

Saturday, 14th April, 1945

# COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

VOLUME I, 1945

*(15th February to 14th April, 1945)*

## EIGHTEENTH SESSION

OF THE

# FOURTH COUNCIL OF STATE, 1945



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1945

# Council of State

*President :* . . . )

THE HON. SIB MANEKJI DADABHOY, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., LL.D.. BAE.-AT-LAW.

*Panel of Chairmen :*

THE HON. SIB DAVID DEVADOSS.  
THE HON. MR. M. N. DALAL.  
THE HON. MR. V. V. KALIKAR.  
THE HON. SAYYAD MOHAMAD PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR.

*Secretary :*

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

*Committee on Petitions :*

THE HON. RAJA CHARANJIT SINGH, *Chairman.*  
THE HON. PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU.  
THE HON. SIB RAMUNNI MENON.  
THE HON. HAJI SYED MUHAMMAD HUSAIN.  
THE HON. MR. CHIDAMBARAM CHETTIYAR. } *Members.*

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COUNCIL OF STATE  
Saturday, 14th April, 1945

The Council met in the Council Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, MR. CHAIRMAN (the Honourable Mr. M. N. Dalal) in the Chair.

DEATH OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

MR. CHAIRMAN (the Honourable Mr. M. N. Dalal) : Honourable Members, before we start the business of the House, it is my sad duty today to comment on an incident which has cast a gloom not only in America but in all the Allied countries of the world, in the sudden and unexpected death of President Franklin Roosevelt.

Honourable Members, I suggest that after making a few comments on the death of President Roosevelt we adjourn for half an hour, until 11-45 A.M. today, when the regular business of the House will be continued. (*Honourable Members* : "Yes").

Honourable Members, last year Roosevelt was re-elected for the fourth time President of the United States of America by an overwhelming majority, demonstrating unquestioned allegiance which he commanded in his country, and the world acclaimed the choice with joy and enthusiasm.

Roosevelt's place in world history will be judged by his part on the second world war and that is part of his greatness and his tragedy. Roosevelt was of the same heroic mould as Abraham Lincoln and Woodrow Wilson and had the same passion for democracy and international justice.

The world had looked to President Roosevelt to complete the unfulfilled mission of Woodrow Wilson and set up an organisation for world peace. There can therefore be no greater calamity than his sudden death, almost on the eve of the San Francisco Conference.

Those who know the stubborn illusions of isolationism will appreciate his courage in the early years of the war. He not only brought America into the war but made it possible for America to help freely and extensively the allied countries throughout the world. One shudders to think of the consequences if American help had not been brought in such large measure.

The strain of the war hastened his end. But his name will live in history with his two great companions, Churchill and Stalin, as the men whose labours, and the inspiration of whose personalities, brought us within sight of Victory.

The death of Roosevelt is a sad and bitter blow not only to the American Democracy, but an incomplete end to an epoch of world-shaking events. The void created by so gigantic a personality cannot be replaced.

The loss of a world figure with such liberal sympathies and dynamic energy is as much India's loss. It is only right therefore that this House should place on record the irreparable loss the world has suffered.

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN (Leader of the House) : Mr. Chairman, I beg to associate myself with every word of what you have said. The death of President Roosevelt is a great loss to the world at this juncture and I would suggest that you should communicate our condolences to the bereaved family and to the Government of the United States of America ; and I also suggest that after the Leaders of the various Parties have spoken we do adjourn for half an hour as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA (Bihar : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I wish to associate myself on behalf of the Progressive Party with all that has fallen from your lips on this very solemn and distressful occasion. President Roosevelt was a world figure in every sense of the word. He dominated the world stage at the most critical time of its history. Some of us remember him with great concern as one of the signatories to the Atlantic Charter. We all felt that the Atlantic Charter was the proper and the most desirable basis for the building up of the world peace and that President Roosevelt would live to see the day when the ideals for which he put his signature to the Atlantic Charter would be achieved. We admire the guidance that President Roosevelt gave to his great

country, America, during the years of the war. We all remember that he opposed the cash and carry scheme which would have made the prosecution of the war very difficult for the Allies. We also remember him as the father of the lend-lease scheme which has enabled the war to be carried on in the way it has been possible for the Allies to do on account of the lend-lease arrangement. His death has come at a time when the world has not got out of crisis. We all wish he had lived to guide the deliberations of and to use his wholesome influence over the various contending elements at the San Francisco Conference. We all wish to share to the fullest degree the regret and the grief of the Americans and other members of the Allied Nations at the passing away of President Roosevelt.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL** (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to give expression to my sense of sorrow on the passing away of Mr. Roosevelt who was the President of the United States and to associate myself on behalf of my party in the expressions of condolence which have fallen from you and from the Leader of the House. President Roosevelt has won a unique place in his great country. He will live in our memory as very few have lived before. The sorrow is all the more that he has not lived to see the fruits of his own efforts. But what is given to man is to make an effort. He made a splendid effort to win the war. Now that the end of the war is near, he was not spared unfortunately by Providence to see the victory to which he had contributed so handsomely. Sir, with these words, I associate myself with the tributes paid to President Roosevelt.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (Bihar and Orissa : Muhammadan) : Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Muslim League Party, I wish to associate myself with all the remarks that have fallen from your lips. President Roosevelt was a figure of international repute and his work in peace and war will remain ever engraved in world history. With a capitalistic economy he combined the basis of collective socialism inaugurating the New Deal. At the time when he occupied the presidential chair in January 1933, America was in the grip of a depression and the way in which he steered the ship of state entitles him to a place in the honoured list of great men of the world. He carried this from national field to the international field when he inaugurated lend-lease. It was for the first time that the concept of the oneness of the world, of the human beings being one race and one unit body was conceived and given effect to in measures the magnitude of which would have staggered the pre-war world. In addition to all that America has done for the victory of the Democracies against the Axis Powers the action of President Roosevelt will remain always honoured in the list of those who can be regarded as international benefactors.

Sir, I associate myself with the tributes which have been paid to his memory.

**THE HONOURABLE RAJA CHARANJIT SINGH** (Nominated Non-Official) : I also associate myself with the tributes of respect which have been paid to the memory of the late President Roosevelt. His sad and sudden death is a grievous loss and the sympathy of the whole world goes to Mrs. Roosevelt and the family.

**BRIGADIER THE HONOURABLE SIR HISSAMUDDIN BAHADUR** (Nominated Non-Official) : I wholeheartedly associate myself with the previous speakers. It is very sad, Sir, that President Roosevelt missed the picnic party at Berlin.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR** (Madras : Non-Muhammadan) : I wish to add my tribute to those that have been already paid to the memory of a great man—one of the biggest men in human history. He was big in his ideals, bigger perhaps in the manner in which he stated them to the world, biggest in the generous way in which he endeavoured to implement those ideals. Great ideas came forth from his brain in the course of the last few years : the Atlantic Charter, the Four Freedoms, Hot Springs, Bretton Woods, Dumbarton Oaks and San Francisco. It is very unfortunate that he should have passed away at this juncture, for out of the three chief figures which have stood forth during this great war he perhaps was the man who could have organised peace in the true sense of the word. So far as Mr. Churchill is concerned he has been very great in war but very well founded doubts have been expressed as to whether he will be great in the organisation of

peace in the post-war world. Marshal Stalin perhaps will concentrate his energies on rebuilding his own country after the war is over, but, if President Roosevelt had remained, he would have given of his best to the organisation of world security and peace in a manner which nobody else in the world could have done. It is a great calamity that the world has suffered. He was born in an atmosphere where the politics was one of power and the economics was one of plenty but he endeavoured to harness power to enabling the smaller, weaker nations of the world to acquire the power to order their own affairs, and he harnessed the plenty that he was born in for the purpose of enabling the weaker nations also to acquire the capacity to establish plenty among themselves and later on in a world where the ruling idea would have been the interdependence of nations he would have promoted human welfare in a manner which nobody else in the world at the present moment could have done.

I associate myself, Sir, with the tributes that have been paid.

The Council then adjourned for half an hour till a Quarter to Twelve of the Clock.

The Council reassembled at a Quarter to Twelve of the Clock, Mr. Chairman (the Honourable Mr. M. N. Dalal) in the Chair.

### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### HYDARI MISSION

378. **THE HONOURABLE MR. NARAYANDAS GIRDHARDAS**: Will Government lay on the table before the close of the present session of the Council a report of the work done by the Hydari Mission in England?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR AKBAR HYDARI**: I would refer the Honourable Member to the Press Communique issued on the evening of Friday, the 6th April, which was circulated to Honourable Members.

#### HYDARI MISSION

379. **THE HONOURABLE MR. NARAYANDAS GIRDHARDAS**: Will Government state whether the Hydari Mission had concluded any agreement for importing goods from the United Kingdom to India? If so, will Government give the list of such goods and state their value?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR AKBAR HYDARI**: I would refer the Honourable Member to the Press Communique issued on the evening of Friday, the 6th April, which was circulated to Honourable Members.

#### CONSTITUTION OF A PANEL FOR COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

380. **THE HONOURABLE MR. NARAYANDAS GIRDHARDAS**: Will Government consider the advisability of constituting a panel for cottage industries particularly for hand-spinning and weaving consisting of representatives of the people and a representative of the All-India Spinners' Association on the same lines as other panels recently constituted for Post-War Industrial Development?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR AKBAR HYDARI**: The matter is under consideration.

#### POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT

381. **THE HONOURABLE MR. NARAYANDAS GIRDHARDAS**: Will Government consider the advisability of calling a conference of the various political parties and minorities and place before them any scheme of Post-War development evolved by them and obtain their views before putting into effect any such scheme finally decided upon by Government?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR AKBAR HYDARI**: I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the speech of the Honourable the Planning and Development Member on the 14th March, during the debate initiated by Mr. G. S. Motilal. Having regard to the considerations mentioned in that speech and the setting up of a Standing Advisory Committee Government do not consider that a conference such as is proposed will serve any useful purpose.



## CREATION OF A SEPARATE ANDHRA PROVINCE

382. THE HONOURABLE MR. NARAYANDAS GIRDHARDAS : Will Government consider the question of creating a separate Andhra Province consisting of the Andhra Districts of the Madras Presidency in view of the demand of the people of Andhra for the creation of such a province ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN : Government do not consider the present time opportune for taking up the question.

## NON-COOPERATION BY HINDI WRITERS, ETC., WITH ALL-INDIA RADIO

383. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL : Will Government state :—

(a) Whether it is a fact that writers, poets, and others who were giving broadcasts in Hindi from various stations are now non-co-operating with A. I. R. ? If so, since when and for what reasons ?

(b) Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the names, [addresses and the nature of work done by persons referred to in (a) before their abstention ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN : (a) A certain number of Hindi writers, talkers, etc., who were previously participating in All-India Radio programmes have withdrawn their co-operation due to the agitation started by the protagonists of Hindi about the middle of last year as a protest against the alleged anti-Hindi policy of All-India Radio.

(b) The required information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

## LANGUAGE POLICY OF ALL-INDIA RADIO

384. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL : Have Government seen the statements issued by the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan recently regarding the language policy of the A. I. R. ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN : Yes.

## PUBLICATION OF BOOKS IN URDU AND HINDI

385. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. MOTILAL : Have Government received from the centrally administered areas and each of the provinces, information regarding : (a) The number of books published in Hindi and Urdu during the last three years ? (b) The number of journals and periodicals (including weeklies, fortnightlies and monthlies) published in Hindi and Urdu during the last three years ? (c) The number of subscribers to each of the journals and periodicals referred to in (b) ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. C. F. V. WILLIAMS : Either the Government of India or Provincial Government receive in one form or another most of the information that the Honourable Member refers to, and Provincial Governments make certain returns to the Central Government. The information in the possession of the Central Government does not at present extend beyond the year 1943. It would involve an enormous amount of time and labour to collect up to date all the information in the form suggested by the Honourable Member.

## INFORMATION PROMISED IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. C. PRIOR (Labour Secretary) : Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to a supplementary to question No. 3, asked by the Honourable Mr. P. N. Sapru on the 15th February, 1945.

## ALLOTMENT OF GOVERNMENT QUARTERS TO MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL LEGISLATURE

The supplementaries refer to 95 quarters which are allotted to members of the Central Legislature in New Delhi and they are situated in the following localities :—

(a) Constructed prior to 1933-34.

Windsor Place	20
Ferozshah Road	20
Queensway	10
G. O. B.'s Class 'D' used as M. L. As.' Houses	12

Total . . . 62

(b) Constructed in 1933-34.

Ferozeshahi Road and Canning Road

33

GRAND TOTAL 95

Accommodation in these quarters varies slightly ; 65 of them have an additional room. The rents of quarters mentioned in category (a) were pooled in 1933-34 in consultation with the House Committee of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly and the rent for each of these quarters was fixed at Rs. 80 per month.

When the additional 33 quarters mentioned in (b) above were subsequently constructed, rents for these were pooled with those of the former ; and a uniform rate of Rs. 79-12-0 per month was fixed for all the 95 quarters.

### NOTICE OF MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

**MR. CHAIRMAN** (the Honourable Mr. M. N. Dalal) : Honourable Members, I have received a notice for Adjournment of the House from the Honourable Mr. Hossain Imam. It reads :—

“ I wish to move the Adjournment of the House to consider a matter of urgent definite public importance, namely, the issue of instructions by the Government of India to Bengal for the purchase of cloth in Calcutta for export to China.”

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** (Bihar and Orissa : Muhammadan) : Mr. Chairman, I wish to move this Adjournment in order to clear the air on one matter : whether it is a fact that the Government of India issued instructions to the Bengal authorities for the purchase of cloth for China at a time when there was great scarcity of cloth in Bengal and when people in Bengal were crying for cloth ; was it fitting at such a time that the Government of India should issue instructions for a further depletion of the stocks that might be held there ? I hope, Sir, that the Honourable the Secretary will be able to throw some light on the subject.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR AKBAR HYDARI** (Industries and Civil Supplies Secretary) : Sir, I am very glad that the Honourable Member has by this rather unorthodox method given me the chance of removing a serious misconception in the public mind and in the minds of the Honourable Members of this House. I think the statement he refers to is what appeared in *The Hindustan Standard* of Calcutta which gives a facsimile of a letter purporting to have been written by Mr. T. Jones, Provincial Textile Commissioner. He is an officer of the Bengal Government. The facts of the case are as follows :—

In the first place, I may mention that this is not a matter of urgent public importance, because this letter is dated the 26th August, 1944—a good many months ago.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. SUSIL KUMAR ROY CHOWDHURY** (West Bengal : Non-Muhammadan) : But it was published only the other day.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR AKBAR HYDARI** : The cause of action arose as far back as August, 1944.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. SUSIL KUMAR ROY CHOWDHURY** : We did not know that.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR AKBAR HYDARI** : That is why I called this method unorthodox. What happened was this. Last year we were very short of raw silk for the manufacture of parachutes for the Defence services. The only place where India could get this silk was China ; though we produce our own silk, that was not enough. The Chinese were prepared to let us have this silk only if we gave them some cotton textiles in return. They made a considerable demand, which we reduced by negotiation. Finally what was agreed to was that their agents should purchase 97,000 yards of cloth—not even 100,000 yards, much less half a million ; only 97,000 yards—in India against the silk which they had sold us, and we would allow them to ship that to China. Mr. Jones's letter runs as follows :—

“ Mr. Woo is authorised by this Department to procure all the cloth he requires, which is to be despatched urgently to China.”

[Sir Akbar Hydari.]

Of course this might give the public the impression that Mr. Woo could roam the country at large and purchase any quantity of cloth. That was not the case. He was limited to a very small figure.

Secondly, though I only received this notice yesterday evening, I made enquiries, and, as far as I am informed, nobody either in the Supply Department or in my own Department issued any written instructions to Mr. Jones, much less any instructions of the kind mentioned in this letter. It might have been that some officer got into touch with Mr. Jones on the 'phone' at Calcutta and said: "Here is the agent of the Chinese Government; let him buy up to 97,000 yards of cloth".

These are the facts. I do not think that the supply of this very small quantity would have had any effect on the cloth position as it was in August, 1944. I might inform Honourable Members that, naturally, as hoarded stocks which we unearthed have by now been used up and there is now a certain tightness in the cloth position, any kind of barter now would be regarded with even greater scrutiny than was the case in 1944. But, as I have informed the House, the need for this raw silk was urgent and very great, and we had to make the bargain.

In view of this explanation, I hope the Honourable Member will withdraw his Motion.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. SUSIL KUMAR ROY CHOWDHURY:** May I ask the Honourable Member whether he has made inquiries and satisfied himself that not more than 97,000 yards of cloth have been exported to China?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR AKBAR HYDARI:** My inquiries go to show that he was probably not able to obtain even all the 97,000 yards.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM:** I am satisfied with the explanation and I withdraw the Motion.

**MR. CHAIRMAN** (the Honourable Mr. M. N. Dalal): I permit it.

#### BILL PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LAID ON THE TABLE

**SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL:** Sir, in pursuance of rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table a copy of the Bill further to amend the Aligarh Muslim University Act, 1920, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 12th April, 1945.

#### ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY (AMENDMENT) BILL

**THE HONOURABLE SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR** (Madras Muhammadan): Sir, I wish to move for the consideration of the House today the Bill which has just been laid on the table by the Secretary. I wish to have your permission and that of the Government to move that the Aligarh Muslim University (Amendment) Bill be taken into consideration. I request the Chair to waive the usual notice and to allow this Bill to be taken into consideration today. In the other House, where this Bill was passed only recently, Government supported this Bill. The Bill is of a non-controversial nature and I therefore request the Chair and the Government to be pleased to waive the usual notice.

**MR. CHAIRMAN** (the Honourable Mr. M. N. Dalal): Have Government any objection?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN** (Leader of the House): We have no objection, Sir.

**MR. CHAIRMAN** (the Honourable Mr. M. N. Dalal): I will waive the time limit for laying the Bill on the table. You may take it up at the end of the business today.

## MINES MATERNITY BENEFIT (AMENDMENT) BILL

**THE HONOURABLE MR. H. C. PRIOR (Labour Secretary) :** Sir, I move :—

“ That the Bill further to amend the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration.”

The Motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 12 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. H. C. PRIOR :** Sir, I move :—

“ That the Bill, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed.”

The Motion was adopted.

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## ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY (AMENDMENT) BILL

**THE HONOURABLE SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR (Madras : Muhammadan) :** Sir, I move :—

“ That the Bill further to amend the Aligarh Muslim University Act, 1920, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration.”

Sir, before making my observations on this Motion, I should like to tender my thanks to the Chair and also to the Government for having waived the usual notice in this case.

Sir, the Bill seeks to abolish the post of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor in the Aligarh University. Sir, this matter is of a non-controversial nature. The necessity for amending the present Aligarh Muslim University Act has arisen on account of the fact that this Act was enacted in 1920 when things were quite different. The Aligarh University was then quite a small body and it had only one College. It was then thought advisable that there should be two authorities of the University, one the Vice-Chancellor and the other the Pro-Vice-Chancellor, so that the academic side of the administration might be dealt with by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and larger questions of administration might be in the hands of the Vice-Chancellor. Subsequently things happened which went to show that the existence of these two parallel authorities was not conducive to the smooth and harmonious working of the institution. More often than not, orders used to be passed by these two parallel authorities which interfered with the smooth working of the University. It was, therefore, thought even as early as 1934 that the office of Pro-Vice-Chancellor should be abolished and a Resolution to this effect was passed by the Court of the Aligarh University and a recommendation was made to the Government of India to take necessary steps to abolish the office of Pro-Vice-Chancellor. However, Government did not see their way then to delete the provisions regarding the appointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellor. They, however, allowed the University the option of having such an office or not. They made the appointment of the Pro-Vice-Chancellor only optional. It then ceased to be obligatory on the part of the University to have such an office. However, since the office did exist, it was urged by some of the members of the Court that this office should be there. Further experience showed that the existence of this office was anything but helpful in the smooth working of the institution. There has been some change in the University which has made it quite manifest that this office is simply superfluous and even much worse. The University has now grown up very much. They have introduced Faculties in the University so that the duties which were being discharged by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor are now being discharged by the Deans of the University and the principals of the Colleges. The result is that this Pro-Vice-Chancellor has really nothing to do except to pass orders which very often come into conflict with the Vice-Chancellor. In view of these facts, I request the House to be pleased to accept the Bill as has been passed by the Legislative Assembly.

The Motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR : Sir,  
I move :—

“ That the Bill, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed.”

The Motion was adopted.

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#### STATEMENT OF BUSINESS

MR. CHAIRMAN (the Honourable Mr. M. N. Dalal) : Has the Honourable the Leader of the House any statement to make ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR MAHOMED USMAN (Leader of the House) : No ; I suggest we adjourn *sine die*.

MR. CHAIRMAN (the Honourable Mr. M. N. Dalal) : There being no other work in the course of this session, the House is now adjourned *sine die*.

The House then adjourned *sine die*.

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