war is over but a beginning should be made now and we should go ahead.

With these words I conclude.

Lala Sham Lal (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Mr. President, Sir, I rise to oppose the present Finance Bill. Once before in November 1940 when the Government presented a supplementary Finance Bill to this House the Congress Party came here to oppose that Bill. On that occasion we all resisted the taxes that were sought to be imposed by means of that Bill. That Bill was rejected twice by this House, but unfortunately it was made into law by a certificate from His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General. Thus those taxes, then, were imposed against the wishes of the people and against the declared verdict of the representatives of the people in this Honourable House. In view of that result, the Congress Party who were observing the deadlock at that time, felt the decision of the Government very much and kept away from this House by way of protest for a long term of three years. The protest was not heeded; the aspirations of the people of India were not satisfied in any manner. When that supplementary Finance Bill was presented it was stated by the Government that if India was to play a worthy part for securing the victory of civilisation, more taxes had yet to come. On that occasion in my

[Lala Sham Lal.]

speech on the 16th November, 1940, I pointed out what the nature of that civilisation was for which India was to play a worthy part. But I am not going to repeat here what I had said on that occasion. The Congress Party waited for three long years. The Congress Party has been seeing and watching in what manner the statement of the Government was going to be given effect to in relation to more taxes. Taxes have been rising by leaps and bounds and at a breakneck speed. Taxes have been imposed through this Legislature, taxes have been imposed through ordinances, rules and orders in various directions. Subscriptions have been taken in every town and village practically forcibly through high Government officials; similarly, donations to war loans and recruitment to the army have also been effected. Besides, a great deal of discussion has gone on in this House on profiteering both by the Government of India and the Provincial Governments, through their supply and purchase departments and through control and monopoly orders.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can continue his speech after lunch.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. K. C. Neogy (One of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

Lala Sham Lal: I was speaking as to how this Government have been carrying out their design to tax the people of India as expressed by them in November 1940 and after the power of veto vesting in His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General was brought home to the Members of this House and the people outside. In short, lancets after lancets have been applied to India while India has been bleeding and crying. It is under these circumstances that the present Finance Bill has come in. The Honourable the Finance Member under the circumstances has been forced to admit that there are already distinct signs of over-strain and he has feared even the danger of a serious breakdown but notwithstanding these he is proposing new taxes, of course, according to him with safeguards which he considers necessary and satisfactory. It is thus yet another lancet which is now going to be applied to languishing India. India is being tortured as it were to death.

But before I come to the subject, I ought to explain the position in which I stand. From the words which from time to time fell from the mouth of the Honourable the Home Member I am inclined to think that this Government and the Honourable Members of this Government may be thinking that this Congress Party has after all come to this House, baffled, crestfallen or defeated. If they choose to think that way, let them do so and I ought not to grumble. But let me state on my own behalf and on behalf of the Congress Party to which I have the honour to belong that we do not feel defeated in the least. Defeated by whom and when? Is it not the case that they are out to utilise their power for the good of the country through sufferings however long and arduous? A non-violent resister can never be baffled. He can never be defeated. He is always victorious. The victories may not be visible all at once but time will show that he is always victorious. He carries with him a force, which is subtle indeed but tremendously strong and which in course of time has to be visible. Sir, the Congress Party is here to warn the Government in regard to their conduct with respect to India. This they are in duty bound to do as often as there are occasions for doing. I therefore rise to oppose this Bill on grounds similar to those urged by me on 16th November, 1940.

The present Finance Bill seeks to impose new and further taxes and in the usual name of war efforts, in the usual name of defence of India and with a new formula devised in the name of post-war reconstruction. It is not necessary for me to go into the merits of these demands because I see that enough has been already said and is being said regarding these demands. Suffice it for me to

say that this post-war reconstruction formula is rather a new pretence to squeeze out the living of the people, if any living still remains with them. I ask what right have they to tax the people in the manner they are doing? What right have the Government of India, irresponsible British Government as it happens to be, to tax and handle the people of India in the manner they are doing? A great historian of England laid it down years ago; and I am quoting his words:

"Our acquisition of India was made blindly. Nothing great which an Englishman ever did was done in the matter of this acquisition save accidentally and so unintentionally, although India happens to be a precious gem on the British diadem now. Yet, this India was never conquered by the British. As a matter of fact, India with 250 millions of people could not be conquered by a handful of Britishers going there across the seas. India came under the British protection voluntarily, worn out as she was by the internal quarrels of Hindu and Muslim Kingdoms. India accepted voluntarily British tutelage to be taught unity and nationality and the art of self-government. India thus to all intents and purposes was a property in trust with the British for specific purposes. The moment a nationality arises in India, British rule was to be at an end and British rule was to leave India."

Now, Sir, these are the words of a great historian of England, Sir John Seeley, belonging to the Oxford University. He said that India was a property in trust with the British. Now, the matter of this trust has never been denied by any British statesman. It has never been denied by the British Government in India. It was not denied in the well-known Proclamation of Her Late Majesty Queen Victoria declared on the 1st January, 1858, while assuming the administration of this country. Now, when India is not the property of the British, how can the British Government in India under the guidance of the British nation in England handle the affairs of India in the manner they are doing and tax the people of India in the manner they are doing right and left. When India is held in trust for specific purposes, how can they go beyond the purposes of this trust, which cannot be denied. Sir, India is being exploited. Everybody knows it. The Honourable Members of this House have declared it times without number. What right then have they to exploit India in the manner they are doing? Has not the exploitation of India in the past been enough for the British who happen to be in India? It is remarkable that Burma was conquered solely through India. This law of income-tax which has become so gigantic now and such a source of trouble to the people of India was enacted provisionally at a time when funds were needed for carrying on the war operations which were then going on in Burma, to conquer Burma. Burma was conquered through India and what treatment was offered to Indians? High hopes were held out at that time to Indians, but the separation of Burma and the Indo-Burman pact have been the living example of the treatment that has been meted out to Indians. Then, there have been two Boer wars. The Boers had nearly driven out the British from their country when Expeditionary Forces were sent out from India twice, once under Lord Roberts, the then Commander-in-Chief of India, and again under Lord Kitchner, the then Commander-in-Chief of India. It was because of these Expeditionary Forces sent out from India that they have been able to subdue and conquer the Boers and establish their hold in South Africa. Now, look at the treatment that is being meted out to Indians in South Africa. This is a matter which need not be stated here because it is evident to all. Mesopotamia and Palestine were also conquered with the aid of the Indian forces. Indian forces were utilised in Central Asia, West of Asia, North Africa and China times without number. Has not all this exploitation in the past been enough that India is now being exploited more for selfish purposes and to satisfy their greed for extension and domination.

Then, Sir, what right have the British Government in India to drag this country into war? Is it covered by the conditions of the trust? The Indian nation has declared that they are not at war with any country. Even the Honourable Members of this House have declared that the dragging of India into the war was not with the consent of the people. It was not done with the consent of this House. In fact, the question of the dragging of India into the war was not brought into this House at all. Now, what right have they to drag India into this war? Then, Sir, what right have

[Lala Sham Lal.]

the British to pass India bit by bit to America? Has India ever been consulted over the lend-lease laws that have taken place between America and Britain? Has India ever been required to cast its opinion regarding that law by which India is being made a party for the utilisation of her resources and her forces? These being the circumstances, I ask what right have the British Government in India to tax the people of India in the manner in which they are doing?

Then, Sir, this Finance Bill proposes to tax the people of India for war measures. What are these war measures? Are not these the war measures for which India has not been consulted? Are not these the war measures when India is not at war with any country? Why are the resources of India being sent out? Why are the forces of India being sent out? And why are the American forces and the forces of other countries being imported into India? Is it not clear that all this is being done to keep a hold on India? In fact, this is the army of occupation. Is it not clear that the intention of the Government of India, British Government as it is, is not to part with powers? If India could conquer Burma, South Africa, Mesopotamia, Palestine and other countries, are not the Indian forces quite capable of defending India herself? Are not the Indian forces quite sufficient to meet the war measures if there is any aggression from any foreign country on India? Sir, it is said that the enemy is at India's doors. I say the enemy is there, but the enemy is not with respect to India. The enemy is not at the gate of India. Of course, the enemy is at the gate of the British Government in India today. If the British Government in India can make over the powers of self-government to India, and can wash off their hands from India, there is absolutely no fear of any foreign aggression on India. It is only because the British are at war with the Axis powers and because they are fighting with other powers that foreign aggression on India is made possible. Otherwise, no foreign power can, at any rate, think of attacking India with a population of 400 millions of people. Under these circumstances, I wish to point out whether the Indian forces which have been doing such a gallant service outside and which are being eulogised by all the United Nations are not enough to defend India? Where, then, is the question of defence measures? Where, then, is the question of war measures? Unless it be that the British want to utilise India and exploit India for their extension and domination. So, I maintain that no taxation for war measures and no taxation for the defence of India is necessary.

Now, a lot is said about the post-war reconstruction. Let me state before this House that this is a new pretence to squeeze out the money from India. Who is going to make the post-war reconstruction? What will be the conditions in which India shall have to be re-built at that time? It is not certain; it has not been explained and it has not been chalked out. Why, then, this demand of post-war reconstruction? Now, Sir, these funds are to be provided today for post-war measures. Can I not state here before this House that a few lines of an Ordinance from His Excellency the Viceroy may be sufficient to divert the funds to be utilised for any purpose whatsoever? These are the circumstances in which this post-war reconstruction fund is to be raised.

Now, Sir, I ask what is all this? What good this Government and the Honourable Members of this Government are doing by the way in which they are proceeding? They will not be able to solve the problems which they are giving out to solve. The methods that they are following and adopting will not be conducive to their good, to the good of the people who happen to be under their charge and who are adhering to them, to the good of the Allied Nations, and not even to the good of the Nations who are arrayed in war against them. Why then worrying and putting the people of this country to all sorts of misfortunes? Famine is there, pestilence is there, want of food is there and there are so many other misfortunes that I need not mention them in detail. This Government and the Allied Nations and all the other nations that are at war today are not realising what is the purpose of the present war.

I stated in detail in my speech on 16th November, 1940, and those remarks may as well be considered in relation to this Finance Bill also. But let me tell them that this is not a war of the nature that is generally considered. This is a war to the finish. Many other high thinkers are also thinking like that. This is a war between two forces, one of which has to go out and the other has to come in. This is a war underneath which a sort of crystallisation is taking place. We do not care whether Germany is winning at a particular time, we do not care whether the Allied Nations are winning at another time. When Germany was winning, of course, the Allied Nations were feeling bad, as it was quite natural. Now, when Germany is receding and is being defeated, of course the Allied Nations are feeling jubilant at the present time. It is equally natural. But there was no reason to feel bad when Germany was winning and there is no reason to be glad when Germany is being defeated. A crystallisation is going in underneath this war that is being fought now. It is that crystallisation that counts and for which India is looking forward and for which there have been great warnings by high thinkers. It is that crystallisation for which history lies before us to teach a lesson. Now, Sir, before I refer to lessons of history, before I refer to the high advice given to nations from time to time by high thinkers of the world, I wish to point out what these two forces are. The two forces are always co-existent, one is the force of matter, the force of materialism and the other is the force of spirit, the force of the hand of God. Armed force is a necessary adjunct to the force of matter. But armed force does not find a place in the force of spirit. Armed warfare is to go on within certain limits, dependent upon the other force of the spirit, and whenever that armed warfare becomes demoralised and becomes oppressive and titanic, independent of the force of spirit, then that armed force has to be vacated. That is the lesson which history teaches us. This is also the advice which high thinkers have been giving to the nations of the world. Now, Sir, what does history teach us? History teaches us that whenever one force gets demoralised and the nation which represents that force which troubles the world then both should go. In the middle ages, when the so-called Islamic sword flashed from East to West and deluged the world with blood from the Pacific to the Atlantic, could Nature remain silent? No. Nature brought into being a force, the force of matter, the force of materialism and the European nations and the European countries were entrusted with the task of wielding that force and they did wield that force rightly for some time. The sword of the middle ages was sheathed and sheathed for ever, never to be seen again. Here you can say that the Islamic countries who wielded that sword not only sheathed the same, but fell slaves before this force and before European countries. Here lies the law 'whoever raises a sword shall perish by the sword' fully illustrated. Almost all human beings on earth were entrusted to the care of this force, to the care of the European countries. To England alone fell one-third share of the human race and England was called upon to take care of the people while building up that force. Now, Sir, what do we see? That force has become altogether independent of the force of spirit. That material force has now become injudicious in every particular with respect to every other country. That force is now being used for the exploitation of the weaker races. That, Sir, is the present day condition of England. That, Sir, was the condition of Islam in the middle ages when she was required to make room for the European nations, for a better culture. War was brought on at that time for a specific purpose, that is to sheathe the sword of Islam. Materialism, of course, brings on wars for specific purposes and when that purpose is fulfilled, that force has to vacate. This is how nature fulfills herself. This is what history teaches us. This is the lesson that we ought to take from history that lies before us. History has to repeat itself.

As regards this change of force that is now taking place under the stress of this war, under this tribulation, let me first refer to the high thinkers of Britain herself. So far back as 1843, the great sage poet of England, the Poet Laureate of England, Wordsworth, wrote then. He said:

'It is not to be thought of
That the flood of British

Freedom, which to the open
Eyes of worlds' praise from

[Lala Sham Lal.]

Dark antiquity, hath
Flowed with pomp of waters unwithstood |
Roused though it be
Full often to a mood
Which spurns the check

Of solitary hands
That this most famous
Stream in bogs and sands
Should perish, and for
Good and evil be lost for ever."

Now, Sir, these were the words expressed by the sage poet of England to whom every Britisher must pay respect. The poet wrote this in 1843, full one century ago at a time when Britain had come out successful in all the Continental wars. England became Great Britain and Greater Britain and still at that time Wordsworth prophetically said that this British freedom coming as it was from dark antiquity a time was to come when this shall have a dash against bogs and sands to be lost for ever.

Should not this advice given by the great seer and high thinker of England have been taken note of by the statesmen in England? This advice was trampled under foot.

Then, Sir, another great poet, another Poet Laureate of England, Lord Tennyson, wrote so far back as 1856, nearly eighty-eight years ago, a poem which he read out to a gathering in Kingsley Hall, London. The poem was entitled, "Dream of the Future". It is not necessary for me to quote here the various stanzas that he gave in this poetry all of which are proving true, I would like to place for the consideration of the House only three stanzas of that poem. At that time, of course, he wrote in a wakeful dream. He said:

"I heard the heavens fill with shoutings
There rained the ghastly dew
From the nations airy navies
Grappling in the Central blue.

Far along the world wide whisper
Of the South wind rushing warm
With the standards of the People
Plunging through the thunder storm."

Now, Sir, what did the poet say in his wakeful dream so far back as 1856? He said that there will be air navies, there will be aeroplanes which will be grappling one another in the skies from where will rain bombs of a ghastly nature, and the people will cry aloud. This was what was predicted by the great poet in 1856. Nobody could think of these aeroplanes in those days or could imagine that anything like what is happening now would happen. Then, further on the poet, as to how long that was to be, said:

"Till the war drums throbbed no
Longer, and the battle flags were furled; |

In the Parliament of Man,
The federation of the world."

He predicted a time when human beings will cease to be brutes and will play the role of men when war drums and battle flags will cease to have any place at all. In the last stanza the poet said:

"There the common sense of most
Shall hold fretful realm in awe |

And kindly earth shall slumber
Rapt in universal law."

This was written in 1856. This Mother Earth who is being tossed about upside down by these wars has after all to go to repose. It is now time that the advices given by these high thinkers of England are to be fulfilled. It is now pointed out by India that peace is not to come in that way; it is not to come by armed warfare and by brutish and demoralised warfare. India says that of the two forces one force is to be driven out and the other has to be brought in to take charge of world affairs. That is what India tells the British Government and the world outside. Let me explain these two forces. Take the case of a log of wood. You may apply fire to it taken singly. Whatever fire you may apply it will not burn; but place two logs of wood together and then apply fire to them, by the slightest fire they will be kindled and by a process of reciprocal action and reaction of the ire they will be reduced to ashes in no time. Suppose these two burning logs are kept asunder, they will be both extinguished. Suppose in two burning logs you sprinkle water on one and do not allow that log of wood to burn, the fire in the other also will be extinguished. That is the law of ire. That is a universal law equally applicable to fire of anger and hatred. That is the law applicable to armed warfares. We say that violent resistance to violence is the process of reciprocal action and reaction of the ire tending to mutilation, destruction and extinction of both. Non-violent resistance to violence is the process of utilising diverse forces tending to the preservation and safety of both. This is the truth which India is pointing out to the world

and the warring nations of the world today; this is the teaching which is being imparted by the great Mahatma Gandhi. This is the creed which the Indian National Congress has adopted. The force of non-violence is no doubt subtle but it is tremendously strong and you will see that in time to come it will show itself. It can destroy much more than the sword or the cannon, and the person who wields this force has to be cautious that it does not destroy more than necessary. This is also the advice given by the high thinkers of England also. England ought to forget her dark antiquity and be just to all nations; not to behave as they are doing in India today.

These are the circumstances in which I am speaking here today. I spoke for a pretty long time on this subject on the 16th November, 1940. It is not necessary for me, therefore, to repeat now what I said then. But I quoted then the statement made by a great sage of India and I will repeat it here again. While addressing the American people at San Francisco in 1894 he stated that Europe the centre of manifestation of material energy shall crumble to dust within the next 50 years if Europe did not change her position and make spirituality the basis of her life. Those 50 years are not yet over and Europe is actually crumbling into dust. I know of course that armed warfare may have its uses because the forces of matter and the forces of spirit have to go together sometimes. One is active at one time and the other may be active at another time. When this force of matter was used, as I said, in sheathing the sword of the middle ages, it was well and good. But when this force has become demoralised as when bombs are thrown on innocent people, poison gas used indiscriminately and people are destroyed, is that a force of arms which can be an adjunct to the force of materialism? Not at all. This force having been demoralised has become the force of a Satan and is now making room for another force to come. I want to emphasise that this former has to go willingly or otherwise. If it goes willingly it will save the world; but if unwilling to vacate the stage, circumstances will arise which will effect forcible exit much to its destruction and to the destruction of the people who happen to be under its charge.

Then, Sir, the Indian nation has declared that they must leave India.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The Home Member is leaving India.

Lala Sham Lal: I do not mean any disrespect to the Honourable the Home Member. I do not want him personally to leave India; I want him to remain if he can. But I am referring to the British Government which is asked to leave and will be forced to leave in time. The Resolution "Quit India" is one which stands and will stand. But I ask what is the illegality, what is the immorality in this 'Quit India' resolution which has been passed by the Indian Nation. When it is an express condition of the trust that the moment any Indian national party is fit to take over the Government of the country, British rule in India shall end and they shall have to leave India. Do they deny that trust condition? If not, then are they not committing a breach of trust? If the condition is that they are to hold India's trust for a specific purpose, are they not committing a breach of trust, are they not guilty of a serious crime of breach of trust?

Sir, it is quite true that India's nation demands British Government to quit India and supposing the British Government quits India today, the Indian nation has declared that they are responsible for the defence of their country. There is no fear whatsoever of any foreign aggression on this country. The fear of foreign aggression lies only so long as there is the British Government in this country. India has been the cause of trouble to many nations in the world. Through India many nations of the world have been trampled; through this Indian exploitation, England is enjoying a good deal of power all over the world and this has aroused rivalry in the various nations of Europe, particularly the nation in Germany. This rivalry will be set at rest if India gets freedom and if the British Government goes out and a National Government is established here. If that is done, surely that idea of rivalry will go at once. India says, 'Give us the power and you will see that a great step towards the subsiding of this war will take place all at once.' There is no fear of India being attacked by any other nation. That is the position which the Indian National

[Lala Sham Lal.]

Congress has taken up, and that is the position which other representatives of the nation have declared on the floor of this House. Did they not demand a provisional national Government the other day by a Resolution in this House? What is this Government going to do about that resolution? Has not every association in India declared that this foreign Government must go? The other day I read in a Paper that Mr. Shyama Prasad Mukerjee while addressing a gathering of Hindus stated that foreign domination must go. Apart from this let me give an instance of a great sage of India who stated in 1880 that foreign Government, however good, is still a foreign Government which has to exploit the country and cannot, therefore, be good. This sage died in 1883. At that time the Government was going on smoothly, the people were contented, the Indian National Congress too had not taken birth, yet this sage of India warned the Indian people that a foreign government, however good that may be, has still to exploit India, and how true was the prophetic statement of that sage we can see for ourselves today. Every word is proving true. There is the demand of the Indian National Congress—and this demand has been iterated times without number, apart from the position taken up by the Congress now—then there are other representatives of people who are demanding a national Government in India. It is that national Government which will be in a position to solve questions in respect of war efforts and everything which concerns India, not this Government. These are the observations which I place before the House for their consideration.

Now, let me refer to my Honourable master, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta . . .

An Honourable Member: Is he your master?

Lala Sham Lal: Yes, he is my master.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I am everybody's servant.

Lala Sham Lal: Sir, he has expressed himself many times that he is after war efforts. I respect him that he is and he is conscientiously, but let me tell him that in view of the observations that I am making here, he may not be making a mistake—as my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, made a mistake when the Defence of India Act was passed and for which he expressed repentance the other day. Let him be cautious, let him think it out in a serious mood and consider the observations that I am making. He is out for war efforts, that is all right. I am also out for war efforts. He is out to save India. Certainly he is, and I am too, but our methods are different. My master thinks in a different way than I do. By making war efforts and by making successful war efforts without first having the freedom of India in any way, he may not be making a mistake, as my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, did, and he may not have to repent when the time for rebuilding India comes if at all it comes in this way.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Teach your master.

Lala Sham Lal: I can only give him advice, and I also address all such friends of mine who are of his way of thinking.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: What should I do?

Lala Sham Lal: Vote with us and that will show what the country wants. And now a few words to the Honourable the Home Member.

An Honourable Member: Wish you good luck!

Lala Sham Lal: Sir, the Home Member said the other day in a somewhat proud manner 'where is the deadlock, where is the standstill. Executive Councillors resigned, and Executive Councillors are working on the Treasury Benches. Everything in men, money and material is flowing to the Government'. And though he did not say in so many words, he might also be thinking as to where is the force in the Congress party, where is the force in the Congress party remaining outside when so many elected Members have been working this Assembly. Sir, I will only reply in brief to these points raised by the Honourable the Home Member, who is now leaving India. True, everything is flowing to the Government in men, money and material, but I ask is it flowing at the will of the Indian people. India is crying, as I have already

expressed, and yet by extortionate methods the resources of India are going to the Government to be used in this war measures which is to tighten the bonds of slavery still further. Everything is flowing to this Government to be used outside for the Allied nations and not for the defence of India. Can it be said that there is any moral foundation whatsoever in all this? Of course, Executive Councillors resign and Executive Councillors work on the Treasury Bench. True. But let me state before this House my view that during the 200 years regime in this country by the British, the vitality of the people has dwindled so much that they cannot resist unjust laws and unjust taxation. They have become impotent. They have not been able to realise what sacrifice means for the nationality of India. What to say of these Treasury Benches! What to say of these Councillors! Many more like them may be brought on these Benches, but I say is there any spirit of democracy to be found in them? Is there any moral foundation in their being here representing none, perhaps not even their own self?

As regards my Honourable colleagues who are working this constitution, and this Congress party keeping out, making protests and all that, and that should count for nothing, let me remind the Honourable the Home Member that these persons are as nationalist as the Congress Party themselves. Of course there is a little difference. Taking the analogy of two friendly birds sitting on the same tree—one who has seen the ways of the world and is calm and considerate: the other who is yet tasting the fruits thereof till he comes to the same state as the first. Let me repeat that these friends of mine who are working the constitution are as nationalist as the Congress and in some cases they are much more than the Congress members themselves. But time is not far when these Honourable colleagues of mine, if the flouting of the opinion of this House goes on like this, will be in a position in which the Congress stands.

Then a few words to the Honourable the Supply Member, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar. It is unfortunate he is not here.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Your words will fall on vacant benches!

Lala Sham Lal: The Honourable the Supply Member is doing a disservice to the country. Since I have come as an elected Member to this House I have been seeing some bickerings going on between him and the elected Members of this House unlike other Executive Councillors. Personally I ought to censure such bickerings and I ought to censure also the irritation which the Honourable the Supply Member has been showing, but I say he is doing a disservice to the country in the manner in which he happens to be on the Treasury Benches. He is giving an occasion to this Government to mimic at the decision of the people. An instance of this happened when the Congress Party was administering the Provinces. A subordinate European officer was promoted to be a Governor over their heads. The Congress Government at that time out of their self-respect resented it and as a result the appointment of that subordinate European officer as Governor over their heads was avoided. Should I not ask the Honourable the Supply Member

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Did he make the appointment?

Lala Sham Lal: Should I not ask the Honourable the Supply Member to create an atmosphere of goodwill amongst the people, to create an atmosphere whereby the people may repose confidence in him? When he was defeated in the election it showed that the people refused to place confidence in him. It was not, therefore, proper for him to come here and grace these Treasury Benches in order to give occasion to this Government that they may mimic at the decision made by the people. But if after doing that he came to grace these Benches that would have been far more honourable than as it is today and that is the reason that this bickering takes place between him and the honourable the elected Members of this House unlike the other Executive Councillors.

A few words now to the Honourable the Finance Member. The Honourable the Finance Member has found it his duty to present this Bill as he has stated in the opening lines of his speech. In the light of the statements which he made subsequently in that speech, it would have been better if he had added the word

[Lala Sham Lal.]

"painful" before the word "duty", and that would have been more satisfactory. But I take it from the whole of his speech he means painful duty. Any way the Honourable the Finance Member has discharged his duty. As a Member of the Government of India it was his duty to present this Bill. I do not grumble for that. If I were a Member of the Government of India like him I would have done likewise; but here comes a conflict of duties. I dealt with the law of, conflicting duties in my speech on the 16th November, 1940. When this happens sometime, both duties have to be performed. I doubt not that the Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman is a true Christian. He carries with him a creed. He carries with him his personality. His creed is to give to God what is God's and to give to Caesar what is Caesar's. Now he has given Caesar his dues. Now let him come forward to perform his duty to God. The vote that he carries belongs to his personality: it belongs to his conscience guided by his creed, not to Caesar. Therefore I ought to think that the Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman should cast his vote on the popular side, if he is not capable of contradicting me and if he is not to go against his own faith.

In the end, Sir, before I close my speech I should say that my countrymen are to-day under the greatest misfortune. They are dying in large numbers. In the matter of food, in the matter of everything else they are put to trouble. My heart goes forth in sympathy with my countrymen. But there is reason for me to console myself with. There is reason for me not only to console myself with but also to console my countrymen. An ancient scripture of India lays down this:

"Aad vritte tu nripatau akale mriyate jana."

When the government of any country goes eccentric, of course, people have to take to unnatural deaths. That is what that scripture says. I ask my countrymen who is responsible for that? Are they not responsible for it? Who called this Government over them? The people themselves. Who have been sustaining this Government over them ever since it came inspite of repeated warnings to the contrary? The people themselves. Are not the people responsible for it? If the Government becomes eccentric and if the people are put to all sorts of misfortune, all I have to say is that the people themselves are to blame. Sir, I oppose this Bill.

Mr. O. P. Lawson (Bengal: European): I should like to take this opportunity to get on record one or two points going beyond my Leader's speech the other day. In the first place, he made a reference to the necessity for reviewing various departments and their expenditure and seeing how this expenditure and these departments could be reorganised taking into account the changed circumstances of the war. I wish particularly to refer, in the remarks I have to make, to the two departments of Defence and War, and in particular, to Civil Defence which has now passed into the care of the Defence Department.

The House will remember that originally the Civil Defence Department was established as a sole portfolio. I should like to say at once that, although this Government gets condemnation for most things wrong, proved or unproved, they very seldom get congratulations for something that has turned out well. I would like to say right away that here at least the Government have put up an extremely good job of work. In two years they have produced in this country a civil defence organisation which has generated confidence amongst the people, and, where it has been called upon to act, it has produced an efficient A. R. P. service. This department naturally started from zero and it started out with a very considerable expenditure. Looking at the budget I see that the revised estimate for 1942-43 came to about 6 crores, while in the year that we are just finishing we are expected to spend Rs. 5 crores on civil defence. The estimate for the year to come is 3½ crores, which indeed shows a very considerable progressive reduction. But at the same time this is civil defence expenditure at the centre alone irrespective of what the provinces are doing and the expenditure is heavy. It is the duty of this House at the centre to suggest means whereby

not only that expenditure may be put to the best possible advantage, but whereby also the organisation of the department may be as economical as possible.

I am wondering, now that this department has ceased to be the sole concern of one Member and when its administration has passed into the Defence portfolio with other subjects, whether this move, which is evidently a correct move, has been considered in its full operation. For instance, we still have a Standing Committee of this House attached to what we might call a department within a department. The members of the Standing Committee appear to come generally from centres where air raids are quite out of the question. Their advice in the initial stages was undoubtedly valuable. The whole of India had to be organised for civil defence from the north-west to south-east corners, and there is no question that initially, the advice of all parts of India was extremely necessary. I have some doubts as to whether the same widespread advice is still necessary. I am inclined to think that we have now reached a pitch when the department might be more specialised and where the effort might be concentrated both in its areas and in its organisation. When I speak of concentration of effort, like my Honourable friend who has just spoken, I am inclined to refer to a speech that I made on the 10th March, 1942. On that occasion I said:

"Then, Sir, I rather question whether it is wise to distribute Air Raid Wardens over wide areas where they will work possibly by themselves. A very large percentage will see nothing of the raid. The rest will have too much to do and no one to help them. I rather favour the localising of technical help. I do not know how far it will be practicable, and I speak as a layman, but it seems to me that if you could have your technical air raid services in this country organised in certain well defined and self-contained centres, it might lead to more efficiency, in that it would give better leadership and the ability to go to isolated scenes of bombing, cordon off the area and deal with it."

That main idea is still at the back of my mind when I suggest that it might be well now to get the danger areas of this country concentrated and put into zones. I do not think that it is wise now to worry about widespread bombing in civil areas. I think the time has come to concentrate on the danger of target bombing. The kind of bombing that we are likely to expect naturally will be bombing of industrial areas, of docks, of railway centres and the like. I think that we are wasting a good deal of effort in organising the less dangerous areas, areas in which labour is not concentrated. There is also, of course, the question of division of responsibility. For instance, in Calcutta, the Calcutta municipal area comes under the Provincial Government and they have their own A. R. P. organisation. The port, on the other hand, comes under Port Trust authorities in direct communication with the Centre. The railways, I think I am right in saying, also have their own A. R. P. arrangements under the orders of the Centre. Now, when the Japanese begin to drop their bombs, they are not particular about being in one area or the other and sometimes they are callous enough to involve an area covered by the Central Government as well as one looked after by the Provincial Government, with the result, as we saw on the 5th December, that we experienced to some extent the disadvantages of divided control. The dock area, for instance, in Calcutta has not got its own hospitals and casualties occurring in the dock area have to be sent out of the dock area, in fact, out of the control of the Central Government into the control of the Provincial Government. I am not being flippant over this. I consider this to be an important matter and I think the time has come to reorganise this A. R. P. defence so that there are self-contained and unified A. R. P. commands to deal with areas that may come under bombing. (*An Honourable Member*: "Will you put it under the Military"?) I do not think I would put it under the Military, because when all is said and done the Military have their own job to do in circumstances like this. But when an air raid occurs I think that the senior A. R. P. commander, the person in charge of that particular zone of command, should be in a position to order his own units—ambulances, fire engines and everything else—just where he wants them and with that type of unified command to cover dock areas, railway stations, municipalities and the like, I think that a lot of the

[Mr. C. P. Lawson.]

dangers of divided control might thus be eliminated. At the same time it might be possible to effect thereby certain economies in personnel and consequently in expenditure. The expenditure of the Centre, of course, has very largely been on account of equipment and on account of money paid to provinces over and above a certain limit but I suppose a very large amount of the Central Budget's provision for civil defence in the last three years has been on account of equipment. It would be interesting to know just what has happened to all that equipment and whether it is now being concentrated in the danger areas or whether it is left, say, in the Punjab or the Central Provinces to go to "General Average". There is a lot of extremely useful stuff there and there is no reason why it should not be removed to the place where it is most likely to be used. So, Sir, my suggestion generally is that there should be a regrouping of danger areas and let us forget about A. R. P. in these other areas. I do not suggest forgetting about civil defence completely. I think that the civic guards that we established under this scheme have done infinite good and have been a most admirable production. But, now that we can expect target bombing rather than widespread mass bombing, should we not look mainly after the areas where bombing is likely to occur, where large numbers of labour are likely to be concentrated, where factories, railway stations and docks are liable to be the targets attacked—and suit our organisation to that particular purpose?

Now, Sir, while dealing with the Defence Department, I am afraid I must also make a reference to a totally different subject, the subject of requisitioning of civilian accommodation in Calcutta. I approach the subject with considerable reluctance because I feel that about such a matter it might be felt that we as civilians were lacking in the wish to help and to accommodate the service people who have come amongst us in Calcutta. The mere fact that this difficulty has arisen is the more regrettable in that it has to some extent introduced friction between the services and the civil population. It is only necessary to come to Calcutta from Delhi or to come to Delhi from Calcutta to notice the difference between the building that is going on in the two cities and by this I mean the temporary brick buildings to deal with the monsoon and at the same time to accommodate the large numbers of service personnel who have come to Calcutta. A year ago I addressed a letter to the Bengal Government on this subject and I asked for the information to be passed on to the Central Government who were then working their requisitioning through the medium of the Bengal Government. Perhaps I might quote a brief portion of this letter to illustrate my point. I then wrote:

"Any reliance upon finding further accommodation of this type would therefore be entirely misplaced. Taking for example the Alipore-Watgunge-Hastings area as a large representative residential area, the number of houses so far requisitioned is 80, and the number remaining in occupation of civilians, Government officers, Supply Department officers, etc., is 106. If the whole 106 were requisitioned and the occupants turned out on the streets, the space made available would still be small."

Approximately 50 per cent. of the male European population has already joined the Services either voluntarily or by conscription, and the remaining number has been concentrated in the remaining un requisitioned houses. It is safe to say that the remaining Europeans who occupy these houses are almost without exception engaged in work which is essential to the war effort, and the women folk are also almost without exception assisting with nursing, canteen or other war work."

That was the position one year ago and we have only just heard from the Honourable the Defence Secretary that a building scheme for the accommodation of the troops on a somewhat larger scale has been sanctioned in Calcutta. So, Sir, while we have heard his announcement with considerable satisfaction, we have to add regretfully the rider that his announcement comes just one year too late. When we complain on our own behalf that this removal of our houses, our offices and our godowns interrupts our work and makes things more difficult for us, we do not forget that it is not only bad for us but bad for the troops to be accommodated in the type of accommodation which is requisitioned. Most of us on this side have known military service and we know perfectly well that the

accommodation of troops in ordinary civilian houses without furniture just divides them up. They have probably to walk miles for their food and their discipline is damaged by it. So, it is not merely on our own account that we suggest that there has been lack of foresight in not supplying proper accommodation to these troops but also on account of the troops themselves. I have been told that there has been a shortage of bricks, that there has been a shortage of coal to make the bricks and that there has been a shortage of transport to carry the bricks when they are made. Whenever I am told that, I look round in Delhi and wonder where they have got their bricks from. It seems odd to me that Calcutta, which is only some hundred miles from the coal fields, should be unable to produce its bricks or the coal to make its bricks, while Delhi, which is some 900 miles away, has been able to arrange in these last few years the most enormous building programme to accommodate the service people that have come here. We now have in Calcutta a Requisitioning Board functioning and they are doing their best. They are periodically told that they have got to help in accommodating so many troops, so many airmen and so on and so forth. Whenever this happens, there is one cry from the Requisitioning Board: "Give up your houses, give up your offices; give up your godowns." It is all they can say because they have nothing else to offer. The friction between the military and the civil which has resulted from all this is most unfortunate. I only hope that it is understood in the army that if we appear obstructive, it is merely because of the details regarding which I have already informed the House. In the area in which I live myself in Calcutta 80 houses have been requisitioned and 106 only remain. At the same time, I hope it will be equally clear that whatever our difficulties, we still welcome these service people into Calcutta and we shall do everything we can to assist in their accommodation. The only thing that we do ask is that the Government may take up the same attitude in assisting to supply some accommodation for them.

Now, Sir, I just want to make a brief reference, while I am on the subject of services, to the activities of military vehicles in Calcutta particularly and I gather in other cities too. I have heard it stated that in one of our larger cities the military lorry drivers have divided the civil population into two classes, the quick and the dead. The quick are evidently those who are quick enough to get out of the way. Something, I do hope, will be done by the military authorities to tone down the *joie de vivre* of the military driver. We are very glad to see it but it is possibly more useful on the battle-field than in a crowded thoroughfare. As a matter of interest, I have a few figures here from one of the chief sufferers, namely, the Calcutta Tramway Company. The Calcutta Tramway Company suffer rather badly because the trams cannot get out of the way. As a matter of interest, I may tell the House that during the last six months no less than Rs. 12,000 worth of damage has been done to the Calcutta trams. And, Sir, the compensation that has so far been paid by the military authorities is the princely sum of Rs. 45. As regards these accidents, 900 of them are the result of brushing against trams while overtaking; 31 cases have occurred where stationary trams have been mal-treated; 32 trams have been knocked out from front and 12 from the rear. Sir, as I have said, we are only too glad to have the service personnel with us, but we are wondering how long we shall be there to welcome them if these activities continue.

Now, Sir, may I turn to one other subject before I cease, and that is a subject which I must say I feel to be extremely important. It seems to me that we are approaching a very big offensive. The South-East Asia Command are getting busy and what appears likely to be a very big war is beginning. But in the matter of internal security in this country, we appear to be just drifting along as we did before and not worrying very much what information gets to the enemy and how he gets it. The other day I read in the paper that a man, I am sorry to say a Reverend gentleman of Bombay, was run in for indicating in an air-mail letter the sailing date of a steamer from Bombay. He was tried by a

[Mr. C. P. Lawson.]

Magistrate and fined Rs. 50. The Magistrate said that he was quite certain that this was no case of moral turpitude but merely of ignorance. Now, that was after five years of war. The Reverend gentleman, who must be relied upon to have spoken the truth, expressed ignorance that he was not allowed to write and tell people the sailing date of a steamer from Bombay. In other words, he did not realise that by that act a good ship and a good ship's crew might have gone to the bottom of the sea. Well, if he did not know, I suppose there are lots of other people in India who do not know either. And what has the Government done to tell them? What has the Information and Broadcasting Department done to tell them? Travelling about the United Kingdom, one is struck, I believe, by security slogans at every turn. You will be asked whether you think before you speak. You take up a telephone and you see

4 P.M. a notice on it: "Is this telephone private?" I myself have taken an unintentional part in a triangular conversation on the Calcutta telephone system together with two officers of the services who were talking about the movement of troops. I do not really know the purpose of what they were saying, because I did not listen to it. It might have been interesting; I might have repeated it; I might have been even an enemy agent. Sir, I have already raised this matter in another place and I sincerely hope that something is going to be done about it. We have heard stories in Calcutta during the raid times of mysterious people who rode round the docks on bicycles telling people that there was an air raid when there was not one. We had after the 5th December no less than three false alarms and the labour in the docks ran away each time. I am still asking what happened about those false alarms—how they started and what is being done to prevent a recurrence. Possibly for security reasons I have not been told; equally possibly, the reason is that there is nothing to tell. I think there should be some sort of system of rewards for getting information regarding such matters and I submit that the War Department and the Department of Information and Broadcasting should get together and work out a plan. I should like to see slogans, for instance, on letter heads of business firms: "Does this letter contain security information and if so, where are you going to file it?" I have to admit that in my own office, I discovered a book in which the arrival dates of steamers were quoted. We had to know when these steamers were arriving and the dates had to be posted in the ledger. But when the dates were posted, to my horror I found that that book was not locked up at night. In other words, it must be only too easy for an enemy agent in this country to find out a lot of very damaging information which may result in the loss of lives of many brave men. And, while it may not be possible for us entirely to eliminate the information that the enemy gets from this country, it should be possible for us to reduce it. The problem is a far greater problem than it is in the United Kingdom. The coastline is vast, the areas to be covered are vast and the illiterates who are equally able to pass on information are more difficult to get at. But because the problem is more difficult, there is little excuse for not making at least the same effort as is made in the United Kingdom; and as far as I can see, at present no effort is being made at all. So, Sir, I make this suggestion to the War Department, which I do not see represented on these Benches at the moment; I trust that the information will be conveyed to them, and if the Honourable the Leader of the House will very kindly bear this recommendation in mind, perhaps we may be able to get on to some more active plan and at least do all that, civilians can do to save the lives of the forces on the sea and on the land.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Sir, last year when I addressed the House on the Finance Bill, I had submitted that India had made peak sacrifices by that day and that she could stand no more. I had hardly expected that within a few weeks, the accuracy of my observations would materialise. But unfortunately, it did happen that within a few short weeks, the country was ablaze with news of deaths, desolation and disease and destitution. Now, Sir, in

his Budget speech the Honourable the Finance Member has admitted that if this country is to be prevented from suffering an economic collapse, the Allies must bring articles which are so scarce in this country. I do not wish to say much more than this that a great deal of this misery, a great deal of this agony and even deaths could have been avoided if the Government of India had a policy from the very beginning of war. Unfortunately they had not got that policy. They do not even believe that such a policy was necessary. If anybody brought it to their notice, it was ignored as perhaps coming from a defeatist or a panicky person. It went on and went on until this tragedy of Bengal, Malabar, Travancore and Cochin and many other territories increasingly demonstrated to Government that although they were in possession, they did not know their charge. I do not wish to say that when they got up from their slumbers they did not try to remedy the situation. I shall, in due course, assess the value of the measures that Government have taken since they woke up to the necessity of averting the coming collapse which they did not foresee and would not be forewarned.

Before I pass on to the detailed discussion of the economic and political situation in the country, I wish to bring to the notice of the House that we are discussing this Finance Bill under three constitutional flaws. The Government are acting unconstitutionally in three or four ways. If they care for constitutional propriety in this House and if they have got any regard for the opinion of this House, they should take prompt measures to remedy this procedure. The first irregularity is the retention of ten crores in the ways and means side of the Budget, being the amount which the House has rejected during the discussion of the Railway Budget. I cannot imagine any constitutional Government which has placed a demand for grant before the House and that demand has resulted in the defeat of the Government still carrying on as if nothing had happened and still banking on these ten crores as part of their ways and means position. I think a little regard for constitutional proprieties would have saved the situation. The second flaw in the procedure of proceeding with the Finance Bill with an illegality and an irregularity in it is the retention of the contribution of 32 crores to the general revenues from the railway surplus of 52 crores of rupees. I have in my hand a report of the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1942-43. On page 85, Appendix A is quoted the Resolution on the convention passed by this House on the 2nd March, 1943, and there the convention of 1924 is varied in particular respects. So far as the House by its own Resolution varied that convention, Government were strictly within their rights in proceeding according to that Resolution; but the House specifically said in sub-paragraph (4) that—

“For subsequent years and until the new convention is adopted by the Assembly the allocation of the surplus on commercial lines between the railway reserve and general revenues shall be decided each year on consideration of the needs of the railways and general revenues, the loss, if any, on strategic lines being recovered from general revenues.”

The same Resolution by which you varied the convention of 1924 declared that the convention can be further varied each year by a Resolution of the kind that was passed on the 2nd March, 1943. That further Resolution has not been passed. I therefore submit that these 32 crores of credit taken to general revenues by the Finance Member is also *ultra vires*, at least highly irregular.

The third is that the amount of cuts which this House made both in the railway budget and on the demands on the general budget, to the extent that they were carried, will not be required by Government for their next year's budget purposes. Until the position is restored under the Government of India Act, 1919 and 1935, these cuts that the House has made stand effective and the Government's expenses to that extent stand reduced; and the Finance Department must not proceed on the footing that these items of expenditure are still required and they should tell the House that so much money is not required and therefore the corresponding amount of taxation is not needed, until the position is restored, as we fear and almost know that it will be restored. But a decent deference to the proprieties, legalities and

[Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.]

conventions of this House is at least called for from an irremovable executive who know that we can do nothing except express our judgment on the Government's methods. That is the position with regard to the Finance Bill; and in the light of what I have stated and the decision of the House Government should tell us what action they propose to take about the reduction of the additional taxation. I am sorry that no such action has been taken and Government have proceeded as if the votes of the House on the cut motions were a matter of no moment and could be ignored. A Government which is irremovable can do almost anything. The power and the authority behind them are so great that they can afford to treat the vote of the House with indifference and even with contempt. But if you have the strength of a giant I can legitimately ask you not to use it like a giant. There is such a thing as deference to public opinion.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Has the Honourable Member discovered what the regular practice is in regard to this kind of matter?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: The regular practice does not matter to me; if it is wrong it is wrong. My recollection is that when I was a Member of this House from 1924 to 1930 whenever cuts were made, before the Finance Bill began the Governor General either restored them or accepted them.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is not in accordance with my information.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I consulted Mr. Joshi the other day and he at least thought I was right. But it does not matter if the practice is wrong. It is quite clear to me that there cannot be any other practice except the one which I am stating, if there is any pretence of parliamentary Government in this country. The House having made the cuts you proceed on the footing that no cuts were made.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Is the Honourable Member referring to token cuts of the order of one rupee or a hundred rupees?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I am referring to every cut. The travelling allowances of the Executive Council, for instance, have gone by the board. I am not worrying about the amount; but you have, according to the opinion and judgment of the House no need to take 32 crores credit to your general revenues. You cannot take 10 crores of rupees to your ways and means budget; you cannot use the other cuts as if they were not made, and your Finance Bill must stand amended accordingly if you wish to pay any regard to proprieties of a constitutional character.

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

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Finance Bill itself is not affected. The only thing that may be affected is a certain estimated figure in the explanatory memorandum.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I proceed on the footing that you wanted so much expenditure and . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Does the Honourable Member seriously suggest that in the course of the Budget discussion and before a final decision is taken with regard to cuts and so on, the taxation programme should be immediately modified?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Yes. You cannot come to me and ask for 40 or 45 crores when we have said you do not need it. People have been telling us that this is a show.

An Honourable Member: But is not there a deficit?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: If that is so there is a definite way out of it. In that case the Finance Member should come and tell us that he will have to borrow 45 crores more. That is the only right way to rectify the situation, and not by disregarding our vote. I am saying this in the most friendly manner.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: And I may tell my Honourable friend in the most friendly manner that the usual practice has been to review this at a later stage and announce the action taken in regard to the cuts.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: That is not correct; it is entirely wrong. Constitutionally it is wrong; if so it is bad. And there is no fun in continuing an error. I maintain that the right time to Government to announce their decision is before the Finance Bill is moved for consideration.

Before I proceed to the financial criticism of the Budget I wish, as I did last year, to mention some individual grievances, not of individual persons but on individual matters. The first is the demand of the insurance companies which was so powerfully voiced by my Honourable friend, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, that the taxation on them to the extent of 68 pies in the rupee is likely to be a hardship. Insurance concerns are thrift institutions; there the citizen provides for his own and his family's future. They deserve encouragement and the taxation of these bodies to an extent until it becomes absolutely unprofitable for people to have policies in these companies is not a wise step. I personally think that the insurance companies are quite right in asking Government not to exceed 45 pies; but I do not wish to dogmatise and I wish to tell the Finance Member that wisdom lies in reviewing that imposition.

The second thing is that the grievances of the subordinate staff in all Government departments are still serious and are costing a great deal of misery to them and to their families. Whether it is the railway man, whether it is the postal employee, whether it is the mint worker, or an employee in Customs, Income-tax, Supply Department, Commerce Department, and all the rest of the subordinate staff in the employment of Government, they are all living from hand to mouth and are crushed between the nether stone of heavy taxation and the upper stones of meagre compensation for the extraordinary rise in the cost of living, and they deserve the utmost consideration at the hands of Government. The same thing is true of the staff of the Reserve Bank. The Honourable the Finance Member the other day, when I was talking about Key-punchers, informed me that he had already issued orders and I informed him that while he had done so, the orders had not been received. I am grateful to say that within 24 hours he has made up his mind and orders are now issued and to that extent the relief which he had kindly promised has now been vouchsafed, but with all that and with the dearness allowance which my Honourable friend, Sir Gurunath Bewoor, announced the other day, on examination and on assessing the value of these concessions, I am sorry to say that while I am grateful for small mercies—I never reject even a small indulgence when it is given in a kindly manner—the problem is not solved by this tinkering. If you adopt the policy by which the purchasing power of my wages is reduced to 1/3rd and then you give me 1/3rd of the compensation that is due, you may have done something quite generous from your point of view but I am not compensated for the extraordinary rise in the cost of living. I will give him only one example. The Honourable the War Transport Member announced the other day in reply to my cut motion for the meagreness of the dearness allowance to railwaymen that he will give one rupee in the 'C' zone to every person who was getting 8 rupees and will also increase the pay limit from 90 rupees to Rs. 125 and that the total cost of that would be about Rs. 80 lakhs. I notice that the next day that announcement did not even appear in the press. Whether it was prohibited I do not know, but when such announcements are made the Government should at least see that they are made as public as possible. But I think the fear of Government was that they should not appear to have yielded to agitators; though the announcement was made in response to a cut motion, they did not like that it should be published as such. And the fun of it is that as soon as the Honourable the War Transport Member gave one rupee and put that in one pocket of the railway worker in the C Zone, within a few days the Honourable the Finance Member came with a proposal to tax tea, coffee, betel-nuts, and tobacco and therefore the one rupee which the War Transport

[Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.]

Member had put into our pocket was immediately taken away by the other hand by this heavy taxation. So, we are as we were. One rupee is put into this pocket by one hand and taken away by the other. These things do cause misery, these things do cause discontent and, I think, therefore, the Government should reconsider their policy about the workers compensation due to the extraordinary cost of living. They have not done so with any degree of generosity. What little they have done is done most reluctantly and the miseries of the workers are beyond all description. I have told this House that the children of the workers are not getting milk and I wish to tell the Honourable the Finance Member what the Government in England have done. I read the other day that the Government in England have not only made it necessary that every child should have milk and the price of milk should be within most reasonable limits but they have given a subsidy of thirteen million lbs.—what does it come to?—in order that the children of the poor may get free milk. I think some pint is the measure which every child must get within a certain period—one day or two days, I do not remember. If the man is poor, his children get free milk; if the man is not able to buy milk at cost price, that milk is subsidized and care is taken that no single individual shall have to see his children starving for want of milk in the whole of the United Kingdom. . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is in a country where you really tax tobacco.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Tax us superior tobacco and I shall be with you. But do not kill the poor. Tax those ghouls and vampires who have taken, in the name of profit, the lives of millions of my countrymen and their countrymen. Tax them, but you have not the courage because these European business gentlemen will revolt. If you have the courage and they concur, I am with you. Tax them to the teeth until poor children get cheap milk. . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: In fairness to the European Group to which the Honourable Member pointed I should say that they have never raised any objection to taxation for war purposes, but my Honourable friend, I seem to remember, frequently has.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: If you can ever show that I will apologize hundred times. It is not possible. What I have opposed and I will continue to oppose is your regressive taxation and that point I shall develop as soon as I have finished with the requirements of working classes.

So, in these days of war, the British Government are subsidizing the milk supply of the children of the land to the extent of thirteen million pounds a year, which means that every Britisher gets a subsidy of four rupees roughly per year in the matter of milk alone. And here the rupee which you gave most reluctantly you took away by another hand. The contrast is simply astonishing and would be comic if it were not tragic in its consequence. Does he realize the result of these five years of extraordinary strain on the economic lives of the people? Does he realize the strain?

The Department of Education, Health and Lands has sent us a chart of the health conditions in this country, a country which is already living in such a low standard that you cannot imagine anything lower than that. That chart, which the Honourable Sir Jogendra Singh and his department have prepared and sent us, is a tell-tale document, and I have taken some figures out of that. One thing is simply amazing to me, and that is about the water supply of the whole country. You will be surprised that in Orissa people drink pure water to the extent of 1 per cent; 99 per cent. in Orissa drink contaminated water. In Bombay, which has the best record, 17 per cent. drink pure water; 83 per cent. of the people drink contaminated water with all the liability to diseases of all kinds and of the germs which destroy life or make it miserable while life is not extinct. In the whole of this country 95 per cent. of the people drink contaminated water. That is what I gather from the

figures given in the chart which the Honourable the Member for Education, Health and Lands sent us a few weeks ago. The expectation of life is 26 years in India against 66 in New Zealand and infant mortality is 160 per 1,000 born as against 40 in New Zealand. It is in such a country where Governments have forced a further lowering of the standards of life to the extent of one-third of the pre-war existing miserable standards which kill for every man in New Zealand four men at least and which expose and condemn to disease and low vitality practically the entire population. This is the population of which, during the war, the Finance Member has reduced the standard for the large majority of the masses to one-third of the previous pre-war standard. I cannot tell you how grieved I am at the extraordinary position which has developed. It was not necessary; it could have been avoided; it can still be avoided and it must be avoided if, as you say, the economic collapse of this country is not to ensue very soon.

Sir, I have heard that the morale of the Indian troops on the various fronts is something which is magnificent. I have no doubt about that. I am grateful to these 20 lakhs of heroes who are protecting me. I am grateful to their families which must be suffering privations on account of the depredations of the Finance Member and the Railway Member. If you want to keep their morale high in the front, it is our bounden duty that the civil morale of their people must be kept equally high, because unless the home front is strong against propaganda from the enemy, these soldiers will feel anxious about their kith and kin. When the story reaches the soldiers that the betel-nut is taxed and that tea is taxed and that the poor man's tobacco is further taxed, I am sure there will go out a breath of agony from their mouths when they will begin to feel that their near and dear ones will have to go without tea, without betel-nuts and without a little bit of tobacco. How can you keep the civilian morale high in this way? And the civilian morale must be as high as the army morale in the interests of the war effort itself, in the interests of keeping our soldiers bent on destroying the enemy in the shortest possible time. I think the Government's taxation policy must be revised. I say to the Honourable the Finance Member that there is a latin proverb which says that even if the heavens fall justice must be done. But the Honourable the Finance Member has altered it to say that even if the heavens fall, money must come. If I have the power which he has and if I want to take the money which is needed, I will take it much sooner without causing these hardships. But the way he is taking money, it is the easiest thing for a street urchin to collect this money. There is nothing of a standardised taxation according to canons of finance. Therefore, he is today unconsciously doing more harm to the war effort than the worst enemy of the war effort. What can these poor Congressmen do? They can come here and vote you down and the next day you can with a stroke of the pen say, 'I do not care a brass button what they do'.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: You object that it is not done the next day.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: They tried to do it in 1942 and true to your creed to maintain law and order, no matter what else is maintained, you suppressed them within a twinkling of an eye.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: No, they were not responsible. Don't hold them responsible.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I will come to that in due course. I am not like an ostrich with my head in the sand. I am the true follower of the Mahatma in telling the truth. You can say, no, no. I will say, yes, yes. It is purely a sentimental demonstration that they are making. They know that in the country only a few months ago nobody supported them except the newspapers. The country by silent disapproval of the sabotage movement laid it low. But the Finance Member is their best friend. What the Congress sabotage movement could not do the Government of India have done and done it in a manner for which every day the remedy is becoming less and less. The Government's

[Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.]

power of taxation and ruthless and arbitrary manner in which that power has been used has resulted in this, that while some two years ago the poor and the intelligent sections of the community were interested in the war effort, now today their pre-occupation with the question of bread and butter, the sheer question of existence, mere human existence, has become such a problem that they have no time to think of the war. You have discredited your national war effort and your propaganda by your action in leaving people no time for thinking of war in the preoccupations of the hungry. That is the position about which I am telling you because I want that my country men should take more and more interest and active interest and real interest in the prosecution of the war till victory is achieved.

My friend, Mr. Sham Lal, very kindly avowed himself to be my pupil and very affectionately called me his master. It is something to have friends in those quarters after 10 years, and I am deeply grateful to him. In the Sanskrit literature it is said that a *guru* and the father, should welcome defeat from the pupil and the son. '*Parajayam ichchhet shishyadapi putradapi*'. I wish my defeat from any *chela* if he really is, if he can convince me that when the enemy is knocking at the door, it is right, out of mere spite of the existing Government, to initiate a movement which is nothing short of sabotage. Tell me! I am telling you with equal affection with which you addressed me and you asked me to vote for you. I will vote with you a thousand times if you make it worth my voting. Your proposition must be votable in the interests of the country which will strike terror into the Japs and the Germans and not encourage them. If I have the slightest spark of patriotism in me I shall never do, no matter what the opposition, a single thing which will encourage the Japs to believe that I am waiting for my liberation from them. On the contrary, I shall fling myself, with all my weakness, in spite of my age, against them and kick them out of this country. That is what I want, But if my pupil wants me to be dragged into tactics which can only harm my country, the reasons which compelled me to separate from those Benches twelve years ago still continue.

Then, Sir, there are two or three little individual matters that I wish to refer to, before I turn to the question of taxation and the financial part of the Budget. There are hundreds and thousands of pensioners in this country. They retired in the hope that in the evening of their life they would lead a quiet, happy and contented life with the pensions which the Government was giving them. The financial policy of the Government and the war have made it impossible for these thousands of loyal servants of the Government to make both ends meet. But you are employing experts who have retired, on high salary retaining their pension, while to the pensioners you are not giving adequate relief. I know that some relief has been granted to persons getting pensions up to Rs. 40, and that shows that Government have still at the back of their mind humane instincts at least to some extent. I would like the Honourable the Finance Member and the Government of India to go a bit further and at least give to the pensioners up to Rs. 100, if not higher, something which will moderately compensate them for the rise in the cost of living. Think of the children they cannot educate. Think of the wives who go without clothes. Think of those old men who in the fifth year of the war might be struggling for their daily bread. These I can legitimately commend to the consideration of the Honourable the Finance Member.

I now turn to the various departments. The first department that I would like to take is that of the Honourable the Home Member. The Honourable the Home Member will not be here when the next budget is discussed and I wish to bid him a most affectionate farewell.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Very affectionate!

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: I know that he has to carry out a policy, part of which may not be of his own making. He has never, I regret, responded to my call to punish the criminals of Nandurbar for having shot innocent children

dead. He has not often found it possible to respond to my appeal for relief to those who were innocent and yet had been involved in this sabotage repression. But I also know that if there are persons intellectually honest in this country, tlien Sir Reginald Maxwell is at the top. I am grateful to him. If he had not been the Home Secretary in Bombay in 1933, the funeral of late Mr. Vithalbai J. Patel, the President of this Assembly, could not have been taken place in the magnificent manner in which it was possible to be done. There were people who wanted to go outside the police orders, and an order of the Chief Presidency Magistrate to stop the procession of that funeral was actually being issued. I was one of the members of the committee who were in charge of the funeral ceremony of the late Mr. V. J. Patel, and myself along with Mrs. Naidu and one or two more went to Mr. (as he then was) Maxwell, and told him that he should accept our word as against the news that he was getting, that there would be no difficulty in carrying out the orders of the police. The orders were based on the international law that the coffin of a dead body coming from a foreign country may not be opened and carried through the streets. The dead body must remain in the box. There was some fear that some enthusiastic admirers of the late Mr. V. J. Patel might want to carry his dead body in the streets open against the international convention regarding the same. The public were wondering what would happen, they were wondering whether the procession would be stopped. The order of the Chief Presidency Magistrate was almost signed, if not actually signed. At that moment we went to Sir Reginald Maxwell and requested him to believe us that we as a committee would be able to control the citizens of Bombay and that no attempt would be made to defy the orders of the police either as regard the opening of that coffin or the route of the procession. We told him that the only thing that we would do was to put up a portrait of Mr. V. J. Patel on the coffin in the bier so that the public might have a look at it while they could not look at the dead body, while in the cremation grounds the dead body would be exposed for six hours before it was cremated. On that verbal assurance of ours, Mr. Maxwell as he then was, permitted the procession. From that day till this, in spite of my serious differences of opinion with him on the various Ordinances, I have always felt and still feel that a more intellectually honest civil servant has not come to this country, and in his retirement I wish him all joy and rest. But before he goes I must tell him one or two things. One thing is that the Honourable the Home Member is never betrayed into any irritation while speaking in this House. That is one characteristic thing about him. Whether we are responsible or irresponsible, angry, irritated, demonstrative, noisy, he retains a quiet dignity. When addressing us and all the time he treats us as a parliamentary Opposition. But even he was betrayed the other day into making rather a disparaging statement about Honourable Members. He said that we were travelling luxuriously in the third class, while accepting a higher travelling allowance. That statement was not worthy of him. He was betrayed into it by noisy demonstrations here. But it came to me more as a sting, and he forgot himself, if at all, once, if only once. We do not get £600 salary which the members of Parliament get. We do not get first class travelling pass which members of Parliament get in order to go to their constituencies. We have to spend on elections any amount from Rs. 10,000 and sometimes more according to the purse of the man, and for a man without standing in public life it may even reach six figures. But Rs. 10,000 is quite the ordinary expenditure. We do not make, while we are here, even the interest on those Rs. 10,000. I tell him that what we get is not enough even to carry on as an efficient parliamentary member. A typist is needed; one or two telegrams daily have to be sent. You have to bring two servants, you have to incur in these days of heavy cost of living an extraordinary scale of expenditure. At that time to taunt us like that, that we were luxuriously travelling in third class!—I assure him that I do not travel in the third class. For my work first class is necessary. I can travel in goods train if there is no work. I am not a snob. But my work requires that I should travel in a first class and even that has become extremely difficult on account of the crowds of

[Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.]

passengers; when I am spending money out of my own pocket for three years or five years and when I am getting meagre allowances, which do not defray the cost of election at all, which do not even pay the interest on election expenses; if you are a real conscientious Member of this House, you must be out of pocket. Because the number of calls on your purse, as if you were a millionaire, are daily and continuous. Some *Najumi* comes and promises you untold wealth, if you pay him Rs. 2. The organiser of some charitable show tells me 'This is a hard case. You should buy a ticket'. Some social functionary comes and tells me that the price of the ticket is Rs. 7-14-0 and I have got to buy one. (An Honourable Member: "What about kissing?") Are you referring to young ladies giving a kiss for money? Well, I am coming to that. That is the fourth method of taxation of my Honourable friend the Finance Member. Taxation, borrowing and inflation have now been supplemented by osculation. I shall come to that subject tomorrow, if I have no time today but today I want to complete my submission to the Honourable the Home Member. Such a taunt was not expected of him. I am willing to forget that. I am sure he himself must regret what in a rather oversight he was betrayed into saying. Having said that, I want to submit that the Parliamentary duties of Members of this House in this country are far more onerous than perhaps even in England from many points of view. We have also always to remember that we have a constant espionage on us and to keep out of track of the espionage on us, we have also got to spend some money. If I telephone, I am not sure that somebody is not overhearing it. If I am attending a meeting, I am not sure that somebody is not spying on me. This requires at least some expenditure—to keep yourself away from the attentions of this fraternity of spiers whom every worker has to fear.

Well, Sir, the last point on which I wish to say something, on these individual matters, is the question of newsprint. I find that this does not apply to the Home Member to whom I have made my submission and I once more wish him an affectionate farewell and rest in his retirement. God knows whether it is the Commerce Member or the Supply Member or the Labour Member who controls this paper business but I will assume that my Honourable friend, Sir Azizul Huque can at least be called to account.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): To the extent I am responsible.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Yes, to that extent. There is not a day when I do not get some request from a journalist or a budding journalist for some permission to buy newsprint. Government allow to some papers two editions, one in Delhi and the other in Calcutta, or one in Calcutta and the other in Lucknow or other places. There are journalists who go without even a single paper to expound their political views to the public. I do not wish to mention names because it would be invidious. Quite a number of very respectable, responsible journalists, men who are held in high estimation among the public, have applied to his department for permits to buy paper or for the supply of paper, which has been withheld for weeks and months, while those more fortunately situated get it for the mere asking. That is at least the complaint that has reached me. I would send a list of these applicants to my Honourable friend, without saying that he is doing it unjustly or he is discriminating but the appearance is that some get all that they need and others do not get any.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Are you referring to the newsreel or the paper that is purchased in the market?

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Both. I would send the case for your sympathetic examination and just action; so that there may not be a feeling of grievance left in the mind of any journalist that favouritism and partiality are being practised, where fairness and equality are due.

I now turn to the subject of taxation and the way in which the Honourable the Finance Member is obtaining his money. There are three ways of obtaining your money and the fourth, which has been recently introduced, is the osculatory method for getting money. I read the other day in the papers that a very

anorous looking old Sikh gentleman paid Rs. 2,500 for getting a kiss on his forehead. I am told that his son also joined in this game. I was reminded of a play in London called 'Girl in the Taxi'. This young lady got a virtue prize at school but later became the joint mistress of a father, son and son-in-law. If this young lady from America simply practised as a sport, according to the custom of her country, I have no objection to her doing it. It might have been to humour an old man and also to see how she felt with the beard against her chin. Perhaps that was what she was after. But I may tell the Government that the traditions of this country are different. This old Sikh gentleman would not have given a fatherly kiss to his daughter and paid her Rs. 2,500. Otherwise, the daughter would be only too glad to kiss every day and claim Rs. 2,500. Let him try that. But, the kiss which he gave is an outrage on the sentiments of the Indians. We do not like that thing, even if Rs. 2,500 were to go to fund in China. (Interruption.) Sir Cowasjee Jehangir is not pursuing this kissing incident with the same attention with which I have been. In my country this thing is considered as nothing short of an outrage. I would not allow even for the victory over the whole world, a fellow with or without a beard to kiss my daughter for Rs. 2,500 or several multiples of that sum or several million multiples of it. That is not the tradition of this country and I make my humble appeal to the powers that be that this kind of practice must be stopped immediately. Otherwise you will be considered as sharers in this kind of scandalous behaviour. They should not encourage it. As regards the poor Sikh gentleman, nobody is a greater fool than an old fool and a fool and his money soon part. I do beg that hereafter that kind of thing should not be allowed to disgrace the public life of this country.

As regards the other methods of taxation, I want to submit to the Honourable the Finance Member that of the three, I like taxation most. I hate inflation the worst and I give a medium place to borrowing under certain conditions. I find that the public debt of this country has increased by nearly 800 crores since the war began

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is now 5 o'clock. The Honourable Member can continue his speech tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 22nd March, 1944.