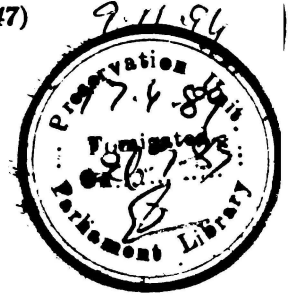


7th February, 1947

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
Official Report

Volume 1, 1947

(3rd February, 1947 to 18th February, 1947)



THIRD SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
1947

Chamber Designated 18.7.73.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Deputy President :

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

Sardar MANGAL SINGH, M.L.A.

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Committee on Petitions :

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Shri SRI PRAKASA, M.L.A.

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

Sardar MANGAL SINGH, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 7th February, 1947

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

WITHDRAWAL OF FACILITIES FROM EMPLOYEES POSTAL DEPARTMENT FROM JOINING UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES FOR ACQUIRING HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS.

110. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state:

(a) if it is a fact that employees of the Postal Department are debarred from joining the universities and colleges for acquiring higher academic qualifications or from appearing in their examinations; if so, the reasons for the same;

(b) if it is a fact that the Posts and Telegraphs Department has withdrawn the facility enjoyed by their employees of studying in higher classes which was prevalent in it since long wherever it was possible; if so, why and since when;

(c) the number of employees who have been punished for acquiring higher academic qualifications in Agra, the punishment awarded to them and whether Government propose to consider the desirability of rescinding orders of punishment; and

(d) if it is a fact that the withdrawal of the facility referred to above is against the spirit of the recommendations of the Whitley Commission?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) No. Employees in the Posts and Telegraphs can join educational institutions with previous permission provided this does not interfere with their official duties.

(b) No.

(c) Only one official has been punished. He was discharged because he had joined a college without obtaining the permission of the department and it was found that his studies were interfering with his normal duties. An appeal from this man is under consideration.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply to item (a).

DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION OF SERVICES UNDER THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

111. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state:

(a) if Government have finalised their plan, if any, for the development and expansion of the services under the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department;

(b) if Government propose to lay that plan on the table of the House; and

(c) the steps Government have taken or propose to take to execute their plan?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) and (b). A copy† of the 15-year Post-War Plan of the Department along with the revised estimates for the first 5-year phase is placed on the table of the House. The Plan has been put into its final form only for the first 5-year period.

† Not printed in the Debates. Copies placed in the Library of the House.—*Ed. of D.*

(c) A beginning has already been made in the current year and sanction of the Standing Finance Committee for expenditure to be incurred in 1947-48 is being sought. A special Development Branch of the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate with a number of technical experts is being formed for Planning and co-ordinating the work in the various Circles.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Was the Standing Committee for this Department consulted about this plan?

Sir Harold Shoobert: Yes, Sir, The Standing Committee for this Department was consulted about this Post-War Plan.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES IN RURAL AREAS.

112. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state:

(a) the steps Government are taking or propose to take for providing postal facilities in rural areas;

(b) if Government have any plan for providing telegraphic facilities in every town or at least tehsil town; if so, what; and

(c) the number of post offices opened in the villages and the telegraph offices opened in the towns since 1st April, 1946, uptill now?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) Additional staff are being posted to the Circles to investigate where, in rural areas, new Post Offices and increased delivery facilities are needed and, with the assistance of the Directorate, the Circles are engaged in opening up new areas.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to page 20 of the printed Post-War Plan of the Posts and Telegraphs Department which is laid on the table of the House. †

(c) Since the 1st of April 1946, 475 new post offices have been opened in rural areas and 20 new telegraph offices in various towns.

Seth Govind Das: Will Government consider the advisability of opening every year a number of post offices in rural areas and make grants accordingly, so that there may be a natural and gradual development of post offices in rural areas?

Sir Harold Shoobert: A plan has been made accordingly by Government, and even during the period of the war new rural post offices were being opened all over India. During the post-war period the intention is to open far more rural post offices. I think the Honourable Member is aware that we aim at having a post office in every village of 2,000 inhabitants.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is the Honourable Member aware that in many of these rural post offices savings bank facilities do not exist and that in some rural post offices where savings bank facilities did exist they have been since withdrawn?

Sir Harold Shoobert: That is a fact. It is really due to the lack of demand for savings bank business. Where there is a low-paid official in charge of a rural post-office and where there is very little demand for savings bank work, it would not be economic for the department to provide such facilities.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is it a fact that this step, *viz.*, the withdrawal or contraction of savings bank facilities, was decided upon mainly because there were defalcations in some post offices and the authorities could not find any remedy for the same?

Sir Harold Shoobert: That, Sir, is partially correct. A few years ago there were a number of defalcations in the post offices and it was very difficult to check them. But I may assure the Honourable Member that wherever possible we shall extend not only savings bank facilities but all the other facilities afforded by the post office.

† Not printed in these Debates. Copies placed in the Library of the House.—Ed. of D.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know from the Honourable Member how many of the new post offices opened in rural areas are being run by extra departmental agents?

Sir Harold Shoobert: I am afraid I must have notice of that question.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know from the Honourable Member whether it is not a fact that these post offices generally are run by extra departmental agents?

Sir Harold Shoobert: Some of them are full-fledged post offices and some of them are run by extra-departmental agents.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that money orders are very often inordinately delayed, because of lack of facilities with the post masters in these rural areas and that the addressees of money orders are consequently put to considerable inconvenience and even loss?

Sir Harold Shoobert: If the Honourable Member refers to the fact that sometimes when a money order arrives the local post master has not sufficient funds at his disposal to deal with it, I shall be happy to look into the matter upon the Honourable Member giving me specific instances. There may have been such cases in regard to family allotment money during the course of the war but every step possible was taken to meet the demands.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it the policy of Government to encourage self-contained post offices and discourage post offices run by extra-departmental agents?

Sir Harold Shoobert: The policy of the Government has not been formulated yet but recommendations have been made to Government that as far as possible post offices should be run departmentally rather than through extra-departmental agents. But the Postal Department has always been organised on commercial lines and we must spend the taxpayer's money and the receipts from the post offices in the most economic way possible. Therefore in many cases, where there is not a day's work for the post master, it is necessary to have an extra departmental agent.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member aware that during the past three years there was a definite direction from the Public Accounts Committee that in view of the fact that extra-departmental post offices are not being run as efficiently as ordinary post offices and in view of the fact that there are often cases of defalcation and embezzlement, the policy of the Government should be more in the direction of opening full-fledged post offices? Does the Honourable Member bear that in mind?

Sir Harold Shoobert: Government is bearing in mind that opinion expressed in the Public Accounts Committee and it is organising post offices as far as possible accordingly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made to increase the remuneration or salary of these extra-departmental post masters in the villages?

Sir Harold Shoobert: That is a matter with which we have been dealing through the Pay Commission and the recommendations of the Pay Commission will be awaited. But I must explain to the Honourable Member that these extra-departmental agents are in some cases school masters, in some cases cattle-pound keepers, in certain other cases zamindars and so on. Government pays them a small salary for it is only a subsidiary occupation when they run a post office. They already have their own means of livelihood.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the postal peons who are supposed to be under the extra-departmental post-masters are being paid Rs. 40 and Rs. 50 per month including dearness allowance, whereas the extra-departmental post masters themselves are being paid only Rs. 7 or 8 per month?

Sir Harold Shoobert: That is not quite correct, Sir. The Extra Departmental Postmasters draw varying emoluments; they also draw some dearness allowance and receive other concessions. But it is a fact that some of the runners and postal peons get more because the Extra Departmental man has his own income and does not depend upon what he gets from the post office.

REMOVAL OF GRIEVANCES *re* PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE EMPLOYEES.

113. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to remove the grievances of the postal, telegraph and telephone employees since 1st April, 1946; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to remove these grievances now, particularly, in respect of their pay, dearness allowance, hours and conditions of work and amenities?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House—

(b) The Pay Commission has been enquiring into the matters referred to by the Honourable member and after receipt of their report, Government will take their decision.

Statement

Government implemented the Award of the Adjudicator who was appointed in March, 1946, to report on the extent of additional monetary relief that would be justified for P. & T. employees on the revised scale of pay (A copy placed in the Library of the House). Besides this, the following additional concessions were granted with effect from the 1st July, 1946, to the non-gazetted staff:—

(i) Good Conduct Pay was granted irrespective of pay limits;

(ii) House rent allowance for postmen and inferior servants was substantially increased in Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi and Madras;

(iii) The minimum of the compensatory house rent allowance in Calcutta and Bombay was fixed at Rs. 10 per mensem.

(iv) A house rent allowance of Rs. 10 per mensem was granted in Madras to all, except postmen and inferior servants who were already in receipt of this allowance;

(v) Staff of all grades in Calcutta, both on the old and the new scales of pay, who were not already in receipt of compensatory allowance, were granted this allowance at the rates for corresponding grades in Bombay on the revised rates of pay;

(vi) Staff on the old scales of pay in Bombay, who were not receiving compensatory allowance, were granted this allowance at the rates for corresponding grades on the revised scales;

(vii) Staff on the unified scales were allowed the option of reverting to their permanent departmental scales for the purpose of becoming eligible for relief recommended by the Adjudicator. No re-adjustments were made of pay and allowances drawn prior to the 1st July, 1946, but bonus for any period already drawn under the unified scale scheme was deducted from arrears of personal pay to which the officials were entitled under the Award of the Adjudicator, for the same period;

(viii) Among other measures taken to redress the grievances of Posts and Telegraphs employees were the abolition of the distinction between superior and inferior servants in the matter of pension; the grant of compensation to postmen and packers who are required to work on Sundays and public holidays, in the shape of either compensatory holidays, or Re. 1 for each holiday on which they are required to work; increase in the extra-duty allowance to R. M. S. officials; confirmation without examination of postmen and packers, etc., who have officiated satisfactorily for a prescribed minimum period; the raising of the percentage of posts in the clerical cadre reserved for postmen who qualify themselves in the prescribed test, from 20 per cent. to 50 per cent.; the assurance that if any temporary employee is displaced owing to retrenchment, etc., he shall be offered an appointment in any other unit of recruitment in the same Circle in which there are vacancies; the assurance that applications for gratuities from the Compassionate Fund shall be considered in a liberal spirit; and the creation of leave reserve cadres for postmen and lower grade staff.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: May I know, Sir, when the Report of the Pay Commission is expected?

Sir Harold Shoobert: I am afraid I am not in a position to tell the Honourable Member.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Government look into the grievances of the subscribers of telephones who are not attended to by the telephone operators?

Sir Harold Shoobert: Sir, Government is looking into those grievances daily.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact, Sir, that these grievances have increased greatly during the last few years?

Sir Harold Shoobert: It is a fact, Sir.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Government appoint a Compensation Commission for aggrieved subscribers, to look into this matter as they have appointed a Pay Commission for the other side?

Sir Harold Shoobert: No, Sir.

DAILY POSTAL SERVICE TO VILLAGES IN INDIA.

114. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal:** Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state:

(a) if Government have any plan to provide at least daily postal service to every village in India by including it in the delivery area of a post office in the vicinity; if so, what; and

(b) if they have any plan for ensuring the occasional visit, say, twice a week at least from a village postman in those thousands of villages which have not got this benefit so far; if so, what?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) It would not be practicable to extend a daily postal service to every village in India the number of which exceeds 650,000.

(b) As indicated in page 15 of the Posts and Telegraphs Post-War Plan, the extension as far as possible of postal deliveries to 'No-Dak' villages is being given a high priority amongst the various development schemes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How long do Government expect to take before they are able to provide daily postal deliveries to every village?

Sir Harold Shoobert: I must have notice of that question, Sir. We are aiming to provide more frequent deliveries in as many villages as possible. There are at present a large number of villages—I have not got the figure—which do not get a daily delivery, but it is our policy to extend the daily service where it is needed and justified.

INCREASE OF RATIONS OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN IN INDIA.

115. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state the number of persons subject to the rationing of cereals in India?

(b) Do Government propose to increase the basic ration for adults and children at an early date?

(c) Do Government propose to make an early statement in the House on the general food situation?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) Approximately 159 millions.

(b) No, Sir. The basic cereal ration in all the Provinces is 12 ozs. per adult per day with a supplementary ration of 4 ozs. per head per day for defined heavy manual workers. Children get half the adult basic cereal ration. This scale was determined by supplies available for distribution; and until they improve, an increase in the basic ration cannot be considered.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the "Memorandum on Food Situation" circulated to Members of the House at the commencement of the Session.

Seth Govind Das: May I know whether there is any possibility of further reduction in the ration of adults?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Does the Honourable Member mean reduction in the scale?

Seth Govind Das: Yes, Sir.

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Not at present.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I know whether Government have made special arrangements for special cereal ration in respect of nursing and expectant mothers?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: No, Sir.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Government consider the desirability of going into this question as was done in England last time?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Some of the Provincial Governments had special milk distribution schemes for nursing and expectant mothers.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India has got any average statistics as to the number of nursing and expectant mothers every year?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: No, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lal: May I know whether the Honourable member can give any information to the House in regard to the allocations made by the Emergency Food Council for the quarter beginning the 1st of January?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The information is contained in the Memorandum circulated to the House. But for the information of the House I might mention that in respect of wheat, the allocation made by the I. E. F. C. is 2.3 million tons of wheat and wheat substitutes, and in respect of rice the allocation made is 4.1 lakh tons, during the first three months of the year.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Government please consider the question of calculating the average statistics of nursing and expectant mothers from the average birth statistics every year and on that basis consider the desirability of examining the proposition of giving extra quota to these nursing and expectant mothers?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Sir, Government will consider the Honourable Member's suggestion.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know, Sir, whether Government will consider the suggestion that the whole scale of rations of rice may be given to people from the South and that the people from the Punjab and Northern India may take the whole wheat ration? At present the ration is six chattaks of wheat and three chattaks of rice to all people.

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The Honourable Member's suggestion is subject matter of a separate question, Sir, tabled on the 17th.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable member in a position to tell the House what this basic ration means in terms of calories, and whether he is aware that this basic ration does not amount to more than 1250 calories?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The calorific value will vary according to the grains taken by the consumers who have a choice in the matter.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: May I ask how long the rationing system will last in India?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: As long as the shortage lasts, Sir.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable member aware that according to international nutritional standards the minimum requirement is 2500 calories? And did he keep that in view when he fixed this ration which gives only 1250 calories? Is he aware that in the estimation of the nutrition experts

this is absolutely inadequate for the nutrition of the adult population of this country?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Sir, the ration scales are determined by the availability of supplies.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: In view of the fact that Delhi has got the highest percentage of urban population will Government consider the desirability of restoring the cut made in wheat recently?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: As I mentioned previously, Sir, this is the subject matter of a specific question on the 17th.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered the desirability of supplementing the rations provided by them by making available to the public about 40,000 tons of undisposed of food material which is available with the Disposals Department as surplus from the American as well as the Indian Army and which, I understand, is being offered to the United Kingdom? May I know whether Government have considered this possibility?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: These surplus foodstuffs are available for sale to the consumers, and it is proposed to offer to H. M. G. only what cannot be taken up in this country.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government will make an offer to all public retail depots where the surplus could be sold, because the ordinary man does not know the procedure how to reach these goods; and if Government will distribute to the retail shops they will substantially supplement the very meagre ration which they are giving.

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: These surplus foodstuffs have been supplied to retailers throughout India and I believe they are available in all important towns.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that the scale of ration in wheat and rice is the same for vegetarians and non-vegetarians, and in view of the fact that there is no rationing of meat will be honourable member consider the desirability of giving higher rations to pure vegetarians like myself?

(No answer was given.)

Diwan Chaman Lall: Will my Honourable friend tell the House as to whether this 2.3 million tons of wheat allocated by the International Emergency Food Council represents the period of the year or the period of the quarter?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: It represents the whole year.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Secondly, may I know whether my Honourable friend has considered the possibility of getting extra quantities from those countries which are not represented on the Emergency Food Council, and if so, what quantities?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: All possible avenues of getting additional foodgrains are being explored, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know how far these approaches have been successful?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: I cannot say at present, but as soon as some settlement is reached I will report to the House.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask whether there is any limit to supplementary questions?

Lala Deshbandu Gupta: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that wheat recently imported from Canada is of a very poor quality and there is general complaint in Delhi against that?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: No, Sir.

Lala Deshbandu Gupta: Is the Honourable Member aware that barley imported from outside has got about 33 per cent of material which is not fit for human consumption and thereby practically the actual ration is reduced to that extent?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: No, Sir.

CEMENT FACTORIES IN INDIA

116. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether orders for cement machinery have been placed by all those to whom licences to establish new cement factories have recently been granted under the Government of India plan of increasing cement production in the country;

(b) if the reply to part (a) is in the negative, the number of the licensees who have not yet placed the orders;

(c) the number of such orders that have been placed in the United Kingdom and the number in other countries, giving the names of such countries; and

(d) whether adequate facilities to collect necessary information were given and are being given to the licensees regarding the availability of such machinery in countries which manufacture it?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) and (b). Licences have so far been given for 27 units of Cement Machinery. Of these, orders have been placed for 21 units.

(c) The orders for the main units of Cement Machinery have been placed as follows: U. K.—4 units, U. S. A.—1 unit, Denmark—10 units, India—6 units, (Total—21).

Orders for auxiliary machinery have nearly all been placed in U. K.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Consulting Engineer (Cement) has given all information available to parties or persons who have asked for such information.

Seth Govind Das: Before the present Interim Government came into power, an effort was being made that most of the machinery should be taken from the U. K. Will the present Government see that no such effort is made in future and the licensees may take machinery from whatever countries they think it proper?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I have given factual information. It is not possible or proper for me to go into what efforts were made by the previous governments and whether they were frustrated.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether it is a fact—the Honourable Member is in a position to say now,—that three companies were recommended by the Bombay Government and one of these three companies have received a license?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The question of application for capital issues from Bombay, is it?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Licences for manufacturing cement in Bombay were applied for and they have not been given. If the Honourable Member cannot give the information now, I do not press it.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I shall look into it if the Honourable Member will give notice.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: May I know how many of the 27 units have been allotted to the N. W. F. P.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: If it is a question of provincial distribution, if accurate information is to be given, I should like to have notice of the question.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: In view of the fact that six companies placed orders in India, will the Government see to it that more orders are placed with Indian firms?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: One of the obligations of private enterprise is that they must think these out for themselves and not leave it to Government. Let me give the information that the six units orders for which were placed in India were units to be executed in Associated Cement Company's own workshops. If it had been possible to make the units here, I do not think the orders would have gone to foreign countries. The distribution is fairly even as honourable members will see that out of 21 units ten units have gone to Denmark, four units to the U. K. one unit to the U. S. A. and six to India.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware that not a single licence has been given to the province of Bombay and if so, may I ask the Honourable Member what has happened to the several applications which were submitted to the Honourable Member's Department?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: About the claims of Bombay, I would like to have notice of a definite question.

APPOINTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL 'INDIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN U. S. A., SOVIET RUSSIA AND U. K.

117. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the extreme necessity of establishing closer scientific connections with technically advanced countries like the United States of America, the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic, and the United Kingdom by adequate scientific or technical representation of India in these countries;

(b) whether Government are aware that as early as in 1940 the Dominion Governments had appointed scientific liaison officers to their High Commissioner's offices in London while the office for Scientific Research and Development of the United States of America has set up at the Embassy in London an office for the exchange of scientific and technical information; and

(c) the steps that the Government of India are taking in this direction and whether any such scientific connections have been established; if none, when these connections will be established with the United States of America, the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic and the United Kingdom?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a), (b) and (c). Although these particular offices have not yet been set up, an Indian Scientific Mission have visited United Kingdom, United States of America and Canada in order to see recent developments in scientific and technical research in those countries. Besides, eminent Scientists are being sent by the Government of India from time to time to contact scientists in foreign countries in order to familiarise themselves with upto-date developments abroad. The establishment of liaison officers on full time tenure in the United Kingdom, United States of America and the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republic is under consideration.

Seth Govind Das: What is the reason that so far the Scientific Mission did not go to Russia?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: It is an interesting question but everybody is aware of the difficulties in getting any information out of the Soviet Republic.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will care be taken that only Indians are sent and not non-Indians?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: In such matters they must first be competent men, apart from Indian or other and it is very likely that they will be all Indians.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not the policy of the Government to give first preference to Indians themselves?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: I have already said that scientific liaison officers have not been set up and it is premature to talk as to who must be given preference.

CO-ORDINATION OF ALL RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH UNDER ONE ORGANISATION

118. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if Government are aware that at present the research organisation of the Central Government remains scattered under a number of separate departments or bodies most of which have many other duties and preoccupations and therefore, cannot co-ordinate their efforts in the best interest of research?

(b) Do Government propose to co-ordinate all these research organisations under one central organisation for scientific research under a single Minister?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) and (b). The question of securing greater co-ordination in Research activities of the various Government and other Scientific institutions in India was recently considered by Government and it has been decided that the work of co-ordination be entrusted to a Scientific Consultative Committee with an enlarged membership. The attention of the Honourable member is invited to Government Resolution No. 30-SR/46, dated the 3rd December, 1946, on the subject, a copy of which is placed on the table.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES & SUPPLIES
(PLANNING DIVISION)

RESOLUTION

CO-ORDINATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
New Delhi, the 3rd December, 1946.

No. 30-SR/46.—In December 1944, the Government of India constituted a Scientific Consultative Committee with the following personnel, under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Member for Planning and Development, to advise the Government of India on all general questions of policy relating to research throughout India and on any special matters relating to research which may be specifically referred to it:—

NON-OFFICIALS :

Sir C. V. Raman, F.R.S.
Sir Jnan Ghosh,
Prof. Megnad Saha, F.R.S.
Dr. Nazir Ahmad.
Col. Sir Ramnath Chopra.

OFFICIALS :

The Master-General of Ordnance.
The Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research or the Agricultural Commissioner to the Government of India,
The Director-General, Indian Medical Service,
The Director, Geological Survey,
The Director, Scientific and Industrial Research.

2. Government have had under consideration for some time the question of securing greater co-ordination in research activities of the various Government and other Scientific institutions in India and, after having given careful consideration to the proposals made in that behalf by Prof. A. V. Hill, F.R.S., in his Report on "Scientific Research in India" and by the

Industrial Research Planning Committee, have come to the conclusion that the work could most appropriately be entrusted to the Scientific Consultative Committee with an enlarged Membership so as to include representatives of all important branches of Scientific Research. It has accordingly been decided to reconstitute the Committee, and to entrust to it the functions specified below.

3. COMPOSITION.

1. The Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Industries and Supplies—Chairman.
2. The Director, Scientific and Industrial Research—Vice-Chairman.
3. Sir C. V. Raman, F.R.S.
4. Sir Jnan Ghosh.
5. Prof. Beghnad Saha, F.R.S.
6. Dr. Nazir Ahmad.
7. Col. Sir Ramnath Chopra.
8. The President, National Institute of Sciences of India.
9. Prof. Sir K. S. Krishnan, F.R.S.
10. Prof. Birbal Sahni, F.R.S.
11. Prof. H. J. Bhabha, F.R.S.
12. An Engineer of eminence selected by the Institute of Engineers (India).
13. The Director, Geological Survey of India.
14. The Master-General of Ordnance.
15. The Vice-Chairman of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research or the Agricultural Commissioner with the Government of India.
16. The Director-General, Indian Medical Service.
17. The Director-General of Observatories.
18. The President, Forest Research Institute.
19. The Chairman, Central Waterways Irrigation and Navigation Commission.
20. The Animal Husbandry Commissioner with the Government of India.

FUNCTIONS

(1) To advise the Government of India on all general questions of policy relating to research throughout India and on any special matters relating to research which may be specifically referred to it.

2. To co-ordinate scientific research which would include—

(a) Compilation and publication of information regarding research facilities available in India and of the work being done in India in both official and non-official organisations. (This will not affect the publication of reports by scientific departments and associations which will continue as hitherto.);

(b) Suggesting ways and means by which the research work in various institutions can be better co-ordinated;

(c) Considering, in particular, the progress of research work requiring collaboration of more than one departments.

For the purpose stated in (a), (b) and (c) above, research programmes will be called for by the Scientific Consultative Committee;

and (d) Constituting a focus for all official scientific activities and acting as a channel through which official communications may be made to other countries respecting scientific matters generally. (This would not preclude direct communication between institutions and their opposite numbers in other countries.)

4. The Committee will be attached to the Department of Industries and Supplies. A Deputy Secretary of the Department will be Secretary to the Committee.

5. The Government of India hope that all persons interested in the cause of Scientific Research in India will extend their full co-operation to the Committee in the discharge of their duties.

ORDERED that a copy of this Resolution be communicated to all Provincial Governments and Chief Commissioners and all Departments of the Government of India.

ORDERED also that the Resolution be published in the *Gazette of India* for information.

H. K. KIRPALANI,
Additional Secretary.

CONTROL OF FODDER AND MILK PRICES

119. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to state if Government are aware that while price of milk is no more than 4d. per pint in London, in Delhi the average price is 10 annas?

(b) Are Government aware that measures of milk control practised in various parts of the country have proved to be an utter failure in the absence of adequate control of fodder prices?

(c) In view of the fact that the control of fodder prices is the prerequisite of any control of milk prices, do Government propose to see that the prices of milk are controlled after fodder prices are fixed?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The price of milk in London is 3 shillings per gallon which works out at three annas two pies per lb. The price in Delhi is from four to five annas per lb.

(b) The price of milk is controlled only in certain areas in the Punjab and in Bombay, apart from the Centrally Administered areas. Government have no information that these controls have been unsuccessful in the absence of adequate control of fodder prices.

(c) The prices of oilcakes are controlled by several Provincial Governments. It is not considered feasible to control the prices of fodders but it is expected that if the price of milk is controlled, those of fodders will adjust themselves thereto.

Seth Govind Das: Are Government aware that till recently the prices of milk were controlled in Jubbulpore and the prices of fodder were not controlled?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The reply we have had from the Government of the Central Provinces is that prices of milk are not controlled in the C. P. at present.

Seth Govind Das: Only recently the control has been lifted. I asked about this in the last session. Will the Government consider the desirability of controlling the fodder prices, not only of oil cakes but of other fodder material as well?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: As I have just said, the price of oil cakes is already controlled in most provinces. The question of controlling the prices of other fodders, such as, grass, bhusa and so on, presents considerable practical difficulties and the Provincial Governments feel that it will not be possible for them to control their prices.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: In view of the fact that the control of the price of fodder will decrease the quality of fodder, will the Government of India consider for the preservation of the health of the animals of India to refuse to give them such fodder?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The matter rests entirely with the Provincial Governments and if they find that it is feasible and advisable to control the prices, they will do so. If they consider that it will not be practicable or that it is inadvisable to do so for the reasons mentioned by the Honourable Member they will take action accordingly.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is the Honourable Member aware that pure milk is not available even at the price mentioned in the question, namely, 10 annas per seer? What steps Government propose to take to obtain the supply of pure milk in Delhi?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Yes, Sir, Government are aware of the fact that pure milk is unobtainable in most parts of the country, particularly in towns. In their programme of development there are various schemes in order to enable more milk to be produced and more milk to be available for the towns. In particular, there is a scheme for bringing in a large quantity of milk for the city of Delhi from the rural areas and the details are being worked out.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I understand from the Honourable Member that there has been scarcity of fodder? If so, to what extent has this scarcity been due to its utilization as food by the rationing authorities?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: It is a fact that there is an acute scarcity of fodder in many parts of the country and efforts have been made even to import fodder from other countries to meet our needs.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the fact that the summer is fast approaching, may I ask the Honourable Member what steps has he taken to arrange extra quantity of milk for the preparation of ice-cream not only for the people of Delhi but especially for the vegetarian Members of this House like my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The general policy of the Government is not to encourage the consumption of luxury articles like ice-cream, but to make milk available to those who need it most as milk.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (a) of the question, may I know what proportion of water there is in every pound of milk supplied in London and supplied in Delhi besides the 80 per cent. that there naturally is in the purest milk?

Mr. Deputy President: Next question.

LICENCES TO COTTON MANUFACTURERS IN MADRAS FOR IMPORTING LOOMS AND SPINDLES.

120. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact as reported in certain sections of the press that the Government of India do not propose to cancel as recommended by the Madras Government the licenses given to various cotton manufacturers in Madras for importing looms and spindles; and

(b) whether it is a fact that in view of the above, the quota of looms and spindles allotted to Madras Province for post war cotton textile development would now be consumed by that province as originally proposed?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India do not propose to cancel the licences given.

(b) This, it is believed, will follow.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are the Government aware of the statement made by the Madras Premier that he contests the legality of the claims made by the prospective mill-owners and also the decision taken by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: No such statement has been officially received, but it may have been in the press. I believe that that contention will not have much favour in the Government of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does that mean that the Government of India and the Madras Government will go to the Federal Court?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: It means that the claim of the Madras Government is altogether wrong in this matter.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Would it be possible for the Honourable Member to declare the areas occupied by these mills in Madras as Centrally Administered areas in Madras?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: It will not be possible, but I do not think there will be a war really on that matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does this decision of the Government of India apply even in regard to those people who have only taken the licence from the Government of India but who have not taken any steps either to place orders in England or in other countries for textile machinery?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: If there are any such cases where there is no moral or material commitment, it is for the Madras Government to pick them out and prevent them from the utilisation of the licences if so minded, but it is premature to build on mere possibilities.

EXTENSION OF SALE OF VICTORY STAMPS

121. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state the reasons why sale of Victory Stamps has been extended by a month more till the end of January 1947?

(b) Are Government aware that Victory Stamps of all denominations are not available at most of the Post Offices in India, particularly in Delhi and Poona?

(c) Are Government aware that only 1½ anna Victory Stamps are available at General Post Office in Poona and none whatsoever at Poona's Branch Post Offices?

(d) Are Government aware that even in Delhi Branch Post Offices no Victory Stamps of any value are available for sale to public?

(e) Since the time limit for sale of these has been extended by one month, do Government propose to see that sufficient quantity of these stamps of all denominations are made available for sale at all Post Offices, particularly in Delhi and Poona?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) The date was extended as it was anticipated that on the 31st December, 1946, there would be a considerable stock of unsold Victory Stamps.

(b) to (e). Government are aware that the stock of Victory Stamps in some of the Post Offices had temporarily run out. Steps were taken to replenish the stock of Victory Stamps at all Post Offices throughout India.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that my Honourable friend is anxious to have some Victory stamps and I possess them, will Government permit me to part with them to him at black market rates?

Sir Harold Shoobert: No, Sir.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Not even if it is for archæological interest?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I suggest that suitable action may be taken against the Honourable Member for selling them at black market rates?

Mr. Deputy President: Next question.

STATE OF THE *Rabbi* AND *Kharif* CROPS IN INDIA

122. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state the present state of the *rabbi* and *kariff* crops throughout India?

(b) Do Government propose to place on the table of the House a statement showing how far the *rabbi* and *kariff* crops have been affected by the heavy rains in November and December last?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the Memorandum on Food Position which was circulated to Members of the House at the commencement of the Session.

FOOD SITUATION IN INDIA AND PRIORITY FOR SHIPMENTS OF FOODGRAINS FROM U. S. A. AND CANADA TO INDIA

123. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please place on the table of the House a comprehensive report on the present food situation, explaining how far the breakdown of the present Rationing system has been averted?

(b) What stocks of food grains does India expect from abroad during the first three months of the year 1947?

(c) Have Government made urgent applications in recent weeks for priority of shipments of food grain supplies from the United States of America and Canada for India?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the Memorandum on food position which was circulated to the members of the House on 3rd February, 1947.

(b) About 700,000 tons.

(c) We have no allotment from Canada but have made urgent representations to the Canadian Government for supplies. Representations have been continuously made to secure early shipment of our quota from U.S.A.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Government prepared to exchange goods with those countries which are prepared to offer food in return for these goods?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Each offer will be considered on merits.

Mr. Manu Subedar: As the Honourable Member has referred to the Circular on food which he has sent round, may I ask whether in respect of the 40,000 tons which are being offered to the U. K. Government, full attempt has been made to dispose them in India, and why food material which is required and so badly needed in this country, should at all be sent out of this country?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Every effort has been made to dispose of the American foodstuffs in India. The sale has been given the widest publicity and tenders have been invited. In some cases even the prices have been reduced in order to attract consumers. I can give an assurance to the Honourable Member that nothing will be sent to His Majesty's Government unless it cannot be disposed of here.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member try to make these goods available at half a dozen centres in India through Government retail depots and inform the public that they can have their pound? The public cannot go and tender because they do not know the machinery of the Government. I would myself like a couple of pounds of plums. Would the Honourable Member arrange that the common man should reach these food materials through Government retail sale depots?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: As I have mentioned already, these surplus stores are available to the common man. They are retailed in all the big cities and so far we have not had any complaint that the common man has not been able to get them. In Delhi, particularly, there are several shops for these food supplies.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that the Government of India have recently purchased 85,000 tons of wheat from Turkey at the rate of Rs. 20 a maund?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: I am not sure about the price. I want notice.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government publish a supplementary note about the latest position of the price of different food grains in different provinces and also the price at which maize, wheat and other cereals are being imported and are being sold in our country?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Government will consider that.

Shri Mohanlal Saksena: Are Government going to allot a day for food debate during this session?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: I have no information.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: In connection with the reply to supplementary questions, is it not a fact that the prices demanded by the Food Department

for the American surpluses are so high that the people who purchased in the beginning were really put to loss? Will the Government consider the question of reducing the price to enable the foodstuffs to be sold in the market?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Yes, Sir. I mentioned that the prices have been reduced to some extent and I think they compare very favourably with the price of similar imported foodstuffs.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will you call for tender?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: They are sold by tender.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Government consider the advisability of importing only whole maize instead of maize powder in view of the fact that in South India, especially the people do not know how to make use of maize powder?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: Government will consider that.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that the price paid by the Government of India to the Burma Government for the rice purchased is three times the price at which the Government of Burma purchased the same?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that the Government of India purchased Burma rice at a price much higher than that prevailing in local market in Burma and if that is so, will the Honourable Member explain to the House the circumstances under which this very heavy price came to be paid, particularly when we supply Burma our cloth at control price?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: I want notice.

LICENCES AND ROUTES OF THE AIR LINES IN INDIA.

124. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state:

(a) an overall picture of the Air lines in the country including those that are already operating and those that are coming into existence in the immediate future;

(b) the considerations that determine the fixation of a particular route and the considerations that determine the granting of a license to any particular operating concern;

(c) how many routes are pending consideration before the Air Transport Licensing Board and how many applications have been received by the said Board; and

(d) whether Government have given or propose to give any general instructions to the Board in the matter of routes to be operated and in the matter of licenses to be given to concerns?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) I lay two statements on the table of the House, the first showing the air services which are now being operated in India, and the second the air services for the operation of which applications have been received by the Air Transport Licensing Board.

(b) The considerations which govern the selection of routes and the grant or refusal of licences for operation over such routes are detailed in rule 140 of the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937, a copy of which is available in the Library of the Legislature.

(c) Up to the 17th January 1947, 122 applications for operation of air services have been received from 22 air transport companies.

(d) No, Sir. The Statutory Rules which have been promulgated govern the grant of licences.

Statement showing air services which are at present in operation.

| Air Services | Frequency | Company |
|---|--|---|
| Krachi—Ahmedabad—Bombay—Hyderabad—Madras—Colombo. | Karachi to Bombay—14 services a week Bombay to Colombo—7 services a week. | Air India Ltd., Bombay. |
| Bombay—Ahmedabad—Delhi . | 14 services a week . . . | " " |
| Madras—Banglore—Coimbatore Cochin—Trivandrum. | 3 " " " . . . | " " |
| Bombay—Nagpur—Calcutta . | { 7 " " " . . . 3 " " " . . . | Mistri " Airways " Ltd., Bombay. |
| Calcutta—Allahabad—Cawnpore—Delhi—Lahore—Rawalpindi—Peshawar. | Calcutta to Delhi—14 services a week, Delhi to Lahore 5 services a week, Lahore to Peshawar—3 services a week. | Indian National Airways, Ltd., New Delhi. |
| Delhi—Jodhpur—Karachi . | 7 services a week . . . | " " " |
| Lahore—Bikaner—J o d h p u r—Ahmedabad. | 2 " " " . . . | " " " |
| Lahore—Quetta—Karachi . | 2 " " " . . . | " " " |
| Delhi—Lucknow | 7 " " " . . . | " " " |
| B o m b a y—Jamnagar—Bhuj—Karachi. | 7 " " " . . . | Air services of India, Ltd., Bombay. |
| Bombay—Bhavnagar . . . | 3 " " " . . . | " " " |
| Bombay—Bhopal—Cawnpore—Lucknow. | 6 " " " . . . | " " " |
| Porbandar—Jamnagar—Ahmedabad. | Porbandar to Jamnagar 3 services a week, Jamnagar to Ahmedabad 2 services a week. | " " " |
| Delhi—Bhopal—Nagpur Hyderabad—Madras. | 3 services a week . . . | Deccan Airways, Ltd. Begumpet. |
| Hyderabad—Bangalore . . . | 2 " " " . . . | " " " |
| Bombay—Baroda—Ahmedabad . | 2 " " " . . . | Ambica Air Lines, Bombay. |

| Serial No. | Applicant | Route |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| AIR INDIA LIMITED | | |
| 1 | Air India Ltd., Bombay Airport Santa Cruz, Bombay. | Madras—Bangalore—Cochin—Trivandrum. |
| 2 | Do. . . . | Karachi—Bombay—Madras—Colombo. |
| 3 | Do. . . . | Bombay—Ahmedabad—Delhi. |
| 4 | Do. . . . | Bombay—Nagpur—Calcutta. |
| 5 | Do. . . . | Bombay—Delhi. |
| 6 | Do. . . . | Bombay—Karachi. |
| 7 | Do. . . . | Bombay—Calcutta. |

| Serial No. | Applicant | Route |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| INDIAN NATIONAL AIRWAYS | | |
| 1 | Indian National Airways, Limited, Scindia House, Connaught Circus, New Delhi. | Calcutta—Allahabad—Cawnpore—Delhi—Lahore—Peshawar—Kabul. |
| 2 | Do. | Delhi—Lahore—Rawalpindi—Srinagar. |
| 3 | Do. | Lahore—Bikaner—Jodhpur—Ahmedabad. |
| 4 | Do. | Peshawar—Dera Ismail Khan—Karachi. |
| 5 | Do. | Calcutta—Siliguri—Cooch Behar. |
| 6 | Do. | Karachi—Jodhpur—Delhi. |
| 7 | Do. | Rawalpindi—Srinagar. |
| 8 | Do. | Calcutta—Akyab—Yenangyaung—Rangoon. |
| 9 | Do. | Delhi—Lucknow—Benares—Patna—Calcutta. |
| 10 | Do. | Lahore—Karachi. |
| 11 | Do. | Karachi—Quetta—Lahore. |
| 12 | Do. | Lucknow—Gorakhpur—Lucknow—Cawnpore—Jhansi—Agra. |
| 13 | Do. | Delhi—Jaipur—Bikaner. |
| 14 | Do. | Lucknow—Bareilly—Haldwani—Meerut—Dehra Dun. |
| AIR SERVICES OF INDIA | | |
| 1 | Air Services of India, Ltd., Scindia House, Dougall Road, Ballard Estate, Bombay. | Bombay—Indore—Bhopal—Cawnpore—Lucknow. |
| 2 | Do. | Bombay—Jamnagar—Bhuj—Karachi. |
| 3 | Do. | Porbandar—Jamnagar—Wankaner—Dhrangadhra—Ahmedabad. |
| 4 | Do. | Bombay—Bhavnagar. |
| 5 | Do. | Bombay—Poona—Belgaum—Bangalore. |
| 6 | Do. | Bombay—Indore—Gwalior—Delhi. |
| 7 | Do. | Jamnagar—Mandvi—Bhuj. |
| 8 | Do. | Jamnagar—Dhrangadhra—Wadhwan—Bhavnagar—Palitana. |
| 9 | Do. | Jamnagar—Gondal—Manvandar—Junagadh (Keshod). |
| 10 | Do. | Bombay—Madras, Rangoon. |
| 11 | Do. | Bombay—Porbandar—Jamnagar—Bhuj—Hyderabad (Sind). |

| Serial No. | Applicant | Route |
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DECCAN AIRWAYS

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Deccan Airways, Ltd., Begumpet Airport, Begumpet (Deccan). | Delhi—Gwalior—Bhopal—Nagpur—Hyderabad—Madras. |
| 2 | Do. . . . | Hyderabad—Bangalore. |
| 3 | Do. . . . | Hyderabad—Bombay. |

MISTRI AIRWAYS

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | Mistri Airways, Ltd., Wavell House, Ballard Estate, Bombay | Bombay—Nagpur—Calcutta. |
| 2 | Do. . . . | Delhi—Gwalior—Nagpur—Hyderabad—Madras. |
| 3 | Do. . . . | Calcutta—Cuttack—Vizagapatam—Berwade—Madras. |
| 4 | Do. . . . | Bombay—Agra—Delhi. |
| 5 | Do. . . . | Bombay—Bhavnagar—Hyderabad (Sind). |
| 6 | Do. . . . | Nagpur—Jubbulpore—Allahabad—Lucknow. |
| 7 | Do. . . . | Bombay—Bellary—Madras—Colombo. |
| 8 | Do. . . . | Bombay—Goa. |
| 9 | Do. . . . | Bombay—Ahmedabad—Jodhpur—Bikaner—Lahore—Srinagar. |
| 10 | Do. . . . | Agra—Delhi—Saharanpur—Ambala—Amritsar—Rawalpindi. |

ORIENT AIRWAYS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Orient Airways, Ltd., 51, Ezra St., Calcutta. | Calcutta—Chittagong—Yenangyaung—Rangoon. |
| 2 | Do. . . . | Calcutta—Patna—Lucknow—Delhi—Lahore—Peshawar—Kabul. |
| 3 | Do. . . . | Lahore—Quetta—Karachi. |
| 4 | Do. . . . | Lahore—Srinagar. |
| 5 | Do. . . . | Calcutta—Dacca—Sylhet—Tezpur—Dinjan. |
| 6 | Do. . . . | Calcutta—Benares—Bhopal—Bombay—Lahore. |

| Serial No. | Applicant | Route |
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AIRWAYS INDIA

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Airways (India), Ltd., Stephen House, 4, Dalhousie Sq., Calcutta. | Calcutta—Patna—Benares—Lucknow—Delhi. |
| 2 | Do. . . . | Calcutta—Cuttack—Vizagapatam—Bezwada—Madras. |
| 3 | Do. . . . | Calcutta—Chittagong—Akyab—Yenangyaung—Rangoon. |
| 4 | Do. . . . | Calcutta—Dacca—Sylhet—Tezpur—Dinjan. |
| 5 | Do. . . . | Calcutta—Vizagapatam—Madras—Bangalore. |
| 6 | Do. . . . | (a) Calcutta—Dacca—Sylhet—Comilla—Chittagong—Calcutta. |
| | | (b) Calcutta—Chittagong—Comilla—Sylhet—Dacca—Calcutta. |
| 7 | Do. . . . | Calcutta—Lalmonirhat—Gauhati—Tezpur—Jorhat—Dinjan or Dibrugarh or Chabua. |

DALMIA JAIN AIRWAYS

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Dalmia Jain Airways, Ltd., 6-Daryaganj, Delhi. | Calcutta—Cuttack—Vizagapatam—Madras—Colombo. |
| 2 | Do. . . . | Delhi—Lucknow—Benares—Patna—Calcutta. |

NORTHERN AIRWAYS LIMITED

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | Northern Airways Ltd., 8, Queens Road, Lahore. | Lahore—Bhatinda—Jaipur—Bhopal—Nagpur. |
| 2 | Do. . . . | Lahore—Ajmer—Indore—Akola—Hyderabad—(Deccan). |
| 3 | Do. . . . | Lahore—Jhelum—Rawalpindi—Peshawar—Jallalabad—Kabul. |
| 4 | Do. . . . | Lahore—Srinagar—Gilgit. |
| 5 | Do. . . . | Lahore—Patiala—Meerut—Bareilly—Lucknow—Benares—Dum Dum. |
| 6 | Do. . . . | Lahore—Patiala—Hardwar—Badrinath. |
| 7 | Do. . . . | Lahore—Bahawalpur—Sukkur—Karachi. |
| 8 | Do. . . . | Lahore—Kalka—Dehra Dun—Nainital. |
| 9 | Do. . . . | Lahore—Loralai—Quetta. |
| 10 | Do. . . . | Lahore—Bhatinda—Ajmer—Udaipur—Baroda—Surat—Bombay. |
| 11 | Do. . . . | Lahore—Delhi—Agra—Gwalior—Jhansi—Jubbulpore. |

| Serial No. | Applicant | Route |
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BHARAT AIRWAYS

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Bharat Airways Ltd., 8, Royal Exchange Place, Calcutta. | Calcutta—Akyab—Yenangyaung—Rangoon. |
| 2 | Do. . . . | Calcutta—Benares—Lucknow—Delhi. |
| 3 | Do. . . . | Calcutta—Cuttack—Visagapatam—Madras—Colombo. |
| 4 | Do. . . . | Calcutta—Dacca—Sylhet—Tejpur—Dinjan. |

JUPITER AIRWAYS

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Jupiter Airways Ltd., East and West Building, Apollo Street, Fort, Bombay. | Calcutta—Cuttack—Visagapatam—Berwada—Madras—Trichinopoly—Colombo. |
| 2 | Do. . . . | Madras—Bangalore—Coimbatore—Cochin—Trivandrum. |
| 3 | Do. . . . | Bombay—Poona—Belgaum—Bangalore—Coimbatore—Cochin—Trivandrum. |
| 4 | Do. . . . | Calcutta—Chittagong—Akyab—Yenangyaung—Rangoon. |
| 5 | Do. . . . | Madras—Hyderabad—Jubbulpore—Jhansi—Delhi. |
| 6 | Do. . . . | Madras—Hyderabad—Nagpur—Delhi. |
| 7 | Do. . . . | Bombay—Poona—Belgaum—Bangalore—Madras. |

BENGAL AND ASSAM AIRWAYS

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Bengal and Assam Airways, Ltd., 4, Clive Ghat Street, Calcutta. | Dinjan—Sylhet—Dacca—Calcutta—Patna—Benares—Agra—Delhi. |
|---|---|--|

MADRAS PRESIDENCY AIRWAYS

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Madras Presidency Airways, Ltd., "Gurnilayam" 12, North Eda Street, Trichinopoly (Cantonment). | Madras—Vellore—Anantpur—Bellary—Hyderabad. |
| 2 | Do. . . . | Madras—Berwada—Cocoanada—Visagapatam. |
| 3 | Do. . . . | Madras—Trichinopoly—Madura—Trivandrum. |
| 4 | Do. . . . | Madras—Salem—Coimbatore—Cochin—Mangalore—Poona. |
| 5 | Do. . . . | Madras—Puddukottai—Dewakottai—Colombo. |

| Serial No. | Applicant | Route |
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INDIAN AIR SURVEY AND TRANSPORT

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Indian Air Survey and Transport Limited, Jessore Road, Dum Dum. | A. Dum Dum—Lalmonirhat. B. Lalmonirhat—Bagdogra. C. Lalmonirhat—Gauhati Strip—Jorhat—Chabua. |
|---|---|--|

AMBICA AIR LINES.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Ambica Air Lines, Ltd., 315/321, Prospect Chamber, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay. | Bombay—Rajkot—Morvi—Bhuj. |
| 2 | Do. | Bombay—Baroda—Delhi—Lahore—Peshawar. |
| 3 | Do. | Bombay—Bangalore—Madras—Coimbatore. |
| 4 | Do. | Ahmedabad—Baroda—Bombay. |
| 5 | Do. | Bombay—Poona—Kolhapur—Belgaum. |
| 6 | Do. | Bombay—Indore—Gwalior—Delhi—Lahore—Rawalpindi. |

NALANDA AIRWAYS, LTD.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Nalanda Airways, Ltd., Exhibition Road, Post Box No. 45, Patna. | Patna—Gaya—Koderma—Hazaribagh—Ranchi—Jamshedpur—Purulia—Asansol—Dhanbad—Giridih—Deoghar—Jamui—Bihar—Patna. |
| 2 | Do. | Patna—Jamalpur—Bhagalpur—Katihar—Purnea—Madhipura—Saharsa—Supaul—Darbhanga—Samastipur—Patna. |
| 3 | Do. | Patna—Chapra—Siwan—Hathwa—Gopalganj—Bettiah—Motihari—Sitamarhi—Madhubani—Darbhanga—Muzaifarpur—Patna. |
| 4 | Do. | Patna—Arrah—Buxar—Sasaram—Dehri—Daltonganj—Gaya—Patna. |
| 5 | Do. | Calcutta—Patna—Lucknow—Delhi. |
| 6 | Do. | Calcutta—Patna—Jubbulpore—Bombay. |
| 7 | Do. | Patna—Calcutta—Akyab—Rangoon—Bangkok—Singapore. |

| Serial No. | Applicant | Route |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| VARADARAJA AIRWAYS. | | |
| 1 | Varadaraja Airways, Ltd., "Green House," Kongunagar, Tiruppur (District Coimbatore). | Madras—Andamans—Penang—Singapore. |
| 2 | Do. | Madras—Bangalore—Mysore—Poona— Bombay—Karachi. |
| 3 | Do. | Madras—Andamans—Rangoon—Mandalay. |
| 4 | Do. | Madras—Bombay—Ahmedabad—Jodhpur— Lahore—Srinagar. |
| 5 | Do. | Madras—Bellary—Sholapur—Bombay. |
| 6 | Do. | Madras—Coimbatore—Ootacamund— Belgium—Bombay. |

SEGAL AIR TRANSPORT, LTD.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Segal Air Transport, Ltd., New Delhi. | Delhi—Lahore—Quetta—Karachi. |
| 2 | Do. | Delhi—Ambala—Lahore—Chaklala— Srinagar. |
| 3 | Do. | Bombay—Baroda—Ahmedabad—Jaipur— Lahore—Chaklala—Srinagar. |
| 4 | Do. | Calcutta—Patna—Benares—Lucknow— Delhi—Lahore—Chaklala—Peshawar— Kabul. |
| 5 | Do. | Delhi—Jaipur—Jodhpur—Bikaner. |
| 6 | Do. | Delhi—Gwalior—Indore—Baroda— Bombay. |
| 7 | Do. | Karachi—Jaipur—Agra—Benares— Calcutta. |

KALINGA AIR LINES

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Kalinga Air lines, Calcutta | Dum Dum—Bhubaneshwar—Vizianagram— Vizagapatam—Bezwada—Bangalore— Trichinopoly—Colombo. |
|---|-----------------------------|--|

ARYAN AIRWAYS, LTD.

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Aryan Airways, Ltd., Bombay | Bombay—Baroda—Jaipur—Delhi. |
| 2 | Do. | Bombay—Jodhpur—Lahore, or Bombay—Baroda—Lahore, or Bombay—Baroda—Ambala—Lahore. |
| 3 | Do. | Lahore—Srinagar. |

| Serial No. | Applicant | Route |
|------------|-----------|-------|
|------------|-----------|-------|

EASTERN SKYWAYS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Eastern Skyways, Salesbury House, Bankshall Street, Calcutta. | Calcutta—Cutlack—Vizagapatam—Madras—Pondicherry—Madura—Colombo. |
|---|---|---|

RAINBOW AIR UTILITIES

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Rainbow Air Utilities, Queensway, New Delhi. | Lucknow—Berilly—Rampur—Moradabad—Hardwar—Dehra Dun—Meerut—New Delhi. |
| 2 | Do. | Lucknow—Allahabad—Benares—Allahabad—Jhansi—Gwalior—Agra—Aligarh—New Delhi. |

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that the Air Transport Licensing Board is taking a very long time over the issue of these licences and determining all these applications and it has not kept to the schedule which was originally announced in this House?

Sir Harold Shoobert: The Air Transport Licensing Board has necessarily to give full consideration to all factors affecting the issue of these licences. I think Honourable Members will agree that if it unduly hurried in issuing licences, which after all affects the safety of passengers who are going to travel by air, it would be most undesirable.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that nobody can apply unless he has provided ground staff, machine and all other equipments, and after that alone he can apply? Have Government considered the loss to those people who have applied and who are kept waiting for months and months? I do not know what is the meaning of the expression 'unduly hurry'. Is it not a matter of a few months that most of these applications have come and that these people are incurring heavy expenditure in the meanwhile?

Sir Harold Shoobert: With regard to the first part of the question put by my Honourable friend, I would again refer him to the Air Transport Licensing Rules. It would take a very long time for me to give a full answer to that in the House. In regard to the second part, the Air Transporting Licensing Board has only been operating for a few months and there have been so many applications for licences which have all to receive the most careful examination that I feel Honourable Members of the House will agree that it would be impossible for the Air Transport Licensing Board to begin issuing licences earlier.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I know how many sittings have the Air Transport Licensing Board held till now during the last six months?

Sir Harold Shoobert: I want notice. The Air Transport Licensing Board is sitting constantly.

CONNECTING OF THE RAILWAYS WITH INLAND AND EXTERNAL STEAMER SERVICE

125. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Transport be pleased to state whether Government have considered the question of connecting their railways with their own inland and external steamer service?

(b) Whether Government have examined the average annual outturn of business in terms of money that is put in by the Inland steamer services and by the foreign steamer companies in and from the coasts of India?

(c) Whether Government have examined the initial and recurring liabilities that may have to be undertaken if Government were to take over such inland and external services on a ten year plan basis?

(d) Whether Government of India have any contractual relations with the existing steamer services; if so, what are those relations, and whether and how they are terminable and what are the financial commitments on the part of Government in the matter of such contractual relations?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) As regards external steamer services, the answer is in the negative. In respect of inland steamer services in North East India, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given by the Honourable Mr. M. Asaf Ali to question No. 126 asked on the 31st October, 1946. Questions relating to the co-ordination of transport in this area are now under the consideration of the Central Board of Transport.

(b) and (c). No.

(d) Government have some contracts with steamer companies for the carriage of mails. A statement regarding these is laid on the table of the House.

Statement regarding the Contracts between the Government of India and Steamer Companies.

(1) There is a contract between the Governor-General in Council and the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., for the conveyance of mails by the Company's steamers on certain lines of communications, viz., Lines Nos. 1, 2 and 3 between Calcutta and Rangoon, Line No. 4 between Madras and Rangoon, Line No. 5 between Bombay and Karachi, Line No. 6 between Karachi and Basrah, and Line No. 7 between Bombay and Durban. This contract commenced on the 1st October 1938 and is valid up to 30th September 1948. The total amount payable to the Company for services on all these lines was Rs. 8,68,275 per annum.

The contract for any line of service is terminable on six months' notice on either side. Government is not, however, according to terms of contract to exercise the option of termination of the contract for any line in order to give the contract to another Company for conveyance of mails by sea route.

During the war (and even now) the company are unable to perform the services on lines Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 referred to above. Under the Supplementary Agreement entered into on the 7th March 1944 between the Government and the Company, a monthly payment of Rs. 46,875 (Rs. 5,62,500 annual) only is now being made in respect of Lines Nos. 5, 6 and 7. For any short sailings on these lines, a proportionate rebate is being recovered from the Company.

(2) A contract for the conveyance of mails by steamers between Bombay and Goa, and intermediate ports during the eight months, October to May of each year, was entered into jointly with Messrs. The Bombay Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., The Indian Co-operative Navigation and Trading Company, Ltd., and the Ratnagiri Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., for

a period of three years with effect from the 15th November 1945 on payment of a fixed remuneration of Rs. 6,000 p. m. According to the terms of the agreement, this contract may be absolutely determined and put an end to by either of the contracting parties by giving four calendar months' notice in writing to the other of his intention so to determine and put an end to the same.

(3) Three separate agreements were entered into with the River Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., and India General Navigation and Railway Co., Ltd., conjointly for daily Steamer Services for the conveyance of Mails on the following 15 lines with rates of monthly payments noted against each :—

| Particulars of service | Monthly payments | | |
|---|------------------|----|----|
| | Rs. | a. | p. |
| 1. Khulna-Dacca Mail (including Barisal—Khulna Express Service) | 1,440 | 0 | 0 |
| 2. Goalundo—Jagannathganj. | 611 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. Barisal—Dadpur. | 135 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. Barisal—Patuakhali. | 137 | 13 | 0 |
| 5. Khulna—Ellachur (Satkhira). | 216 | 9 | 0 |
| 6. Daulatpur—Chowlia. | 168 | 12 | 0 |
| 7. Jhalakati—Barguna. | 77 | 2 | 4 |
| 8. Patuakhali—Amtafi. | 51 | 6 | 11 |
| 9. Hularhat—Banaripara. | 30 | 8 | 7 |
| 10. Hularhat—Bagerhat. | 88 | 6 | 4 |
| 11. Patuakhali—Gelachipa. | 56 | 4 | 0 |
| 12. Barisal—Chittagong. | 350 | 0 | 0 |
| 13. Amingaon—Gamarighat. | 851 | 4 | 0 |
| 14. Barisal—Madaripur—Tarpasa | 305 | 10 | 0 |
| 15. Khulna—Madaripur. | 333 | 12 | 0 |

The contracts were originally for the period 1st April, 1931 to 31st March, 1934. It was agreed that if the contracts were not determined on the expiry of the stipulated period they would remain in force until the expiration of a notice of 6 months that may be given by either of the parties. The contracts are still in force as no such notice has so far been given by either of the contracting parties.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (a) do I understand that it is only the co-ordination aspect of the matter that is under consideration of the Government, or is the question of State acquisition and State management of these inland steamer services also being considered?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Government have sent a memorandum to the three Provinces primarily concerned with this problem, namely, Bengal, Bihar and Assam. In that memorandum we have suggested that the provincial Governments concerned should give us their views on two alternative Proposals, first, the nationalisation of inland river services, and second, control by licensing. So far we have received replies only from Assam and Bihar. The

Assam Government have provisionally suggested nationalisation. But the Bihar Government's reply is somewhat non-committal, they are unable to come to a decision until they have full data. We have so far received no reply from the Bengal Government.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I take it that the Government of India have no opinion on the subject and they are entirely dependent upon the expression of opinion of the provincial governments?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is not correct position. Our view in this matter is that the whole question should be considered by the Central Board of Transport which has just been set up. But before we do so, it is but right that we should get the opinions of the provincial governments who are directly concerned with the matter and who are responsible for river transport.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: In view of the fact that the rates on motor transport are controlled by Government, the railway rates are controlled by Government, the air transport rates are controlled by Government, do not Government think that it is high time that rates of steamships and coastal steamer traffic should be controlled?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That question would necessarily be taken up for consideration along with the bigger problem that we are now considering.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With reference to part (d) am I to understand that Government have satisfied themselves that the terms of subsisting contracts between railways and the different steamer companies, do not operate to the prejudice of the railways themselves?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: There are various matters in connection with this inland river service which require consideration and I do not wish at the present stage to commit myself on the particular issue raised by my Honourable friend, but I certainly mean to take that up for consideration along with the major question.

PRESERVATION, CANNING AND MARKETING OF FRUITS.

126. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Secretary of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have any information regarding the varieties of fruits that are produced in each province and also the quantity of such production in a year in respect of each such variety;

(b) how much worth of fruits are imported into this country from outside in a year;

(c) whether Government have considered the question of arranging or encouraging or inducing storage and preservation of fruits as a proposition of *More Food* campaign;

(d) whether Government have also considered the question of developing canning industry in all the provinces with a view to facilitating industries and trade in preservation and marketing of fruits; and

(e) whether Government have asked the opinion of experts in this matter?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) A statement giving the required information based on the figures given in Marketing Survey Reports is placed on the table. They are only rough estimates.

(b) Before the War Rs. 10 lakhs worth of fruits were imported by sea and Rs. 30 lakhs worth by land from Afghanistan.

(c) Help and advice are being given to those who wish to set up cold storage plants.

(d) The Indian Institute of Fruit Technology at Lyallpur provides for training in fruit preservation, carries on research for improving the quality of fruit and vegetable products and gives expert advice and technical guidance to the trade. The question of further help for the industry was referred to the Tariff Board whose recommendations have been received and are under consideration.

(e) The Fruit Development Adviser to the Government of India gives expert advice in these matters.

Production of different fruits in the

| S. No. | Province/State | Mangoes | Bananas | Oranges and Mandarins | Limes | Other Citrus fruits | Grapes | Apples | Pears |
|--------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1 | Madras | 24,000,000 | 31,315,000 | 938,200 | 2,036,800 | 191,000 | 18,000 | 186 | 70,732 |
| 2 | Bihar | 7,795,680 | 1,061,000 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 3 | Bengal | 19,161,843 | 64,905,000 | 96,100 | 186,500 | 47,619 | ... | 625 | 2,706 |
| 4 | U. P. | 92,596,200 | ... | 42,720 | 28,975 | 25,975 | ... | 56,448 | 5,568 |
| 5 | C. P. | 3,836,375 | ... | 2,260,000 | 63,250 | 4,620 | ... | ... | ... |
| 6 | Assam | 670,000 | 3,900,000 | 2,489,346 | ... | 20,000 | ... | 100 | 18,360 |
| 7 | Bombay | 5,619,587 | 2,962,000 | 1,915,818 | 294,620 | 1,900 | 134,400 | ... | ... |
| 8 | Orissa | 500,000 | ... | 86,592 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 9 | Punjab | 2,356,872 | ... | 1,235,527 | 100,991 | 222,852 | ... | 63,375 | 271,967 |
| 10 | N. W. F. P. | 10,000 | ... | 45,440 | 3,400 | 86,400 | 16,380 | 1,260 | 53 |
| 11 | Sind | 824,000 | ... | 9,300 | 25,140 | ... | ... | 13,641 | N/A |
| 12 | Coorg | 285 | ... | 874,206 | 5,000 | 00 | ... | ... | ... |
| 13 | Baluchistan | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 186,733 | 6,000 | 300 |
| 14 | Delhi | 68,200 | ... | ... | 11,000 | ... | ... | ... | 10,600 |
| 15 | Travancore | N.A. | 2,328,000 | ... | ... | 30,000 | ... | N.A. | N.A. |
| 16 | Mysore | 6,549,840 | 936,000 | 90,047 | 23,660 | 2,722 | 6,333 | 8,780 | N/A |
| 17 | Kashmir | 248,000 | ... | 18,000 | ... | ... | ... | 394,200 | 64,900 |
| 18 | Hyderabad | 1,820,000 | ... | 262,000 | 79,800 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 19 | Patials | 85,000 | ... | 28,523 | 12,910 | 138 | ... | 500 | 3,750 |
| 20 | Gwallor | 296,802 | ... | 10,800 | 7,500 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 21 | Cochin | 14,185 | ... | 14,000 | ... | 20,000 | ... | ... | ... |
| 22 | Baroda | 503,750 | ... | 600 | 15,372 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 23 | Sikkim | ... | ... | 468,750 | 10,000 | 10,000 | ... | ... | ... |
| 24 | Bihar State | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 25 | Others | 6,500 | 2,634,000 | ... | ... | ... | 13,393 | ... | ... |
| | Total | 166,960,819 | 109,841,000 | 9,985,969 | 2,854,918 | 698,626 | 375,239 | 545,115 | 963,451 |

N. A. - Not available

various Provinces and States in India.

(In maunds.)

| Peaches | Plums | Appri- cots | Pine apples | Langnat | Cherries | Straw berries | Raspbe- rries | Currants | Quinces | Total | S. No. |
|---------|---------|----------------|----------------|---------|----------|------------------|------------------|----------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | |
| 150 | 605 | ... | 110,252 | ... | ... | 40 | ... | ... | ... | 58,688,963 | 1 |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8,856,680 | 2 |
| 2,150 | 3,125 | ... | 233,000 | 94 | ... | 15 | 70 | ... | ... | 84,588,674 | 3 |
| 4,980 | 3,280 | 1,440 | 1,820 | 168,000 | 720 | 141 | ... | ... | ... | 92,926,267 | 4 |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6,164,245 | 5 |
| 2,268 | 6,102 | .. | 191,666 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7,279,842 | 6 |
| 74 | ... | ... | 2,188 | ... | ... | 1,028 | 210 | ... | ... | 10,031,751 | 7 |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 586,592 | 8 |
| 124,660 | 68,899 | 1,000 | ... | 104,702 | 81 | 390 | ... | ... | ... | 4,751,316 | 9 |
| 119,168 | 96,658 | 49,962 | ... | 46,292 | ... | 51 | ... | ... | 42,247 | 1,086,911 | 10 |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 872,081 | 11 |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 914,891 | 12 |
| 8,555 | 10,329 | 97,186 | ... | ... | Neg. | Neg. | ... | Neg. | ... | 309,053 | 13 |
| 4,273 | 4,224 | ... | ... | 10,185 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 108,892 | 14 |
| N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | 222,357 | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | N.A. | 2,580,357 | 15 |
| 250 | ... | ... | 3,963 | ... | ... | ... | Neg. | ... | ... | 7,421,595 | 16 |
| 9,285 | 20,515 | 109,200 | ... | Neg. | 35,427 | 1,080 | 60 | 60 | 28,872 | 929,499 | 17 |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,161,900 | 18 |
| 1,800 | 405 | Neg. | ... | 4,000 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 187,026 | 19 |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 315,102 | 20 |
| ... | ... | ... | 11,486 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 59,671 | 21 |
| ... | ... | ... | 2,287 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 522,009 | 22 |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 488,750 | 23 |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,653,893 | 25 |
| 477,584 | 214,142 | 258,738 | 779,017 | 333,273 | 36,228 | 2,745 | 340 | 60 | 71,119 | 294,403,333 | |

Neg. - Negligible

N.A. - Nil

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Do Government contemplate to include fruits in future in the cereal ration supplied?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I have no information, but if a question is tabled to that effect I am sure the Food Department will be very pleased to reply to it.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be further pleased to state whether Government contemplate to ration fruits?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: No, Sir.

Mr. Deputy President: That does not refer to the Agriculture Department.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member by investing Rs. 10,173 got only Rs. 3,720/14/3 from his GROW MORE FOOD campaign on either side of Kingsway, does he expect people to take seriously any advice that he may want to offer on the subject of GROW MORE FOOD either in the matter of cereals or of fruits?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Yes, Sir; we do expect the public to listen to our advice in many matters. As regards this particular case of the vegetables and grain grown on the vista it is not quite fair to judge the results on the basis of one year's or rather six months' returns only. The capital invested in such cases is apt to be high compared to the actual return, and when the work goes on for two or three years it is possible that the capital expenditure may be recovered from the proceeds.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What are the Honourable Member's estimates for this year from these operations, if he will still persist in them?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: For the rabi season, *i.e.*, crops that are just on the ground now, I do not remember the exact figure, but we are expecting a net income of about Rs. 2,500.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do not the same considerations apply to peasant economy where in addition to the expenses incurred here they have to pay rent and land revenue?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: That will vary from place to place in accordance with the amounts that they have to pay.

REARING AND GROWING OF FISH IN BENGAL.

127. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** (a) Will the Secretary of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state what steps have been taken by the Government of India either direct or through the Provincial Government or otherwise for increased rearing and growing of fish in Bengal?

(b) Do Government propose to give a comparative account of the total collection of fish in the said province for the last successive three years?

(c) Is it a fact that there has been a shortage in the annual outturn of fish in the said Province and if so, what are the principal reasons thereof, and what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken for removing or combating the causes of such shortage?

(d) What particular steps have been taken for supplying fishermen with special quota of yarn for purposes of catching and collecting fish?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) With the aid of grants from the Centre 3,43,100 fry were liberated in 3149 acres in 1944-45 and 4,21,000 fry in 776 acres in 1945-46 for taking up paddy *cum* fish culture and tank improvements in the Sunderbans Abad area of the districts of Khulna and the 24-Parganas.

Large areas of fallow waters are being developed as productive fisheries in nine other districts.

(b) It is regretted that no figures are available about the total collection of fish in Bengal, other than the approximate figure of 11,600 tons a year mentioned in the fish Marketing Report.

(c) No information is available regarding the reported shortage in the annual **outturn of fish in Bengal**. The Government of Bengal however consider that there has been a falling off in the fish supply due to the denial policy followed in 1942 and the shortage of yarn. The question of making materials for boats and nets available is being looked into by the Provincial Government.

(d) There is an acute shortage of cotton yarn throughout the country and the available supplies are not sufficient to meet the needs of the textile mills, the handloom weavers and the fishing industry. A quota is assigned by the Centre to the Bengal Government for all its needs and it has been requested to give special consideration to the needs of fishermen and meet their current needs in full out of the yarn received by it each month.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that one concern with its headquarters in Poona has been complaining that it was not being helped to obtain from abroad the necessary machinery and also the boating apparatus in order to carry on fishery work on the west coast?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I have received no such complaint. I am aware that a firm has applied for help and every possible help that could be given has been given to it.

RUNNING OF BUS SERVICES IN DELHI PROVINCE.

128. *Sardar Mangal Singh: With reference to the reply to Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee's starred question No. 14 answered on the 28th October, 1946 regarding the monopoly of the G. N. I. T. Co. for running Bus services in Delhi Province, will the Honourable Member for Transport please state:

(a) whether Government have finished their consideration of the question of the future of the Delhi transport system;

(b) whether Government intend to call for applications for permits to operate Bus services in Delhi; if so, what machinery will dispose them of; and

(c) whether Government propose to permit more than one company to operate in Delhi city, or hand over the whole thing to one concern only?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No. Some progress has been made but the question is obviously not one which can be decided hurriedly.

(b) and (c). It is proposed that the management of road motor transport in the urban and suburban areas of Delhi should be entrusted to a company or other concern owned by Government or in which Government will have a controlling interest.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Has the Honourable Member considered the desirability of handing over the running of buses in the Province of Delhi to the Delhi Municipality or to a joint management of Delhi and New Delhi Municipalities, as it is a public utility service?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The proposal which Government are considering at present is to organise a company for the purpose which would, as I said, be either owned by Government or in which Government would have a predominant interest. The consideration of the proposal has advanced to some extent. At present what we propose to do is to take over the tram transport of Delhi at a very early date,—probably in March. But the other questions connected with it, namely, whether the tram and the bus services should be amalgamated and if they are amalgamated into one concern, on what sort of footing that concern should be organised, are matters which still await decision. I may say that final arrangements can not be made in this matter until the valuation which is now in progress of the Delhi Electric Supply and Traction Company is completed.

Mr. Manu Subedar: While this matter is being considered, may I know what steps Government have taken in order to increase the number of taxis available in New Delhi, and whether Government would not consider giving

for taxi purposes—only some of the vehicles which are available in the Disposals Department?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is relatively a matter of detail, the decision of which must await our final decision on the other question.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will Government take this House into confidence before coming to a final decision as to the future of transport service in Delhi?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I will certainly consider the Honourable Member's suggestion.

Lala Deshbandhu Gupta: Will Government also consult the local bodies in Delhi about the proposals when they are mature?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will any effort be made by the Government of India to see that buses are run at regular intervals on a larger number of roads in New Delhi than is at present the case, and thus help the common people who live in New Delhi?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is one of the purposes for which this new organisation is contemplated.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

FACILITIES FOR PASSENGERS AT BHATINDA JUNCTION STATION

129. ***Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member, kindly state whether Government are aware that Bhatinda is a very big Junction Station and that the third class passengers' shed where the booking office is situated remains extremely overcrowded owing to insufficient accommodation?

(b) Are Government aware that the booking office at Bhatinda is opened shortly before the arrival or departure of the trains and that consequently passengers are constrained to pay 2 annas extra per ticket?

(c) Are Government aware that thefts are very frequent at Bhatinda Railway Station resulting in great loss and harassment to the travelling public?

(d) Are Government aware that the 2nd Class Gents' waiting room at Bhatinda has got quite insufficient accommodation and furniture and that 2nd Class passengers are consequently put to great inconvenience and trouble, specially in the winter season?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes. Government are aware that the accommodation available in the Third Class Passenger Hall at Bhatinda station is not sufficient to cater to the increasing traffic and a scheme for enlarging the hall is under consideration by the N. W. Railway Administration.

(b) No. The Booking Office at Bhatinda station is open for all the twenty-four hours.

(c) Government are not aware of thefts being frequent at Bhatinda station.

(d) So far as Government are aware, the accommodation and equipment provided in the Gentlemen's Second Class Waiting Room at Bhatinda are adequate and no complaints have been received that the travelling public using the room are put to inconvenience.

DELAY IN TRANSMISSION OF AIR MAIL LETTERS FROM DELHI TO BOMBAY AND POONA

130. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that letters posted in Delhi by airmail for Bombay and Poona take 4 to 5 days while ordinary letters posted in Delhi reach Bombay and Poona earlier than those posted by airmail;

(b) the causes of this delay in transmission of letters by airmail; and

(c) whether Government propose to investigate the causes of delay and see that necessary steps are taken to avoid further delay?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) The position is not as stated by the Honourable Member. Owing to mistakes in sorting, however, stray letters do occasionally take longer than the scheduled time.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a).

(c) Causes of delay, when brought to notice, are thoroughly investigated and steps are taken to remedy the defects.

RELAXATION OF CONDITIONS FOR OBTAINING LOAN FROM GENERAL PROVIDENT FUND ACCOUNT OF EMPLOYEES ON N. W. RAILWAY

131. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an employee in the subordinate service on the North-Western Railway can obtain a loan from his provident fund accumulations on certain conditions?

(b) Is it also a fact that the former condition of production of a medical certificate from a railway doctor for obtaining such a loan in case of sickness, has been relaxed recently by the North-Western Railway administration in favour of such a certificate from any registered Medical Practitioner?

(c) Are Government aware that the Divisional Personnel Officer Karachi, refuses to give effect to the relaxation of the rules referred to in part (b) above? If so, what action has been taken by the authorities in the matter?

(d) Do Government propose to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of cases in which the loans from Provident Fund have been refused at Karachi in spite of the amendment of the rules and the amount involved, during the period from 1st January to 31st August 1946?

(e) What steps are proposed to be taken to ensure proper application of rules and to mitigate hardship entailed on the railway staff in Karachi division?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes; Government understand that the authority competent to sanction advances has been allowed by the General Manager the discretion either to accept a proper certificate from any registered medical practitioner or to refer it for advice to the Divisional Medical Officer, subject to the proviso that if an employee or any member of his family is known to be receiving treatment from a railway doctor, the application for an advance should be forwarded to the Divisional Medical Officer or Assistant Medical Officer for certification.

(c) Government are informed that there is no truth in the allegation. The latter part does not arise.

(d) There has been no case, during the period referred to, in which a loan was refused for the reasons stated by the Honourable Member, but Government are informed that during this period four applications for advances were rejected as the Divisional Personnel Officer was not convinced that they were genuine cases of hardship, which condition had, under the Administration's general orders, to be satisfied when only a small portion of the previous advance had been repaid.

(e) Does not arise, in view of the reply to parts (c) and (d).

GRIEVANCES OF VAN SORTERS ON THE N. W. RAILWAY

132. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to an article appearing in the *Railway Herald*, Karachi, dated the 5th August 1946, in regard to the grievances of Van Sorters employed on the North Western Railway?

(b) Do Government propose to make a statement on the points raised therein and state what relief is proposed to be given to the employees concerned?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Government have seen the article referred to.

(b) These are matters of detailed administration which are within the competence of the General Manager, North Western Railway, and Government therefore do not propose to make a statement in this matter. I understand, however, that the North Western Railway Administration is examining the points raised in the article on a memorial received from Van Sorters employed on that Railway.

MANUFACTURE OF NEWSPRINT IN INDIA

133. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sudden fall in newsprint supply necessitating a reduction in the quota allotted to newspapers early in December was due to difficulty in finding shipping space or to the success of other consuming countries in arranging with overseas producers for large supplies on competitive and attractive terms; and

(b) in view of the recurring crisis even after the war, whether Government propose to consider the feasibility of newsprint manufacture in this country?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) There has been no sudden fall in the newsprint supplies early in December 1946 nor was there any reduction in the quota allotted to newspapers. On the other hand the increases granted in August and September 1946 still continue. It was expected that as a result of the efforts of the Newsprint Delegation which visited United Kingdom, North America and Scandinavian countries last year, there would be substantial improvement in the supply position of newsprint towards the latter part of 1946. The arrivals during the months of October to December 1946 however fell short of the estimates partly owing to delays in shipment.

(b) The question of manufacturing newsprint in this country is receiving attention of Government but this could only be a long term measure. The main difficulty is in securing ample supplies of suitable timber at a low price at localities where alone a mill could be expected to be set up.

INCREASE IN THE *EX*-FACTORY PRICE OF SUGAR

134. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state the reasons for immediate increase of nearly 33 per cent in the *ex*-factory price of sugar from Rs. 15-10 to Rs. 20-14?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: The *ex*-factory price of sugar was raised with effect from the 23rd October 1946 from Rs. 16/10/- to Rs. 20/14/- per maund mainly on account of increase in the price of sugar-cane from Re. -/14/6 in Bihar and -/15/- in the U. P. to Rs. 1/4/- per maund. The increase in cane price was necessitated by the fact that there was an appreciable fall in the area under cane and owing to the great disparity between its price and the prices of foodgrains and other agricultural produce.

COMPETITIVE PRICE FOR JUTE

135. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if Government are aware that America had recently put up its food prices to us by 25 per cent and Argentine Government had charged eight times the pre-war prices for its maize?

(b) Are Government aware that jute is an important hard currency earner?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) above is in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the question of making our jute purchasers pay a competitive price for jute which besides helping our jute growers and providing us with more helpful means of fighting inflation, will enable us to utilize the foreign exchange thus earned for the most-needed imports of capital and essential consumer goods?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable the Commerce Member. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 13th February, when it will be answered by the Honourable the Commerce Member.

RESTORATION OF A THROUGH CARRIAGE SERVICE BETWEEN LUCKNOW AND LAHORE

136. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that there used to be a through carriage attached to the Punjab Mail from Lucknow to Lahore in the pre-war days and that this service was later on withdrawn because of the war time difficulties. If so, do Government now propose to consider the restoration of the service at an early date?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Yes. A through service carriage was run in pre-war days by the Punjab Mail between Lucknow and Lahore and the service had to be curtailed during the war period. The Railway Administration are unable at present, to restore this service as the necessary stock is not available and the train is running with a full load, but it is intended to re-introduce the service as soon as conditions permit.

NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR WATER AT RAILWAY STATIONS

137. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the complaints in the Press that the new arrangement for water at Railway Stations is confusing and inconvenient; and
 (b) whether Government are aware that the terms "General" and "Orthodox" are not intelligible to common man as any person belonging to any community can be orthodox and the term "General" is also not understandable to the public? If so, do Government propose to consider the question of displacing the two terms by some other words to be easily understood by the common man?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) So far as the Government are aware, Press criticism of the new arrangements has been negligible.

(b) Government appreciate the difficulties inherent in the present nomenclatures and will shortly consider the possibility of adopting more suitable terms.

APPOINTMENT OF A JUDICIAL OFFICER TO THE RAILWAY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

138. *Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has accepted the principle of creating Public Service Commission for the recruitment of railway personnel? In how many Railways such Commissions have already been appointed?

(b) Have Government decided to attach at least one Judicial Officer to each of these Commissions?

(c) Has the Public Service Commission been appointed in the East Indian Railway? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. With regard to the second part, in addition to the Service Commission on the North Western Railway, which was appointed temporarily in 1942 and which has since been made permanent, it has been decided to appoint on a temporary basis for two years in the first instance Joint Service Commissions for the other Indian Government Railways as follows:—

(1) The B.A. and B.N. Railways Joint Service Commission with Headquarters at Calcutta;

(2) The G.I.P. and B.B. & C.I. Railways Joint Service Commission with Headquarters at Bombay;

(3) The M. & S.M. and S.I. Railways Joint Service Commission with Headquarters at Madras; and

(4) The E.I. and O.T. Railways Joint Service Commission with Headquarters at Lucknow.

(b) Government have decided to appoint, wherever possible, a retired officer of judicial experience as one of the members of each of these Commissions.

(c) As stated in my reply to part (a), Government have decided to appoint a Joint Service Commission for the E.I. and O.T. Railways. The second part does not arise.

THROUGH CARRIAGE SERVICE BETWEEN SECUNDERABAD AND MADRAS

139. *Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the enormous difficulties of passengers between Secunderabad and Madras?

(b) Is it a fact that these passengers are required to change at Bezwada where it is almost impossible to find even seating accommodation?

(c) Do Government propose to advise the Nizam State Railway and Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway to restore through carriage Service between Secunderabad and Madras?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) No.

(b) Passengers who choose to travel by a train other than the one on which the through service carriage is provided, have to change at Bezwada, and it is quite possible in view of the present congestion in trains that passengers experience difficulty in finding suitable accommodation in connecting trains.

(c) A bi-weekly through service carriage between Secunderabad and Madras was re-introduced from 1st March 1946. This was subsequently extended to four times a week, and the question of making this a daily service with effect from the 1st March 1947 is now under active consideration by the Railway Administrations concerned.

AIR SERVICE BETWEEN DELHI AND CALCUTTA *via* PATNA

140. *Mr. Madandhari Singh: (a) Will the Secretary of the Communications Department please state what steps are being taken to start an Air Service between Delhi-Patna-Calcutta?

(b) If none, do Government propose to take such steps to facilitate the starting of a regular Air Service between Delhi and Calcutta *via* Patna?

Sir Harold Shoober: (a) and (b) It is intended to serve Patna by means of an air service operating, parallel to that which now links Delhi and Calcutta, with halts at Lucknow, Benares and Patna, as soon as the route can be organised in accordance with the minimum standards required for safety.

To meet the immediate urgent demand for an air service to link Patna with Delhi and Calcutta a recommendation has been made to the Air Transport Licensing Board that as an interim measure the present Delhi-Calcutta service *via* Cawnpore and Allahabad should include a scheduled halt at Patna. As yet, however, the Bihar Government aerodrome at Patna is not up to the standard required for the safe operation of Dakota aircraft. Action is being taken to get it improved.

SECRET SECTION IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

141. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a secret section in the Food Department, if so; (i) its functions; (ii) the number of officers and clerks employed in that section; and

(b) whether the officers employed in that section draw higher salaries than those engaged in other sections of the same Department?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) Yes, Sir.

(i) This Section handles secret and confidential papers.

(ii) Secretary—1.

Stenographers—3.

Clerk cum typist—3.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

FOOD POSITION IN INDIA IN 1947.

142. *Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state the food position in India for the year 1947?

(b) What is the estimated deficit, if any, in wheat and rice during the year and how is the situation proposed to be met?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the Memorandum on the food situation which has been circulated to Members of the Legislature at the commencement of the Session for an appreciation of the food situation at present and as it is likely to develop in the coming months. An estimate for the whole year 1947 cannot be made at present as a great deal depends, as the Honourable Member will appreciate, on the outcome of the coming *Rabi*.

(b) An accurate estimate of the deficit in wheat is not yet possible as there are still some months before the crop will be harvested. As regards rice, India was a net importer on an average of about 1.5 million tons before the war and taking into account the reduction in carry-over owing to the shortage conditions of last year, our deficit is well over two million tons. In order to meet this deficit, Government will continue its efforts to import rice and other grains, and to distribute equitably the internal resources through intensive procurement and rationing.

ICE PLANTS AND COLD STORAGES RELEASED FROM THE MILITARY

143. *Mr. Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state how many Ice plants and Cold Storages have been released from the Military and handed over to the Directorate of Disposals for sale?

(b) What are the capacities of these Ice Plants and Cold Storages?

(c) Where are these Ice Plants and Cold Storages located?

(d) How many of these have been disposed of so far?

(e) How many of the remaining are still to be disposed of?

(f) What is the method of sale?

(g) Have any of these Ice Plants and Cold Storages been transferred to the Agriculture Department for preserving fish?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) 43 ice plants and six cold storage plants from H.M.G. and Indian military surpluses were reported for disposal but owing to a change in provisioning policy, 22 of the ice plants and all the six cold storage plants were withdrawn by the reporting authority, leaving only 21 ice plants for disposal. In addition, Food Department reported 500-cubic ft. cold storage plants for disposal. Particulars regarding ice and cold storage plants from American surpluses are being collected, and will be furnished later.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the table.

(d) and (e) All the ice plants have been disposed of. Of the eight cold storage plants, one has been allocated to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, U.P. for use at Benares in connection with milk scheme, and two have been sold to the Nizam's Government. The remaining five are awaiting disposal.

(f) These plants are disposed of in consultation with the Agriculture Department who recommend allocation, and consult the Provincial and Indian States Governments concerned when the proposed allocation is to a private party. Sales to priority buyers are made at book value, while to others at full market rates.

(g) One 4-ton ice plant has been taken over by the Agriculture Department for installation on a sea-going vessel for refrigerated transport of fish.

Statement

- 1 ice plant of 20 ton capacity at Deolali.
- 5 ice plants of 20 ton capacity at Lahore.
- 2 ice plants of 8 ton capacity at Lahore.
- 6 ice plants of 4 ton capacity at Lahore.
- 1 ice plant of 1½ ton capacity at Peshawar.
- 6 ice plants of 9 cwt. capacity at Lahore.

FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN INDIA

144. *Mr. P. K. Salve: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department be pleased to state whether Government have surveyed the possibilities of helping industries connected with food processing?

(b) How many such Industries exist in the country and where?

(c) Have Government installed any equipments, and if so, where, for carrying out researches in food processing? What is the cost of these equipments? What is the expenditure on the Research?

(d) Are Government carrying on researches in making *Maida* out of wheat to help the bakers and confectioners?

(e) Are Government rendering any help in the preparation of Semi-processed foods such as Corn flakes, pressed rice, puff-wheat etc.? If so, in what manner? What is the expenditure on this item?

(f) Are Government aware that all these food products are mainly used by the rich?

(g) Are Government aware that preparation of *Maida* is tantamount to destruction of the Food values in the Cereals?

(h) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of calling a halt to its programme of putting "food-processing on the map"?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) Yes, factual surveys have been made by the Food Department in order to enable plans to be prepared for the improvement of all food industries, other than the fruit and fish industries for which the Agriculture Department is responsible.

(b) A statement indicating the location of the more important units of these industries is placed on the table.

(c) Government has set up a Laboratory in the Food Department for research in Food Processing. Its equipment has cost about Rs. 25,000. The monthly recurring expenditure including salary of personnel is about Rs. 1,500.

(d) The reply is in the negative.

(e) No assistance financial or otherwise has been given.

(f) Yes.

(g) It is a fact that in the course of preparation of *maida*, certain food values are lost.

(h) No, Sir. Processing of food is a stage in production designed to give storage life to food. By preventing wastage it stimulates production of food-stuffs and provides a steady market for them. Planning has been undertaken to regulate industries which have grown up during the war so that they can produce a wholesome and cheap article capable of replacing imports which have commenced after the end of the war.

Statement

| S. No. | Industry | Number of factories in India | Location |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Sugar Products, Confectionery, etc. | 30 | U. P. 15 |
| | | | Bihar 6 |
| | | | Bombay 4 |
| | | | Madras 1 |
| | | | Sind 2 |
| | | | Punjab 1 |
| Bengal 1 | | | |
| 2 | Chocolate and Cocoa powder . | 3 | Bombay 3 |
| 3 | Starch | 8 | Bombay 1 |
| | | | U. P. 2 |
| | | | Punjab 2 |
| | | | Baroda 2 |
| | | | Hyderabad 1 |
| 4 | Liquid glucose | 3 | Bombay 1 |
| | | | Punjab 1 |
| | | | U. P. 1 |
| 5 | Golden Syrup | 5 | Bombay 1 |
| | | | Bihar 1 |
| | | | U. P. 3 |
| 6 | Edible colours and Flavours . | 2 | Punjab 1 |
| | | | Delhi 1 |
| 7 | Rennet | 1 | Bombay 1 |
| 8 | Canned meat | 2 | U. P. 2 |
| 9 | Gelatine | 1 | U. P. 1 |
| 10 | Vitamins | 2 | Bombay 1 |
| | | | Baroda 1 |
| 11 | Shark Liver Oil | 5 | Bombay 1 |
| | | | Madras 1 |
| | | | Travancore 1 |
| | | | Sind 2 |
| 12 | Salt refined | 8 | Sind 3 |
| | | | Punjab 4 |
| | | | Bihar 1 |
| 13 | Sauces, Pickles and Chutney . | 14 | Delhi 1 |
| | | | Punjab 3 |
| | | | Bombay 2 |
| | | | Madras 1 |
| | | | Bengal 4 |
| | | | U. P. 1 |
| Kashmir 2 | | | |
| 14 | Malt | 1 | Punjab 1 |
| 15 | Yeast Extract | 2 | Madras 1 |
| | | | Bihar 1 |

| S. No. | Industry | Number of factories in India | Location |
|--------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 16 | Aerated Water | 15 | Bombay 9 |
| | | | Bengal 6 |
| 17 | Bakery Products | 14 | Bengal 3 |
| | | | Bombay 8 |
| | | | Delhi 2 |
| | | | Sind 1 |
| 18 | Breakfast food | 11 | Bombay 1 |
| | | | Punjab 2 |
| | | | Bengal 3 |
| | | | U. P. 2 |
| | | | Delhi 2 |
| | | | Orissa 1 |
| 19 | Flour Milling | 116 | Bengal 20 |
| | | | Bombay 12 |
| | | | Sind 6 |
| | | | C. P. 1 |
| | | | Indian States 9 |
| | | | U. P. 18 |
| | | | Punjab 42 |
| | | | Madras 5 |
| | | | Delhi 3 |
| 20 | Biscuits | 20 | Bengal 4 |
| | | | Delhi 1 |
| | | | C. P. 1 |
| | | | Sind 5 |
| | | | Bombay 5 |
| | | | U. P. 1 |
| | | | Punjab 2 |
| | | | Patiala State 1 |
| 21 | Cashew Nut | 49 | Madras 35 |
| | | | Bombay 14 |
| 22 | Ice Cream | 4 | Bengal 1 |
| | | | Bombay 1 |
| | | | Delhi 1 |
| | | | U. P. 1 |
| 23 | Cheese | 2 | Bombay 1 |
| | | | U. P. 1 |
| 24 | Milk Products | 3 | Bombay 3 |
| 25 | Butter | 18 | Bombay 5 |
| | | | Punjab 1 |
| | | | U. P. 5 |
| | | | Delhi 2 |
| 26 | Margarine | 2 | Delhi 1 |
| | | | Bombay 1 |
| 27 | Oil Salad | 9 | U. P. 1 |
| | | | Bombay 4 |
| | | | Bengal 2 |
| | | | Madras 2 |

| S. No. | Industry | Number of factories in India | Location |
|--------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 28 | Edible Oils | 83 | U. P. 22 Bihar 11 Hydrabad State 4 Sind 3 Bengal 5 Bombay 17 Punjab 6 C. P. 7 Delhi 8 |

SUPPLY OF MILK AND SLAUGHTER OF CATTIE FOR THE MILITARY.

145. *Mr. P. K. Salve: (a) Will the Secretary of the Agriculture Department please state how many bullocks, cows and calves are being slaughtered daily for supply to the Military?

(b) What steps have Government taken to improve both the number of milk-yielding animals as well as the breed of cattle?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have been breeding bulls which would give large sized bullocks for draught purposes?

(d) Are Government aware that these large sized bullocks are useful to the Military, and that they are beyond the means of the millions of small farmers who cannot afford to feed such huge animals?

(e) Are Government aware that the bulls they have supplied from the cattle farms for the increase of supply of milk have resulted in decreasing the milk-yielding quantity of the progeny in the country side in favour of producing large bullocks?

(f) Are Government aware that the Milk Sub-Committee of the Policy Committee on Agriculture have recommended the establishment of milk collecting and processing Centres and Special Cold Storage and Railway Transport Facilities?

(g) Do Government propose to take steps to see that the milk obtained from the country side is a definite surplus over and above the needs of the producers and their families?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) and (b) Statements giving this information were placed on the table of the House in reply to parts (b) and (e) respectively of question No. 147 by Mr. Manu Subedar on 11th February 1946. Since then the number of cattle slaughtered has been steadily decreasing and the Central Government have been sanctioning funds to help the Provinces in carrying out the necessary schemes, including the procurement and supply of cattle feeds to deficit areas at subsidised rates.

(c) The Provincial Government farms have been producing improved bulls of the breeds found in the Provinces, except in the case of Bengal where breeds from other Provinces have been introduced in an effort to grade up inferior local stock.

(d) Government are aware that large sized bullocks may not be suitable for certain regions.

(e) No such complaints have been received by Government.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) This is normally the policy and only milk surplus to the needs of the local population is taken for the towns. Many Cooperative Milk Unions have made it compulsory in their byelaws for the members to retain a certain quantity of milk produced for their domestic use.

MANUFACTURE OF VANASPATI GHEE.

146. *Mr. P. K. Salve: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state whether it is a fact that the Vanaspati Ghee manufacturing industry is receiving encouragement from Government?

(b) How many licences have been granted during the last ten years for the manufacture of this article? How many such factories exist to-day? What quantity is produced at present?

(c) Are Government aware that Vanaspati Ghee has been proved to be indigestible and without any advantage over the common oils produced by *Telus*?

(d) Are Government aware that this oil is sold in the market by the name and style of Ghee?

(e) Are Government aware that the shifting of the demand from pure ghee to Vanaspati is dealing a death blow to the Dairy Industry?

(f) Do Government propose to set up a body of experts to analyse the food value of Vanaspati Ghee and inform the public about its effects on the public health?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) Government assisted the construction of Vanaspati factories during the war.

(b) (i) 37 licences were granted for import of machinery. No licence is required for manufacturing vanaspati.

(ii) 22 factories are in existence and produce about 1,45,000 tons annually.

(c) Vanaspati having a melting range of 31-37°C. which the Government is now enforcing, is not indigestible. It has no nutritional advantage over the common edible oils but its keeping quality is much better and its acidity is very low not exceeding 0.25 per cent. as compared with the acidity of raw oil which may range from 2 to 50 per cent.

(d) No, Sir. Vanaspati is not sold as ghee. It is compulsory that Vanaspati containers should be labelled as Vanaspati, and not as ghee. Vanaspati can not be sold in the same premises, with ghee.

(e) Vanaspati is usually purchased by those who cannot afford to use milk ghee.

(f) This has been done.

BISCUIT MANUFACTURE IN INDIA.

147. *Mr. P. K. Salve: (a) Will the Secretary of the Food Department please state how many biscuit factories exist today in (i) the British Provinces and (ii) the Indian States?

(b) How many of them have sprung up in the last six years?

(c) What quantity of wheat and other cereals are consumed by these factories?

(d) Are Government aware that biscuit making reduces the availability of food materials to the poor and adds to the luxury of the rich who are usually the consumers of biscuits?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of stopping biscuit production as long as there is deficiency in food?

Mr. K. L. Panjabi: (a) There are 20 large factories in India of which 19 are situated in British Provinces and one in Patiala State.

(b) Four.

(c) 2,138 tons of wheat was supplied by the Central Government to six factories during 1946. Supplies have not been made since the 15th November, 1946 on account of the shortage of wheat. The remaining factories obtain their own supplies in quantities which are not known.

(d) The consumption of biscuits is not confined to the rich and the allocation of wheat required is too small to affect the position of annual supplies required for ordinary food.

(e) In view of the capital invested and the labour employed in these factories Government do not intend to stop production of biscuits, if supplies can be found without materially affecting the requirements of wheat for ordinary consumption.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WANT OF INDIAN REFRESHMENT ROOM AT KHANDWA JUNCTION.

26. Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) if Government are aware that there is no good Indian Refreshment Room on the platform at Khandwa Junction;

(b) if Government are aware that Khandwa is a big junction and that most of the passengers passing through the station need food of Indian style readily available at the platform;

(c) if Government are aware that the present Indian style food stalls are far away from the platform and near the public latrines and are quite unsuitable for the use of passengers especially during rains; and

(d) if Government propose to consider the advisability of shifting these food stalls to the platform?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes. A proposal for the construction of an Indian Style Refreshment Room is, however, already under consideration in the programme of works for the year 1948-49.

(b) Yes.

(c) The existing food stalls are about 30 yards away from any latrines and are adjacent to the third class waiting hall in view of the convenience this affords to the greater proportion of passengers requiring refreshments. There are, in addition, subsidiary tea stalls on the platforms and food for the convenience of passing passengers is brought from the food stalls to the tea stalls in advance of the arrival of trains. Although existing arrangements could be bettered, they are not unsuitable for the use of passengers even during the rains.

(d) The provision of improved food stalls and tea stalls is also under consideration and Government do not consider that the temporary expedient of moving the main food stalls from their present location would serve any useful purpose.

CONSTRUCTION OF TUBE-WELLS IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

27. Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Secretary of the Agriculture Department please state if the Central Ground Water Section in the Agriculture Department which has been formed to assist in and co-ordinate the Provincial and State efforts for construction of tube-wells has received any request for help in the construction of tube-wells from the Government of the Central Provinces?

(b) Has any help in the form of subsidies been granted to the Government of Central Provinces in this connection?

(c) Do Government propose to explore the possibilities and potentialities of ground water in the Northern Districts of the Central Provinces where crops depend solely on the vagaries of rainfall?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) No such request has been received.

(b) The offer of subsidies has been made to all provinces but no request for a subsidy has been received from the Central Provinces.

(c) The C.P. Government consider that the information at their disposal does not warrant the formulation of any schemes for tubewells.

However, the Central Ground Water Section which is concerned with the exploration of the possibilities of constructing tubewells in different parts of India will look into the possibilities of tubewells in the C.P. as soon as its immediate preoccupation with tubewells for the G.M.F. campaign is over.

SHORTAGE OF POSTAL FORMS.

28. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Secretary of the Communications Department be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is acute dearth of postal forms, such as acknowledgment receipts, telegram forms, etc.; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such shortage and the steps that are being taken by Government for remedying the same?

Sir Harold Shoobert: (a) Government are aware that certain postal forms have been in short supply in some Circles.

(b) Government Presses at Aligarh and Calcutta are the normal sources of supply of forms to P. & T. Offices. Owing to labour trouble and press strikes in the middle of March last, which lasted about nine weeks at Calcutta and 15 weeks at Aligarh, there was no output of forms from the Government presses during that period. Further, the postal strike in July last and the subsequent civil disturbances in Calcutta, Bihar and United Provinces disorganised the machinery of supply to a great extent. The recent restrictions on booking imposed by Railway Authorities due to coal shortage have also affected the movement of forms from one place to another. To meet the immediate needs, arrangements have been made for the printing of essential forms locally and also for the transport of forms.

USE OF RAILWAY LINES CONSTRUCTED FROM JUBBULPORE STATION TO CENTRAL ORDNANCE DEPOT, JUBBULPORE FOR CIVIL INDUSTRY.

29. Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a huge net-work of railway lines has been constructed from Jubbulpore station to Central Ordnance Depot Jubbulpore and Ordnance Factory, Khamaria;

(b) whether Government are aware that most of these lines, especially those going upto Ordnance Factory, Khamaria, are lying idle and that there is little chance of their being used during peace time; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to give facilities for using these lines for civil industry if any such demand is forthcoming?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) The activities in some of the sidings have decreased as a result of the termination of the War. Some of the sidings are under the administrative control of the Defence Department and some under the Department of Industries and Supplies. The necessary information is being collected from these departments and will be laid on the table in due course.

PROPOSED SALE OF ORDNANCE FACTORY KHAMARIA NEAR JUBBULPORE.

30. Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) if any negotiations are being carried on by the Government of India with big industrialists to sell the Ordnance Factory, Khamaria near Jubbulpore;

(b) if so, whether these negotiations are likely to mature in the near future; and

(c) if so, what are the terms on which the sale would be effected?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a) No. The Factory is not available for disposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SCHEMES OF IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN BENGAL

31. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: (a) Will the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement giving the information about the exact amount spent or proposed to be spent by the Provincial Government and the number and description of the schemes of irrigation projects in Bengal which was called for from the Bengal Government as stated in answer to my unstarred question No. 37 of the 6th November 1946?

(b) Whether the Schemes are selected by the Government of the province or they are adopted after previous consultation with the Government of India?

(c) What steps are taken by the Government of India to see that the schemes sent up by the Government of Bengal or by the Government of any province do not represent sectional or parochial interests and that such schemes have the general approval of the people of the connected places and also of neighbouring places?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) The schemes are selected by the Government of the Province and accepted by the Central Government as qualifying for grants.

(c) The Government of India have full confidence in Provincial Governments that the schemes they put up are not of sectional or parochial interests and are solely designed to produce more food. Grants are sanctioned solely on the basis of their "Grow more food" value.

Statement showing particulars of Bengal Emergency Irrigation Schemes sanctioned during 1946-47 (up-to-date)

| Name of Scheme | Subsidy sanctioned by Government of India |
|--|---|
| Construction of 2 box sluices at Khankradet in the 24 Parganas. | 3,615 0 0 |
| Improvement of drainage congestion of Bowanipur, Sukdebpur in the 24 Parganas. | 21,250 0 0 |
| Improvement of Nila Khal in the 24 Parganas | 6,165 0 0 |
| Improvement of Satpukur Khal in 24 Parganas | 46,966 8 0 |
| Improvement of Kholakhat Khal in 24 Parganas | 24,538 0 0 |
| Kulgachi Bil drainage scheme in 24 Parganas | 21,072 8 0 |
| Constructing embankment along Jalalpur Khal in Basirhat Sub-Division in 24 Parganas. | 550 0 0 |
| Re. excavation of a Khal from Bil Maliat to Chitra River in Dt. Jessore. | 3,200 0 0 |
| Gorali Bil project in Dt. Jessore | 9,800 0 0 |
| Re. excavation of a Khal for drainage of Bhur Churia in Jessore. | 9,650 0 0 |
| Drainage of Kachna Bil in Jessore Distt. | 8,000 0 0 |
| Re. excavation of Nalua river in the Distt. Khulna | 1,350 0 0 |
| Construction of box sluices over the Kalabaria and other Khals in Distt. Khulna. | 700 0 0 |
| Drainage of Ramchandrapur mouzes in Distt. Khulna | 1,050 0 0 |
| Providing box sluices over Mokam Khat Khal Distt. Khulna. | 262 8 0 |
| Reclaiming Morgang from river Bhola to Karakhali in Distt. Khulna. | 21,500 0 0 |
| Re-excavation of a cut from Padma Bil to River Kumar in Distt. Jessore. | 3,150 0 0 |
| Re-excavation of Royra Khal for drainage in Distt. Jessore. | 16,313 0 0 |

| Name of Scheme | Subsidy sanctioned by Government of India |
|--|---|
| Re-modelling the Chatra Circuit embankment in the Howrah Distt. | 42,854 8 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of the Dest Khal in P. S. Arambagh Distt. Hooghly. | 24,888 0 0 |
| Re. excavation of the Kedarmati Khal in the Hooghly Dist. | 43,311 8 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of the Bhoger Khal in the Howrah Distt. . | 5,824 8 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of the Raja Nagar Laltakuri Drainage channel in the Murshidabad Distt. | 50,588 8 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of Baultali Khal in Faridpur Distt. . . . | 37,500 0 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of a Khal in Faridpur Distt- | 23,750 0 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of Pona river in Bakarganj Distt. . . . | 4,000 0 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of Pancha Karan Khal in Bakarganj | 4,000 0 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of Kaladah Khal in Bakarganj Distt. . . . | 6,000 0 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of Nabagram Baligona in Bakarganj Distt. | 6,000 0 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of Paterhat Daudpur Khal in Bakarganj | 16,000 0 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of Mahut Kaudi Khal in Bakarganj Distt. | 12,500 0 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of a channel from Tangaon river in Malda Distt. | 23,803 8 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of Khal from Mathbaria towards Baleswar in Bakarganj District. | 22,500 0 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of Bamandili Khal in Pabna District. . . . | 7,499 8 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of the Subil Khal in Bogra District | 14,009 0 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of Karauja Khal in Chittagong District | 33,550 0 0 |
| Chapai Sankarpur drainage scheme in Malda District | 15,653 0 0 |
| Abra B I drainage scheme in Dinajpur District | 8,883 0 0 |
| Kalahan B I drainage scheme in Malda District | 15,883 0 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of Jalmala Canal in Rajshahi District | 22,802 0 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of a Khal in Mymensingh District | 14,494 0 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of Anulia Canal in Rajshahi District | 2,575 8 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of the Solatopa Khal in Midnapur District | 98,785 0 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of the Ghatine Khal in Pabna District | 57,477 0 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of the Chandreswar Khal in Midnapur District. | 71,349 0 0 |
| Ba'shabnagar Chakshardi Bil drainage scheme in Malda District. | 18,200 0 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of the Haludghar Jola in Pabna District | 18,100 0 0 |
| Dh I river scheme in Burdwan | 18,536 0 0 |
| Salki Ulkanda embankment of More river in Birbhum District. | 30,050 8 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of Datora Khal for drainage of Menhali Bil | 5,314 8 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of Khal in Dacca Distt. | 1,500 0 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of a drainage Khal B I areas in Dacca Distt. | 24,578 8 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of the Sema Khali Khal in Mymensingh District. | 18,920 0 0 |
| Construction of a sluice in connection with the Pakundia Drainage Scheme. | 8,500 0 0 |
| Silt barin scheme in Distt. Mymensingh | 35,700 8 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of the Barai Khali Khal from Panan Bil to the Kanharatia river. | 35,500 8 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of the Rakhali p. s. Boalkhal Distt. Ch'ttagong. | 13,000 8 0 |
| Re-ex-avation of a Khal from Godai river to Naroda river Distt. Rajshahi. | 8,000 8 0 |

| Name of Scheme | Subsidy sanctioned by Government of India |
|--|---|
| Re-excavation of a canal from river Mushekhan to Bil Kanta. | 7,372 0 0 |
| Re-excavation of Nandangachi Canal | 7,000 0 0 |
| Re-excavation of Kanta Khali Channel from river Ganges to Bil Chiara. | 9,627 8 0 |
| Re-excavation of Someshpur Khal | 36,792 8 0 |
| Re-excavation of the Soniechari river and the Nailar Khal in the Distt. Tipperah. | 23,062 0 0 |
| Drainage of the Magura and other Bils in the Distt. of J ssore. | 1,17,285 0 0 |
| Re-excavation of Rahemat Khali Khal and Keralia Khal in the Distt. of Noakhali. | 4,79,281 8 0 |
| Resuscitation of the Nonagong in the Distt. of 24 Parganas | 5,77,781 0 0 |
| Scheme for constructing marginal embankment from Mahjibari to Burrighar in P. S. Sudharam. | 9,678 8 0 |
| Scheme for reclamation and drainage of Sitala Bil into Kulik river in P. S. Ra ganj. | 14,313 8 0 |
| Scheme for reclamation and drainage of Dhodar and Bhandar Bils into Gamari river in P. S. Kaliaganj. | 24,500 0 0 |
| Scheme for reclamation and drainage of Kachua, Khalisa and Dodra Bils into Balia Khari (Khal) in P. S. Khaliaganj. | 14,985 0 0 |
| Scheme for re-excavation of Bhomra Khal (from South of Dehar Kunda to Aur or a Khal near Ramchandrapur in P. S. Kharkhal). | 44,461 8 0 |
| Improvement of Dhalhara area in the District of Midnapore. | 14,500 0 0 |
| Making drainage cut from Topa Khal at Jodupur to the Dehati Channel at Baradapar in the District of Midnapur. | 30,064 8 0 |
| Re-excavation of the Khal from Bamandanga Bil to the old loop of Dudkumar river. | 11,977 8 0 |
| Re-excavation of the drainage channel from Nirasi pagla and other adjoining Bils. | 24,075 0 0 |
| Cutting a drainage channel from Naodanga and other adjoining Bils to the River Fulkumari. | 7,689 0 0 |
| Cutting a channel to drain out to the Selagr and Bara Bils | 9,668 0 0 |
| Cutting a drainage channel from Singimari Bil to the river Kharkharia. | 24,906 8 0 |
| Reclamation and drainage of Kachas Bil into Lachi River . | 15,832 0 0 |
| Draining out the Salar and Khalar Bils | 6,519 8 0 |
| Barashila Bil drainage scheme | 31,551 8 0 |
| JampoI Irrigation scheme from the dead loop of the Mal river. | 10,168 0 0 |
| Constructing a bund in Dolachola Bil | 5,577 0 0 |
| Drainage of the Mubishabagan and Barhati Bils in the District of Rajshahi. | 39,755 0 0 |
| Re-excavation of a drain (Bairgir Daura) from the Kantakhal Khel in Rajshahi District. | 21,113 0 0 |
| Re-excavation of the Narayanpur Khal in the District of B. karaganj. | 14,173 0 0 |
| Improvement of Lonka and Pona Bil in District Tippera . | 9,106 0 0 |
| Re-excavation of drainage Khal from Sukhati and Niasa Bil. | 44,493 0 0 |
| Re-excavation of a drainage channel from the Narular Bil to the Kantakhal river | 28,406 0 0 |
| Irrigation scheme in Alipor Duars Tahsil for irrigating the Santale Colony. | 20,233 0 0 |

| Name of the Scheme | Subsidy sanctioned by the Government of India | |
|--|---|-----|
| Excavation of a channel from Lohagara channel to Qazaria Khal known as Velirjar in P. S. Sheria Kandi. | 17,518 | 0 0 |
| Drainage cut from villages Islampur to Iremati river in P. S. Dubehanchia. | 16,425 | 8 0 |
| Excavation of Jubilee canal in Natore Sub-division | 45,604 | 8 0 |
| Drainage of the Rab-tadahal bil | 22,231 | 8 0 |
| Re-excavation of the Kankri river in the district of Tippera. | 21,624 | 8 0 |
| Re-excavation of a Khal for drainage of bil areas near Tejgaon in District Dacca. | 22,949 | 0 0 |
| Re-excavation of a Khal from the Naiazmolla bil to the Arial Khan river in P. S. Raipur in Dacca District. | 9,497 | 8 0 |
| Re-excavation of a Khal for drainage of the Badra bil in P. S. Dulatpur, District Dacca. | 17,577 | 8 0 |
| Re-excavation of Rustampur Khal in P. S. Faridganj in Tipperah. | 41,000 | 0 0 |
| Silt Clearance of the Kalsbaria Khal in Midnapur District . | 46,401 | 0 0 |
| Re-excavation of Balior Khal in P. S. Phulbaria, District Mymensingh. | 5,798 | 8 0 |
| Ranpur Kaliganj silt clearance scheme in P. S. Harischandrapur, District Malda. | 1,038 | 0 0 |
| Reclamation and drainage of Kumargari Forusdanga and Fatejanpur Bil into a Nullah of Ichhamati river in P. S. Chiritbhandar, Dinajpur. | 4,000 | 0 0 |
| Dhangora Irrigation Scheme | 2,799 | 0 0 |
| Construction of a bund between 2 villages in P. S. Sherpur, District Mymensingh. | 44,792 | 0 0 |
| Re-excavation of Kamaldangi Khal in the District of Tippera. | 1,555 | 0 0 |
| Re-excavation of Sujarpur Khal in the District of Tippera | 742 | 0 0 |
| Re-excavation of Saidpur Khal for drainage into Gazria river in P. S. Slabgunj in District of Bogra. | 3,528 | 0 0 |
| Reclamation and drainage of Satnaladola, Debridola and Khechnadola in the District of Dinapur. | 33,515 | 0 0 |
| Total | 32,33,740 | 8 0 |

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES BY GOVERNMENT

32. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the allegations made in the press and otherwise that quite a huge number of motor vehicles were sold to a firm at a price which is much lower than the price at which this firm has been selling such vehicles;

(b) whether Government have made any investigation into the matter;

(c) what are the prices at which Government sold and what are the prices at which this firm has been selling;

(d) the method adopted for selecting the purchasers with a view to ensuring that Government were getting the fairest possible price in the open market; and

(e) whether Government propose to state their position in the matter?

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari: (a), (b) and (c). Yes, Sir, the allegations were noted and I had occasion to look into the matter and I was fairly satisfied there was no ground for thinking that the party had made great profit in this deal. As a matter of fact the party wished to be released and was prepared to pay ten lakhs by way of damages to Government but I did not think it would be wise to accept that offer and release him. All vehicles in the Moran Depot in Assam were sold to the firm for Rs. 1,80,00,000, a further 1,000 vehicles in Calcutta for Rs. 62,00,000 and all unsold U.S. surplus vehicles and trailers in certain Depots in the Eastern Zone for Rs. 2½ crores. In addition the Company purchased U.S. spares and a re-conditioning plant. Government are unable to furnish information about the prices at which the firm has been selling these vehicles.

(d) The deal was concluded by negotiation, after offers by other parties had been considered, and the sale price realised was reasonable both to the purchaser and the Government having regard to the condition of vehicles and the organisation and work involved in marketing them.

(e) Government's position is stated in the replies to parts (a) to (d) of the question. The disposals enquiry committee is likely to have gone into this case fully and will probably refer to it when they give us their report.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Mr. Deputy President: I have to inform Honourable Members that the Honourable the President has re-nominated the following Members to constitute the House Committee for the year 1947:—

12 NOON.

1. Khan Muhammad Yamin Khan (Chairman).
2. Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan.
3. Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.
4. Khan Abdul Ghani Khan.
5. Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena.
6. Mr. Ram Narayan Singh.
7. Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.
8. Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth.
9. Mr. Muhammad Nauman.
10. Mr. C. P. Lawson.
11. Sir Cowasji Jehangir.
12. Sardar Mangal Singh.

POINT OF ORDER *RE* RESOLUTION *RE* RELEASE OF INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY MEN AND POLITICAL PRISONERS.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I rise to a point of order. I find that in today's agenda paper the Resolution regarding the release of I. N. A., the discussion of which was adjourned to this Session, is not entered. If you refer to the proceedings

Mr. Deputy President: I understand from the Secretary that no notice was received and although it was balloted it did not gain precedence.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Let me make a submission, Sir. Para. 27 relates only to the business that is entered in the agenda but is not taken up. But this is a part discussed question and it was decided unanimously by this House that it should be taken up for further discussion during this Session. So my submission is that it should have automatically found the first place on today's agenda.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May I make a submission about this as the Resolution stood in my name. As it is, paragraph 152 on page 29 of the Manual of Business and Procedure lays down that:

"When a resolution has been moved no resolution or amendment raising substantially the same question shall be moved within one year."

That having been there, this motion which was made by the Honourable the Finance Member on the 8th of November last moving that further discussion of this Resolution be adjourned to the next Session and which was supported by the Honourable the Home Member could only contemplate that this Resolution would be taken up at the next Session because if it had been contemplated that under the ordinary rules further consideration of this Resolution would lapse and fresh notice would have to be given then the motion would not have been there. All that would have been required would have been to say that the consideration should be adjourned. As it is the motion was that the consideration should be adjourned to the next Session. In other words, the Assembly that day by passing this Resolution gave a directive that the matter should be taken up, and I submit therefore that further consideration of that Resolution should come up on the list of business for the day automatically. Firstly, it could not have been considered as having been concluded; secondly, it could not have been considered as having lapsed; and thirdly, in view of this Rule there could have been no question of fresh notice being given of it within one year during which period this Session was known to meet. Therefore if the Resolution had not said that the consideration of it should be postponed to the next Session, which would have been within the year, then this rule might have applied, but since that was done neither of the three things will apply to this Resolution and the only inference which can be drawn is that the House on that day was of the opinion that further consideration of this Resolution should take place but that it should take place during this Session. Now in this session this is the first day on which non-official Resolutions are to come. I admit that it was possible for the Government, since they had proposed that motion and the House had adopted it, to put that Resolution down even on any other day, but since it has not been done till today and today is the day fixed for non-official Resolutions and the Resolution is still pending before this House which by the unanimous vote of this House has been postponed for consideration to this Session, I submit that all Standing Orders and Rules will be superseded by the unanimous decision of the Assembly on that day and we should first take up the consideration of that Resolution and only after it has been concluded can we go on to the next item on the agenda.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): I think no Resolution of this Legislature can override the rules for the business of the Assembly. It is therefore wrong to say that because on the motion of the Honourable the Finance Member the House unanimously agreed to postpone the discussion of a Resolution till the next Session that a Resolution so postponed gets a precedence over the rights of the other private members. If we once allow a postponement of this nature by resolution, even a unanimous decision, the rights of private members will suffer. They have a right to put their resolution in the ballot and if they get precedence in the ballot no resolution of this House can override the rules.

• **Pandit Govind Malaviya**: It was an un concluded discussion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: If it was un concluded for want of time, then only you get precedence, under no other circumstances. If the House agreed on the motion of the Finance Member to postpone further consideration of this Resolution, it is the business of the Finance Member to find time for it. How can you encroach upon the time of the private members to suit the convenience of

the Honourable the Finance Member. I think it will be very wrong on our part to allow the private members rights to be thus superseded on the request of the Finance Member even by the unanimous voice of the House.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Ruler.) May I say that my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, has misunderstood the position. There is no attempt by the House to override the present Standing Orders. The two Standing Orders which are relevant to the situation are No. 7(a) and No. 9. Standing Order No. 9 refers to lapsing. Inasmuch as this matter was under discussion, there was no question of notice being given nor of the notice lapsing. The other Standing Order, namely 7A, lays down that:

"The relative precedence of notices of Bills given by non-official members shall be determined by ballot to be held, in accordance with the procedure set out in Schedule I,"

But so far as this particular resolution was concerned, there was no necessity for a fresh notice inasmuch as it was under discussion. Therefore no notice is necessary. It was the business of the Secretary of the Assembly to put this item as first on the agenda for the day of non-official business which is set down for discussion of resolutions.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: That is a further question.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: There is a provision in the same Standing Order by resort to which this apparent deadlock can be solved. It lays down—

"Provided that the President may, from time to time make such variations in the said procedure as he may consider necessary or convenient."

In view of the unanimous decision of the House, it is open to you to vary the procedure to get over the present difficulty.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I would like to draw your attention to paragraph 27. Here it is said that—

"Non-official business set down for any day and not disposed of on that day shall not be set down for any subsequent day, unless it has gained priority at the ballot held with reference to that day :

"Provided that, notwithstanding anything contained in standing orders 7A and 7B, any such business which has been commenced shall be set down for the next day allotted to business of that class, and shall have precedence over any other business set down for that day."

So that resolution should have been set down for this day and as the Secretary has pointed out that it was balloted but did not come out in the ballot, even then under para. 26:

"Unless the President otherwise directs, not more than five resolutions (in addition to any resolution which has been commenced on, and is outstanding from a previous day) shall be set down in the list of business for any day allotted for the disposal of non-official resolutions."

So this resolution was discussed and it should have been at least put down on this order paper today and it would have been open to this House to take this question in priority to other resolutions.

As regards Mr. Joshi's contention, we should remember that although the motion was made by the Finance Member, it was to accommodate a non-official member. He did so because Govind Malaviya was absent due to the illness of his father. Therefore the House decided that the question should be postponed to this session. It is not that official members want to take undue advantage.

My submission is that this resolution should have been set in the order paper as the first item on the agenda but even if the contention of the Secretary is accepted, it should have been set on the agenda paper in addition to the five resolutions.

Mr. Deputy President: This is really a complicated matter. I would like to read out to the House a note which was put up by the Secretary before the President, and it is within the province of the President to order anything to be added to the agenda or not. The Secretary put up this note and got the decision of the President.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: If there is something which has been done by the President, I may submit that if you do not feel in a position to give a ruling just now, then it might be adjourned to the next non-official day when the President is here so that we may take up the question with him.

Mr. Deputy President: I will read to the House the note which was put up by the Secretary.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): On a point of order

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order. There can be no point of order at this stage. This is the note:

"The first item in the list of business for the 8th November, 1946, was a part-discussed resolution by Pandit Govind Malaviya recommending to the Governor General-in-Council to give up the trials of officers of the Indian National Army and to release immediately all men and officers of the Indian National Army as well as all other political prisoners under detention or imprisonment.

After this resolution was taken up for further discussion, the Honourable Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan moved an amendment to the effect that further discussion of this resolution be adjourned to the next session, and the motion was adopted by the House.

It has been ruled that proviso to Standing Order 9 only applies to part-discussed resolutions which are outstanding at the end of the day. It is, therefore, obvious that this resolution cannot now be put down as the first item on the list of business for the first non-official day in the ensuing budget session.

It is, however, clear that effect must be given to the decision of the House. The non-applicability of the proviso to Standing Order 9 to this particular resolution only amounts to this that it cannot gain the first place in the list of business automatically, but must stand its chance with other resolutions in the ballot.

The question for consideration is whether in the case of a resolution which is adjourned on a motion made in the House to the next session it is necessary that there should be an authority to ballot from the mover of the resolution before the ballot officer can include the resolution in the ballot. As I stated earlier the decision of the House must be given effect to, and if the matter were dependent upon the intention of the mover of the resolution, he could nullify the decision of the House by instructing his Department not to include the resolution in the ballot or by just remaining silent over the matter. In the present case after the motion for adjournment of discussion was adopted, a telegram was received from Pandit Govind Malaviya asking for leave to withdraw the resolution. It is, therefore, clear that Pandit Govind Malaviya has no intention of proceeding with this resolution, and has therefore given us no instructions in this matter. If the request for withdrawal had been made by Pandit Govind Malaviya himself in the House, it could only have been granted with the unanimous consent of the House. It is, therefore, clear that Pandit Malaviya's wishes in this matter are not relevant for the decision of point.

The point is simple and clear. The House on a motion adjourned the discussion to the next session. Under the standing orders the resolution cannot now be put down as the first item in the list of business. The adoption of the resolution by the House, however, carries with it the necessary implication that the resolution must be included in the ballot for the next and succeeding days for non-official resolutions during the next session; and if it is successful in securing a place, it must be included in the list of business for the relevant non-official day for resolutions.

This is a case of first impression and the earlier precedents on the subject provide no authoritative guide because in those cases the members who had given notices of resolutions had actually moved in the matter and asked for their resolutions being put down in the list of business under the Rules.

I have recorded this note after discussion with P. L. A. who may see for approval.

I may add that this resolution did not secure a place in the ballot to-day. It will, however, be balloted for the remaining two non-official days and, if successful, will be included in the list of business for any of those days."

This was the note which clearly shows that this note was made after discussion with the Honourable the President. I think under these circumstances it is not right and it is not very easy that I should give any ruling today about this matter and I leave it for a future date when a full ruling on this point will be given. I will however proceed with the business as it is put down on the business paper today.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Could not the Honourable the Leader of the House give half a day out of the official days, to this motion, in view of the fact that the resolution was adjourned at the desire and request of the Honourable the Finance Member?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: It is the right of every non-official Member to get time for his motion?

Mr. Deputy President: I learn from the Secretary of the Assembly that Khan Abdul Ghani Khan has secured a place for a similar resolution for the next non-official day.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: That is a different matter. The question at issue is whether lawfully and according to the rules this item should have been put as the first item in today's agenda.

Mr. Deputy President: I have already explained that. The Secretary did not put the motion down because he had received orders from the Honourable the President. Therefore under those circumstances I do not think that I shall give any ruling on the subject today. A ruling on the subject as to whether it is permissible under the circumstances or not will be given later on. Therefore I do not wish to express any opinion on the matter and shall proceed with the agenda.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces, Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): It is quite clear from the statement which has just been read out that the motion could not be given the first place automatically. I now request you, Sir, to proceed with the business before the House.

RESOLUTION *RE* CONTROL OF INDUSTRY BY ALIENS.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"Whereas India is on the threshold of a big programme of industrialisation;

Indian industrialists are planning a large-scale expansion of existing industries and contemplating new industrial ventures;

foreign financiers and industrialists have acquired, whole or partial control of the capital and management of such undertakings;

therefore, this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to take executive, administrative and other measures effectively to check and, if possible prevent any alien hold on Indian economy in the shape of control of Indian industry, in whole or in part, through a gift or sale of shares, partnership, association agreement, contract or otherwise."

Mr. Deputy President, it is a strange irony of fate that the ballot should have favoured me rather than any other signatory to the notice of this resolution.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): It always goes to the wrong man!

Shri Sri Prakasa: The real sponsor of the resolution is my Honourable friend, Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai, and I have no doubt that when he follows me he will do full justice to the question. I must confess at the very outset that I am rather ignorant of the problems and the issues involved in this particular

[Shri Sri Prakasa.]

resolution. Sir, if I may say so in all humility, it has been a principle of a lifetime with me not to look at public questions from any communal or racial standpoint, and I fear that as the resolution stands, my friends, who know my weakness, may wonder why I am sponsoring this particular resolution. But I will be able to show as I proceed, that there is no racial or communal consideration involved in this particular problem, and that it is really an effort to enable our country to come to her own.

At the stage of our history which we have reached, I feel that we are on the threshold of freedom; but freedom can have very little value or meaning, if it is not accompanied by economic freedom as well. Whether we like it or not, it is generally accepted that industrialisation is essential both for the maintenance of the freedom that is coming, and also to ensure the future prosperity of the land and to meet the growing wants of an increasing population. The resolution seeks to keep the business, the trade and the industries of the country in our own hands and to utilise them for our own good.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: (Nominated Non-Official): In whose hands?

Shri Sri Prakasa: When I am sponsoring this resolution let me assure my friend **Mr. Joshi** and every other Honourable Member of the House that I have every confidence that when the industries are in our own hands, that is in the hands of our industrialists, those industrialists will utilise the opportunities given to them for the general welfare of the people and not for their own behoof.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: You are too optimistic!

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, the main desire is that the control over these industries should be ours. But it so happens that the old saying proves true, *vis.*, that he who pays the piper calls for the tune. We know that when the Government of India or any of our provincial governments give even small grants to educational and other institutions, they try to keep their stranglehold on those institutions. Therefore the person who supplies the wherewithal to industries is bound to desire to have full control over them.

I understand that there are three aspects of the problem with which we have to deal. We have to look to the capital, we have to look to the control and we have to look to the management of an industrial concern. When we desire control we feel that we must have our own capital and our own management as well. I have already said that when the capital in a concern is found by someone, that someone seeks to have the control as well; and it also happens that if the managers are extraordinarily clever—cleverer than even the capitalists and the supposed controllers—they begin to have the real control of the concern; and therefore if we desire control we have to have both our own capital and our own management. There is a portion in a very well known speech of President Woodrow Wilson which shows how capital can control industry. He says:

“A country is dominated by the capital invested in it. It is a fundamental idea that in proportion as foreign capital comes in and takes hold, foreign influence comes in and takes hold also. Therefore the processes of capital are in a sense processes of conquest.”

No wonder therefore that the National Planning Committee in a resolution has said:

“The investment of foreign capital in Indian agricultural, mineral and industrial concerns since the establishment of British rule has resulted in acquisition by foreign interests of a measure of control over India's economic and political life which has both warped and retarded national development.”

We all know that the British came to India as traders and became rulers thereafter because of the then peculiar circumstances in the country. Venice became great because of her trade. The British came into India because they felt sore that Venice should have all the Eastern trade in her hands and make

herself prosperous and great. In order to checkmate the efforts of Venice to raise the prices of spices they got a special charter to trade in India in spices. The result is that we have them as rulers instead of just traders in spices.

Sir, we cannot permit our trade and our industries to be eternally in the hands of others. At a time like the present, when money has a great pull, we have to see to it that as little capital comes from outside as possible for our own industrial concerns. I should like to assure my English friends in this House that this means no attack on them either individually or as a race. We like the English people—at least I do—for many of their undoubted virtues. We like them as friends, as colleagues, as co-operators, as helpers, but we certainly do not like to be ruled by them. Therefore we must take all possible steps to remove both their political and economic hold on our country. I am sure they will themselves appreciate our standpoint not only because they in their history stand for liberty but also because they themselves are now resenting American influence due to American capital coming to them, though Americans and the English are very much nearer to each other than the English people and ourselves. When they resent any alien intrusion into their economic and political liberties, how much more must we resent it?

There are in India many industries which we finance, control and manage. But as things are we want plant and machinery for them. Advantage is taken by persons in power of our deteriorated position in this direction and other people want to dictate their own terms to us. In the letter that was sent to the Government of India by the Indian Chamber of Commerce they quote a semi-official paper of America which says:

"It will be expedient for American participants in joint enterprises in India to assure for themselves an adequate voice in production and marketing methods in order that proper standards may not only be introduced but be maintained."

This document further quotes Prof. Hill as saying:

"If Indians want to develop they must go equal shares with the people here". Going halves seems a fair proposition; though Prof. Hill added: "they (that is, Indians) have the feeling, and quite rightly, that they do not want their business controlled from outside."

To these sentiments Sir Ardeslur Dalal entered an emphatic and very correct protest when he said:

"Dealings in both Britain and America were subject to another over-riding factor—whether the firms approached wanted a share in the control of the industries to which they were prepared to supply the necessary machinery". "India intends", (he added,) "to control her own expanding industries, and those diehard firms will not get our orders."

But, Sir, if there are firms of this type on the one hand, I am assured by persons who know, that "there are a number of industrial concerns in Great Britain and America who are prepared to supply the capital goods required for the establishment and development of Indian industries, and what is perhaps even more important, to lend the technical personnel and to provide the technical knowledge or 'know-how' without requiring any share in the capital of the undertakings." We can therefore go to such firms as are willing to help us and to whom this friend refers.

Then, Sir, we can borrow capital if we have not sufficient capital ourselves. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar who is an undoubted expert on such subjects in the House, has assured us that the credit of our country was very high and that we can borrow money to meet all our requirements from other countries, if necessary. And it was, as the House will remember, at his initiative, that we decided to recommend the doing away with the commercial safeguards sections in the Government of India Act. That disposes of the problem of capital. Then we need technicians and experts. We should get them on short-term contracts. I believe many would be available if we pay

[Shri Sri Prakasa.]

them sufficiently and make these short-term contracts with them. It would not be necessary thus to give them control over our industries as a condition precedent to their coming here.

Now, Sir, there is a third type of industry which is exercising the thoughts of most of our experts. There are industries which have secret processes and secret designs, and people are not willing to part with their secrets unless they get sufficient compensation for giving away these secrets. I believe, Sir, after what our country has done for Europe and America in the course of the last war, it is not quite fair for them to try to drive a very hard bargain with us. The letter of the Indian Chamber of Commerce to the Government of India puts the matter very succinctly and, I think, very convincingly. It says:

"The insistence on the part of foreign manufacturers for a share in capital, profits and management of control of Indian concerns as a condition precedent for the supply of capital goods, gives an impression that they are out to take advantage of the situation created by the scarcity of such goods in the market. This is unfair to India which during the war, at the behest of the United Kingdom and the United States of America, worked its plant and machinery to rack and ruin and had even to surrender her own economic resources, both human and material, to an extent that no other country did, as is obvious from the large scale starvation and deaths during the Bengal famine and the acute privations which our people suffered during the war years, and are even now suffering."

As regards the peculiar industries which have all these secret processes and designs, we have a full statement of the Dyestuff Committee of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, presided over by Dr. Matthai, the versatile member of the Government of India who can fill the portfolios of Finance, of Industries and of Railways at a moment's notice with equal distinction. The Committee is of opinion that we may have to seek foreign co-operation in some industries with their secrets; but the Committee is careful to add:

"Such co-operation should not, however be in any way at the expense of Indian interests. Any company or companies that may be formed on this basis must have a majority of Indian capital and Indian Directors and an agreement should be definitely made for the training of Indian technical personnel from the highest to the lowest so as to enable Indian personnel to direct the conduct of the industry within a reasonable period. The control of policy should always remain in Indian hands."

This is the position; and those who know the subject very much better than I can ever expect to do, tell us that we can attack the problem on all the three fronts: of capital, of control and of management, so that our industries may be in our own hands and be worked for our own good. I feel that as India is situated, she deserves the sympathy and assistance of all. In the world, as it is today, no one country can stand by herself; and it is in the interest of every country to help every other country to come to its own. I believe that India is particularly worthy of such consideration at the hands of the world for all that she has done and for all that she stands for. It may be said that we may mismanage things, that we have no experience; but we cannot learn to swim unless we get into the water; and we are bound to make mistakes in the beginning. Moreover, many of our industries have been worked for quite a long time by our own people and we need have no fear that any great danger lies ahead if our industries come entirely in our hands.

I hope, Sir, that the world will realise how important it is that India should be a strong, free, self-respecting and self-contained country; and if India has to contribute anything towards world thought and world endeavour, the world must come and help us actively at the present moment. I am sure that as the Resolution is worded and as I have tried to put it before the House, no member of the House will feel that it is inimical to the interests or the welfare of any country or any people. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President: Resolution moved:

"Whereas India is on the threshold of a big programme of industrialisation;

Indian industrialists are planning a large-scale expansion of existing industries and contemplating new industrial ventures;

foreign financiers and industrialists have acquired, whole or partial control of the capital and management of such undertakings;

therefore, this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to take executive, administrative and other measures effectively to check and, if possible prevent any alien hold on Indian economy in the shape of control of Indian industry, in whole or in part, through a gift or sale of shares, partnership, association agreement, contract or otherwise."

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Chairman (Mr. P. J. Griffiths) in the Chair.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, I rise to support the resolution so ably moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa. As you all know, this Resolution was drafted jointly by myself and Mr. Sri Prakasa. As an industrialist, I felt it my duty to sponsor a resolution of this type when a National Government is in power. The resolution, as originally drafted, included two more paragraphs which clarified the whole idea behind this resolution. But the President thought it fit to remove some paragraphs and in order to clarify the position very clearly, I would like you to know what those paragraphs were. In those paragraphs it was said:

"Subordination to, or even partnership with, foreign interests in the financing, management or control of Indian industry has in the past resulted in the creation of alien vested interests and consequent injury to national economy and national interests;

It is legitimate to procure foreign technical skill, patent rights, plant, etc., for a price or by payment of royalties or even a share in profits for a strictly limited period, but it is highly undesirable and dangerous to allow the creation of any indefinite foreign interests in, or control over, Indian industry, which will tend to harden into a new and insidious type of foreign exploitation."

When you read this part of the resolution, you will find that this resolution is a very mild one. It had to be mild because the exigencies of the situation require that the industrialisation of this country ought to be as quick as possible. Therefore, the industrialists should be allowed to go to a certain limit in procuring help from foreign interests and, if you see this addition, you will find that even partnership is envisaged for a certain period of time. But that partnership, I would say, ought not to be indefinite. It has been said by some of my brother industrialists that if we do not allow any partnership, any share holding, it would be difficult to procure more help. I am one of those who feel that that view is absolutely wrong and cannot be established from the facts that we all know as to how industrialisation is proceeding in the world today. There are no industries today which can be said to be the monopoly of some countries. Every industry in this world today is established in a dozen countries. There is only one secret industry which is the monopoly of one or two nations, and that is the "Atom bomb" industry. There is no other industry that is not being worked by a dozen countries in the world.

I would refer to the growing tendency among some of my industrial friends of making easy money and to be styled as big industrialists. They vie with each other as to who gets into big business by whatever means possible without caring for the real interests of the country. We know that in the past we have suffered for a long time from the vested interests which have already been created. We are even today a dependent nation, although we are now on the threshold of freedom. During the last 150 years many vested interests have been created and on this subject my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa quoted the famous words of President Wilson to the effect that from the capital that is invested in a country the foreign hold gets tightened. There is an argument

[Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai]

made by many an industrialist that in that case no foreign help would be available to us. To show that that argument is not correct, I would here refer to the situation that was in Soviet Russia before the year 1928 and after that year. Before that year, Soviet Russia started giving concessions to foreign firms, but even those concessions were of no help and the industrialisation was very slow. But once they decided in the year 1928 that they will have their own plans and pursue them at any cost and will undergo any hardships, things were different, and their plans were fulfilled. They told the whole world that they will not allow any more concessions and they would stand on their own legs. Of course, if any country was prepared to help them, they would welcome that help. They would pay for that help; they would pay for the capital goods and also pay for the technicians. Once they decided that in right earnest, they were able to fulfil their five-year plans in four years' time. When the Soviet Government was granting concessions, other countries felt that they were in a difficulty and that they would be able to extract still better terms. So, the terms were increased and they became tighter and tighter year after year. That is how the Soviet Government had to take a decision to change their former method and to switch on to the new one. They gave handsome terms in the beginning to the foreign countries, even those countries with which they were at variance. The ideals of those countries were different to those of the Soviet Russia and yet those very countries vied with each other to help the Soviet Russia in building up its own industry. As I said, before 1928 the foreign countries were not prepared to sell their machinery, but the Soviet Government bought that machinery later on and exported heavily even their most coveted raw materials, consumer goods and food grains. They reduced their imports to the barest minimum and increased their exports to the very maximum, so much so that in the year 1932 they were on the point of collapsing, but they succeeded. That is how they industrialised their own country. They paid in blood and tears, but as there was that determination, they succeeded. Foreign countries who once said there was no other way of selling goods to Russia later on began to sell their goods and sell their technique. Why did they do it? We all know that in highly industrialised countries, there are bound to be periods of boom and periods of depression. Every industrialised country is afraid of the impending depression. Today we all know the state of nervousness in the market. From the statements of leading Americans and of others in highly advanced industrialised countries, we see the signs of nervousness in their hearts. Why all these talks of international monetary fund and international banks and trade organisations? Can we not see that they are all feeling the coming depression? It is the fear of the coming depression that led them to help Soviet Russia at a time when Soviet Russia was in difficulty. Once a decision is taken that India will not tolerate any kind of permanent foreign partnership, it will buy goods, it will buy technique and even take partnership for a limited period of time. Once this is made perfectly plain, I feel that foreigners will make their choice. All the countries will make their choice and just as businessmen compete, just as nations compete for business, they will compete with each other in supplying all the necessaries for the industrialisation of this country. Planning should have two sides. The execution has to be either with the co-operation of private individuals or it has to be done by the Government of the day. We cannot afford to wait. I would refer to the delegation which consisted of Messrs. Tata, Birla and others which went to the U. K. and the U. S. A. in 1945. There were many misgivings in the country at that time: there was a great uproar against that delegation.—people were afraid that the delegation might enter into an unholy alliance with Britishers. At that time the Indian Merchants' Chambers, both in Bombay and Calcutta, drew the attention of the country to the seriousness of the situation that we would be in, if such partnerships

were allowed with foreign capitalists. The uproar reached such a pitch that it reached the ears of Mahatma Gandhi and at that time also my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar decried such partnerships. Somehow or other we could stop any mischief being done at the time. Mr. G. D. Birla, who was one of the members of the delegation, said clearly at the time of his departure from this country that he was just going to see how industrialisation was being carried on in those countries, and he was of the view that if sterling balances were freed and freed at the right time, he did not see any necessity for any financial assistance and that no foreign capital was necessary. At that time, Mr. Manu Subedar also told the country in clear terms as to what would be the result of this partnership from a businessman's point of view. He said:

"Indians want the progress of industry in Indian hands and under Indian management. The mere fact that things are physically produced in India will no longer satisfy the people. The manner in which British business is preparing to swoop down on the Indian market, including factory enterprise in India is one which should cause alarm, but this Government appears to welcome such a move and is inclined to call it the progress of industry in India."

Through the good offices of Mahatma Gandhi this calamity was avoided. At that time he issued the following statement:

"Independence will not come for the asking. It will come only when interests, big or small are prepared to forego the crumbs that fall to them from the partnership with the British in the loot which the British rule takes from India. Verbal protests will count for nothing so long as the partnership continues unchecked."

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: I crave your indulgence, Sir, for a few minutes more. The Resolution was originally sponsored by me, though it was balloted in the name of Shri Sri Prakasa.

Mr. Chairman: The rules are imperative. I cannot help him.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: I would just give you a small example of the textile mission that went to England lately. I was told this morning that a partnership subsisting for the next 20 years will come into being. I am in agreement with that, but if it is not for a limited period, I would say there is no necessity for such a partnership at all. There are many other industrialised countries which would like to have a limited partnership with us. Last year a delegation was sent to Japan and that delegation reported that out of the reparations India could get complete textile machinery, manufacturing plants and technicians and that report is lying with the Industries Department. Similar would be the position for dye-stuff or any other industry, because, those industries are to be found in a majority of industrialised countries of the world. I want to stress the fact that what a colossal industrialisation programme has been successfully carried out by Soviet Russia. If I had the time I would quote the figures. They would show how Soviet Russia has been able to stand on her own legs.

In conclusion, I would like to say this that this Resolution is not sponsored against any nation, but it is with a view to put an end to the shady part of the history of foreign economic and political domination in India. It is sponsored so that the fruits of industrialisation might remain with the people of this country and that this country is industrialised in such a way that we may not bring new and more vested interests. We know what harm these vested interests have done after the last world war. Many small scale industries, specially in shipping, soap and other things have suffered. That is why we want to protect and we want this House to give a lead to the country in the matter of policy for industrialisation. Sir, I support this Resolution.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, this is a vast subject which it would not be possible to cover in the small space which one gets to speak on this topic. I would say that the objective of the sponsors of this Resolution is not had in itself, it is an objective with which every Indian should have sympathy and I would define that objective. That objective is as and when foreign capital operates in this country in a

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

manner which is harmful to Indian economy, it should be checked. Now, Sir, that objective being good in itself, it is not so simple as the Resolution tries to make out. I want to place before the House a few complications and difficulties involved in this Resolution. For one thing, the Resolution deals with new industries only and recently some bi-partite and complex agreements have been reached between industrialists in other countries and the industrialists in India. I feel that this is only a part of a very large topic of planning which we shall have to take together. It is not possible to isolate new trends from the old affairs which are there in the country. Nor is it possible to ignore the aspects at which just in the ordinary course of trade, importation of goods, purchase of foreign machinery by Indians and various other aspects in which Indian money gets out from this country in a larger measure than it should. All these aspects are co-related. But the point to consider is at what stage and in what manner you would control them? This topic was taken up in 1925 by the External Capital Committee which at that time confined itself merely to the question as to what should be done with regard to those enterprises which seek Government assistance and in those enterprises which lay down the proposition that a majority of shares and a majority of directors should be Indians. The management part was left loose and ever since then there has been a general demand in this country that the management also should be Indian.

Sir, the first complication which arises in the adoption of this measure straightaway on the lines on which the Resolution is drafted is a constitutional one. I will not repeat the ground which I have made, namely, that so long as the safeguarding sections of the Government of India Act continue to be on the statute-book it is not legally possible for this Government to impose disabilities on any enterprises in which Britishers are concerned if such disabilities were not simultaneously imposed on Indian enterprises of a like nature. This is, as I said before, a very humiliating restriction, not that we intend to use powers which we may get hereafter straightaway against any set of non-Indians who may operate in this country. But the first difficulty is the safeguarding one. This evil, the evil of foreign capital in India, has been noted and has been much advertised; there has been much agitation against what is known as (INDIA) LIMITED; there has been much talk of exploitation, there has been much complaint with regard to mining resources which are largely in non-Indian hands and which are being exploited. And generally the objective of the Resolution is correct in so far as it seeks to request the Government of the country to look into this matter and examine and define those conditions in which foreign capital may operate without any difficulty, and those conditions which in their opinion are deleterious to the economy of this country and which they will therefore prohibit foreign capital from operating. Now, Sir, let us not make a law or make a recommendation to Government in a form in which it leaves loopholes. Assuming that this Resolution were adopted by Government straightaway there are various other difficulties. Partnerships and contracts are referred to, but the agency agreements are not referred to here. Then there is the transfer of shares. After the company is promoted, after everything is done, after even some concessions have been secured from Government, there is the sale and purchase of stocks and shares going on every day. In this sale of stocks and shares transfers may take place from Mr. A to Mr. B. This Mr. B may be a non-Indian. There is at present no control and no means even for Government to know who is holding what and how. Then there are holding companies in which the enterprise may be completely Indian for all purposes and yet the holding company may be controlled by foreign finance, and that is also possible.

Then, Sir, there are royalty contracts in which the company may be entirely Indian, which will satisfy my Honourable friend Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai. It is

Indian in form with Indian shareholders, Indian directors, and Indian management, but an excessive rate of royalty is given to a foreign company. That means again the transfer of Indian funds. If it is in an excessive manner it has the same result as those people holding shares or partnership. Suppose an entirely Indian company puts an order outside for the purchase of machinery at an inflated price, as unfortunately many people are doing now. That itself is a transfer of Indian funds outside which it should be equally the concern of this Government to prevent and to stop if they can; and in order to do so they must have proper machinery, which does not exist at present. Even Government order at very high prices; as a matter of fact we have thundered in this House against Government machinery orders,—orders for locomotives, orders for Sindri plant, orders for hydro-electric and irrigation and other equipments being placed outside at inflated world prices today. And this is a transfer of Indian funds which hurts us just as much as operation of the kind complained of in the Resolution.

Sir, the question to decide is whether India wants or needs foreign capital. This is a question which was considered at a meeting of the National Planning Committee at which I was and no less than two ministers of the Government of today, viz., the Leader of the House and the Honourable Member for Railways, were present. And at that time it was considered that there may be circumstances and cases in which it may be necessary for India to have foreign capital. And as a point of perfection it was there put down that if and when foreign capital is required by India it would be best if India raised this foreign capital at the least rate of money and on the highest credit; that is to say, if the State borrowed this foreign money instead of leaving it to private individuals to import such foreign capital. It was pointed out then, and very rightly, that where there are processes, secrets, patents and other rights involved, or where there is a definite technological practice or secret process or formula, there either you have to worm that out or you have to pay for it through personnel or you have to buy them and buy the right of using those. But even here the transaction can be done at a higher level than private capital is doing now, and I feel that it ought to be possible to give some guidance to the people of India not to overpay for these things. At present what is happening in practice is that an Indian company is set up, on the face of it for manufacture but in reality for the next ten years to bring out knocked-down parts from outside, assemble them here, and sell them as Indian goods. I do not wish to characterise or mention any particular companies, but at present it starts at this level, namely, that the Indian company merely imports parts, assembles them and sells them as Indian goods. Every non-Indian is anxious to sell goods in this country if he makes money by his goods; he is very happy if he has manufactured the things in his own country. But if you put a heavy tariff he wants to go behind the tariff, establish himself, share the larger gains which you guarantee to Indian concerns. In such cases a certain amount of warning and guidance is required.

Sir, foreign capital is not an evil in all cases; and I want to put a standard case before this House in order that we may take a balanced view of this affair and give it the detailed study which it requires. This standard case which I recall is that of six million pounds worth of debentures of no less an enterprise than Tata Iron and Steel Company. It is a company of which we are naturally and properly proud. Jamshedpur is a show place in this country; this Jamshedpur would have sunk at the time, if these six million pounds of debentures had not been raised in London. And when these were raised the company was saved. These debentures were in due course paid off. And here is a case in which foreign capital did nothing but good to this country. As for lack of finance, I suggest it is not that our people did not have the money; our people were not willing to risk the money. Therefore I say that this is an issue which needs closer examination.

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

Now, Sir, I wish to put forward a constructive suggestion before my time gets over. As Chairman of a committee which has recently reported to the Government of Bombay, I have made this suggestion for other purposes. But the suggestion is this. Government have at present no information of any kind; and I suggest that consistent with the restrictions of the 1935 Act, Government should immediately impose a system of licensing of all factories operating in this country. That system would work uniformly for Indian as well as non-Indian factories; and it would also insist that new concerns, whether Indian or otherwise, should seek such a license. That will at least give Government the information as to what is going on; and once they have the information, Government could then decide and determine what kind of foreign capital is bad and in what manner. Is it, for example, a disadvantage that somebody owns ten shares in one Indian company? Is that a state at which you wish to intervene?

Then, Sir, if Government define—and I assure the House it will be an extremely difficult and delicate proposition to make this definition—the conditions under which they feel that Indian economy and Indian interests are genuinely penalised or are genuinely at a disadvantage, then and then alone they should intervene. In other words, normally they should leave matters free as far as possible. Government would not only have information but then Government would have the priority with regard to machinery purchase, and with regard to localization of the industry. They would have under the Exchange Control Bill the right to give or not to give exchanges and Government should determine when these things should be done with a high hand and normally I trust Government will leave the industrial enterprise free. First things must come first. At the present moment the Government have no information, nor has the Reserve Bank of India any information as to how much foreign investment there is in this country. They are still collecting this information. I am very much disappointed that neither Government nor the Reserve Bank of India have in this matter fulfilled the public expectation of their obligations. But if the kind of suggestion that I am making is adopted, Government at least will have full information, and I do not want this Government to act blindly or in a spirit of alarm or in a wild spirit or in accordance with any slogan. They ought to act in an intelligent and proper manner.

Then, Sir, I have been quoted by my Honourable friend. It is true that I have fought foreign, political and economic domination of this country all my life and I have suffered. I have suffered for it a good deal in my own private interests, but when I was fighting this, I was fighting the privileged position of the foreigner in this country. I felt humiliated that the Indian in his own country did not get facilities and privileges, which the British was able to enjoy. That was the fight. Today the position is different. If my friends do not find me in that thundering and venomous mood that I used to adopt in this House, the explanation is clear: We have a Government of our own; we have here (on the treasury bench) people whom we call our leaders in whose guidance, we have our full trust. Therefore, Sir, today I do not want this Government to act blindly and in a hurry. I want them to consider the situation, take into consideration the new international status of India, take the position of friendship which we are seeking with people abroad. This is not a condition in which I would like India to immediately adopt restrictive legislation or restrictive administration rules. I would like India to study the problem and only to intervene as and when they think there is danger. My friend spoke of the Soviet. The difference is this in the Soviet position: It was the Government of the country which was bargaining with Government and private firms abroad. Here it is our own capitalists who are tumbling over one another to reach an earlier and an advantageous agreement for themselves, not always mindful of what is happening.

Why don't this Government consider the fact that India is behind even in ordinary industry. We have not got pins, needles, fountain pens, etc.—the Government doubtless will complete the list of things which we were short of. We want all these things. These are not very secret or highly technical jobs, and if we have to get foreign capital goods and foreign personnel it should be done through a Board in a controlled and regulated manner so that the progress may be there and yet most of the evils which are complained of would not be there.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I will wind up. What I say is that a situation is now reached in which this matter wants close examination. We have not still got the Planning Advisory Committee's report. I doubt very much whether they have been able to go into this question, but Government ought to appoint a committee immediately to consider all aspects of this problem and then and then alone Government should take some action on this matter.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson (Bengal: European): Before I proceed to discuss the merits of the Resolution which is before the House I would like to say on behalf of myself and my colleagues that we much appreciate the extremely genial manner in which Mr. Sri Prakasa proposed the Resolution this morning and the restrained fashion in which it has been treated by subsequent speakers.

A Resolution of this kind is obviously of immediate and very considerable concern to non-Indian trading interests in this country of which we of the European Group are the representatives in this House. It raises issues of far-reaching importance, issues that affect us now in the present and that will affect us with increasing seriousness in the future. We fully recognize that India, in a position of near sovereignty and independence, has every right to determine the terms and conditions upon which she will seek foreign aid in the development of her own resources. We fully recognize that she has every right to frame her industrial policy along the lines indicated in the Resolution of my Honourable friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa. We realize also that India is passing through a period of great changes, and that we, no more than any other sections of the population, can expect to escape some of the consequences of those changes. I would also add that we are glad that these changes are taking place, for, whatever may be thought or has been thought on other sides of the House, we have always been quite sincere in our desire that political power should pass into Indian hands at as early a stage as possible, and we realize that political power—Swaraj—is not really effective and full unless it carries with it a measure of economic *swaraj* and self-determination. What, however, we ask is this: Whenever British Commercial interests are involved, or their record in the past and in the present is being judged, or the future usefulness of the British community to India's development is being assessed, we ask that our interests should receive a fair hearing; and I will say that having regard to India's well-developed sense of realism, and its sense of justice, we are confident that we will receive a fair hearing and that as a result of that fair hearing we will receive fair and equitable treatment in the India of the future. You, Sir, have said on other occasions that we ask for no privileges, and I repeat that. It will be within your recollection that a few weeks ago the Leader of the House made a journey to Calcutta, in spite of his many preoccupations, for the opening session of the Associated Chambers of Commerce. We were greatly heartened by his presence there, and I am sure that he would realize from the warmth of the welcome that he received from an audience of several hundred British businessmen that the greeting they gave him and the occasion which they asked him to participate in, was more than a formal courtesy to the new Head of the Government. I think I can safely say it was a recognition by both communities of a new relationship, a relationship which differs fundamentally from the old one, but which offers, we hope and believe, scope for the establishment of a fruitful and happy future based on mutual trust, self-respect and an interchange of goods and services as

[Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson]

between Indians and Britons resident in this country. On the part of the Honourable Pandit Jawanar Lal Nenru I think I may say that his presence on that occasion, when he addressed the Associated Chambers of Commerce, was in recognition that British business is in fact integrated into Indian economy in a very special and exceptional way. That in fact its roots are deep in the historical past. I both heard and read his speech. I read it and I also wrote about it. I think also, Sir, that it was a recognition that British business still has a role to play in the life of the community. One might, indeed I did, disagree with some of his economic theories, but much else that he said was a positive message of encouragement. Now, Sir, what sort of message of encouragement does the resolution, which is now before the House offer British and other non-Indian enterprise. Yesterday in the House we heard the Honourable the mover of the resolution supporting a matrimonial causes bill with lucidity, restraint and above all with clarity. He told us I think that he had had the Bill at various periods before the House for something like nine years. While I am not going to say that he ought to have taken a similar period of time in the preparation of this resolution, I do feel that if he had given it more he would have left us with a good deal of clearer idea of what his intentions are! If you look at the resolution, Sir, the first paragraph is I think unexceptional:

"Whereas India is on the threshold of a big programme of industrialisation; etc."

It is inescapable.

"Indian industrialists are planning a large-scale expansion of existing industries and contemplating new industrial ventures;"

That is true.

"Foreign financiers and industrialists have acquired whole or partial control of the capital and management of such undertakings:

therefore, this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to take executive, administrative and other measures effectively to check and, if possible, prevent any alien hold on Indian economy in the shape of control of Indian industry, etc. . . ."

My Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, who I am glad to note has forsaken what he himself called a venomous and thunderous type of oratory pointed out with alacrity that Section 111 or Section 121 of the Government of India Act of course ran right across the intentions of this resolution. But leaving that aside, and it is an issue on which we will be invited in due course to express an opinion, I have seriously tried to understand what is the intention of this resolution as now framed. I can only proceed by enquiring against whom are these measures that are proposed here primarily to be taken?

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural):
Against some of your allies in India!

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: May be. They may be my allies and may be yours in due course! But it seems to me that they are directed against the Indian industrialist himself who might through a deed of partnership enter into an unholy alliance. What conclusions are we allowed to draw?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Do not trust them!

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: There are only two conclusions in the mover's mind. The first is that either the Indian industrialist who is planning this big programme of industrial expansion is a fool who has to be protected against himself, or secondly, that the Indian industrialist is in some way less patriotic than other Indians, and that he is prepared to sacrifice the true interests of his country to some immediate motives of personal gain. I along with my friend, Mr. Joshi and others reject both those inferences. We both know the Indian industrialist much too well to believe that he ought to be protected against his own folly.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural):
"Good company!"

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: Also having had a pretty intimate acquaintance with him for a long period of years, particularly during the war years, the Indian industrialist is a practical patriot, whose patriotism is in no way inferior to any other section of the community. If it is accepted that he is a practical patriotic, I suggest that the resolution as it stands does him and his intentions a good deal less than justice. The plain fact is that a resolution of this kind, as **Mr. Manu Subedar** has pointed out, and drafted in the way as it is, will retard and restrict and stultify Indian industrial development and not in fact encourage it. The House is perfectly entitled to adopt a resolution of this kind. The country is fully entitled to implement it as its industrial policy. But the consequences of it will be that India's industry will not progress in the way all would wish to see it progress and you will merely have cut off your nose to spite your face.

3 P.M.

[At this stage Mr. Deputy President (Khan Mohammad Yamin Khan) resumed the Chair.]

Foreign aid is impossible except upon some terms, and the resolution as it stands would seem to me to rule out most of the kinds of terms on which India will be able to import the goods and services she requires. I therefore suggest, Sir, that the House rejects, if not the sentiments, at least the wording of the resolution whilst maintaining in some form or another its spirit.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North-West Frontier Province: General): It would look presumptuous for an ordinary citizen of India like myself to talk on such a highly technical subject. (But everybody else in the House has spoken, and I feel that I should also speak on this resolution from an ordinary consumer's point of view.

This is by far the most interesting resolution that has come before this House. It is beautifully and cleverly clad in khaki and patriotic fervour. It has a colour of nationalism and a suggestion of noble ideas. It is interesting to see such ingenious camouflage. Having been a big game hunter in my young days, I am delighted and amazed at the subtlety of stalking. For let us consider what this resolution says in plain language, which Mr. Tyson wanted to know, and I shouted to him that I would tell him. It says that the Government is to pass a law and order that only Indian capitalists are to be allowed to rob the Indian people. The American and English robbers should not be allowed to share in the loot in the name of Mother India and patriotism. Sir, it is not a resolution condemning exploitation but only exploitation by foreigners. The resolution goes on the assumption that robbery can be stopped by giving official monopoly to local thieves. There is no harm in using the capital of any country in the world to serve India provided the money is utilised for the benefit of India: provided a way can be found to assure that India is not robbed. The problems before our country are tremendous: food, health, roads, schools, factories, cattle-breeding, dams, cloth mills—are all decades behind the world, . . .

Shri Sri Prakasa: And Pathans also!

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: No. We are ahead of the world!

. . . and we have to fight malaria and inertia and poverty, under nourishment and communalism among 400 million people. That means a tremendous effort. In a world that worships only one God—money—a tremendous effort cannot be made without a tremendous amount of money. With money you can do anything today and without money you can do nothing except make poems. Today money can buy labour and ability as well as fidelity and brain.

Shri Sri Prakasa: But not a seat here!

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Oh, yes. The more money is utilised for the benefit of India, the better. The more horses you have the quicker your journey, but do not let any of them break your neck—Indian or foreign. A

[Khan Abdul Ghani Khan]

Kathiawar horse, Sir, if you let him buck and throw you will break your neck as surely as an English thorough-bred. The point is, Sir, do not let him throw you—Indian or English.

My proposal is to allow a reasonable margin of profit and invite all the money in the world to come and serve India—to come and build India. What does it matter if the donkey that carries the load for India is brown or white, as long as it does the work on the assigned amount of grass.

Sir, money has no nationality and unfortunately for the Muslim League, no religion either. Even the snobbish American money has no colour bar. A Southerner in America would not allow the negro to share the same carriage or cinema with him but he lets his wife run a drug store for his benefit and allows thousands of white girls to work and sweat to produce the cigarettes for a negro to smoke or tooth paste that keeps his teeth white.

To refuse the services of foreign capital would be to go on foot and refuse to ride a horse because it had a foreign name. On behalf of the national capitalists the patriotic capitalists the only point that is always exhibited is that the profits will go to Indians and not to foreigners. All right. What happens to those profits that go to Indians? They are turned into more profits and used in turn to produce still more profits. Where is the gain to India? Just because the tiger has grown an extra claw is not a message of prosperity for the people. If Ghani Khan and Balkrishna Sharma are robbed, what does it matter who has the money in his pocket—Mr. Lallubhai or Mr. Hirtzel? If it pays to serve India I know Mr. Hirtzel would invest his money as readily as Lallubhai and if it does not where on earth could you find a man who invested in projects that promised a loss.

Sir the sensible thing would be to invite all the capital in the world but make it agree to terms that are fair and kind to India. We must use every drop of energy to lift India to the peak of the mountain. Money is energy. Suppose for a minute that one agreed with my dear friend Mr. Lallubhai, it would be equivalent to agreeing that only brown cats can catch mice. Sir, in my language there is a proverb which means "Let my beloved be cured with any doctor's medicine". The important thing is the cure and not the name of the doctor. It does not matter if it is Lallubhai or Hirtzel. The important thing is the growth and development of India, not the prosperity of Ahmedabad or the City of London. That is why, Sir, I oppose this motion, in spite of its patriotic tinge and Swadeshi camouflage. Control the capacity for profit, of all money Indian as well as foreign and open wide the door and let the gold, which means energy and genius, of every country serve India. Invent a harness to control the horses and use them all to carry the load. This is more true, especially if your own horse is not strong enough to carry all of it. The essential point is control of profits, not control of investments. The motion and its supporters have tried to muffle that issue and I have looked at it as an Indian and as a consumer and therefore I have to oppose it.

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated Non-Official): 'Sir, I certainly did not intend to speak on this resolution because I did not think myself competent enough to speak on a resolution of this nature. Very little remains to be said after the speech of the last speaker. It is very heartening to see that one member sitting on the opposite benches has the courage of his conviction to oppose a resolution of this type, a resolution which has been sponsored by one of his own colleagues.

India is certainly on the threshold of great changes. Nowhere in the world has such a situation arisen, where a foreign power liquidates itself. But let me tell you that the foreign power in India is not liquidating itself because of her tremendous love for this country: she is doing so under the pressure of changing

world conditions. Britain is compelled to quit this country. She is not quitting as a result of our struggle; She is quitting as a result of the entirely changed economy now existing between Britain and India.

Today, Sir, we know that England is a debtor country to this country to the extent of 1,609 crores. So let us no more talk of imperialism which is thus dead. After all, profitable foreign investment is the basis of imperialism. Today we are not only politically free, but our country has a golden opportunity given to her to make herself economically independent. I certainly stand for industrialisation of this country. But, Sir, let us realise the serious implications of industrialisation on the basis of its present feudal socio-economic structure of society where there is absolutely no home market; no internal market, means a contracting market. Industrialisation on the basis of the present economy with the best of intentions cannot lead to any other economy but fascist economy. Industrialisations on a large scale is not possible so long as we do not put money in the hands of the peasantry, which is today crushed under indebtedness, and landlordism. There must be the purchasing power of the masses. We are not in a position to think of industrialisation on the basis of England and America. Mr. G. D. Birla himself when he visited America stated that such mass industrialisation is not suited to Indian conditions. What did he mean? Did he mean that the starving and naked millions of Indians are sufficiently clothed, sufficiently fed and their needs all satisfied? Why should large scale industrialisation of our country not be possible? It is not possible for the simple reason that our industrialists are dreaming in terms of capturing foreign markets without creating internal market. They are thinking of following in the footsteps of Japan. They have made no secret of their intentions either. They want to hold Japan as their ideal.

I was rather surprised when Mr. Lallubhai gave the example of Soviet Russia. Soviet Russia has industrialisation on a large scale but the industries are not owned or controlled there by Lallubhai & Co's. It was rightly pointed out by the last speaker, that investment is not a bad thing in itself wheresoever from it may come. Let us remember, Sir, that these are not the days of extreme nationalism where we can exclude international trade. The world has contracted through the atom bomb. We cannot therefore think in those terms today: Industrialisation of the country must be for the benefit of the people. The sooner we realize that industrialisation on the basis of private enterprise in our present day economy cannot lead to the ever-growing internal market, the better for us. Even though the Congress may not openly say that they have adopted the Tata-Birla plan, the implication of this resolution will only mean that. I am of the opinion that all investments, foreign or Indian, should belong to the State, and that industries should be run by the State. Immediate relief should be given to the peasantry in the form of wiping out their indebtedness and freeing them from landlordism to guarantee industrialisation. This resolution cannot create a home market and we cannot think in terms of capturing foreign markets. Even today we see a struggle going on between one industrialist and another for getting higher quota for exports of cloth, when in India cloth is rationed, and we do not get sufficient cloth. Leave alone rationing; the people have no money to buy even the rationed cloth. It is not proper on the eve of framing our constitution that, you congressmen think in terms of the people; you who are committed to lead this country, to a new era where the people will be prosperous? Let us not think any more in terms of running the State for the people, let the state be run by the people. Let the people come into their own. Let the future constitution be such whereby the relation between the land and the peasant will be absolutely different. This is a golden opportunity given to you. This is the time which no country can ever get. Do not lose this chance that you have got. Let the constitution be so framed whereby economic freedom to the masses will be guaranteed. This sort of racial prejudice is not going to lead us any further. As I said once before I would repeat

[Miss Maniben Kara]

that the world is getting smaller and we are interdependent. These are the days of science. I am not one of those who believe in the philosophy of *Takli* or the *charkha*. I certainly stand by industrialisation, but industrialisation in a way which would help the common man of this country. Mere Indianisation of industry is certainly not the remedy to help the people. Just as Indianisation of the industries is not the remedy, mere Indianisation of the offices also will not free the people economically. That is why, Sir, I say that this opportunity should not be lost. Let us be bold enough to come forward to reconstruct the entire social economic structure of our society and free the peasantry, and free the working man. Let us free the common man from slavery, bondage, poverty, disease and death from which he is suffering. This is the main problem before us. There is no other problem. The problem before us is the poverty, starvation and death of the common man. Once that is tackled, all other problems will be solved. And that can be tackled by taking a bold step, a very courageous step, by changing the entire system of society. Liquidation of landlordism, and liquidation of indebtedness of the peasantry; are the immediate task. We can thus put more money into the hands of the debt relieved peasantry, so that our industrialisation may be far greater than American industrialisation. India can stand that industrialisation when we have ever-absorbing home market. We can absorb more and more goods in our own country. We cannot have large scale industries only on the basis of foreign markets.

Sir, I am no economist; I am no business person. I am speaking from the commonsense point of view in the interest of the common man, and I hope Members in this House will accept what I have stated.

Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the resolution as it is printed on the agenda paper appears to me to be very vague. It is not easily intelligible. In fact I had an idea of giving an amendment to this resolution, but considering all the circumstances of the case I refrained from giving any amendment to this resolution. In addition to this vagueness I have a few more difficulties in actually accepting the resolution. In the first instance, the word 'foreigner' is not well understood in this resolution. Repeatedly in our enactments, Indian States are always taken as foreigners. We are debarred by the Acts of 1920, and 1935, to pass any legislation on the Indian States, so that sometimes when we talk of foreigners we include the Indian States and at other times we exclude them. In this particular Bill I do not know what the intention of my Honourable friend is—whether the Indian States should be considered as foreigners or not. In fact, as far as British India is concerned, the Indian States are greater rivals to us than all the foreigners who come from European countries. In the first place most of our big industrialists put their plant in the Indian States and not in British India, in order to escape income-tax. No foreigner will make an attempt to put his plant in some of the country outside India, in an Indian State, which most of the Indian industrialists are doing. I can quote a number of examples when some of our illustrious industrialists put their plant at the very end of an Indian State so that they can easily transfer all their goods from the Indian State to British India and at the same time evade income-tax by putting the plant there. This is not the way of industrialisation of the country, but that is the method of cheating. This point, therefore, ought to be cleared whether 'foreigners' in this particular Bill do or do not include the Indian States. And if they do, I would like to ask whether the Indian States were consulted before we pass any legislation in connection with this. Although the states of Travancore and Cochin will be benefitted, but people of Patiala and Kashmir will be prosecuted presumably by their own magistracy. That is the second difficulty which I have in this particular resolution.

My third difficulty is that my friend, Seth Lallubhai was suffering under great misgivings when he considered that money can create industries such

capital alone can create industries. Capital is a very loose word, so also money. Nobody has yet successfully defined what money is except in a very abstruse language. You don't need any money in order to do any work. Look at Germany. They carried on a war for six years without having any money or credit in any country and without goods. In big undertakings money plays no part whatsoever. What is money? By printing notes of one thousand or ten thousand rupees—whatever you like, you create money by this method. Money is a great delusion if you consider that industries are created by money of the capitalists who by putting a few printed currency notes which my Honourable friend the Finance Member can print as many as he likes in a few hours' time, you are mistaken. Industry is flourishing on account of the work done by our workmen. That is the first thing. If the workmen are not there, the notes alone cannot produce any industry. The next point which I would like to emphasize, before I discuss other points, is this. You cannot create any industry at this stage of your development unless you get your machinery from foreigners, experts from foreigners and also the assistance of the foreign Universities to train our own men. You have to depend upon the generosity of foreign countries to sell you the machinery, to lend you the experts you want and also to train your men in the foreign Universities. It is not wise to antagonise those people on whose money you depend at the present stage. If you do, they will say—you go away from our country. We won't give you the machinery and the experts, and we won't educate your men in our Universities. So this is not the way of dealing with this problem. I do not like the spirit behind this Resolution. It is absolutely impossible at the present stage to create any industries on a big scale without the machinery from foreign countries, without foreign experts and without the assistance of the foreign technical institutions.

The next thing I would mention is that during the last few years we have created a number of panels to discuss various things. I must admit a mistake I made. In 1944, I was under the impression that as soon as the war is over, most of these war industries created on account of emergency will disappear on account of the large import of foreign goods at cheaper prices. In the year 1945, we noticed very clearly that that would not be the case. Most of the foreign countries are in a worse position than ourselves and that we have to develop our own industries. These plans were made mostly by capitalists and the interests of the country and especially of the consumers were neglected. The economists were not represented and even if they were they were mere tools in the hands of the capitalists for whom they piped the tune. All those who were responsible for the production of the goods were not consulted and they were not included in any of the panels and I am sure we will have to revise most of the reports of these panels in order to bring them into line with our ideas. I happened to be the chairman of one of the panels and there I laid very great stress on this fact. One of the things that was ignored and which it is very important to remember is that you must establish an intimate relation between the Universities and the industries. I studied this problem as far as Germany was concerned as far back as 1906, before the 1st World War and I found that the rise and progress of the German industries was due to the intimate relations that existed there between the Universities and the industries. In England, the industrialists considered the inventions to be their preserve and they kept it a secret and therefore no improvement in their position took place. In Germany the case was reverse. Every industry associates Professors of the Universities to advise them. The Professor is an adviser to that particular industry and he gets his fee. Whenever any problem arises, it is sent to the professor, who gives it to the students and the students obtain their degree of P.H.D. by doing research work in the subjects entrusted to them. Thus regular intimate relation is established between the Universities and the industries by means of which progress is made rapidly and both the Universities and the industries are benefitted. Universities

[Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad]

do not deal only with abstruse problems which have no practical value. Most of their laboratories deal with problems which have immediate application. When I was studying in German University I was sent by Professor Simon to study a particular problem and though I was a foreigner they made no distinction. The students are regularly sent to study the problems there. The students apply their mind to the problems and whoever solves them get an employment immediately in that factory. I remember one problem was given to me. I did not solve it. It was a question of six locks with one master key and six sets of locks with one master key. It is really a question of 36 locks and one master key. The master keys of the groups did not fit each other. The problem was what should be the combination in order to have one master key. It is not an abstruse but a practical problem and a friend of mine who solved it got an employment immediately in the lock factory. This is a very important thing which should be attended to—the intimate relation between the Universities and the industries.

The next point to which I want to draw attention is this. We are all in favour of the development of industries. There are no two opinions about it. The Fiscal Commission has recommended it and our legislature has admitted it. It is our confirmed economic policy that we ought to have protection of our industries but we are not in favour of protecting the big capitalists, of making the rich man richer at the expense of the poor worker. A hundred rupee share sells in the market for Rs. 3,000. The other day I was attending a conference and I put a simple question to one of the representatives of Dalmia. How is it that with Dalmia Rs. 100 becomes Rs. 3,000 and with Government it remains 100. What is the magic by which Rs. 100 of Dalmia becomes 3,000. Take the Railways. My friend Dr. John Matthai, has not been able to make the railway shares go up to Rs. 3,000 from 100. His 800 crores remained 8,000. I can give you a number of examples. An industry is started with a capital of one lakh and they have a reserve of 40 lakhs. What does all this mean. It means that the workmen have got to work in order to give a dividend of 3 per cent. and when it has expanded to 3,000, the workmen will have to work all the more in order to give a dividend of 3 per cent. on 3,000 not on 100. It is not fair to our workmen to ask them to work in this way.

I do not want to go on with the other arguments as time is short. We have been considering the question of the development of one industry after another. But in each of these problems if you study them clearly there is only one point before them and that is the interest of the capitalists and that they should continue to draw the same profits after the war as they had been drawing during the year. That is the whole object of their economy.

There is just one thing more which I would like to say. We ought to establish some kind of planned economy. Government appointed a Committee about two years ago and I was also a member of it, but the industrialists did not like that it should continue and it was dissolved or allowed to remain inactive. But it is very important that we should have a planned economy. If you have half a dozen industries by this method you cannot make India rich and self-sufficient. There must be a planned economy by which everybody should be benefitted. Attention was drawn to the case of the agriculturist labourers and also to the food problem. All this shows that there must be a planned economy for the development of this country. Without this planned economy, which is really for the benefit of everybody, it is absolutely impossible for us to reach higher stages of prosperity.

I was rather amazed when a capitalist Honourable Member of this House quoted the example of Soviet Russia in support of his theory. I thought that here was the devil quoting scripture. They are the last people who will help us because their ideology is just reverse to ours. I was, therefore, very much amused by this particular example.

I will now confine my remarks to the planned economy. It is said that Government must give protection but the protection will be only for a short period. Therefore, every industry must stand on its own legs and every industry must be in a position to compete with other countries. If you give them artificial legs, they will break down after some time; they cannot continue for ever. But if you have a planned economy by means of which every industry is developed, then they will be able to compete with world industries. This planned economy will not be for the benefit of those persons only who put in some currency notes in order to start an industry, but it will be for the benefit of those poor workmen who are chiefly responsible for the production and development of those industries. I would like to put it this way. Government can provide money in the same manner as they have been providing money during the war time and as every other country did. The same method can be adopted to provide the money for the development of industries on planned economy. We should not develop, an industry, here and an industry there, but proceed with the whole, industrialisation in a planned manner. Some industrialist may come to some Honourable Member and say that his industry needs protection. The Honourable Member may take interest in him and as he has power in his hands he may help him. But that is a short term need and cannot go on. Your biggest enemies at the present moment are the communists and if you do not go in in a proper manner for the planned economy, then they are bound to come into power and you will not be able to stop them.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the House I am afraid, may lose sight of the basic terms of this Resolution being carried away by Professorial profundity, Trade Union fervour and Pathan humour. I would like to try, therefore, to bring the House back to the Resolution itself. The principal object, as I read the Resolution, not that I am enamoured of the wording of it, is to prevent any alien hold on Indian economy in the shape of control of Indian industry,—such control, as may be possible to be assumed through capital and management of industrial undertakings. Now, if you strip Resolution of some amount of verbiage, it reduces itself to this particular proposition, and I should like to know from Honourable Members who have adversely criticised the Resolution so far, including my Honourable friend Mr. Tyson, as to whether they can justly take exception to a demand of this character.

I did not intend to participate in this discussion, but I was tempted to get up to say a few words particularly because reference was made by my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar to the Advisory Planning Board with which I had the privilege of being associated. It is a great pity that although the report of this Board has been officially published, printed copies are not yet available to the public or even to the Members of this House due, I understand, to some difficulty in the printing press. Now, it is not a very exhaustive report that we have submitted to Government. We were not, indeed, expected to make an exhaustive inquiry into the vast field of planning, but in the course of our brief report we touched upon this aspect of the question, namely, the control of foreign capital and management of Indian industrial concerns.

Now, Sir, when we consider this Resolution, we have, first of all, to determine as to whether financial help from outside the country is needed for the purpose of our industrial development. On this we have a very authoritative opinion, namely, that of the various industrial panels that were set up by the Government to consider the case of individual industries in connection with their planning programme. Now, these industrial panels on various industries came to the unanimous conclusion that the capital that would be needed for the development of these industries would be amply found in this country itself. Having regard to that authoritative statement, can anyone say in this House that we must necessarily ask for foreign capital for the purpose of aiding

[Mr. K. C. Neogy]

us in building up our industries? We, had also to consider the special case of certain industries where, for instance, their very foundation would depend upon certain conditions which foreign countries may be in a position to dictate. Now, on this subject the Board came to the following conclusion. I am taking the liberty of quoting a very small paragraph from the report.

"In the case of highly specialised industries, it may be necessary, where such a course is found unavoidable in the national interest, to acquiesce in an Agreement of Management which would leave the control of the management in foreign hands for a limited period. In such a case, if participation in capital is made a necessary condition of association, there would be no objection to it provided that effective control is retained in Indian hands. It should, however, be a condition of the Agreement that Indian personnel would be trained for all grades of the industry so that on the termination of the agreement Indian personnel could take over the entire management including the Technical Direction of the Company. Government should also exercise a general supervision over such Agreements."

Subjects to this, the Board came unanimously to the conclusion that there would be no justification for us to allow foreign capital to be brought in for the purpose of development of our industries, and that foreign management also has no reason to be allowed in connection with the management of any Indian industry. Sir, it will be seen that in our report, just as much in this Resolution, stress is rightly laid upon control. Do we or do we not lose control over our industries by either allowing participation of foreign capital, or by allowing foreign element to participate in the management of industry. That is the essential test. I am not prepared to say that I would go to the extent that this Resolution expects us to go in completely banning foreign capital and foreign management. I subscribe to the view that the Planning Board have unanimously expressed on this subject and I would ask the House not to adopt this Resolution in the form in which it stands, for the reason that it is of a rather sweeping character, and for another very valid reason and that is that the action which we are asking the Government to take would be unconstitutional having regard to the restrictive conditions that we find in the present constitution of the country, however much we may deplore it. I would, therefore request my Honourable friend not to press this Resolution to a Division. He has done a very useful service by raising an interesting point for discussion and various aspects of the matter have been gone into. I dare say that on behalf of Government it would be possible to give some sort of assurance that the basic demand of this Resolution would be borne in mind when they come to consider, particularly, the Planning Board recommendations and while they declare their policy in regard to the future planning of industries in this country. If we can obtain a sympathetic assurance from the Government on this particular point, I think my Honourable friend will have done a real service to the country by raising this debate.

The Honourable Sri C. Rajagopalachari (Member for Industries and Supplies): Sir, I am very glad to summarise the whole debate in this way, there is hardly any difference of opinion. The object with which this Resolution has been moved has been stated very clearly by the last Speaker. As to that object, nobody appears to have disagreed so far as the speakers have spoken. Even the Honourable Member who spoke from the European Group accepts the object without any mental reservation as far as I could judge. India should be free to control her economics as much as she is to control her politics and in this all of us are agreed. Of course there is a further object. Our idea is that we should achieve happiness as a result of these freedoms. Nobody seems to have any difference of opinion on that subject. Now, Sir, the particular form in which the Resolution has been brought before us makes it difficult for the Government to accept it. The form has been analysed by various speakers and I need not take up the time of the House in doing it over again. The form is too sweeping and while the objective is accepted the manner in which the object is sought to be achieved, *viz.*, by a total ban cannot be accepted, as has been very fully explained by Mr. Manu Subedar and Mr. Neogy.

The position today is not exactly what it was a few years ago. Once upon a time it was enough for a petty chieftain to present an elephant or a couple of horses as a token of allegiance to the over-lord, but today the extraction of the tribute of an elephant or a couple of horses will not do at all. Elephants and horses are not as important today as rifles and ammunitions. In the same manner, once upon a time, capital was considered so important and it was in fact what controlled the industry, but today the position is quite different. It is not only the question of the Finance Member printing Notes as was facetiously expressed by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad. It is not that I am referring to. I am referring to this. What is most important today in industry is the technical skill, the know-how and the secrets of the processes in the more important and effective industries. In regard to consumer goods, the position is quite different. We must not mix up what applies to production of bicycles or chocolates with what we are really having in mind in this Resolution. In regard to machinery for the production of consumer goods or of more or less common machinery, there is no great point involved and India can stand on her own legs. There is no need to go about with a hat for capital or for anything else. There are certain industries which are very different in character from what I have just tried to describe. There many secret processes are involved and high technical management is involved and previous knowledge and experience are involved. In these matters, the question is different. It is not merely a sweeping prohibition that can meet the situation.

Then, again, it is not also a slogan or a formula that can solve the situation. It is easy enough to say, we shall pay for what technical skill is available, we shall pay for the secret processes, but we will not take capital. Payment depends upon agreement on both sides, and it is not always possible to close the bargain on a unilateral slogan. Therefore, it is not an easy problem. We are not dealing only with such matters, as, say, the production of cloth. There is no need for anybody to go and borrow technical skill or pay for that purpose. In fact, there is no need to go abroad for help in the management of such industries. There are other industries which India must now organise and in those cases, we cannot ride on mere slogan. We have to ride on something much more practical. That is why, strange as it may seem, the note sounded today by Mr. Manu Subedar and Mr. Neogy appeared to be very different from the notes which they had been sounding on former occasions. We are in a different epoch altogether and we are having a different programme altogether before us. What we have to do in the present situation is different from what we were used to passing or accepting on previous occasions.

This question is before the Government. As was pointed out by Mr. Neogy the Planning Advisory Board has furnished its report after examining the broad outline of the problem involved and that report is before the Government. As Mr. Neogy said it has been published in the press, but printed copies are not yet available. I would ask Honourable Members to read the report fully and carefully. Important passages were read out just now by Mr. Neogy. The position is clearly explained there and Government has to consider the policy that they have finally to accept. The present Resolution will not carry us far in that respect except merely acceptance of the objective which everybody has already accepted. Once upon a time as was pointed out by a Member we were spending long hours in talking about indianisation. It would be absurd now to waste the time of the House speaking on indianisation of Government. In industry also I think the position is very much the same. If we spend our time merely on producing a formula as to how much percentage of capital should be allowed for outsiders and how much we should have, it would be a waste of time and energy. I submit the position is far more complex than merely a percentage question. The real object is to retain control and to be able to produce good material. The real object is the acquisition of that help which is necessary in order to build up these new industries. The matter was dealt

[Sri C. Rajagopalachari]

with in a question which I answered recently. Unfortunately the question hour is so utilised that important questions are left behind and we spend all the time in putting supplementary questions on relating small matters. That question was not reached. It is now there in the printed answer. I have already said in that answer that this Advisory Planning Board has dealt with this matter and their advice is before Government. It is under the anxious consideration of Government and the Government will frame its policy in an effective and practical way.

I may also warn the House that it is not easy nor is it very useful if we do it at all, simply weaving a few words together in an attractive manner and put that forward as policy. Generally the formulation of a policy would be quite unobjectionable but in application all the difficulty arises. Government are therefore considering not merely the form of words in which to announce their policy but they are actually considering what is to be done in cases of one kind and what is to be done in cases of another kind. It is this that has to be decided; and I may assure the House that Government will do everything that is possible to achieve the object which is the unanimous desire of the House, that India should be master of herself in industry as well as in politics. Now, expressions were used—I think more from habit than deliberately—about the sympathetic attitude of Government. It is absurd to use the word 'sympathetic' in this matter. This Government is of the people and they are the trustees in this particular matter for all that is to be done for the country and mere sympathy is not what is to be expected of them. We are all partners in one business and it is the anxiety and the concern of the House as well as the people outside. It is a case of identity of interests; and therefore I deprecate the use of language applicable to old conditions of bureaucracy.

As I said before, Honourable Members have referred to very important matters and there is nothing more for me to say except this that this question had been taken up some time ago, even before this Government took charge. Sir Ardeshir Dalal had taken up the matter very earnestly in 1945 and Government had proposed to reduce this problem to a question of percentage of capital. There were long discussions with His Majesty's Government but they were not able to conclude any agreement in that atmosphere of constitutional difficulties. But today the constitutional difficulty is vanishing into thin air; it is no longer a question of anti-discrimination clauses being removed; they have removed themselves. The whole situation has altered and even the British group does not worry to revive their memories about the commercial safeguards in the Government of India Act. These safeguards, as was warned even at the time they were enunciated, cannot protect anybody. The European group will have to be protected more by mutual arrangement than by any statutory safeguards. At the present moment let Honourable Members not bother about constitutional difficulties; they are going to be removed as a result of the changes that are coming about in the political condition of

4. P. M. India. The only difficulty is really that of production. India today is most anxious about her production; every one from top to bottom is most anxious about the difficulties of production, of food, cloth and every other thing. Every kind of article that we require is in short supply and we are anxious to produce them soon. All the difficulties that Honourable Members constantly refer to in the matter of distribution, like corruption and black markets, arise out of short production that we are now stuck in. We have to get out of that, and in order to get that situation created we want the help of the whole world. This is not the time for making a rigid formula of any kind. While we must be very guarded and wary to see that our doors and windows are properly shut and opened, this is not the time when we can talk the language of narrow nationalism. Unfortunately while the object of the Resolution is very good, it repeats the old language of isolationism which is

not very good. That is why we have not been able to accept the Resolution as such. Otherwise we could have easily accepted it when the objective was common and when we all understood one another quite easily. Therefore I request the Honourable Mover not to press it to a vote. The object being accepted, Government are going to consider the whole position and I have no doubt they will arrive at wise decisions. On the assurance given I request the Mover to withdraw the Resolution.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, the Honourable Supply Member has made my task easy. I have no desire to reply to the debate at length, though it is always easier to reply after hearing some speeches than it is to initiate a debate. I should have been happier if the Honourable Member could have given an assurance to this House that he intended, before the session was over, to enunciate the policy of Government and bring forward an official Resolution before the House along the lines of this Resolution. I am sorry that the language of my Resolution has been castigated by friends from all sides. I do not claim to be a master of a language that is not my own; but so far as I have been able to examine the Resolution from start to finish more than once, I do not find any grammatical mistake in it nor do I find even any mistake in punctuation. Still it seems to me that the language is not regarded as very happy. It is some comfort that the sentiments expressed in that language are regarded as unexceptionable. I am glad that my Honourable friends of the European group have also accepted the principle of the Resolution, and I am happy that Mr. Manu Subedar has taken a stand which we would not have ordinarily been expected from him sometime earlier. It is something in favour of Government that Mr. Manu Subedar also should have shed off his venom. Sir, I am glad to be assured by Mr. Neogy that he is labouring hard as Chairman of some committee.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: That committee is *functus officio*; it has already reported.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I am glad that Mr. Neogy has reported, and I hope that his report is along the lines of my resolution and that it will not be thrown into the waste-paper basket as so many reports of ours are done at the police stations. In any case I am glad that Government as it is constituted today feel at one with the rest of the House as they should; and I will, if I may, abide by the wishes of my Honourable friend the Supply Member and oblige him by asking for leave of the House to withdraw the Resolution.

The Resolution was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

RESOLUTION RE. PROGRAMME OF CROP INSURANCE.

Sri N. Narayanamurthi (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the Resolution which I have the privilege of moving runs as follows:

“This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in view of the heavy loss constantly suffered by the agriculturists of this country, and in view of the fact that agriculture is the prime occupation of the people of this country, the Government should adopt an effective programme of crop insurance.”

My Resolution is a simple and straightforward one and, if I may say so, it is a non-party matter on which I am sure every section of this House will agree to support me. In fact we are all here on the basic assurance given to our countrymen that the economic amelioration of the peasants will be the first and foremost concern of this legislature, and in that respect I do not think there is much difference of opinion between one party and another. I therefore expect every section of this House to accord its wholehearted and unstinted support to this simple and straight proposition.

[Sri N. Narayanamurthi.]

In bringing this Resolution I do not stand here as an economist or as an insurance expert with any definite or ready-made plan of insurance to be immediately ushered into being. My idea is only to draw the attention of the Central Government and the Provincial Governments of today which are almost entirely national in character, in outlook, and in their programmes, that the economic amelioration of the Indian peasant should be one of the first and foremost in their programmes. In this post-war period when we hear of so many post-war plans for the immediate industrialization of the country, for the nationalisation of all public utility concerns, and things like that, and it is a pity, there is not even a single programme which does directly touch the basic economic conditions of the Indian peasant. I am not unaware of the fact that the Agriculture and Food Departments of the Government of India are under the control of our own illustrious countrymen and leader—Dr. Rajendra Prasad—who has got his own programme of agricultural development which will very soon be brought into being. But no programme of agricultural development or progress will really touch the Indian peasant in the village unless and until the individual basic economic condition of the peasant is ameliorated, because, in the first place, the first thing which directly touches him and which is most important for him is a proper, reasonable and adequate return for the agricultural produce which he produces. The second thing is a minimum guarantee of return for his hard and honest and, if I may say so, honourable sweat shed right through the year. It is the latter thing that is being attempted to be covered by the proposition which I am now bringing forward.

It is wrong to think that simply because the agriculturist is producing something or other that he is satisfied and contented with the return that he gets. Poverty, squalor, ignorance, and disease of the Indian peasant is too well known, and it is not necessary for me to expatiate on that aspect of the subject. We want the Indian peasant to grow more food and not to raise commercial crops which actually yield him more cash. If he is today producing more food crop it is at a sacrifice. So unless we assure him a reasonable and adequate price for the crop which he produces and also unless we assure him that even under extraordinary circumstances, and extraordinary vicissitudes like famine, floods, pestilence, and things like that, he will get a reasonable return, we will be failing in our duty to the Indian peasant. These famines, floods, windstorms, cyclones, and things like that are not of rare occurrence. Every year we hear of such vicissitudes in one province or another. I will give only one or two instances: In the year 1944, United Provinces was the victim of very heavy rains and ravaging showers of hailstorms which destroyed not only the standing crops but also bundles cut and stacked for thrashing. The flood water reached a level unknown before affecting a total area of 4,767 sq. miles, allowing 28,000 houses to collapse and affecting about 11,22,000 persons in two districts alone. During 1946, over 120 villages with a population of about 300,000 were affected by floods—considered to be the biggest since 1931—according to reports from Nowgong, in Assam. Under such circumstances what is our duty? Should we leave the people to their own fate and to the mercy of missionary organisations to distribute some doles and render some relief, or should the Government go to their aid and do everything to rehabilitate the economic condition of such people. I know there are our Provincial Governments which give revenue remissions, but that cannot touch even the fringe of the problem, and therefore a scientific and methodical system of insurance should be evolved against such upheavals. As I have said already I am not an economist or an insurance expert. I have no ready made scheme or formula. It is for the Government to employ its experts and formulate a scheme on agricultural insurance and introduce it to the extent to which it is possible. It may be of some satisfaction to some people to know that in more advanced western countries schemes of agricultural insurance are already in existence. For instance, in the United States of America, which, as in the

case of every other progressive movement, is perhaps one of the first countries to take up progressive schemes of this nature, as far back as 1916-17 there was an Insurance Company which took up the work of insuring against such untoward events for every acre of the country cultivated by the agriculturists. By the year 1928 there were two or three companies which took up such work, but all of them were not successful to the extent to which they should have been successful, because the State did not directly take it up on a countrywide basis. But by about the year 1938 we are told that an Act entitled Agricultural Adjustments Act, which was otherwise known as Federal Crop Insurance Act, was passed and we are told that it is in operation in some parts and to some extent today. There are other countries like Belgium which have followed the same example and they followed the practice of collecting premia and meeting the claims in kind, in the form of wheat for instance. In our own country in a small State like Dewas Junior we are told that there is some form of insurance in vogue in certain areas. All these have got to be examined and my purpose is only to draw the attention of the Central Government as well as the Provincial Governments to immediately take up this question, and do something which will rehabilitate the Indian agriculturist and make him feel that after all he is not a forsaken son of God, but there is his own National Government both in the Centre as well as in the Provinces to look after him even in case of such untoward disaster to his crop. With these words, Sir, I move my Resolution.

Mr. Deputy President: Resolution moved:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in view of the heavy loss constantly suffered by the agriculturists of this country, and in view of the fact that agriculture is the prime occupation of the people of this country, the Government should adopt an effective programme of crop insurance."

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution. With the growth of time and civilization, Sir, the concept of social security has acquired a very wide meaning. The recent declarations of the United Nations with respect to their various peace aims have given a new emphasis and a new meaning to social security. One of the advocates of this movement, Sir William Beveridge, in one of his recent reports has thus defined this concept:

"Organisation of social insurance should be treated as one part only of a comprehensive policy of social progress. Social insurance fully developed may provide income security it is an attack upon want. But want is one only of the five giants on the road of reconstruction and in some ways the easiest to attack. The others are disease, ignorance, squalor and idleness."

The growth of social insurance has coined another slogan and that is "national minimum". Sir, with respect to this slogan, Sir William Beveridge, whom I have just quoted, says:

"The National minimum involves that the citizen of a democracy should be guaranteed as of right enough food to maintain him in health. He should be assured of a minimum standard of shelter, clothing and fuel. He should be given full and equal opportunities of education. He should have leisure and facilities of enjoying it. He should be secured against the risk of unemployment, ill-health and old age. Above all, the presence of children should not be allowed to bring misery for the parents, deprivation for the children and poverty for all."

Now, Sir, in India we find that all the giants spoken of by Sir William are present. Therefore, the need of social insurance has become all the more necessary in this country. Sir, the crop insurance is a part of the scheme of social insurance and the most important part, because 90 per cent. of our population directly or indirectly is dependent upon agriculture. Sir, in this country, we find *anavrishty* and *ativrishty*: that is less rain and more rain. and that also not on rare occasions but frequently. There is very little land in this country which is irrigated and in the land which is not irrigated *anavrishty* spoils the crops. Then there is not less havoc of *ativrishty*

[Seth Govind Das]

also. Besides these two, as the Honourable the mover has said, there is hail storm, there is frost, there is rust, there are insects: and all of them play a great part in the annual harvests, both the *kharif* and the *rabi*.

In spite of such high prices of agricultural produce, there are places in this country where the population is as poor as it was before the war.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Even worse!

Seth Govind Das: Even worse, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga says, I shall give example of my own district Jubbulpore. The House will be surprised to learn that since the year 1926 that district had not a single good crop. In the last 21 years, we are having bad crops. Under these circumstances, no economic planning in this country can become successful without crop insurance. The idea of crop insurance is welcomed by many eminent persons of this country. Sir P. C. Ray once said:

"As the study of weather and the development of meteorology as a science have helped men to judge the vagaries of the monsoon to a certain extent agricultural insurance can be put on some sort of scientific footing."

Mr. N. R. Sarkar said:

"Agricultural insurance should be undertaken by an organisation of the mutualist or cooperative form with Government help."

And as the Honourable the mover said, in other countries also there is crop insurance. He gave example of America. We know that in America agriculture is on a very sound scientific footing, and still, Sir there is crop insurance in America. For a year or so they abandoned this scheme but they found that they were mistaken and they have again gone back to it. In Belgium also there is crop insurance. In India too, in a small small State, Dewas Junior, there is crop insurance. But small States like Dewas Junior cannot successfully go on with such a risky scheme and therefore, Sir, I want that crop insurance should be on an all-India basis. The Scheme should be applied both to more fertile and less fertile land. I admit, Sir, that fertile and irrigated lands like that of the Punjab, do not require crop insurance to that extent, though crops fail even in those areas. They will be put to a little expence also if crop insurance is made compulsory, but for the other areas of this country, I think fertile areas like that of the Punjab should themselves come forward and say that they will suffer alike for their brethren. So, Sir, I say that it should be both in fertile and less fertile areas, and then, Sir, it should be made, in my humble opinion, compulsory. We know that motor insurance to some extent has been made compulsory and if we make crop insurance compulsory we will find that very little will have to be paid by farmers and much benefit would be derived from it.

The scheme will have to be worked out in detail, but as I am the humble author of this resolution, and I have given a little thought to it, I should like to place before the House some cardinal points which should be borne in mind when this scheme is formulated. Those points I should like to read so that I may not miss them:

(1) The scheme should be simple, clear and straightforward from the point of view of those who will administer it, those who will pay for it and those who will benefit by it. (2) The scheme must stick to certain well defined objectives and should not be very ambitious from the very beginning. (3) The scheme should be financially sound and economic in working. (4) The scheme must minimise litigation and disputes. (5) The scheme must suit to the peculiarities of Indian conditions. (6) The scheme should be flexible, leaving sufficient scope for subsequent alterations and extensions. (7) The scheme should provide for a well organised publicity department. (8) The principle involved in the scheme is to help small cultivators to begin with and therefore in the first instance, the scheme may provide for the exclusion of big farms. (9) The

scheme should be made compulsory as far as possible for the people for whom it is meant.

As conditions are at present such a scheme cannot be made and executed only by provincial governments. I therefore urge upon the Central Government to take this matter into their hands, invite opinions from different provinces and see what can be done in this respect on an all India basis. I entirely agree with the Honourable Mr. Rajagopalachariar that the Government has changed and the times have changed. We here are not in opposition. We are a part and parcel of the same Government and whatever we say here is only to request them and to draw their attention to certain matters. I hope this resolution which is non-controversial will be accepted by the Government and something tangible will be done in this respect. Sir, I support the resolution.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I wish to support this resolution. It is high time that action on the lines suggested here is taken. I agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Govind Das that it should be undertaken as an all India responsibility. Thanks to this war and the consequent food shortage, the nation has come to realise what a key function our peasants have been performing all these years in producing all the food that the nation needed and placing it at their disposal at such scales of prices as were being dictated to them by the consumers of this country. How is it that India is suddenly face to face with this food shortage. According to several of the agricultural economists who have contributed their valuable articles to this very useful book "Developing Village India" published by the Department of Agriculture, it is clear that because of the failure of the Government, not only of provincial but also Central, to discharge their duties towards our peasants this food shortage has come about. If only our provincial governments as well as our Central Government had realised their duty to put down the ravages caused by these pests—I need not enumerate the various kinds of pests—and also by floods, cyclones, drought and various other natural calamities, there would not have been this trouble. But the Governments were content to leave the poor peasants to their own wits end and shift for themselves and produce how best they possibly could all the food that the people needed and therefore today the peasants have found themselves incapable of coping up with all these natural and artificial calamities and we are in consequence faced with this food shortage.

One of the reasons why this crop insurance plan should be instituted is to create the necessary sanctions to force the provincial as well as the Central Governments to attend to all their duties in regard to agriculturists in order to minimise the risks involved in crop insurance. Once crop insurance is instituted, not as a sort of private concern but as a national and governmental concern, Government will come face to face with the almost calamitous risks that they would be undertaking to overcome in this country as well as the colossal financial risks that they will be running in order to assure the peasants a reasonable return for all the trouble that they take in carrying on their productive activities in this country.

Sir we have nearly 300 million people in this country who are employed in agriculture. Even if we estimate the per capita income at Rs. 100 for this population, it comes to this, that we will be assuring to them through this crop insurance 3,000 crores of rupees worth of income every year. That is nearly one third of the total estimated expenditure of the Bombay plan for ten years. Every year the Government will be undertaking this risk, they will be assuring this much of income to our peasants. Will it be possible for the Government to do it at all? I maintain that it should be possible and it would be possible also, if every Government were to take upon itself not only the incidental financial risk involved in this undertaking but also the discharge of those ancillary or auxilliary duties that they have to perform in order to assure reasonable, decent and stable conditions of life to our peasants.

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

It is true that meteorology has made very great progress. Even then cyclones and floods and even drought do not give us any chance of estimating their possible devastation and therefore large tracts of country are liable to be damaged with their standing crops, causing any amount of harm and loss to millions of our people. Loss of human life as well as cattle is being suffered every year in some part of the country or other because of these natural calamities. In addition to this there is the loss sustained as a result of the pests. It is estimated by several authors and one of them I quote here, that in regard to one area, the North-West India, the yield of valuable orchards was estimated to have been reduced by 50 per cent. and in some cases by as much as 90 per cent. Also orchard owners in Sind are cutting off their citrus trees, because of the white fly pest. Weevils destroy about 3½ million tons of grain every year, valued at about 80 crores of rupees and in quantity enough to feed about 15 million persons for one year. All this has to be stopped. It can be stopped in an earnest and effective manner only when crop insurance is undertaken by the Government. Could crop insurance be undertaken by Government at all? In times past it would have appeared as a sort of revolutionary proposal if Government were asked to undertake crop insurance. Things have changed and are changing. Only recently Government has published their Prices Committee Report, which has suggested that Government could insure our peasants against the ravages caused by price fluctuations. Therefore it is only another step forward for the Government to undertake crop insurance also.

I know all sorts of administrative difficulties could easily be conjured up and I am afraid the departments of Food and Agriculture have been busy only in regard to these difficulties. There are bound to be difficulties and I say that you can always trust the I. C. S. officers to think of any number of them. But I wish to assure the Honourable Member as well as his I. C. S. assistants that these administrative difficulties have got to be faced and overcome. They can be overcome. They might say that our peasants are ignorant and that it would not be possible either to collect the premiums from them or to distribute later on compensation for the losses sustained by them. I may assure them that our peasants are coming to be organised and there will be an additional inducement for them to organise themselves even better in every village, if you were to develop crop insurance.

Secondly, Sir, if you were to expect high officers to work in co-operation with the peasants' organisations—the special organisations brought into existence in order to work this crop insurance scheme,—it will be possible to insure our peasants against any kind of *zulum* or corruption from administrative officers.

Coming to the question of the sharing of responsibilities as between different parties in this insurance scheme I wish to say that the whole burden of maintaining this insurance should not be placed upon the shoulders of our peasants alone. My Honourable friend, Seth Govind Das was thinking that the rich peasants or those possessing fertile lands would not need this insurance to the same extent. I cannot agree with him. The Punjab farmer, the Bengal farmer as well as the Andhra farmers, who are fortunate enough to enjoy an excellent irrigation system, need this crop insurance as much as the farmers of Bijapur, or Rayalaseema, or Orissa, or even Rajputana and other arid areas, because if the land is fertile and the crops raised costly, the risks also are correspondingly greater. Therefore they will also need the protection of this crop insurance as much as the peasants of the poorer areas.

Then, Sir, the Provincial Governments also should undertake their responsibility in financing this. Just as in the case of the unemployment insurance scheme, the health insurance scheme, the family insurance scheme and various other things that you find in England—the State comes in there as one of the

three contributory partners—so also, in regard to this crop insurance the Provincial Governments as well as the Central Government should come into it and make their proper contribution. How much this is to be has to be decided later on. Whether it is to be one-third or half of the total contribution to be made towards this fund has to be decided later on. But the general principle must be accepted that the Governments also should undertake their financial responsibility. It is not a novel suggestion that I am making. In fact there used to be a practice in our own country for well over forty years to provide Rs. 1½ crores from the general revenues of the Central Government towards famine relief and insurance scheme. That contribution used to be made. In 1919, as is usual with the British Government, in a light-hearted manner they dismissed that contribution. Therefore since the inauguration of the Montford scheme this was stopped. But I may tell the House that before the Central Government came to make that contribution, between 1880 and 1900, from the days of Lord Lytton's Viceroyalty a few taxes were levied on the masses of our own peasants in order to raise this Rs. 1½ crores and even more. Why do I say more? Because in those days the Provincial Governments and the Central Government were spending Rs. 6½ crores on famine relief in different parts of the country. Therefore, Rs. 8 crores they used to raise by special taxation from our own peasants in order to finance that insurance scheme. But unfortunately those taxes were being collected and are being collected I daresay even now, but that particular contribution towards famine relief and insurance has been stopped. This is how our peasants have been cheated. It is their deserts. Therefore I suggest that the Central Government also should undertake its responsibility in paying at least 25 per cent. of the cost of this scheme. It can be made to work, and it will be made to work. And it is bound to have very salutary effects upon our own peasantry. The moment their lands come to be insured and their crops come to be insured, they have an insurance of a stable income because they are insured against the vicissitudes of seasons and also against fluctuations in prices. Once they have an assurance of a stable income then they will have an inducement to raise their own general level of efficiency to send their children to agricultural schools and colleges, get them educated and find it profitable, because educated farmers make much more efficient farmers; and to that extent the premiums that they have to pay in future towards this crop insurance could also be reduced.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member has got two minutes more.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They will also be able to fight these pests. I therefore suggest that the Government should not shelve this matter any longer. On the other hand they should take it up earnestly and give their best possible consideration to it and place before the country at an early date a feasible, practicable and effective scheme of crop insurance.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad (Member for Food and Agriculture):

I must say at once that I have my fullest sympathy with the object which the mover of this resolution has in view. I think I know something about the condition of our peasantry, and I know too with what great difficulty they are able to carry on in these hard times. It would therefore be a matter of the greatest pleasure to me if I could do something to ameliorate their condition and to improve their life. The resolution, as it has been moved, wants the Government to institute a system of crop insurance. I think the peasant needs insurance against two kinds of risks: there is always a chance of what he produces being sold at a price which is not profitable to him, and there is the further risk of his labour not being rewarded with a crop at all or with a short crop. So far as insurance against falling prices is concerned I take it that that is not covered by this resolution. Recently we have had a committee to go into that question of stabilisation of prices and the report of that committee is under consideration at the present moment. The other question of insuring against calamities affecting the crop is really a very difficult question. I fully

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realise the importance of instituting such insurance. But when I take into consideration the difficulties which are not the creation of either I. C. S. or of those of us who have now to work with them but which are inherent in the problem itself, I confess that it is not easy to find a solution. Take for example the various kinds of risks which the cultivator runs in his everyday life of cultivating his land. There is the risk of too much rain or of too little rain; there is the risk of hailstorm; there is the risk of cyclones, there is the risk of floods; there is the risk of pests; there is the risk of locusts. (*An Honourable Member*: "And there are rats"). These are the risks to which the crop itself is exposed. There is the future risk of the cattle on which the cultivation depends, coming under some sort of epidemic, and we know there have been years when cattle have died like flies and also when our crops have failed not because of anything which the cultivator had done but because of something over which he had no control. Any scheme of insurance therefore in a country like India will really be an insurance against whether. It will really amount to nothing less than a gamble in rains. If it is possible to gamble in rains and if a scheme can be developed which can insure against that kind of gamble I for one would not object to accepting that scheme. The difficulties which the peasants has to face are no doubt there, but it is not always possible to find a solution for all difficulties. It has been said that it may not be possible for the Provincial Governments to undertake a big scheme like this and that the Government of India should undertake it. If it is not possible for the Provincial Governments, I sometimes venture to think that it may not be possible even for the Government of India to undertake it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: All together. That used to be the old scheme.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: I would just indicate some of the difficulties which we shall have to face in giving practical application to a Resolution like this. Now, what is it exactly that we want to insure? Is it the crop that has to be insured? That is to say, if the crop does not come up to a particular standard, the insured person has to be given compensation for that?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is right.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Or is it the investment which the peasant makes in the cultivation that has to be insured? That is to say, if the amount that has been spent on cultivation is not recovered by the produce, is the loss to be made good? or is it again the profit which he expects that has to be insured? The difficulty that we have to face in this country is this. Most of our cultivators do not produce what they produce for sale. What they produce they produce for their own consumption and it is only a portion of what the produce that is sold. That makes a world of difference between the system of agriculture that we have in this country and the system of agriculture that they have in a country like the United States of America. There agriculture is a kind of industry. Here it is a sort of occupation. Here men must cultivate, because they must cultivate for the sake of their daily livelihood. It is not a sort of investment or a business proposition. They cultivate because they cannot do without it. That may be a reason all the more for insuring against risk but that makes the difficulty of insurance all the greater. If you look into the details of any insurance scheme, you have to find the money which has to be paid by way of compensation. Now who is going to pay that? As has been said, 80 per cent. or as some speaker pointed out, 90 per cent. of our people are engaged in cultivation or are dependent on cultivation. Now, if all these 90 per cent. of the people have to be insured, who is going to pay the premium? It is the cultivator who has to find the money which will be paid by way of premium and which in case of loss will have to be repaid to the cultivator. If the Government of India take up the responsibility, it only means realising from the cultivator in some way or other something which the Government of India may have to repay to him in time of difficulty. We cannot have the burden

thrown on another party. There is no other party. (*An Honourable Member: "Consumers"*). But the consumers can only bear a part. They cannot bear the whole burden. They can only bear in proportion to their strength and that will be only 10 to 20 per cent. and the rest will have to be borne by the cultivator.

Now, let us see what kind of cultivators we have got. The average holding of our people is very small—a few acres. In some provinces it is 2 acres. In Northern Bihar it is only 2 to 2½ acres. In other provinces it may be ten acres. The average for the whole country may not be more than 10 acres. On a holding of that kind, where is the premium to come from? It assumes that the cultivator is in a position to save something. Insurance is some sort of compulsory saving. Is the cultivator today in a position to save anything out of what he produces? My own feeling is that in the vast majority of cases the peasant is not in a position to save anything either for the rainy day or for anything else (*An Honourable Member: "Why should not the Government of India pay the premium?"*)

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The whole of India is not affected by cyclone simultaneously.

The Honourable Dr. Rajendra Prasad: Seth Govind Das said that the Jubbulpore area has been suffering from drought for the last 21 years. I do not know what scheme of insurance will succeed in an area like that. As a matter of fact, in this country, there is always a shortage of rain. There is always failure of crop. It is more or less chronic. There is no full crop in any year. That is the position. If the premium has to be found by the cultivator, the position becomes very difficult.

I was looking into some literature about America. I find that the cultivator there has to contribute anything about 5 bushels to 4 bushels per acre as his premium. That comes to a maximum of something like 2 or 3 maunds and about a minimum of half a maund per acre. I do not know how many of our cultivators could contribute that amount as a premium for insurance. The rent usually payable by the cultivator is not as much as that in many cases. In some cases it is much less than that. So this would be an additional burden on the cultivator which he will have to pay from year to year and from which he will derive benefit only occasionally. It is true that they will all pool their own resources and the misery when it comes will be distributed over all and for that very reason it may not be as easily acceptable to the cultivator as is supposed. I can say this with regard to life insurance. Even life insurance where the risk is much more easily calculable has not become as popular in this country as in other countries. The risk with regard to agriculture is much less calculable, it is much more difficult to calculate and I do not know how far it will be possible to draw up a scheme of insurance.

As I have said, I have the fullest sympathy with the object of this Resolution. I am prepared to examine this in detail. I thought I must place before the House the difficulties which I have felt about accepting the Resolution as it is worded. I trust that the members will go into the details of this subject with the care and attention it deserves and give us any suggestions which would help us in the consideration of this problem.

It is not necessary in a Resolution like this to appoint a committee because a committee cannot do anything unless it has got the necessary data. In this case we have not got the necessary data. We have not even the data which will give us the information with regard to the crop yield. The crop yield over a series of years will be required for determining what the premium can be in the case of insurance and it will have to be different for different areas, different crops and different kinds of land and, I should imagine, even with regard to different kinds of cultivators. So, in the first instance, we have got to make the collection of data on a very extensive scale. When those data have become

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available, it will be necessary to examine them and to see if it is at all practicable to introduce a scheme like this. I know that there have been suggestions made like this in some reports by some Committees and I have looked into some of these reports too. They all emphasise this fact that in the first place what is necessary is the accumulation and the collection of data. Unless we get the data, it is not possible for me to commit the Government to any course of action except to say that we are prepared to consider this matter. I hope this will satisfy the Members because I am sure they would not like to rush the Government into any decision, or any commitment at this stage without knowing what the Government is committing itself to.

Sri N. Narayanamurthi: Mr. Deputy President, Sir, after the assurance given by the Honourable Babu Rajendra Prasad that the subject will have his most active and sympathetic consideration there is nothing to be said except to withdraw the Resolution in the full confidence, as the Honourable Member himself said just now, that on subjects of national importance there is not much difference between the various sections of the House and the Government that is ruling the country. In view of that assurance, I am absolutely certain that whatever is possible in the interests of peasant will be done by the Government and therefore I beg to ask for leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

The Resolution was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

POINT OF ORDER RE RESOLUTION RE RELEASE OF INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY MEN AND POLITICAL PRISONERS.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I propose that the Resolution regarding I. N. A. should now be taken up because all the items on the agenda have been finished.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): I suggest that I should be allowed to move my Resolution which, though not on the agenda, was sixth on the list.

Mr. Deputy President: The agenda is settled by the Honourable the President and he has put down five Resolutions on it. So, whatever was put down on the agenda-paper has now been disposed of.

As to Mr. Saksena's suggestion, I have already given the indication that I do not propose to give any ruling on that point. The Honourable the President went thoroughly into this question and he ordered the agenda paper to be prepared in a particular manner, which he will be able to explain to the House in detail later on.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: My point was this. Now that the agenda for the day has been exhausted, at least the Resolution regarding the I. N. A. could have come before the House automatically. It was balloted for and it is already there.

Mr. Deputy President: As I have already said, that is a point which the Honourable the President himself will decide.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS

Mr. Shavax A. Lal (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, as to the business for the next week, an agenda has been circulated today for the first four days of the week. They will all be devoted to official business.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 10th February, 1947.