

17th November 1944

**THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES**

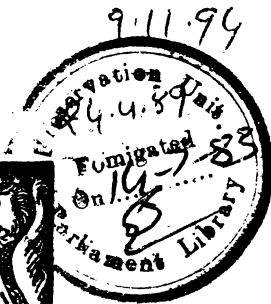
**Official Report**

**Volume V, 1944**

*(14th to 21st November 1944)*

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**TWENTY-FIRST SESSION  
OF THE  
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
1944**



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

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*Deputy President :*

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*Panel of Chairmen :*

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*Committee on Petitions :*

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

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

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 17th November, 1944

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

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### (a) ORAL ANSWERS

#### RECOGNIZED UNIONS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**489. \*Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state how many and which unions of employees are recognized on the North Western Railway?

(b) Do their office-bearers enjoy the privilege of free Railway passes? If so, what is the scale of privilege?

(c) How many such free passes were issued to the office-bearers of these unions:

(i) during the financial year 1943-44; and

(ii) from 1st April 1944 to the 31st August, 1944?

(d) What was the maximum number of passes issued in favour of one individual during the above two periods in his capacity of an office-bearer of a recognized Union?

(e) Have any passes been given to any of the Union office-bearers for stay-in propaganda? If so, why? Did the Government apprehend a strike? If so, where and how was it averted?

(f) What was the number of special passes issued to each of the Unions referred to in (a) above, for the purpose of stay-in propaganda during the periods mentioned in (c) above, and are any reports of the work done by such free pass-holders sent to the Administration? If not, why not? If so, will the Honourable Member please give a brief account of the propaganda done?

(g) What was the monetary value of stay-in passes, and was their issue, in view of shortage of travelling accommodation, commensurate with the advantage gained? If so, how?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The following four Unions are recognized by the North Western Railway Administration:—

(1) The N. W. Railway Recognized Union.

(2) The United Union of N. W. Railway Workers.

(3) The National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma.

(4) The Association of Accountants, North Western Railway.

(b) and (c). I lay on the table a statement giving the required information.

(d) Nineteen sets of passes.

(e) and (f). The number of passes issued to office bearers of Unions for so called stay-in propaganda is shown in the statement already laid on the table. No immediate strike was apprehended but in view of the necessity for keeping railway employees informed of the correct facts and to counteract any agitation based on false rumours during the present emergency, Government considered it desirable to facilitate movement by Union officials for these purposes and to give them passes at the discretion of the Railway Administration. No formal reports of the work done by such persons have been received, nor are they considered necessary.

(g) The total monetary value of such passes is Rs. 1,651. Government consider the grant of these passes was justified.

*Statement showing the scale of free passes allowed over the home line to union officials on the North Western Railway and the number of such passes issued during the period 1st April 1943 to 31st March 1944 and 1st April 1944 to 31st August 1944*

Name of Union	Total number of passes issued		Number of passes issued for the purpose of stay in propaganda		Scale of passes fixed in September, 1943
	From 1-4-43 to 31-3-44	From 1-4-44 to 31-8-44	From 1-4-43 to 31-3-44	From 1-4-44 to 31-8-44	
	United Union of N. W. Railway Workers.	49	9	20	
N. W. Railway Recognized Union.	5	1	2	Nil	(2) <i>For Stay-in Propaganda</i> :—Not more than one pass in a quarter or four passes in a year to one or two office bearers of a recognized union.
National Union of Railwaymen of India & Burma.	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	(3) <i>For visiting branch secretaries and divisional headquarters</i> :—Not more than four passes in a year to the working President or working Secretary.
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>	[Note:—All the above passes are issued over home line only].

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** For what classes of travel are these free Passes issued? Are they for First class or for Third class?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I am afraid I shall require notice of that question.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know what are the qualifications required for recognising these Unions? Are there any conditions made with them when they are recognised?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** No, Sir, No conditions are made when they are recognised, but if the Honourable Member wants a statement on the question, I shall be glad if he will put a question down on the paper.

#### INADEQUATE NUMBER OF POSTMEN IN ALLAHABAD.

†490. \***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is not a fact that at Allahabad the average number of ordinary letters to be delivered before the present war started used to be under 15,000?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that during the course of the war this number has almost doubled and similarly the number of registered articles, money orders and parcels has grown much in volume?

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that this increase is due among other things to the increase of the population also?

(d) Is it or is it not a fact that during the pre-war period the number of Postmen in Allahabad was 95 in the Head Office, and it remains the same till to-day.

(e) Is it or is it not a fact that excessive work is very badly pressing upon the Postmen and they have been making representations in that behalf?

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

(f) Is it or is it not a fact that on an average of a minimum of 10 square mile beat per Postman, the number of postmen required for Allahabad should be 113?

(g) Is it or is it not a fact that during the past three months there have been five deaths amongst Postmen mostly due to hard work and under nourishment? If not, what are the real facts?

(h) In view of the immense increase in work and the pressure on postmen, do Government propose to consider the advisability of increasing the number of Postmen to their proper strength and give them sufficient dearness allowance for their proper nourishment?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) The daily average number of ordinary letters (paid and unpaid including P. and T. Service letters) received for delivery in Allahabad before the war was 9,000.

(b) The number has increased by 50 per cent. Information regarding the number of registered articles, M. Os. and parcels is available only from the year 1941-42 and indicates a similar increase.

(c) The increase is attributable mainly to the war.

(d) It is not a fact.

(e) There have been representations from the postmen to the Postmaster-General complaining of excessive work.

(f) It is not a fact.

(g) No postman in Allahabad has died during the last three months. The second part of the question does not therefore arise.

(h) As regards the first part of the question, the matter is within the competence of the Postmaster-General and is being examined by him. Representations regarding the grant of grain concessions as a supplement to dearness allowance are under consideration.

#### PROVISION OF CHEAP GRAIN SHOPS FOR ALLAHABAD POSTMEN

†491. **\*Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is not a fact that no cheap grain shops or other facilities have been provided in Allahabad or other big cities for the supply of foodgrains to the Postmen at Allahabad?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that mostly the Postmen due to their long outdoor duties are not in a position to buy grain at those shops which open at prescribed time during day time only—the time when the Postmen are on duty and as such mostly suffer from want of foodgrains and other necessities of life?

(c) In view of these hardships do Government propose to consider the advisability of providing cheap grain shops near Post Offices from where Postmen and other lower grade staff of Post Offices may be able to purchase foodgrains and other necessities of life?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) and (b). The facts are not as stated.

(c) In view of the reply to parts (a) and (b) this question does not actually arise, but I may inform the Honourable Member that a proposal to extend facilities for purchasing foodgrains at reasonable rates to the P. and T. staff in various places is under consideration.

#### RESTORATION OF OLD SCALE OF PAY FOR POSTMEN

†492. **\*Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that prior to 31st March, 1931, the scale of pay of Postmen was Rs. 23—1—43, and after that due to the depression new scale of pay was introduced viz: Rs. 22—1 (in two years)—32, similarly the Packers who were given Rs. 15—As. 8—20, previously were reduced to Rs. 15—(Re. 1—in five years)—17, and the Sorting Postmen who used to get Rs. 45—4—85 were given Rs. 35—3—55?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that the Unions of Postmen have been making representations to the authorities for this unjust treatment to the new entrants?

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

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that in some other Department, e.g., in Accountant General's Office the old scales of pay have been restored?

(d) In view of great hardship to Postal staff, have the Government considered the advisability of restoring the old scales of pay?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) The old and revised scales of pay of these officials are given at pages 42, 44, 67, 78, 79 and 80 of the Manual of Appointments and Allowances of the Officers of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (2nd Edition), a copy of which is placed in the Library of the House. The revised scales are generally applicable to those who entered service on or after 15th July, 1931. The statement that the new scales of pay were introduced due to the depression is not accurate.

(b) There has been no unjust treatment of the new entrants. It is, however, a fact that representations have been received praying for revision of the new scales of pay.

(c) It is not a fact.

(d) No.

#### ALMORA OUT-AGENCY

**493. \*Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state since when an Out-Agency has been started at Almora?

(b) Have any restrictions been imposed for the rebooking of consignments from the the Railway terminus of Haldwani or Kathgodam to the Almora Out-Agency?

(c) Is it necessary for the Station Masters of Haldwani or Kathgodam to obtain the sanction of the Traffic Manager in every case where rebooking of consignments to the Almora Out-Agency is desired by the consignees?

(d) Is it because of transport difficulties between the Railway stations of Haldwani and Kathgodam to the Almora Out-Agency that these restrictions for rebooking have been imposed?

(e) If booking to the Almora Out-Agency is thus restricted, how does the Department expect the Almora Out-Agency to be a paying one?

(f) If restrictions have been imposed, what is the means left for the consignees of Almora to get their goods from the Railway Stations of Haldwani or Kathgodam, since the other old means have been suspended?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The out-agency at Almora was reopened from the September 1944.

(b) (c) and (d). The O. and T. Railway Administration prohibit the rebooking of goods from any station on its system to any other station or out-agency except under the specific orders of the Traffic Manager. These orders apply as a matter of course to rebooking from Haldwani and Kathgodam to the Almora out-agency.

(e) and (f). Booking of goods from Haldwani and Kathgodam to the Almora out-agency, as a separate transaction, is not restricted by the prohibition referred to above. Nor does the prohibition prevent direct booking from other stations on the O. and T. Railway to the Almora out-agency.

#### DETENTION OF P. SURAJ PROSAD UPADHAYA OF NEPAL STATE

**494. \*Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** (a) Will the Secretary for External Affairs be pleased to state the reasons for which one P. Suraj Prosad Upadhaya, Inspector of Education, Nepal State, was arrested recently in Benares, detained there and subsequently transferred to the Lucknow Central Prison?

(b) What were the charges against him?

**Sir Olaf Caroe:** (a) Surya Prasad Udaphaya was arrested and detained under the Restriction and Detention Ordinance, 1944, with a view to preventing him from acting in a manner prejudicial to a purpose specified in Sub-section (1) of Section 3 thereof. He was transferred from Benares to Lucknow for administrative reasons which it would not be in the public interest to disclose.

(b) Having regard to section 11 of the Ordinance I am not prepared to disclose the grounds for the order of detention.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Have the Nepal Government been informed of his arrest? Was there any correspondence with the Nepal Government about his arrest?

**Sir Olaf Caroe:** I am not prepared to add to the answer I have already given.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Did the Government take action of its own initiative or had they any request sent to them by the Nepal Government in this behalf?

**Sir Olaf Caroe:** Sir, I am not prepared to disclose the grounds and the answer I have already given must cover all that my Honourable friend wants to know.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Sir, what does the Honourable Member mean by saying that he is not prepared to give the answer? Is it because it is not in the public interest to give the answer?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has said that already.

**Sir Olaf Caroe:** If my Honourable friend will look at the Ordinance, he will see that under section 11 even the court is not permitted to disclose the grounds; for the same reason, I am not prepared to disclose the grounds in this House.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Is it the intention to extern this man to the Nepal Government?

**Sir Olaf Caroe:** That I am not prepared to answer.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Then why have you come here?

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

#### SHORTAGE OF COAL.

+495. **\*Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state when it was first suspected that there might be shortage of coal in India?

(b) When did the shortage of coal actually occur?

(c) What is the annual requirement for India?

(d) What is the actual present output?

**The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** (a) and (b). I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to reply given by my Honourable colleague Dr. Ambedkar to Mr. K. C. Neogy's starred question No. 250 in the Legislative Assembly on 17th November, 1943.

(c) It is difficult to be precise but Government have at present a target of 25.6 millions in view.

(d) It is not in the public interest to disclose the figures at present

#### COAL EXPORTS.

+496. **\*Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state whether coal has been exported from India to any foreign country during the last five years?

(b) What was the actual amount of export during each of the years 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944 and to which country?

(c) Was any coal exported from India to Italy during any of the above years? When was the coal last shipped to Italy?

(d) Was any coal exported from India to the Middle East during any of the above years? When was coal last exported to the Middle East?

**The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) As regards the actual export of coal during the years 1939—44 the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given in the Legislative Assembly on the 6th November, 1944, to part (a) of Mr. Manu Subedar's starred question No. 120. It is not in the public interest to disclose the destinations to which coal was exported.

In 1943 owing to acute shortage of coal Government decided to stop all exports of coal to the Middle East. The requirements of Ceylon, however, continued to be met from India. Purely for reasons connected with the United

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



Nations' shipping convenience, some of the coal earmarked for export to Ceylon was in practice shipped to Middle East while the Ceylon's requirements to that extent were met from South Africa. The actual destination of Indian coal shipped to Middle East is not controlled from India and it is possible that some of it was shipped onward to Italy.

(d) Yes. The answer to the second part of the question is covered by my reply to parts (b) and (c).

#### COAL EXPORT FOR CONDUCT OF WAR.

†497. \***Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta**: Will the Honourable the Supply Member please state whether coal has been exported to any country for the conduct of the war?

**The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar**: Yes, Sir.

#### INADEQUATE LIGHTING IN TRAINS.

498. \***Mr. Manu Subedar**: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that in spite of overcrowding and heavy receipts by Government, Railway passengers are compelled to go without adequate lighting in all classes?

(b) Is it a fact that no bulbs are provided in the lavatories of any class of Railways?

(c) Is it true that the passenger coaches in use have not been repaired. that doors in some cases cannot be locked properly and windows do not hold but fall down and various other fittings in the carriage as well as in the lavatory are out of repair with the result that passengers do not get any water on the way?

(d) What is the reason for this state of affairs and when and in what manner do Government propose to put an end to it?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall**: (a) Owing to the extraordinary number of thefts of train lighting bulbs and the difficulties to be overcome in obtaining adequate supplies to meet normal maintenance and the abnormal demands resulting from these thefts it is impossible to provide lighting in passenger carriages to the full peace-time standard.

(b) No.

(c) No. It is, however, true that Railways are finding it extremely difficult to maintain stock in a satisfactory state of repair. Thefts of fittings continually occur and it has been necessary to discontinue the fitments of some items as it is impossible to obtain supplies adequate to enable these losses to be made good. Every effort is made to ensure that lavatory fittings are kept in a proper state of repair.

(d) The primary reason for this state of affairs appears to be the ready sale of fittings stolen from coaching stock in the "black market". Only with the assistance of the public as a whole can the steps which Government are taking to overcome this reprehensible traffic bring about an improvement in the position. It is also due to the difficulty of taking off coaches for repair without further inconvenience to the public and to the diversion of coaching stock to ambulance trains.

**Mr. Manu Subedar**: With regard to part (b) of the question, the Honourable Member says that it is not true that bulbs are not provided in the lavatories of the Railways. Will he look into this matter because from my own experience of the last six months, when I did about 20 journeys, there never was a bulb in the lavatories?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall**: Yes, Sir. I have said that that is very often the case; but it is not invariable.

**Mr. Manu Subedar**: May I inquire if a compartment is provided with only one light, it is not liable to theft as much as it would be if the compartment is provided with more than one light? Theft can take place even of one bulb that you put.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall**: Then the Honourable Member will be in the dark.

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

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** When do the Government expect further supplies? When did they receive the last supply of bulbs in this country on railway account and when are they expecting further bulbs so as to prevent theft and inconvenience to the public?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have stated several times on the floor of the House that we have placed very large orders abroad and we have also placed orders in this country. Supplies are arriving continually but unfortunately they are not fast enough to catch up with the thefts and the break-ages. It may interest the House to know that we have lost 13,000 train lighting bulbs from Howrah in a period of 15 months, which shows the scale of thefts.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Is it a fact that the bulbs are provided in the lavatories of the military trains and they are not provided in the trains in which the civil population travels?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I shall require notice of that, but I expect the conditions are the same.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Is it not safer to be in the dark in the main compartment than in the lavatory?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The Honourable Member can take his choice.

#### WAGON PRODUCTION

499. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the total number of wagons produced in India in each of the years from 1939-40 onwards?

(b) Are the wagon producing companies supplied with steel? If so, are Government satisfied that they use all the steel supplied in this manner on the production of wagons on order by the Government?

(c) What was the price per wagon paid in each of these years for the standard type as compared with the pre-war price?

(d) How many wagons were sent out of this country both broad gauge and metre gauge for war uses abroad and how many locomotives were so sent?

(e) Has any of this rolling stock returned?

(f) Is it likely to be serviceable when it returns?

(g) What steps have Government generally taken to improve the bottle-neck of transport in India which has upset trade and industry generally and which has rendered more difficult the food problem?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a)—

Year	Number of wagons manufactured
1939-40	3,234
1940-41	1,749
1941-42	347
1942-43	428
1943-44	2,446
1944-45 (up to 31st October 1944)	3,066

(b) The reply to both parts is 'yes'; and I should mention, in regard to the first part, that supplies are against demands prepared with due regard to the types of wagons to be manufactured.

(c) I lay a statement on the table containing the required information.

(d) The following stock was sent overseas:—

B. G. Wagons	1,418
M. G. Wagons	7,858
M. G. Locos.	206

(e) Yes. 42 M. G. Locos. and 885 M. G. wagons have been returned and more are being returned.

(f) Yes; after thorough repair.

(g) Government's efforts in this respect have from time to time been made public through press communiques and by broadcast talks. They include:

(i) Unremitting pressure at all levels for the supply of additional locomotives and wagons from overseas and for the fabrication of a maximum number of locomotives and wagons in India;

(ii) Concentrated efforts to improve the standard of operation and reduce the percentage of stock out of service for repair;

(iii) The establishment of a Rail Priority Organisation which not only ensures that essential commodities are moved in priority but also prevents cross movements wasteful of transport;

(iv) Control of coastal shipping and country-craft; and

(v) Controlled distribution of Lease-Lend vehicles.

#### Statement

The price paid for a few representative type of general service wagons during 1938-39 onwards are given below :—

	Type of Wagon	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43 & Supplementary
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.*
<i>Broad Gauge</i>						
Covered (Military) . . .	'CMR'	5,700	5,700	6,200	..	9,000
Covered . . . . .	'CR'	4,900	5,300	5,600	6,900	8,000
Open . . . . .	'O'	4,400	..	5,100	6,100	7,000
<i>Metre Gauge.</i>						
Covered . . . . .	'MC'	3,900	..	..	4,700	5,500
Covered (Jute) . . . .	'MGJ'	..	..	4,200	..	5,800

\* These figures are approximate only and are subject to revision to take account of adjustments on account of the price of wheels and axles and rates paid for material and labour.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Will my Honourable friend inform this House why there was a precipitate fall in the production of wagons in this country during the years 1940-41, 1941-42 and 1942-43?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Yes, Sir. The Honourable Member may have observed the course of war. In 1941, about the time the Japanese came into the war, the Germans were advancing in the Middle East. A critical condition arose which necessitated diversion of as much manufacturing capacity as possible to munitions. That took place in the years 1940-41 and in consequence the manufacture of wagons was held up. As soon as the Japanese menace became apparent, fresh orders for wagons were placed and we are now beginning to get the fruit of those orders which were placed in 1942.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Does my Honourable friend convey, Sir, that it was necessary in 1940-41, 1941-42 and 1942-43 to divert the production capacity for military purposes but that it has not become so necessary since and that now this productive capacity is used for wagon manufacture?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** That is so.

#### CORRUPTION IN CONNECTION WITH BERTH RESERVATIONS

500. **\*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that grave scandals have been discovered in the booking of berths and that at Delhi Junction and various other leading stations there is a regular tariff for berth reservation even when such reservation is made several days ahead and *bona fide* passengers who do not accommodate themselves to such tariffs are harassed?

(b) What steps have Government taken to eliminate this form of corruption?

(c) Has the special machinery instituted by Government been effective?

(d) How many prosecutions and convictions have taken place and, generally, are Government aware that the position is worse than it ever was before?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) I have received a number of general complaints but unfortunately they frequently come from persons who,

have themselves been guilty of offering bribes to the railway staff instead of reporting the matter immediately to the superior authorities.

(b) Railway Administrations have been asked to give wide publicity, both in the Press and by exhibition of notices at stations, to the procedure in force in connection with reservation of seats and berths, so that the public may not be in any doubt in the matter. They have also been instructed to make frequent and thorough checks on reservation offices and on trains and the reports from railways indicate that they are following the instructions referred to above. The Special staff engaged in detecting corrupt practices on Railways have also given attention to this matter of reservations. Since, however, corruption involves the giving as well as the taking of bribes, the responsibility for eliminating it is shared equally between the public and the Government. Government have made repeated appeals to the public to come forward and report specific cases and would especially welcome support in this matter from Honourable Members.

(c) I have hopes that the special machinery will prove to be effective as its activities are extended but this must depend upon the will of the public to co-operate.

(d) According to the information readily available, which is in regard to the activities of the Special staff only, three persons have been prosecuted of whom one has been convicted; while the cases of three others are under investigation. As regards the latter portion, Government do not consider that the position is as stated. I will, however, see what further steps can be taken to increase prosecutions of both parties to such transactions.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Sir, I am glad my Honourable friend assures this House that he will look further into the matter, but may I know why he has not adopted the same method as the Industries and Civil Supplies Department of sending round a bogus customer or a plain-clothes man to reserve and why he has not caught red-handed the members of the railway staff who are doing it systematically and regularly and every day?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** We do catch some and a special organisation does work on the lines to which the Honourable Member referred, but if the Honourable Member will think the matter out it is much more easy to deal with the question of corruption in the booking of wagons than in the booking of berths.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Have you set traps for the staff in order to catch them in the process with your own men? I am sure officials of Government in other Departments will co-operate with you and do this service.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I hope to set some traps both for the railway staff and those who give bribes.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** What is the composition of the special staff and what are the methods adopted by them?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** That, Sir, should be addressed to the War Department.

#### CORRUPTION IN CONNECTION WITH WAGON PRIORITY

**501. \*Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for War Transport been drawn to serious scandals in connection with wagon priority throughout the country?

(b) Is it a fact that officials granting priority have been given instructions to favour certain parties or are they given discretion which they use?

(c) Is it a fact that many *bona fide* traders are compelled to make heavy payments in order to move their goods?

(d) What is Government's machinery for receiving the necessary information as to what is going on?

(e) What steps are Government taking to eliminate this racket?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) No. The Priority Organisation of the War Transport Department has been singularly free from accusations of misuse of their powers.

(b) The reply to the first part of this question is in the negative. Priority officers have powers of discretion under rule 85-A of the Defence of India Rules. They do not use this discretion to favour any party but solely in the interest of economy of transport.

(c) No.

(d) If there were any serious complaints against the Regional Controllers of Priorities, it would be expected that the public would not fail to register complaints.

(e) Does not arise.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Are Government aware that there are rumours floating round in the markets that the price of a wagon when you want it is Rs. 1,000?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** If I may say so, that is just typical of the evidence we get—"There are rumours floating round". Also I would point out to the Honourable Member that this question is directed to the Priority organisation and not to the booking of wagons which is quite a different matter.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** It is about the booking of wagons that I asked the question. How many cases of illicit booking have you caught? How many men on your staff have you punished?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** It does not properly arise out of the question, and it should be addressed to the Railway Member I think! But actually the latest position I have got is that there have been 88 prosecutions for illicit booking of which 14 have been acquitted, 30 convicted, eight removed from service by Departmental action, seven punished in other ways by Departmental action, and 29 are still in court or under investigation. Unfortunately, out of all these cases only one concerns a non-railwayman.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Has the Honourable Member been able to trace a connection between the booking clerks and some of the higher staff of the Railways with regard to these wagon allotments?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** No, Sir. I would like to know if the Honourable Member has got any particular case in mind.

**Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** May I ask the Honourable Member with regard to answers to part (a) and (b)—which is rather axiomatic—whether the officers controlling these priorities are people who have had no previous commercial affiliations like the Honourable Member for instance?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I think I am correct in saying that that is the case. The Priority Officers are all railway officers, mostly from the commercial departments.

**Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** They are not people drawn from commercial service?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** No, Sir. I cannot think of any.

#### INDIAN RADIO AND CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY CONTRACT

502. **\*Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) when the present contract between the Government of India and the Indian Radio and Cable Communications Company, Limited is going to expire;

(b) do Government propose to take over the Company at the termination of the present agreement;

(c) what is the total number of Directors on the Board of the Company; how many of them represent the Government;

(d) what control the Government have over the policy, direction and management of the Company now that it has come under the Ordinance of the "Essential Services"; and

(e) what is the percentage of Muslim officers in the Engineering and Traffic Departments of the Company?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) and (b). Arrangements between Government and the Indian Radio and Cable Communications Co. Ltd., are contained in an agreement and a license issued under the Indian Telegraph Act, which are interdependent. There is no definite term but Government has now the right

to give twelve months notice of termination. No such notice has yet been given and the future arrangements have not yet been decided.

(c) Twelve, of which three are appointed by the Government of India.

(d) The Essential Services (Maintenance) Ordinance has not affected the general relations between Government and the Company as regards policy and higher direction, which continues to be governed by the agreement mentioned above. This is a lengthy and detailed document. The principal provisions of a general nature are:

(i) the Company shall remain essentially Indian in character;

(ii) the company shall hold no monopoly;

(iii) the charges shall not be varied without the concurrence of the Government;

(iv) the Company shall pay a royalty to Government.

(e) Government have no information.

#### AMENDMENT OF SECTION 6 OF ACT 35 OF 1938

**503. \*Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state:

(a) the need for the amendment of section 6 of Act 35 of 1938;

(b) whether the amendment has been suggested by Provincial Governments on the advice of the transport authorities in the Provinces;

(c) whether the Government of India were furnished with evidence that the Act, as it is, hinders war effort;

(d) whether in making the amendment the Government have made any provision to safeguard the interests of the existing and established fleet operators; and

(e) whether the Government have any information whether the Provincial Governments have taken steps to utilize the powers envisaged by the amendment?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) There is no Act of 1938 and I can only assume that the Honourable Member refers to Act 35 of 1939. On that assumption the Honourable Member does not specify which particular amendment of that Act he refers to, but I am replying on the assumption that he refers to the amendments made in Section 6 of Act 35 of 1939 by Section 3 of Ordinance XXVI of 1944. The basic need for the amendments was the need to adapt a statute designed to meet peace time conditions to war time conditions. A statement is placed upon the table explaining the reasons for the amendments.

(b) and (c). The amendment was not initiated by Provincial Governments, but they were consulted by the Government of India before the Ordinance took its final shape. The need for the amendment was apparent to the Government of India from the close contact of the Government of India and its touring officers with Provincial Motor Transport Controllers.

(d) The amendments are of an enabling nature only and do not affect the statutory right of appeal.

(e) Only the Madras, Bengal and C. P. & Berar Governments and the Coorg Administration have so far taken advantage of the amendment and that to a limited extent.

#### *Statement giving the reasons for amending clause (6) of Section 6 of Act 35 of 1939.*

(1) The Motor Vehicles Act 1939 provides that the Transport Authorities shall be composite bodies of Officials and non-officials nominated by the Provincial Governments. It further lays down the considerations to which the Authorities shall have regard. Provincial Governments have now appointed Motor Transport Controllers who virtually regulate all uses of Civil Motor Transport. The Control of the Central Government is being exercised by consent without the invocation of special powers both in relation to pre-existing Civil Vehicles and to those now becoming available under lease-lend or by arrangement with the Canadian Government. In the case of Controlled vehicles, Central Government is responsible for preventing abuse of the vehicles and profiteering. Though it is not considered necessary to take power of direction and control in any formal manner, it is inappropriate that control should in all cases continue to be exercised through composite official and non-official transport authorities vested with certain statutory discretion and that it should

continue to be necessary in all cases to summon non-official members to attend meetings at which their presence is perfunctory.

(2) While the existing modifications of the Motor Vehicles Act 1939 introduced *vide* Section 6 of Defence of India Act added by clause (c) of Section 3 of Ordinance No. XXXIII of 1942 (promulgated on the 22nd May, 1942) empowered Transport Authorities to cancel or to suspend a permit granted by them, the Motor Vehicles Act still requires that a permit other than a temporary permit shall be issued or renewed for a period of not less than three years. The intention was to empower Transport Authorities to issue regular permits or to renew permits for any specified period. The new amendment is designed to remove this omission.

(3) Under the Motor Vehicles Act a permit is not valid beyond the jurisdiction of the Authority which granted or renewed it unless countersigned by the Transport Authority of the other area concerned. The existing modification of the Motor Vehicles Act empowers the Transport Authorities to cancel or suspend a permit granted by it, but make no provision for countersignature. The fresh amendment confers those powers in respect of countersignature. Further, it simplifies the procedure by providing that representations need not be heard.

(4) Controlled vehicles have been released in considerable numbers and it is expected to release them henceforward in greater numbers for general passenger and goods traffic. The Central Government is in a position to advise Provincial Motor Transport Controllers as to suitable maximum and minimum rates for such traffic. The procedure laid down in Section 43 of the Motor Vehicles Act in fixing freights and fares is unduly cumbersome under war conditions. Besides, it is doubtful whether the Provincial Government or the substitute authority created by it has power to fix freights and fares under section 43 with the single object of preventing profiteering. It has, therefore, been provided that the Provincial Government or the substitute authorities need not follow the procedure specified in Section 43.

(5) Under sub-clause 2 of section 35 of the Motor Vehicles Act, six months is the shortest period of validity of a certificate of fitness. The majority of the controlled vehicles are released on the condition that they should be fitted with Producer Gas Plants. In order to avoid undue wear and tear of their engines it is imperative that the Producer Gas Plant should be maintained in efficient running order. This can best be achieved by issuing certificates of fitness for periods shorter than six months. It is not proposed, however, to limit this provision only to vehicles fitted with gas plants, but to extend the power of more frequent inspection to cover all new controlled vehicles.

**Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** May I ask the Honourable Member whether as a result of this amendment new corporations are being floated by railway companies in collaboration with local companies who are big and influential, and the existing operators are being elbowed out?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** No, Sir; I do not think that has anything to do with the amendments.

**Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari:** Will the Honourable Member give an assurance that he will have the point in mind and make inquiries?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Yes, Sir; I have the question very much in mind. It has been raised already on the floor of the House.

#### CLOSING OF MUSLIM TUCK SHOPS AT WALTON TRAINING SCHOOL.

504. \***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that two separate buildings were constructed by the North Western Railway to be used as tuck shops at the Walton Training School, Lahore Cantonment for Hindus and Muslims separately?

(b) Is it a fact that these were running independently since 1929 by a Hindu and a Muslim contractor separately?

(c) Is it a fact that since 1942 due to an increase in the number of Muslim students the Muslim tuck shop was ordered to be closed by the Superintendent and the vending contract was given to a Hindu for catering Hindu and Muslim communities both?

(d) What were the circumstances which led the said Superintendent to make these arrangements?

(e) Have Government seen the Muslim representation in this connection which appeared in the Railway supplement of the *Eastern Times*, Lahore, of the 3rd April and 8th July, 1944? Has any action been taken in this connection? If not, why not?

(f) Do Government propose now to consider the desirability of providing an independent Muslim tuck shop immediately? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Yes, except that during the period from July 1938 to September 1940 both the shops were run by a Muslim contractor.

(c) Government understand that the license for both shops was given to a Hindu contractor.

(d) Government understand that a Muslim contractor to whom an offer was made in response to his application did not accept the license.

(e) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative, though the dates given by the Honourable Member do not appear to be correct. As regards the latter part of the question, no action was considered necessary.

(f) Government do not propose to interfere in the matter which is solely for the Railway Administration to decide.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** With reference to part (d), if one Muslim contractor did not accept the conditions why was no attempt made to get another?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** This hitherto has not been a communal question. There have been both Hindu and Muslim contractors, but I will certainly look into it if there is any demand for this.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** It is certainly a communal question because it is about Hindu and Muslim contractors. My question is, if one Muslim contractor refused to accept the conditions imposed, why was no attempt made to get another Muslim contractor who would accept them?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I observe that it has now become a communal question, but in the past when the Muslim contractor held it alone it was not a communal question.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know if any other Muslim contractors came forward and asked for this?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have really no more information than I have given to the House.

#### SUPERINTENDENT, WALTON TRAINING SCHOOL.

505. **\*Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that since the inception of the Walton Training School the post of the Superintendent has all along been held by non-Muslims?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, why could not a Muslim be posted as Superintendent and does he propose to do so now?

(c) Is it a fact that a certain Superintendent held this post from 1939 to July, 1944?

(d) Is it also a fact that the Muslim staff and students had been oppressed and harassed during his exceptionally long tenure?

(e) Is it a fact that the grievances of the Muslim staff and students have been brought to light through the columns of the *Eastern Times*, Lahore, of the 15th June, 1944?

(f) Do the Government propose to investigate the allegations contained in (a) and (e) and take necessary steps in redressing their grievances?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Yes.

(b) The posting of a Superintendent is not made on a communal basis.

(c) The post was held by one individual from 8th June 1939 to 15th September 1939, and again from 13th February 1940, to 31st July 1944.

(d) No.

(e) and (f). Criticism of the North Western Railway Administration has appeared from time to time in the newspaper mentioned. No representation has, however, been received from the persons concerned, and Government therefore do not consider an investigation called for.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** With regard to part (e), these things were published in the *Eastern Times*. Were these brought to the notice of the Honourable Member?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Yes, when I received the question, but it is not one of those papers which I ordinarily peruse.



## CANDIDATES FOR 'P 3' COURSE IN WALTON TRAINING SCHOOL

**506. \*Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of candidates (subordinates) by communities, who appeared for P-3 course in the Walton Training School in the years 1942 and 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that P-3 course is a most important course prescribed for commercial and transportation subordinates of the North Western Railway for promotion to posts in higher grades?

(c) Will the Government please ask the General Manager, North Western Railway, Lahore, to issue instructions to the Divisional Superintendents to see that while making recommendations for the course sufficient Muslims are recommended, at least 60 per cent.?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) I lay on the table a statement giving the required information.

(b) Yes.

(c) Suitable candidates are selected for training in the 'P-3' Course irrespective of communal considerations and Government do not consider that special instructions are called for.

*Statement showing the number of candidates by communities who appeared for the 'P-3' Course in the years 1942 and 1944.*

Year	Muslims	Hindus	Other Minority Communities	Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans	Total
1942	6	13	4	7	30
1944	3	4	3	2	12

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** What is this 'P-3' course?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The Honourable Member who asked the original question would perhaps instruct my Honourable friend fully, but it is actually a course for senior station masters and traffic inspectors.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** I suppose neither the Honourable Member who asked the question nor the Honourable Member who replied knew what it meant.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The Honourable Member who replied knew it but I cannot answer for the questioner.

## INSTRUCTORS IN WALTON TRAINING SCHOOL

**507. \*Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of Instructors in the Walton Training School by communities?

(b) Is it a fact that there is inadequate representation of Muslims in the instructional staff of that institution?

(c) If the reply to (b) above is in the affirmative, what are the circumstances under which this was allowed and how do they propose to set right the matter?

(d) Do the Government propose to issue clear instructions to the effect that 60 per cent. of the posts of Instructors be filled by the Muslim staff? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The total number of Instructors is 36 of whom 20 are Hindus, ten Muslims, three Anglo-Indians and three Sikhs.

(b), (c) and (d). The posting of Instructors is not done on a communal basis. Their appointment is made from an approved list of qualified staff, which is prepared in order of merit based on the number of marks obtained in the qualifying examination for Instructors.

## SUPERIOR STAFF (RATIONING) IN DELHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

**†508. \*Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of superior staff appointed or promoted to work in various offices or shops in connection with Rationing in the Delhi Division of the North Western Railway?

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

(b) What is their number, community-wise, in each grade and the percentage of Muslims to the total number of posts?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) and (b). The total number of subordinate staff is 75, of whom 19 are Muslims, 49 Hindus and seven Sikhs; the percentage of Muslims to the total number being 25·3.

#### HEAD CLERKS AND SUB-HEADS IN DIVISIONAL OFFICE, DELHI

†509. \***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of Head Clerks and Sub-Heads in the Divisional Office, Delhi and the number of Muslim Head Clerks and Sub-Heads and their percentage to the total number of posts?

(b) Is it a fact that there is not even a single Muslim working as Head Clerk in that office? If so, why?

(c) Do Government propose to issue orders to give adequate representation to Muslims in this category of staff in the Divisional Office, Delhi? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The total number of Head Clerks is seven, all of whom are non-Muslims, and out of a total number of 25 Sub-Heads four are Muslims. The proportion of Muslims in the Sub-Heads' grade is 16 per cent.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, postings of staff are not made on a communal basis.

(c) Does not arise.

#### DIVISIONAL AND ASSISTANT OFFICERS IN DELHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

†510. \***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the total number of Divisional and Assistant officers in the Delhi Division of the North Western Railway?

(b) What is the total number of Muslims in each Department?

(c) What steps do the Government propose to take for increasing Muslim representation amongst the officers of that Division?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The required information is as follows:—

Divisional Officers—11.

Assistant Officers—19.

(b) There are two Muslim Divisional Officers, one in the Engineering and the other in the Accounts Department, and one Assistant Muslim Officer in the Rationing Department.

(c) The posting of officers to Divisions is not done on a communal basis.

#### PROMOTION OF NON-MUSLIMS AS POWER CONTROLLER IN RAWALPINDI.

†511. \***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please state if it is a fact that the three persons promoted to the job of Power Controller in Rawalpindi are non-Muslims?

(b) Is he aware that the claims of efficient Muslims were ignored while holding this selection?

(c) What steps do the Government propose to make up the past deficiency and for securing adequate representation of Muslims in such selections in future?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Yes.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

(c) Promotions are not made on a communal basis and the representation of Muslims must depend very largely on their number in the ranks from which selection is made.

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

**RECRUITMENT TO FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY**

†512. \*Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that all the posts in the newly created Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway were not considered as new posts for the sake of direct recruitment to avoid to fulfil 45 per cent. quota of Muslims in the said Department?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, will he be pleased to place before the House the rules which justify the action of the General Manager in not treating the said posts as new ones for direct recruitment?

(c) Is it a fact that four Senior Food Inspectors and about ten clerks were newly recruited in the said Department?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) No.

(b) It is desirable to have in the grain shop organization on railways subordinates who are permanent servants of the Railway. Direct appointment to such posts is, therefore, limited. Such action is not prohibited by the rules

(c) Government have no detailed information.

**PERSONNEL OF FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY**

†513. \*Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to give the following information about the personnel (subordinates and officers) of the Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway, separately, for the period 1942-43 and 1943-44:—

(i) number of persons appointed,

(ii) academic and departmental qualifications of those persons,

(iii) substantive posts held originally in the Food Supply Department; and

(iv) substantive posts held in other Departments before transfer to the Food Supply Department?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** With your permission, Sir, I will reply to Questions Nos. 513 and 514 together.

The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

**PREPONDERANCE OF NON-MUSLIMS IN FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY**

†514. \*Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that a considerable number of non-Muslims in the Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway were raised to the position of officers, Inspectors and Senior Grade clerks through accelerated promotions within two years?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to give the history by stages of the advancement of the non-Muslims in the categories referred to in (a) for the period from 1942 to September, 1944, i.e., those non-Muslims who were in Food Department on the 30th September, 1944?

**MUSLIM OFFICERS SHUNTED OUT FROM FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY**

†515. \*Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Muslim Officers and Inspectors who were in the Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway since its inception were shunted out without assigning any reasons to make room for non-Muslims?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, what is the number of the Muslim Inspectors who were taken in the Department since its very inception and were sent back to their parent Departments and was any enquiry instituted in their alleged cases before they were returned?

(c) Is it a fact that Senior Muslim Food Supply Inspectors are still kept in the Relieving List and Junior non-Muslim Food Supply Inspectors promoted

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

‡For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 513.

from lower grade have been made Headquarters Inspectors to raise them to the post in the Lower Gazetted Service?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) No Muslim Inspector was taken at the very inception of the Food Supply organization, but three Muslims were subsequently posted as Inspectors, one of them being promoted later to officiate in the Lower Gazetted Service. The officiating officer and one Muslim Inspector were returned to their parent Departments for disciplinary reasons after proper investigation of the charges against them.

(c) There is one Muslim Relieving Food Supply Inspector who is senior to the non-Muslim Headquarters Inspector. The appointment of staff to the various posts is made in the interests of the service and promotion to the Lower Gazetted Service is based on selection.

#### RECRUITMENT OF CANTEN INSPECTORS, FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†516. **\*Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the post of Canteen Inspectors of the Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway were filled by superseding the claims of senior Muslim Food Supply Inspectors?

(b) Is it a fact that no Selection Board was held at the time of filling the posts of the Canteen Inspectors?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) and (b). The post in question was filled by selection by a Selection Board and the claims of Muslim staff were duly considered.

#### MATES AND HEAD MATES ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†517. **\*Mr. Umar Aly Shah:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state in a comparative form the number of Muslim and non-Muslim Mates and Head Mates on the Open Line of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January, 1940 to September, 1944?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** With your permission, Sir, I will reply to Questions Nos. 517 and 518 together.

Government have no information and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

#### EXAMINATION OF HEAD MATES FOR PROMOTION AS SUB-PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†518. **\*Mr. Umar Aly Shah:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in the year 1943-44 Head Mates were examined for the posts of Sub-Permanent Inspectors by the Bengal and Assam Railway?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, what are the number of the Muslims and Non-Muslims who appeared at the said examination and the number of those who passed the examination?

#### PREPONDERANCE OF NON-MUSLIM SUB-PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†519. **\*Mr. Umar Aly Shah:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that during the year 1942 and 1943 the Bengal and Assam Railway filled all the vacancies of Sub-Permanent Way Inspectors by non-Muslim Head Mates in contravention of the rules for the observance of communal quota in such cases?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, was the deficiency of Muslim quota made good in any subsequent year?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The reply is in the affirmative except that no rules were contravened as reservation of vacancies on a communal basis applies to subordinate ranks on the Railway as a whole and not to individual grades.

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

‡For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 517.

(b) It has not been possible lately to make up deficiencies on the Bengal and Assam Railway as a whole, owing to the difficulty of obtaining qualified Muslims.

#### HEAD MATES ABSORBED AS SUB-PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†520. \*Mr. Umar Aly Shah: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Railway Board's instructions about the absorption of Head Mates in the posts of Sub-Permanent Way Inspectors which were issued to the Bengal and Assam Railway on the starred question No. 392 in the Central Legislative Assembly, dated the 29th March, 1943 had not been carried out up to September, 1944?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, what are the number of Muslim and non-Muslim Head Mates absorbed in the vacancies of the Sub-Permanent Inspectors during the period from January, 1942, to September, 1944?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) No such instructions were issued on the Starred Question referred to but in connection with Starred Question No. 391. The instructions have not been ignored though, as I have pointed out in my reply to part (a) of Question No. 519, reservation of vacancies on a communal basis applies to subordinate ranks on the Railway as a whole and not to individual grades.

(b) The number of Muslim and non-Muslim Head Mates absorbed as Sub-Permanent Way Inspectors is two and 21 respectively.

#### CLERKS IN DISTRICT ESTABLISHMENT OFFICES OF ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†521. \*Mr. Umar Aly Shah: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of clerks, community-wise, in the District Establishment Offices of the Engineering Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from January, 1942, to September, 1944?

(b) Is it a fact that the General Manager's circular No. 185E/18-Part VI, dated the 5th July, 1941 about the recruitment of clerks in Establishment offices has never been observed?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) and (b). Government have no information and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions. A copy of the question will, however, be forwarded to the Railway Administration for such action as may be deemed necessary.

#### CERTAIN LETTER ISSUED BY GENERAL MANAGER, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†522. \*Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in the Bengal and Assam Railway the General Manager's letter No. 80E/43, dated the 12th March, 1941, to the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Shops, Kanchrapara, all District Officers of the Mechanical Department and others was issued in contravention of the undertaking No. VII given at a meeting held in February, 1931, between Sir George Rainy and the deputation of Muslim Members of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly and his assurance in the debate of the Legislative Assembly dated the 24th February, 1943?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The orders were not issued in contravention of the undertaking referred to by the Honourable Member to the effect that a Muslim Officer should be included, where possible, on Selection Boards. They were issued as subsidiary instructions to the recruitment regulations.

#### CERTAIN LETTER ISSUED BY GENERAL MANAGER, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†523. \*Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in the Workshops of the Bengal and Assam Railway, the General Manager's letter No. 80E/43, dated the 12th March, 1941, to the

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

Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Shops, Kanchrapara, all District Officers of the Mechanical Department and the Assistant Personnel Officer, Kanchrapara, through Chief Mechanical Engineer is still extant in spite of the assurance about the constitution of the Selection Committee given on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, dated the 24th February, 1943?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, what action is contemplated by him to amend matters to safeguard the interest of the Muslims?

(c) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, has any new letter or circular superseding the letter referred to in (a) been issued?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a), (b) and (c).—Government are not aware of the actual position, but revised rules have been recently issued as an amendment to Appendix II to the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, and action will be taken to ensure that these rules are given effect to in the Mechanical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway, if this has not already been done.

#### PROMOTIONS TO SELECTION POSTS IN MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†524. \***Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of Muslims and non-Muslims promoted to the posts declared as selection posts in the Workshops and the Mechanical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway, *vide* the General Manager's letter No. 80E/43, dated the 12th March, 1941, to the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer Shops, Kanchrapara, and others, during the period from April 1941, to September, 1944?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

#### NON-REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS ON CERTAIN SELECTION BOARDS, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†525. \***Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in the Workshops and all the District Offices of the Mechanical Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway, Muslim Officers were not represented in the Selection Boards held for the promotion of staff to posts declared as selection posts, *vide* the General Manager's letter No. 80E/43, dated the 12th March, 1944, to the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Shops, and all District Officers and others during the period from 1941 to September, 1944?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the number of Selection Boards during the said period?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The position is as stated, though this was not due to the orders referred to, but to the dearth of Muslim Officers on the railway as a whole and particularly in the Mechanical Department. Government understand, however, that efforts are being made to include a Muslim Officer in Selection Boards appointed for selecting persons for promotion to Selection posts.

(b) Does not arise.

#### IGNORING CLAIMS OF MUSLIMS FOR SELECTION POSTS ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

†526. \***Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Selection Boards held on the Bengal and Assam Railway during the period from April, 1941, to September, 1944, in accordance with the General Manager's letter No. 80E/43, dated the 12th March, 1941, referred to in (a) of the previous question ignored the claims of senior Muslims for the said selection posts?

(b) Is it a fact that Muslims who were comparatively senior to non-Muslims were not recommended by Superior Officers for examination by the said Selection Boards during the period April, 1941, to September, 1944?

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

(c) If the reply to (b) is in the negative, will he be pleased to place the seniority list of the categories from which candidates for selection were drawn for the period from April, 1941, to September, 1944?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) No.

(b) and (c). Government have no information and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions. A copy of the question will, however, be forwarded to the Railway Administration for such action as may be deemed necessary.

#### PROMOTION OF NON-MUSLIM TALLY CLERKS OF CALCUTTA DISTRICT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

**527. \*Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that non-Muslim Tally Clerks of the Calcutta District of the Bengal and Assam Railway were promoted to the posts of clerks in the 'E' grade Rs. 100—10/2—120 New Scale (Rs. 110—10—140) Old Scale in the Office of the District Traffic Superintendent, Calcutta, during the years 1943 and 1944 by superseding the claims of Muslim clerks?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** No Tally Clerks were promoted as stated by the Honourable Member, but three non-Muslim Station Clerks were transferred to the office during the years 1943 and 1944 and promoted to 'E' Grade. The claims of all Clerks were considered.

#### IGNORING CLAIMS OF MUSLIMS BY TRAFFIC SELECTION COMMITTEES, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

**528. \*Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Traffic Selection Committees of the Traffic Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway have never considered the claims of qualified and efficient Muslims for the following posts during the period from 1941 to 1944:—

(i) Goods Supervisor, (ii) Junior Goods Supervisor, (iii) Chief Booking Clerk, (iv) Head Parcel Clerk, (v) Station Superintendent, (vi) Deputy Station Superintendent, (vii) Chief Luggage Inspector, (viii) Chief Goods Clerk, (ix) Telegraph Inspector, (x) Signaller-in-Charge, (xi) Yard Master, (xii) Transhipment Foreman, (xiii) Head Trains Clerk, (xiv) Head Goods Clerk, and (xv) Shed Inspector?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Government have every reason to believe that the claims of eligible candidates of all communities are considered.

#### STAGNATION IN PROMOTION OF MUSLIM TALLY CLERKS, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

**529. \*Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that during the period from 1941 to 1944 the Bengal and Assam Railway recruited Muslims as Tally Clerks in a greater number than non-Muslim Tally Clerks to make up the quota of 45 per cent. but they were neither given training nor promoted on par with the non-Muslim Tally Clerks to the posts of Assistant Station Masters, Signallers, Number Takers, Coaching Clerks, Goods Clerks and Transhipment Clerks?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, what community-wise is the number of Tally Clerks recruited during the said period and given training and promotion in different categories detailed in (a)?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) and (b). Government have no information and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions. A copy of the question will, however, be forwarded to the Railway Administration for such action as may be deemed necessary.

#### TRANSPORT DIFFICULTY FELT BY SIMLA FRUIT AND POTATO GROWERS

**530. \*Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for War Transport aware of the fact that Simla Fruit and Potato growers are experiencing a great difficulty in the matter of transport between, Simla, Narkunda and Kotgarh

and thousands of maunds of their fruits were damaged last year due to lack of transport?

(b) Is it a fact that no permission was given to fruit growers to run motors on the above mentioned road, when similar permission is being given to forest contractors? Why is this differentiation made?

**Sir Olaf Caroe:** (a) Government is aware that fruit and potato growers have experienced difficulty in the matter of transport between Simla, Narkunda and Kotgarh, but have no information to the effect that any appreciable quantity of fruit was damaged last year on this account.

(b) The state of the road does not at present permit of its use by more than a total of ten lorries. All these are engaged in the carriage of timber required more urgently for military needs than fruit or potatoes and therefore given preference. The possibility of improving the capacity of the road and so to make some motor transport available to fruit and potato growers is under consideration.

**Mr. Badri Dutt Pande:** Is it the intention of the Government to allot two more motor lorries to the fruit growers there?

**Sir Olaf Caroe:** As soon as the road improves. No doubt the Honourable Member knows this road. It has only just been made possible for motor cars to go along it at all. At present only a limited number of cars can go along it. When it is improved, it is hoped that more motor traffic may be possible and fruit and potatoes are certainly among the leading interests in that part of the country.

#### STIPENDS TO APPRENTICES RECEIVING TRAINING AT JAMALPUR, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

531. \***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the amount of stipends given to apprentices for the Railway Superior Services receiving training at Jamalpur, East Indian Railway; and

(b) if the Government have considered the abnormal rise in the necessities of life and revised the rate of their stipends accordingly; if not, do Government propose to revise the rate of their stipends in view of the prevailing prices of necessities of life?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Special Class Apprentices receiving training at Jamalpur are granted a stipend of Rs. 60 per mensem during the first three years and Rs. 75 per mensem in the fourth year.

(b) The necessary relief has been afforded to the Apprentices by the grant of dearness allowance.

#### PAUCITY OF MUSLIM HIGHER GRADE CLERKS IN FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

532. \***Dr. Habibar Rahman:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that in the Food Supply Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway, Muslims were not recruited in the higher clerical grades?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative will he be pleased to state (i) the higher grades in the Head Office and outside, and (ii) qualifications of the incumbents of the said grades?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Direct recruitment is not ordinarily made to higher clerical grades. Such posts are filled by promotion which is not made on a communal basis.

(b) The information is not readily available and Government regret they cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

#### PAUCITY OF MUSLIM ASSISTANT CONTROLLERS OF FOOD SUPPLIES, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

533. \***Dr. Habibar Rahman:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that qualified Muslim Inspectors of the Food Supply Department were not at all considered for promotion to the rank of Assistant Controller of Food Supplies on the Bengal and Assam Railway?

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



(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state (i) the substantive pay, (ii) rank, and (iii) academic qualifications of the Assistant Controller of Food Supplies of the Bengal and Assam Railway and the academic qualifications of the Muslim Inspectors?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

**REVERSIONS OF MUSLIM ASSISTANT CONTROLLERS OF FOOD SUPPLIES, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY**

**534. \*Dr. Habibar Rahman:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the Muslim Assistant Controllers of Food Supplies have been reverted without any enquiry being made into the allegations against them?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the date when the enquiry was instituted and whether adequate chances for putting up defence were given to them?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The Honourable Member has not specified the railway or railways to which the question refers.

**PROMOTION OF NON-MUSLIM INFERIOR STAFF TO SUBORDINATE RANK IN FOOD SUPPLY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.**

**535. \*Dr. Habibar Rahman:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that within contravention of the prescribed communal ratio non-muslims are recruited in the inferior categories in the Food Supplies Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway and after a short time are promoted to the subordinate rank on grounds of experience?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, will he be pleased to place a statement on the table showing the number of the staff promoted from inferior to subordinate ranks from 1942 to 1944?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Promotions from inferior categories to subordinate posts are treated as direct recruitment for the purposes of communal reservations and, therefore, the promotions referred to must be subject to the communal reservations prescribed.

(b) The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

**SENIOR INSPECTORS, ETC., OF FOOD DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.**

**536. \*Dr. Habibar Rahman:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to place a comparative statement, community-wise, concerning the Food Department of the Bengal and Assam Railway, showing the following items for the years 1942 and 1944:

- (i) number of Senior Inspectors,
- (ii) number of Canteen Inspectors,
- (iii) number of Ward Keepers,
- (iv) number of Clerks?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** In view of the large number of questions asked about the food distribution in the Assam Bengal Railway, will the Honourable Member make some enquiries about the matter? I have received a good deal of complaints.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have received on one day some 70 questions about the Bengal & Assam Railway. But that railway is very much in the war and I cannot trouble the railway in such circumstances to collect details of what are relatively minor matters of administration.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** But Muslim interests must not suffer on account of war conditions, nor must Muslims starve.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Certainly not.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Will you make enquiries about this?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Certainly. Who is starving?

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Muslim employees of the railway.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** That is not so.

## POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH SUPERINTENDENTS IN BIHAR AND ORISSA

†537. \*Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) how many Postal Superintendents and Telegraph Superintendents there are in the Bihar and Orissa circle; and

(b) how many of these Superintendents are Biharis and Oriyas and how many are other than Biharis and Oriyas?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) There are fourteen Postal and R.M.S. Superintendents and there is one Telegraph Superintendent.

(b) Of the Postal and R.M.S. Superintendents, four are Beharees. There is no Oriya.

There are eleven non-Biharis and non-Oriyas including the Telegraph Superintendent.

## EXPENDITURE ON SHIFTING OF DEAD LETTER OFFICE FROM CALCUTTA TO PATNA

538. \*Mr. Badri Dutt Pande (on behalf of Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha): (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state the expenditure incurred on account of the shifting of the Dead Letter Office from Calcutta to Patna on the following heads:

(i) travelling allowance, (ii) special bonus, (iii) cost of removal of furniture and records, (iv) Railway freight, (v) cost of repairing of furniture damaged in transit, and (vi) cost of construction of the big hall at Patna for the accommodation of the Dead Letter Office?

(b) Is the work of the Dead Letter Office being satisfactorily performed in Patna?

(c) Have the Government any proposal for taking the Dead Letter Office back to Calcutta in near future?

(d) Are the Government aware of the fact that there have been constant agitations by the public, press and the postal employees of the Circle for a separate Dead Letter Office for the Bihar and Orissa Circle?

(e) What are the reasons for not providing the Bihar and Orissa Circle with a Dead Letter Office in spite of the pressing demand of the public for the same?

(f) Are the Government aware of the fact that the work of the transcription which used to be performed by the Calcutta General Post Office and sorting have since been transferred to the Dead Letter Office, Patna, owing to the unavailability of Nagri and Urdu knowing hands in Calcutta and the same is now being performed satisfactorily?

(g) Will the Honourable Member consider that under the circumstances Patna is a most suitable place for the location of the Dead Letter Office which deals with the articles mostly written in Nagri and Urdu characters?

(h) Is the Honourable Member aware that Patna is more economical than Calcutta in respect of scale of pay, house-rent etc.?

(i) Do Government realise the fact that the expenditure to be incurred on re-shifting the Dead Letter Office to Calcutta will be an unnecessary drainage on the postal revenue?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) The expenditure incurred was as follows:

	Rs.
Travelling allowance . . . . .	3,954
Special Bonus . . . . .	4,979
Cost of removal of furniture and records . . . . .	783
Railway freight . . . . .	1,022
Cost of repairing of furniture . . . . .	722
Cost of construction of the hall at Patna . . . . .	20,850

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) No.

(e) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to part (d) of the question.

- (f) The fact is not as stated.
- (g) No.
- (h) Yes.
- (i) No.

VACANCIES OF SUPERINTENDENT IN THE OFFICE OF DIRECTOR GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

**539. \*Mr. Piare Lall Kureel:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that vacancies in the cadre of Superintendents in the office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs are filled by pure selection;

(b) if it is a fact that the order in which the officials are first selected cannot be altered if they continue to maintain efficiency;

(c) if there are some permanent vacancies in the cadre of Superintendents in that office for a long time and that no substantive appointments have so far been made thereto although a number of officials have been continually officiating as Superintendents for a pretty long period;

(d) if the replies to (a), (b) and (c) above are in the affirmative, will he be pleased to state the reasons why these vacancies have not been filled up on a substantive basis so far; and

(e) if it is a fact that the lien of some of the officiating Superintendents has been suspended for a long time from the Assistant's cadre even after due consideration of their ability and efficiency; if so, will Government please take steps to confirm them immediately against the existing vacancies?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) Yes.

(b) The exact implications of the orders bearing on the point raised by the Honourable Member were not clear to the Director-General and a reference has been made to the appropriate Department for elucidation.

(c) Yes.

(d) The vacancies have remained unfilled pending a decision on the reference mentioned in the reply to (b).

(e) Yes: but the suspension of lien in the Assistants' cadre has nothing to do with their permanent appointment in the Superintendents' cadre.

**Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** May I know how many Muslims are permanent Superintendents in the Director General's office and has ever a permanent Muslim Superintendent been appointed in that office in the whole of its history? If not, why not?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** To the best of my knowledge, there is at present no permanent Muslim Superintendent in the office of the Director-General of Posts & Telegraphs. The reply to the second part of the question is, (but I am open to correction) that in the past there has been one permanent Superintendent who was afterwards promoted to Superintendent of Post Offices. The reply to the Honourable Member's question as to why there are now no Muslim Superintendents is that the office of the Director General was originally formed in Calcutta at a time before communal rotation was applied to recruitment and most of the senior officials in the office happen to be men of other communities. The position is now changing.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Am I to understand that since the establishment of British Rule in India only one permanent Superintendent was appointed in that Department?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** May I ask the Honourable Member to repeat his question?

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** In the past only one permanent Muslim Inspector has been appointed? This is what the Honourable gentleman said. Since what date? Since the establishment of British Rule in India?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** That goes into past history and I am afraid I myself cannot state when the Director General's was first actually formed.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know from the Honourable Member whether that Muhammadan Superintendent was also demoted because he was not competent?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** I have no information on that point.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know that those who are now appointed are competent to hold their offices and they have not superseded anyone?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** The appointment of Superintendents in the office of the Director General, Posts & Telegraphs, is by pure selection and the men who are holding their posts have been selected for these posts and may be assumed to be competent to hold them.

**Mr. Piare Lal Kureel:** Are there any Scheduled Caste persons officiating as Superintendent? If so, whether they are confirmed? If not, why not?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** There is one Scheduled Caste Superintendent in the directorate of the Posts and Telegraphs, I do not think it is in order to discuss the merits of officials on the floor of this House.

(At this stage Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur stood up.)

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Has he superseded any Muhammadan?

**Mr. President:** Maulvi Murtuza Sahib Bahadur.

**Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** Has any enquiry been made to mend matters? Already there is one efficient Muslim hand with 27 years service in the Department and he has been officiating as Superintendent and he has not been made permanent. Will the Government make enquiries into the matter and see that it is put right?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** I would suggest that it is not quite proper to go into the question of promotion in an office on the floor of this House.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Who is this gentleman to suggest what is proper and what is not? That is the prerogative of the Chair.

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** I was appealing to the Chair.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have only to see that the Rules and Standing Orders are observed.

#### DISCONTINUANCE OF TELEPHONES OF PRIVATE SUBSCRIBERS

**540. \*Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that a large number of telephones have been discontinued from private premises in various places, and have not been fitted elsewhere either, entailing great loss to the Department;

(b) the law under which this was done;

(c) if the Department had made sure that there has been no violation of the terms of the agreement between the subscribers concerned and Government, in the process;

(d) if it is a fact that district magistrates of various places had a big hand in getting telephones taken away, and that telephone subscribers were served with notices by them saying "attend my office at 10 A.M. tomorrow to show cause why your telephone should not be disconnected"; if so, whether the procedure had the sanction of the Department;

(e) if there are any political reasons for the withdrawal of telephone facilities of private firms and individuals;

(f) what were the exact considerations which led to such withdrawals;

(g) what was the exact position of the district magistrate in the procedure; and

(h) if it is a fact that payment of subscriptions to war loans demanded by authorities helped in many cases in the immediate restoration of the disconnected telephones?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) A number of telephones has been disconnected from private premises in various places. Government is not aware that any large number has remained idle.

(b) Under the conditions of the Hiring Contract between the subscriber and the Posts and Telegraphs Department and Defence of India Rule 17.

(c) Yes.

(d) Powers under sub-rule (1) of the Defence of India Rule 17 have been delegated to District Magistrates and they have exercised these powers in certain cases. Government are not aware that any improper procedure has been adopted by District Magistrates.

(e) No.

(f) To meet the requirements for war purposes and to avoid excessive overloading.

(g) The powers delegated to District Magistrates are exercised at their discretion.

(h) Government has no information.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** While I am thankful to the Honourable Member for having saved my own telephone, may I know with regard to part (a) of the question, whether he would kindly make enquiries from Benares and find out if a certain number of telephone instruments are not lying idle, entailing loss to the Department?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** I feel that I should explain to the Honourable Member that the fact of a telephone instrument lying idle may not mean that any telephone has been unnecessarily disconnected. The whole object of these disconnections was to relieve the load on the system and therefore it was necessary for a few lines to remain idle. An exchange is not loaded to what would appear to be its full capacity. You have to leave a good deal spare or else the exchange cannot work up to the optimum.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member kindly enquire from Benares whether the views of the local officers in charge of the telephone system there coincides with what the Honourable Member himself has expressed here this morning?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** If there is any definite grievance in Benares regarding the administration of the telephone system, as it appears from the Honourable Member's question, I should be very happy to make enquiries.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** With regard to the Honourable Member's reply to part (d) of the question, does the Honourable Member think that a notice given in the terms which I have quoted in my question, is in consonance with the desire of the Department as regards the propriety of the notice and the language in which it should be couched?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** On the principle that the customer is always right, I would certainly prefer the Department to couch their notice in more polite terms.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** In view of the fact that the notice was not from the Department but from the District Magistrate, may I know how the Department is going to deal with a District Magistrate of this ilk?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** I am afraid that I misunderstood the origin of this notice. Of course the Department cannot do anything in the matter. I am sorry, Sir.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** In the interests of the Department the Honourable Member can inform the District Magistrates to be more polite in the language they use and tell them that such language tends to the detriment of the goodname of the Department and to their positive loss.

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** I am afraid it is a matter purely for the Provincial Governments.

#### UNCLAIMED BALANCES FROM POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK, ETC.

541. **\*Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) if it is a fact that a large amount of money is lying with the Post Office, due to death or other causes, as undrawn balances from Post Office Savings Bank;

(b) the number and amount of unpaid, ordinary and value-payable money orders;

(c) the steps, if any, Government propose to take on its own initiative, to get the money due paid back to the persons concerned or their heir and survivors;

(d) if any accounts are kept of such moneys;

(e) the manner in which it is utilised; and

(f) if it is a fact that some portions are used for the benefit of the postal employees?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) Yes.

(b) Information regarding the number of unpaid money orders is not available. The amount of such orders credited to accounts for the year 1943-44 is Rs. 4,43,168.

(c) The departmental rules already make full provision to secure the object which the Honourable Member has in mind.

(d) Yes.

(e) The value of Money Orders which cannot be paid is credited to Government but the amounts can be claimed at any time by the person entitled. Savings Bank deposits do not lapse to Government. The accounts in respect of them can be re-opened at any time and the amounts paid to the depositors.

(f) No.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** May I know what the amount, in round figures, is of the unpaid balances in the Savings Bank Deposits treated as practically dead?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** The balance of Savings Bank dead accounts up till the end of 1942-43 was Rs. 2,14,99,421. At the end of 1943-44 it was Rs. 1,88,26,311, from which it will be seen that the amount has fallen in the last year.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** May I request the Honourable Member to repeat his answer to part (f) of the question?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** The answer is "No".

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** With regard to money orders, may I know after what time the unpaid money orders lapse to the Government?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** They do not lapse to the Government, unless they cannot be paid at all. They can be claimed at any time. If the person entitled makes a claim after some years, then the whole matter is re-opened.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** Is there a period of limitation after which the money lapses to Government?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** No, Sir.

#### TIMINGS OF CONNECTING TRAINS AT JUNCTION STATIONS

542. **\*Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if it is a fact that very often trains are so scheduled at junction stations that those trains that should be connecting trains for them, are timed to leave just before the arrival of the other trains, thus stranding passengers hopelessly;

(b) if so, what exactly the purpose of this is;

(c) if it is also a fact that trains meant to be connecting trains, do not increase the time of their stoppage at junction stations when the other incoming train is late, even for a few minutes only, even in the case of ordinary passenger trains, causing unnecessary and avoidable inconvenience; and

(d) if Government propose to request Railway administrations to extend the time of stoppages of connecting trains to a reasonable extent, as necessary, and also to time trains at junction stations more reasonably?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** If the Honourable Member will indicate what particular junction stations or railways he has in mind, I shall obtain details and furnish a reply in due course.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member kindly enquire how many times a week the connecting trains from Benares and Jaunpur miss connection at the Janghai Railway Station on the E. I. Ry. for Allahabad.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I will make enquiries.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** With regard to part (c) of the question, will the Honourable Member please note that I was actually stranded for 24 hours at Gaya Railway Station as the connecting passenger train started off while mine from Asansol was a few minutes late?

#### HARASSMENT OF CIVILIAN PASSENGERS, BY MILITARY MEN AT RAILWAY STATIONS AND IN TRAINS

543. **\*Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) if he has received complaints that ordinary passengers are prevented from entering Railway compartments not reserved for the military, and also when some military persons are there and the room is available;

(b) if he will issue instructions to Railway servants to help in the entraining of passengers in the compartments not reserved for the military; and

(c) if he proposes to request the military authorities to issue instructions to their staff, while travelling by trains, to be courteous to the civil population and not obstruct and harass them in any way, not to take up more room in the general compartment than is reasonably necessary for themselves; and lastly not to handle roughly the vendors of food stuffs and other articles at Railway stations, but to pay fully and promptly for everything they take?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Government have received some complaints on the subject.

(b) The existing railway rules provide for this.

(c) The military authorities have already issued instructions on matters referred to in this part of the question.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** With regard to part (b) of the question, may I know whether it is not a fact that very often when passengers go up to Railway officers for assistance in such matters, they are told that these officials dare not approach the military?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Difficulties do arise as every Honourable Member knows. The Railway staff do the best they can under the circumstances.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** The Honourable Member has referred to "the existing rules" in answer to part (b) of the question. What are these existing rules?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** There are "General rules for open lines," Section 115 (B). I have not got the details of all the railways with me but on the North Western Railway, for instance, there are instructions in their Operating Manual, No. 5007, whereby conductor-guards are supposed to guide upper class passengers in intermediate stations, secure accommodation, both reserved or available for them and see that lower class passengers are evenly distributed in the trains and are not overcrowded in any particular carriage or compartment and so on.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** In view of the fact that there is an evasion of this provision every time, will the Honourable Member at once circularise all the railway servants to the effect that civilian convenience must be attended to in such matters?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** They are fully aware of it but if the Honourable Member would put himself in the position of a railway servant in the present circumstances, he will appreciate how difficult it is to carry out the rules to the satisfaction of everybody concerned.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** In view of the difficulties which have been pointed out in this question, will the Honourable Member see his way to reward those railway servants who, in the face of such difficulties, have carried out their duties to the satisfaction of the passengers?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** It is the duty of the railway servants to carry out their duties satisfactorily to all concerned.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Have not the military authorities issued instructions to their personnel in regard to this matter and is it a fact that those instructions are disobeyed?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The military have issued them on several occasions. I say without hesitation that in the vast majority of cases the rules are adhered to but there are exceptional cases.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is the Honourable Member aware of any instruction given to these guards that they should also take the trouble of guiding third class passengers in getting into the trains?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Yes; they do their best in the circumstances.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Is there any such instruction?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Not in the particular manual to which I referred, but this is only one of several. I did not say that this was comprehensive at all.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of at least now, late as it is, giving that instruction to all the guards of trains in this country to guide the third class passengers also in finding accommodation in trains?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** According to the instructions given here, they do their best. But the Honourable Member can well understand, if he will think for one moment, how difficult it is for one guard to shepherd several hundred passengers.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member suggest the exact procedure to be adopted by the aggrieved persons in these cases, besides allowing themselves to be helplessly stranded?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I think the Honourable Member has gone back to the previous question.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa:** No; I am here. The Honourable Member said that railway officials do their best in such matters. What I ask is that if any person is aggrieved and finds that the railway officials are not doing their best, what is the procedure that he should adopt apart from allowing himself to be stranded?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The question of stranding I think does not properly come into this question: but he should report to the next senior railway official at the station.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** In view of the fact that the Honourable Member says that for one guard it is too much to see to all third class passengers, will he consider the advisability of appointing other persons in every train to help third class passengers in finding accommodation?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** We have greatly increased the staff, but there are limits.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Are there any limits to the number of third class passengers?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** No, Sir.

#### APPOINTMENT OF COIMBATORE DISTRICT CANDIDATES AS POSTAL CLERKS IN MYSORE DIVISION

544. **\*Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Secretary for Post and Air please state:

(a) the rules regarding the domicile and possession of a working knowledge of the language in the division in which a candidate is employed, which were considered while recruiting candidates for the clerical cadre in the Posts and Telegraph Department from the year 1937;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member state how in spite of the repeated protests and requests made by the officials, unions and even heads of divisions nearly 40 young men from Coimbatore District in the Madras circle, were sent to Mysore Division from the year 1937, onwards, where the language, customs, manners and climate of which are different from that of Coimbatore District; and

(c) if whether he will consider repatriating all these young men to Coimbatore District or any Tamil District within a reasonable time and fill up the consequent vacancies in Mysore Division by direct recruitment from Mysoreans?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) The local recruitment rules in the Post and Telegraph Department prescribe that a candidate joining the subordinate service must as a general rule belong to the revenue division (or other equivalent revenue unit) in which he enlists. When however the jurisdiction of an officer extends beyond one revenue division, candidates domiciled in all those divisions are eligible for appointment. The possession of a working knowledge of the language of the division is not taken into account at the time of recruitment but a candidate before confirmation is required to pass a test in the local Indian language.



(b) Between 1937 and 1943, 40 candidates belonging to the Coimbatore District were selected for appointment in the Mysore Postal Division. No protests about these appointments were received by the Postmaster-General from any Union or from the Divisional Superintendents. Revenue Districts and Postal Divisions are not co-terminus. A portion of the Coimbatore District is in the Mysore Postal Division and under the rules quoted above, recruitment to that Division is also permissible from the Coimbatore revenue district.

(c) Does not arise.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I know whether he has not received any representations from those people concerned about the difficulties they are experiencing in Mysore?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** I am afraid I have not definite information about that. The persons concerned may have represented to the Postmaster General—it did not come to the notice of the Government.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** In view of the fact that they are suffering will he recommend to the Postmaster General that they may be transferred to places where they can have the convenience of living?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** I do not feel that this is a matter of suffering. A man offers himself for recruitment in a certain postal division, knowing that he may have to go to a place where he does not speak his mother tongue. Many of us from overseas did that when we came to India into the services.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** But surely if it is possible, an arrangement can be made?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** I am afraid it could not be done without administrative inconvenience. A man cannot be posted exactly to the station of his choice. It would upset the whole of the administrative machinery.

#### NOMINATION TO RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEES BY CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RAILWAYS

545. **\*Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that at present the Central Advisory Council for Railways nominates one representative to each local advisory committee for Railways; when was this convention introduced and how;

(b) if it is a fact that the convention was (i) that no member who is not a resident of the particular local area should be appointed to the advisory committee of that area, and (ii) that no member of the Central Advisory Council for Railways should be nominated to more than one advisory committee;

(c) has this convention been changed, if so, when and why;

(d) what is the number of the local advisory committees for Railways; in how many of them representatives from the Central Advisory Council have been nominated; how many of the representatives are Hindus and how many of them are Muslims; and

(e) how many representatives are serving on more than one committee?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the Convention was introduced from the 1st April, 1937.

(b) (i). The Central Advisory Council for Railways agreed in September, 1938 that only those residing within the area served by the Railway should be considered eligible for election to that Railway's Local Advisory Committee.

(ii) The suggestion that no Member should serve on more than two Committees unless there was no other candidate was accepted by the Central Advisory Council at their meeting in April 1944.

(c) No, the second part does not arise.

(d) So far as the State-managed Railways are concerned, there are 20 Local Advisory Committees. Of these, 17 Local Advisory Committees have representatives of the Central Advisory Council, while the seats on the other three are still vacant. Of the Central Advisory Council Representatives, seven are Muslims, one is a Hindu and one a Parsi.

(e) There are five representatives of the Central Advisory Council for Railways who are serving on more than one Committee.

**Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam:** With reference to part (e), is it a fact that all these 17 representatives are Muhammadans?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I have replied that seven are Muslims, one is a Hindu and one is a Parsi.

**Mr. Frank R. Anthony:** Will the Honourable Member endeavour to see that members of the Central Advisory Council—each one of them can be said to speak on behalf of the railways or to represent railway interests?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** They are there primarily to represent the interests of the public.

#### STOPPING OF FIRST AND INTER CLASS TICKETS ON MALAKWAL BHERA LINE

**546. \*Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that First and Inter class tickets are not issued on Malakwal Bhera Line, North Western Railway? If so what are the reasons for stopping First and Inter class traffic on this line?

(b) If Government is aware of the fact that by doing so, the Railway is losing a good deal of income, specially in case of the Inter class traffic?

(c) If Government knows that in the train that runs in Malakwal Bhera Line, there is a compartment, on which Inter class is painted, but there are no cushions on the seats in the compartment? If Government also realise that if only cushions are provided in that compartment there will be no extra expenditure in again starting the traffic of Inter class passengers and that there will be an increase in the Railway income?

(d) If it is a fact that Inter class passengers feel a great inconvenience in getting their Inter class tickets from Malakwal as no such tickets are issued either at Bhera or at Miani?

(e) If the Government propose to consider the necessity of introducing at least Inter class traffic on Malakwal Bhera Line?

(f) If it is a fact that there is no Railway telegraphic or telephonic connection on Malakwal Bhera Railway Line and also if it is a fact that in absence of both these things there is a very great inconvenience to the travelling public and the Railway staff at Railway stations on this line?

(g) If, Government, therefore, be pleased to consider the desirability of reinstating the telegraphic connection or at least installing telephonic connections on Malakwal Bhera Railway Line, between the Railway stations?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) First and intermediate class tickets are not being issued for local traffic on the Malakwal-Bhera branch of the N. W. Railway from 1st October, 1941, as such accommodation is not provided on that section owing to the insignificant traffic in these classes.

(b) In view of the traffic offering in these classes being insignificant, the provision of first and intermediate class accommodation would result in such accommodation being wasted and reducing the accommodation for third class passengers.

(c) As regards the first part, Government are informed that the Divisional Superintendent, Rawalpindi, was instructed in July, 1941, to mark composite inter and third class carriages available on that section as third. The latter part of the question does not arise in view of my reply to part (b) above.

(d) No, as passengers desiring to travel in first or inter class beyond Malakwal or *vice versa* can obtain through combined tickets available in second or third class on the Bhera-Malakwal section and first or inter class for the remaining portion of the journey.

(e) No. Government do not consider that the introduction of inter class accommodation on the Malakwal-Bhera branch is justified.

(f) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative. I might inform the Honourable Member that there is a public telegraph office at Bhera.

(g) No, as the heavy expenditure involved in constructing telegraph and telephone communications is not justified.

## CLOSING OF HAZURPUR RAILWAY STATION ON MALAKWAL BHERA LINE

**547. \*Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that Hazurpur Railway station on Malakwal Bhera Line, North Western Railway has been closed? If so, what are the reasons for that?

(b) In view of the great inconvenience to the public, will Government please consider the reopening of this Railway station? If, for certain reasons, this cannot be done at present, do Government intend to open the station some time afterwards? What are the necessary conditions on fulfilment of which the Railway station in question can be opened?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the station was closed in pursuance of the policy of conserving coal by the elimination of halts of passenger and goods trains at road-side stations.

(b) This station has been closed as a temporary measure and its re-opening will be considered with an improvement in the coal position. The last part does not arise.

## MANUFACTURE OF ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS

**548. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:—

(a) if the Technical Mission has submitted its report to Government on the manufacture of artificial fertilisers and if the Government propose to publish the recommendations of the Mission; If so, when;

(b) if it is a fact that Government propose to start the manufacture of artificial fertilisers with the assistance of the Imperial Chemical Industries; if so, what the terms and conditions under which the assistance of the Imperial Chemical Industries is to be secured are;

(c) if it is a fact that the Imperial Chemical Industries had already secured some concessions in the Khewra Salt Mines of the Punjab and in the neighbouring areas containing gypsum, and were making preparations to extend its activities in India by building plans for the manufacture of nitrogenous products, even before the appointment of the Technical Mission by Government; and

(d) if it is a fact that Indian private enterprise in the manufacture of artificial fertilisers has been ruled out for the present because the Imperial Chemical Industries were not inclined to give as much help to private enterprise as it was prepared to give to a government scheme, or the decision to exclude private enterprise for the time being was taken on the ground that it was unwise from the British point of view to hand over this industry, which is connected with the explosives industry, wholly to an Indian agency?

**The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** (a) Yes, Sir. The report has already been published.

(b) The report of the Mission is under the consideration of Government and no decision has yet been reached. Government propose that if they decide to set up one or more factories such factories should be state-owned and state-operated.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) No, Sir.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** With regard to part (d) of the question, will the Honourable Member be in a position to give this House an approximate idea about the time that the Government will take in coming to a decision on this matter?

**The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** I hope within the next two or three weeks we may be able to come to a decision. A conference with the Provincial Governments is fixed for Tuesday the 21st of this month.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** May I know that the Government has come to a decision that it shall be state-owned?

**The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** The Government's proposal is that it should be state-owned, but it is a matter in which we have to consult Provincial Governments.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member make an endeavour to place the Government's final scheme before this House early in the next Session?

**The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** I hope to published the Government's final scheme to the public.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** I wanted to know whether the Honourable Member will make an attempt to place the scheme before the House for its consideration?

**The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** What I said was that the scheme which the Government will ultimately arrive at will be before the public as soon as Government have arrived at a decision and that will be much earlier than the next Session of the Assembly.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Do I take it that action will have to be taken by Government before the next Session of this House begins?

**The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** I believe so. This is an urgent matter and we have to get into touch with those who are in a position to carry out the scheme.

### (b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

#### MANUFACTURE OF SULPHATE OF AMMONIA

549. \***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:—

(a) if the words "private industry" occurring in the Honourable Member's statement to the Press on 14th May, 1944, to the effect that private industry would step in and take over production after the first 360,000 tons of sulphate of ammonia had been produced, meant the Imperial Chemical Industries or Indian private industry;

(b) Whether it is not a fact that if the manufacture of explosives and of sulphate of ammonia is in other than Indian hands, the scope for separate development of related nitrogenous products will be so limited that the industry cannot be economically established or operated;

(c) if the Government considered the necessity for giving an undertaking that in view of the possible post-war competition from abroad, they are prepared to protect the Indian industry by protective duties, and from internal competition by the enactment of anti-trust laws and other measures; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to give the fullest publicity to every stage of their negotiations with the Imperial Chemical Industries and would secure the approval of this House to any agreement that may be finally entered into with the Imperial Chemical Industries?

**The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** (a) No Press Note was issued on 14th May, 1944. The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Press Note issued on 1st May, 1944, in which it was stated "the possibility of independent enterprise was not precluded but in the national interest it was considered necessary that substantial state controlled enterprise should hold first place". The reference to "independent enterprise was to Indian private industry and not to Imperial Chemical Industries".

(b) and (c). These questions do not arise in view of the reply I have just given to part (b) of question No. 548.

(d) No negotiations have been opened with Imperial Chemical Industries.

#### SELECTION OF SITES FOR CHEMICAL FERTILIZER INDUSTRY

550. \***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:—

(a) if, in regard to the selection of sites for the proposed chemical fertilizer industry, due regard will be paid to the respective advantages in costs and other matters presented by its location near to coal fields or to iron and steel works;

(b) if it is a fact that production of fertilisers by methods of electrolysis of water for hydrogen, and of power supply by means of hydro-electric plants.

means a higher cost of production per ton than is the case in production through water gas methods for hydrogen and the use of thermal electricity, it so, whether this factor would be considered in the selection of the site or sites; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the First Report of the Reconstruction Committee of Council has expressed itself in favour of development of industries near hydro-electric sources, and against the starting of new industries on any large scale near coal-fields owing to the scarcity of water in these areas; if so, will this argument be applied in the case of selecting sites for the fertiliser industry also?

**The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** (a) to (c). As I have just stated in reply to part (b) of question No. 548, the report of the Technical Mission is now under the consideration of Government. The factors mentioned by the Honourable Member will be taken into account in reaching a decision.

#### STABILIZING THE PRICE OF SULPHATE OF AMMONIA

**551. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Supply be pleased to state:—

(a) the fair selling price of sulphate of ammonia and if the policy of price stabilisation at that level by payment of a subsidy to the consumers would be considered;

(b) if he is aware that the selling price of Rs. 120 per ton reported in the press has given rise to apprehensions that it suggests the use of methods of electrolysis for production of hydrogen and of hydro-electric power supply, to the exclusion of water-gas and thermal electricity, and that the cost per ton would be less by about Rs. 40 if the latter processes are adopted;

(c) if it is a fact that the British Sulphate of Ammonia Federation is dominated by the Imperial Chemical Industries and it fixes the price of sulphate of ammonia on a so-called world parity basis, prices being actually fixed for each country according to the local conditions of competition; and that since the present Indian producers are also members of the Federation, there has been in fact no competition in India;

(d) if Government propose to limit the profits on the artificial fertiliser industry by the imposition of a ceiling price per ton on manufactured product; and

(e) whether it is to be undertaken by Government or by private enterprise?

**The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** (a) The fair selling prices of sulphate of ammonium must vary from time to time according to the costs of production and market prices of food grains. The policy of subsidising the use of Ammonium Sulphate by cultivators in respect of food grains is already followed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) and (e). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to part (b) of question No. 548.

#### ARRANGEMENTS FOR STARTING CHEMICAL FERTILIZER INDUSTRY

**552. \*Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:—

(a) the arrangements made by the Government of India with the Provincial Governments and Indian States regarding the starting of the chemical fertiliser industry, and the proportions in which the cost, the profits and the distribution of the manufactured product are to be shared in the respective cases;

(b) if the question has been considered, and if not, will it be considered, by a contribution being made to the industry from the Indian Army Budget as an insurance against shortage of raw materials for explosives in the event of a sudden war;

(c) if Government intends to hand over the process of distribution to private agencies, or to any central non-profit making marketing organisation to be set up for the purpose; and

(d) if Government propose to take any steps to conduct a propaganda for popularising the use of chemical fertilisers by cultivators; if so, on what lines is such propaganda to proceed?

**The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** (a) to (d). As I have already stated in the reply to part (b) of question No. 548, these questions are already under consideration in connection with the report of the Technical Mission. It is intended to hold a conference on November 20th and 21st 1944, with a representative of all India Committee and with Provincial Governments. The Government of India will decide their policy in the light of these discussions.

#### IMPLEMENTING OF TRAVEL FACILITIES

**553. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken so far or propose to take to increase the travel facilities such as additional accommodation for ladies in inter and third class compartments; and

(b) the effective steps Government have taken in pursuance of their assurance given to the Central Advisory Council for Railways on the 6th April, 1944 to run more local trains, either in preference to through trains or independently in order to cater to the travel needs of local public?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) I am not aware of the action railways have found it possible to take on any representation which may have been made to Local Advisory Committees as a result of my request to members of the Council at the meeting held on the 6th April, 1944. I am, however, unable to give any undertaking that railways will find it possible to increase the accommodation for ladies in inter and third class compartments.

(b) The Honourable Member is under a misapprehension for no assurance was given to the Central Advisory Council for Railways on the 6th April, 1944, that more local trains, either in preference to through trains or independently, would be run in order to cater to the travelling needs of the local public. On the contrary, the Council were informed specifically that no increase in train services was possible owing to the shortage of coaching stock.

#### STEPS FOR PUBLIC COOPERATION AGAINST CORRUPTION AMONG RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

**554. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the effective measures taken by his Department in pursuance of the suggestions made in the Central Advisory Board for Railways at its meeting held on the 6th April, 1944 to enlist fullest co-operation of the public to put down the corruption rampant in the ranks of Railway employees; and

(b) the statistical figures to indicate the effectiveness of the 'Anti-Travel' campaign?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) As a result of the discussion in the Central Advisory Council for Railways held on the 6th April, 1944, the following steps were taken to prevent corruption:—

(i) Railway Administrations have requested important Chambers of Commerce and Trade Associations to circularise their Members to refrain from paying gratuities to railway staff.

(ii) Special investigation staffs have been appointed to enquire into alleged cases of bribery;

(iii) The procedure in force in respect of the registration and hooking of goods, securing of wagons, reservation of berths, etc., has been publicised in the Press and also notices and posters on the subject are being exhibited at stations, parcels and goods offices, so that the public may not, through ignorance of procedure, pay any sum to railway staff over and above that legitimately due to the rail service they require.

Government would welcome further suggestions from the Honourable Members of this House, which would assist in the campaign against corruption on the part of both the giver and the taker of bribes.

(b) A centrally controlled scheme for "Travel less" campaign was formulated in consultation with the Information and Broadcasting Department on the recommendation of the Central Advisory Council for Railways and was put into action from March, 1944.

I am laying on the table a comparative statement showing the number of passengers carried over all Railways for the years 1942, 1943 and from January to August, 1944 which indicates that the campaign has not achieved the desired result. The scheme, therefore, is being gradually wound up without incurring additional expenditure beyond the original sanction.

*Comparative statement showing number of Passengers carried over all Railways (In thousands)*

	1942	1943	1944
January . . . . .	55,592	55,443	69,048
February . . . . .	52,804	55,436	70,808
March . . . . .	56,077	67,836	79,384
April . . . . .	54,626	63,946	73,461
May . . . . .	56,412	70,918	78,904
June . . . . .	56,797	69,884	77,389
July . . . . .	56,591	67,522	77,920
August . . . . .	49,643	68,000	78,855
September . . . . .	44,471	66,215	
October . . . . .	48,651	64,741	
November . . . . .	53,136	67,196	
December . . . . .	54,226	68,510	

**STEPS FOR ISSUE OF MORE BUS LICENSES BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS**

**555. \*Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have so far taken to persuade Provincial Governments to issue more bus licenses in order to reduce the pressure of passenger traffic on Railways and with what results; and

(b) whether or not the Government, in case of encouraging and developing passenger bus service, will take care to see that the Railways do not themselves enter into competition with the independent Road (Bus and Van) Transport Industries?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** (a) Provincial Motor Transport Controllers have been informed from time to time that subject to the availability of controlled chassis; to the relative priority of demands for special war purposes and for general goods transport; to the prior demand for replacement of worn cut buses; and to the possibility of running the new buses on producer gas, controlled chassis should be released for extending bus services where most necessary to mitigate congestion in trains and buses. I have no reason to suppose that fresh permits are not being issued whenever vehicles are available.

(b) Government are anxious to discourage destructive competition between road and rail interests and are seeking to bring about mutually beneficial co-operation between the two.

**CHANGE IN TIMINGS OF TRAINS ON MALAKWAL BHERA BRANCH LINE**

**556. \*Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware that the timings for the running of trains on Malakwal Bhera Branch Line (North Western Railway) have been changed since October 1, 1944? What were the reasons for the change? Was that done in the interest of the travelling public?

(b) Do Government realise that the timings of the trains on Malakwal Bhera Branch Line, in force before the 1st of October last were suitable for convenient and safe journey of the passengers from Bhera and Miani Railway stations; and

that the recent changes of train times cause trouble and inconvenience and hardship to the travelling public and are not conducive to their safety, especially as passengers from Bhera and Miani Railway stations cannot get the connecting day time trains for going to Lalamusa and from there to Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar sides?

(c) Is it a fact that passengers from Bhera and Miani Railway stations, can go from Malakwal to Lalamusa and from there to Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar sides, by only one night train (89 Up), but that the first and second class and particularly the female passengers of all classes do not get accommodation in trains at Lalamusa and have, therefore, to pass the whole night there in discomfort to get the next morning train?

(d) If the replies to (a) to (c) above be in the affirmative, will Government please bring the necessary changes in the Railway Time Table for Malakwal Bhera Branch Line trains, in order to provide a convenient train connection for passengers to enable them to undertake day time journey to Lahore, Rawalpindi and Peshawar sides as was provided in the Time Table in force before the 1st of October, last? If the reply to any of the questions be in the negative, will Government please get local enquiries made and bring about the changes in train times to suit the convenience and safety of the travelling public?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 556 and 557 together.

I have called for information from the N. W. Railway Administration and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

#### CHANGE IN TIMINGS OF TRAINS ON MALAKWAL BHERA BRANCH LINE

†557. \***Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha:** (a) Is the Honourable Member for Railways aware of the fact that the municipal committee of Bhera, by a resolution of the committee, has made representations to the Chief Operating Superintendent, North Western Railway, Lahore and to his Divisional Officers at Rawalpindi, regarding the difficulties and inconveniences of the passengers created by the new changed time table on the Malakwal Bhera Branch Line, and has requested to change the time table in the interest of the passengers and have also made certain suggestions for their consideration?

(b) Is it also a fact that a representation to the same effect was made to Mr. B. Moody, Chief Operating Superintendent, North Western Railway, Lahore, by a Member of this House? If so, had Mr. Moody, the Chief Operating Superintendent, sent a reply to the Member, regarding the action he had taken or proposed to take in the matter? If so, will the Honourable Member kindly lay on the table of the House a copy of the reply sent by Mr. Moody?

(c) Will the Honourable Member please state what action, if any, has so far been taken by the Railway Department on the representations and suggestions made with regard to the change of Railway timings on Bhera Malakwal Branch Line and when can the changes in the time table be expected?

#### RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF ENGINEERING SUPERVISORS AND WIRELESS OPERATORS

558. \***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state :

(a) the rules for recruitment of Engineering Supervisors and Wireless Operators as they stand after modification, for the recruitment of the minority community candidates;

(b) the number of training centre or centres in the country for training candidates for services mentioned in (a) above; if so, are they run by Government or some subsidy or contribution is given to them by the Government;

(c) if the candidates for the two above mentioned posts are further trained after recruitment; if so, where and how;

(d) if Muslim candidates are recruited without any previous telegraph training with reference to (b) of starred question No. 23, asked on the 1st November, 1944;

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 556.



(e) in view of the difficulty experienced in not securing Muslim candidates for recruitment as Telegraphists as stated in reply to starred question No. 26 asked on the 1st November, 1944, and in view of the fact that the percentage of Muslims in the cadre of Telegraphists is low, whether Government propose to revise the rules in a way to enable Muslim candidates of other circles to be taken in as is the case with Anglo-Indian candidates; and

(f) if it is a fact that no domicile certificate is required for relations and the sons of Post and Telegraph employees in any circle whatsoever in British India; if so, what the contents of the rules concerned are?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) A copy of the rules, as last printed in June 1943, is placed on the table of the House. The following modifications are to be embodied in these rules when they are next printed:—

(1) The condition regarding minimum marks for qualifying in the recruitment examination, prescribed in rule 1 of Appendix A, will be deleted;

(2) To secure the full quota of candidates of minority communities, resort may, if necessary be had to recruitment by selection (without examination) of candidates possessing the minimum educational qualifications.

Recruitment of Wireless Operators is also made by selection from among candidates previously trained in wireless telegraphy, as provided in rule 483, Part III of Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV, a copy of which is placed in the Library of the House.

(b) Candidates for posts of Engineering Supervisors are not required to receive any training *before* recruitment. This is also the case with candidates for posts of Wireless Operators recruited on the results of the competitive examination. Candidates to be eligible for recruitment as Wireless Operators under rule 483, Part III, already referred to in the reply to part (a), must be previously trained in wireless telegraphy and be competent as Wireless Operators. This training is imparted by certain private institutions in the country the number of which is not definitely known. No subsidy or contribution is given to any institution by Government.

(c) Candidates selected from the results of the recruitment examination for appointment as Engineering Supervisors and Wireless Operators are trained in the Government training class attached to the office of the Electrical Engineer-in-Chief, Posts and Telegraphs Department at Jubbulpore. Practical training is given to these candidates in the Postal Circles. Similar is the case with Wireless Operators recruited under rule 483, Part III, already referred to, but theoretical training is given to them for a comparatively short period.

(d) The Honourable Member evidently refers to the recruitment of Wireless Operators under rule 483, Part III. No Muslim without previous training in Wireless telegraphy are recruited under that rule.

(e) Presumably the starred question to which reference is made is not No. 26, but No. 23, to which a reply was given on 1st November, 1944. The low percentage of Muslims in the strength of the Telegraphists' cadre is due to the fact that formerly recruitment was made mainly from certain approved institutions and the result was a preponderance of Anglo-Indians in this Branch of the Service. Since the introduction of the new recruitment rules of 1937, however, Muslims are securing appointment in the posts reserved for them subject to the availability of qualified candidates of the community. Relaxation of the domicile condition has been approved by Government for Anglo-Indians only in view of the fact that that community is concentrated in a few centres. Since such a factor does not prevail in respect of Muslims, Government do not consider it necessary to relax the domicile conditions for them. Government do not propose to revise the rules as they are of opinion that the recent suspension of the competitive examination and recruitment from the open market should enable the Department to secure the Muslim quota.

(f) The position is not as stated. The relevant rule on the subject allows the sons and daughters of Departmental employees to appear in the examination in the particular recruiting unit in which the employee is serving, without

production of a domicile certificate. In this connecton, the Honourable member's attention is invited to exception (1) below rule 5(a) of Appendix 14 of Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV.

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND AIR  
RESOLUTION

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

New Delhi, the 8th June, 1943

No. S.116/1/42.—The following rules are prescribed for the recruitment and training of candidates for the cadres of Engineering Supervisors, Carrier Attendants and Wireless Operators in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department:—

SECTION A.—ENGINEERING SUPERVISORS

PART I.—METHODS OF RECRUITMENT

1. The rules in this section may be called the Engineering Supervisors Recruitment Rules.
2. For the purposes of these Rules—
  - (a) "Director-General" means the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.
  - (b) "Departmental candidate" means—
    - (i) a Telegraphist of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, or
    - (ii) a Telephone Inspector including one who is employed as a carrier or repeater attendant, a Telephone Operator, or a Mistry who has passed the Matriculation examination.

*N.B.*—Only such Mistries as are holding the posts originally designated "Telephone Mechanics" or "Baudot and Signal Room Mechanics" are eligible.

(c) "Outside candidate" means a candidate other than a "departmental candidate". Members of the staff of the department other than those mentioned above are "Outside candidates".

(d) "Service" means the Engineering Supervisors of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department.

3. (a) The Service shall be recruited by means of a competitive examination from the following sources:—

(i) By direct recruitment in accordance with Part II of these Rules.

(ii) By recruitment of departmental candidates in accordance with Part III of these

Rules.

(h) The Service will be liable for field service in times of war or national emergency within the limits of His Majesty's Indian Territories.

4. *Percentage of vacancies.*—(i) 25 per cent. of the vacancies will be filled by departmental candidates and the remaining 75 per cent. by outside candidates.

(ii) If the number of departmental candidates who qualify is less than the number of vacancies available for such candidates, the remaining vacancies will be added to the vacancies available for outside candidates who have qualified in the examination.

5. *Place and date of examination.*—A competitive examination for admission to the Service shall be held in India at such time and places as the Director-General may prescribe by notice issued through the Heads of Circles. Every such notice will, when possible, announce the number of the vacancies to be filled on the result of the examination. Outside candidates must attend at their own expense.

6. *Subjects and marks.*—Examinations under these Rules shall be conducted by the Director-General in the manner prescribed in the regulations which form Appendix A to these Rules.

7. *Fees.*—Candidates must pay the prescribed fees (see Appendix B). No claim for a refund of any of these fees will be entertained, nor can they be held in reserve for subsequent examinations or selections.

8. *Re-examination of answer papers.*—No application from any candidate to have his answer papers re-examined will be considered.

PART II.—DIRECT RECRUITMENT

9. *Applications.*—(i) A candidate must apply to be admitted to the examination before such date, in such manner and in such form as the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs may prescribe.

(ii) If a candidate is in the permanent service of Government he shall apply for admission to the examination through the proper official channel to the Head of the Circle in which his office is situated.

(iii) If a candidate is not in Government service or is employed in Government service in a temporary capacity at the time that he submits his application he shall apply to the Head of the Circle in which his parents reside at the time of submitting his application, or have resided for a period of not less than three years or in which the candidate himself

\*The submission of applications by persons in Government service is further governed by the Government Servants' Applications for Posts (Central Services) Rule (published with Government of India, Home Department (Railway Services) Notification No. F. 510/31-Est., dated the 7th June 1934 as amended from time to time), and corresponding rules made by Provincial Governments, 22nd January 1935

resided, otherwise than as a student, for a like period. A Government servant who is employed in a temporary capacity should, however, before submitting his application obtain in writing the permission of the Head of the office or department in which he is employed and attach it to the application.

A list of the Circles is given in Appendix C.

10. *Status*.—A candidate must be a male and either—

(a) a British subject of Indian domicile; or

(b) a British subject of Indian descent evacuated from any Empire country; or

(c) a ruler or a subject of an Indian State or a native of a tribal area or territory adjacent to India, provided that a ruler or a subject of a State in India cannot be appointed unless he has obtained a declaration under sub-section (1) of section 262 of the Government of India Act, 1935;

and must be in all respects suitable for appointment to that service.

11. *Age*.—A candidate must have attained the age of 17, and must not have attained the age of 24, on the first day of January of the year in which the examination is held.

12. *Educational qualifications*.—A candidate must—

(i) have passed sections A and B of the Associate Membership examination of the Institution of Engineers (India), or any other educational qualifications recognised by that Institution as exempting from passing these sections, *vide* Appendix D; or

(ii) have obtained an Engineering degree of one of the Universities mentioned in Appendix E under the conditions prescribed in that Appendix; or

(iii) have passed the Associateship examination of the City and Guilds Institute (Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington) in Civil Engineering; or

(iv) have obtained a diploma of Faraday House, London; or

(v) have passed the Associate examination of the Bengal Engineering College in Mechanical Engineering; or

(vi) have passed the Cambridge School certificate examination, Oxford School certificate examination or London Matriculation examination; or

(vii) have passed the Intermediate Science examination of an Indian University; or

(viii) have passed the Intermediate Arts examination with physics of an Indian University; or

(ix) have obtained one of the diplomas in Engineering described in Appendix F.

13. *Recommendations*.—No recommendations, except those invited in the form of application, will be taken into consideration. Any attempt on the part of a candidate to obtain support for his application by other means will disqualify him for admission.

14. *Acceptance or rejection of application*.—

(i) Heads of Circles will examine the applications of outside candidates and if they find that any candidate does not fulfil the conditions laid down in rules 9 to 13 above, will reject his application.

(ii) Outside candidates employed in the Department will be selected by the Head of the Circle after a scrutiny of their confidential records. The Head of the circle will have full discretion to reject the application of a candidate whose record is unsatisfactory.

(iii) Heads of Circles will give candidates, whose applications are rejected, intimation of the fact.

15. *Reserved Vacancies*.—Vacancies in the service which are filled otherwise than by departmental candidates shall be apportioned between the various communities in India in accordance with the provisions of Government of India (Home Department) Resolution No. F. 14/17-B./33-Ests., dated the 4th July 1934, and the supplementary instructions connected therewith. Accordingly—

(i) 33½ per cent. will be reserved for the redress of communal inequalities as indicated below:—

(a) 25 per cent. for Muslims.

(b) 8½ per cent. for other minority communities.

(ii) The remaining vacancies, together with any reserved vacancies for which eligible candidates are not available, will be offered to candidates in order of merit at the examination subject to the condition that some of these vacancies may, in order to secure fair representation for the members of the scheduled castes, be filled by nomination of eligible candidates from these.

(iii) No candidate will be eligible for appointment who fails to attain a specified minimum standard in the examination.

16. *Medical examination*.—A candidate must be in good mental and bodily health, and free from any physical defect likely to interfere with the discharge of his duties as an officer of the Service. A candidate who as a result of the medical examination prescribed in Appendix G is found not to satisfy those requirements will not be appointed. Only candidates who are selected for training will be physically examined.

17. *Agreement and deposit*.—(i) A successful candidate will be required, before the commencement of his training, to sign in the form laid down in Appendix H a declaration to serve Government for a period of 5 years from the date of his appointment as Engineering Supervisor and to deposit a sum of Rs. 50 as security for the due fulfilment of the terms of the declaration.

(ii) If the candidate has not completed 18 years of age prior to the commencement of his training the declaration must also be signed by his father or legal guardian. As soon as

the candidate has attained majority, he will be required to sign a separate declaration himself, the former one being cancelled.

(iii) The amount of security must be deposited in a Post Office Savings Bank and the security deposit account pledged to the Senior Deputy Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, in accordance with the Savings Bank rules. The pass book must be submitted to the Electrical Engineer-in-Chief who will forward the documents to the Senior Deputy Director-General for safe custody.

(iv) The refund of the security deposit will be authorised after the candidate has completed 5 years of service as Engineering Supervisor.

**PART III.—RECRUITMENT OF DEPARTMENTAL CANDIDATES**

18. *Eligibility.*—(i) Departmental candidates who have not more than 7 years' permanent service in their respective grades on the 1st of January of the year in which the examination is held will be eligible to appear for the competitive examination.

(ii) The maximum limit of 7 years' service may be relaxed by the Director-General at his discretion in individual cases.

*N.B.*—Probationers will be eligible to appear in the competitive examination as departmental candidates subject to the condition that they are confirmed before the date of the examination.

19. *Applications and selection of candidates.*—Candidates must fill in the prescribed application form and submit it to the Head of the Circle concerned. Heads of Circles will select suitable candidates from the applicants after a scrutiny of their confidential records. They will have full discretion to reject the application of a candidate whose record is unsatisfactory. Candidates, whose applications are rejected will be duly informed.

20. *Filling of vacancies.*—Vacancies available for departmental candidates will be filled by successful candidates strictly according to merit in the examination.

21. *Medical examination.*—Selected departmental candidates, except general service telegraphists, will be required to pass the physical examination prescribed in rule 16.

**PART IV.—TRAINING**

*N.B.*—The following course of training may be modified by the Director-General if circumstances render this desirable.

22. *Duration.*—All selected candidates will be required to undergo a course of training extending over 15 months, divided as follows except that departmental telegraphists will be exempted from the course of training referred to at II (ii) below :—

I. *In the departmental training class.*—

(i) 10 months theoretical training concluded by an examination.

(ii) 1 month preparing a practical project.

II. *In the Telegraph Workshops.*—

(i) 3 months training concluded by a practical examination.

(ii) 1 month in a departmental telegraph office for instruction in signal office routine.

23. *Syllabus of examination after training.*—The syllabus of the examination to be held at the end of the course of training in the departmental training class will comprise the following subjects :—

1. Signalling (in accordance with rule 381 of Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV), except that receiving on both open and closed circuits should be in manuscript and the standard rate of signalling should be as given below :—

	Marks
(a) Morse . . . . .	16 words per minute
(b) Baudot signalling . . . . .	15 words per minute
(c) Baudot Keyboard Perforator . . . . .	15 words per minute
(d) Tape reading . . . . .	8 words per minute
2. Advanced course in practical mathematics . . . . .	100
3. Electricity and magnetism and elementary electro-technology . . . . .	100
4. Electro-technology and prime movers . . . . .	100
5. Telegraphy—	
(a) Elementary telegraph and testing of lines and cables . . . . .	100
(b) Advanced telegraphy . . . . .	100
6. Telephony—	
(a) Elementary telephony . . . . .	100
(b) Advanced telephony . . . . .	100
7. (a) Line construction (including surveying and levelling) . . . . .	200
(b) Applied mechanics and mechanism . . . . .	50
(c) Geometrical drawing . . . . .	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,100</b>

The project referred to in rule 22 I (ii) will carry 350 marks and the examination at the end of the workshop course 150 marks, making 1,600 marks in all.

24. *Qualifying marks.*—The minimum qualifying standards for the examination will be 40 per cent. of marks in each subject.

25. *Removal of unsuitable candidates.*—Any candidate who is found unsuitable at any stage or fails to secure the minimum qualifying marks at any of the examinations will be liable to immediate removal from the class and will not be allowed to sit again for the entrance examination referred to in rule 5.

26. *Allowances during training.*—During the period of training, direct recruits will receive an allowance of Rs. 40 per mensem. Departmental candidates will continue to draw their pay in their respective scales plus the usual house rent allowance, if any, or Rs. 40 per mensem, whichever is greater.

Officials of the Posts and Telegraphs Department other than departmental candidates defined in rule 2(b) will draw the allowance granted to outside candidates, or the pay last drawn by them before joining the training class, whichever is less.

#### PART V.—APPOINTMENT AND EMOLUMENTS

27. *Appointment.*—(a) On successful completion of the course of training, a candidate will be appointed as an Engineering Supervisor on probation for one year subject to the existence of vacancies in that grade. Employment as an Engineering Supervisor is not however guaranteed on the completion of the course of training.

(b) If the work or conduct of an Engineering Supervisor on probation is unsatisfactory or shows that he is unlikely to become efficient he may be discharged forthwith.

(c) On the conclusion of his period of probation, if his work or conduct has been found to be unsatisfactory he may either be discharged from service or his period of probation may be extended for such further period as may be considered necessary.

28. *Seniority.*—For the purpose of determining the relative seniority in the cadre of Engineering Supervisors of those appointed at any one time, there will be two groups, viz., (1) departmental candidates and other members of the staff of the Department who were selected as outside candidates and (2) other outside candidates. Seniority in each group will be determined according to the total marks obtained by each at the final examination held on completion of training at the departmental training class; but all candidates selected from group (1) will be given seniority over those in group (2) irrespective of the number of marks obtained in the examination. All the Engineering Supervisors appointed after one examination will rank senior to those appointed after a later examination. This seniority will not affect prejudicially the pay of departmental candidates which will be fixed according to rule 29.

29. *Pay and Allowances.*—(a) In the case of direct recruits and the departmental candidates who are eligible for the revised rates of pay, the scale of pay for the cadre of Engineering Supervisors will be Rs. 80—5—120—10—240.

(b) Departmental telegraphists who were in service on the 18th April, 1927 and who are eligible for promotion to the rank of Engineering Supervisors will, on such promotion, be brought on to the old scale of Rs. 80—5—100—10—250—20—350 (with an efficiency bar at the stage of Rs. 250) under Fundamental Rule 22 (a) (i) and will get a special pay of Rs. 40 subject to a maximum of pay and special pay of Rs. 350.

(c) Departmental telegraphists who entered the Department after the 18th April 1927 and other departmental candidates who are entitled to the old rates of pay will be brought on to the scale of Rs. 120—5—140—10—290—20—350 (with an efficiency bar at the stage of Rs. 290) under the Fundamental Rules and will not get any special pay.

30. *Signalling test.*—Engineering Supervisors of both classes recruited under these rules will be required during the first five years of their service to pass annually a signalling test in open and closed circuit similar to that prescribed in rule 23 (1). An Engineering Supervisor who does not pass this test will not be granted the annual increment of pay.

#### SECTION B.—CARRIER ATTENDANTS

1. The rules in this section may be called the Carrier Attendant Recruitment (by competition) Rules.

2. *Scope of service.*—Carrier Attendants belong to an all-India cadre and are liable for services anywhere in India. They are also liable for field service in times of war or national emergency within the limits of His Majesty's Indian territories. The posts are superior and pensionable and the scale of pay is Rs. 60—4—100—5—130. The carrier attendants permanently appointed will be eligible for promotion to a selection grade of Rs. 130—6—190 under conditions that will be prescribed hereafter.

3. *Source of recruitment.*—The recruitment will be made from volunteers among the candidates, who qualify in the competitive examination for selection of candidates for training as Engineering Supervisors mentioned in Section A, Part I, but who are not selected for that service.

4. *Reserved vacancies.*—The vacancies will be filled in the manner prescribed in rule 4 of Section C.

5. *Medical Examination.*—Selected candidates will be required to produce a certificate of fitness from a Medical Board at their own expense before they are appointed for training as Carrier Attendants.

6. *Agreement and deposit.*—Before the commencement of his training a selected candidate will be required to sign a declaration in the form laid down in Appendix H to serve Government for a period of two years on the conditions specified in rule 17 of Section A, except that the security deposit account must be pledged to the Head of the Circle concerned to whom the documents will be sent by the Electrical Engineer in Chief.

7. *Training.*—The selected candidates will be required to undergo a course of theoretical and practical training for a period not exceeding one year. They will be required to pass a test on the conclusion of the theoretical training.

8. *Removal of unsuitable candidates.*—Any candidate who is found unsuitable at any stage or fails to secure the minimum qualifying marks at the tests will be liable to immediate removal.

9. *Allowance during training.*—During the period of training, candidates will receive pay or allowance as shown below :

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (a) Outside candidate   | Allowance at Rs. 30 per mensem.   |
| (b) Officials of the Posts and Telegraphs Department other than departmental candidate as defined in rule 2 (b) in Section A. | Pay equal to the allowance mentioned at (a) or to pay last drawn by him before joining class whichever is less. |
| (c) Departmental officials as defined in rule 2(b) of Section A.  | Pay in his own scale plus the usual house rent allowance if any, or Rs. 30 per mensem whichever is greater.     |

10. *Appointment.*—(1) On qualifying in the passing-out test referred to in rule 7 and on completion of the practical course of training, candidates will, if reported on as fit to carry out the duties of Carrier Attendants, be appointed as carrier attendants.

11. *Seniority.*—The procedure laid down in rule 28 of Section A will be followed.

SECTION C.—WIRELESS OPERATORS

1. The rules in this section may be called the Wireless Operators Recruitment (by competition) Rules.

2. *Scope of service.*—Wireless Operators belong to an all-India cadre and are liable for service anywhere in India. They are also liable for field service in times of war or national emergency within the limits of His Majesty's Indian territories. The posts are superior and pensionable, and the scale of pay is Rs. 60—5—150.

3. *Source of recruitment.*—The recruitment will be made from volunteers among the candidates who qualify in the competitive examination for selection of candidates for training as Engineering Supervisors mentioned in Section A, Part I, but who are not selected for that service.

4. *Reservation of vacancies.*—Vacancies in the service shall be apportioned between the various communities in India in accordance with the provisions of Government of India (Home Department) Resolution No. F-14/17-B/33-Ests., dated the 4th July 1934, and the supplementary instructions connected therewith. Accordingly—

(i) 33½ per cent. will be reserved for the redress of communal inequalities as indicated below :—

- (a) 25 per cent. for Muslims.
- (b) 8½ per cent. for other minority communities.
- (ii) The remaining vacancies, together with any reserved vacancies for which eligible candidates are not available, will be offered to candidates in order of merit at the examination, subject to the condition that some of these vacancies may, in order to secure fair representation for the Scheduled castes be filled by nomination of eligible candidates from these.

5. *Medical examination.*—Selected candidates will be required to produce a certificate of fitness from a Medical Board at their own expense before they are appointed for training as Wireless Operators.

6. *Agreement and deposit.*—Before the commencement of his training a selected candidate will be required to sign a declaration in the form laid down in Appendix H to serve Government for a period of five years on the conditions specified in rule 17 of Section A, except that the security deposit account must be pledged to the Head of the Circle concerned to whom the documents will be sent by the Electrical Engineer in Chief.

7. *Training.*—The selected candidates will be required to undergo a course of training not exceeding one year in the Wireless Training Class and a further three months practical training at a Wireless Station. At the end of the first six months of training, they will be required to qualify at a preliminary test and at the end of the training in the class, a passing-out test. Those who qualify will then be posted to a Wireless Station for practical training. Candidates who qualify before the end of one year in the class will be posted to a Wireless Station for practical training without remaining in the class for the whole year.

B. *Removal of unsuitable candidates.*—Any candidate who is found unsuitable at any stage or fails to secure the minimum qualifying marks at either of the tests will be liable to immediate removal.

9. *Allowance during training.*—During the period of training, candidates will receive pay or allowance as shown below.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (a) Outside candidate  | Allowance at Rs. 30 per mensem.   |
| (b) Officials of the Posts and Telegraphs Department other than departmental candidate as defined in rule 2(b) in Section A. | Pay equal to the allowance mentioned at (a) or to pay last drawn by him before joining class whichever is less. |
| (c) Departmental official as defined in rule 2(b) of Section A.  | Pay in his own scale plus the usual house rent allowance, if any, or Rs. 30 per mensem whichever is greater.    |

10. *Appointment.*—(1) On qualifying in the passing-out test and on completion of the practical course of training at a Wireless Station, candidates will, if reported on as fit to carry out the duties of Wireless Operator, be appointed as Wireless Operators on probation for one year, as far as vacancies are available.

(2) On satisfactory completion of the period of probation candidates will be confirmed as wireless Operators.

11. *Seniority.*—The procedure laid down in rule 28 of Section A should be followed.

12. *Aircraft duties.*—Wireless Operators recruited to the Department on or after the 1st January 1940 and Wireless Supervisors and Deputy Assistant Engineers, Wireless, promoted from the ranks of such Wireless Operators, may be required to carry out duties on aircraft during flight.

APPENDIX A

(Referred to in rule 6 in Section A.)

The subjects of the examination will be—

	Marks.
(1) English (general knowledge)	200
(2) Geography (a general knowledge of the geography of the world and a detailed knowledge of the geography of India)	100
(3) Elementary physics and chemistry	150
(4) Practical mathematics (2 papers)—	
(a) Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry and mensuration.	250
(b) Mechanics (statics and dynamics) and graphics	150
	850

The minimum marks for qualifying will be 33 per cent. in each paper for recruitment to the cadre of Engineering Supervisors and 25 per cent. to those of Carrier Attendants and Wireless Operators.

2. From the marks assigned to candidates in each subject such deduction will be made as may be considered necessary in order to secure that no credit is allowed for merely superficial knowledge.

3. If a candidate's handwriting is not easily legible, a deduction will be made on this account from the total marks otherwise accruing to him.

4. Credit will be given for good English in all subjects of the examination and not only in subjects which are specially devoted to English.

APPENDIX B

(Referred to in rule 7 in Section A.)

Candidates must pay the following fees:—

	Outside candidates Rs.	Departmental candidates Rs.
Application fee to be paid with the application form	5	5
Examination fee to be paid on selection for admission to the written examination	25	10
Medical fee to be paid before the medical examination	16	16

(Except in the case of General Service Telegraphists.)

2. The application and examination fees must be paid into a post office. Fees remitted by money order will not be accepted.

3. The post office receipt for the application fee must be submitted with the application form.

4. The examination fee must be paid on receipt of a written order from the Head of the Circle, and the post office receipt therefor produced before the examination is held.

5. The Medical fee must be paid in cash to the Medical Board on receipt of a written order from the Head of the Circle and before the medical examination.

APPENDIX C

(Referred to in rule 9 in Section A.)

Name of Circle	Official designation of officer in charge	Headquarters
Bengal and Assam	Postmaster-General	Calcutta
Bihar and Orissa		Patna
Bombay		Bombay
Central		Nagpur
Madras		Madras
Punjab and N.-W. F.		Lahore
United Provinces		Lucknow
Sind and Baluchistan	Director of Posts and Telegraphs	Karachi.

List of Examinations recognised by the Institution of Engineers (India) as exempting from Sections "A" and "B" of the Associate Membership Examination

[Referred to in rule 12 (i) in Section A.]

**Institution of Civil Engineers.**—Sections A and B of the Associate Membership Examination.

**Institution of Mechanical Engineers.**—Sections A and B of the Associate Membership Examination.

**Institution of Electrical Engineers.**—The Associate Membership Examination.

*Oxford.*—B.A. with Honours in Engineering Science, Final Honours School.

*Cambridge.*—B.A. (Honours) Mechanical Sciences Tripos.

*St. Andrews.*—B.Sc. in Engineering.

*Glasgow.*—B.Sc. in Engineering.

*Edinburgh.*—B.Sc. in Engineering.

*Dublin.*—B.A.I. (Ordinary or with Honours in Engineering).

*McGill University (Montreal).*—B.Sc. in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" or "Metallurgical" or "Mining" Engineering (Honours or Ordinary Degree).

*Durham.*—B.Sc., in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering, or in "Naval Architecture" (Honours or Ordinary Degree).

*London.*—B.Sc., in (External and Internal Degree) Engineering not including the B.Sc., Engineering (Mining) or the B.Sc., in Engineering (Metallurgy). (Honours or Ordinary Degree).

*Victoria University (Manchester).*—B.Sc. Tech. (Ordinary Course, Division I) in Electrical Engineering;

B.Sc. Tech (Ordinary Course, Division II) in Electrical Engineering;

B.Sc. Tech. (Higher Course, Honours Division or Ordinary Course, Division I) in Municipal Engineering;

B.Sc. Tech. (Ordinary Course, Division I) in Mechanical Engineering;

B.Sc. in Engineering (Honours degree; or Ordinary degree from 1925 onwards);

B.Sc. Tech., in "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering (Honours Division in the Final Examination).

*Birmingham.*—B.Sc. in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering (Honours or Ordinary degree).

*Liverpool.*—B.Eng. in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Marine" or "Electrical" Engineering, or "Naval Architecture" (Honours or Ordinary degree).

*Leeds.*—B.Sc. in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering (Honours or Ordinary degree).

*Sheffield.*—B.Eng. in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering (Honours degree or Ordinary degree with a First Class in the Final Examination). A first class in the Final Examination will not be required in the cases of degrees obtained in or after June 1930.

*Bristol.*—B.Sc. in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering (Honours or Ordinary degree).

*Wales.*—B.Sc. in "Civil" or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering.

*National University of Ireland.*—B.E.

*Queen's University (Belfast).*—B.Sc. in Engineering,

*Sydney.*—B.E. in "Civil" or in "Mechanical" and "Electrical" Engineering.

*Melbourne.*—B.C.E., B.Mech.E. or B.E.E.

*New Zealand.*—B.E. in "Civil", or "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering.

*Adelaide.*—B.E. in "Civil", "Mechanical" or "Electrical" Engineering.

*Queensland.*—B.E. in "Civil" or in "Mechanical" and "Electrical" Engineering.

*Western Australia.*—B.E.

*South Africa.*—B.Sc. in Engineering (until 1921).

*Cape Town.*—B.Sc. in Engineering.

*Witwatersrand.*—B.Sc. in "Civil" or "Mechanical" and "Electrical" Engineering.

*Calcutta.*—B.E. Examination in Civil or Mechanical or Electrical Engineering.

*Bombay.*—B.E. Examination.

*Madras.*—B.E. Examination.

*Benares Hindu University.*—B.Sc. Examination in Engineering.

*Patna.*—B.C.E.

*Rangoon.*—B.Sc. in Engineering from 1932.

*Mysore.*—B.E. in Civil, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering.

*Punjab.*—B.Sc. in Engineering.

**Diplomas in Engineering**—

City and Guilds (Engineering) College, Kensington.

University College, London.

King's College, London.

City and Guilds of London Institute, Technical College, Finsbury—Diploma or Higher Certificate (three years' course) if taken by Matriculated Students or Students who have passed the Institution Studentship Examination or its recognised equivalent.



Royal Technical College, Glasgow—Final Diploma Examination in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering provided an approved Matriculation Examination has been passed before beginning the course.

Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorkee—Assistant Engineer's Certificate.

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore—Certificate in Electrical Technology or in Electrical Communication Engineering.

Manchester—Certificate in Technology, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering.

Punjab College of Engineering and Technology (formerly Maclagan Engineering College),

Moghalpura—

“A” Class Diploma in the first division (65 per cent, or more marks) and in the Honours Division (80 per cent, or more marks) in (i) Mechanical Engineering and (ii) Electrical Engineering from 1935.

Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh—Associateship in Electrical Engineering.

Naval Officers.—Examination which qualifies as Lieutenant (E).

Royal Naval College, Greenwich.—Professional Certificate for Constructors.

#### APPENDIX E

*List of University degrees which will be recognised for admission to the examination.*

[Referred to in rule 12 (ii) in Section A.]

Cambridge.—Ordinary degree B.A. in Engineering, provided the graduate has passed in the principal subjects, Engineering I, Engineering II and Engineering III.

Glasgow.—B.Sc. in Naval Architecture (Honours or Ordinary degree).

Durham.—B.Sc. in Marine Engineering.

London.—B.Sc. Ordinary or with Honours [not including the B.Sc. in Engineering (Mining) or the B.Sc. in Engineering (Metallurgy)].

Aberdeen.—B.Sc. in Engineering (Honours or Ordinary degree).

NOTE.—The above degrees will be accepted only if taken after three years' study and the passing of the regular examinations in the several Universities. The conditions as to three years' study will not, however, apply to Indians who, having taken an Indian degree, which exempts them from part of the University course, shall have taken one of the above degrees in less than three years in accordance with the regulations of the University concerned.

#### APPENDIX F

[Referred to in rule 12 (ix) in Section A.]

Particulars of diploma	Name of Institution granting the diploma
(a) Electrical Engineers . . . . .	Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute, Bombay. Technical College, Dayalbagh, Agra.
(b) Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.	College of Engineering, Poona, Nadirshaw, Edulji Dinshaw Civil Engineering College, Karachi. Technical Institute, Insein.
(c) L. E. E. or L. M. E. or L. A. E. . . . .	Government School of Technology, Madras or Technological Diplomas' Examination Board, Madras.
(d) Overseer . . . . .	Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Dacca, Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorkee.
(e) Mechanical Engineering . . . . .	Technical College, Dayalbagh Agra.
(f) Civil Engineering . . . . .	Technical Institute, Insein. Orissa School of Engineering.
(g) Mechanical and Electrical Engineering (specialised in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering) (Grade A).	Government Technical Institute, Gorakhpur, U. P. Government Technical Institute, Lucknow.
(h) Subordinate Civil Engineering . . . . .	Bihar College of Engineering, Patna.
(i) Civil Mechanical or Automobile Engineering.	Government Engineering School, Nagpur.
(j) Mechanical, Electrical or Civil Engineering.	Kala-Bhavan Technical Institute, Baroda.
(k) 'A' class Diploma or 'B' class certificate.	Maclagan Engineering College, Moghalpura, Lahore.
(l) Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.	College of Engineering and Technology, Jadavpur, Bengal.
(m) Electrical Technology . . . . .	Nowrosjee Wadia College, Poona.
(n) Electro Mechanics . . . . .	Craik Technical Institute, Lahore.
(o) B. E. (Mechanical) . . . . .	Osmania University, Hyderabad.

#### APPENDIX G

[Referred to in rule 16 in Section A.]

Each candidate should be examined for physical fitness by a Medical Board who should be informed that a good constitution and active habits are essential qualifications for the post for which the person has been selected that, if appointed, his future duties will render him liable to considerable exposure at all seasons of the year anywhere in India and that he should be capable of riding 20 to 25 miles daily for continuous periods. The medical Board should be asked clearly to state whether they consider the person examined capable of performing such duties.

## STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## APPENDIX H

(Referred to in rule 17 in Section A and rule 6 in Sections B and C.)

*Form of Declaration for candidates to be trained as Engineering Supervisors, Carrier Attendants and Wireless Operators.*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ son of \_\_\_\_\_; having been admitted on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 194\_\_\_\_, for technical training as a candidate for employment in the grade of Engineering Supervisors/Carrier Attendants/Wireless Operators in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department hereby of my own free will (\*and with the consent of my father/guardian \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ who has signed below in token of his agreement and acknowledgment on my behalf), declare and agree as follows:—

(1) I will undergo the full course of training extending over  $\frac{15}{12}$  months as prescribed

or for such period as may be prescribed by a competent authority;

(2) I accept the terms and conditions of my training and of my future service on probation in and of the service generally in the grade of Engineering Supervisors/Carrier Attendants/Wireless Operators in the Department as laid down at present or as may be laid down from time to time;

(3) I will after the successful completion of my training serve the Department as an Engineering Supervisor/Carrier Attendant/Wireless Operator for  $\frac{two}{five}$  years from the date

of my appointment in the grade of Engineering Supervisors/Carrier Attendants/Wireless Operators and during that period I shall not sever my connection with the Department unless I first obtain the consent of the competent authority;

(4) I understand that my appointment in the said grade shall be on a temporary basis and that I shall be liable to have my service terminated at any time;

(5) The sum of Rs. 50 deposited by me will remain with Government as security for the due fulfilment of the above conditions;

(6) In case of my removal from the training class or service on account of misconduct or unsuitability and in case of a breach by me of conditions (1) and (3), except owing to ill-health not brought on by my own carelessness or other cause not due to my fault or over which I have no control or my death, Government shall have full power to order forfeiture of the amount of security deposit;

(7) If upon completion of my training I am not appointed in the said grade of Engineering Supervisors/Carrier Attendants/Wireless Operators in the Department the said deposit of Rs. 50 shall then be returned, and if I am so appointed then the same shall be returned

at the termination of my first  $\frac{five}{two}$  years of service.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of candidate \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ father/guardian of the said \_\_\_\_\_ and agree to be bound by the above terms.

confirm \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of father/guardian.  
G. V. BEWOOR, Secy.

\*For minors only.

### TRAINING IN DEPARTMENTAL WORK FOR DIRECTLY RECRUITED SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES.

**559. \*Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state :

(a) if it is essential in the interest of efficiency that the Superintendents of Post Offices recruited directly should have the same practical experience of the work of Postmasters and the detailed working knowledge of the Departmental rules and procedure for the supervision of work of officers under them as are required of the Inspectors, according to his reply to (b) of starred question No. 24 asked on the 1st November, 1944; and

(b) if an Inspector recruited directly can be trained in Departmental work and rules as a Superintendent of Post Offices recruited directly; if not, what the difficulty is?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) No; not to the same extent.

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

## INSPECTORS OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

**560. \*Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state :

(a) the total number of Inspectors in all Circles of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in British India;

(b) the number of graduate and non-graduate Inspectors;

(c) if it is a fact that out of fifty per cent. posts of Superintendents filled by direct recruitment, 15 per cent. posts are reserved for the relations of the employees of the Post and Telegraph Department! if so, what the rule on the subject is and how these 15 per cent. posts are filled in; and

(d) whether it is a fact that communal proportion is applied to the remaining thirty-five per cent. posts of Superintendents?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) 667.

(b) Graduates 288, Non-graduate 379.

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

(d) The Communal proportion applies to all appointments of Superintendents by direct recruitment.

## MUSLIMS IN VARIOUS GRADES OF FOOD ESTABLISHMENT OF CERTAIN RAILWAYS

**561. \*Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the strength of Muslims in the various grades of the Food Establishment of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway, East Indian Railway and the Bengal and Assam Railway; and

(b) the total number of Food Inspectors and the number of Muslims employed as such?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The information is not readily available and I regret I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

## INTERNMENT OF ALLAH BAKHSH KARAM ILAHI ZIA OF PESHAWAR.

**562. \*Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** Will the Secretary for External Affairs please state:

(a) how long Allah Bakhsh Karam Ilahi Zia of Peshawar has been interned without trial and under what law;

(b) the nature of the charge or charges against him;

(c) the nature of the restrictions placed upon him;

(d) whether any allowance for his maintenance was sanctioned or paid; and

(e) whether the same has been stopped and why?

**Sir Olaf Caroe:** (a) Mr. Allah Bakhsh Zia was arrested on 28th June, 1940, under rule 129 (1) (a) of the Defence of India Rules and after a period of about two months was restricted to Hoti Mardan Municipal limits and later to Peshawar Tehsil limit by the orders of the Central Government under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules. He has recently been allowed to proceed to Bombay for a month under the same restrictions.

(b) The action was taken to prevent Mr. Zia from acting in a manner prejudicial to the efficient prosecution of the war, and to the defence of British India.

(c) He was required to reside within the limits stated above to report himself to the authorities daily and not to associate or have contact with any person taking part in subversive activities or any person restricted under the Defence of India Rules and not to correspond with any person residing outside British India or associate with any foreigner.

(d) An allowance of Rs. 30 per mensem was paid from 1st November, 1940, to 30th April, 1943.

(e) Yes, since he secured employment.

## RELEASE OF RAW BUILDING MATERIAL FOR CIVILIANS' USE AT CHITTAGONG.

**563. \*Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad Siddique:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state:

(a) if Government are aware that raw materials necessary for the construction of houses and their repairs from the forest area have been reserved for the military and that the civil people who absolutely depend on these materials for the construction of their huts and their repairs have now been absolutely stranded so much so that they are now unable to repair their huts; and

(b) whether Government be pleased to issue necessary instructions to the civil and military authorities at Chittagong to release at least some percentage of the raw materials to the civil people to enable them to repair their huts and dwelling houses?

**The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar:** (a) It is not correct that all timber necessary for the construction of houses and their repair is taken by Government for military use. The total amount of timber which Government purchase for military use and essential civil purposes is limited by railway movement to about one million tons per annum for the whole of India and the total production of timber in India is at least double this figure.

(b) It is possible that in the Chittagong area the percentage of total timber production taken over for military use is higher than in other parts of India. Government have no precise information on the point.

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

#### MAXIMUM WAR ALLOWANCE FOR POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS SUBORDINATE STAFF.

**69. Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Is the Secretary for Posts and Air aware of the fact that the married gazetted officers are given a war allowance, subject to a minimum of Rs. 50 per month, at the rate of 10 per cent. of their pay not exceeding Rs. 1,000 with effect from 1st July 1944? What is the minimum war allowance in the case of runners, postmen, second grade clerks and the Posts and Telegraph subordinate staff?

(b) Is it a fact that the gazetted officers drawing Rs. 300 per month are in receipt of concessional supply of food stuffs from the Government like the non-gazetted officials?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, subordinate staff have been granted dearness allowance at rates varying from Rs. 9 to Rs. 18 according to the pay drawn and the areas in which they are serving, or war allowance at 10 per cent. of the pay drawn, whichever is greater. Officials of the P. and T. Department drawing pay up to Rs. 39 are also in receipt of a Good Conduct pay of Rs. 2 per mensem. Personnel enrolled in the P. and T. Defence of India Units in Bengal and Assam draw dearness allowance at the rates current when the militarisation scheme was introduced. These range from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10, according to pay and area. In addition, such personnel receive free rations or a ration allowance.

(b) Yes; but only in Bengal, Delhi and Simla.

#### REDUCTION IN PAY OF CERTAIN CLERKS OF MYMENSINGH HEAD OFFICE.

**70. Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether it is a fact that the 2nd grade clerks of the Mymensingh Head Office, recruited from previously approved candidates for the old upper division clerical cadre, have been subjected to a permanent reduction of pay by Rs. 9 per month with effect from 1st April 1935, and no protection from loss of pay under F.R. 23 was extended to them?

(b) Is it a fact that the late Major J. B. Kindersley, I.C.S., Commissioner, Dacca Division and Mr. J. H. E. Cook, late Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam Circle, submitted a report to the effect that the cost of living in Mymensingh is equal to that of Dacca and in some respects, specially house-rent, exceeds that of Dacca?

(c) Is it a fact that on the basis of the above report, in order to equalise the scales of pay granted to Dacca employees, i.e., 'B' group scale of pay, Mymensingh has been re-classified as 'B' group from 'C' with effect from 1st October, 1939, and the ten second grade clerks have sustained a reduction of pay by one

rupee per month for the second time on a permanent basis while the benefit of Rs. 5, being the difference of the minimum pay of B and C groups, is granted to other 2nd grade clerks working in Head Office and also in the office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Mymensingh Division?

(d) Do the Government intend to grant these ten 2nd grade clerks, the increment of pay or allowance by Rs. 5 per month on cancelling the orders of reduction of pay?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) to (d). The information asked for is given in the reply to starred question No. 736 by Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi on the 3rd April, 1944.

#### CLERICAL SCALES OF PAY IN MYMENSINGH HEAD OFFICE.

**71. Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Is the Secretary for Posts and Air is aware that there are 3 clerical scales of pay in the same office, i.e., (i) Rs. 40—5—140, (ii) Rs. 40—4—80 and (iii) Rs. 35—35—3—80, with interchangeable duties between each other?

(b) Is it a fact that the 2nd grade clerks holding the scale of pay of Rs. 35—35—3—80, having higher academic qualifications, are doing more responsible work than other clerks on the higher scales of pay?

(c) Is it a fact that the 2nd grade clerks having 11 years substantive service to their credit are drawing Rs. 61 per month, while the 1st grade clerks and lower division clerks with the same length of service are drawing Rs. 80 and Rs. 110 per month, respectively?

(d) Is it a fact that dearness allowance is granted to the 1st grade and 2nd grade clerks on same percentage basis of their pay?

(e) Do the Government propose to introduce the old rates of pay under the point-to-point system?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) Yes.

(b) This is a possibility in particular cases.

(c) The facts are approximately as stated.

(d) No.

(e) No.

#### HOUSE RENT AND COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCES FOR POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS STAFF IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF BENGAL.

**72. Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Is the Secretary for Posts and Air aware that extreme difficulties are experienced by the staff in Mymensingh, Dacca, Tippera, Chittagong and in other districts, due to the paucity of suitable rented houses and high increase in cost of living?

(b) Do the Government propose to grant suitable house rent and compensatory allowances to the staff of these places as is granted to the Calcutta and Bombay staff?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) Difficulties of the kind indicated exist in varying degrees at different places all over India. Inconveniences of this nature caused by war conditions are unavoidable. Government do not consider that in the localities mentioned by the Honourable Member the difficulties are extreme.

(b) No. All classes of staff do not get compensatory and house rent allowances in Calcutta and Bombay. In some of the localities referred to by the Honourable Member, such allowances are already drawn by certain classes of staff.

#### REPORT OF MEETING OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS WORKERS AT MYMENSINGH AND TANGAIL.

**73. Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Has the Secretary for Posts and Air received the reports of the meeting of Posts and Telegraphs workers at Mymensingh and Tangail presided over by Mr. S. C. Chakraborty, officiating Superintendent of Post Offices, Mymensingh Division and Mr. Charu Chandra Roy, M.L.A., Bengal, on 8th October, 1944, as published in the *Hindustan Standard*, dated 17th October, 1944, and 24th October, 1944, respectively?

(b) Has the Government received copies of resolutions passed in those two meetings? If so, what action has been taken on them?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. None; because no action is ordinarily taken upon communications received by Government direct from Branch Departmental Unions.

#### INADEQUACY OF A. R. P. ALLOWANCE TO INFERIOR SERVANTS.

**74. Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether it is a fact that inferior servants are getting Rs. 4 per month as fire-fighters, whereas 2nd grade clerks (below Rs. 65) and 1st grade clerks are getting Rs. 6 and Rs. 12 per month, respectively?

(b) Is it not a fact that equal amount of risk and labour are involved in A.R.P. duties in combating fire?

(c) Do the Government propose to grant Rs. 12 per month as A.R.P. allowance to all inferior servants and 2nd grade clerks, irrespective of their pay?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards clerks drawing pay between Rs. 35 and Rs. 200, the amount varies from Rs. 6 to Rs. 12, according to pay which they draw.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROMOTION TO THE GRADE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF POST OFFICES.

**75. Sardar Sant Singh:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) if it is correct that in June, 1944, the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi, asked all the P.M.Gs. in India to send their recommendations for promotion to the grade of the Superintendent of Post Offices from among the Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to the Superintendents of Post Offices;

(b) is it a fact that no nomination was sent by the Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Province Circle, in spite of reminders from the Director-General's office; and

(c) if it is a fact that a candidate must not be over fifty years of age and must have five years' service as Inspector or Head Clerk before he can be nominated for appointment as Superintendent?

**Mr. W. H. Shoobert:** (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) To be eligible for nomination an official must have five years' service in the grade of Inspectors of Post Offices (including Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices) or Inspectors, Railway Mail Service. The maximum age-limit is 45 years and may be waived at the discretion of the Head of the Circle.

#### PERFORMANCES BY SINGING GIRLS IN RAILWAY COLONY.

**76. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether it is a fact that performances by singing girls commonly known as prostitutes are prohibited within the Railway Colony of Indian Railways; if not, what the correct fact is?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** Government have issued no orders either prohibiting or allowing the performances referred to. Executive officers may be expected to exercise a check on the holding of entertainment of an undesirable nature if the matter is brought to their notice.

#### PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS' CONTROL OVER CERTAIN WORKING OF THE FEDERAL RAILWAYS.

**77. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state whether the Provincial Governments have control over the transportation and commercial aspects of the working of the Federal Railways and give orders for their working; if so, what the provision of the Government of India Act, 1935 or any law of the country is?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

**OPTION RE SCALE OF PAY FOR TICKET CHECKING STAFF ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

**78. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please refer to Railway Board's letter No. 822-E.G., dated the 22nd December, 1932, to the Agent, East Indian Railway, regarding Ticket Checking Staff, viz.:

"2. I am further to state that the Railway Board have decided that an employee who held a permanent post in a substantive capacity as a Travelling Ticket Inspector prior to the introduction of the Crew System and who on the introduction of the Moody-Word Scheme is assigned duties the same or approximately the same as he discharged prior to the introduction of the Crew System should be allowed the option with effect from the introduction of the Moody-Word Scheme, of retaining the scales of pay—Travelling Ticket Inspectors Rs. 60-4-64-8-120-10-200-20-300 and Ticket Collectors Rs. 40-4-60-5-120-10-160-20-180-10-230-20-250-10-300 on East Indian Railway; Rs. 28-2-50-55-3-70-78-3-90-100-5-120-200-10-250 on Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, applicable to the permanent post held by him in a substantive capacity prior to the introduction of Moody-Word Scheme with the benefits of increments therein." and state:

(a) if it is a fact that the option exercised under the aforesaid letter in 1933 was final and was not subject to revision in 1944; if not, what the correct fact is; and

(b) how the scales of pay of Travelling Ticket Inspectors and Ticket Collectors were divided into grades prior to the introduction of the Crew System in the Establishment Rolls of 1925 of the East Indian and Oudh and Rohilkhand Railways, respectively?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi's starred question No. 832 asked in the Legislative Assembly on the 26th February, 1936.

**PROCEDURE RE PROMOTION OF ENGINEERING STAFF ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

**79. Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state the policy and procedure prescribed by the North Western Railway for the promotion and selection for promotion of the Engineering Staff from grade to grade?

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall:** The rules governing the promotion and selection of subordinate staff on railways are contained in Appendix II-A of State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

**SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**EXTENSION OF FRANCHISE TO ADULT MEMBERS IN JOINT FAMILIES.**

**Nawab Siddique Ali Khan:** Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased 12 Noon. to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Legislative Assembly electoral rules, heads of joint families alone are qualified to be voters regardless of the amount of the annual rental value of the building occupied by the minimum amount specified, and also of the amount of tax paid;

(b) whether in a great number of cases this rule disenfranchises a great number of people who can be qualified as voters if the families were divided; and

(c) if the Honourable Member will take steps to amend the rules in such a manner as to qualify adult members of such families in proportion to the amount of rental value of their building or the tax paid split up into the minimum requirements under the rules, in cases where the adult members of a joint family request in writing that such number of members of their family within the quota be enrolled as voters?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** (a) Franchise qualifications are separately prescribed for the various Provinces in the various Parts of Schedule II to the Electoral Rules. In most but not in all Provinces the relevant rule, ignoring minor provincial variations, provides that where any property is held or occupied or payment is made jointly by the members of a joint family the family shall be adopted as the unit for deciding whether the requisite qualification exists and if it does exist the manager of the family only shall be qualified as an elector in respect of such property or payment.

(b) I am unable to estimate the number of additional persons who would be qualified if the rule took a different form.

(c) The rule in force in the majority of Provinces is based on a recommendation of the Franchise Committee of 1918-19 and has been embodied in the Electoral Rules since they were first made in 1920. On none of the occasions when the rules have been revised has any suggestion been made that the position prevailing in the majority of Provinces in this respect should be disturbed and I would add that any alteration of that position in respect of the Central Legislature would have repercussions on the provision made for the Provinces in the Sixth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935. In the circumstances, I am not prepared to re-open the matter.

**Mr. Hoeseinhoy A. Lalljee:** Is the Honourable Member aware that so far as the Bombay Municipal Corporation is concerned they acknowledge the several holders of large property as separate members of the family for the purpose of voting and they give consideration accordingly?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** I am aware of it.

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** The Honourable Member said that no complaints were received up to now. Now that the matter has been brought to the notice of the Honourable Member, will he get the rules revised? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** No. I have given you the reasons in my answer. I said:

"The rule in force in the majority of Provinces is based on a recommendation of the Franchise Committee of 1918-19 and has been embodied in the Electoral Rules since they were first made in 1920."

I also indicated to you that:

"any alteration of that position in respect of the Central Legislature would have repercussions on the provision made for the Provinces in the Sixth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935."

**Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** What are the repercussions?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** My Honourable friend should refer to the rules in regard to the Provincial Legislatures which he will find in the Sixth Schedule to the Government of India Act.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Is the Honourable Member prepared to ask the Provincial Governments to consider this question and then take up the matter in the Central Government?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** As at present advised, I am not prepared to do it.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** What is the reason?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** I am not satisfied that any reasons exist for my addressing the Provincial Governments.

#### HINDU CODE PUBLISHED BY THE HINDU LAW COMMITTEE.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the copies of Hindu Code published by the Hindu Law Committee have not been made available to many persons and associations who wanted such copies and whether the Honourable Member has received complaints to this effect;

(b) that the Hindu Code has not been translated in the vernacular languages of the provinces and thus people not knowing English have not got the oppor-



tunity of understanding the contents thereof; what steps Government intend to take for its translation in the different vernacular languages;

(c) that the Hindu Law Committee has fixed 30th November 1944, as the last date by which written representations on the Hindu Code and the names of persons desiring to give oral evidence before the Committee, must reach its Secretary at Madras;

(d) whether various representations have been received by the Honourable Law Member to extend the date for submission of representations to the Hindu Law Committee; what steps the Honourable Member has taken or intends to take in the matter; and

(e) if there is any substance in the report published in the *Amrit Bazar Patrika* that the Government intends to drop the proposed Hindu Code Bill altogether?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** (a) I have received some complaints to this effect. The Committee has however now arranged to make copies available in Delhi and at the headquarters of each Provincial Government. I may add that arrangements are being made independently to furnish copies to members of the Central Legislature.

(b) The Committee has asked the various Provincial Governments to arrange for the preparation of translations of the Code in the principal language of the Province and I understand that the Governments of Bengal, the United Provinces and Orissa have already arranged for translations in Bengali, Hindi and Oriya respectively.

(c) and (d). I did receive certain representations on this subject. The matter is one for the Committee to deal with and the Committee will, I have no doubt, be prepared to accord sympathetic consideration to any application of this nature.

(e) No. The Hindu Code is a draft Bill prepared by the Committee. It has not yet been introduced as a Government Bill and no question of its being "dropped" by Government arises.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** With reference to part (a) the Honourable Member said that copies of the Code will be supplied to Members of the Central Legislature. It is now the 17th November and they have not been given yet, what to say of the general public. The last day for sending representations is the 30th November. You can easily understand the shortness of time.

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** As regards Members of the Legislature, I have every hope that Honourable Members will have their copies before they disperse at the end of the present Session. With regard to the time for making representations, I have already indicated that the matter is one for the Committee to deal with. If my Honourable friend wants the time extended, he should write or wire to the Secretary of the Committee.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** What about the general public, who are more interested in this subject than many Members of the Central Legislature?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** I think my Honourable friends will look after the interests of the general public also.

**Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan:** Sir, may I ask the Government when they intend to ask this House to consider the draft Hindu Code and whether they intend to bring it forward during the next Session of the Assembly?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** I am afraid I cannot make any statement on the subject until I have received the report of the Hindu Law Committee.

**Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** May I know if the Honourable Member will send a copy of today's discussion to the Committee, so that they may extend the time?

**The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy:** Yes, Sir.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** Why is the Committee situated in Madras, so far away? (*Voices of "Why not?"*)

## ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 Noon on Tuesday, the 14th November, 1944, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Central Advisory Board of Education in India, four nominations were received. Subsequently two candidates withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies I declare the following Members to be duly elected: (1) Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, (2) Mr. Sri Prakasa.

## ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE INDIAN COCONUT COMMITTEE

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have also to inform the Assembly that the following elected Members have been elected to serve as Members to the Indian Coconut Committee: (1) Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde, (2) Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait.

## RESOLUTION RE FIFTEEN-YEAR PLAN PREPARED BY CAPITALISTS OF INDIA—*contd.*

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume discussion of the Resolution moved by Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.

**Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya** (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

“That in the amendment moved by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar for the words sought to be substituted after the words ‘Governor General in Council’, the following be substituted:

“That in view of the fact that there are several plans for the post-war economical and industrial development of India, viz., the Bombay Plan, the Peoples’ Plan, the Agarwal’s Plan, Visweswaria’s Plan and Government Plan before the country, a Joint Committee of the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of State be appointed consisting of twenty-three members of which six members shall be official including the Honourable Member for Planning and six members from the Council of State and eleven members of the Central Legislative Assembly who would be elected from amongst the non-official members of both the Houses with a view to consider the various plans for adopting the most suitable one for post-war development of India regarding agricultural, industrial, general economical and social progress of India and to report to this Assembly for consideration by the beginning of the Budget Session’.”

Sir, having gone through all the amendments moved here in regard to planning I thought it would be advisable for us to have a committee consisting of six members from Government side and 17 of the elected Members of this House and the other House. My Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari’s amendment says “that Government will examine these plans and formulate their conclusions at an early date regarding the future industrial development of this country”, and Mr. Chettiar’s amendment wants to have “a committee consisting of 15”. After considering these two, I amalgamated them into one and preferred to move this present amendment and I hope Government will accept it. Recently we have had several schemes of planned economy and we have before us the plan prepared by the capitalists of Bombay, also those of the Indian Federation of Labour and those by several economists of India. Government also have been making plans from various departments which I believe could not be considered on the floor of this House very easily. So this proposal of mine only facilitates the examination of all plans; and having scrutinised all the plans it will be easier for us to frame a comprehensive plan, discuss it on the floor of the House and ultimately accept the right one. We know that after the war there is sure to be a constitutional change in this Government, but what sort of constitution we shall have we do not know yet. There is a demand for a national Government. Of course a national Government on the present franchise would be no national Government.

**An Honourable Member:** Better at least than this Government.

**Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** That may be so, but it will not improve the condition of the masses. Planning must be based on an ideology of the future constitution of this country. Present franchise does not represent the people. No plan on present franchise would be useful. People must have voice in the future Government. Sir, man cannot be divided into the economic man, the social man, the political man and so on. He must be taken as a whole and consequently we must have a basis for all this planning. In our country planning means planning for the masses. We must make a plan which will make our life worth living. If we simply think of the economic condition of the country and do not think of the social structure and the political basis of the structure, we cannot really form a complete plan. The present plans that we have got before us are only partial; they all think of the economic structure of India after the war; but economic structure without the political constitution and without required changes in the social structure will not do. Therefore, without taking much time of the House and without entering into any controversy, I shall request Mr. Chettiar and Mr. Krishnamachari to accept my amendment and I hope Government also will accept it.

Sir, I move.

**Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim):** Amendment moved:

"That in the amendment moved by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar for the words sought to be substituted after the words 'Governor General in Council', the following be substituted:

"That in view of the fact that there are several plans for the post-war economical and industrial development of India, viz., the Bombay Plan, the Peoples' Plan, the Agarwal's Plan, Visweswaria's Plan and Government Plan before the country, a Joint Committee of the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of State be appointed consisting of twenty-three members of which six members shall be official including the Honourable Member for Planning and six members from the Council of State and eleven members of the Central Legislative Assembly who would be elected from amongst the non-official members of both the Houses with a view to consider the various plans for adopting the most suitable one for post-war development of India regarding agricultural, industrial, general economical and social progress of India and to report to this Assembly for consideration by the beginning of the Budget Session."

**Srimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan (Madura and Ramnad cum Tinnevely: Non-Muhammadan Rural):** Mr. President, I support the amendment moved by my Honourable friend from Coimbatore. The subject of planning is a very important one and has been engaging the attention of the Governments of different countries in the world since the conclusion of the last war. It has been growing in importance as unemployment and economic depression increased in many countries and as Russia's experiments in planning began to show remarkable results. But I am sorry to say, Sir, that the Indian Government has been quite indifferent and very slow in giving their attention to this matter. In fact they and their masters, the representatives of our alien Rulers in this country, some of whom are Members of this Honourable House, felt perturbed when the Indian people began to think and discuss seriously about this subject. Their anxiety was clearly evident when the plan known as the Bombay Plan was placed before the country. This is only natural as we all know that the Government of India is subject to dictation from Whitehall whose policy is to promote the trade and financial interests of Great Britain at the expense of the Indian people. Yet they felt the need for making some show of interest in this matter and they began to talk of products like tea and coffee and of roads to transport them. Finding that this was not sufficient, they have begun to make an attempt at planning. But I fear that they are hoping and endeavouring to do the planning by by-passing the question of a political settlement and of transfer of full power to the Indian people. There can be no doubt that their aim will only ostensibly be to improve the conditions of the people but really they will make every effort to improve the prospects of British monopoly capitalists at the expense of our own people and to strengthen the Imperialist hold over India. Any plan of this Government, considering the very nature of its constitution, is

bound to be directed not to the economic regeneration of the people but to political rejuvenation of dying British Imperialism. Therefore any talk of post-war planning by this Government does not mention the most important point and that is the need for popular co-operation, and it raises many fears among the people that planning by this Government may develop into a new and clever device to strengthen the old stranglehold and intensify exploitation of the people.

This Resolution refers only to the Bombay Plan but there are several other plans put forward for the industrial and economic development of India. Without going into the question of merits and demerits of these different plans, I may point out that none of these presents the national and popular view of planning as the National Planning Committee does, and I assure the House that I do not say this from any partiality that may be expected from a member of the Indian National Congress. The Bombay Plan—and I say it with due respect to the able and experienced authors of the plan—gives one the impression that planning is the job only of technical experts and captains of industry and that it implies an allocation of financial and human resources to develop industries without which India cannot take her rightful place among the modern nations of the world. The National Planning Committee, on the other hand, rightly considers economic planning as economic regeneration of the people as a whole, and that the people are to be the starting point of all planning which is to improve every aspect of the life of the people. It has laid down clearly the principles of planning, first pointing out that the essential pre-requisite of planning is complete freedom and independence of the country.

With regard to industries, the National Planning Committee give as much importance to the vital question of distribution as they do to the development of industries. Pandit Nehru, the Chairman, affirmed that the very nature of planning required some measure of State control. I may here read out, with your permission, Sir, the principles laid down by the Indian National Congress in their resolution on fundamental rights at Karachi:

“Clause 19.—Control by the State of key Industries and mineral resources.”

The National Planning Committee bearing this principle in mind expressed the view that there should be public ownership of key industries and public utilities and general control over others with which private enterprise was to continue.

With regard to agriculture, Pandit Nehru gave the following warning:

“No social or economic structure which does not provide work and security to the people can endure. In India we have thought too long in terms of upper groups and ignored the vast number of peasantry. This can no longer be done and the forgotten creature, the Indian peasant, who has borne so many grievous burdens for centuries, must find relief and advancement in our plan.”

This, Sir, enunciates, in my opinion, an excellent and humane principle which should govern planning.

I strongly believe that the basic principles of planning should rouse popular interest and enthusiasm, and I am afraid that the Bombay Plan has not succeeded in doing so. Plans cannot succeed without the support and full co-operation of millions of people. The American ambassador Davies, in his book ‘Mission to Moscow’ states that when he complimented Stalin on Russia’s great progress, the latter replied that Lenin’s plans and the people achieved it. In order to have the support and enthusiastic co-operation of the people of India, the main principles of planning in India must secure the full confidence of all sections and classes of people that the execution of the plans will really benefit them, every one of them. Therefore, it is essential, Sir, that any committee which undertakes the onerous task of planning should be fully representative of all interests in this country and inspire confidence among all sections of the people, particularly among those who are in an oppressed and backward condition such as the workers, peasants and women. The committee must pay sufficient attention to the question of wages, hours of work, conditions of work, and other such matters. The National Planning Committee reiterated the principles

[Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan.]

declared by the Congress in their resolution on fundamental rights to which I have already referred. The resolution stated:—

“Clause (3).—A living wage for industrial workers, limited hours of labour, healthy conditions of work, protection against the economic consequences of old age, sickness, and unemployment.

(4) Labour to be freed from serfdom or conditions bordering on serfdom.

\* \* \* \* \*

(5) Protection of women workers and specially adequate provisions for leave during maternity period.”

Here I might mention there was a certain amount of difference of opinion on the phrase ‘protection of women workers’. A great number of women did not approve of the word ‘protection’ under the impression that in a free India, conditions will be such that women will enjoy full and complete equality with men, in theory and in practice, and that there will be no need for any special legislation for their protection:

“(6) Prohibition against employment of children of school-going age in factories.

(7) Right of labour to form unions to protect their interests with suitable machinery for settlement of disputes by arbitration.”

As other Honourable Members will most probably speak about workers and peasants in general, I shall, for want of time refer only to women.

Building up a new and planned India is a stupendous task and women must make their due share of contribution to it. The Congress recognised this fact and in their resolution on fundamental rights to which I have already referred, they laid down clearly a clause to the effect that men and women must have equal rights of citizenship. Clause (5) states: “equal rights and obligations to all citizens, no civic bar on account of sex”. Mahatma Gandhi has repeatedly declared that the advancement of women is essential to the regeneration of India. The fund created to perpetuate the sacred memory of our Mata Kasturba is devoted entirely to the welfare of women, particularly those in backward and rural areas. The fact that this fund has tremendous support from the people shows that they agree with the views expressed by Mahatma Gandhi on women’s advancement.

The National Planning Committee appointed a special sub-committee of representative women to consider and report on the question of women’s role in the planned society—incidentally, I might mention that I had the privilege of serving on that sub-Committee. This sub-Committee was strongly of opinion that women should have equal opportunities for education, training and employment in every sphere of national life. Women should, as citizens, have the right to work and rest, insurance against illness, accidents and old age just as men should have, and they should be completely liberated from the haunting fear of want and its evil consequences. There is no profession, no trade, no occupation of any kind which women cannot undertake with success, given the requisite education, and training. This fact has been strikingly proved by women in other countries, particularly Russia and America. Here, I would like Sir, to read out what Mrs. Roosevelt, the wife of the President of United States of America, stated to the women in her message to a journal called *Ammunition*.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it a long quotation?

**Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan**: No, Sir, it is only a few lines. She says:

“I am glad of this opportunity to congratulate the women of the country for the way in which they have come forward and taken their places in industry, often undertaking jobs which seemed beyond their strength or past skills to perform.”

I am reading this out just to show that in a country like America, where the impression strongly prevailed that certain occupations were not fit for women or could not be fulfilled by women has been removed by the valuable work of women themselves during this war.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim, : The Honourable Member’s time is up.

**Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan**: This is a very important debate and I request I may be given two or three minutes more.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are other speakers who wish to take part in the debate. The Honourable Member will have one minute more to conclude her speech.

**Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan**: Thank you, Sir. I shall conclude with a few words. If men and women work together, the capacity of the people to build up a new and happy India will increase rapidly, but if women continue to be oppressed or neglected, half of our human resources will lie unused which will be a great loss to the country and which will certainly retard her progress and prosperity. Women's interests must receive adequate attention while planning is being considered and they must be placed before the proposed committee by those who understand them best, that is, the women themselves.

**Sir Henry Richardson** (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, in this House a fortnight ago, we discussed the most urgent of India's immediate problems—the problem of how to keep alive her four hundred million inhabitants. Today, although the Resolution is limited in terms to the fifteen-year plan, we are in effect met to discuss the greatest problem regarding India's future, namely, not merely how to keep the people alive but how to give them a better and fuller life. The question has a twofold aspect. First, we have to discover how better to utilise the resources of the country and secondly, we have to discover how to make the good life available to the poorest of the people of this land. It is but natural that all sections of this House should be at one in their endeavour to find a satisfactory solution to these questions, for after all, post-war planning is but the logical conclusion to our struggles in the present war. If there were no hope of a better world in the years to come the sacrifice and the hardship entailed by the present war would be without meaning and on the other hand without success in the war, post-war planning would be an empty phrase.

Although the problem is immense, it is after all only different in degree from problems which businessmen face in their every day life, and that being so, whilst we must not be daunted by its magnitude, we are under no illusions as to its complexity. A businessman, however, when faced by a complex problem does not seek the advice of a single expert. If he is wise, he is open and ready to receive suggestions and advice from all competent persons and it may well be that the final solution of his difficulty will be found in a composite plan employing all the best points from the various suggestions which he may have received and which he from his own personal knowledge of the problem concerned believes will be found best suited to the desired end. I do not see why there should be any real difference between the attitude of the business man in such a case and our attitude or that of Government in dealing with reconstruction.

Now, Sir, it would be easy enough for us to support Sir Zia Uddin's (whom I do not find in his place) Resolution merely on the grounds that the Bombay Plan falls far short of providing a wholly comprehensive scheme of post-war development for this country and its 400 million inhabitants. We might again support Sir Zia Uddin, because of the wide gaps that the Plan reveals as between one section and another. Indeed its own authors have admitted its deficiencies, and since its first publication a few months ago, there has been a general recognition that, valuable as it may be, the Bombay Plan is more a charter of worthy aspirations than a precise blue-print suitable for adoption as the master plan on which India's long-term economic future is to be built.

It is a matter of regret that the additions to the plan which were to deal with such things as its financial implications, and which were promised some months ago, have not yet made their appearance.

As I have said, Sir, we might support Sir Zia Uddin in his opposition to the Bombay Plan on the grounds of its vagueness or its deficiencies. But we do not propose to take that line, because we believe that in spite of its defects, there is much of value in the plan, and if I understood him aright when he spoke a fortnight ago the Honourable Member's opposition was based on reasons that were not entirely technical or scientific in character. And this brings me, Sir, to what I think must be the key to Government's attitude to the many

[Sir Henry Richardson.]

plans for the post-war development that have come before public notice since the Bombay planners set the fashion. Their plan was the first in the field and its great merit is that it has put reconstruction on the map. It has made people start thinking, it has drawn attention to the magnitude of the task and it has accelerated the tempo of Government's own consideration of future plans. It may indeed have contributed not a little to Government's recent wise action in setting up a reconstruction Department.

This does not mean however that the final solutions to our economic ills will be exclusively found along the lines of the Bombay plan and nowhere else. **There have already been other plans**, for example, we have had the Sargent plan for education, we have had the M. N. Roy plan and others, and there have been various Governmental plans dealing with particular aspects of reconstruction and we are anxiously waiting for more. Each of these plans is entitled to examination with the utmost care and in a spirit of impartiality and its best features utilised in building up a composite scheme, just as the business man does when he is faced with great industrial problems. For this reason, we are not prepared to say with Dr. Sir Zia Uddin that we advise Government not to entertain the Bombay or any other plan. Surely the wisest course is for Government to entertain them all and choose the best from each. And what is to be Government's method of choosing? An amendment has been tabled asking for an elected Committee of this House to be appointed for the purpose of considering the several plans of which we have heard. Now, Sir, there already exists a vast number of Committees to which Government have assigned an investigation into various aspects of post-war planning. The Government of India have set up a number of committees, or sub-committees to advise it and each of the Provincial Governments have done the same thing. *In toto* the number of committees studying various aspects of post-war development in various parts of India must amount to quite a substantial figure.

Is another one, a Committee of this House, such as is proposed in the amendment, really going to help matters along any further? I very much doubt it.

**Mr. Sami Vencatachelum Chetty** (Madras: Indian Commerce): Certainly!

**Sir Henry Richardson:** Over a very wide field the facts are already known, and I doubt very much whether at the present juncture the creation of another committee—this time from the House itself—is going in any way to simplify the task of the Honourable Member in charge of Planning and Development. The movers of the amendment ask that after examining the several plans for post-war economic development of India, agricultural and industrial, the Committee should report to this House. Now, Sir, I am all in favour of this subject of post-war development receiving the fullest possible publicity and consideration. But surely we have now reached a point at which future examination should be on a technical and expert level, . . .

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

**Sir Henry Richardson:** . . . which further examination of the problem by a committee of this House could not necessarily provide. I submit, Sir, that what we want is not the report of a committee of our own Members, so much as a report from Government of its immediate intentions in respect of this most important problem.

It goes without saying that if reconstruction is to proceed on the right lines, we must be clear about certain fundamental principles. The Bombay plan itself rests upon a double foundation. The first is the assumption that the *per capita* income should be double within a period of 15 years from the commencing date of the plan. Government will have to consider whether this target is too high or too low. It is obviously desirable to raise the national income as high as possible within the 15 year period but if the plan is to be practicable Government will have to form an estimate as to what the possible increase in income

may be. They will also have to consider the relationship between agricultural and industrial income, for these must march together.

Then again allowance has to be made for the rapid increase in population and the authors of the plan estimate that to double the *per capita* income within a given period the aggregate national income will have to be multiplied by three. The question arises as to how this is to be done and this brings us to the second fundamental assumption of the planners. They start by assuming that the right way of achieving this result is by increasing industrial income six fold and raising the total agricultural income of the country to nearly two and half times its present level. The reasons for the choice of these particular proportions are not explained in the plan but Government, and in due course this House, will have to consider what those proportions should be. This is not a question which could be decided here and now, for it depends on a careful and detailed examination of many economic factors and on the economic structure of India and of the post-war world. Government has no doubt begun to examine this aspect of the question and we presume that at the appropriate time their views will be placed before this House.

Another aspect of the plan which has considerable importance and interest, is its attempt to state in monetary terms the minimum standard of subsistence. To do this with the required accuracy will demand a great deal of detailed economic information—perhaps more than is at present available to the public. It does, however, seem clear that some such consideration must be the starting point of any plan.

Finally, although parts of the plan may be open to a great deal of criticism as to details and indeed have been criticised, for the reasons which I have stated, we are not prepared to go so far as Sir Zia Uddin suggests in his Resolution, which would appear to recommend that Government should not even consider the plan.

**Dr. P. N. Banerjee** (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): A negative attitude!

**Sir Henry Richardson:** It may be that Dr. Sir Zia Uddin himself with his great knowledge of the country and his mathematical and scientific background, will also before long produce a plan. It may perhaps be based on different principles, but with the same essential praiseworthy objective of the betterment of the country. When that time comes, we hope that Government will also take his plan into consideration and utilise any parts of it which may be found to be for the benefit of India as a whole. The immensity and importance of the problem, in our opinion, demands that Government should keep an open mind on all the essentials until such time as adequate factual materials on which to base a sound conclusion are available.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi** (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I am very grateful to my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad for having brought this subject for discussion before the Assembly. I feel that the Government of India have ignored the Legislature in thinking out, considering and framing a plan for post-war reconstruction. More than a year ago they appointed certain committees to consider schemes for post-war reconstruction. I feel that before initiating this subject the Government of India should have taken into consultation the Legislature and secured its guidance. I am not opposed to the appointment of what you may call expert committees or committees of outsiders. But I feel that the supremacy of this Legislature must be recognised by the Government of India. I do not understand the reluctance of the Government of India in doing this but I feel that the Legislature must insist for its own prestige that all these plans are placed before them and they have a full share in framing them and giving their approval.

Sir, I would like to make another remark regarding the method by which the Government of India is proceeding in this matter. They have appointed several



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committees of experts or people interested in various departments of reconstruction but, Sir, I feel that those sections of the population which need reconstruction more than any other sections of the population are not adequately represented on these committees. I hope, Sir, the Government of India will remove this deficiency from the method and the procedure which they have adopted to frame a scheme.

This subject of planning was placed before the world prominently by Russia. Since then other countries have begun to make plans for reconstruction and in India, as my Honourable lady colleague, Mrs. Subbarayan, has stated the Indian National Congress long before the authors of the Bombay Plan thought of their plan, had appointed a committee and, in my judgment, it did good work. Unfortunately that plan did not materialise or was not completed on account of circumstances which are known to us all. I do not know yet whether we can approve of the Bombay Plan or not. But we must recognise that it gave a fresh impetus to this procedure of framing a plan and I hope that the authors of the Bombay Plan will be able to complete the plan as they said they would complete it early, because I do not like to criticise the plan unless we know some of the other parts which the authors have promised to place before the public.

As regards the Government of India, they have begun now to consider this subject and they have issued certain pamphlets. In their pamphlet No. 2 the objective which the Government of India have stated as the basis for their plan is to raise the standard of life of the common citizens of this country. It is a laudable objective but I feel that this objective is more restricted than is necessary. The real and full objective of a plan should be to secure all-sided development of the citizens of this country and secure for them equal status and equal opportunities with all other sections of the population. Not only their standard of life must be raised but from childhood the children must receive full education and full opportunities not only for primary education but for secondary education, university education and for training which will enable them to follow suitable and gainful occupations. After that the Government have to plan to give them full employment, not only full employment but full and suitable employment consistent with their abilities and training.

Then, Sir, the Government of India have also, in order that their plan should be completed, to produce in this country physical environments which will enable citizens to live a healthy life. Not only that but the Government of India have to put into their plan all measures of social security, so that whenever citizens suffer from accidents or difficulties incidental to human life, there should be full protection for all citizens and their dependents.

I feel that the ultimate objective of all these schemes, should be to establish equal citizenship, freedom and self-government in this country. If all these plans are to be satisfactorily thought out and framed and carried out, the present structure of society may not be found to be suitable. My own personal views are that for perfect planning for all citizens in order to establish equality and full social security, you must change the present structure of the society. We cannot, in a structure of society, which is controlled by one section of the society namely the capitalists, create conditions under which the equality of the citizens will be established: neither will social security be secured for them. I therefore feel that the Government of India and those who are in charge of planning should not hesitate to look into the basis of the present society and if change of structure is necessary, they must have the boldness and courage to recommend the change in the structure. Personally I feel that the present structure in which people are enjoying uncontrolled rights of private property is not suitable for a good plan which will be useful for all citizens. The rights of private property may have to be strictly limited and, in some respects, will have to be abolished.

Similarly, I feel that all the economic activities that we are to carry on must be carried on as acts of social service and not as profit-giving activities. The

principle on which we shall have to carry on all our activities should not be competition which has caused waste and destruction in this world and when we are planning we should see that we give a go-by to the principle of competition and base all our activities social as well as economic on the principle of co-operation.

Similarly, the present structure under which the capitalists control the industries will have to be changed. The workers in the new society will not be content to lead the life of wage slaves. They will be ready to work enthusiastically and honestly if they have to work as equal partners in an industry controlled by a democratic state.

As regards the proposals which the Government of India have indicated in their second report regarding the conditions of life and work of workers, I feel those proposals are not bold enough. I feel that the proposals are made in a timid spirit. I would like the Government of India to adopt a little more boldness in framing their proposals for the working classes in this country. The conditions of life and work of the workers in this country are extremely bad; the hours of work are long, the wages are low; the housing is bad and in all ways the workers have suffered for many generations. I would like the Government of India now to take bold steps in all respects; and not only take bold steps but to take those steps promptly and early so that the workers in this country will soon be put on a position of equality not only with the other sections of the people in this country but with the people of the whole world. The Government of India in the matter of their proposals for reconstruction of the conditions of life and work of labour, as I have said, have not shown sufficient boldness. I do hope they will change this policy and I would suggest also that they should be more prompt. When I study the literature which the Government of India is producing and the statements which they are placing before the public, I find that the Labour Department is not only hesitating, not only timid, but not prompt. They are still in the stage of having a committee for finding out facts. I do not know when the facts will be found, and I do not know when the Labour Department will appoint a committee to consider the plan for future reconstruction; but I hope that the department and the Government as a whole will be prompt and will act boldly in this respect.

I have nothing more to say on this subject except that as regards the amendments I would support the amendment of Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya or even the amendment of Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, because I feel that the Legislature has to play a part and a full part in this matter and the supremacy of the Legislature has to be established.

**Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha** (North-West Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution of my Honourable friend, Dr. Sir Zia-Uddin Ahmad. I do so with a certain amount of hesitation, because the subject matter of the Resolution is not one in which I can claim either the knowledge or the experience of a number of other Members of this House. I have, however, studied the Bombay plan with the care it deserves, and I have listened attentively to the various speeches that have been delivered in the course of this debate. What I venture to place before you, therefore, are the views of a layman who has attempted to understand the economic theories and industrial schemes contained in that plan.

Whatever might be said against the Bombay planners I think we must give them credit for realising themselves and of making India conscious of the necessity of a plan. Hitherto we have been far too content with haphazard economic development, and it is good that we now propose to follow the path of other progressive and civilised countries, and seek to develop the economic resources of India on a thought-out and carefully arranged economic plan.

I would also have no hesitation in agreeing with the general objective of the Bombay planners, *viz.*, to raise the general standard of living of the masses of India; whether it be by another 100 per cent or 200 or 300 per cent. We can also appreciate their anxiety to industrialise India as early as possible and to make her self-sufficing to an increasing degree in the shortest period of time.

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The plan contains also a number of other admirable features relating to the provision of better education, health-services, better housing and other amenities for the people of this country.

Having said this, I think I have exhausted all that can be said in favour of the Bombay Plan. An objective study of the plan reveals that it is fundamentally impracticable for it takes no account of the harsh political and economic realities of India. The underlying political assumption of the whole scheme is the establishment of a single national Government in India, in control of the policy and the economic resources of the country. This assumption can never be fulfilled. The Muslim nation of 100 million souls will not stand for it. They have chosen Pakistan as their goal, in which they claim and mean to be the masters of their political, economical and industrial future. Nor do I see any signs of the numerous and powerful Indian States, falling in line with the political schemes of the Bombay planners. I do not think that the basic political assumption of the Bombay planners could hold good even in the case of British India. Our war-time experience has been that the Provincial Governments have been most restive under the industrial and economic control that the Government of India has sought to impose, and I have no doubt whatsoever that after the war the provinces will insist on autonomy in the economic field to such a degree that Central control of the type envisaged by the Bombay planners will be practically impossible.

To my mind the second great defect in the Bombay plan is its exaggerated emphasis on the rapid industrialization of India. That we have to develop our industries I do not deny; but I do not think we should ever lose sight of the fact that agriculture is and must remain the most important industry in this country. More than 70 per cent of our population gets its living from agriculture and we know from the experience of Soviet Russia that, however much industries may be developed, the bulk of the population of a country like India will continue to depend for its living on the land. I therefore feel that the Bombay planners have not devoted to the development of agriculture and the improvement of the lot of the agriculturist as much attention as they deserved. Thus, while they propose to spend as much as 4,480 crores of rupees on the development of industries during the 15 years of their plan, agriculture which is vastly more important is to receive a total expenditure of 1,240 crores of rupees only. It is, however, interesting to note that notwithstanding this altogether disproportionate expenditure on the development of industries, the net income of India from agriculture after a period of fifteen years will still be higher than the corresponding income from India's industries. The figures as given in paragraph 39 of the Bombay Plan are an income of 2,670 crores of rupees in the case of agriculture, and 2,240 crores of rupees from industries.

Sir, I cannot help feeling that this emphasis on industrial development which serves only the interests of a small portion of India's population, at the expense of agricultural development, which is for the benefit of the vast proportion of our population is deliberate. The Bombay plan is the product of capitalists whose principal anxiety is to preserve the war-time economic conditions, under which they have made huge fortunes. During the last 5 years of war with the attendant industrial and commercial activity the millionaires have made many more millions but crores of people have only suffered starvation. The poor man's rupee has been reduced in value to annas four and his anna has been reduced in value to one pice only; the difference has gone to the pocket of the millionaires. The boom, created by the war, has enriched the capitalists of Bombay and Calcutta at the expense of the poor who have become poorer. This boom has been such a boon to the millionaires that they want its continuance even after the war is over. They want to create an artificial boom for another 15 years by spending 10 thousand crores of other people's money. By the end of this period of 15 years, they will have perfected a good many

tricks to continue indefinitely their schemes of exploitation of the poor. This, I submit, is the real motive behind the Bombay Plan. War or no war, the capitalists must have their profits, and if in consequence the country goes to the dogs, it is none of their concern.

I fully realise that India must develop her basic heavy industries but I do not agree that it should be done at any price. There is a limit to which the general consumer is prepared to sacrifice his interest for the sake of the few industrial magnates of India. Public memory is still fresh as to how the Tata scheme for the manufacture of steel was boosted in India. The taxpayers and users of steel in this country were bled white for more than a generation before the Tata scheme became a success. But what was the result? 40 crores of Indians had to pay 56 rupees per ton more for their steel. For the poor consumers this contribution was a big sacrifice. For the Tatas, the aggregate of these contributions meant a big fortune. All the crores of rupees of profit which Tatas made every year were made at the expense of the poor men.

I fear, Sir, that this story is now going to be repeated on a grand scale. The poor masses of India will have to make more sacrifices. They will have to further tighten the already over-tight belt with the laudable object of throwing crores of rupees into the pockets of a few millionaires.

Sir Ardeshir Dalal has come to the Government of India with the Tata tradition behind him. The house of Tatas is well known for their antipathy to Muslim interests. They have always avoided in a careful and studied manner the appointment of Muslims either on the technical side or on the administrative side or on the sales side of their huge organisation. Crores and crores worth of Tata steel is sold all over India every year but even the appointment of Muslim dealers is discouraged. All that I have said about Tatas equally applies to the other huge industrial concerns of the Birlas, the Dalmias, the Sri Rams and the Walchands of India, for they too are noted for their deliberate exclusion of Mussalmans from their organisations and business.

The Honourable Member for Planning and Development has been true to his tradition. He had to confess to us only the other day that there was a solitary Mussalman in the whole of his new and most important department. Sir Ardeshir Dalal has given us an outline of his scheme of development. Panels will be set up for different industries. There will be the Birla Panel, the Walchand Hirachand Panel, the Purshottamdas Thakurdas Panel, the Kasturbhoy Lalbhai Panel and of course the Tata Panel and so on and so forth. The taxpayers' money will be spent for the benefit of all these influential groups. No Muslim will ever get a look in. Sir Ardeshir Dalal may condescend to appoint a few Muslim office boys as a sop. A few men will be purchased at a cheap price to beat their drum. New Non-Muslim industries will be set up and existing Non-Muslim industries will be further developed. They will be assisted by control measures and the extraordinary powers of Government. The Muslim taxpayer, citizen, cultivator, artisan and consumer will have to make their contributions in full measure for the success of this grand scheme and will thereby be forging new chains for their own enslavement.

I repeat, Sir, that the Muslims of India will have none of this. They want an economic plan but it must be a plan whose sole object is the welfare of the masses and the increase not merely of their nominal income but of their effective purchasing power. This can be achieved by an intensive programme for the development of agriculture combined with small and large scale industries, producing for the needs of the agriculturists. Industrial development there must be but care should be taken to see that all communities and within each community all groups of people secure benefits which are commensurate with the sacrifices that as consumers and taxpayers they will have to incur to enable India to compete with the highly industrialised nations of the West. And lastly whatever plan we might wish to devise for the economic development of

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India, it must fully take into account the political realities, both present and future for the solution of the fundamental political problem of this country, viz., its partition into a number of self-contained and autonomous States. Then our economic problem must fully take this fact into account. We must not also forget that the Indian States as well as the provinces of British India will be more or less autonomous after the war, and will not agree to the execution of economic plans which would involve complete control from the Central Government.

**Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari** (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, I am afraid the discussion on the motion before the House has been vitiated by the tone given to it by the wording of the original Resolution. In fact, asking the Government not to consider a particular plan is a negative Resolution and it is only because of the wording of the original Resolution that I moved an amendment to give a positive turn which to some appears innocuous, and perhaps meaningless, in the eyes of some others.

Mr. President, I think it is extremely unfortunate that we should be asked to discuss such an important question as the economic and industrial regeneration of this country on a Resolution so negative in its outlook and with so many issues cropping up, not quite germane to this all-important problem which is dear to the hearts of many of us. I do not stand here as an apologist of any particular class. I am not particularly enamoured of the Bombay Plan. I have not been asked to defend it. However as my Honourable friend Sir Henry Richardson mentioned, we do owe a deep debt of gratitude to those people who brought out that plan, for having focussed the attention of all people in this country to the need for economic and industrial planning. Not merely that. It has aroused the interest of the world to the need for proper economic and industrial planning in India.

**Mr. Manu Subedar** (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): That was done by the National Planning Committee.

**Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari**: My Honourable friend wants me here to amend what I have said by drawing attention to the National Planning Committee's work. I am not one of those who decry the Congress. I am a believer in that organisation being able to help us on to the freedom which we all want but I am not prepared to do any slogan-mongering here and say, that these reports of the National Planning Committee are by themselves a law and that a plan which was devised in 1938 and 1939 will be suitable for application in 1945 and 1946. I do not want to refer to that great undertaking of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru here for the reason that the outlook of the National Planning Committee in 1938 and 1939 was something which today is totally out of date. If my Honourable friend wants me to refer to it, it is perhaps throwing me off my stride I will say this. The National Planning Committee had envisaged that a total quantity of 50 thousand tons of sulphate of ammonia over and above the production already existing in this country, which was then in the region of about 20 thousand tons, will meet the agricultural requirements of this country. And today I do not think anyone of my Honourable friends on my right will support the idea that the target of 350,000 tons of sulphate ammonia envisaged in the Gregory Committee Report will be the target which will satisfy us now or five years hence. I have nothing to say to the detriment of that wonderful work of those patriots, but I do say that so far as the planning is concerned today, we look at it from a different viewpoint altogether. On some of the basic points agreement might continue to exist, but the tempo, the method of working it, and the manner in which we want the changes to be made are completely changed today and that is why I am not making any reference to the National Planning Committee's work.

If my Honourable friend, the Mover of this Resolution, had intended that by means of this Resolution he was going to condemn the appointment of Sir Ardeshir Dalal as Member in charge of Planning and Development for reasons

of his own, I have nothing to say about it. The personalities that constitute this Government apart, I am not one of those who approves of the actions of this Government in any respect. Much as I esteem the capacity, the integrity and the desire to do this country all the good they can of some of the individuals that are in this Government, the fact that they form part of a Government, the constitution of which I do not approve, reinforces me in my desire to see this Government removed as early as possible. If the object was merely to condemn the appointment of Sir Ardeshir Dalal on the part of the Honourable Members on my right, I do not want to interfere. But if, on the other hand, the object was to condemn the Government for not having taken any definite and useful steps, the Resolution does not help us. We may ask the Government not to consider the Bombay plan but it does not mean that we condemn the Government for all they have not done. Anyway, since the Honourable Member in charge of Planning and Development has not provided us with an opportunity to discuss this question of planning and reconstruction, we might take this opportunity of telling the Government exactly why we disapprove of what they have been doing.

The first report of the Planning Department, which was issued in March 1944, starts with a very attractive preamble: the Atlantic Charter; the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture; the U. N. R. R. A., and other methods of International co-operation and leads us on to the machinery set up by the Centre to deal with the problems of reconstruction which, it says, was done as early as June 1941. Sir, my complaint has been all along that we were not told in this House what the Government was doing from June 1941. A few points on which we have elicited information has been by means of questions in which we asked the Government,—would you tell us what you have done with regard to this Committee? Why are you appointing Development officers? What will they do? Might I have a copy of the report of this particular Committee or the proceedings of that particular Committee? We were begging, if I may say so, to be told what the Government has been doing all along. On that score alone, we have a very good case against the Government.

Having constituted this Department or rather the skeleton of this Department in June 1941, we were told in the first report practically nothing. And the second report that has been given to us through the courtesy of the Honourable Member for Planning does not leave us particularly wiser either. The Press has criticised this report rather violently. It has said that it is a collection of claptraps and the methods of dealing with important problems in this country are of a kindergarten variety. But I can say that one or two aspects of the report are particularly objectionable. Some of the fundamental assumptions of this report are far more faulty than the fundamental assumptions of the Bombay plan for instance, the assumption that any constitutional or political changes which may be introduced will not result in a radical departure from the present economic and financial arrangements. I thought that my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi would refer to this particular basic assumption in his speech. What does it exactly mean? Are we to stick to the present method of taxation? Are we to allow the present commercial safeguards to continue to exist? And on the top of it all is the assumption that a thousand crores will be made available from the Central Government, which is the financial backing from the Central Government that the plan envisages.

There is another important point which has been treated very cursorily, namely, the post-war employment. The problem of post-war employment is being seriously considered in U. K. and there various economists have suggested some radical changes in the method of budgeting. Apparently, this second report was compiled perhaps by a few clerks; perhaps checked by an Under Secretary, and this is all that has been vouchsafed to us. We can very well object to the Government by-passing this House, by setting up several committees and not telling the Legislature what those committees are doing and not

[Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari.]

providing any representation for the Legislature on those committees. The Government have selected the members of those committees probably because they were considered to be good people from the viewpoint of the Government. But nowhere is the political prejudices of the present Government better reflected than in the constitution of the Provincial Reconstruction Committees. In the Provincial Reconstruction Committee constituted in Madras there is hardly anybody therein who holds political opinion which is not popular with the Government of the day. Such being the case, I think it would be quite right and proper for us in this House to take advantage of the Resolution of Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, which, from the way in which Members of his Party are speaking, they will probably drop in its original form and, ask the Government to tell us exactly what they are going to do in order to take the House into their confidence. If my amendment is imperfect, I would say this in explanation: that it was really intended to force the hands of the Government to declare their policy and to tell us what they are going to do. But, Sir, while I am in entire sympathy with anybody who condemns the action of the Government from June 1941 up to date in completely ignoring the Legislature, I am not quite sure that the amendment of my friend Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar is going to solve the problem. It presupposes the setting up of a Committee of this House for the purpose of considering the various plans. I am not one of those who believe that this House should not be given the importance that is its due. I am not against the use of the democratic method in such matters. In fact, I am for it. But democratic method does not mean that a body of elected representatives can sit by themselves and make a master plan on such an important subject which will require much expert knowledge and it is open to question whether they would be in a position to do it or will have the time to do it. If the Resolution is passed as it is worded at present, I see no bar to the Government allowing this Committee to do its own functions, providing them with the necessary *batta* and travelling allowances and daily allowances but not providing them with any secretariat and allowing them to carry on in their own sweet way the work they wish to start. Sir, co-ordination is the preliminary thing that is necessary. We cannot, much as we dislike this Government, do without a Government or a secretariat. If this Government goes, and a National Government is set up in spite of the wishes of my Honourable friend Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazli-i-Haq Piracha, it will have to possess a secretariat to do its work. Sir, what then is the object in our just saying that we will do all the work ourselves?

Then we have to take note of a very important declaration made by the Honourable Member for Planning and Development the other day, in answer to a question put by my Honourable friend to my left, Mr. Neogy, when he asked if the Government was aware that foreign interests were planning to set up industries in this country and the Honourable Member said "I have seen newspaper reports, but I have no information". Sir, what really happens today is this. If Indian industrialists want to set up industries, whether or not it is Government owned or Government controlled,—whatever be the nature of it,—the capital issue is controlled, the import of machinery is controlled, shipping space is controlled, the supply of coal and power is controlled, the supply of wagons is controlled, whereas in so far as the foreigners are concerned, I do not think any control comes into existence until they actually set foot in this country. Here is the curious position of an Honourable Member of Government—not knowing of what is happening, who is dependent merely on the very newspaper reports on which my Honourable friend to my left and I are forced to depend. Sir, the point really is this. I think the House has to compel the Government to recognise this House by the formation of a Committee of the House with which the Government will work, to which the Government will bring all its plans, and to recognise that the final say shall be ours. But if a committee is to sit down and plan apart from the Government of the day the

plan will not be any better than the report issued by the National Planning Committee, assisted by some Provincial Governments which merely gives a bare skeleton of a plan: the appointment of a general policy Committee, the appointment of Sub-Committees—the proceedings of the Committee or the reports of these Sub-Committees do not make us any wiser. I submit, Sir, that a non-official body without Government help is futile. Therefore, Sir, I feel that if I subscribe my support to the amendment of my Honourable friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, I shall be accepting an amendment which if the Government so wish will, in practice, prove infructuous and if the Congress Party are prepared to take the responsibility for it, I shall have nothing more to say about it.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Three of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** Sir, it was in this very House about seven years ago that Sir James Grigg speaking for this Government pooh-pooched the idea of the Russian development by the two five year plans, and decried the idea of a plan of any kind whatsoever. It was at that time, Sir, that the members of the European Group applauded and cheered, like the chorus in a Greek drama, whatever fell from the Treasury Bench. Sir, this Government has worked without a plan; in 150 years' rule there are still 500,000 villages in this country which have got neither a school nor a dispensary; and in spite of all this it is a pleasant thing to see that they are also making some progress towards a planning programme. It is pleasant to see that they have appointed one of the ablest and one of the most sincere businessmen whom they could pick up from Bombay for this purpose. But, Sir, here also let me express the difficulty and the diffidence which we feel. There was a time, in the days of Sir Ali Imam and Sir Sankaran Nair, when a single man in the Viceroy's Executive Council was able to plead the cause of non-official-India. But nowadays what we hear is that between the two parts of the nutcracker, namely, an English Secretary and an English Viceroy, all the nuts get properly cracked, except those nuts like Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Sir Homi Mody and Mr. N. R. Sirkar, who ran away.

Sir, it is not, as Mr. Krishnamachari said, that we object to the appointment of Sir Ardeshir Dalal. I say without hesitation that if there was a board which was going to make a selection for this very purpose, and I was a member of it, I would not have the slightest hesitation to have Sir Ardeshir Dalal appointed for this place. But I want to know whether he will plead our cause in the Executive Council or whether he will use his office in this House to explain and justify and support the policies which may have emanated from elsewhere. Sir, I have read the Bombay Plan and I have also read the Honourable Member's report which we have got. These are topics so large and so extensive that it is not possible in the course of a few minutes to deal with them. There is one point in common between both these plans. The Bombay plan could have been made ten years ago or ten years hence, in the sense that it takes no account whatsoever of the great event, *viz.*, the war, that is going on. There is no mention of it; it does not contemplate or recognise the numerous and far-reaching changes which this country and the rest of the world is bound to undergo on account of the war.

With regard to this plan of my Honourable friend he does not say this is final; and I will in justice to him say that this is too provisional, too sketchy and too loose to be regarded as final. Sir, in this plan, at all events, there is a mention of the ex-soldiers and how to settle them. But the first starting point of any plan in this country should be, what is the present condition of this country? Sir, we had a food debate for three days in which anxiety was revealed on all sides as to whether the position was quite all



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right even now, and whether the provinces other than Bengal and Bihar may not have the misfortune to undergo the same travail and trouble, the same hunger, the same millions of inoculations and the same millions of deaths. After all we are not certain. I raised the point the other day whether a greater number of bovine cattle was not being slaughtered in this country than is being borne; and if that is the case, whether your Grow More Food campaign may not become a Grow Less Food campaign. These are apprehensions which are expressed all round. Take other issues. Animals are being slaughtered, trees are being ruthlessly cut down, forests are being depleted, even the climate and rainfall in this country may change. Serious things are occurring all round us; and the first task should be to pick up the country,—whether it is now or whether it may be, in the still more threatening continuance of the war, for the next three or four years,—to pick up the condition there and first of all to repair what is gone, to bring it to the same normal condition as this country was in before the war. That in itself is going to prove a task; I am not sure whether this Government would be in a position to deal with it. But there is a still further misfire so far as the Government plan is concerned and equally so far as the Bombay plan is concerned. That misfire is this. At present in India there is a certain amount of industry; there are a certain number of factories and certain kinds of production going on. All these industrialists,—and I speak with first-hand knowledge of their mind and their heart,—are worried as to whether they will be able to maintain their industry intact and in the same condition in which it is now, or whether there will not be world changes, tariff changes, exchange ratio and other changes, currency and inflationary changes, Government control and ordinances; whether there will not be one or all of these measures by which their present position instead of improving may become worse.

Sir, the other day I asked the Honourable Commerce Member whether it was not true that a larger measure of export trade would fall into the hands of British firms after the war on account of the kind of regulation which they had made and he said, no. I know what the situation is. He must have seen what the Exporters' Association in Bombay has written. But the position is that here and now even during the years of war, when India's war effort is so much spoken of by the other side, even now this Government has not been able to protect the interests of Indian trade and industry such as they are. How do you expect us to believe,—may I ask,—that your efforts will then lead us to the expansion, lead us to the great dreams of great scope and great development which you are holding out before us? How do you expect us to trust that you will have the will, the energy or, what is more important, the powers, in order to do the right thing with regard to not only the existing industries but their expansion and greater development which you propose to bring about? Sir, the *Times of India*, which is claimed to be the biggest newspaper in Asia, is not very unfriendly to this Government. Two days ago, writing on this subject, the *Times of India* said that Government's plan, stimulated, as it is now acknowledged, by the emergence of the Tata plan, was lacking in two directions; that first, it did not deal with the political issues which may arise and, secondly, it lacked altogether any mention of the finances and the financial issues which may be involved. Now, Sir, the *Times of India* does not generally try to put difficulties in the path of Government and yet this paper very rightly put its finger on the basic shortage of this scheme which Government have put forward. Let us hope that it is not final and that Sir Ardeshir Dalal would be able to put the deficiencies right. But can he put them right till he is told what is going to be the financial set-up of this country? Sir, glibly we talk in crores owing to the wrong prosperity which arises out of the printing press; we are now not content to deal with a few lakhs or with a crore or two, we now talk in crores.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Thousands of crores.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** I remind this House that that patriot Gopal Krishna Gokhale in this very House for the last five years of his existence kept on urging every year on Government to raise a loan of one or two crores every year in order that compulsory primary education may be established in this country. It was one or two crores every year, which this very Government had then rejected. Now they are talking of running into a few thousand crores. A few hundred crores seem to be nothing. In his country in which human beings are dying for want of food and for want of medicine, Government is going to spend 450 crores of rupees on roads. Even if they have no food in their stomach, even if they have no clothes to wear, even if they have no medicines,—no attention of any other kind, they must have beautiful roads which our Government here is going to give them.

There are discrepancies, shortages, and lacunas of all kinds. My Honourable friend must be self-conscious of some of them as I am and our object in mentioning some of them is not to weaken him in his efforts but to warn him that there are many things which need to be attended to before we shall reach any satisfactory solution.

At the same time I have very strongly deprecated what the Leader of the European Group said. This Group, which was opposed to all plans of any kind, has now to climb down a peg or two on this subject and it comes out now with asking Government and this House and the people of this country not to decide anything too quickly—keep an open mind. In other words, have nothing definite. You can keep an open mind, Sir, while the people of the United Kingdom are already fixing their aims; they are already pursuing those aims. Have the Members of this House heard that it is definitely said that the United Kingdom cannot exist, that sterling is going to be a very difficult currency, and that England on account of her indebtedness and the destruction and the poverty cannot exist unless it exports twice the amount which it was doing before the war. In this, may I suggest, Sir, we have got something very ominous because I know to which country can England export twice the amount that she was exporting before except to this unfortunate country. And, Sir, I have questioned whether Government have taken any steps, whether they have made any provisions to secure. . . .

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** The Honourable Member has one minute more.

**Mr. Manu Subedar.** . . . that India shall not buy too dear, shall buy in the cheapest market, and shall otherwise safeguard all the various interests of this country. Sir, I regret to say that so far at least Government have not done so. I beseech them after my suggestion that they should set up whatever machinery may be in their power in order to safeguard the interests of this poor country which cannot suffer any more. And, lastly, Sir, may I say that on reading this Government pamphlet, what was it that was upon my mind. . . .

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Mr. Manu Subedar:** . . . that new services, new boards, new experts from abroad, new institutions, in other words, a very top-heavy administration is already proposed to be put up, and some of us look upon this with very great apprehension.

**Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal (Nominated Non-Official):** Mr. Deputy President, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** The practice is for Members to catch the eye of the Chair and it is not quite proper to shout "Mr. Deputy President, Mr. Deputy President".

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural):** I rise to support every plan that will raise the standard of life of the

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poor, and to oppose every plan which, whatever its pretensions, cannot really do so. I am not, therefore, particularly fond of any one scheme or another. The Bombay Plan, which first held the field last January and has since been followed by other schemes, had this fact to its credit that it gave us something to think of. Before the publication of the Bombay Plan, the general tendency was to talk of reconstruction in a hazy, loose, and general manner. For the first time after the publication of the scheme we were pinned down to something concrete. That is the indebtedness which we owe to the authors of the Bombay Plan. That does not mean that therefore we are bound to agree to everything that they have said. The authors of the Bombay Plan themselves were quite moderate in their claims when they wrote it and this is how they put their own plan before the public:

"That this Plan is a statement in as concrete a manner as possible of the objectives to be kept in mind in economic planning in India."

And then they say that they have not yet thought either of the distribution or the measure and extent of State control or the technique of organisation. That was, therefore, a very moderate way of putting their own scheme before the public. But in less than two months there was held the conference of the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry—in March last—and the newspapers blazoned forth in ten columns eight columns, six columns of speeches of the protagonists of that scheme; it appeared as if they had tried to benefit the world by their wisdom and as if before that Plan there was no soul who had ever thought of reconstruction. And they were angry that any criticism could be made about that plan. I understand one of the biggest signatories to the plan said, "If India does not accept the scheme, Heaven help India". The fact is that while it is worthy of our consideration it has no claim to infallibility. On the contrary, the scheme is full of pitfalls, and inaccuracies. The Development Member was a Commissioner of the Bombay Municipality for a number of years. I wonder why he should have put his signature to a document in which the housing problem of India is dealt with but is filled in with absurd figures. I am going to prove that to him and he will have to admit it. In this plan the housing required in 15 years is estimated to cost Rs. 2,200 crores for the whole of India with a population of 40 crores. Now, Sir, let him remember that in the city of Bombay the Housing is 74 per cent. overcrowded and indeed he admits this in his plan to which he has put his signature. Where 100 sq. ft. should be the accommodation, in the city of Bombay there is only 27 sq. ft. Therefore, virtually three times additional accommodation in the city of Bombay is required before the housing in Bombay can be according to his plan. Now the cost of housing of this 27 per cent accommodation in the city of Bombay is Rs. 225 crores. If he consults the municipal annual reports, he will find that the rental value of the property in Bombay is Rs. 15 crores a year and if you multiply it 16 times the value of the properties will be somewhere near Rs. 250 crores, i.e., the capital value of the housing accommodation of 27 per cent. If therefore according to his plan, the city of Bombay alone is to be housed with 100 sq. ft. instead of 27 sq. ft. the total cost in Bombay of housing should be four times, or at least three times Rs. 250 crores.

**The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar** (Supply Member): Provided they live in palaces!

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Yes, my friend lives in palaces when he goes to Bombay. Do not think that the people in the city of Bombay live in palaces. The city people live in hovels. I can assure him of that. He will learn that 85 people per single tenement will be found to be not uncommon in the last Bombay census report. Therefore I am not quoting the cost of the palatial housing in Bombay, and that cost according to this plan must be a thousand crores. I say this on the authority of this plan. But a thousand crores of pre-war money would be three to four times that now and still the

authors of this plan have provisionally said that in 15 years the housing cost for the whole of India would be Rs. 2,200 crores. May I say that these figures are fantastic and misleading. I am giving you only one instance but the figures of medical relief are equally misleading. But I have no time to go into that except to point out that this 15 years plan which was boosted for bamboozling the public of Delhi last March in columns and columns of patriotic newspapers is fundamentally wrong on figures. In Bombay alone it will cost Rs. 750 additional crores and there is yet Poona, Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Hubli. Thus Rs. 2,200 crores meant for the whole of India will not be sufficient for Bombay alone, which is 1/15 of India. Therefore if the figures of housing alone are to be put down on the basis of this plan, they should not be Rs. 2,200 crores but fifteen times that.

After this, is there any point in examining the figures of this plan? They are so thoroughly wide off the mark especially in terms of the present money value. I am respectfully inviting the Honourable the Development Member when he replies to show me where he could correct me and I should very gladly and thankfully accept that correction. I do not want to go any further into the question of the figures.

Now, Sir, I would like the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal to tell me whether in the proposed industrialisation any provision exists for social services. May I ask him if he can tell me what the figures for social service expenditure in the 15 years plan are? I would feel very much obliged if in this 15 years plan any share is given to social services, like unemployment insurance, minimum wages, social policies for the aged, childhood and women: old-age pensions, children's allowances, and women's benefits. What are the figures which these industrialists are working on? It seems to me that the plan requires the country to support industrialization by protection, by State control in every possible manner. I want to say clearly on the floor of this House that I stand for protection to industry. I do not want a foreigner to inundate my country with cheap manufactured goods. But there is one condition alone on which I will agree *viz.*, that all the rights that labour enjoys in enlightened countries shall be conceded simultaneously with the protection given to any industry.

**Prof. N. G. Ranga:** What about the rights of peasants?

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** I am coming to agriculture if I have time otherwise I will leave them in your safe hands!

I say that protection I shall give but only on the condition that the workers shall get unemployment insurance, decent wages, children's allowances, women's maternity benefits and old age pensions. Unless these things are conceded, protection will be a fraud, and a further exploitation of the poor people of this country. Therefore I appeal to my friend, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, who, although he appears to be sitting so mildly, I know is ready to pounce on the unwary. I know him too well to think that he is really as gentle as he looks. I am therefore all the more careful in quoting figures where his signature is and I am giving him my own humble submission that in the matter of protection which is wanted by these people, I shall be prepared to give it as a nationalist but on the footing that industrial labour shall get all the benefits which enlightened countries give to their labourers.

The last point is this. England has already declared full medical relief for the people, even though the war is going on, as a part of reconstruction. Is our Government prepared to do the same? Why does Sir Ardeshir Dalal avoid a full scheme of medical relief even during the war? Why? Is it because medical relief is less necessary in this country? I am sure he will not say so. Only six per cent. of the people in this country get drinkable water. According to Sir Jogendra Singh's plan published last March 94 per cent. of the people in this country do not get drinkable water. How can their health be good. They drink water full of mud, worms. . . .

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): You have one minute more.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** . . .cattle dung. They should be provided with pure water and medical relief without waiting for the war to be over.

Then again the figure of Rs. 3,400 crores of created currency is simply staggering. It is declared to be the starting figure. I ask the Honourable Member not to accept that figure but to read the history of the currency market which is given in any standard economic book. It is pure make-believe that Rs. 3,400 crores of created money can be created without putting the country to the greatest misery and trials and tribulations. On these grounds I do not support the scheme wholeheartedly but I ask the Government to examine all schemes. . . .

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Your time is up.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** I ask the Government Member, before I sit down, to examine all schemes so that the country can get the best out of them.

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai** (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, Sir, it is by almost a side-wind that one of the most important issues which must occupy the attention of this House has come before it. In a sense I do not regret that it has so happened, but I do regret that there was not enough time allotted to the House, if really this question was to be fully discussed. It is true that by reason of the manner in which it has come, it was possible for the Government to take the attitude which they have done. Being a Resolution by a Non-Official Member purporting to negative, if not criticise, a particular plan or the basis of a plan which is before the country, naturally everybody was obliged to point out the basic principles which should govern the future question of reconstruction. Hence it is that one finds himself in a somewhat less direct position than I should have wished this House to accept, if we were in a position to discuss this matter like we discussed on the last two questions here, the question of South Africa and the question with reference to the Food Problem. And none the less, whenever an issue arises before this House it becomes the duty of those who represent the people that the point of view which they wish to urge should not go by default, whatever may be the form in which it may come and whatever may be the embarrassment which may be caused to us by, after all, parliamentary tactics, which, perhaps, is not the common monopoly of the other side. The amendment before the House which I wish to support is this:

"That an elected Committee of this House consisting of not more than 15 members be appointed for the purpose of considering the several points for post-war economic development of India, agricultural and industrial, with instructions to report to this House."

Having regard to the very terms of the amendment which I am supporting, it is perfectly obvious or it must be so, in any case, that the desire is not to anticipate the examination of the merits of any particular plan. The whole object is to support what we are asking for as against leaving our fate in the hands of this Government. The real issue therefore before the House is not whether the Bombay Plan, or the Visveswaraiya Plan or the much-paid-for Roy plan or any other plan is of the same kind (The Roy plan was certainly a much-paid-for plan and there is no secret about the payment that was made for it), but the question before the House therefore is not which of the several plans are good or bad. That is not the issue just now, though perhaps in very few words, during the short time at my disposal I will point out, according to our humble understanding, what should be the basis of a plan. But, at the same time, I do not wish the discussion to take the turn which it has taken hitherto, as if the Bombay plan or any other plan was the subject of actual discussion here today.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** That is the main Resolution.

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai:** What does it matter? I should suppose my friend to know the rules of the House better than I do, for he has been a little longer here than myself. I am sorry he has forgotten them.

(Interruptions from Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta and cries of "Order, -Order" from Congress Benches.)

Sir, I am not giving way to my Honourable friend.

**Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta):** The Honourable Member should not be interrupted.

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai:** The words of the amendment are: "all the words after the words 'Governor General in Council' be omitted,"—I hope this is plain English and understandable by a Member of this House—"and the following be substituted, namely: 'that an elected Committee of this House be constituted'," so that as the result of the amendment what is substantially now before the House is what you may call the amendment. Merely because the discussion has taken the turn it has and because some Member has some pet gibes against himself or for himself or against somebody else, that is not the way in which to deal with a problem of this kind. It is true that there was a resolution before the House. It is in substance substituted by another resolution. According to the rules in this connection, if the amendment is good, the one that will be put before the House should be the amendment which is now before the House, because if that amendment is carried there is nothing else before the House. For what is the meaning of saying "all the words after the words 'Governor General in Council' be omitted": it is very much like what happened on the last occasion. They come and say "the policy of so and so be taken into consideration" and the amendment is: having considered we come to this, that or the other conclusion. Does anybody tell me merely because the first words are there, that therefore the effective and operative part is not the amendment before the House? But whatever it is, the constitutional position is not appreciated. But whatever it may be, the amendment in support of which I rise before the House is that instead of entrusting our fate to the present Government, it is the desire of this House that they will constitute a committee which will go into this question. That is the substance of the whole point before this House. There should be no mistake about it. The Government cannot claim the monopoly of dealing with a question of this kind and it is suggested how this matter could be dealt with. The very plan which is the basis of this discussion purports to say, and in fact in unequivocal terms it is stated in paragraph 2 of the plan itself that "underlying the whole of the scheme is the assumption that on the termination of the war or shortly thereafter a National Government would come into existence at the Centre, that it will be vested with full freedom in economic matters".—That is really the basis of that plan. If that is the basis of the plan, it is perfectly intelligible that no plan made by any alien influence or alien interests can serve any purpose at all. It cannot be that other persons with other ideas for the good of this country will make a plan and the successor National Government will carry them out. Therefore I wish to clear the whole misconception before the House, that there is no half-way in this matter. I dare say that so long as this particular body of men continue to administer the affairs of this country, they will continue to do what they like during their term of office. That unfortunately is the consequence of the constitution under which India is being governed and I have stood before this House times without number that the obvious farce of calling this a representative Assembly, before which every matter is brought and the impression given to the world as if the people of this country are really associated with the Government of this country should be ended. It is a farce the hollowness of which must be exposed. We cannot merely be a party. We have been told "You do not co-operate". "We come here; if we agree, it is all right; if we do not agree, it is equally all right", and then enter the Government

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

House and have a certificate. Therefore it is perfectly obvious that the Government of this country is being carried on under a very few sections of the Government of India Act. We are here undoubtedly. But the other day an Honourable Member who sometimes was on these Benches, having been translated into the other stratosphere, began to talk in very mild language, a language I think which if he had considered he would not have used—"You know the constitution under which you are here; you know the constitutional limitations under which you are suffering". I do not know what he meant; but what he suffers from is a matter for the House to judge. The only short question before the House is this: notwithstanding the constitution under which we are working, to the extent to which the limited rights exist in this House, is this House going to assert itself or is it going to surrender itself to the Government? It is perfectly true, and I am fully aware, that notwithstanding the passing of a resolution in the terms of the amendment, the Government may still say that "there is a provision in the Government of India Act by which we are not obliged to implement the resolution of the House". But let us once for all and for the last time understand that this is the whole value of this great farce which is being enacted here day after day. If that is the whole value of the farce which is being enacted, let us understand it. I said so, some four years ago before this House, that out of the many hundred resolutions and votes that this House had passed, notwithstanding the 55 borrowed or pocketed votes, we still find that none of them was actually carried out. I am fully aware of that; and I am fully aware as to what purpose we can make of the very great difficulties in which we find ourselves; but at the same time, if you are going to be substituted as this very plan says, if you are really honestly of the opinion—not merely those individuals sitting here, but His Majesty's Government—that some time or the other and as soon as the war conditions permit or the end of it, if a national Government is to be constituted, then they must realise that what they are doing now is not the manner that is consistent with their belief, if they profess it. Of course if the belief is that the present nature of the administration of this country is to be continued, that they are going to continue to administer the affairs of this country, with the mere profession of this plan being carried out or whatever it is, by a national Government to come—let us fully understand it. Either they mean it or they do not mean. But if you mean it, then I come to the merits of the controversy before the House, because it is no use—it is not a matter of the merits of Sir Ardeshir Dalal for whom, as he knows, and for whose abilities I have very great respect: it is not a personal issue between him and us, or between us and the personnel constituting the Government now. The issue really is, what is it that is going to be the future of India, and who is going to have a say in the matter, because indeed the mighty Government as it now exists, entrenched in the manner in which it is, may say "Oh, yes; you give us advice; we will see what we can do; and after all we cannot give you anything more than this or that; we do not want your approval; we do not want to commit ourselves to anything. We will just do what we want". That is going contrary to the scheme. Let us at least know it because the time has now come when the Government and the Government Member when he gets up to reply according to convention I expected that being a non-official Resolution he would speak before I did; but it is in order not to give any chance of a grievance and to make our position perfectly plain that I have risen before this House. The position that we make plain is this: that this House, notwithstanding its mixed composition, is the only body of men, through their representatives, to have a plan for the future; and nobody else can have not merely the right but the quality to be able so to do. And why do we say that? Notwithstanding the fact that we are suffering from the handicap of, as I said, 39 and 11 and four or five others whom one need not name—naturally this is a very mixed body—it is not a real representative body: that is obvious: but still we have the consolation that if a committee of his House is constituted we shall be able to persuade

even those unwilling friends of ours as to where the future of India lies; and it is only such a plan that any future national Government can hope to work.

It is a perfectly absurd thing to tell this House "We shall have a plan; probably we shall put a part of it in execution in anticipation of your coming", which has been the custom largely of the other side of the House hitherto, and at the end of that you probably come to a national Government which is loaded with everything they have done and undone. That is in short what we do not want. This House stands not merely for its own dignity but for the future interest of this country. Why is it said that an elected committee of this House cannot carry on? Somebody told me "But you have not got a secretariat; you have not got clerks; you have not got men, to prompt you from behind, as the Government Members are inclined to be done"; but allow me to tell them this: that I have had some experience of committees in the past—I will remind them of a case that is well known to the Government of India, or ought to be. A committee was set up by the Government of Bombay for the purpose of regulating the affairs of the Stock Exchange of Bombay. They invited Mr. Attlee who was the President of the London Stock Exchange in the previous year. They had a large number of members representing many trades there. We sat down in a committee. I happened to be one of the members of it; we examined witnesses for a period of some six months. At the end of that, some of my friends told me they were agreeable to the outline which I presented. One after the other as was the custom in those days slowly drifted, saying "I am very sorry, Mr. Desai. I agree with you in the main, but this will not do". At the end of it, everybody backed out and they came and told me "Look here; why do you not write a dissenting minute. I wish to write a report as much as you have the right to write a report". Mr. Davies was then Secretary, who afterwards became the Judicial Commissioner of Sind; and he said "Look here, Mr. Desai, I will write the report for the majority of the committee; and what will you do? You have not got the men". The suggestion was that I had not got a secretariat. Fortunately, those of us who had the energy and the resource did not wait for a secretariat to put on paper our views. By myself and alone, I am proud to say, I wrote a separate report, in a minority of one. It was examined by the Government of Bombay and it was examined by the Government of India; and most reluctantly the Government of India was obliged to accept the report of a minority of one. So that you may be quite certain that you cannot non-cooperate. If a committee of this House is constituted, the Government at its peril will refuse to be the first witness before that committee. The Government at its peril will withhold that co-operation; and if it does that, it does not deserve to survive one single day. Therefore it is no use telling me, as one of my friends imagines "Let this committee go on; let the Government go on". I wish to see the Government going on under these circumstances. If you really set up a committee of this House, it is its privilege that the first witness will be its own servant paid by itself. They will have to come before the committee and it will be the right of the committee to examine them and examine everybody else who has a scheme and ultimately in the interests of the nation put forward a scheme which alone a national Government can work.

That, Sir, is the first answer to the unfeasibility of the scheme. It has always been taken for granted here as if all those standing on the other side and everybody who is paid by collecting taxes from us—they are my servants in the ultimate reality. True under the present entrenched constitution they may not be; but it is time that we told them and they realise exactly where they stand and where we stand with reference to all these resources, that we provide by the sweat of our brow and by the blood of my people. Therefore it is that I ask that not a dissenting member here will be found from among the elected Members of this House who will not be prepared to forego his self-respect and be prepared to say that a committee of this House is not a fit body for this purpose.



[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

There was another gentleman who suggested "Oh, but we are short of experts". That is an extraordinary proposition. I have always thought that experts were not members of the committee—experts are there as witnesses: experts are there as advisers. I have never yet heard in my life that a body of men, with a trained mind, with fair clarity of reasoning and fairly well equipped with integrity and with a single eye to the welfare of the nation, can not possibly understand a problem of this character; and there may be those who are suffering from a defeatism which I certainly hope this House will not suffer from. No Member of this House should accept this unfortunate position which is foisted upon us that we cannot, as a committee of this House, find out what is going to take place to the nation as soon as the national Government comes into existence, to present it to that Government for the purpose of execution.

A few more words I should like to say as to the basic principles which would be accepted by that committee. I have no desire to anticipate whatever may be the ultimate principles evolved by them in the light of which they will use the information. Somebody says—where is the information, where are the statistics, where is the knowledge of the condition of the country, where are the experts. I submit, with very great respect to this House and to the people at large in this country that if and when a committee is set up and the Government here, of whatever personnel it consists, refuses to co-operate with it, we shall still produce a plan which would be acceptable to the national Government, superseding everything that the foreign controlled interests will produce on the other side. So that, let us not waste time and money. If we really mean business and are honest that at all events in the post-war world the representatives of the country are going to govern the country, then it is for the representatives of the people, however belated it may be, to formulate a plan. Let it not be imagined to be the monopoly of a few persons on the other side, however able, however gifted and however talented they may be—because it is not the talents that govern this matter, at all events talents alone. I trust that there is talent enough in the rest of the country and what is more there is that integrity, with a single eye to the good of the people of this country, which is the real basis of the whole matter.

Then, Sir, I should like to say a few words as to the principles which, at all events, it will be our duty to submit to that particular committee which will be set up and which will examine the information, both expert and otherwise. We realise that this country is extraordinarily well placed in this matter. I am not one of those who believe that we suffer from that kind of complex which has led to what is called the division between an agricultural and a manufacturing country. That is the fortune or misfortune of some smaller countries, far away in the islands either in the East or the West, because it is true that you cannot eat coal and cannot eat steel. You cannot eat iron and hence it is that they have got to exchange their manufactured goods for their food and clothing. My country is in a much more fortunate position. I have it from many standard books that among the 27 basic raw materials which the world wants from time to time we are in possession of some 22, so that you may be quite certain that this country is self-sufficient and can be made to be so under proper genuine national Government; and our resources are almost equal to that of any of the United Nations. It is that aim that we have before us. We neither wish to be industrial nor wish to be agricultural. Our aim is a combination of the two. Our aim in the first instance is not to be an exporting country of manufactured products. It is enough for us to keep out those manufactured products which take away the equivalent in raw commodities from this country and produce enough in order that my countrymen will not have to look elsewhere for the purpose of manufactured products. But that is not the whole of the problem before the committee.

The real problem before that committee would be to try to raise the standard of life of 85 per cent. of the people who form the backbone of the country. A

great deal has been said about factory labour. It is well known that I have the greatest sympathy with it but let us not have an obsession in this matter. Let us not obscure the problem. After all, at present, on a very rough estimate, some three millions form the total quantity of factory labour. (*An Honourable Member*: "2½".) I was thinking of the war, on account of which there has been increased employment. Make a liberal estimate and take the figure at 3 millions. Add another 3 millions to it, for the purpose of the new industries. That is only 6 millions and the problem still remains of the rest of the 400 millions of this country.

In this connection, I should like to cite only one instance. Years ago, we brought a Resolution in this House and we asked that the Railway Department should set up a workshop in this country for the purpose of manufacturing locomotives and steam engines. Sir Muhammad Zafrulla who was then in charge of the Railways told this House seriously that it will take 95 lakhs, as cost. That was his estimate and on that estimate the engines will cost about 20 per cent. more than we are able to buy them at in England or America and he thought he had made a great point. I have never known a merchant with any common sense who begins to evaluate the outturn of every single crore of his investment. He forgot, notwithstanding that he was administering every day, that another 80 crores, besides 95 lakhs, had already been invested in this country in the matter of rails. You have the track, you have the rails and the trains ready but you cannot run them. That is the situation now.

**The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall** (Member for Railways and War Transport): No.

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai**: If that were not so, we would not be in the position in which we find ourselves in the matter of transport. I like self-complacency and I like that impenetrable way of looking at things but the fact remains that if we had been manufacturing our own locomotives, if we had expanded our workshops and if we had increased our output of wagons, we would not have had to send our boys elsewhere. They are called Bevin boys. I do not like to think of them that way, because they are my sons. It is not much of a compliment to you but if you like that compliment you can keep it. That is the situation in which we have been placed. The whole desire of this House at that time was that you should train skilled labour in this country and we warned the Government that if they did not do it, there will come a time when they will regret it. And hence it is that I say that, so far as any material and information is in the hands of those employed by us and paid by us, it shall be placed at the disposal of this committee.

Then there is another point. You must remember that unless the food problem of this country is solved, you will never make any headway with the real solution of the problem. On that, I have already expressed my views before this House. In making any planning, it is wrong to think in terms of the industrialisation of the country. It is a wrong expression to use. You cannot industrialise the country. But what you can do is to have enough industries in this country to make ourselves independent of the rest of the world in most of the matters of real and vital concern. That is what we can do and that is what we wish to aim at.

The next thing we should aim at is to raise the standard of life—the food and the clothing and the shelter and a little education with a little leisure. That is wanted for 85 per cent of the population. That is the biggest issue before this House. It will be the biggest issue before the committee and our demand is that this committee shall sit and solve this problem for the benefit of the country in order that a national Government may carry into effect all that we ask for. These are two principal things that we want. The first is that there shall be enough industrialisation of this land so far as to render us effectively independent of any other country. Secondly, we want that there shall be enough advancement for the purpose of raising the standard of life even of the poorest man, so that he may be better fed and shall not be asked to

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

pay Rs. 10 for his *dhoti* instead of Rs. 2/8 and the bulk of the 43 crores of excess profits shall not pass indirectly from the consumer into the pockets of Government. That shall not prevail in the time when this scheme is brought into execution. In other words, he shall have a sufficiency of food and he shall

4 P.M. have a sufficiency of clothing. Of course, we have not the severe climate of Western countries and so his clothing will not be very expensive. Then, he shall have shelter, a clean house. It need not be *pucca* and it need not be of corrugated iron sheets; it will be made of wood and bricks. And he shall have education. These are the basic things that we want. We do not want to be led astray by all ideas of what will happen if our trade with this or that country will suffer. The fact remains that we are a country and it must be the ambition of the future Government that it shall be made self-sufficient just as America has done by raising the standard of its life to what it is today. You have the figures before you. As against whatever the estimate you may have of this country, there is about a thousand rupees in the other land. I do not hope that we can have it by a single bound, but I do believe that if the matter of reconstruction for the future is left in the hands of the committee of this House, who will be a responsible body and who will know what the country wants and understand what the country desires, then alone you will have a scheme worth anything at all. Sir, I support the amendment.

**Honourable Members:** The question be now put.

**Mr. Deputy President** (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The Assembly divided:

[While the division was going on, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

AYES—55.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.	Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.	Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.	Lakhichand, Mr. Rajmal.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.	Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Banerjea, Dr. P. N.	Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Chaliha, Mr. Kuladhar.	Manu Subedar, Mr.
Chettir, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.	Misra, Pandit Shambhudayal.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.	Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Choudhry, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.	Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.	Pande, Mr. Badri Dutt.
Dam, Mr. Ananga Mohan.	Raghubir Narain Singh, Choudhri.
Das, Mr. B.	Ram Narayan Singh, Mr.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.	Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.	Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.	Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.	Sant Singh, Sardar.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.	Sham Lal, Lala.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.	Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.	Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad
Gupta, Mr. K. S.	Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Gupta, Mr. R. R.	Sri Prakasha, Mr.
Habibar Rahman, Dr.	Srivastava, Mr. Hari Sharan Prasad.
Hans Raj, Raizada.	Subbarayan, Shrimati K. Radha Bai.
Hegde, Sri K. B. Jinaraja.	Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.	Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad.	Zafar Ali, Khan, Maulana.
Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr.	Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.
Kazmi, Qazi Muhammad Ahmad.	

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.  
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.  
 Azizul Huque, The Honourable Sir M.  
 Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.  
 Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.  
 Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth.  
 Caroe, Sir Olaf.  
 Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.  
 Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.  
 Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.  
 Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.  
 Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.  
 Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.  
 Griffiths, Mr. P. J.  
 Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.  
 Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.  
 Inskip, Mr. A. C.  
 Ismaiel Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.  
 James, Sir F. E.  
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.  
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.  
 Joshi, Mr. D. S.  
 Kamaluddin Ahmad, Shams-ul-Ulema.  
 Khare, The Honourable Dr. N. B.

Krishnamoorthy, Mr. E. S. A.  
 Kushal Pal Singh, Raja Bahadur.  
 Lalljee, Mr. Hooseinbhoj A.  
 Lawson, Mr. C. P.  
 Mehta, Mr. Jamnadas M.  
 Miller, Mr. C. C.  
 Muazzam Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.  
 Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur  
 Sir A. Ramaswami.  
 Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.  
 Ogilvie, Sir Charles.  
 Piare Lall Kureel, Mr.  
 Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.  
 Richardson, Sir Henry.  
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.  
 Shoobert, Mr. W. H.  
 Spence, Sir George.  
 Stokes, Mr. H. G.  
 Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.  
 Thakur Singh, Capt.  
 Trivedi, Mr. C. M.  
 Tyson, Mr. J. D.  
 Vaidyanathan, Mr. L. S.

The motion was adopted.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad** (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhamadnan Rural): Sir, as I said while moving the Resolution my object is to live and let live. This is the principle which should underlie any plan that may be formed for the future development of India.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria** (Marwari Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, I rise to a point of order. Can this House apply and accept the closure to any Resolution without hearing any of the Government Members on the point at issue. We do not know anything about the views of the Government on this Resolution and about their plans. I want to know whether the Honourable Member in charge of Planning and Development, the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal, has got the right of reply?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I quite understand the Honourable Member's difficulty. But I do not know of anything in the Rules or Standing Orders which authorises me to call upon the Government Member to speak on a Resolution at any particular stage.

**Babu Baijnath Bajoria**: Then the whole debate is a farce.

**Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta** (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhamadnan Rural): After the acceptance of the closure the Mover of the Resolution will reply and after that the Government Member will speak.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I do not know if that was the arrangement.

**Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai**: There is no such arrangement. We duly intimated to the Government that if they wished to take part in the discussion, they could do so.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum** (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, I rise on a point of order, I wish to say one thing. Before the Leader of the Opposition stood up to speak, I approached the Honourable Member on the other side, the Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal, I informed him that he could speak immediately after the Leader of the Opposition had finished his speech. But he did not get up and the Honourable the Supply Member got up instead. It was only after seeing that the Supply Member was going to speak and not the Honourable Member for Planning that we, from this side of the House, moved for closure. Otherwise, there was no desire on the part of this side of the House to shut out the speech of the Honourable Member in charge of Planning and Development. It was the Government who adopted dilatory tactics . . . .

**Several Honourable Members** (From the Treasury Benches): Order, order, No. No.

**Mr. Abdul Qaiyum:** If they were not dilatory tactics, I could not see why the Supply Member was put up to speak. He did not care to get up for the past two days when the debate was going on.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I was not present in the House when the closure was moved and accepted, and so I do not know what happened during my absence. Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad will continue his speech.

**Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Sir, I was saying that I entirely agreed with the fifteen year plan so far as their intention is to treble the comforts of the people. It does not mean trebling their income, because we find that according to the measurement of comfort, there is no proportion between comfort and the purchasing power of the rupee. If we only measure in terms of rupees, then our comfort is reduced to less than one third, and by trebling the comfort and not the income, we will only reach the comfort of 1939. Therefore in order that our comforts may be measured in terms of rupees, it is necessary that we should fix the purchasing power of the rupee. This is the point that I have pressed several times on the floor of the House and I press on this occasion also that it will be impossible for the persons who were planning a thing to get three times the comfort unless they restore the purchasing power of the rupee to the normal position. Therefore any Committee that they may think of in future planning must take up this most important factor, that is restoring the purchasing power of the rupee to the normal conditions. That is the one point I should like to press.

The next point that I should like to press is that in every planning that we make, we should make provision for employment for all, and not employment for the few. The industrialists should live, and at the same time the common people and the labourers and other people should also have the right to live and in any plan that you make you should provide some kind of employment for all.

The next point is this; though we are in favour of development of big industries, because they really supply raw materials for a large number of industries, yet at the same time, the development of cottage industries should not be lost sight of. It should be the duty of mills to produce basic materials for the cottage industries as well. They have no right really to kill cottage industries. Therefore, I suggest first that the method of approach for any future plan ought to be that we first restore the purchasing power of the rupee to its normal value, secondly, that we ought to provide sufficient raw materials for the cottage industries to flourish, and thirdly, that we ought to find employment for all. These are the three fundamental principles on which we ought to base our planning.

The last point I wish to press is that we should not ignore the requirements of the Provinces. Though we are a central body, we should also recognise that the Provinces have got their own problems and those problems ought to be considered by any committee that may be formed or by any committee which now exists and which plans for the future development of the country. With these observations, I commend my Resolution to the House.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I will first put Mr. Krishnamachari's amendment. The question is:

"That for the original Resolution, the following be substituted:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that in view of the fact that several plans for the post-war economic and industrial development of India, such as the Bombay Plan, the Royist Plan, Visveswarayya Plan, have been put before the public, the Government do examine these plans and formulate at an early date their conclusions regarding the set up of post-war economic and industrial development of this country."

The motion was negatived.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next amendment stands in the name of Mr. Chettiar:

"That all the words after the words 'Governor General in Council' be omitted and the following be substituted, namely:

'that an elected Committee of this House consisting of not more than fifteen members be appointed for the purpose of considering the several plans for post-war economic development of India, agricultural and industrial, with instructions to report to this House.'

To that an amendment has been moved by Mr. Chattopadhyaya:

'That in the amendment moved by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar for the words sought to be substituted after the words 'Governor General in Council', the following be substituted:

'That in view of the fact that there are several plans for the post-war economical and industrial development of India, viz., the Bombay Plan, the Peoples' Plan, the Agarwal's Plan, Visweswaria's Plan and Government Plan before the country, a Joint Committee of the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of State be appointed consisting of twenty three members of which six members shall be official including the Honourable Member for Planning and six members from the Council of State and eleven members of the Central Legislative Assembly who would be elected from amongst the non-official members of both the Houses with a view to consider the various plans for adopting the most suitable one for post-war development of India regarding agricultural, industrial, general, economical and social progress of India and to report to this Assembly for consideration by the beginning of the Budget session.'

I will put Mr. Chattopadhyaya's amendment first: The question is:

'That in the amendment moved by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar for the words sought to be substituted after the words 'Governor General in Council', the following be substituted:

'That in view of the fact that there are several plans for the post-war economical and industrial development of India, viz., the Bombay Plan, the Peoples' Plan, the Agarwal's Plan, Visweswaria's Plan and Government Plan before the country, a Joint Committee of the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of State be appointed consisting of twenty three members of which six members shall be official including the Honourable Member for Planning and six members from the Council of State and eleven members of the Central Legislative Assembly who would be elected from amongst the non-official members of both the Houses with a view to consider the various plans for adopting the most suitable one for post-war development of India regarding agricultural, industrial, general, economical and social progress of India and to report to this Assembly for consideration by the beginning of the Budget session.'

The motion was negatived.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I will now put Mr. Chettiar's amendment. The question is:

'That all the words after the words 'Governor General in Council' be omitted and the following be substituted, namely:

'that an elected Committee of this House consisting of not more than fifteen members be appointed for the purpose of considering the several plans for post-war economic development of India, agricultural and industrial, with instructions to report to this House.'

The motion was adopted.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I will now put the original Resolution as amended by Mr. Chettiar's amendment:

The question is:

'That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that an elected Committee of this House consisting of not more than fifteen members be appointed for the purpose of considering the several plans for post-war economic development of India, agricultural and industrial, with instructions to report to this House.'

The motion was adopted.

#### RESOLUTION RE. NATIONAL WAR FRONT.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next Resolution is in the name of Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan** (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I have been authorized by Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan to move his Resolution. It is unfortunate that he had to be absent today. He has apologised to the House for being absent.

Sir, I move:

'That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to abolish the National War Front Branch of the Department of Information and Broadcasting and to liquidate forthwith the National War Front Organization.'

Sir, when the National War Front organisation was started, His Excellency the Viceroy made a speech at that time which was broadcast on the 7th of May 1942. India was attacked at that time and he said that there was a

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necessity for everybody to join together and back the soldier who was fighting on the front. The real object was, as he said;

"I invite you to close the ranks and stand steady behind the fighting man in the National War Front against the aggressor."

This was one of the objects for which the National War Front was established. His Excellency proceeds:

"Let me remind you of what General Wavell has said that of the elements which contribute to success in modern war the spirit of the people is the most important. This is our responsibility—yours and mine—and that is why I invite you again in joining together in building a National War Front."

Further, he says:

"We all know what it means—a united determination transcending all racial, religious and political differences—to stand up and stand together to defend the things we have and hope to have, and to make sure that they shall never be so threatened again."

Sir, there was a great deal of necessity in May 1942 to organize this Front and to create an atmosphere in the country for the purpose of uniting the people and to make them realize the danger which was approaching on our frontiers. No one in this country objected or could have objected to that. The object was laudable at that time, and His Excellency the Viceroy followed the right course under those circumstances and under that necessity. The National War Front was started in order to infuse a spirit of cohesion amongst the people of this country. As long as that necessity remained or as long as that organisation could be utilized for that purpose, nobody could have said anything against it. But now this organisation has outlived its object. There is no necessity at present to have the National War Front. Of course at the time when His Excellency the Viceroy made his speech, India had been attacked, and Ceylon had been attacked, but now we know that the Japanese are far far away from our frontiers, and the country is united as was desired by His Excellency at that time. There are no Fifth Columnists referred to by him in his speech. Of course Fifth Columnists can never be eradicated even by the National War Front; if there are any Fifth Columnists they will remain so, no matter what propaganda you do or what organisation you have. But the National War Front, as is being administered by the Information and Broadcasting Department, is a totally different thing. Unfortunately, I have not brought some of the pamphlets which are printed in English—and these are printed on a very costly paper—and are being circulated to people. Most of the stuff that is produced by the National War Front organisation is in the English language. For whose benefit is it? Is it for the benefit of Fifth Columnists, or is it for the villagers and illiterate masses, or is it for those people in the villages who are the prospective recruits? Does it serve as an inducement to attract recruits for the Army? If that be the object, the pamphlets and other literature should have been printed in the language which those people would understand. But, on the other hand, all this literature is produced in English and is distributed to people who are already contributing their share towards the war and are working for the war. Therefore I think that this money is being absolutely wasted, and all this material which is published, the broadcasts that are arranged, the *Mushairas* that are held, is all waste. People are holding *Mushairas* at different places for this purpose and they invite many people to it—it is a mere luxury. I think people do not take the National War Front seriously. They take it that it is just for the sake of pleasure and so they are never guided by what they are told or by what is presented to them in writing. I think, Sir, that all this huge amount of money that is being spent on this organisation is being wasted at a time when we need every penny for fighting the real war. The Government places a deficit budget every year before this country and it would be a crime if it is not brought home to the Government by this side that by continuing this organisation they are wasting a lot of money. Sir, at this time money is required for other purposes and it should not be frivolously spent.

Then, Sir, the paper on which the stuff is printed can actually be used for many valuable purposes. We find that paper is denied for starting newspapers and yet this most valuable paper is wasted in printing the stuff which nobody

cares to read; most of the people who receive these pamphlets, etc., throw them away. I cannot understand, Sir, who induces the Government to do that and who is the adviser of the Government in this respect. Sir, if I had seen that it was producing some effect whatsoever or if it was doing something to help in the war effort, I would have wholeheartedly supported it. But I find that it is not doing so. It is the events which are happening on the battle front, and it is the publicity of events in the daily papers which is producing the desired effect on the minds of the people. It is not the National War Front which is achieving that object. It is being mis-used by people; they are using it to achieve their own purposes. It is public money which is being utilised for some ulterior purpose in the name of the National War Front and sanctity is given to this expenditure because it pertains to the war and behind this shelter people are spending money in the way they like. I think those people who are responsible for this expenditure and the Government will remain guilty before the taxpayers in the future years when they will have to bear the burden of the wastage committed by the present people. Government should, therefore, rise to the occasion and stop the frivolous expenditure which they have been incurring on this organization, as if to show that this was money just to be thrown away. If the money is spent in purchasing material to help to win the war and help to fight the enemy, it is justifiable. I can tell you without any doubt—though I know Government can always find men who stand up here and uphold the National War Front—that there is not a single honest man who feels that your money is being spent properly in this organisation. Those people who are interested in this organisation will say that the money is being rightly spent. But leave them alone. The representatives of the people must see that the taxpayers they represent are not made to pay for this in future years. They will also have to see that the money is rightly spent. There is no recruit on account of your National War Front organisation. This is only a bogey.

**Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh** (Nominated Non-Official): You are wrong. 166 recruits were recruited yesterday in the National War Front.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** I know my friend had made a three minute speech the last time and I know that he is interested in going about attending National War Front meetings here and there. His description may be the description that pleases him. But does it please anyone else? Can he find out any number of people who get up and say so? I know my Honourable friend is anxious because he is made to go there and he is one of the people who belongs to that organization.

**Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh:** I attend local meetings.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** It would be much better if an Honourable Member like him could keep quiet.

**Sardar Bahadur Captain Dalpat Singh:** I do not think you are well informed.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** But to plead that you are not guilty when you are guilty is something which does not convince the other people.

I would like to bring home to the Government that this organisation is not spending money for the purposes for which His Excellency the Viceroy had started it on the 7th May 1942. There are many people who want like vultures to benefit from the war, because that is the time to make most money and become rich and so they give sanctity to their expenses by saying that it is being spent in connection with the National War Front. There is nothing "national" nor is there any "war front" in this organisation. I would like any Honourable Member tell me that he travelled at his own expense. That is a really patriotic man who goes to the villages at his expense and recruits people.

**Mr. Sri Prakasa** (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Why does he not recruit himself?

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** If this money is required for the expenses and allowances of such people, who had never seen such things before, then



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there can be no greater crime than that that can be committed by any Government which calls itself a civilised Government. Of course no representative Government would have allowed this, nor would it have been able to stand up for a day against the popular wish. It would have gone out of power in a day. What is happening now is that money is being spent on things and on persons that do not merit such expenditure and I think that it is the duty of this House to take to task those people who have allowed such things to exist.

My position is absolutely clear. I say nothing is being gained from all this expenditure. This was a useful organisation when it started, but it has now ceased to be useful.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar** (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Was it?

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** At that time it was thought to be necessary because Japan was knocking at our door. But now Japan is hundreds of miles away from the Indian frontier. Therefore that necessity is not there. If it was started with the idea of arousing the people in this country that was laudable. But we are not going to judge any organisation by the objects behind it but by the way it works and the way that the money is spent. These are the two criteria. I find that the money is not properly spent and the organisation is not working as properly as it ought to have done. It is not doing and gaining anything for the laudable objects behind it and it is not achieving any of those objects. Therefore this organisation does not deserve to remain any more and the sooner it is wound up the better because the people of this country, the poor taxpayer, will be saved from the further burden of fresh taxation at the next budget and their difficulties not made more burdensome.

We know that nowadays, as it has been brought before this House and before the Government also, that the poor agriculturists are suffering a lot. Though it may be said that he is selling his crops at a higher cost, he cannot make both ends meet even with the extra money that he gets now. The agriculturist, whom you call the farmer, may be making more money but what about the poor agricultural labourer. There are in many provinces two different classes, one is the farmer and the other is the farm labourer. The farm labourer is not making anything more even if a farmer can sell his produce at a higher cost. The poor labourer is starving. These are the people for whom there is nothing which is provided and these people will have to pay further in taxation and in buying goods which are costlier. For a pair of *dhoti* which he used to buy at Re. 1 or Rs. 1/8 before the war he has to pay now Rs. 3/8 on account of the war and they cannot afford to do this. How long are you going to make him pay like this. Therefore every penny that is saved will bring relief to these poor farm labourers in the villages, will stop further taxation and will bring the price of goods to a lower level. Therefore the time has come to do something and the literature which was distributed was found absolutely unnecessary. I don't know what money has already been spent on this organisation, I do not possess the exact figures for the current year but it must be a considerable amount in any case. I submit my views before this House that this money should be saved and should be stopped from being spent any more.

It may be argued that the war is still going on and we do not know how long it will go on. I know it may be said that nobody can foretell how long this war is going to continue. It means two things. It will mean that you will require more recruits. I think the recruiting has stopped, because already you have got so many recruits whom you cannot provide with weapons properly. Therefore it is not necessary to have more recruits, unless you thoroughly arm them and the money which you require is not now necessary for the purpose of getting recruits. Money is required for arming your recruits who have already been recruited and therefore this money which you were formerly spending on the National War Front should be used for the purpose of giving good equipment to your soldiers who will probably have to put up a stronger

and harder fight in the future. The second thing is that if this war continues, it may be said that this organisation must continue, so that it may keep up the morale of the people. Morale is necessary but why not give some kind of subsidy to the daily papers who may put up some kind of advertisement. This probably is done even now to a certain extent. But this does not require any organisation behind you.

**Mr. M. Ghiasuddin** (Punjab: Landholders): So you are in favour of giving a subsidy to newspapers?

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** I have got only two or three minutes more and so I do not want to be disturbed. It should be made certain that that paper which is given a subsidy is not doing any political propoganda in favour of any particular party which, under the garb of receiving this subsidy, is meant really to do something else. It is the money supplied by the National War Front and the paper should not do some other work. We have known that the money has been used and misused in this respect. I am glad my friend Mr. Ghiasuddin has brought to my notice that some papers are subsidised in certain provinces for this very purpose, that they may do the propoganda of a particular party and those papers which have been given the most subsidy, they are doing the most propoganda for a particular party in a particular province and if these people are using and misusing this money in this manner, then the sooner this money is stopped the better it is. It will be in the interests of this country that the Government does not mix up with party politics. Has not H. E. the Viceroy at that time very rightly said "We all know what it means—a united determination, transcending all racial, religious and political differences"? Now what we find is that this money is not being used for transcending these political differences but for accentuating these differences to a greater extent. Therefore I think it is defeating the object for which His Excellency had started this organisation. I do not want to introduce that matter, it will not be very pertinent to the present Resolution or it may have been discussed before, but I want to bring to the notice of the Government that it is an open secret that this money is used at least in one province and probably in many other provinces for purposes other than what have been mentioned by H. E. the Viceroy. There are many people who want to get some kind of benefit from the Government, to get some kind of contracts in their name. These people joined the National War Front to make their own propoganda and their ulterior motive is to gain from the Government as much as they can get in whatever shape or form, it may be in the shape of a contract, it may be in the shape of some help or other and the National War Front is used for these ends by these people. They are sham people, who have no following in the country. These people are not liked by anybody and they are practically disliked by every body. They seek the Government's favour by telling all kinds of falsehood and are misleading the authorities. Instead of giving the Government any help they are really by their actions stopping the real supporters of the Government who would give their help voluntarily to the Government. Those honest people and real patriots who will spend their own money and do every thing for the Government are kept back simply because they feel ashamed to be associated with that class of people whom the Government is nowadays employing. Sir, those people will never like their names to be mixed up with such A.B.C.'s, when they find that they are in the field and they are doing this . . .

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

**Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** With these words I move the Resolution and commend it to the House.

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Resolution moved:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to abolish the National War Front Branch of the Department of Information and Broadcasting and to liquidate forthwith the National War Front Organization."

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Obettiar:** There is a small amendment, Sir, in my name: may I move it and stop?

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Yes; but no speech now.

**Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar**: I move:

"That after the words 'Governor General in Council' the words 'to immediately take steps' be inserted, and that at the end of the Resolution the words 'in the Centre and the Provinces' be added."

**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That after the words 'Governor General in Council' the words 'to immediately take steps' be inserted, and that at the end of the Resolution the words 'in the Centre and the Provinces' be added."

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 20th November, 1944.