

1st November 1944

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

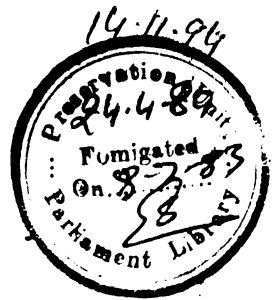
Official Report

Volume IV, 1944

(1st to 13th November 1944)

TWENTY-FIRST SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1944

Chamber Fumigated 18.10.73



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

President :

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

Deputy President :

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

Panel of Chairmen :

Mr. ABDUL QAYUM, M.L.A.

Nawabzada MUHAMMAD LIAQUAT ALI KHAN, M.L.A.

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

Sir HENRY RICHARDSON, M.L.A.

Secretary :

Mian MUHAMMAD RAFI, Barrister-at-Law.

Assistants of the Secretary :

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

Khan Bahadur S. G. HASNAIN.

● *Marshal :*

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

Committee on Petitions :

Mr. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A. (*Chairman*).

Nawabzada MUHAMMAD LIAQUAT ALI KHAN, M.L.A.

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

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

Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTH
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY)

VOLUME IV—1944

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 1st November, 1944

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi, at Eleven of the Clock, being the First Day of the Twenty-First Session of the Fifth Legislative Assembly, pursuant to Section 63-D(2) of the Government of India Act, as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935. Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim, K.C.S.I.) was in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN:

- The Honourable Sir Abraham Jeremy Raisman, K.C.S.I., C.I.E. (Finance Member);
- The Honourable Sir Robert Francis Mudie, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., O.B.E. (Home Member);
- The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Rustomji Dalal (Member for Planning and Development);
- Mr. Darab P. Sethna, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official);
- Dr. Vijayendra Kasturi Ranga Varadaraja Rao, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Wilfred Harold Shoobert, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official);
- Mr. Dattatraya Shridhar Joshi, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official); and
- Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee, M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

MANUFACTURE OF LOCOMOTIVES IN INDIA

1. **Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if the Railway Board is determined to get locomotives built in India? If so, have any contracts been given to any of the mechanical and engineering firms?

(b) Is it a fact that Tatas at Jamshedpur are ready to undertake the manufacture of locomotives? If so, have negotiations been made with Tatas or with any other firm?

(c) Is it a fact that tenders for building locomotives in India have been called for for the Railways? If so, from which firms and on what terms? If not, do Government propose to call for the same?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, it has been decided to develop the Kanchrapara Shops of the Bengal and Assam Railway for the manufacture of locomotives as soon as possible after the war and the preliminary work is in hand. In addition, arrangements are being made to provide at the East Indian Railway Shops at Singhbhum additional machinery for the manufacture of 100 boilers per year as a war measure and of 50 locomotives and 50 boilers as soon as possible after the cessation of hostilities.

(b) No. Messrs. Tatas are not yet ready to undertake the manufacture of locomotives but have expressed a desire to take it up as a post-war development. With regard to the second part of the question, negotiations with Messrs Tatas have not yet been finalised.

(c) No. With regard to the second part the question does not arise. Government do not propose to call for tenders.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member if the parts which were required for the building of locomotives in India are now available?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certain repair parts are manufactured in India and certain other parts have to be imported.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member why a beginning has not been made now and contracts given? Why must we wait till after the war?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already said that certain parts are being made in India.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: It is not a question of parts. I am asking if certain parts are available here and whether the other raw materials are also here. Why not give the contracts now?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think the Honourable Member does not understand the situation. The manufacture of locomotives is a very highly specialized work. All the raw materials are not available nor is the technical experience nor the machinery. It is a very big undertaking to set up a locomotive workshop.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have not some locomotives been built in Ajmere? Why have not very many more been built?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The locomotive workshops at Ajmere are principally engaged in erecting imported locomotives at the moment, although a certain amount of work is taking place on the construction of other locomotives.

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

PROMOTIONS TO LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

2. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the number of subordinate service employees promoted to the Lower Gazetted Service permanently, temporarily or in an officiating capacity on the North Western Railway from the 1st January, 1944, to the 30th September, 1944?

(b) What are their names, substantive pay and posts held in subordinate service before promotion to the Lower Gazetted Service?

(c) What is the criterion for promotion from the subordinate to the Lower Gazetted Service posts on Railways? If no such criterion has been laid down, do Government propose to fix some such criterion of a minimum of 10 to 15 years' service, and substantive pay of Rs. 350 to Rs. 400? If not, why not?

(d) Is it a fact that members of certain so-called minority communities drawing comparatively low rates of pay and with short service are being promoted out of turn? If so, why?

(e) What are the reasons for promotion of each of the persons referred to in (b) above in preference to their seniors?

(f) Is it a fact that two posts of Junior Assistants Commercial were created in the North Western Railway Headquarters Office in January last? If so, what are the reasons for appointment to one of these posts of a member of the minority community out of turn?

(g) Is it a fact that there is no well-defined policy in regard to maintenance of approved lists of subordinates fit for Lower Gazetted Services? If the reply be in the negative, will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay a copy of the approved list for North Western Railway on the table of the House? If not, has the same been communicated to the Railway Board by the North Western Railway Administration?

(h) Is it a fact that no formal selection is made nor any interview given to the candidates for promotion to the Lower Gazetted Service? If so, why are

the rules for selection contained in the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I violated in this respect?

(i) Is it proposed to have proper selection boards for making promotion to Lower Gazetted Service, and to circulate results? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The number of subordinate employees promoted to the Lower Gazetted Service during the period from 1st January, 1944, to 30th September, 1944, is as follows:—

Permanent	1
Provisionally Permanent	2
Officiating	60

(b) I lay a statement on the table giving the required information in respect of those promoted in a permanent or provisionally permanent capacity. As regards the others, they were in many cases appointed to officiate against short term vacancies, on the termination of which they reverted to their substantive posts.

(c) and (e). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to part (e) of Mr. H. M. Abdullah's Starred Question No. 1650 asked on the 12th April, 1939. As regards the second portion of part (c), the matter is already under consideration by the Railway Board. The last portion does not arise.

(d) The reply to the first part is in the negative; the latter part does not arise.

(f) One temporary post of Junior Assistant, Commercial, was created and the term of another temporary post was extended in January last. These posts were filled by promoting the men considered most suitable with due regard to the exigencies of the service.

(g) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to part (b) of his Starred Question No. 176 asked on the 4th August, 1943. On the N. W. Railway, approved lists are maintained except in the case of the smaller cadres. No such lists are received in the Railway Board's office.

(h) There is no uniformity on Railways in the matter of interview, but definite selection is carried out by all Administrations. It is presumed that the rules referred to in the latter part are those contained in Appendix II-A of State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, which are applicable to promotion to non-gazetted posts only.

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

Statement showing names and service particulars of subordinates promoted to lower gazetted service in permanent or provisionally permanent capacity on the North Western Railway during the period from 1st January, 1944 to 30th September, 1944

Name	Designation as subordinate	Rate of pay as subordinate	Capacity in which promoted to Lower Gazetted Service
1. Mr. C. E. Mathieson	Foreman, Signal Shops.	675	Permanent.
2. Mr. G. W. Blagdon	Permanent Way Inspector.	650	Provisionally permanent.
3. Mr. L. D. Keswani	Inspector of Works	300	Provisionally permanent.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether the communal question was considered while giving these promotions? I have asked a question whether the promotions are being given according to the communal basis or whether they are given according to selection.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Promotions are not made on a communal basis.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I also know if the lower subordinates that have been promoted are all Hindus or all Muhammedans?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have not a copy of the list.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member kindly see that the selections are made through the Public Service Commissions—I mean the Regional Public Service Commissions at the headquarters?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not propose to change the present arrangement.

UNSATISFACTORY OPERATION OF DEARNESS RELIEF IN KIND ON RAILWAYS

3. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that dearness relief in kind is not properly given to all the employees, as some of them in some localities are deprived of some commodities at cheap rates owing to lack of them at the shops serving those localities? If so, is it proposed to give cash relief to that much extent as would be due to the employees owing to cheap rates? If not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that the General Manager, North Western Railway circularized the revised rate of sugar at six annas a seer and two chataks, with effect from 1st April, 1944? Is it also a fact that on the Delhi Division of the North Western Railway sugar continued to be sold to Railway staff at six annas a seer only till the 5th May, 1944, or thereabouts? If so, what relief has been given or is proposed to be given to employees adversely affected for non-observance of the General Manager's orders?

(c) Who was responsible for this, and what action has been taken or proposed to be taken against him or them? If none, why?

(d) Is it a fact that employees on the Delhi Division of the North Western Railway have been asked to purchase even rotten stuff offered by the Railway or which has deteriorated owing to the inefficiency of handling such commodities? If so, why?

(e) Is it a fact that the value of coupons purchased from Railway to get various commodities and for which the relative commodities could not be supplied is not being refunded for about six months and in some cases has not at all been refunded owing to intricate process for sanctioning refunds or excessive work in Accounts Offices and papers being mislaid? If so, what action is proposed to be taken to grant refund on the spot if the required commodity is not available or is not purchased? If none, why?

(f) Is it a fact that rice is supplied at cheap rates on some stations of the North Western Railway, while controlled prices are charged at others, and on some stations no rice is supplied to the Railwaymen at all? If so, what is the reason for this discrimination?

(g) Is there a general demand from Railway employees for dearness relief in cash instead of part of it being given by sale of commodities by Railways at cheap rates? If so, do Government propose to accede to the demand? If not, why not?

(h) Is it a fact that a Sub-Committee of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways was charged with the task of deciding the point whether dearness relief be given entirely in cash or also in kind? If so, what are the main features of its findings? Were any employees or their unions called to give evidence before the Committee? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. Relief in kind is properly and equitably given in so far as the procurement position permits. It is not proposed to give cash relief when stocks fail.

(b) No. The General Manager's orders were that the revised price and scale of sugar would take effect from 1st April 1944, provided sufficient supplies were placed at the disposal of the Divisional Superintendents by the Civil authorities. On the Delhi Division sufficient supplies were not made available to introduce the revised price and scale until the month of May. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(c) In view of the reply to (b), this question does not arise.

(d) This is not correct.

(e) No. In some instances, however, there has been a certain amount of delay in refunding the value of unexchanged coupons for the following reasons:

(i) the late submission by the employees of claims for refund;

(ii) the coupons presented being defaced and damaged and their numbers being indecipherable; and

(iii) because sometimes difficulties arise in verifying that the coupons presented for refund are not forged documents.

(f) As rice is not the staple food of employees on the N. W. Railway this commodity has not been a stock item in the N. W. Railway grainshops in the past. It has, however, recently been introduced as a stock item at concessional rates and arrangements are in hand for stocking this commodity at all shops.

(g) There is no general demand for relief in cash only, though some workers have expressed a preference for this method. Government consider that relief partly in cash and partly in kind is in the best interests not only of the workers themselves but of the country as a whole, having regard to present prices and procurement difficulties.

(h) The Standing Finance Committee for Railways in the exercise of its functions relating to Railway budget estimates appointed a Sub-Committee to examine the various issues arising out of the expenditure on measures of relief in kind. One of the conclusions ultimately formed by the Committee after considering the views of the Sub-Committee was that relief in kind is preferable to relief in cash. This examination was conducted by the Committee in the normal course of its business and there was no need or occasion for calling any evidence.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether there have been any representations from the employees to the effect that they were not getting commodities of good quality and whether they have been asking for cash relief? May I also know whether this question has been recently considered by any body, any committee or any officers, and, if so, when was it last considered?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The question is considered from week to week and almost from day to day.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is the Honourable Member not yet satisfied that their complaints are true?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am perfectly satisfied that on the whole the supplies are reasonably satisfactory having regard to the difficulties of the supply position today.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: In view of the fact that there have been complaints that the goods supplied to them are mixed with dirt etc, is it the Honourable Member's view that nothing should be done in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already replied to the Honourable Member that our enquiries show that the supplies made to the railway employees are of a satisfactory nature.

EXTENSIONS TO SUPERANNUATED POST MASTERS AND CLERKS IN THE SIND POSTAL CIRCLE

4. **Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state how many Post Masters and clerks in the Sind Circle, Posts and Telegraphs Department, have been given extensions of service after their superannuation period and for how many years?

(b) What were the reasons for such extensions?

(c) Were protests raised by subordinates next to the persons whom the extensions were given? If so, how were they met with?

(d) Do Government propose to revise the cases of such extensions to do justice to those who would ordinarily be promoted to such places? If not, why not?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Eight Postmasters and six clerks have been retained in service beyond the age of 55 years for periods ranging from 1 to 4 years.

(b) Under the rules, ministerial servants should ordinarily be retained in service up to the age of 60 years provided they continue to be efficient.

(e) Yes. Several officials have recently protested and the matter is under examination by the Head of the Circle.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply given to (c).

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know how many subordinates and how many officers in the Posts and Telegraphs Department have been given extension beyond the age of sixty?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I must have notice of that question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it so difficult for the Honourable Member to say that there are sixty or fifty-five persons?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: Not a single official so far as I am aware, has been given such an extension.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it the case in the subordinate ranks as well?

PROSECUTION OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES OF KARACHI PORT TRUST FOR CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY AND CHEATING

5. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Is the Honourable Member for War Transport aware that certain employees of the Karachi Port Trust were prosecuted by the Karachi C. I. D. Police on charges of criminal conspiracy and cheating the Karachi Port Trust in January, 1939?

(b) Is it a fact that after a long and protracted trial the employees of the Karachi Port Trust and also some of the partners of a firm of contractors, who were jointly prosecuted with them, were acquitted of all the charges by the Chief Court in 1941?

(c) Is it a fact that the employees of the Karachi Port Trust had been acquitted by the Chief Court of Sind, that the Karachi Port Trust decided to hold a departmental enquiry against them on the same charges and on the same evidence recorded in the criminal case, and that the proceedings of such a departmental enquiry were instituted thereafter some time in January, 1942?

(d) Is it a fact that these employees of the Karachi Port Trust, who were originally suspended in 1939, continue to remain suspended till the present day, and that no decision has yet been taken?

(e) Has any application or reference been received by this Government either from the Karachi Port Trust or from any of the employees concerned in this connection? If so, what has been the result thereof?

(f) Are Government prepared to enquire into the matter as to why these employees are still under suspension, and why no decision has yet been taken?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, one was acquitted by the special magistrate Karachi and the other accused were acquitted on appeal by the Chief Court of Sind.

(c) Yes, the Port Trust decided to hold a departmental enquiry in November 1941.

(d) Yes, except that the suspension order against one of the employees who was acquitted in the lower court was cancelled. He has since died.

(e) Two applications were received and these were passed on to the Chairman, Karachi Port Trust, for disposal.

(f) Yes, Government are enquiring into the matter.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: How long have they remained under suspension and will they be paid their salaries for the period of suspension?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The facts are correctly stated in the question.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member whether any Department is entitled to hold an enquiry after a case had been referred for judicial prosecution and the party concerned had been acquitted by the courts?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Port Trust are an independent body and they decided to hold a departmental enquiry, which arose out of certain remarks in the judgment of the special magistrate.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask if the Karachi Port Trust was justified in pursuing this further inquiry after the judicial pronouncement had been obtained from competent judges?

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

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if that rule or order of the Port Trust has got any consent of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: What rule?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member said that according to the rules and orders the Port Trust can make an inquiry even though a man has passed through the court and has got a judgment. I am asking whether the Government has sanctioned or countenanced this authority of the Port Trust.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is a regular practice.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know . . .

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

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Then I rise to a point of order, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the point of order?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The answer was not understood by me.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The point has been perfectly cleared up and we must go on to the next question. Next question.

TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

6. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to make a statement about the conditions under which the administration of the Bengal Assam Railway has been transferred to the American Government?

(b) What are the arrangements about the distribution of profit?

(c) Who will pay the interest charges?

(d) Has this arrangement been made under lend and lease system?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The administration of the Bengal and Assam Railway has not been transferred to the American Government. On certain sections of that Railway, train running is in charge of, and being performed by American Transportation Units with the assistance of the B. & A. Railway Transportation staff. All other functions of the Railway are under the direct control of the General Manager.

(b), (c) and (d). No question of distribution of profits or interest charges arises. The financial and commercial arrangements of the B. & A. Railway remain unaltered. The services of the American Transportation Units are being given free of charge.

DETERMINATION OF CONTRACT OF BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY

7. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state when the Government is likely to determine the contract of the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

(b) What amount has been fixed for the purchase of this Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The contract with the Bengal Nagpur Railway Company was determined on 30th September 1944 by negotiation.

(b) £3,600,000.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member tell the amount which the Government of India paid and the amount which they would have paid had it been acquired in 1950?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I cannot give the latter figure without notice; but the amount actually paid was £3,600,000.

PURCHASE OF LOCOMOTIVES.

8. *Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state how many locomotives has the Government of India bought in the year 1944, and how many of these have already arrived in India?

(b) In what manner have these locomotives been distributed among the first class Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) (i) Orders have been placed for 255 B.G. and 377 M.G. locomotives against the programme for 1944-45.

(ii) Deliveries against these contracts up to 30th September, 1944, total 48 B.G. and 174 M.G.

(b) The distribution of these locomotives amongst Railways is arranged to suit the traffic conditions existing at the time of delivery.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know at what price and from which countries these orders have been placed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I cannot quote the price, because these locomotives are on lease-lend or mutual aid. They come from the United States or Canada.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that they come on lease-lend *i.e.* free from the United States, yet the Indian Government have to pay the full price?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No; that is not a fact; but the Railways pay for the locomotives and charge them to their capital or depreciation accounts.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Are these engines working like the famous XB engines?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They are excellent engines and are giving excellent results.

Mr. Manu Subedar: My question was whether the locomotives come from the United States to the United Kingdom under lease lend, but that the Indian railways system is made to pay the full price of it.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is an inter-departmental arrangement. The Government of India receives them on lease lend and mutual aid.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Do you pay in full and the United Kingdom gets the materials free from the United States on lease lend?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is not correct.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether the Railway Board has actually paid the amount?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Railway Department will be debited as a matter of accounting.

Sardar Sant Singh: Does the Railway Board know what amount is debited to the Government of India on this account?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know what is the amount?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No; I have not got the information with me now.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Has the Railway Board actually paid the amount or will it be settled when lease lend arrangement is adjusted?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already answered that.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: When these engines are received, may I know if there is any possibility in the increase of the number of railway trains run?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: These are goods locomotives, and they will certainly help in enabling the railways to carry more goods.

ARTICLES RECEIVED FROM MIDDLE EAST FOR DISPOSAL IN INDIA

9. **Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member please mention the approximate value of the articles received from Middle East for disposal in this country?

(b) What arrangements have the Government made for the sale of these articles?

(c) Will the Government advertise the details of these articles for the benefit of the consumers?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to items of salvage from the Middle East theatre of war imported into India. Both quantities and classes of such goods vary considerably from time to time according to actual conditions in the war theatre, this country's own requirements, and the shipping position. Complete figures of quantities and values of such imports are not available.

Such items as packing cases, containers, cartridge cases are in large quantities directly re-usable, after reconditioning where necessary, by the Defence Services and Ordnance-Factories. In addition substantial quantities of ferrous and non-ferrous scrap, used rubber tyres and tubes, cloth rags are imported from time to time as available and required.

(b) All material received from the Middle East, other than that consigned direct to users is received in Port Salvage Depots where it is inspected and sorted. Whatever can be reutilised by the Defence Services is so utilised by them, the balance being reported to the Director-General of Disposals, who in his turn endeavours to reutilise as much as possible by issues to departments or persons engaged on essential production. The material that cannot be used by either of these methods is sold by public auction, advertised tender or private treaty.

(c) Adequate publicity and notice of these sales has been and is given through the usual channels of advertisements in newspapers and distribution of handbills.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know if there is any list of these articles and if so from which offices can it be seen?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It may be seen from the various Deputy Directors of Disposals who are at the various ports—Madras, Bombay, Calcutta and Karachi, etc.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member send me a copy of the handbills or notifications that have been issued.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I will try to collect a few samples and send them to my Honourable Colleague.

CITIZENSHIP IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OF SINDWORK MERCHANTS

10. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** Has the attention of the Foreign Secretary been drawn to a contribution in the *Sind Observer*, Karachi, dated the 12th September 1944 regarding citizenship under a quota system in the United States of America as regards Sindwork merchants? If so, what steps does the Honourable Member propose to take to see that their citizenship is recognized?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The answer to the first part of the question is 'Yes' and to the second 'that the Agent General for India has continued to represent to the State Department the question of the grant of citizenship rights to Indians in the United States of America. The Sindwork Merchants will presumably be eligible on the same terms as other Indians if and when the present restrictions are removed.'

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know whether any representations made have been specifically made with regard to these Indian silk merchants from Sind?

Sir Olaf Caroe: No; no single class or group of Indians has been singled out.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Has any reply come from there as to who have been given that citizenship and who are proposed to be given?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The matter is being discussed in general terms; there are three bills before the American Congress. As it stood towards the close of the last session, the matter was described by me in a speech in the other House which was given some notice in the press. I do not think I can go into very much detail in reply to this question.

TRAVEL IN FIRST CLASS LADIES' COMPARTMENT ON GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS BY TWO EUROPEAN ARMY OFFICERS,

11. ***Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways please make inquiries to ascertain—

(i) whether on the 28th July 1944 in the 'Ladies' first class compartment (2828c) of the Grand Trunk Express proceeding from Nagpur to Delhi two European Army Officers were found travelling and that there were two European lady passengers in the same compartment along with them;

(ii) if at Itarsi, the guard who took charge of the train, asked these officers to come out of that compartment and told them that they could not travel in the Ladies compartment;

(iii) if the Army Officers insisted on travelling in this compartment and the European ladies backed up their insistence, and that even after their senior Army Officer was called a good deal of discussion took place with the guard;

(iv) if the guard insisted on their getting out of the compartment with a warning that the train would not start unless they got out of the compartment; and

(v) if the train which was already late by about two hours, was detained at Itarsi for about half an hour before they got out?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to reward the guard of the train for discharging his duty properly, in spite of the obstinate attitude of all the Army Officers, if the facts mentioned in (i) to (v) are true?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) (i) Yes. This was noticed at Itarsi.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, I am informed that there was some discussion even after the R.T.O. had arrived on the scene.

(iv) Yes. The Guard of the train explained to the Army Officers concerned that the rules did not permit him to allow male passengers to travel in ladies' compartments.

(v) No. The train arrived at Itarsi 35 minutes late and left 40 minutes late, the detention of 5 minutes at Itarsi being due to this incident.

(b) The Guard of the train only discharged his duty and the question of a reward does not arise.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is it not the regular procedure when a person does his duty very satisfactorily under adverse circumstances to give him a reward?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Railway officers are doing their duty all the time; we cannot reward them all.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Officers or soldiers who discharge their duty under adverse circumstances, do they not get any reward or title or extension or increment in salary?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, not that I am aware of.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know, in view of the fact that these disturbances are taking place on practically all the Railways, whether the Honourable Member will let us know what arrangements have been made to dispose of these matters on the spot? Is the R.T.O. working on all the railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes; at a great many places on the Railways: where that is the case, the matter is disposed of on the spot, as on this occasion.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Member aware that the R.T.O's and M.P.'s are not to be found at many places—even in big stations—so that if there are any European passengers who are as persistent and impertinent as they were here to get into ladies compartments, nothing can be done in the matter.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly not: action is taken by railway servants as in this case.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: As this thing happens frequently, will the Honourable Member consider a procedure to publish these rules which prohibit military officers from travelling in ladies compartments as well as not to encroach on berths reserved by passengers, through the military department?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: So far as I am aware, the military authorities have informed their officers of the rules.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if the officers left the compartment after this incident?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: May I know if the guard was not guilty of obstructing the war effort?

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

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall: In view of the fact that some *tongawala* was prosecuted for carrying some soldiers to prostitutes houses, is it not possible that the guard was guilty in the same way of having these soldiers in the same compartment as the ladies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly not. Accommodation was found for the officers elsewhere.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: May I know whether the Honourable Member proposes to punish this guard for his obstinacy?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Certainly not.

EFFORTS FOR REMOVAL OF DISABILITIES AFFECTING INDIANS IN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

12. *Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Will the Foreign Secretary please state if the Government of India made any efforts after February, 1944, to get the disabilities and restrictions affecting Indians in the United States of America removed? What is the view of the Government of the United States of America about this matter?

Sir Olaf Caroe: The answer to the first part of the question is 'Yes' and to the second part 'that the Government of the United States of America are giving the matter their sympathetic and active attention'.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I am asking what progress has been made—not merely that progress has been made. For over two years the same answer has been given to me: I want to know if any definite progress has been made in our efforts after the month of February 1944

Sir Olaf Caroe: The answer was yes, that efforts are being made.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: I should like to know the nature of the definite efforts that have been made after February 1944.

Sir Olaf Caroe: The nature of the efforts has been that the Agent General has kept the matter prominently before the United States authorities concerned. One result has been that one of the Bills has come before the committee of the American Congress concerned.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: Is it because of the efforts of the Agent General or of the American authorities themselves that this matter has come to the forefront?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I think that is quite an unjustifiable inference. The Agent General continues to represent the matter. It is also well known that opinion in India generally is very strongly in favour and the Honourable Member's questions and other questions giving publicity to the matter all have their effect no doubt.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: May I know why the representations of this Government have not received the same consideration as the representations of the Chinese Government have received?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I do not think that is so: I would deny that.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Was the subject discussed between Mr. Churchill and Mr. Roosevelt at Quebec?

Sir Olaf Caroe: I have no information.

TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR SENIOR POSTS OF DRAFTSMEN IN THE CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER'S OFFICE

13. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state the technical qualifications required for the posts of Chief and Assistant Chief Draftsmen in the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office, and whether these posts are held by duly qualified persons? If not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that the Chief Mechanical Engineer has protested on the employment of non-technical persons as draftsmen specially on senior posts? If so, how was the same disposed of?

(c) Who is in charge of personnel matters in the headquarters' Office, and do the Principal Officers and their Deputies exercise effective control on the

staff in their respective executive office sections in the matter of promotion and selection? If so, how? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member has not mentioned the particular Railway to which the question refers.

ADOPTION OF AMERICAN SYSTEM OF RUNNING ENGINES FOR LONG DISTANCES

14. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that the Railway Board has recently adopted the American system of running an engine for a long distance and changing the drivers at intervals?

(b) Does the Honourable Member realise that Railway engines just like motor cars and horses have got their own temperament and persons using them continuously understand the defects and remedies?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that the engines can be run indiscriminately by any driver if these are new and of standard type?

(d) Will the Honourable Member examine the question that old engines, which have already completed their normal age and have developed certain defects, cannot be driven indiscriminately by any driver?

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that engines frequently stop for a long time at different places on account of the drivers not understanding the machinery, thus causing great inconvenience to passengers?

(f) Will the Honourable Member pay the damages to all the passengers for missing their engagements on account of this defective way of running engines?

(g) Has the Railway Board adopted this principle on the opinion of a single individual or the Board has this principle examined by any Committee of experts? Who were the members of the Expert Committee?

(h) Is it not a fact that the life of an engine is shortened by long runs without rest? If not, has the Honourable Member had an opportunity to get the matter attested by an Expert Committee?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) This system of running has been in force in varying degrees on Indian Railways for many years past.

(b) Government is unable to accept the suggestion that locomotives are as temperamental as horses but agrees that persons continually employed on locomotives gain an appreciation of their individual peculiarities.

(c) Experience of even new and standardised locomotives is required by any driver for efficient operation.

(d) The age and design of a locomotive does not preclude its use under 'POOLED' system or for extended runs.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The 'POOLED' system is of general application throughout the world and is accepted as efficient by Locomotive Engineers and Operating Superintendents if proper attention is paid to maintenance.

(h) No, not necessarily.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Has the Honourable Member ever run his motor car and does he know that cars have got their temperament and that machines have got peculiarities of their own known only to their drivers and not to others?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes; I have already given an answer to that.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that every machinery, including a motor car, has its own peculiarities known only to the driver when it becomes old?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, I have said so.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If he agrees, is it not a fact that locomotives have their own peculiarities, especially old locomotives, and only those who are constantly running them can understand them and not everybody and that is the reason for delay on the East Indian Railway.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member appeared to be arguing.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am putting a question: Is it not a fact that this peculiarity applies to locomotive engines in the same manner as other machinery?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already said that there is a variation in engines: I do not admit that it is an ordinary cause of delays.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not advantageous that persons who know the peculiarities should run them and not change them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No; one thing has to be balanced against another; and on balance this pooled system is found to be efficient.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This system was devised at a time when the engines were new.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is really arguing. The question has been answered.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I asked him whether this method is applicable to new engines only and not in the case of old engines.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have answered that in reply to part (d) of the question.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT OF THE COAL COMMISSIONER

15. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state the terms of appointment of the present Coal Commissioner, and place on the table a copy of any agreement or contract that may have been made in this connection?

(b) Was the selection of the present Coal Commissioner made with the direct or indirect assistance of His Majesty's Government, and was he at any time subsequent to his appointment expected or allowed to maintain any contact with any authority or organisation in the United Kingdom interested in questions affecting fuel?

(c) Has the present Coal Commissioner enjoyed the privilege of direct access to His Excellency the Governor-General in an official capacity at any time?

(d) To which different Departments of the Government of India has the Coal Commissioner been attached successively so far for purposes of administrative control, and for what periods was he so attached to each department, and what circumstances led to a change in the controlling department in each case?

(e) Was the Coal Commissioner granted any leave since his appointment? If so, for what period and on what terms, and what arrangements were made for carrying on his duties during his absence on leave?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) Mr. Young has been appointed Coal Commissioner with the Government of India for a period of one year with effect from the afternoon of 27th December, 1943, on a salary of £5,000 per annum. He was given a free air passage from the United Kingdom to India and will be given a free air passage back to the United Kingdom on the termination of his appointment. His leave and travelling allowance are governed by the Fundamental and Supplementary Rules. He was also granted an initial outfit allowance of £75. No agreement or contract has been executed by Mr. Young.

(b) The selection of Mr. Young was made by the Secretary of State for India on behalf of the Government of India.

The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative.

(c) The Coal Commissioner has not been, and is not, entitled to see His Excellency the Governor General when he wishes. But His Excellency the Governor General, who is naturally concerned with the coal situation, required the Coal Commissioner to see him at frequent intervals immediately after his appointment.

(d) The Coal Commissioner has been attached to the following Departments of the Government from time to time:

Name of Department	Period
(1) War Transport Department	27-12-43—5-4-44
(2) Labour Department	6-4-44—31-5-44
(3) Supply Department	1-6-44 onwards.

It is not very easy to define the circumstances which led to a change in the controlling Department in each case, because so many factors had to be taken into account.

From the very beginning several departments of the Government of India were vitally concerned with the production, distribution and consumption of coal. The production of coal, the conditions of employment of colliery labour the safety of mines and of the labour employed therein and their welfare were primarily the responsibility of Honourable Colleague in the Labour Department. The distribution of coal and its transport was the responsibility of the War Transport Department, while the Railway Board were interested both as being large producers of coal and the largest consumer. When the Coal Commissioner was appointed, it was recognised that it was desirable that he should be responsible for all his functions to one Department only. As coal distribution had up to then been the most important problem, he was, to begin with, placed under the administrative control of the War Transport Department, being responsible to the Labour Department for the production side. But at the time he was appointed and thereafter, production fell heavily and the question of stepping up production by import of labour, machinery and stores became the most acute problem. Towards the middle of April, therefore, he was placed under the administrative control of the Labour Department. The question of placing him under one department for all his functions was meanwhile under consideration in the light of the reports which the Coal Commissioner had been asked to furnish. On a full consideration of these reports, it was decided that the most appropriate department to control his main activities would be the Supply Department. This was accordingly done, leaving the Labour Department with the responsibility for recruitment of labour, the terms and conditions of its employment in coal mines and also their welfare and safety.

(e) The Coal Commissioner was granted leave on medical certificate for 28 days with effect from 15th September 1944. During his absence on leave the two Deputy Coal Commissioners were asked to deal direct with the Secretariat of the Supply Department.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to part (a) of the question, may I know whether it is intended to extend the term of office of this officer, when it comes to an end?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I am unable to answer that question at present.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The Honourable Member has given us an idea about the terms on which this officer has been appointed. Is it a fact that this officer had also to be compensated for loss of business in the United Kingdom, apart from the other terms to which the Honourable Member has referred?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: The terms are as I have detailed them in my answer and I am not aware of any other terms for which the Government of India are responsible.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to part (c) of the question, the Honourable Member has said that shortly after his appointment, the Coal Commissioner had to see the Governor General frequently, due to the importance of the matters. Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether the practice was initiated with the approval of the department concerned or was it done over the head of the Honourable Member dealing with this officer?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I understand that it was done with the fullest knowledge and approval of the Member concerned. It was His Excellency's desire that he should meet the Coal Commissioner and it was not a privilege granted to the Coal Commissioner to meet His Excellency.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Did the Coal Commissioner obtain the formal leave of the Honourable Member on every occasion that he went to see the Governor General?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: He went as the Governor General required him to go and see him. It is understood that this arrangement was arrived at with the full approval of the Member concerned.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Did the Coal Commissioner keep the Honourable Member informed regularly about his interviews and also about the subject matter of the discussions that took place between him and the Governor General?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I presume so. I was not the Member in charge at the time.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member find out from the records as to whether this procedure was followed?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: They are not matters of records.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: With regard to part (d), the Honourable Member has given us a few factors that were responsible for the changing over of the control from one department to another at short intervals. Is it a fact that the Coal Commissioner's own personal likes and dislikes were one of the factors determining this change over from one department to another?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the power to say that a factory or any class of industry in this country must close down, because no coal will be available, is given to the Coal Controller or is retained by the Honourable Member himself?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It is not given to the Coal Controller.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Every time a factory is asked to close down, such as the steel rolling mills, may I know whether the sanction and permission of the Member is taken when this direction is given?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It depends upon the nature of the factory. In the case of the steel rolling mills, the Supply Member was responsible. In the case of others, if they have to close down, the department which is responsible for running them gives the direction.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Honourable Member promise to look into the question as to how many industries are penalised, when it is in the power of the Government to permit them to have some coal to carry on? I want an assurance from the Honourable Member on this point. It is a very serious matter both for businessmen and the labour concerned. Will the Honourable Member personally look into this and see how many factories have closed down and whether something cannot be done to restart them?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is the constant care of myself and some of my colleagues who form a committee of the Council for this purpose.

Sardar Saht Singh: With regard to part (d) of the question, is it a fact that a report was called for by the Governor General and this Commissioner was unable to furnish that report and one of the Indian Members of his own department had to write the report and take over the charge of the coal department?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: If the report had been called from the Coal Controller, he must have sent the

report. He might have had the help of some member who had known something about it in the earlier stages.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the coal policy of the Government of India affects the interests of the workers both working in mines and in factories, which suffer on account of the shortage of coal, will the Government of India appoint labour representatives on the advisory committee which they have formed for the production and distribution of coal?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I submit that does not arise on this question.

HIGHER GRADE OFFICERS EMPLOYED IN THE COAL COMMISSIONER'S ORGANISATION

16. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to state the number of officers drawing a monthly salary (i) between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000, and (ii) above Rs. 1,000, employed in the Coal Commissioner's organisation, and how many of them in each category are Indians?

(b) What was the process of selection of these officers? When were they selected and by whom in the first instance?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving the names, the previous qualifications and experience and the emoluments of the officers mentioned in (a) above, and their present duties, adding the name of any private firm to which any of them may have belonged before their present appointment, and indicating the emoluments which each officer mentioned in (a) above enjoyed in his immediately previous employment?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) (i) 32 of whom 19 are Indians.

(a) (ii) 29, including the Coal Commissioner. Of these six are Indians.

(b) Most of these officers were transferred to Supply Department from War Transport and Railway Departments. Officers recruited since the transfer of the office of the Coal Commissioner to the Supply Department have been selected in accordance with the principles followed by the Supply Department in the recruitment of officers and have been approved by me.

(c) The information asked for by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

REVIEW OF THE COAL COMMISSIONER'S ADMINISTRATION

17. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to make a comprehensive statement reviewing the administration of the Coal Commissioner since 1st June, 1944, in respect of the control of production and distribution of coal in British India and indicating particularly the improvement in the production of coal of different grades, month by month, or for such other periods for which statistics may be available?

(b) What is the nature of organisation which has been set up for assisting the Coal Commissioner in regard to production and distribution of coal respectively and what are the duties and powers of the various officers belonging to the organisation?

(c) What is the target fixed for the production of coal of different grades and on what principle has this target been divided, if at all, for each colliery undertaking and to what extent have the individual collieries so far achieved or are likely to achieve the target?

(d) What different encouragements of a financial character have been granted or promised for speeding up production of coal?

(e) What further facilities by way of provision of machinery and other equipment or cheap food for labour have already been granted to the collieries, or are under contemplation?

(f) To what extent has the labour position improved in the different mining areas; and if the position has not improved up to expectation, what further steps are contemplated for the purpose of effecting the minimum necessary improvement in this matter?

(g) Are the different Indian States concerned expected to co-operate with the Government by the adoption of control measures on lines similar to those in operation in British India? Is any liaison expected to be maintained between these Indian States and the Government's Control organisation?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a) and (b). The Coal Commissioner is responsible for implementing the policy of Government in regard to the production and distribution of coal. He is assisted in the discharge of his duties by two Deputy Coal Commissioners.

The Deputy Coal Commissioner (Production) is the head of the State Railway Coal Department, which has been transferred to the control of the Supply Department. He is also responsible for the planning and execution of new projects and for the procurement of colliery stores required for the efficient working of Railway and privately-owned collieries. The Deputy Coal Commissioner (Production) has a staff of seven junior officers at headquarters.

The Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution) is responsible:

- (i) for estimating requirements and for allocation of coal;
- (ii) for the grading and inspection of coal; and
- (iii) for fuel economy measures and other miscellaneous matters connected with these responsibilities.

The Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution) is also the Transport Advisory Officer of the Railway Board. He is assisted by a Joint Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution) and by nine junior officers at headquarters.

There are also seven Regional Coal Controllers who are the chief executive officers of the Coal Commissioner in the coalfields. They are stationed in the coalfields of Bengal, Bihar, Punjab, Baluchistan, Assam and Central Provinces. The duties of the Regional Coal Controllers, briefly, are:

- (i) To report to the Coal Commissioner, for procurement action, essential requirements of stores for the collieries in their areas;
- (ii) To bring to the notice of the Coal Commissioner problems such as shortages of labour and transportation difficulties which are hampering production and to suggest measures to improve production;
- (iii) To control the stacking of coal by collieries and distribute wagons in accordance with the general orders of the Coal Commissioner; and
- (iv) To control the grading, sampling and inspection staff under the direction of the Coal Commissioner.

The total quantity of coal raised throughout India during the four months, June to September, 1944, during which this organisation has been developed, was, in fact, slightly lower than the output in the corresponding period of last year. It is not in the public interest to publish figures of actual raisings or the distribution between different grades. Government have not so far exercised any control over production. The coal shortage has been so acute that any coal that could possibly be produced has had to be used. The system of distribution will be described in answer to the Honourable Member's next question.

The office of the Coal Commissioner was transferred to the Department of Supply with effect from the 1st of June, and these four months have really been a period of organisation. They are ordinarily among the most difficult months of the year for coal raisings. Every effort has been concentrated on maintaining production during this difficult period—and in fact average production during the four months June-September has fallen less in comparison with the first five months of the year than in the corresponding period of 1943 and the earlier deterioration has been arrested to some extent. The main object has, however, inevitably been to set up the organisation necessary for the planned use of facilities for production when labour conditions recover after the harvest period. In particular, every thing possible has been done to expedite supplies of imported mechanical equipment, without which in the existing labour conditions a substantial improvement in output cannot be hoped for.

(c) No target for the production of coal of different grades has yet been fixed. As I have already said, there is a general shortage of coal and we are anxious to get all the coal that can be produced. The position in respect of the production of superior coal is particularly difficult and, whatever the overall target, we can only aim at producing the maximum possible proportion of the better qualities of coal. As far as individual collieries are concerned, however, targets have been fixed after taking into account such factors as the capacity of the mine, previous raisings and particular individual difficulties for the purpose of operating the production Bonus Scheme, details of which are given in the answer to part (d) of this question.

(d) (i) A special depreciation at the rate of 50 per cent. per annum is allowed on coal-mining machinery for purposes of income-tax and excess profits tax. This special depreciation is allowed on all items, not being replacements, necessary for maintaining or increasing coal production and will be admissible for a period of two years from the date of bringing the items concerned into use.

(ii) Government have also agreed to advance loans to the colliery owners for capital expenditure up to the limit of the amount at their credit in the compulsory deposit under the Excess Profits Tax Act at the rate of interest paid by Government on such deposits.

(iii) In order to encourage production special bonus which will not be eligible to excess profits tax will be paid to collieries in respect of production in excess of the target figures fixed as already described. These targets will remain effective until March 31st, 1946, except for new undertakings or where for special reasons they need to be reduced. The bonus will be payable at intervals of six months on the basis of each half year's raisings at a rate calculated as follows:

(a) In respect of excess coal not exceeding 10 per cent. of the target figure: 10 per cent. of the price of the excess;

(b) In respect of excess coal exceeding 10 per cent. but not exceeding 20 per cent. of the target figure: 20 per cent. of the price of such excess; and

(c) In respect of excess coal exceeding 20 per cent. of the target figure: 25 per cent. of the price of such excess.

(e) *Machinery*: The requirements of collieries of all categories of mining stores and equipment in short supply are reported to the Coal Commissioner who gives all possible assistance regarding import or indigenous supply. A special officer has been appointed to progress all the outstanding commercial orders in the United Kingdom, and current demands for specialised mining equipment on behalf of both State and private collieries are now bulked and placed through Government channels in addition to such equipment which will be purchased by collieries themselves. Government have acquired special mechanical equipment for the development of open cast mining which will be available for use in State and private collieries on special terms.

Food: A plan was introduced in the coalfields in April last, under which each mine-worker is entitled to draw a basic standard ration on payment of controlled prices and also gets a ration of *dal* of $\frac{1}{4}$ of the basic ration at the concession rate of six seers to the rupee. In addition, a manual worker gets free, $\frac{1}{2}$ seer of rice for each attendance, and each worker is granted by the owner of the mine for each day he attends work a sum of two annas, if he is a worker without dependents, three annas if he is a worker with one adult dependent or child or children and five annas if he is a worker with an adult dependent and a child or children.

(f) Labour attendance which had considerably deteriorated during 1943 has remained fairly steady in 1944. Since one of the principal factors affecting the supply of labour to collieries was the recruitment of labour for the Government of India works in the colliery areas, Government issued instructions stopping further recruitment of labour from the colliery areas for such works and also to discharge such local labour as soon as possible. In

addition Government has arranged for the importation of unskilled labour from outside, principally from Gorakhpur in the United Provinces. There are already about 30,000 Gorakhpur labourers in the coalfields, and it is proposed to raise this figure to 40,000 before the end of this year.

Government has also under consideration a scheme under which licences will be required for labour recruitment from the colliery areas for works outside such areas.

(g) Yes.

Sir Henry Richardson: Is the Honourable Member aware that the continued shortage to which he refers in the output of coal is very largely due to the inordinate delay by the military authorities in releasing from the army the staff which is required to replace casualties in the coal mines which are very urgently required?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I must confess that that fact has not so far been brought to my notice.

Sir Henry Richardson: Does the Honourable Member know that some of these casualties have been recommended for replacement by the Coal-Commissioner himself?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It has not come to my notice, but I will look into the matter.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the Government of India give bonuses to the mine-owners, will they also give bonus to the miners for the production which they give?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That is a matter which is to be considered in consultation with my Honourable Colleague, the Labour Member, but I can assure my Honourable friend that colliery owners will indeed be very glad if the output is so increased by the worker as to entitle him to receive bonus on the output.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Honourable Member expects the miner to give production first and then get bonus or is he willing to give bonus first and then see whether the production is increased or not?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: In some of the mines—I am not sure if it is the case in all mines—colliery owners have already got a scheme of bonus for increased production, but all my information goes to show that the production now per miner is very much less than it used to be a year or two back.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Is the Honourable Member aware that the production in coal mines suffers on account of the bad labour conditions that exist in Indian mines?

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a shortage of tubs for men and women who go down and sometimes remain there the whole night waiting for tubs, with the result that they do not get even the ration of rice free?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I am aware that there is still a shortage of tubs and we are considering to make that good as rapidly as possible. I am not aware and I would be completely surprised if it was a fact that any women labourers are underground in the mines during the nights. That is my information and I shall certainly be surprised if it turns out to be correct. I am not aware also that the loading by the miners is less on account of the shortage of tubs. In fact, the complaint everywhere is that there is not as much loading by the miners as it used to be about 18 months back.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Will the Honourable Member find out if there are women labourers who work underground at night?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: If the Honourable Lady has got fairly authentic or reliable information that that is so, I will certainly make inquiries.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: I have got that information that it is being done.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: That there are women labourers underground during the nights?

Mrs. Renuka Ray: My information is that women labourers do work underground during the night at some mines. Occasionally they come up in the morning, without earning anything as they do not get tubs and they complain that in these circumstances, the free allowance of $\frac{1}{4}$ seer of rice is also not given to them.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: If the Honourable Lady will kindly furnish me with the names of mines where such complaints were made, I shall certainly follow up the matter.

Mrs. Renuka Ray: Thank you. I shall certainly do so.

Mr. Manu Subedar: When the Coal Control was established, the Government gave us to understand that the normal trade channels would be used as far as possible. May I ask the Honourable Member if he will stop the practice of elimination of normal trade channels which the Coal Controller is now adopting?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: According to my information, the usual trade channels are being availed of as far as possible. Quite recently, I do admit a complaint was made to me at Bombay that in some cases, with reference to some Indian State Railways, the trade channels were being eliminated and that direct contacts were being made between the State Railways and the collieries at the instance of the Coal Controller. I said I would examine that question. This is the information I have had of the subject. I will try to find out whether the circumstances have justified a change in the accepted policy of the Government to use the usual trade channels, as far as possible.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS.

SYSTEM OF DISTRIBUTION OF COAL UNDER COAL CONTROL SCHEME

18. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to make a comprehensive statement explaining in detail the system of distribution of coal under the Coal Control Scheme and indicating particularly—

(i) the adjustments that may have been made between the requirements of consumption within the country and those outside the shores of India;

(ii) the principles on which allocation has been made between different classes of consumers in the country including different categories of industries;

(iii) the prices that have been fixed by Government of different grades of coal in different mining areas and the principles that have governed the prices fixed;

(iv) the complaints, if any, that may have been received from any consuming interest in the country regarding the system of distribution of coal, the quotas and quantities of supply, quality or price, and the action taken on such complaints; and

(v) any financial liability of Government involved in the operation of the distribution scheme in any of its aspects?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: By the middle of every month Government of India receive, from the Coal Commissioner, an estimate of the coal which is likely to be available for despatch from all the important coalfields throughout the country in the following month. He also sends proposals for the allocation of coal to the different groups of consumers. This is largely done with reference to the allocations in the previous months, and after taking into account the seasonal or urgent requirements that are anticipated. Proposed allocations are discussed at a Committee of Secretaries of all departments interested in the allocation of coal during the ensuing month. The recommendations of the Secretaries' Committee are submitted to the W. R. C. C. for their information and orders.

Thereafter, the allocation is communicated to the Coal Commissioner as well as to the various Departments of Government who, in their turn, either themselves inform the Coal Commissioner the subsequent allocation of coal to the different units of each industry or in some cases ask the industry itself to send to the Coal Commissioner its recommendation for distribution to the component units of the industry. The Coal Commissioner accordingly issues programmes on the collieries for the ensuing month and arranges that the coal reaches the parties for whom it is intended. Weekly reports of despatches in bulk to different industries are reported to the Department of Supply, and a check on the distribution is, therefore, constantly maintained. The different Departments of the Government keep in constant touch with the industries which are their concern, and in a fairly large number of cases the industries do not hesitate to approach the Coal Commissioner direct. All such requests are carefully considered. With reference to the specific queries made by the Honourable Member—

(i) Apart from the bunkering coal India's existing coal position no longer admits of any exports being made. Exports of Indian coal have accordingly ceased for some time. Coal required for bunkering is about 4 per cent. of the monthly output. All other coal is consumed in the country.

(ii) Rations were first fixed in October 1943 for each industry on the basis of actual supplies made during the 12 months period from August 1942 to July 1943, and with reference to the essentiality of each industry and the total amount of coal estimated to be available for despatch. Allocations continue to be fixed monthly on the same basis. I have already described the actual distribution procedure.

(iii) A copy of Government of India Department of Supply Notification No. 953, dated 14th July 1944 together with a copy of the subsequent amendment is laid on the table of the House.

In respect of Bengal and Bihar Coal, the prices are broadly based on quality. The prices for Baluchistan and Punjab Coal were based on the prices then current in these provinces. For C. P. Coal the prices fixed were the same as for Grade II Coal from the Jharia field. These prices have since been revised in the case of certain collieries in C. P., which could not get a fair margin of profit under the prices originally fixed. Prices for Assam Coal were based on the recommendation of the local authorities.

(iv) No specific complaints have been received from any consumers regarding the present system of coal distribution or about the prices fixed for coal. There have been some complaints about inadequate quotas or supplies. These are dealt with in consultation with the authority responsible for looking after the coal requirements of the consumer concerned.

Complaints have also been received regarding the quality of coal. The supply of inferior coal during recent months has been due to inadequate raisings and the consequent serious depletion of coal stocks in the coal fields. The position should be rectified with the improvement of raisings.

(v) No financial liability rests on Government in respect of supplies to non Government consumers. For coal purchased by the Supply Department for stacking or for supply to Government Departments and semi-Government bodies, the liability rests on Government.

Department of Supply, Notification No. 953, New Delhi, the 14th July 1944

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-clause (1) of Clause 4 of the Colliery Control Order, 1944, and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Supply, No. 840, dated the 31st May 1944, as subsequently amended, the Central Government is pleased to fix as follows the prices at which coal may be sold by colliery owners :—

I. All Collieries in the Provinces of Bengal and Bihar.

(a) Coal.

Grade of coal	Price					
	Large coal and slack		Run of mine		Rubble and Smithy nuts.	
	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.
Selected Grade A	13	0 0	12	8 0	13	4 0
Selected Grade B	12	0 0	11	8 0	12	4 0
Grade I	11	2 0	10	10 0	11	6 0
Grade II	10	12 0	10	4 0	11	0 0
Grade III-A	10	6 0	9	14 0	10	10 0
Grade III-B	10	0 0	9	8 0	10	4 0

NOTE.—For the purposes of the above table the grade of any coal will be determined as follows:—

Coal from Seams of the Raniganj Series.

If the ash and moisture content thereof—

- (i) does not exceed 17.5 per cent. Selected Grade A.
- (ii) exceeds 17.5 per cent. ; but does not exceed 19 per cent. Selected Grade B.
- (iii) exceeds 19 per cent. ; but does not exceed 24 per cent. Grade I.

Coal from any other Seams.

If the ash content thereof—

- (i) does not exceed 15 per cent. Selected Grade A.
- (ii) exceeds 15 per cent. ; but does not exceed 17 per cent. Selected Grade B.
- (iii) exceeds 17 per cent. ; but does not exceed 20 per cent. Grade I.
- (iv) exceeds 20 per cent. ; but does not exceed 24 per cent. Grade II.
- (v) exceeds 24 per cent. ; but does not exceed 28 per cent. Grade III-A.
- (vi) exceeds 28 per cent. ; but does not exceed 35 per cent. Grade III-B.

Mineral having an ash content in excess of 35 per cent. shall not be vendible as coal.

(b) Coke.

Grade of Coke	Price	
	Rs.	A. P.
Soft Coke—not exceeding 45 per cent. ash content	19	0 0
Hard Coke—from Bye-product ovens if the ash content does not exceed 22 per cent.	30	0 0
Hard Coke—from Bye-product ovens if the ash content exceeds 22 per cent. ; but does not exceed 30 per cent.	24	0 0
Hard Coke—from Beehive or country ovens— if the ash content does not exceed 22 per cent. if the ash content exceeds 22 per cent. ; but does not exceed 30 per cent.	33	0 0
	27	0 0
Coke Breeze. Under ½"	4	0 0

NOTE 1.—The prices given under (a) and (b) are for delivery free on rail at, or at the loading point nearest to, the colliery, or free on tramway at the colliery, or free on road vehicle at the colliery.

2. The prices do not apply to retail sales of less than one ton, on any one day for delivery by road.

II. Collieries in Baluchistan.

Area in which colliery situated 1	Lease holder of colliery 2	No. of Lease 3	Price for		Station at which prices apply 6
			Slack coal 4	Large coal 5	
Quetta	R. S. Tikamdas	58	29 12 0	..	Quetta.
Do.	Do.	59	29 12 0	..	"
Do.	Do.	126	29 12 0	..	"
Do.	Mr. Sorabji	128	29 12 0	..	"
Do.	Mr. Wilayat Hussain	73	29 12 0	..	"
Do.	Do.	77	29 12 0	..	"
Do.	Do.	92	29 12 0	..	"
Do.	Do.	98	29 12 0	..	"
Mach	All leases		24 8 0	26 8 0	Mach.
Sharigh	R. S. Tikamdas	61	18 4 0	20 4 0	Sharigh.
Do.	Do.	56	19 4 0	21 4 0	"
Do.	Do.	103	24 4 0	26 4 0	"
Do.	Do.	154	18 12 0	20 12 0	"
Do.	Mr. Nanak Chand Chooni	116	20 4 0	22 4 0	"
Do.	Do.	145	17 12 0	19 12 0	"
Do.	Mr. Wilayat Hussain	150	20 4 0	22 4 0	"
Do.	Do.	152	19 12 0	21 12 0	"
Do.	Minck Colliery	76	20 4 0	22 4 0	"
Do.	Mr. F. B. Patel	94	22 4 0	24 4 0	"
Do.	Mr. Paind Khan	137	23 4 0	25 4 0	"
Do.	Mr. K. A. Marker	138	24 4 0	26 4 0	"
Khost	Associated Cement Co.	104	18 12 0	20 12 0	Khost.
Do.	Do.	105	19 4 0	21 4 0	"
Do.	Do.	153	20 12 0	22 12 0	"
Do.	Mr. Ram Narain Satyapal	162	20 12 0	22 12 0	"
Zardalu	R. S. Tikamdas	133	18 12 0	20 12 0	Zardalu.
Do.	Mr. K. A. Marker	134	17 12 0	19 12 0	"
Do.	Mr. Jalad Khan	135	19 4 0	21 4 0	"
Spezand	All leases		26 4 0	28 4 0	Spezand.

NOTE.—The prices given above are for delivery at the stations named.

III. All Collieries in the Punjab.

Grade of coal	Price
	Rs. A. P.
Slack	20 0 0
Run-of-mine	20 0 0
Large coal	22 0 0

NOTE.—The prices given above are for delivery free on rail at the colliery or free on road vehicle at the colliery, except that in the case of coal from Mackerwal Company's collieries the prices are for delivery f.o.r. Trag. Station.

IV. All Collieries in the Central Provinces and Berar and in Orissa.

Grade of coal	Price
	Rs. A. P.
Large coal and slack coal	10 12 0
Run-of-mine	10 4 0
Rubble and smithy nuts	11 0 0

NOTE 1.—The prices given above are for delivery free on rail at, or at the loading point nearest to, the colliery, or free on tramway at the colliery, or free on road vehicle at the colliery.

2. The prices do not apply to retail sales of less than one ton on any one day for delivery by road.

V. Collieries in Assam.

Name of colliery	Grade of coal or coke	Price
		Rs. A. P.
The Assam Railways and Trading Co.	Run-of-mine	20 0 0
Ltd.'s Margherita Collieries	Dust Coal	20 0 0
Do.	Hand picked coal	30 0 0
Do.	Hard coke	75 0 0
Nazira Coal Co. Ltd.'s Borgon Colliery	Run-of-mine	30 0 0
Dilli Colliery Company's Dilli Colliery	Run-of-mine	25 0 0
Cherra-Chattak Ropeway Co.'s Cherra-punji Colliery.	Run-of mine	22 0 0

NOTE.—The prices given above are for delivery free on rail at the colliery, except that the price in the case of the Dilli Colliery Company's coal is free on road vehicle at the colliery and the price in the case of the Cherra-Chattak Ropeway Company's coal is free on ropeway at the colliery.

Explanations.—1. The prices given in the above tables are—

(a) per ton of 2,240 lbs. ;

(b) exclusive of Stowing Excise duty, Rescue Station Excise duty, Soft Coke Cess Excise duty, and any other additional Excise duty, cess or impost which the Central Government may hereafter declare to be payable by consumers of coal, but are inclusive of all other cesses or imposts ; and

(c) Exclusive of middleman's Commission.

2. When delivery is free on rail, the weight charged for shall be the weight ascertained at a railway weighbridge, and when delivery is free on tramway or road vehicle the weight shall be ascertained in such manner as may be prescribed by the Coal Commissioner.

A. A. WAUGH, Secy.

*Government of India Department of Supply (Main Secretariat), Notification
No. 1521, New Delhi, the 19th October 1944.*

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-clause (1) of clause 4 of the Colliery Control Order, 1944, and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Supply No. 953, dated the 14th July 1944, in so far as it relates to the Collieries in the Central Provinces specified below, the Central Government is pleased to fix as follows, the prices at which coal produced in the said collieries may be sold by colliery owners :

Name of colliery and name of Proprietor	Grade of coal	Price		
		Rs.	A.	P.
1. Kolhia Hirdagarh Co., Ltd., Kolhia collieries				
2. M/s Budhoolal Jagannath, Proprietors, South Panara Colliery.				
3. M/s C. P. Syndicate Ltd., Receivers Junnordeo No. 2 Colliery.	Large coal slack coal and dust coal.	12	12	0
. R. S. Mathuraprasad Motilal & Co., Proprietors, Jamai-Datla colliery.				
5. M/s Jasraj Deoraj, Proprietors, Sangham Collieries	Run-of-mine	12	4	0
6. M/s H. N. Ojha & Co. Ltd., Palachouri Colliery	Rubble and Smithy nuts	13	0	0
7. R. S., P. S. Sial & Co., Proprietors, Ghogri Colliery				
8. Mishrilal Meghraj & Co. Ambara Colliery.				
9. Walji Bhimji & Sons Proprietors, Ghogri-Barkuhi Colliery.				
10. Kishenchand & Co. Dhao Colliery.				
11. K. S. M. Hasonji & Sons, Proprietors, East Barkhul Colliery.				
12. M/s J. A. Trivedi Brothers, West Barkhui Colliery				
13. M/s Karamchand Thaper & Co., Proprietors, Rawanwar Khas Colliery.				
14. Nandlal Esq., Narsinghpur Road, Chhindwara, Proprietor, Haran Chatta Colliery.				
15. M/s Newton Chickli Collieries Limited, Proprietors, Eklehra Colliery.				
16. Sree Mohakali Coal Mines Ltd., Proprietors, Amritlal Ojha & Co. Ltd.	Large coal, slack coal and dust coal.	13	12	0
17. M/s Shivax C. Cambata & Co. Ltd., Proprietors, Rakikof Collieries.				
18. M/s C. P. Syndicate Ltd., Proprietors, Kalichhapar Collieries.	Run-of-mine	13	4	0
19. M/s Kanhan Valley Coal Co. Ltd., Damua Collieries.				
20. M/s Budhoolal Jagannath, Proprietors, East Nandora Collieries.				
21. I. T. Warde Esq., Proprietor, Ghorawari-kalan Collieries.	Rubble and Smithy nuts	14	0	0
22. M/s. The Hirdagarh Collieries Ltd., Hirdagarh.				

NOTE.—(1) The prices given above are for delivery free on rail at, or at the loading point nearest to the colliery or free on road vehicle at the colliery.

(2) The prices do not apply to retail sales of less than one ton on any one day for delivery by road.

(3) The prices given above are

(a) per ton of 2,240 lbs.

(b) exclusive of Stowing Excise duty, Rescue Station Excise duty, Soft Coke Cess Excise duty, and any other additional Excise duty, cess or impost which the Central Government may hereafter declare to be payable by consumers of coal, but are inclusive of all other cesses or imposts ;

(c) exclusive of middleman's commission, and

(d) inclusive of all tramway charges.

4. When delivery is free on rail, the weight charged for shall be the weight ascertained at a railway weighbridge and when delivery is free on road vehicle the weight shall be ascertained in such manner as may be prescribed by the coal Commissioner.

Sd. ILLEGIBLE

for A. A. WAUGH,

Secretary to the Government of India.

STEPS TO CONTROL MINING OPERATIONS AS REGARDS A COLLIERY UNDER DEFENCE OF INDIA RULES OR COAL CONTROL SCHEME

19. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Will the Honourable the Supply Member be pleased to indicate the steps, if any, that may have been taken to control mining operations with reference to any individual colliery under the Defence of India Rules or under the Coal Control Scheme with the object of either expanding or restricting its activities?

(b) Was any action taken at any time with the object of stopping the despatch of coal from any colliery? If so, in how many cases, and in what circumstances was such action taken?

(c) Was any coal stacked in individual collieries as a result of any action taken under the authority of Government? If so, during what periods and for what reasons, and to which grades did such coal belong?

(d) How much coal was at any time stacked on Government account and in what circumstances, and what payments were made therefor? Was any complaint received in connection with such stacking in any case, and, if so, to what effect?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: (a), (b) and (c). Government have not so far exercised the powers to regulate mining operations in any particular case under the Defence of India Rules.

A scheme for the stacking of coal by about 92 collieries in the Bengal and Bihar coalfields was introduced in March 1944. As the production of coal in these two fields was expected to exceed the tonnage available for despatch by rail from day to day, and Government's intention was that the amount of coal, after meeting colliery requirements, should be put into stock, without reducing the rate of output either for want of wagons to clear the mechanical screens or because of the diversion of labour to stocking. Those collieries were allowed to make despatches of coal only when wagons became available after meeting the demands of the other collieries in the Bengal and Bihar coalfields. Soft coke and coal of the following grades *viz.* Run-of-mine, Slack and Steam were stacked.

(d) It was estimated that about 3,65,600 tons would be put into stock. The figures of the actual amount of payments made are not available, but Government orders provide for advance payments up to 90 per cent. of the value of the coal stacked, and the balance of 10 per cent. on despatch of coal by the collieries. No complaints have so far been received with regard to the Stacking orders from any individual colliery, though when the Scheme was first introduced, the Indian Mining Association and the Indian Mining Federation objected to the whole scheme. The Indian Colliery Owners' Association have, however, raised the question of minimum royalty and commission to the royalty receivers in connection with the Stacking Scheme. This is under consideration.

REQUESTING GOVERNMENTS OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND UNITED KINGDOM TO RELEASE TRANSPORT MACHINES TO CIVIL AVIATION COMPANIES IN INDIA

20. *Sir F. E. James: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) if he has seen the statement which recently appeared in *Austral News* published monthly from the office of the Australian Government Trade Commissioner in India, that the Australian Government have authorised the importation now, during the war, of transport aeroplanes, that Australian National Airways have decided to purchase Douglas and Lockheed aircraft for operation on Australian civil air routes, and that pending their delivery, a number of Douglas C-47s will be released to the company from the United States of America for immediate operation;

(b) if he is aware that civil aviation companies in India are unable to obtain transport machines or spare parts from either the United Kingdom or the United States of America, and are, therefore either operating their services with great difficulty or seriously curtailing them; and

(c) if, in view of the importance, both to the war effort and to the development of civil aviation in India after the war, of maintaining adequate civil air transport services in India, and, in view of the willingness of the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom to release air transport machines to the Australian National Airways company for immediate operation on civil air routes in Australia, the Government of India will urgently request those Governments to arrange for the release of suitable air transport machines to companies operating civil air routes in India?

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

(b) Government have constantly in mind the difficulties which the air transport companies in India experience in maintaining their operations due to lack of spare parts and other supplies but the fact is that both Tatas and Indian National Airways have been employed to operate Government aircraft on air services essential to the war effort and the total operations now carried out by each company are larger than before the war.

(c) Government have not relaxed efforts to obtain suitable transport aircraft to employ these companies in support of the war effort to the utmost of their capacity, subject to the prior demands of military operations. They are continuing these efforts.

Government are glad to take the opportunity of paying a tribute to the assistance to the war effort given both by Tata Air Lines and by Indian National Airways since the beginning of the war.

ORDERS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES FOR HOLDING POSTAL UNION MEETINGS ONLY ON SUNDAYS AND POSTAL HOLIDAYS

21. *Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that the postal employees were allowed to hold the meetings of their Union any day in the week outside the working hours of the office?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that recently orders have been issued in the United Provinces that postal workers can hold the meetings only on Sundays and postal holidays?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, have the Government considered the great inconvenience to the postal employees caused by the new rule who have got to postpone all their private work for the few holidays of this department and can easily dispose of the short work of the Union on working days even?

(d) Have the Government considered the advisability of changing the new rule and resorting to the old practice? If not, why not?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Postal employees can hold the meetings of their Union when and where they like so long as it does not interfere with their duties.

(b) Yes, but those orders only apply to meetings held on the premises of Post or Telegraph offices.

(c) Government are not aware of any inconvenience caused to Postal employees by the restriction imposed. It is open to them to hold such meetings on week days at a place other than the P. & T. office premises.

(d) There are no rules but the orders imposing the restriction were issued because on week days the premises of a Post or Telegraph office cannot be conveniently spared and also because it has been found that the meetings were not always conducted in an orderly manner. Government do not propose to interfere with the orders of the Postmaster-General.

WRONG ENTRIES MADE IN REGISTER OF QUALIFICATIONS OF LINEMEN BY SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICER, TELEGRAPHS, LAHORE SUB-DIVISION

22. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state with reference to parts (b) and (c) of starred question

No. 760 put on the 3rd April, 1944 and the replies thereof regarding forging of Register of qualifications of Linemen by the Sub-Divisional Officer, Telegraphs, Lahore Sub-Division, declaring literate Muslim Linemen as illiterate and illiterate Hindu Linemen as literate—

- (a) the action taken against the said Sub-Divisional Officer;
- (b) the result of action, if any, taken against the said Sub-Divisional Officer;
- (c) the extent and nature of punishment, if any, inflicted on the said officer for such a deliberate and during forgery?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: The matter is still under investigation. It has, however, been found that the inaccuracies applied equally to Muslims and Hindus.

OFFICERS OF CLASS I, ETC., GRANTED EXTENSIONS OF SERVICE IN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS AND METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENTS

23. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please lay on the table with reference to incomplete replies of starred question No. 761 put on the 3rd April, 1944, a complete statement as required by starred question No. 761 of 3rd April, 1944?

(b) What steps has he taken to make good the differences in the representation of Muslim services in the department referred in the said question?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) A complete statement is placed on the table of the House.

(b) The question does not arise so far as vacancies filled by departmental promotions are concerned as the Government orders about reservations on a communal basis do not apply to such vacancies. As regards vacancies filled by direct recruitment, the communal orders have been strictly followed. The short recruitment of Muslims in the grades of Engineering Supervisors and Wireless Operators, to which direct recruitment is made, was due to the dearth of qualified candidates of that community. The rules for recruitment have since been suitably modified with a view to securing, as far as possible, the due representation of Muslims and other minority communities in these grades.

As regards telegraphists, there is an overall short recruitment of 12 Muslims in 1943 due to the required number of candidates of that community not appearing at the examination in the Bengal and Assam and Sind and Baluchistan Circles. The rules already permitted the Department to go down the list in order to secure the full quota of candidates under any communal head but the shortage occurred despite this fact. The system of recruitment by means of a competitive examination has since been suspended and recruitment is now made direct from the open market.

As regards the apparent shortage of Muslims in the four gazetted posts filled by direct appointment in 1943 in the P. & T. Department [*vide* statement No. 8 in reply to part (c) of the Starred Question No. 761 dated the 3rd April 1944], this is due to the fact that the direct appointments made were those of a probationer recruited to the Telegraph Engineering Service, Class I, against an unreserved vacancy and of three probationers recruited to the Postal Superintendents' Service, Class II, against two unreserved vacancies and a vacancy reserved for other minority communities.

Similarly, the shortage of Muslims in the Meteorological Department is due to the very small number of qualified members of that community being available. Special efforts, *viz.*, lowering of minimum educational qualifications, grant of higher initial pay, wide advertisement through Newspapers and Universities, etc. have been made to attract more Muslim candidates into the Meteorological Service and I am glad to say there has been some improvement in the position during 1944.

Statements

	1942.				1943.			
	Total Recruitment No. of Muslim:		Total Recruitment No. of Muslim:		Total Recruitment No. of Muslim:		Total Recruitment No. of Muslim:	
	Deptl.	Outside.	Deptl.	Outside.	Deptl.	Outside.	Deptl.	Outside.
Telegraphists	34	123	5	57	115	455	15	102
Telegraph Masters	60	..	..	..	54	..	1	..
Engineering Supervisors	4	47	..	4	70	210	7	49
Wireless Operators	..	24	..	1	2	120	2	22

NOTE.—There is no direct recruitment to the grade of Telegraph Masters and Communal reservation rules do not apply to posts filled by promotion.

RECRUITMENT OF INSPECTORS UNDER POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

24. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state whether the recruitment of Inspectors under Post and Telegraph is open to outsiders; if not, why not?

(b) Is direct recruitment allowed in Post and Telegraph services of subordinate and superior ranks? If so, why the same principle does not apply to the recruitment of Inspectors?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) No, as in the interests of efficiency it is essential that Inspectors in the Posts and Telegraphs Department should have practical experience of the work of Postmasters and possess a detailed working knowledge of the departmental rules and procedure.

(b) Direct recruitment is made in certain subordinate and superior services of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. In view of the reply given to part (a) of the question, the latter part does not arise.

RECRUITMENT IN TEMPORARY GAZETTED POSTS UNDER POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS AND METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENTS

25. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state the number of persons recruited in temporary gazetted vacancies in 1942, 1943 and January to July 1944 under (1) Post and Telegraph Department and (2) Meteorological Department?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: I lay a statement on the table giving the information asked for by the Honourable Member.

Statement showing the No. of persons recruited in temporary gazetted vacancies in 1942, 1943 and January to July 1944 under the Posts and Telegraphs and the Indian Meteorological Departments.

<i>Posts and Telegraphs Department.</i>	
1942.....	21.
1943.....	12.
1944.....(January—July).....	7.
<i>Indian Meteorological Department.</i>	
1942.....	32.
1943.....	27.
1944.....(January—July).....	19.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIM TELEGRAPH MASTERS AND WIRELESS OPERATORS.

26. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state, with reference to replies of starred question No. 761 (b), why—

(a) out of 60 appointments in 1942 and 54 appointments in 1943—altogether 114 appointments of Telegraph Masters—only one appointment was given to Muslims; and

(b) out of 24 direct appointments of Wireless Operators in 1942 only one went to Muslims?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) Apparently the Honourable Member is referring to the number of telegraphists selected for promotion to the grade of Telegraph Masters in 1942 and 1943 and not to the actual number of appointments

made in that grade in those years. Only one Muslim telegraphist was selected because no other Muslim telegraphist was eligible for selection under the rules.

(b) This recruitment was made from amongst the applicants who had already received training in private institutions and were competent as Wireless Operators. To the advertisement inviting applications from such qualified persons, the response from Muslim candidates was poor. Only two Muslim candidates submitted applications and both were selected for the prescribed signalling test. One of them failed in the test but the other did not appear. In view of the paucity of Muslims, another advertisement calling for applications from only Muslim candidates was published. Application from only one Muslim was received and he was recruited. The shortage of Muslims in this recruitment of 24 candidates was due to the lack of response from the members of this community.

APPOINTMENT OF POST-WAR PLANNING OFFICER UNDER POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

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

(a) whether any Post-War Planning Officer has been appointed under the Posts and Telegraphs Department; if so, his salary and qualifications;

(b) whether the post was advertised; if so, in what papers;

(c) the total number of applications received and the number of Muslim applications, if any, received;

(d) what other officers have been or are contemplated to be appointed under the Planning Officer; if so, their number, salary and qualifications; and

(e) whether any scheme of the post-war planning or reconstruction has been sanctioned by the Assembly or the Standing Finance Committee; if so, when, and what are the details?

Mr. W. H. Shoobert: (a) An Assistant Deputy Director-General of the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate has been temporarily appointed as Post-War Planning Officer on his own pay of Rs. 875 per month. He is a Superintendent of Post Offices of 17 years' service in the Department and is a graduate in Arts and Law.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No other officer has been or is proposed to be appointed at present.

(e) No. The second part of the question does not arise.

INADEQUATE WAGES AND SALARIES ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY.

28 Mr. R. E. Gupta: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that wages and salaries in the Oudh and Tirhut Railway are inadequate as compared with the wages and salaries of comparable posts in the Industries and other Railways under State management?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government understand that there is little difference between the wages paid to labour in local industries and on the O. & T. Railway. The scales of pay for certain subordinate and inferior categories on contiguous State-managed Railways are higher than those obtaining on the O. & T. Railway.

IMPORTING OF STAFF FROM OTHER RAILWAYS TO SUPERIOR POSTS ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

29. *Mr. R. E. Gupta: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether as a result of the policy being followed by the Railway Board, namely importing staff from other Railways to superior posts in the Oudh and Tirhut Railway, the old employees of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway are deprived from getting promotions and increments?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I presume that by the term "superior posts" the Honourable Member is referring to gazetted posts. Government have not adopted any policy of importing staff from other railways to the

Oudh & Tirhut Railway. Some inter-railway transfers have to be made occasionally in the interests of the administration, as a result of which promotions are sometimes retarded or accelerated.

FOOD GRAIN DEPARTMENT OF OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

30. *Mr. R. E. Gupta: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Food Grain Department of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway has not submitted proper accounts for an amount of Rs. 5,50,000?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, what action have the Government taken to secure proper accounts?

(c) Do the Railway Board propose to set up an enquiry into the affairs of the Food Grains Department of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) It is not a fact.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

PREPONDERANCE OF MUSLIMS IN ACME ESTABLISHMENT SECTION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

1. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With reference to the reply to unstarred question No. 22 given on the 30th July, 1943, to the effect that the Railway Board considered it desirable that no particular community should be handicapped by the preponderance of any one community in the establishment offices of railways, will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that some time ago when the strength of the Acme Establishment Section in the North Western Railway Headquarters Office was four, it was represented by all communities, namely Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and Christians;

(b) Whether it is a fact that the present strength of this Section is eight of which seven posts are held by Muslims and one by a Hindu, if so, why;

(c) Whether it is a fact that transfers of members of certain communities have been made from the Acme Establishment Section of the North Western Railway Headquarters Office, if so, why; and

(d) Whether it is a fact that the Acme Establishment Section deals with most important personnel matters and important service records, approved lists, etc., are also maintained in this section; whether it is proposed to allow reasonable representation to every community in this Section; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (c). The reply is in the negative.

(d) The work referred to is assigned to this section and it is important, but so is the work of Clerks in certain other sections of the Establishment Branch. The posting of staff to the various sections is done with regard to the interests of work and not by communities, the direction concerning the avoidance of a preponderance of any one community is applicable to the Branch as a whole and not to the various sections and sub-sections of the Branch.

ELIGIBILITY OF GOODS MARKERS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY FOR TRAINING IN COMMERCIAL COURSE AT WALTON SCHOOL.

2. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether Goods Markers on the North Western Railway are eligible for training in commercial course at the Walton School? If so, how many of them were sent since the 1st April, 1943, and to which communities did they belong?

(b) Is their service as Goods Markers considered as continuous for promotion in Commercial group posts, on passing through the Walton's School? If not, why not?

(c) What stipend in cash or by way of free food and other concessions are allowed to Commercial Group Students, and are Goods Markers under training as such also entitled to them? If not, why not?

(d) If the reply to the last portion of (c) above be in the negative, is the period of Goods Markers' deputation on training at the Walton's School considered as on duty? If not, why not?

(e) Which other classes of staff on deputation for training at the Walton's School do not have the period of such deputation treated as on duty?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, subject to their satisfying the conditions prescribed for admission to such training. Eleven Hindu and one Sikh Goods Markers were sent for training at the Walton Training School since 1st April, 1943.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative; the second part does not arise.

(c) Commercial Group students are paid a stipend of Rs. 18 per mensem from which a sum of Rs. 12-8-0 is deducted on account of messing charges. Goods Markers while under training are not entitled to any stipend, which is paid only to apprentices.

(d) The period spent by Goods Markers in training at the Walton Training School is treated as leave due and not as on duty. This aspect of the question is being reconsidered by the Railway Administration.

(e) None.

DISMISSALS ETC. IN LAHORE, RAWALPINDI AND DELHI DIVISIONS OF NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

3. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees (i) removed from service, and (ii) dismissed, in the Lahore, Rawalpindi and Delhi Divisions of the North Western Railway during the half year ending the 31st March, 1944; and

(b) how many of them appealed, and how many were re-instated in each of the three Divisions?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table giving such of the required information as is readily available in respect of subordinate staff only. Information regarding inferior staff is not readily available and I cannot undertake to collect it under the present conditions.

Statement showing subordinate staff removed from service or dismissed, etc. during the half year ending 31st March 1944 on Lahore Rawalpindi and Delhi Divisions of the North Western Railway.

Division.	Removed from Service.			Dismissed from service		
	No. of subordinates removed from service	No. of staff who appealed against their removal from service,	No. of staff who were reinstated as a result of appeal	No. of subordinates dismissed from service.	No. of staff who appealed against their dismissal	No. of staff who were reinstated as a result of appeal
Lahore	6	1	..	..	..	..
Rawalpindi	16	4	..	1	1	..
Delhi	36	20	7	1	..	..

CERTAIN MEASURES FOR MAINTENANCE OF DISCIPLINE ON RAILWAYS

4. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether penalty of 'censure' is recognized on Railways as a measure of maintaining discipline? If so, is the employee called upon to explain his conduct for which it is proposed to censure him, and is there any provision for appeal? If not, why not?

(b) Where is the entry of 'Censure' recorded, whether on the personal file of the employee, in a separate register or Marks Card?

(c) Is it a fact that on certain Railways a system of "good conduct marks" has been introduced to deal with cases of indiscipline and it is recommended that instead of censuring an employee, marks should be debited? Has this recommendation the effect of abrogation of 'Censure'?

(d) Does the 'Good Conduct Marks' system provide for—

(i) obtaining an explanation;

(ii) appeal; and

(iii) the maximum number of marks that can be debited at a time?

(e) If the reply to all or any portion of (d) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor, and what steps are proposed to be taken to remedy these defects? If none, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, there is no provision for obtaining and explanation as the penalty is of a minor character, but the right of appeal exists.

(b) This is a matter of detailed administration on which Government have no information. Provision for the entry of punishments in the Service Records of employees exists in Chapter XIX of the State Railway General Code.

(c) The good conduct marks system is designed to replace fines, cautions and warnings imposed on the subordinate staff and may also be applied instead of imposing the penalty of censure; but it does not connote the abrogation of this penalty.

(d) (i) and (ii). The existing rules do not provide specifically for obtaining an explanation or for an appeal but the question of making such provision is under consideration.

(d) (iii) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to part (c) of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's Unstarred Question No. 18 asked in the Legislative Assembly on the 22nd September 1942.

(e) Opportunity for furnishing an explanation and submitting an appeal is given when a heavier punishment is called for on a prescribed number of marks being reached, but as I have stated, the question is being further considered.

PENALTY OF RELEGATION TO JUNIOR SERVICE FOR GUARDS ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

5. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Guards on the North Western Railway run on Conductor, Mail and passenger links in order of their seniority, the junior most Guards running on Goods service?

(b) Are permanent Conductor, Mail or Passenger guards relegated to run on passenger or goods service, respectively, as a measure of penalty?

(c) If the reply to (b) above be in the affirmative, is such a course authorized by the State Railway Establishment Code issued by the Governor General in Council? If so, will the Honourable Member please refer to the specific provision thereof? If no such provision exists, under what rule is such a penalty inflicted on employees?

(d) Is it a fact that an employee so relegated to lower link of running service is subjected to a reduction in his wages by reduced mileage allowance?

(e) If the reply to (d) above be in the affirmative, is such a course covered by the provisions of rule 1702(3) of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume 1 in regard to stoppage or reduction of mileage allowance? If not, how is then the penalty referred to in (a) above classed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, with due regard to suitability and the exigencies of the service.

(b) and (c). Transfers are made as occasion demands, and there is nothing in the rules to restrict such action being taken.

(d) There may sometimes be a reduction of running allowance actually earned but there is none in the rate of his basic pay or rate of running allowance.

(e) Yes because there is no question of a fine in such cases.

OMISSION OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION FIGURES FROM NARRATIVE REPORT ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

6. Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that figures of (i) employees medically examined on each Division of the North Western Railway, and (ii) those who failed in their class of employment etc., were included in the Narrative Report of the Railway during the years 1938-39 and 1939-40;

(b) whether it is a fact that this information was entirely omitted from the report for the year 1941-42; if so, why;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Narrative Report for the year 1942-43, published in March last, gives information only in regard to the number of (i) candidates, and (ii) employees whose physical fitness and vision examinations were carried out; if so, why figures of failures to pass in the same or lower grade of appointment were not included as before; and

(d) whether it is proposed to issue instructions to the North Western Railway to adopt a uniform policy of giving the number of candidates and employees medically examined and the number of failures permanent or otherwise; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The information was omitted from the Annual Report for the year 1941-42, as the whole Report was cut down due to the imperative necessity to economise paper.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. The inclusion of the information referred to in the second part was not considered essential.

(d) No. Because of the reasons mentioned in my reply to part (b) above. I may, however, inform the Honourable Member that when the need for economy in paper is over, the question of insertion of the information now omitted from the Annual Report of the North Western Railway will be considered.

SUPPLY OF RATIONS AT CONCESSION RATES TO FAMILY MEMBERS OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES RESIDING ELSEWHERE.

7. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the concession of cheap rations on Indian Railways is allowed to an employee for his family members if they reside at a place other than the station of the employee's employment? If not, why not?

(b) If the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, how is the supply arranged?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Discretion is left to the Railway Administrations in this respect, though ordinarily an employee's family must be living with and solely dependent on the employee to qualify for grain shop concessions.

(b) By the issue of separate family ration cards.

SUPPLY OF ONIONS AND POTATOES AT CHEAP RATES TO NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

8. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to state whether the employees on the North Western Railway are being supplied with onions and potatoes at cheap rates? If so, is the supply confined to some selected centres or is it given on all stations on the North Western Railway?

(b) If the supply is confined to some selected centres, why are other stations deprived of the concession? What steps do Government propose to take to make the concession of cheap supplies universal? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes—at 10 centres.

(b) The supply is being extended to other centres as soon as procurement arrangements can be completed. The latter part does not arise.

COLLECTION OF PILGRIMAGE TAX BY RAILWAYS AT CERTAIN STATIONS.

9. Mr. R. E. Gupta: Will the Honourable Member for Railways be pleased to lay before the House a statement showing the yearly collection of pilgrimage tax by the Railways in the last three years, in Gola Gokarannath, Soron, Laharmandighat, Muttra, Benares, Ajodhya and Allahabad, on all the Railway lines operating on these stations?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time.

SECTION 42 OF INDIAN RAILWAYS ACT AND DEFENCE OF INDIA RULE 34.

10. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that since 1939 Section 42 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, has been made subject to Rule 34 of the Defence of India Act Rules? If not, what is the fact?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No. I am unable to see any connection between section 42 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, and rule 34 of the Defence of India Rules.

COMMUNICATION OF ORDERS REGARDING MOVEMENTS OF COMMODITIES TO RAILWAY STAFF.

11. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that orders under the Defence of India Act Rules issued either by the Central Government or by the Provincial Governments or by a subordinate authority to them regarding movements of commodities by rails are communicated to the Railway Staff at stations through the Railway Administrations? If not, what channel is prescribed for such communications? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Orders issued under Rule 81(2) (a) of the Defence of India Rules affecting the movement or transport of commodities are in the ordinary course communicated direct to Railway staff at stations and not necessarily through the head of the Railway Administration concerned, as the Rule does not specify any particular channel of communication. On the other hand orders under Rule 85A are, in accordance with the specific provision of the Rule to this effect, issued to the heads of the Railway Administration concerned, who convey them to the station staff concerned through the normal channels of established procedure.

QUANTITY OF WHEAT, ETC. TRANSPORTED OVER CERTAIN SECTIONS OF RAILWAYS

12. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state:

(a) the quantity of wheat, sugar, gur and other foodstuffs, respectively, transported by rail during the years 1941, 1942, 1943 and to date of 1944, separately, from each station on the Shahdara (Delhi) Saharanpur Light Railway to stations on the East Indian and North Western Railways *via* Delhi Shahdara and *via* Saharanpur, respectively;

(b) the quantity of wheat, sugar, gur and other foodstuffs, respectively, transported by rail during the years 1941, 1942, 1943 and to date of 1944, separately, from each station on the section between Delhi and Ambala of the North Western Railway to stations in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh and in Bengal, respectively; and

(c) the reasons for the decrease or increase, if any, in the traffic of those commodities from those stations during those periods?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is not available and its collection will entail an expenditure of time and labour incommensurate with the results to be obtained.

RESTRICTION ON MOVEMENT OF SODA ASH AND SAJJI IMPOSED BY REGIONAL CONTROLLER OF PRIORITIES, LAHORE

13. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that movement by rail of Soda Ash and Sajji

(Fuller's Earth) has been restricted by the Regional Controller of Priorities, Lahore?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is a fact that the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities, Lahore, has imposed a distance restriction of 200 miles on Fuller's Earth from all stations on the North Western Railway.

No similar restriction has been placed on movements of Soda Ash.

COMMODITIES RESTRICTED BY CONTROLLERS OF PRIORITIES FOR MOVEMENT BY RAILWAY.

14. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport please lay on the table a statement of commodities restricted by the Controllers of Priorities for movement by rail, together with the justification of their movements by road?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Many of the restrictions imposed are for short periods only depending upon the operating situation, and any list prepared on the basis of present restrictions would be of little value. The preparation of a statement of all restrictions that have been imposed would involve an expenditure of time and labour which I do not consider to be justified.

Restrictions on movement of goods are imposed to eliminate unnecessary and wasteful movements as well as to divert goods to roads, rivers or the sea. Short distance restrictions on movements by rail have been imposed in many cases where such movements can be adequately made by road transport.

ROLLING STOCK OF RAILWAYS.

15. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please lay on the table a statement of the Rolling Stock of each Railway as it stood on the 21st October, 1944, showing *inter alia*:—

(i) the number of wagons, carriages and locomotives, separately, in use on that date for War traffic;

(ii) the number of wagons, carriages and locomotives, separately, in use on that date for civil traffic;

(iii) the number of wagons, carriages and locomotives, separately, under repairs on that date; and

(iv) the total number of wagons, carriages and locomotives, separately, belonging to those railways on that date?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information asked for by the Honourable Member is not readily available and it is not considered that the effort necessary to obtain it will be justified by the results.

PROHIBITION AGAINST PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITY OVER PUBLIC.

16. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that a Provincial Government is prohibited under section 42 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, from receiving any preference over the general public? If not, what is the fact?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to section 42A of the Indian Railways Act, 1890. This section prohibits a railway administration from giving any undue or unreasonable preference to any person or railway administration or to any description of traffic, or subject any person or railway administration or any particular description of traffic to any undue or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage in any respect whatsoever.

INCOMPETENCY OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS TO EXERCISE CONTROL OVER ADMINISTRATION OF FEDERAL RAILWAYS.

17. Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if it is a fact that a Provincial Government has no control over the working (both transport and commercial) of the staff and the administration of Federal Railways, and they are not permitted to issue any order (general or special) to any or all Federal Railways direct except through the Central Government? If not, what is the fact?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is correct that Provincial Governments have no control over the working of the staff and the administration

of Federal Railways and are, therefore, not empowered to issue any orders to such Railways on matters affecting such control.

BENEFIT OF DEARNESS ALLOWANCE TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES IN OLD AND REVISED SCALES OF PAY

18. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please state if he is aware that the order sanctioning 10 per cent. of pay subject to a minimum of the existing scale of dearness allowance is of no benefit to non-gazetted staff on the revised (1934) scales of pay and also to staff whose pay is below Rs. 40? What is the fact and extent of benefit to an employee of the same class in the old and revised scales, separately?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The benefit to an employee on the old or revised scales of pay is identical, viz. 10 per cent of his pay subject to certain minima, for those drawing up to and more than Rs. 40 a month respectively. I may add that there are many employees on the revised scales of pay in the latter category. The dearness allowance rate for all staff drawing up to Rs. 40 a month remains the same as before the order referred to was issued, but it must be remembered that they along with others are receiving additional benefits through the Railway Grain Shops.

PROSECUTIONS OF RAILWAY STAFF UNDER SECTIONS 353 AND 332, I. P. C. BY RAILWAY POLICE, AMBALA.

19. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will the Honourable Member for Railways please lay a statement of the staff prosecuted by the Government Railway Police, Ambala on the North Western Railway under Sections 353 and 332 of the Indian Penal Code during 1944 to date, and state *inter alia* the result of the departmental enquiries held before the permission to arrest those staff was given by the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi Division, North Western Railway? If no enquiries were conducted, what are the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: So far as information is readily available, there has been only one recent case, which took place in August, 1944, in which a Railway employee was arrested by the Government Railway Police, Ambala. He was immediately released on bail. No permission was asked for from the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi Division, North-Western Railway, and no enquiry was made by him.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 46 asked by Mr. N. M. Joshi on the 9th November, 1943

INDIAN SEAMEN ENGAGED ON THE UNITED KINGDOM REGISTERED SHIPS, ETC.

Part (a). Number of Indian seamen engaged on U. K. registered ships plying on

(i) the coastal trade of India 6,004

(ii) the overseas trade of India 1,53,807

Part (b). Number of Indian seamen engaged on ships of other members of the United Nations.

Nationality of ships.	Number of Indian seamen
1. Norwegian	2,866
2. Dutch	2,225
3. Danish	46
4. Russian	11
5. Panamanian	466
6. Greek	179
7. Yugoslav	22
8. American	3
9. French	6
10. Hong Kong	18
11. Egyptian	10
12. Shanghai	4
13. Polish	259

tal 6,115

Part (c). Number of Indian seamen engaged on ships on the Indian register 13,750

N.B.—The figures represent the total number of engagements of Indian seamen, irrespective of the fact that the same seamen may have been engaged more than once.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 4, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 9th November, 1943

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES IN BENGAL AT CONCESSION RATES

(a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given on the 5th November, 1943, to unstarred question No. 6, addressed to the Honourable the Food Member.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 28, asked by Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali, on the 12th November, 1943

RULES FOR OCCUPATION OF RAILWAY QUARTERS AND BUNGALOWS BY SUBORDINATE STAFF ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

The staff are governed by State Railway Rules which require that rent should be so assessed that there is a return of not less than 4 per cent. of the capital cost of buildings excluding the cost of land. Reassessment of rent under the rules, however, required time but is expected to be completed before the end of 1944. Rent is, in the meantime, recovered as previously assessed under the Companies' rules on a basis of 4½ per cent. of the capital cost of buildings and 11 per cent. on the cost of internal electric wiring and electric fittings.

Information promised in reply to part (a) of Starred Question No. 132, asked by Sardar Mangal Singh, on the 13th November, 1943

DEATHS IN BENGAL

Year	No. of deaths in the months of		
	August	September	October
1943	151,126	171,755	236,574

Information promised in reply to parts (d), (e) and (f) of Starred Question No. 258, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 17th November, 1943

OPERATIONS OF THE "GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN

(d) An enquiry was made from the Government of Bengal who have intimated that in certain areas some cultivators disposed of their cattle and in some cases their agricultural implements for their maintenance. With a view to rehabilitating the cultivators, the Provincial Government have advanced loans to enable them to purchase cattle and are making arrangements with the neighbouring provinces for facilities for the import of cattle to Bengal. The Provincial Government have also under consideration a scheme for the supply of iron and steel necessary for manufacturing and supplying agricultural implements to the Agriculturists.

(e) and (f). Yes. As a result of the distress some cultivators sold their lands to maintain themselves and their families. The transactions took place mainly in 1943. Full details are not available. The Provincial Government propose to undertake an enquiry to get an idea of the extent such transfers in the areas most affected. They have promulgated an Ordinance to enable the transferees to get back their lands and are undertaking legislation in the matter.

Information promised in reply to parts (d) and (e) of Starred Question No. 1, asked by Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, on the 7th February, 1944

QUININE POSITION

Imports of quinine salts into British India

1942-43.....40,298 lbs.

1943-44 (first seven months).....1,604 lbs.

Later information not available.

Information promised in reply to part (a) of Starred Question No. 18, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 7th February, 1944

STARVATION DEATHS IN BENGAL

(a) A comparative statement giving districtwise figures of total mortality during the year 1943 and the average for five years ending 1942, is placed on the table of the house. The excess in the second half of 1943, can be attributed to the abnormal conditions prevailing at that time.

Statement showing Total deaths in the districts of Bengal during the year 1943 (January—June and July—December) as compared with the corresponding average for five years (1938-42.)

	January—June			July—December		
	Average (1938-42)	1943	Difference	Average (1938-42)	1943	Difference
1. Burdwan	18,619	15,558	—3,061	20,649	31,909	+11,260
2. Birbhum	12,216	10,060	—2,156	13,003	30,429	+17,426
3. Bankura	12,669	10,830	—1,839	14,205	29,340	+16,135
4. Midnapur	27,511	27,128	—383	29,345	62,738	+33,393
5. Hooghly	11,285	9,010	—2,275	12,544	18,485	+6,941
6. Howrah	10,369	10,197	—172	9,851	24,477	+14,626
7. 24-Parganas	24,479	23,297	—1,182	25,021	63,883	+38,862
8. Calcutta	16,716	13,420	—3,296	15,684	38,848	+23,164
9. Nadia	19,242	19,386	+144	23,341	58,293	+34,952
10. Murshidabad	15,123	14,816	—307	17,992	50,257	+32,265
11. Jessore	19,651	18,251	—1,400	23,485	32,167	+8,682
12. Khulna	14,066	17,573	+3,507	18,052	26,153	+8,101
13. Rajshahi	18,012	18,994	+982	20,042	35,747	+15,705
14. Dinajpur	20,076	18,264	—1,812	18,947	23,261	+4,314
15. Jalpaiguri	13,491	14,230	+739	15,364	24,062	+8,678
16. Darjeeling	5,250	4,961	—289	5,265	6,297	+1,032
17. Rangpur	31,530	35,881	+4,351	40,267	75,687	+35,420
18. Bogra	10,979	11,162	+184	14,034	22,230	+8,205
19. Pabna	19,587	16,488	—3,109	21,739	37,171	+15,432
20. Malda	8,207	4,928	—3,279	7,520	11,239	+3,719
21. Dacca	37,705	35,307	—2,398	41,226	113,616	+72,390
22. Mymensingh	54,870	59,587	+4,717	68,311	120,893	+52,582
23. Faridpur	30,434	26,794	—3,640	35,824	73,328	+37,504
24. Bakarganj	33,597	36,980	+3,383	34,145	62,260	+28,115
25. Chittagong	23,687	32,759	+9,072	23,528	71,567	+48,039
26. Noakhali	17,421	23,793	+6,372	19,552	48,637	+29,085
27. Tippera	32,048	39,821	+7,773	37,697	111,340	+74,243
Total	558,850	569,426	+10,576	626,053	1,304,323	+678,270

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 98, asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, on the 9th February, 1944

OVERSEAS BUSINESS SECURED BY NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY THROUGH CERTAIN AGENCIES

(a) The value of overseas business secured by the North Western Railway through the under-noted Agencies during 1942-43 is indicated against each—

(i) Messrs. Thomas Cook & Sons (8 offices)	Rs. 2,62,907.
(ii) Messrs. Cox & Kings (2 offices)	Rs. 30,990.
(iii) Messrs. Vensimal Bassarmal & Brothers (2 offices)	Rs. 1,558.

Records for 1940-41 and 1941-42 have since been destroyed and it is, therefore, not possible to give the required information for these years.

(b) and (c). Investigations have revealed that certain Tourist Agencies have been charging the higher rate of commission on traffic which was not genuine overseas traffic, and the matter has been taken up with them. Steps are also being taken to revise the instructions on the subject to prevent a recurrence.

Information promised in reply to Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee's Supplementary Question to Starred Question No. 79, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 10th February, 1944.

STOCKS RELEASED FROM ARMY RESERVES FOR CIVILIANS IN BENGAL

In 1942, it was arranged to import certain quantities of wheat from Australia specifically for the Defence Services. That has now been changed and imports are arranged on the basis of the all India supply position which takes account of both Civil and Defence demands.

Information promised in reply to supplementaries to Starred Question No. 115, asked by Sardar Mangal Singh, on the 16th February, 1944

PRICES AT WHICH WHEAT IS PURCHASED IN THE PUNJAB AND SOLD IN BENGAL

Action taken on the report of the Braund-Cooke Committee has been outlined in a resolution published in the Gazette of India, dated the 29th July, 1944. A copy of the resolution is placed on the table of the House.

Government of India, Department of Food, Resolution No. F. 10 (1)-Secy./43, New Delhi, the 26th July, 1944

A Committee of Inquiry consisting of (1) the Honourable Mr. Justice H. B. L. Braund, Bar-at-Law, Regional Commissioner (Food) Eastern Region, and (2) Mr. A. L. Cooke, Chief Cost Accounts Officer, Supply Finance Department, was appointed by the Government of India by their Resolution No. F. 10 (1)-Secy./43, of the 2nd November, 1943, with the following terms of reference:—

(I) To enquire:—

(a) Whether the profit accruing to the flour mills from the production and sale at the ex-mill statutory prices of wheat products made from wheat purchased from the Government of Bengal is reasonable, having regard to such variations in output and other conditions as may from time to time arise and, if not, what adjustment ought to be made so as to secure a reasonable rate of profit in the interest of the Public and all parties concerned.

(b) Whether the profit accruing to retailers in the sale at the statutory retail prices of wheat products purchased from the mills is reasonable.

(II) To make recommendations as to the proportions in which atta, flour and bran should be produced by the mills in Calcutta out of wheat bought from Government, and the respective prices at which they should be sold to the public.

The Committee submitted its report on the 30th December, 1943, and made the following recommendations:—

(i) For a period of 12 months from the 1st January, 1944, the Bengal Government should [subject to (ii) below] sell wheat to its millers at Rs. 10-7-0 a maund.

(ii) The sale price recommended should be reviewed again at the expiration of three or six months from January, 1944, in order that any adjustments necessary might be made, having regard both to the experience of the intervening period and to any further profits or losses on the part of the Bengal Government prior to the 1st of January, 1944, which might then be assessable.

(iii) A grinding charge of 0-8-0 a maund should be allowed. On the assumption of 80 per cent. employment of full milling capacity, this should yield a profit return to the Mills of 0-2-0 a maund. In addition, the millers should be allowed an additional Rs. 7-4-0 per 100 maunds for contingencies and by way of a further profit. On this basis the net yield to the mills, subject to the Managing Agent's commission and taxation, should be on the basis of approximately a nett 10 per cent. upon the capital estimated to be employed by them in their milling operations.

(iv) The profits previously allowed to retailers of Rs. 2 a maund were excessive. A uniform allowance for both flour and atta to retailers of Rs. 1 a maund to cover provision of paper bags and all other costs, charges and expenses, including any commission payable to the Calcutta Flour Dealers Association should be sufficient.

(v) The following proportion of extraction for each 100 maunds of wheat supplied to mills should be adopted:

- (a) Flour—20 maunds.
- (b) Atta—69 maunds.
- (c) Bran—10 maunds.

The selling price of wheat of Rs. 10-7-0 a maund recommended by the Committee took into account a sum of 109 lakh of rupees which the Committee on the material before it considered to be the minimum nett surplus, at the date of the Committee's report, in the hands of the Bengal Government as a result of its past transactions in wheat, this sum being calculated as follows:—

	Rs. in lakhs.
(a) Profit as at 31st August 1943 on wheat already announced by the Bengal Government	33·44
(b) Profit on wheat products up to 31st August 1943 already announced by the Bengal Government	6·32
(c) Credit of As. 11 per md. on 11·73 lakhs mds. Punjab wheat supplied under the 'Pool Scheme'	8·06
(d) Profit on 25,856 tons Australian Wheat imported at Rs. 7-5-0 per maund and sold at Rs. 12-12-0 per maund	38·26
(e) Profit on 21,144 tons Australian Wheat imported at Rs. 7-5-0 per maund which will be sold at Rs. 10-7-0 per maund	18·00
(f) Profit on 7,901 tons Flour imported at Rs. 8-4-0 and sold at Rs. 19 per maund, less cost of freight to districts of Bengal at annas 12 per maund	21·30
(g) Profit on Wheat Products received from other provinces from 1st September 1943 to 20th November 1943	10·00
(h) Profit on wheat products received from other provinces in December	3·75
Total Profit	139·13
(i) Loss on 22,336 tons U. P. Wheat Purchased at Rs. 16-10-0 per maund and sold at Rs. 12-12-0 per maund	24·42
	114·71
Less Handling charges and General expenses	5·71
	109·00

According to the Committee this estimated nett surplus arose mainly because, owing to the multiplicity of the sources from which imports of wheat were received and the circumstance that the price of the various imports made from different sources often remained undetermined until long after the dates of the imports, it was always a matter of difficulty for the Bengal Government to arrive at a true average selling price for its aggregate imports of wheat.

3. The Committee further reported that their examination of the figures which were freely placed at their disposal by some of the principal milling concerns in Calcutta for the period January to December, 1943, inclusive indicated that profits to the millers during this period had been abnormally high. The Committee made it clear that their finding in this respect was not in any way disputed by the millers and as recorded in the succeeding paragraph, adjustments are being made with their consent.

4. The Government of Bengal who were asked for their views on the recommendations of the Committee have stated that, although they do not accept in their entirety the data on which the Committee's recommendations are based, they are in general agreement with these recommendations and have already implemented all of them. With reference to the Committee's observations regarding the profits made by the mills in 1943, the Government of Bengal have informed the Government of India that the three large groups of mills, who were approached by them, have agreed to a refund of 0.40 per maund on the total quantity of wheat actually milled between the 1st July and 31st December, 1943. The smaller mills are also being approached and the Government of Bengal propose to hold the amount recovered in deposit and to take it into account in adjusting future prices.

5. The Government of India have examined the Committee's report and accept its recommendations, which have already been put into effect by the Government of Bengal. The Government of India also wish to express their thanks to the members of the Committee for their labours in carrying out the enquiry entrusted to them and the commendable promptitude with which their report was submitted.

Ordered that the Resolution be published in the *Gazette of India* for general information.

R. H. HUTCHINGS,

Secretary to the Government of India.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 187, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 21st February, 1944

AMERICAN ORDER FOR HESSIAN OF JUNE, 1943

Prices of Jute raw and Jute Manufacture at Calcutta at the end of each month

Mill Quality Firsts per 400 lbs. bale (Jute raw)	Jute Manufactures		
	40 ¹ / ₈ Oz.		B. Twills
as per A. M. Mair & Co.'s quotation list.	per 100 yds.		per 100 bags
	as per Perman & Hynd's quotation list		
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1943—			
June	90 0 0	20 2 0	65 8 0
July	88 0 0	20 6 0	64 0 0
August	76 0 0	20 14 0	65 6 0
September	80 0 0	21 2 0	67 0 0
October	75 0 0	21 10 0	67 12 0
November	79 0 0	21 2 0	66 8 0
December	76 0 0	21 2 0	67 2 0
1944—			
January	84 0 0	21 8 0	67 0 0
February	84 0 0	21 10 0	67 12 0
March	88 0 0	21 10 0	67 12 0
April	84 0 0	22 2 0	66 12 0
May	86 0 0	22 2 0	66 12 0

Statements showing prices of certain food grains in some of the important Jute growing areas in Bengal, Month by Month, (Quotations Relate to the latest date in the months, for which quotations are available)

(Prices per standard maund)

Months	Hili (Dinalpur)												Rangpur												Decca												Mymensingh												Comilla (Tippers)															
	Rice				Wheat Mustard				Dal				Wheat Mustard				Rice				Dal				Wheat Mustard				Rice				Dal				Wheat Mustard				Rice				Dal				Wheat Mustard															
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4																				
1944—																																																																
June	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	24 8*	24 8*	24 8*	24 8*	29 0*	29 0*	29 0*	29 0*	25 10*	25 10*	25 10*	25 10*	28 0*	28 0*	28 0*	28 0*	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	28 0*	28 0*	28 0*	28 0*	35 0	35 0	35 0	35 0	36 10*	36 10*	36 10*	36 10*	19 0	19 0	19 0	19 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	17 0	17 0	17 0	17 0																
July	35 0	35 0	35 0	35 0	36 0	36 0	36 0	36 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	31 0	31 0	31 0	31 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0												
August	35 0	35 0	35 0	35 0	36 0	36 0	36 0	36 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	31 0	31 0	31 0	31 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0												
September	24 0	24 0	24 0	24 0	30 0*	30 0*	30 0*	30 0*	23 0	23 0	23 0	23 0	28 3*	28 3*	28 3*	28 3*	25 0	25 0	25 0	25 0	27 14*	27 14*	27 14*	27 14*	32 0	32 0	32 0	32 0	24 0	24 0	24 0	24 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0	30 0												
October	20 0*	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0*	20 0*	20 0*	20 0*	17 15	17 15	17 15	17 15	40 10*	40 10*	40 10*	40 10*	24 0	24 0	24 0	24 0	19 0	19 0	19 0	19 0	35 0	35 0	35 0	35 0	19 4	19 4	19 4	19 4	20 0*	20 0*	20 0*	20 0*	25 0	25 0	25 0	25 0	22 10	22 10	22 10	22 10	23 0	23 0	23 0	23 0	23 0	23 0	23 0	23 0												
November	20 0*	20 0	20 0	20 0	19 3*	19 3*	19 3*	19 3*	15 8	15 8	15 8	15 8	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	15 0	15 0	15 0	15 0	28 0	28 0	28 0	28 0	20 10*	20 10*	20 10*	20 10*	27 0	27 0	27 0	27 0	15 6	15 6	15 6	15 6	26 8	26 8	26 8	26 8	18 0*	18 0*	18 0*	18 0*	28 0	28 0	28 0	28 0	18 8	18 8	18 8	18 8	18 8	18 8	18 8	18 8								
December	18 0	18 0	18 0	18 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	32 4	32 4	32 4	32 4	11 8	11 8	11 8	11 8	20 5*	20 5*	20 5*	20 5*	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	16 6*	16 6*	16 6*	16 6*	32 0	32 0	32 0	32 0	11 8	11 8	11 8	11 8	16 4	16 4	16 4	16 4	16 0*	16 0*	16 0*	16 0*	35 0	35 0	35 0	35 0	11 12	11 12	11 12	11 12	11 12	11 12	11 12	11 12				
1944—																																																																
January	12 8	12 8	12 8	12 8	17 0	17 0	17 0	17 0	14 9*	14 9*	14 9*	14 9*	NO REPORT	NO REPORT	NO REPORT	NO REPORT	19 0	19 0	19 0	19 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 8	12 8	12 8	12 8	19 0	19 0	19 0	19 0	13 15*	13 15*	13 15*	13 15*	25 0	25 0	25 0	25 0	11 8	11 8	11 8	11 8	18 0	18 0	18 0	18 0	18 0*	18 0*	18 0*	18 0*	35 0	35 0	35 0	35 0	11 12	11 12	11 12	11 12				
February	18 12	18 12	18 12	18 12	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	13 2*	13 2*	13 2*	13 2*	17 0	17 0	17 0	17 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	15 0	15 0	15 0	15 0	19 0	19 0	19 0	19 0	15 2*	15 2*	15 2*	15 2*	25 0	25 0	25 0	25 0	11 8	11 8	11 8	11 8	18 0	18 0	18 0	18 0	17 0	17 0	17 0	17 0	18 0	18 0	18 0	18 0	14 12	14 12	14 12	14 12	24 0	24 0	24 0	24 0
March	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	13 3*	13 3*	13 3*	13 3*	17 0	17 0	17 0	17 0	18 0	18 0	18 0	18 0	11 8	11 8	11 8	11 8	19 0	19 0	19 0	19 0	15 13*	15 13*	15 13*	15 13*	NO REPORT	NO REPORT	NO REPORT	NO REPORT	17 4	17 4	17 4	17 4	34 0	34 0	34 0	34 0	11 8	11 8	11 8	11 8	11 8	11 8	11 8	11 8								
April	11 5	11 5	11 5	11 5	11 8	11 8	11 8	11 8	12 4	12 4	12 4	12 4	11 8	11 8	11 8	11 8	20 0	20 0	20 0	20 0	18 0	18 0	18 0	18 0	11 8	11 8	11 8	11 8	18 0	18 0	18 0	18 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0*	14 0*	14 0*	14 0*	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	11 12	11 12	11 12	11 12	11 12	11 12	11 12	11 12				
May	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0	14 4	14 4	14 4	14 4	21 0	21 0	21 0	21 0	12 8	12 8	12 8	12 8	11 8	11 8	11 8	11 8	17 4	17 4	17 4	17 4	16	16	16	16	11 8	11 8	11 8	11 8	15 0	15 0	15 0	15 0	14 0*	14 0*	14 0*	14 0*	14 0*	14 0*	14 0*	14 0*	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0				

(c) - Quance quality.
 (F) - Fine quality.
 * - Week ending 13th October 1943.
 † - Week ending 13th November 1943.
 ‡ - Week ending 13th December 1943.
 § - Week ending 9th February 1944.
 ¶ - Week ending 6th August 1943.
 * - Average prices of medium variety of rice.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 150, 151 and 152 asked by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, on the 21st February, 1944.

RECRUITMENT OF LOWEST GRADE READERS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES

No. 150 (a). Yes.

(b) Yes. A statement is placed on the table.

(c) A. Calcutta Press.

(i) Nil.

(ii) Nil.

(iii) Nil.

B. New Delhi Press.

(i) 67.

(ii) Nil.

(iii) Nil.

C. Simla Press.

(i) 5.

(ii) 3.

(iii) Nil.

Statement showing the names and details of the candidates who qualified as readers in the Government of India Presses in the 1936 examination.

Press	Name	Post held at the time they qualified	Whether permanent officiating or temporary
Calcutta		No one came out successful (14 men appeared in the test)	
New Delhi	Mr. Z. A. Qureshi	Copyholder	Permanent.
	Mr. Sukhdev Singh	"	Permanent.
	Mr. R. C. Lawrence	"	Officiating.
	Mr. K. B. Lal	"	Permanent.
	Mr. L. C. Jain	"	Permanent.
	Mr. Thakur Singh Rihal.	"	Permanent.
	Mr. Keshri Perahad	"	Permanent.
	Mr. B. K. Dey	"	Temporary.
Simla	Mr. V. J. Frederick	"	Temporary.
	Mr. S. S. Joshi	"	Officiating.
	Mr. Abdul Qadeer Baidu	"	Officiating.

RECRUITMENT OF LOWEST GRADE READERS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES

No. 151.—The three vacancies of readers in the Government of India Press, Simla, mentioned in the reply to Part C (ii) of question No. 150 were filled by the transfer of a reader on the temporary establishment who qualified at the 1936 examination and by the promotion of two permanent copyholders who had qualified at the 1934 examination. One of them was continuously officiating as a junior reader since 9th March, 1936. The vacancy in the temporary establishment caused by the transfer of one reader to the permanent establishment was filled by a copyholder who qualified in the 1936 examination.

The two copyholders, who qualified in the 1934 examination were appointed to the permanent posts of readers in 1936 on the assumption that the instructions issued in September, 1935, did not operate to the disadvantage of men who qualified earlier.

RECRUITMENT OF LOWEST GRADE READERS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES

No. 152.—The appointment of two copyholders who qualified in 1934 will be looked into and suitable action taken under the rules.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Questions Nos. 51, 52, 54 and 55, asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, on the 21st February, 1944.

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR SANITATION OF LAND BETWEEN RAILWAY BRIDGE, SHAHDARA, AND GRAND TRUNK ROAD.

No. 51.—The land in question is private property and the owners are responsible for its sanitation.

POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS TO SHAHDARA NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE.

No. 52.—The preparation of the electoral roll is in progress and the dates for the election will be fixed shortly.

IRREGULARITIES REPORTED UNDER PAYMENT OF WAGES ACT AGAINST EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No. 54.—(a) The nature of irregularities reported by the Inspector under the payment of Wages Act, 1936, against East Indian Railway since 1938, is indicated below:—

(1) Non-display of the List of Acts and Omissions in modern Indian languages mostly.— [Rule 12 of the Payment of Wages (Federal Railways) Rules, 1938].

(2) Non-display of the notices showing the dates of payments.—[Rule 8 of the P. W. (Federal Railways) Rules, 1938].

(3) Delay in the payment of wages (allowances, increments and leave salary).—[Section 5(1) of the P. W. Act, 1936].

(4) Delay in the payment of wages on termination of service.—[Section 5(2) of the P. W. Act, 1936].

(5) Failure to maintain the Registers of Fines and of deductions for Damage or Loss in the prescribed forms.—[Rule 3(1) and 4 of P. W. (F. R.) Rules].

(6) Failure to enter the relevant clauses of sub-section 2 of section 7 of the Act against certain items of deductions.—[Rule 5(b) of the P. W. (F. R.) Rules, 1938].

(7) Recovery of fines (a) without giving an opportunity to show cause or (b) after the expiry of 60 days from the date of the act or omission.—[Section 8(3) and (6) of the P. W. Act, 1936].

(8) Deductions in contravention of Section 7(2) (c) of the P. W. Act, 1936.

All these irregularities were brought to the notice of the Railway Administration who rectified them and took steps to avoid their recurrence.

(b) The same irregularities were not repeated though some irregularities of a similar nature were detected in subsequent years.

NON-PAYMENT OF WAGES TO WORKERS BY LOADING CONTRACTOR AT DELHI-SHAHDARA RAILWAY STATION

No. 55.—(a)-(b). No complaint has so far been received for non-payment of wages of employees engaged by the ex-loading and unloading contractor, Ch. Raghunath Singh and Bros., on Delhi-Shahdara Railway Station on the North Western Railway.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 187 and 188 asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, on the 28rd February, 1944.

LAND ACQUIRED BY MILITARY IN ASSAM FOR AERODROMES, ETC.

No. 187.—(a), (b) and (c). It is regretted that this information cannot be given in the interests of security.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes, but many of them prefer to work on military projects in their own neighbourhood.

LAND ACQUIRED BY MILITARY IN BENGAL FOR AERODROMES, ETC.

No. 188. (a), (b) and (c). It is regretted that this information cannot be given in the interests of security.

(d) and (e). People evicted were paid compensation liberally, and the owners of huts were paid replacement costs of huts in addition to the cost of temporary shelters.

(f) The Government of India are informed by the Provincial Government that it was not correct to say that an acute state of famine still prevailed in February 1944. There has been no indiscriminate acquisition of agricultural lands. Only lands actually required for defence purposes have been acquired and all possible steps have been taken to avoid hardship to the people.

Information promised in reply to part (b) of Starred Question No. 197 asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 24th February, 1944.

DISCONTINUANCE OF TRAVELLING VAN PORTERS IN KARACHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

(b) The following statement shows the number of known thefts committed by (i) railway van porters and (ii) contractors' labour, on Road Van trains, on the Karachi Division, during the years 1941, 1942 and 1943 :—

Year	Thefts committed by Railway van porters		Thefts committed by contractors' labour	
	Number of thefts	Number of persons involved	Number of thefts	Number of persons involved
1941	1	1	...	...
1942	2	7	5	16
1943	..	..	4	8

Note.—In the reply given to part (c) of the question in the Assembly on the 24th February 1944, it was through inadvertence, stated that 7 Railway van porters had been challaned for thefts during 1943. The correct position is that 7 other railway staff had been so challaned, viz., 1 Guard, 2 Van Stores, 2 Watchmen, 1 Shunting Porter and 1 Check Porter.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 211, asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam on the 24th February, 1944.

APPRENTICE MECHANICS RECRUITED COMMUNITY-WISE IN BENGAL AND ASSAM
RAILWAY

- (a) 22; 8 Hindus of whom one is a non-Bengali, 6 Muslims and 8 Anglo-Indians.
(b) No; the passing of the examination conducted by the Board of Apprenticeship Training is not at present obligatory on any one.
(c) The standards now adopted are not lower than those prescribed by Government.

Information promised in reply to part (d) of Unstarred Question No. 68 asked by Mr. N. M. Joshi, on the 24th February, 1944.

NON-PAYMENT OF EXTRA DUTY ALLOWANCE TO BOMBAY CIRCLE RAILWAY MAIL
SERVICE STAFF.

- (d) In certain R. M. S. Divisions of six postal circles, other than Bombay, extra duty allowance was wrongly paid to R. M. S. officials for the period of rest cartailed as a result of their transfer from one set to another during the period July 1941 to July 1942.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 74, asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 25th February, 1944.

LAND REQUISITIONED BY GOVERNMENT NEAR SHAHDARA RAILWAY STATION

- (a) The land was requisitioned under the Chief Commissioner's notification No. F. 14 (121)/43-L.S.G., dated the 20th July 1943, published in Part II-A of the Gazette of India, dated the 24th July 1943.
(b) The land measures 2974 square yards and is situated along both sides of the Shahdara approach road bounded by Government land on the one side and private land on the other.
(c) The names of the former owners are reported to be Jai Narain, Bharat Singh, Jagmohan, Ram Saran, Imtiaz Ahmad Khan, Abdul Rehman and others.
(d) and (e). The trees on both sides of the road were planted by Government.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 268 asked by Mr. H. M. Abdullah on the 28th February, 1944.

FOOD INSPECTORS, ETC., ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

- (a) to (e). The attached statements give the required information. It is regretted that the number of Food Inspectors was given as 5, whereas it is 6.

STATEMENT "A"

Office	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		Remarks							
	Strength	Community	Strength	Community	Strength	Community	Strength	Community	Strength	Community	Strength	Community	Strength	Community	Strength	Community								
Asst. Works Manager	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Signal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Workshops	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
D. S. Nawalbindi	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
D. S. Perseepore	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
D. S. Labre	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
D. S. Delhi	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
D. S. Karnal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
D. S. Mathura	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
District Offices	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
District Councils	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
District Magistrates	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
D. S. Ghat	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Headquarters Office	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						
Total	6	6	1	10	10	10	5	4	1	103	96	45	38	13	314	298	170	111	17	433	410	260	150	23

No. of posts of inferior staff sanctioned in connection with the food organisation on Divisions.

Office	Strength		Community					Filled by		Remarks
	Total	Actuals	Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	Indian Christian	Promotion	Direct recruitment		
Supdt. Mechanical Workshops.	3	3	..	3	..	..	..	3	
D. S. Office Rawalpindi	55	55	18	35	2	..	..	55	
D. S. Office Ferozepore	43	43	14	26	3	..	1	42		
D. S. Office, Lahore	90	90	27	55	8	..	1	89		
D. S. Office, Delhi	107	81	67	13	..	1	..	81	26 vacancies.	
D. S. Office, Karachi	134	109	39	70	..	..	..	109	25 vacancies.
D. S. Office Multan	67	67	14	44	9	..	..	67	
Accounts Offices	3	3	3	..	..	..	1	2	
District Controller of Stores, Moghalpura.	172	172	66	99	7	..	22	150		
D. S. Office, Quetta	38	38	11	25	1	1	..	38		
Headquarters Office	5	5	1	3	1	..	..	5	
Total	717	666	260	373	31	2	25	641	51 vacancies.	

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 354 asked by Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, on the 13th March, 1944.

FOOD INSPECTORS, ETC., APPOINTED IN KARACHI AND MULTAN DIVISIONS.

It is regretted that it was wrongly stated that no Food Inspector has been appointed on the Karachi Division. There is one Food Inspector on that Division and one on the Multan Division. One Assistant Food Inspector has been appointed on each of the Karachi and Multan Divisions. The Food Inspector on the Multan Division is a Sikh; the other Food Inspector and both the Assistant Food Inspectors are Hindus.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 357, 358, 359 and 360 asked by Mr. Muhammad Nauman on the 13th March, 1944.

MUSLIM APPLICANTS FOR POSTS IN THE STORES DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

No. 357.—(a) 429; one as Clerk grade 65—85, 2 as Head Clerk and Accountant grade 100—120, 1 as Wardkeeper grade 65—120, 6 as Clerks grade 30—60.

(b) Applicants who did not fulfil the conditions specified in the advertisement were rejected. Out of 57 Muslims called for interview only 24 presented themselves.

(c) No, but the General Manager is competent to act as he did.

MUSLIM APPLICANTS FOR POSTS IN THE STORES DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No. 358.—(a) Government are informed that as Muslims obtained 47 per cent. of the direct recruitment made to posts in the Stores Department in 1943-44, no deficiencies exist.

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

STAFF APPOINTED IN THE STORES DEPARTMENT OF BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY IN THE SCALE OF Rs. 30—3—45—5—60.

No. 359.—3 Hindus.

PROBATIONARY ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS AND SIGNALLERS APPOINTED ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No. 360

Category	Community	Total No. appointed without advertising		No. appointed relaxing the age-bar		No. appointed relaxing the educational qualifications	
		1942-43	1943-44	1942-43	1943-44	1942-43	1943-44
Probationer Assistant Station Masters.	Hindus .	108	75	2*	...	...	1*
	Muslims .	16	3	...	...	...	...
Signallers	Hindus .	50	34	1*	...	...	4*
	Muslims .	5	2	1*	...	...	...

* Figures in column 3 includes those in columns 4 & 5.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 361, 362, 364 and 365, asked by Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani on the 18th March, 1944.

PROMOTIONS TO CLERICAL GRADE 'D' IN THE OFFICE OF CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

No. 361. (a) Yes.

(b) Four and nine respectively.

CERTAIN CLERICAL VACANCIES FILLED IN THE CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER'S OFFICE, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No. 362 (a) Government are informed that the facts are not as stated.

(b) The number of vacancies which arose are :—

Year	Section	No. of vacancies
1942-43	General	3
	Indent	1
1943-44	Total	4
	Budget	2
	Rolling Stock	2
	Damage	1
	Emergency	1
	Indent	3
	Total	9

The reply to the second part is 'nil'.

VACANCIES FILLED IN THE LOWER GAZETTED SERVICE ON BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

No. 364. (a)

Year	No. of vacancies in Lower Gazetted Service including temporary posts created	Filled by persons of the following communities				
		Hindu	Muslim	Sikh	European	Anglo-Indian
<i>Open line</i>						
1942-43	30	16	3	1	1	9
1943-44	38	19	4	..	3	12
<i>Construction</i>						
1943-44	14	11	2			1

(b) No.

VACANCIES IN INTERMEDIATE GRADES IN THE STORES DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

No. 365.			
1942-43	}	Vacancies	38
		Posts created	26
1943-44	}	Vacancies	26
		Posts created	83

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 366, 367 and 368 asked by Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad Siddiquee, on 18th March, 1944.

CLERKS SELECTED FOR CERTAIN HIGHER POSTS SANCTIONED BY THE GENERAL MANAGER, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No. 366. (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No; promotions are made on the basis of seniority and suitability.

(d) Yes, because communal quotas do not apply in promotion.

CLERKS SELECTED FOR CERTAIN HIGHER POSTS SANCTIONED BY THE GENERAL MANAGER, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No. 367. (a) Government are informed that the facts are not as stated.

(b) No replies are usually given to unsuccessful applicants, as they are aware of the result when the appointments are made.

CLERKS SELECTED FOR CERTAIN HIGHER POSTS SANCTIONED BY THE GENERAL MANAGER, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No. 368. (a) Government are informed that the General Manager did not hold any particular Clerks as being responsible for the irregularities which occurred.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 370, 371, 372, 373 and 374 asked by Mr. Muhammad Hussain Choudhury on the 13th March, 1944.

BIAS AGAINST MUSLIM CANDIDATES FOR POSTS OF OFFICE SUPERINTENDENTS, HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No. 370. Yes.

BIAS AGAINST MUSLIM CANDIDATES FOR POSTS OF OFFICE SUPERINTENDENTS, HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No. 371. (a) Government are informed that only one Muslim employee applied for the post and the Executive Officer merely indicated that his name might be put forward to the Divisional Superintendent.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

BIAS AGAINST MUSLIM CANDIDATES FOR POSTS OF OFFICE SUPERINTENDENTS, HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No. 372. Government are satisfied that the case concerned was dealt with in a proper manner.

BIAS AGAINST MUSLIM CANDIDATES FOR POSTS OF OFFICE SUPERINTENDENTS, HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No. 373. Government are informed that there are no unauthorized entries in the Service History of the employee concerned.

NON-EMPLOYMENT OF MUSLIMS IN CERTAIN POSTS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OFFICE OF HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY

No. 374. (a) Government are informed that the facts are not as stated.

(b) Two as far as can be ascertained.

(c) Muslim graduates who had passed the Leave Rules Examination were available.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 880 asked by Mr. H. M. Abdullah, on the 13th March, 1944.

APPOINTMENT OF RAILWAY WATCH AND WARD SUB-INSPECTOR, DELHI

- (a) Yes.
 (b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative; as regards the second part, although it was the turn for the appointment of a Muslim Head Watchman, Government are unable to state whether the particular person referred to would have been chosen.
 (c) Government understand that the Railway is already considering this aspect.

Information promised in reply to Sardar Sant Singh's Supplementary Question to Starred Question No. 430, asked by Mr. Lalchand Navaroe, on the 15th March, 1944.

DISSATISFACTION OVER REQUISITIONING OF PRIVATE HOUSES

- No. house in this town has been specifically requisitioned for the employees of an Indian State.
 2. Two small previously requisitioned houses have however been handed over to two rulers in exchange for their own much larger palaces which they had very generously placed at the disposal of the Government of India. Staff Officers of Rulers have occasionally been housed in previously requisitioned accommodation when it was necessary for them to be in Delhi with their Rules, e.g., for a meeting of the Chamber of Princes.
 3. Hon'ble Members are doubtless aware that several Rulers have generously placed their own palaces in Delhi at the disposal of the Government of India and it is but proper that Government should endeavour to provide them, if possible, with alternative accommodation where necessary.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 433, asked by Sardar Sant Singh, on the 15th March 1944.

GOVERNMENT COUNSEL AT COURTS MARTIAL

Of 43 officers serving in the Judge Advocate General's Department in India 8 are regular officers who have specialized for many years in military law, but hold no civil legal qualifications or university law degrees.

Of the remaining 35, 11 are barristers and 24 are solicitors. Of these, 16 hold university law degrees as follows:—

Law Degrees	Barristers	Solicitors
A., LL. B. (Cantab.)		2
A. LL. B. (Glasgow)		2
A. LL. B. (Cantab.)	1	2
C. L. (Oxon)		1
A. (Law) (Oxon)	1	1
A. (Law) (Glasgow)		2
A. (Law) (Dublin)	1	1
L. B. (London)	1	1

The remaining 8 officers out of the 51 mentioned in the main answer are serving abroad. Details regarding their qualifications are readily available.

Information promised in reply to parts (b) and (c) of Starred Question No. 460, asked by Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, on the 16th March, 1944

CONTROLLER OF COAL ACTING AS PURCHASING AGENT FOR INDUSTRIES

(b) In order to make an equitable distribution of coal despatched in full rakes and half rakes, Coal Trade Associations (which include representatives of middlemen) were asked to draw up programmes of standard rakes spread over a number of collieries situated in the same pilot section. These programmes were utilised by the Controller of Coal Distribution to give immediate assistance, to industrial centres such as Ahmedabad, Baroda, and Sholapur. These arrangements were made with the full approval of the coal trade and consumers and were not intended to dislocate normal trade channels. The second part of the question does not arise.

(c) Yes. This action was taken at the request of the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association and with the approval of Government.

Information promised in reply to parts (d) and (e) of Starred Question No. 464, asked by Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani, on the 16th March, 1944

EXPANSION OF THE METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

(d) The total number of Muslims in all categories under (b) is 150 and under (c) 103. Figures under each category cannot be supplied due to security reasons.

(e) The statement below gives the information required :—

Cadre.	No. of persons promoted from lower ranks.	Minimum period after which promoted.	No. of Muslims promoted from lower ranks.	Minimum period after which promoted.
Superintending Meteorologist	4	13 years	Nil.	..
Meteorologist	15	4 "	1	19 years
Assistant Meteorologist	28	10 "	2	12 "
Professional Assistant	21	2½ months	2	2½ months
Meteorological Assistant	52	9 "	10	2½ years
Senior Observer and Observer	140	2 "	33	1½ years

Information promised in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 504, asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 17th March, 1944.

BIHARIS AS ASSISTANT GEOLOGISTS

Assistant Geologist—One.
Higher capacity—None.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 520, asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 20th March, 1944.

BIHARIS IN THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT.

(a) There are eight Commissioners of whom five are Indians;

(b) The figures are :—

Eight in the Punjab, North West Frontier and Delhi Provinces,

Eight in the United Provinces, Central Provinces and Berar,

Nine in Bengal and Assam,

Seven in Madras,

Twelve in Bombay, Sind, British Baluchistan and Ajmer-Merwara, and

Five in Bihar and Orissa;

Out of the five Assistant Commissioners in Bihar and Orissa two are Biharis.

(c) There are 406 Income-tax Officers, grades I and II, of whom 15 are Biharis, the latter being employed in Bihar and Orissa against the sanctioned strength of 26 officers for that Province.

(d) One hundred and thirtytwo.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 561 and 562, asked by Mr. Muhammad Nauman, on the 21st March, 1944.

MUSLIMS IN BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No. 561.—(a) 228 of whom 43 are Muslims.

(b) The total number of persons recruited during 1942 and 1943 was 35 and 57 respectively. The vacancies were advertised.

(c) The total number of applications received from Muslims was 78 out of whom 61 were called for interview; only 40 of the latter appeared for interview and 25 were selected.

(d) The Selection Boards were constituted in accordance with the rules, and no vacancies which should have been filled by direct recruitment were filled in any other way.

APPOINTMENTS MADE IN THE STORES DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY

No. 562.—(a) 154, all temporary; composed of 38 Hindus, 72 Muslims, 1 Scheduled Caste, 2 Anglo Indians and 1 O. M. C.

(b) Normal methods of recruitment were followed: 7 persons were taken from the same Department and one was transferred from another Department; the rest were recruited direct.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. In the recruitment conducted specially for the Stores Department 57 Muslims were called for interview of whom 24 presented themselves; 10 of these were selected for appointment.

(d) For the special recruitment to the Stores Department, there was a total 1,440 applications, of which 429 were from Muslims.

(e) The Boards were constituted according to the rules and there was one Muslim Officer on them.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Questions Nos. 147 and 148, asked by Mr. N. M. Joshi, on the 21st March, 1944.

DISBURSEMENT OF FINES FUND ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY

No. 147.—There is no Fines Fund on the O. & T. Railway. There is, however, a Staff Benefit Fund. Disbursements from the Fund are not made on a communal basis. Grants

are made from this Fund for Institutes and in 1943-44 the grants made amounted to Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 6,000 approximately to European and Indian Institutes respectively.

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

No. 148.—(b) The Substitutes were upto now being paid upto Rs. 15 per month. The Railway have now issued instructions that they should be paid at the minimum of the grade in which they work.

Information promised in reply to Un-Starred Questions Nos. 153 and 155, asked by Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali, on the 22nd March, 1944

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF SHAHDARA-DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

No. 153.—Statement of total income and expenditure of the Municipal Committee, Shahdara, Delhi, for the years 1940-41, 1941-42 and 1942-43 under the various major heads.

INCOME

Head of Account	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. General Departments	47,796	48,614	57,248
2. Education	..	..	..
3. Medical	..	..	..
4. Public Health	2,669	2,922	2,806
5. Water Supply	2,027	2,085	2,125
6. Veterinary Department	..	..	..
7. Municipal Works	..	..	5
8. Suspense Accounts	1,118	3,111	2,163
Total Income	53,610	56,732	64,352
Opening balance	16,449	27,324	32,508
Grand Total	70,059	84,056	96,860
Total Expenditure	42,735	51,548	73,112
Closing balance	27,324	32,508	24,748

EXPENDITURE

Head of Account	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. General Departments	12,233	14,303	22,786
2. Education	1,620	1,620	1,665
3. Medical	1,811	2,115	1,481
4. Public Health	15,158	16,608	22,025
5. Water Supply	6,052	6,882	12,544
6. Veterinary Department	800	992	833
7. Municipal Works	4,050	3,434	7,491
8. Suspense Account	880	4,126	2,169
9. Reserve for unforeseen charges	131	1,458	1,118
Grand Total	42,735	51,548	72,112

DESIRABILITY OF INCREASING ELECTED ELEMENT IN SHAHDARA-DELHI MUNICIPALITY.

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Hitherto the Committee has consisted entirely of nominated members. It is now proposed to divide the town into four wards each returning one elected member. As the elected element is being introduced for the first time in this Committee, it is not considered necessary to make any change in the proposed number of elected and nominated members.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 608, 609 and 610, asked by Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, on the 24th March, 1944.

PAY, ETC., OF SUB-POSTMASTERS.

No. 608.—(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) 43 candidates below the age of 25 years joined the Department as extra departmental agents working as sub-postmasters during the period 1930-33, of whom 28 are still continuing.

MEMORIAL OF SUB-POSTMASTERS IN U. P. FOR INCREASE OF ALLOWANCE

No. 609.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes, but the figures regarding the increase in expenditure as stated by the Honourable Member are not correct.

(c) Yes.

CONVERSION OF AN EXTRA DEPARTMENTAL SUB-POST OFFICE INTO A BRANCH POST OFFICE

No. 610.—(b) The information is given in the statement below:—

Name of office.	Hours of work.						Cost		Income									
	Before conversion			After conversion			Before conversion	After conversion	Before conversion	After conversion								
	H.	M.	S.	H.	M.	S.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.								
Sunderbagh	4	22	0	6	52	0	44	0	0	99	0	0	262	5	0	705	5	5
Advocate	3	35	30	6	25	30	30	0	0	80	0	0	99	12	0	339	1	0
Hamdam	3	27	0	5	8	30	30	0	0	85	0	0	84	10	8	201	11	7
Victoriaganj	3	15	30	5	40	0	42	0	0	97	0	0	95	4	0	235	15	0

Information promised in reply to part (a) of Starred Question No. 616, asked by Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait, on the 24th March, 1944

SELECTION FOR POST-OF ASSISTANT COAL SUPERINTENDENT IN STATE RAILWAY COAL DEPARTMENT

As regards the second part of part (a), Government understand that there was only one Muslim applicant who did not however, possess the experience required.

Information promised in reply to parts (c), (e) and (f) of Starred Question No. 631, asked by Sardar Sant Singh, on the 27th March, 1944

KEEPING OF MILCH CATTLE IN ORTHODOX QUARTERS

(c) The New Delhi Municipal Committee report the figures as inine.

(e) In present conditions the maintenance of the milk supply as well as the supply of other commodities presents problems which will continue to cause anxiety to the local authorities for some time to come, but the Honourable Member may rest assured that they are doing their best to cope with a difficult situation.

(f) So far as milk supply is concerned no distinctions are drawn between one class of the population and another.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 635, asked by Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh, Bhutto, on the 27th March, 1944

BUYING AND SELLING OF LAND BY DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

(a) The operations of the Delhi Improvement Trust are conducted under and regulated by the United Provinces Town Improvement Act 1919 as extended to the Delhi Province. These operations include the acquisition of land and its re-sale after developments, and the sale price of the developed plots is naturally higher in most cases than the acquisition price.

(b) and (c). It is not correct that the Delhi Improvement Trust acts in the manner mentioned.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 647, asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 27th March, 1944

HIGH-HANDEDNESS OF LANDLORDS IN DELHI.

(a) Yes.

(b) Allegations made in the article against the Police are not true. The Police have strict instructions to be extremely careful in dealing with any case which appears to be registered by a landlord for the purpose of putting pressure on a tenant.

(c) Complaints are reported to have been received by the local authorities that excessive rents are being demanded by landlords in all parts of the town.

(d) In view of the reply to part (b), this does not arise.

(e) There are administrative difficulties in the extension of the New Delhi House Rent Control Order 1939 to areas in Old Delhi but Government have other measures under consideration.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 198, asked by Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali, on the 28th March, 1944.

PROSECUTION OF OFFICERS OF SHRI GOPAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, DELHI.

- (a) Yes.
- (b) Yes.
- (c) The persons arrested were either office-bearers of the Chamber or persons who were found to be actually engaged in the objectionable transactions.
- (d) No.
- (e) Certain representations were received but the law had been set in motion and it was not considered necessary to interfere.
- (f) Yes.
- (g) The High Court held that Rule 94-C was not applicable and that view is not contested. The opposite opinion must therefore be regarded as mistaken.
- (h) The interest shown by the officers in this case was official and not personal.

Information promised in reply to part (b) of Starred Question No. 690, asked by Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon on behalf of Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi, on the 29th March 1944.

WIRELESS LICENCE ESTABLISHMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT

(b) Three Programme Assistants have been promoted to the post of Station Director, one in a permanent and the other two in an officiating capacity, and nine Programme Assistants have been promoted as Assistant Station Directors in an officiating capacity.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 695, asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 29th March, 1944.

SUNDAY AND OTHER HOLIDAY ALLOWANCES PAID TO ANGLO-INDIAN AND EUROPEAN GUARDS ON OLD EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SECTION.

Yes, in respect of staff recruited before 1st September 1930. The rule permitting this is one which was in force under the E. I. Railway Company and continued unaltered till 1st September 1930.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 214, asked by Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall, on the 29th March, 1944.

CASES OF FRAUD, ETC., AGAINST EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SERVANTS

- (a) According to the information contained in registers maintained by the Accounts Office, there were 15 cases of frauds, etc., including one which was detected in 1942 and remained under investigation upto March 1944.
- (b) 11 cases were detected by the Executive; 3 by the Accounts Department and 1 by Audit Department. Out of these, one case, involving an amount of Rs. 3,022-11-0, is under trial in court; in one, involving an amount of Rs. 6,000, the person concerned was discharged; in 7 cases of losses of stores the total amount involved was Rs. 1,176-11-0, which was written off; in one case the amount involved (Rs. 3-13-0) was paid by the employee concerned, who was transferred to another station; 5 cases involving Rs. 9,574-9-6 remain to be finally disposed of. In one of these, involving Rs. 8,000 some staff at fault have already been dismissed from service and in another involving Rs. 1,412, which is still pending, the amount embezzled has been made good.
- (c) Please refer to item (b) above.
- (d) 7 cases were enquired into departmentally; 6 by the Railway Watch and Ward staff; one by Police and one by Railway Watch and Ward Staff and Police together.
- (e) In one case only, it was found necessary to obtain legal opinion which was to the effect that the matter should be dealt with departmentally.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 228, asked by Mr. Muhammad Ashar Ali, on the 30th March 1944.

CASES OF INFRINGEMENT OF HOURS OF WORK FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES NOT COVERED BY FACTORIES ACT.

First part of the question :—Statement showing the number of cases of infringement of the Hours of Employment Regulations detected and reported during the years 1931-32 to 1943-44, is enclosed.

Second part of the question :—The irregularities noticed were reported to the respective Railway Administrations and action was taken by them to rectify the same.

Statement showing the number of cases of infringement of the Hours of Work detected and reported during the years 1931-32 to 1943-44

Year	Railway	Working outside Rostered Hours		Working during periodic Rest		Grand Total
		Occasion-ally 3	Habi-tually 4	Occasion-ally 5	Habi-tually 6	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1931-32	N. W.	38	12	34	5	102
	E. I.	5	..	8	..	
1932-33	N. W.	11	5	13	1	73
	E. I.	3	5	6	4	
	E. B.	17	1	..	..
	G. I. P.	7	..	..	..
1933-34	N. W.	10	13	24	4	147
	E. I.	14	14	11	11	
	E. B.	5	14	..	9	
	G. I. P.	4	4	2	8	
1934-35	N. W.	19	21	38	8	262
	E. I.	26	22	36	17	
	E. B.	5	12	8	21	
	G. I. P.	4	10	5	10	
1935-36	N. W.	34	27	37	16	374
	E. I.	22	32	36	22	
	E. B.	2	9	3	7	
	G. I. P.	9	8	5	5	
	B. B. & C. I.	30	24	8	8	
	M. & S. M.	10	12	1	7	
1936-37	N. W.	23	19	12	14	247
	E. I.	16	5	10	10	
	E. B.	1	4	2	..	
	G. I. P.	2	3	1	3	
	B. B. & C. I.	38	11	8	2	
	M. & S. M.	20	17	14	12	
1937-38	N. W.	43	55	34	21	624
	E. I.	30	49	18	11	
	E. B.	7	5	5	5	
	G. I. P.	10	4	10	7	
	B. B. & C. I.	22	32	15	18	
	M. & S. M.	34	63	18	35	
	B. & N. W.	8	14	26	24	
1938-39	N. W.	11	46	50	15	564
	E. I.	11	49	25	15	
	E. B.	21	17	12	7	
	G. I. P.	40	20	24	21	
	B. B. & C. I.	30	35	10	35	
	M. & S. M.	30	13	3	4	
	B. & N. W.	2	8	6	4	
1939-40	N. W.	59	12	2	65	674
	E. I.	62	80	23	119	
	E. B.	9	10	1	14	
	G. I. P.	24	23	13	39	
	B. B. & C. I.	17	43	28	128	
	M. & S. M.	22	53	..	25	
	B. & N. W.	..	..	..	3
1940-41	N. W.	17	22	28	70	860
	E. I.	56	23	11	48	
	E. B.	4	17	16	40	
	G. I. P.	42	25	17	48	
	B. B. & C. I.	26	30	14	130	
	M. & S. M.	2	2	12	18	
	B. & N. W.	2	1	3	19	
	A. & B.	..	..	..	1
	B. N.	4	2	5	4	
	R. & K.	7	9	9	29	
	S. I.	..	..	4	15

Year	Railway	Working outside Rostered Hours		Working during periodic Rest		Grand Total
		Occasion-ally	Habi-tually	Occasion-ally	Habi-tually	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1941-42	N. W.	27	33	15	7	887
	E. I.	18	38	28	39	
	E. B.		28	6	19	
	G. I. P.	50	15	24	13	
	B. B. & C. I.	46	68	44	55	
	M. & S. M.	33	38	11	11	
	B. & N. W.	2	1	2	3	
	A. & B.	4	19	5	9	
	B. N.	17	27	9	13	
	R. & K.	4	2	13	9	
1942-43	S. I.	3	6	10	6	885
	B. & A.	3	20	5	29	
	N. W.	27	43	37	26	
	E. I.	27	20	9	22	
	B. & A.	14	22	25	41	
	G. I. P.	26	21	21	26	
	B. B. & C. I.	75	74	33	48	
	M. & S. M.	39	22	18	15	
	B. & N. W.	16	13	3	2	
	B. N.	25	27		22	
1943-44	R. & K.	5	6		3	647
	S. I.	3	9	6	1	
	O. & T.	4	8	2		
	N. W.	37	37	22	49	
	E. I.	29	28	14	17	
	B. & A.	13	15	12	12	
	G. I. P.	21	16	24	21	
	B. B. & C. I.	24	31	15	21	
	M. & S. M.	26	20	9	1	
	O. & T.	21	26	16	19	
B. N.	7	16	10	9		
S. I.	1	4	2	2		

Number of irregularities from the 1st April 1931 to the 31st March 1944-6,346.

Sd. Illegible.

Conciliation Officer (Railways) and Supervisor of Railway Labour, Calcutta.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 738, asked by Mr. K.-S. Gupta, on the 31st March, 1944.

PRIVATE BOATS COMMANDERED IN CERTAIN PROVINCES.

Assam :-

(a) No boats were taken away.

(d) and (g). Do not arise.

Orissa :

(a) 5,391.

(d) Rs. 3,05,196-15-9.

(g) No boats were destroyed and all have been returned to their owners.

Madras :

(a) and (d). 22 boats were requisitioned, out of which 5 have since been returned to their owners. Compensation of Rs. 4,850 has been paid for 4 boats and the amount to be paid for the remaining 13 boats is still under correspondence. In addition, 109 boats were purchased for approximately Rs. 4½ lakhs.

(g) This has not arisen, in view of the small number of boats involved.

Information promised in reply to part (b) of Starred Question No. 740, asked by Mr. Muhammad Nauman, on the 3rd April, 1944

RECRUITMENT ON OUDH AND TIRHUT RAILWAY IN OFFICERS' GRADE.

(b) The reply is in the negative to both parts.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 741, 742 and 745 asked by Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, on the 3rd April, 1944.

SENIORITY OF CERTAIN GUARDS IN HOWRAH DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No. 741.—(b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to Grade I and Grade II Guards when he mentions Grade A and Grade B. The ten Grade II Guards who were interviewed between November, 1943 and March, 1944, originally occupied places below No. 47 on the seniority list, but on the revision of the list have places above the original No. 47.

MEMORIAL OF 'B' CLASS GUARDS OF HOWRAH DIVISION FOR FIXATION OF PAY, ETC.

No. 742.—(b) The reply is in the affirmative.

*SENIOR 'B' CLASS GUARDS IN HOWRAH DIVISION.

No. 745.—Guards, Grade II, are declared unfit for promotion to Grade I only by a competent authority and Government are informed that there has been no departure from this on the Howrah Division.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 746, 747, 748 and 750, asked by Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Iemal Khan, on the 3rd April, 1944.

RECRUITMENT OF INFERIOR STAFF IN ENGINEERING AND MECHANICAL DEPARTMENTS OF EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

No. 746.—(a) and (b). Railway Administrations are not required to maintain communal percentages for the recruitment of inferior staff and labourers separately by Departments such percentages applying to inferior services as a whole on each Railway. A statement is attached giving the numbers of inferior staff communitywise recruited to the Engineering and Mechanical Departments during the period for the E. B. zone; figures for the A. B. zone not being readily available. From this, it will be observed that while the percentages approximated to that prescribed before 1943, they fell short of the increased percentage prescribed after that date. This was on account of the peculiar conditions on the Railway during the present emergency.

Statement showing the number of inferior staff including labourers, recruited in the Engineering and Mechanical Departments of the E. B. Railway during the years 1940-41 and on the E. B. Zone of the B. & A. Railway from 1942 to the end of March 1944.

	Engineering.									
	1940		1941		1942		1943		1944*	
	Perma- nent	Tem- porary	Perma- nent	Tem- porary	Perma- nent	Tem- porary	Perma- nent	Tem- porary	Perma- nent	Tem- porary
Hindus (other than Scheduled Castes.)	22	861	10	766	30	525	20	1,388	4	713
Muslims	14	527	30	646	8	181	23	1,029	7	882
Scheduled Castes	44	1,016	53	1,273	50	11,14	32	1,255	7	432
Indian Christians	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	..	4
Anglo Indians	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	80	2,405	93	2,685	88	1,820	74	6,690	18	2,031
Percentage of Muslims	17.5%	22%	32.3%	24%	9.1%	10%	29.7%	28.0%	39.0%	43.0%

	Mechanical.									
	1940		1941		1942		1943		1944*	
	Perma- nent	Tem- porary	Perma- nent	Tem- porary	Perma- nent	Tem- porary	Perma- nent	Tem- porary	Perma- nent	Tem- porary
Hindus (other than Scheduled Castes.)	38	127	41	291	89	304	92	339	17	97
Muslims	37	56	22	88	27	130	26	175	..	39
Scheduled Castes	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	6	..	..
Indian Christians	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Anglo Indians	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	77	183	63	370	116	437	118	519	17	136
Percentage of Muslims	48.0%	30.5%	35.0%	23.2%	23.3%	29.7%	22.0%	33.7%	NH.	28.7%

Percentage of Muslims for the whole period Permanent Engineering Mechanical
 Temporary 23.6% 28.7%
 25.8% 29.5%

Percentage prescribed prior to 1st April 1943 29.7%

Percentage prescribed from 1st April 1943 onwards 45.0%

*Figures relate to 3 months ending March, 1944.

NON-POSTING OF MUSLIMS IN E. I. (B) SECTION OF THE PERSONNEL BRANCH,
BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

No. 747.—(b) 7 Muslims have worked in the Section during the period 1939-1943.

CLERICAL STAFF IN PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF BENGAL AND
ASSAM RAILWAY.

No. 748.—According to the information readily available, 33 Hindus, 6 Muslims and 3 Anglo-Indians have been promoted as Inspectors and 22 Hindus, 1 Muslim, 5 Anglo-Indians, 1 Sikh and one Indian Christian have been appointed to Lower Gazetted Service.

STAFF ENGAGED IN CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY.

No. 750.—(a) It has been ascertained that information is not readily available and Government cannot undertake to collect the details under present circumstances.

(b) No.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 759, asked by Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, on the 3rd April, 1944.

REORGANIZATION OF WHARF AND YARD STAFF.

(a) Government are informed that the matter is under consideration.

(b) One memorial was submitted in 1931 and another has also recently been submitted by the staff.

(c) Yes.

(d) The matter is under consideration and it is not possible to anticipate the decision.

(e) Yes.

(f) There has been an increase of work; the reference to 2 lacs is not understood.

(g) The extra staff required to deal with the increased work have been provided; no other arrangements appear to be necessary.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 779, asked by Sardar Sant Singh, on the 4th April, 1944.

GAZETTED OFFICERS UNDER THE SURVEYOR GENERAL.

(a), (b) and (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House.

(d) Yes.

(e) and (f). Direct recruitment to gazetted officers' posts in the Survey of India is made by competitive examination held by the Federal Public Service Commission and from volunteers from among regular army officers Royal Engineers and Indian Engineers, but very few Sikhs apply for such posts except through army channels.

Statement showing the number of gazetted officers, etc., employed in the Survey of India.

	Hindus	Muslims	Sikhs	Others	Total
1. Gazetted Officers	48	16	2	62	128
2. Extra Asst. Supdts., Asst. Supdts. and Supdts.	43	15	2	46	106
3. Head Assts. (not Head Clerks), Assts. and Junior Assts.	21	2	...	1	24

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 259, asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, on the 4th April, 1944.

FIXING OF RATES OF FARES FOR VEHICLES BETWEEN DELHI AND SHAHDARA-DELHI.

The rates of tonga fares between Delhi City and Shahdara town were fixed by the Delhi Municipal Committee. No rates have been fixed for buses as the fares charged by the Management are considered reasonable. The Shahdara Municipality was not consulted in the matter as its consent was not necessary.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Questions Nos. 264, and 265, asked by Mr. G. Rangiah Naidu, on the 4th April, 1944.

SANITATION OF LAND BETWEEN RAILWAY BRIDGE, SHAHDARA-DELHI AND GRAND TRUNK ROAD.

No. 264.—It is understood that no such statement was made.

The land in question is reported to be the property of Mr. Sukhbir Saran. Whenever the municipal authorities have had cause to complain of the condition of this land, they have issued notices under section 115 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911. The last such notice was issued on the 19th February 1944.

EXPENDITURE ON SANITATION IN SHAHDARA-DELHI

No. 265.—A sum of Rs. 24,015 was spent by the Municipal Committee, Shahdara, on improvements and sanitation of the town during the year 1943-44.

Owing, however, to the financial stringency resulting from the payment of dearness allowance to its staff, the committee was unable to incur any expenditure on large scale improvements during the year 1943-44.

Information promised in reply to Starred Questions Nos. 789, 790, 792, 795, 796 and 797, asked by Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, on the 5th April, 1944.

TRANSFERS OF CANTONMENT EXECUTIVE OFFICERS.

No. 789.—(d) Rs. 14,827-5-9.

INTRODUCTION OF LOW SCALES OF PAY FOR EMPLOYEES OF CERTAIN CANTONMENT BOARDS.

No. 790.—In February 1938, in order to remove certain anomalies then existing, and to check the increase in the rising costs of establishments of Cantonment Boards in the then Northern Command, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief decided that all Cantonment Fund servants in this Command should be placed on uniform rates of pay according to the constitution of each Cantonment as fixed by Section 13(1) of the Cantonments Act, 1924. These grades of pay were not considered low and are generally in force now. They were fixed by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief the Command in accordance with his powers of financial control over Cantonment Boards, as laid down in rules 5 and 10 of the Cantonment Fund Servants Rules, 1937, and in rules 45, 46 and 47 of the Cantonment Account Code, 1924. Cantonment Boards are allowed reasonable discretion in the matter of their staff subject to the provisions of the Cantonments Act and the rules framed thereunder. The scales of pay fixed in 1938 have served as a guide rather than as a hard and fast rule, individual cases being considered on their merits.

REORGANISATION OF CANTONMENT SERVICE.

No. 792.—(a) *Present cost to Government—*

(1) On account of pay and allowances of Military Estates Officers (full share)	Rs. 2,58,660 p. a.
(2) On account of pay and allowances of Executive Officers (half share)	1,21,200 "
Total	3,79,860 "

Cost to Government, if Mr. Deshmukh's Resolution was adopted—

(i) On account of pay and allowances of Military Estates Officers (half share), i.e., 1/2 of (1) above	1,29,830 "
(ii) On account of pay and allowances of Executive Officers at the rates of pay proposed by Mr. Deshmukh (half share)	1,77,390 "
Total	3,06,720 "

Saving to Government = 3,79,860 Minus 306,720 73,140 "

Effect on Cantonment Funds—

Cost at present borne by Cantonment Boards—

Pay and allowances of Executive Officers at the existing rates (half share) 1,21,200 "

Cost to Cantonment Boards if Mr. Deshmukh's Resolution was adopted. 3,06,720 "

or Rs. 1,85,520 (3,06,720 minus 1,21,200) in excess of present cost. A considerable portion of this sum would have to be borne by Government in the form of grants-in-aid to maintain financial equilibrium of the Cantonments concerned.

(These figures are only approximate.)

CANTONMENTS IN INDIA.

No. 795.—(a) Eighty one.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Fifty-four.

(e) Nine, including the Kirkee and Drigh Road Cantonments, where this work is carried out by the Military Estates Overseers of the Poona and Karachi Cantonments, in a part time capacity.

(f) Six, excluding Secunderabad where the Executive Officer cum Military Estates Officer is paid from local funds. There are Dehra Dun cum Clements Town cum Landour, Karachi cum Manora, Kohaj, Quetta, and Wellington Cantonments.

The Military Estates Overseers in these Cantonments assist the Military Estates Officer; they only carry on certain outdoor duties under his directions.

(g) Eight, viz., Agra, Allahabad, Ambala, Jubbulpore, Lahore, Lucknow, Peshawar and Poona. This excludes Deolali where the Overseer's work is at present done in a part-time capacity by the staff of the Military Estates Officer.

(h) Twenty-one, including a Forester for Landour. There is only one grade—that of Rs. 40—2—60.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AS AGENTS OF MILITARY ESTATES OFFICERS

No. 796.—(a) Executive Officers were appointed agents of M.E.Os. under executive orders.

(b) The functions of these agents are to watch that no encroachments are made on Government lands and to collect rents from leased lands in their respective cantonments on behalf of Military Estates Officers.

The reasons for the appointment of agents were that the previous system under which lands in cantonments were managed by low paid Military Estates Overseers with no personal supervision, other than occasional visits, by M.E.Os., was found to be unsatisfactory.

(c) Yes. The new system did not however break down as stated by the Hon'ble Member. The lands in question are still under the management of M.E.Os. Government, at present, do not consider it desirable to amalgamate, except in special circumstances, the posts of M.E.Os. and Executive Officers.

(d) and (e). The information asked for is as follows :—

Name of Cantonment	Actual income from lands under the management of M. E. Os. as credited to Central Revenues for 1942-43			Actual income from lands under the management of Cantt. Boards for 1942-43			Rent from class 'C' lands as realised by the Central Govt. for 1942-43		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Allahabad	13,754	0	0	14,477	0	0	614	12	0
Lucknow	7,688	12	1	4,913	4	2	39	14	0
Dehra Dun	6,424	7	0	Nil			22	9	0
Meerut	9,185	9	0	13,156	2	4	347	6	0
Agra	36,752	13	0	5,205	14	8	Nil		
Barrackpore	3,053	8	10	967	4	0	581	0	0
Rawalpindi	6,187	0	0	9,040	0	0	800	0	0
Peshawar	14,450	0	0	7,705	5	0	53	0	0
Kohat	1,678	4	0	127	10	0	400	0	0
Lahore	10,602	0	0	2,138	8	0	216	0	0
Ambala	20,590	0	0	3,719	5	9	33	0	0
Karachi	7,320	0	0	Nil			211	0	0
Quetta	12,339	0	0	Nil			116	0	0
Jubbulpore	11,693	11	3	1,224	3	0	66	0	0
Wellington	6,227	7	2	6,024	3	9	33	0	0
Deolali	1,784	12	0	10,485	15	0	61	0	0
*Secunderabad									
*Aurangabad									
Poona	13,073	4	0	3,163	0	0	20	8	0
Kirkee	4,683	7	0	11,334	8	6	168	0	0
Nasirabad	7,666	3	9	7,122	7	3	136	11	0
Bareilly	6,133	10	9	10,971	4	0	1,124	9	0
Saugor	11,725	9	0	925	3	6	1	1	6
St. Thomas' Mount	13,241	0	5	220	6	9	18	10	0

(f) Yes, it is a fact, except that the General Land Register and the Land Revenue Register are maintained by Military Estates Officers and not by their Agents. The Agents only perform certain military estates' duties and are subordinate to M.E.Os., who are responsible for the entire administration of lands (outside bazar areas) in cantonments in their respective circles.

The answer to the question in the concluding sentence is in the negative.

INCOME OF CERTAIN CANTONMENT FUNDS AND KING'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS IN
CANTONMENTS DEPARTMENT

No. 797.—(a).

Cantonment	Actual income for	Actual income for	Estimated income for
	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Secunderabad	14,31,403	12,47,524	11,71,820
Quetta	4,15,918	4,99,358	3,79,462
Peshawar	3,54,552	4,69,257	3,14,427
Lahore	2,49,758	2,64,080	2,54,117
Ambala	3,75,082	3,95,586	3,91,189
Cawnpore	2,09,990	2,39,872	2,07,001
Rawalpindi	5,78,349	7,07,893	5,79,100
Poona	6,00,933	5,54,695	5,00,606
Meerut	3,35,898	3,94,101	3,29,977
Lucknow	1,82,117	1,94,433	1,97,253
Agra	2,02,360	2,21,197	2,17,948
Mhow	3,12,585	3,81,285	3,47,218

(b)

Name of Officer	Rank	Length of service in the Cantonments Deptt.		Monthly salary (on 1-4-44)
		(on 1-4-44)		
		Years	Months	
1. H. F. Jeffreys	Lt.-Col.	21	4	1,950
2. J. C. Cairn-Duff	"	21	2	1,950
3. C. M. James	"	17	9	1,900
4. J. E. Cobett, O.B.E.	"	15	1	1,900
5. J. E. Read	"	14	11	1,850
6. W. E. Merrill	Major	14	8	1,635
7. M. Hurford-Jones	Lt.-Col.	14	4	1,850
8. A. K. McGonigal	Major	13	0	1,635

(c) Agra, Bannu, Bareilly, Cawnpore, Chakrata, Delhi, Deolali, Ferozepore, Jhalum, Jubbulpore, Jullundur, Karachi, Kohat, Lahore, Meerut, Mhow, Murree, Murree Gali, Nasirabad, Nowshera, Peshawar, Poona, Quetta, Rawalpindi, Roorkee, Secunderabad and Sialkot.

Income and expenditure of Cantonments fluctuate from year to year, and the calculations on which the above information is based are on the present year's financial position only.

(d)

Cantonments in which the post of Asstt. Secretary exists	Name of the present incumbent	Salary and allowances per mensem
1. Ambala	Mr. Panna Lal Malhotra	Rs. 215 in the scale of Rs. 200—5—250
2. Rawalpindi	Sardar Sahib Mana Singh	Salary Rs. 360 Personal allowance Rs. 100 Conveyance allowance Rs. 69
3. Quetta	*Major A. E. Davies	Scale of pay—375—20—475 Conveyance allowance Rs. 50

*Major A. E. Davies was called up for military service in 1940, and holds a lien on this appointment. Rai Sahib Mohan Lal, Sewage Works Manager, has been appointed to officiate in the post, in addition to his own duties.

In these three Cantonments, the post of Assistant Secretary was created under rule 4 of the Cantonment Fund Servants' Rules, 1937.

(e)

Name of Officer	Monthly emoluments	Age (on 1-4-44)		Period of re-employment
		Years	Months	
1. Lt.-Col. W. R. James, O.B.E., M. C.	1,950	57	7	One year.
2. Lt.-Col. H. B. Graveston	1,950	55	6	One year.†
3. Lt.-Col. W. H. L. J. Welman	1,950	55	10	One year.†

† These two officers have since been granted a year's further extension. Extensions are granted only when they are essential in the public interest.

(f) President, Cantonment Board, Secunderabad, paid from Defence Services Estimates	Rs. 1,900
Executive Officer, Secunderabad Cantonment, paid from the Cantonment Fund	Rs. 800

(g) Three—(1) Lt.-Col. S. A. Bowden, (2) Major J. R. K. Wallace, M.C. and (3) Major R. G. Triggs.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 805, asked by Mr. Ananga Mohan Dam, on the 5th April, 1944.

AUCTION OF EXCISE CONTRACTS IN DELHI

(a) (i) and (ii). Yes.

(iii) No. Including the still head duty which has been sharply raised, the revenue this year is likely to exceed last year's figure by at least Rs. 2,48,000.

(b) No. The supply of liquor available being far short of the public demand the licensees are in a position to charge prices much in excess of the fixed maxima. In an auction the licence fees would have been forced up to such a level that it would have been impossible for the licensees to pay them without resort to malpractices and if in these circumstances the traditional system of auctioning the contracts had been adhered to the authorities would have laid themselves open to the charge of conniving and profiting from contravention of the law. It has therefore been found necessary to abandon the auction system for the present.

DEATH OF MR. ABDUR RASHEED CHOUDHURY

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House): Sir, it is with

12 Noon. very great regret that I have to refer to the death of an Honourable Member of this House, Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury which event took place some weeks ago. Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury represented the Muslim constituency of Assam in this Assembly since 1937. He was a fearless critic of all measures which did not appeal to him. He was a charming personality and anybody who came in contact with him inside or outside this House had nothing but esteem, regard and affection for him. This House is much the poorer by his death and I would request you to convey our personal sense of loss to the bereaved family and I would also request you to convey our condolences to the members of the bereaved family who may be there and assure them that their grief is shared equally by this House.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I wish to associate myself with what fell from the Honourable the Leader of the House, for we feel as much as any other Honourable Member of this House the absence of the charming presence of Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury. I am one of those who have been associated with him in this House for a period of over six years, apart from our absence during the interval. He was one of those men of sterling independence and it was impossible that any question will be viewed by him except from the point of view of genuine public interest of the country at large. He was one of those men who always devoted a good deal of energy and enthusiasm and a considerable amount of study to the question on which he was speaking before the House. He often found, that by reason of his extreme independence, he found himself giving expression to views which might or might not be in accord with those expressed by the other side of the House. He was one of those stalwarts whose presence we would always miss, because I recollect he held his own against odds from whatever it came. More than that, he was a person who recognised no barrier of caste, creed or colour in the recognition of the vital interests of this country. A man of rare ability, a man of thorough independence, a man of rare industry, a man of complete accommodation with charming manners, it is difficult to find the like of him in this House and difficult to replace him. I join with the sentiments that fell from the Honourable the Leader of the House and I associate myself with the message of sympathy which has been asked to be conveyed to the members of the bereaved family.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I join with my two Honourable colleagues in paying tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury. I am sure this House will miss his presence very much. He was always very

[Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan]

active in studying the questions that came up for discussion before this House. His sense of duty to the House and to the people outside and to his constituency was indeed remarkable. I remember during the last Budget session, when the Japanese had invaded India and Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury's home was not very far from the Japanese army of invasion, in spite of all worries and anxieties, he stuck to his post in this House and voted on the popular side, thus representing his constituency truly and faithfully. Every Honourable Member of this House will mourn his loss and I request you to convey our sympathies and condolences also to the bereaved family.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I associate myself with the tribute paid to the memory of the late Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury. As has been said by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Abdur Rasheed Choudhury discharged his duties in this House with considerable ability and independence and he took a keen interest in the questions coming up before the House. It will be my duty to convey to the members of the bereaved family the resolution of condolence adopted by this House.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Adjournment Motions Nos. 1 and 2. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta does not want to move them. No. 8 in the name of Sardar Sant Singh.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab; Sikh): I have given an amended motion which is No. 11, which I want to move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This motion No. 8 has been disallowed by the Governor General on the ground that it is to the detriment of public interest.

FAILURE TO SUPPLY ADEQUATE PETROL TO THE KARACHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon has given notice of his intention to move the adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the failure of the War and Transport Department and its Agency at Karachi to supply adequate petrol to the Karachi Municipal Corporation for removal of city refuse as reported in the issue of the *Sind Observer* dated the 15th August, 1944, and thus endangering the city with outbreak of epidemics.

I understand that petrol supply is the concern of the Sind Provincial Government and not that of the Government of India.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind; Muhammadan Rural): I submit the Provincial Government has got no hand in it.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): That is not correct.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I have received a letter from the Provincial Government which says that the matter definitely rests with the Central Government who have got their central organisation over there.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I submit the matter is entirely a question between the Provincial Government acting through the Provincial Motor Transport Controller and the local body. The Provincial Government has complete discretion in the matter.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Central Government has nothing to do with the distribution of petrol direct to the Corporation.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: If the Honourable Member for War Transport will give me an assurance that the Provincial Government has got full authority in this matter, I will not pursue the matter here.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have just answered.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): On the facts stated by the Honourable Member for War Transport; the motion is disallowed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motions Nos. 5 and 6 have been disallowed by the Governor General on the ground that they cannot be moved without detriment to the public interest.

Mr. Jammadas Mehta has withdrawn notice of motions in his name.

FAILURE TO ASSURE TERMINATION OF SERVICES OF THE U. K. C. C. WITH THE
TERMINATION OF THE WAR.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then Mr. Chattopadhyaya wants to discuss "the lack of policy of the Government of India in the face of grave danger created by the introduction of the U.K.C.C. into India and in the Government of India's failure to assure the Indian public by a communiqué to the effect that the services of the U.K.C.C. would terminate simultaneously with the termination of the war".

This question was discussed before and nothing new has cropped up since the last Session. It is therefore out of order.

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION FOR PUBLICATION OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN MAHATMA
GANDHI AND H. E. THE VICEROY.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta wants to discuss the refusal of the Government of India of permission for publication of the entire correspondence that passed between Mahatma Gandhi and His Excellency the Viceroy since the former's incarceration in August 1942.

Has not the entire correspondence been published with the exception of one letter?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I understand it has only been recently published after I gave notice of this motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then this motion cannot be moved.

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION DESCRIBING MR. PHILLIPS, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, AS *persona non-grata*.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then Sardar Sant Singh wants to raise the question of "the communication of the Secretary to the Government of India for External Affairs describing Mr. Phillips, a Personal Representative of President Roosevelt as *persona non-grata* for advocating the cause of freedom of India".

This has been disallowed by the Governor General on the ground that it cannot be moved without detriment to the public interest.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next four motions stand in the name of Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta and all relate to the subject of food. As there is to be a debate on this subject tomorrow, they cannot be discussed.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Sir, the subject of my motion has nothing to do with the general food situation of the country but with a specific case of wastage.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It cannot be in order because the whole position will be open to discussion tomorrow.

Prof. N. G. Ranga being absent, his motions cannot be taken up.

DISMISSAL OF SARDAR SHAUKAT HAYAT KHAN, A MINISTER IN THE PUNJAB.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan wants to move the adjournment of the House to discuss "the failure of the Governor General to exercise general control and issue necessary directions in the matter of the misuse by the Governor of the Punjab of the power conferred upon him under section 51 of the Government of India Act, 1935, inasmuch as he used that power against an individual Minister and dismissed from ministership Sardar Shaukat Hayat Khan without furnishing the particulars of allegations or charges against him and did not allow him any

[Mr. President.]

opportunity to give his explanation or defence before dismissal, which is the inherent right of every citizen according to the rules of natural justice, thereby casting grave reflection on the honour of Sardar Shaukat Hayat Khan and has, in spite of repeated demands, declined to disclose the full facts".

How is this Assembly entitled to discuss a matter of this kind?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkhand and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, section 54(1) of the Government of India Act reads:

"In so far as the Governor of a province is by or under this Act required to act in his discretion or to exercise his individual judgment, he shall be under the general control of, and comply with such particular directions, if any, as may from time to time be given to him by the Governor General in his discretion."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Did the Governor General give any direction in this case?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I do not know.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then this section does not apply.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: It does, because my point is that failure to take action is an action in itself, and I am sure the legal luminaries here will agree with me that when under a provision of the Act the Governor General had power to give directions where such powers are used by Governors under his control, and if he has not taken any action he has really failed in his duty. Now according to our rule 12 read with rule 23 we can move an adjournment motion or a Resolution with regard to any action of the Governor General provided he gives his consent. I applied through the Secretary of the Assembly to the Governor General to accord his consent to the moving of this motion. I have received a reply that while reserving discretion to exercise his powers of disallowance in respect of the motion His Excellency the Governor General does not consider his affirmative consent to be required to the moving of the same. So from this it appears that the Governor General has no objection to this motion being moved, as far as the question of consent is concerned.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has reserved his power.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: He has reserved his power of disallowing the motion and now it is for you to decide whether his consent is necessary or not.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member's contention is correct it would mean that this Assembly is entitled to review the administration of every province in which the Governor of the province has exercised his discretion in any manner.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Yes, that is my contention, that all these powers that are enjoyed by Governors and used in their discretion and are under the control of the Governor General can be discussed on the floor of this House if the Governor General has no objection to that matter being discussed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then it means that this Assembly can call up on the Governor General to exercise his power of supervision or control over the discretion of Governors of provinces in any case it likes.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: There is no question of this Assembly forcing the Governor General to take action.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If you are criticising the Governor General for not taking action, it follows that you want him to take certain action.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: As I have submitted before, failure to take action is action in itself.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Not in all cases. I do not know why the Honourable Member says that.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, if you see somebody committing a crime and you do not take any action, you are guilty of abetment. Therefore failure to take action is action in itself, and my submission is that legally it is really an action if you fail to take action under the powers which are conferred upon you. Otherwise it would mean that the general control which has been given under the Government of India Act to Governor General is really meaningless.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It would be nullifying the provincial autonomy altogether.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: There is no question of provincial autonomy. It is not the action of the Government of that province which we want to discuss.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Governor is an important part of the Provincial Government under the Act.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: The distinction has been made in the Government of India Act between actions by the Governor in his discretion, or in his judgment, and action by the Governor acting with his Ministers. As far as the actions of the Governor acting with his Ministers are concerned, I submit, all those matters are really for the Provincial Governors and for the Provincial Legislatures to take up, but where any special power is given and that power is under the control of the Governor General, I submit that that is a matter which concerns the Centre and can be taken up in the Central Assembly.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the contention of the Honourable Member were correct, it would mean that in any case in which the Governor of a province has acted in his discretion, this Assembly would be entitled to call upon the Governor General to review and, if necessary, reverse the action taken by the Governor and pass some other orders instead. The entire scheme of the Act of 1935 is to concede autonomy to the provinces within certain limits. The Government of a province includes the Governor and the Act has chosen, rightly or wrongly, to give the Governor of every province powers to pass orders in certain cases in his discretion. It is quite true that the Governor General has the power to deal with such cases in his own discretion, but in this case he has not so acted. And, therefore, if this motion of Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan be accepted it would come to this: that this Assembly should call upon the Governor General in any such case to exercise his discretion in any way the Assembly thinks it should be exercised. I must say that this motion cuts right across the whole scheme of the Act of 1935 and is therefore out of order.

FAILURE TO APPLY IN TIME FOR HELP FOR INDIA TO THE U.N.R.R.A.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next notice is from Mr. K. S. Gupta. He has given notice of his intention to move the adjournment of the Assembly for discussing a matter of urgent public importance, namely, "the failure of the Government of India to apply for help in time to the U.N.R.R.A. though India has been admitted as a nation entitled to receive relief from U.N.R.R.A."

The Honourable Member has said that application was not made in time, what is meant by that?

Mr. K. S. Gupta (Ganiam cum Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Time was fixed for applications to be received and application was not made in time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What time was fixed for any such applications to be received?

Mr. K. S. Gupta: Grants are to be made by the end of the financial year—April. The Government of India did not apply though they were entitled to do so.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In your notice of motion you have said 'it was not made in time', now you say it was not made at all.

Mr. K. S. Gupta: Yes, Sir. It has not been made as yet.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): I think my Honourable friend has got entirely the wrong facts. The House will remember that at the last Session a resolution was carried in which an amendment on the lines of a similar amendment sponsored by the American Congress, more or less substantially on the same lines, was approved by this House and it was suggested that we should try to include that in the constitution of U.N.R.R.A. I think it is well known, except in the case of those who have not been in touch with daily papers, that that Resolution has been agreed to by the U.N.R.R.A. only about a month or two ago. Therefore, we could not have possibly applied till that amendment was incorporated as a part of the U.N.R.R.A. constitution. All our difficulties happened in 1943 when there were difficult conditions in Bengal. I think it is well known that this year the Bengal Government has been able to purchase surplus grains to the extent of 700,000 tons and we would look ridiculous if we were now to apply on behalf of Bengal for more foodgrains. I think we could not then apply under the U.N.R.R.A. constitution and there was no time limit and it is only now, about a month ago, that any area affected by famine and pestilence, if of importance to the military

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member will probably tell us why application for help was not made during the last famine.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: At that time we could not apply under the rules. I made it clear and that was why an amendment was moved and was agreed to.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In view of the facts stated by the Honourable Member for Civil Supplies, I hold that this motion is not in order.

FAILURE TO MAKE PROPER ARRANGEMENTS TO PREVENT DESTRUCTION OF A.I.C.C. RECORDS AT ALLAHABAD.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next notice is from Sardar Mangal Singh. He wishes to discuss "the failure of the Government of India to make proper arrangements to prevent the destruction of A.I.C.C. records by white ants at Allahabad".

I think notice of a similar motion was received in the last Session and was ruled out of order.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): It was not moved last time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It was and I hold that this motion is not in order.

MISUSE OF THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT ORGANISATION BY MALIK KHIZAR HAYAT KHAN TIWANA, LEADER OF THE PUNJAB BRANCH

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next adjournment motion stands in the name of Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan. He wishes to move for the adjournment of the business of the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the failure of the Governor General in Council to prevent and stop the misuse of the National War Front Organization by the Provincial Leader of the Punjab Branch, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, who has been utilizing the National War Front Organization for propaganda in favour of and collection of funds for a political party—"the Zamindara League"—thereby creating a great deal of hostility amongst a large section of people against the National War Front.

I have heard of the National War Front. Is it a Department of the Government of India?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhajmadan Rural): Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting): The question raised there is with respect to something which has been done by the National War Front Organization in the Punjab through its leader, the Provincial leader of the Punjab Branch. So far as the Branch is concerned it is not under the control of the Centre at all.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But is not the Punjab organization under the control of the Punjab Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Yes, of the Leader. But the organization as such is not under us except for a limited purpose. Schemes are prepared by the Provincial organisation and submitted to us for approval and those schemes must refer to war efforts or to matters connected with the war directly or indirectly. If those schemes are approved by us then we place certain funds in their hands to implement those schemes. This question of the Zamindara League has nothing to do with us.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Supposing the organisation is utilised for some purpose other than what it was intended for?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That is a matter entirely for the Provincial Government. It has nothing to do with us. The moment it is not utilised for the specific purpose intended, the funds placed in their hands will be withdrawn on the recommendation of the Auditor General. Apart from that, I understand that no funds were collected for the Zamindara League on any of these occasions.

Several Honourable Members: They were.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: There was no propaganda by anybody at these meetings. It is true some of the organisers presented an address to the leader who happens to be the Premier and he received it as Premier of the Province. So we have nothing to do with it. We would not tolerate anything which is not connected with any scheme approved by us. That point has been made clear to all the National War Front leaders. Nothing has been done there which should not have been done by a leader of the National War Front. He is the Premier and in that capacity he has certainly received addresses and replied to those addresses in his capacity as Premier.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the nature of the misuse you complain of?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: The meetings are held by the National War Front and Malik Khizar Hayat Khan who happens to be the leader of the National War Front goes to these meetings and makes political speeches running down all those parties who happen to be opposed to him politically. His speeches have nothing to do with the activities of the National War Front. Money is also collected—and that is a question of merit—but if you permit me I have a number of newspaper cuttings by which I can prove to the hilt that money has been collected in the name of the National War Front and by the people who are officials of the National War Front. All these purses have been presented at the meetings of the National War Front to Malik Khizar Hayat Khan for propagating political views of his party. Now, Sir, my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, has tried to wriggle out of it by suggesting that the provincial organization is quite separate from the Central organization. I am not quite sure if he was really serious when he was making that contention. It is an all-India organization under the control of the Central Government and I would refer him to the speech he made very recently at the Publicity Advisory Committee which was held here.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You need not go into all that. I want to know your allegations.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My allegations are here and if you will permit me I have cuttings.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I simply want to know your case.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: My case is that meetings are held by the National War Front and under the National War Front at which

speeches are made by the Provincial leader criticising the political activities of those parties that do not see eye to eye with him.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Your contention is that the organization is being utilised for purposes other than those intended?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: That is the point.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As objection has been taken, will those Members who are for leave being granted rise in their places?

(On a count more than 25 Members stood up.)

As not less than 25 members have stood up, leave to move the adjournment motion is granted.

The motion will be taken up at 4 o'clock or earlier, if the business of the House is finished.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, information has been received that the following Bills which were passed by both Chambers of the Indian Legislature during the Budget Session, 1944, have been assented to by His Excellency the Governor General under the provision of sub-section (1) of section 68 of the Government of India Act, as continued by section 317 of the Government of India Act, 1935:

1. The Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944.
2. The Coffee Market Expansion (Amendment) Act, 1944.
3. The Coal Mines Safety (Stowing) Amendment Act, 1944.
4. The Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1944.
5. The Indian Aircraft (Amendment) Act, 1944.
6. The Transfer of Property (Amendment) Act, 1944.
7. The Insurance (Amendment) Act, 1944.
8. The Cantonments (Amendment) Act, 1944.
9. The Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act, 1944.
10. The Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944.
11. The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1944.
12. The Delhi Muslim Wakfs (Amendment) Act, 1944.
13. The Protective Duties Continuation Act, 1944.
14. The Factories (Amendment) Act, 1944.

AMENDMENT TO THE INSURANCE RULES

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of a further amendment to the Insurance Rules 1939, published in Notification No. 597-I(6)/43, dated the 3rd June, 1944, under Sub-section (3) of Section 114 of the Insurance Act 1938.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NOTIFICATION

INSURANCE

New Delhi, the 3rd June 1944

No. 597-I(6)/43.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 114 of the Insurance Act, 1938 (IV of 1938), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following further amendment shall be made in the Insurance Rules, 1939, the same having been previously published as required by sub-section (1) of the said section, namely:—

For rules 3 and 4 of the said Rules the following rule shall be substituted, namely:—
 "3. Any person signing as actuary under the Act shall be a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries, London, or a Fellow of the Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland; PROVIDED that where application is made to the Superintendent of Insurance and it is shown to his satisfaction that the employment of an Associate of such Institute of Actuaries or of such Faculty of Actuaries, or of any other person having actuarial knowledge for any specified purpose is expedient in order to enable an insurer or a provident society to carry out any of his or its obligations under the Act, the Superintendent of Insurance may grant the application and permit such person to sign as actuary for the specified purpose, subject to such conditions and restrictions as the Superintendent of Insurance thinks fit to impose."

S. R. ZAMAN, Joint Secy.

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER THE DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS AND PESTS ACT

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands):
Sir, I lay on the table a copy each of Notifications No. F. 16-3/43-A, dated the 28th March, 1944 and 17th July, 1944, under Section 4D of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914.

Copy of Notification (Agriculture) No. F. 16-3/43-A, dated the 28th March 1944.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 4A and 4D of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914 (II of 1914) the Central Government is pleased to prohibit, with effect from the 1st May 1944, the transport from the Province of Madras to any other Province of any of the articles specified in the First Schedule hereto annexed (being articles which are likely, to carry the destructive insect known as *Icerya Purchasi* and thereby cause infection to crops)—

- (a) by letter or sample post, or by air; or
- (b) by road, except by such routes as may be specified by the Government of such other Province; or
- (c) by rail or inland steam vessel, unless the consignment is accompanied by a certificate in the form set out in the Second Schedule hereto annexed and signed by the Entomologist to Government, Madras, Coimbatore, or such other officer as the Director of Agriculture, Madras, may authorise in this behalf.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

Articles to which this notification applies

1. The following plants (but not the fruits thereof) namely *Sophora glauca*, Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), Black Wattle (*Acacia decurrens* and *Acacia mollissima*), Australian blackwood (*Acacia melanoxylon*), Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), *Ulex europaeus*, Potato creeper (*Solanum jasminoides*, *Solanum seforthianum* and other climbing *Solanums*), all citrus species including all types of orange, lime, lemon, pomelo and grape-fruit plant, apples (all *pyrus* species), all *Eucalyptus* species including *Eucalyptus spectabilis* and *Eucalyptus glauca*, *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa*, *Hypericum mysorense*, *Dodonea Banddedu*, (Telugu) *Aliari* (*Dodonea viscosa*), *Berberis tinctoria*, Rose (Rose species), *Gaultheria fragrantissima*, Raspberry, country pears, *Bougainvillea*, *Verbena*, *Magnolia*, Pepper, Tea *Casuarina*.

2. The following plant materials, namely:—Buds, Cuttings, Scions, Grafts, bulbs, leaves (but not manufactured tea), seedlings, tubers, and rhisomes, of the plants specified in clause 1.

3. Any articles used in packing or wrapping up any of the plants or plant materials mentioned above.

THE SECOND SCHEDULE

Form of Certificate

This is to certify that the living plants/plant materials included in the consignment of which particulars are given below were thoroughly examined on.....(date) by..... (name and designation of official) - a duly authorised official of the(name of the Department) and that the consignment including the packing covered by this certificate has been adequately treated and fumigated with hydrocyanic acid gas immediately prior to inspection and made free from Living *Icerya Purchasi*.

Date of examination and fumigation

Particulars of consignment

No. and description of packages

Distinguishing marks

Description of living plants or plant materials

Exported by

Name and address of the consignee

Signature of certifying authority.

Designation.

The above certificate should be signed by the Entomologist to Government, Madras, Coimbatore, or such other officer as may be authorised by the Director of Agriculture, Madras, in this behalf.

Copy of Notification (Agriculture) No. F. 16-3/43-A, dated the 17th July 1944.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 4A of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914 (II of 1914), the Central Government is pleased to direct that the following amendment shall be made in the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Education, Health and Lands No. F. 16-3/43-A, dated the 28th March 1944, namely:—

For clause (a) of the said notification, the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(a) by letter, sample or parcel post, or by air or sea or”

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

NET EARNINGS OF NEW RAILWAY LINES

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of statement showing the net earnings for the financial year 1942-43 of new Railway lines opened on and after the 1st April, 1936.

Statement showing net earnings during the financial year 1942-43 of new Railway lines opened on and after the 1st April 1936

(NOTE:—Only such lines as are entirely open and have been working for a full year are included).

Serial No.	Name of project	Working Railway	Gauge	Mileage	Date of opening	Net income creditable to the project for 1942-43	Percentage return of income (column 6 on capital outlay)		Estimated percentage return of income on capital outlay some years after opening as estimated originally
							1941-42	1942-43	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	Khadro-Nawabshah	Jodhpur	Metre	30·72	20-11-1939	2,10,378	11·80 (b)	13·27	0·87 (a)

(a) This is the figure arrived at in the 'final location survey'. The earlier estimates produced before the Standing Finance Committee showed a probable return of 0·5 per cent only.

(b) Revised.

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS, AUDIT REPORTS, ETC.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I lay on the table a copy* each of the following Reports and Accounts in accordance with section 169 of the Government of India Act, 1935:

1. Appropriation Accounts (Civil) 1942-43 and Audit Report 1944.
2. Commercial Appendix to above.
3. Finance Accounts 1942-43, and Audit Report 1944.
4. Appropriation Accounts (Railways) 1942-43, Parts I and II.
5. Capital statements, Balance sheets etc., of State Railways 1942-43.
6. Balance sheets of Railway collieries and statements of all-in costs of coal 1942-43.
7. Railway Audit Report 1944.
8. Appropriation Accounts (Defence Services) 1942-43.
9. Commercial Appendix to above.
10. Audit Report, Defence Services 1944.
11. Appropriation Accounts (P. & T.) 1942-43 and the Audit Report, 1943.
12. Petty corrections and first list of correction to Appropriation Accounts (Civil).
13. Corrections to Commercial Appendix (Civil).
14. Corrections to Appropriation Accounts (Railways) Parts I and II.
15. Corrections to Railway Audit Report.
16. Corrections to Appropriation Accounts (P. & T.).

OBJECTS ON WHICH THE AVIATION SHARE OF THE PETROL TAX FUND WAS EXPENDED

Mr. W. H. Shoobert (Secretary, Posts and Air Department). Sir, I lay on the table a statement showing the objects on which the Aviation share of the Petrol Tax Fund was expended during 1943-44.

Objects	Expenditure Rs.
<i>Clubs</i>	
Grants-in-aid to Flying Clubs in India	95,511
Financial Assistance to Indian Gliding Association	11,955
<i>Training</i>	
Training of a member of the staff of the Civil Aviation Directorate in certain subjects pertaining to Aircraft Inspection	226

* Not included in these Debates, but copies have been placed in the Library of the House—Ed. of D.

Objects	Expenditure Rs.
<i>Experimental</i>	
<i>Aircraft</i> Construction and operation of the Wind Tunnel at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, for carrying out certain tests on aircraft	35,509
<i>Miscellaneous items</i> Transferred to the Grant for development of Civil Aviation. (Civil Aviation Works)	156 5,00,000
Grand Total	6,43,357

AMENDMENTS TO CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLES RULES.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I lay on the table a copy each of the following Notifications in accordance with section 133 (3) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939:

1. Delhi Notification No. F. 12 (36)/44-General dated the 28th August, 1944.
2. Coorg Notification No. 113, dated the 8th May, 1944.
3. Baluchistan Notification No. 244/35-40/M.V., dated the 21st February, 1942.
4. Baluchistan Notification No. 2441/18-41/M.V. dated the 17th November, 1943.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, DELHI NOTIFICATION

Delhi, the 28th August 1944

No. F. 12 (36)/44-General.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 21 and 41 of the Motor Vehicles Act 1939, read with the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Communications No. R. 60, dated the 28th June 1939, the Chief Commissioner of Delhi is pleased to make the following rules, the same having been previously published with his notification No. F. 12(36)/44-General, dated the 5th July 1944.

Rules.

1. Notwithstanding anything contained in the Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules 1940 no fee shall be charged for the issue or alteration of certificates of registration relating to motor vehicles which are the property of the High Commissioner for Australia in India or any of his secretaries.

2. If the High Commissioner for Australia in India or any of his secretaries have paid or shall hereafter pay a fee for the issue or renewal of a licence to drive a motor vehicle or for undergoing a test of competency to drive, the fee shall on his application be refunded to him.

A. V. ASKWITH,
Chief Commissioner, Delhi.

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF COORG NOTIFICATION

No. 113, dated Mercara, the 8th May 1944

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 68 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (IV of 1939) and the notification of the Government of India, Department of Communications, No. R. 60, dated the 28th June 1939, the Chief Commissioner is pleased to make the following amendments, to the Coorg Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, issued with his notification No. R.F. 43/121-39, dated the 26th March 1940:—

Amendments

1. For Rule 50(c) of the said Rules, the following shall be substituted, viz.:—
"50(c) The holder of a permit shall cause Part B thereof, or the Temporary Permit as the case may be, to be carried on the vehicle. It shall be produced by the driver for inspection on demand made at any reasonable time by any authorised person."

2. In Part B of the Form P.St.S. appended to the said rules for the words "summary to be exhibited on each vehicle" the words "summary to be carried on each vehicle" shall be substituted.

3. In Part B of Forms P.Co.P. & Co.S. appended to the said rules for the words "summary to be exhibited on the vehicle" the words "summary to be carried on the vehicle" shall be substituted.

4. In Part B of Form P.Pr.C. appended to the said rules for the words "summary to be exhibited on each vehicle" the words "summary to be carried on each vehicle" shall be substituted.

K. CHENGAPPA,
Chief Commissioner.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR BRITISH BALUCHISTAN
NOTIFICATION

Quetta, the 21st February 1942

No. 244/35-40/M.V.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 68(2) (ZA) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (VI of 1939) the Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan is pleased to direct that the following addendum shall be made to the British Baluchistan Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940 published in the Notification No. 347/M.V., dated the 1st April, 1940 printed at pages 841 to 982 of the Gazette of India, Part II-A, dated the 27th April, 1940 :—

Addendum.

In Rule 4.17 add the following as Clause 'C'.

"That—if and when required, mails will be carried at such rates as may be fixed by the Provincial Transport Authority in consultation with the Postal Authorities concerned."

By order of

Secretary to the Agent to the Governor General and Chief
Commissioner in Baluchistan (Police Department).

CHIEF COMMISSIONER FOR BRITISH BALUCHISTAN.
NOTIFICATION

Quetta, the 17th November 1943

No. 2441/18-41/M.V.—In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 64 read with Section 68 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1939 (IV of 1939), the Chief Commissioner of British Baluchistan is pleased to direct that the following amendments shall be made to the Notification No. 347/M.V., dated the 1st April 1940 printed at pages 841 to 982 of the Gazette of India, Part II-A, dated the 27th April 1940 :—

Amendments

After rule 5.60 of the British Baluchistan Motor Vehicle Rules, 1940, the following headings and rules shall be inserted, namely :—

Special Rules applicable to gas producers installed in motor vehicles

5.61. *Definition.*—For the purpose of rules 5.62 to 5.82, the term "producer" means the whole of the equipment necessary for the generation of producer gas and its utilization in the engine of a Motor Vehicle.

Regulations of the use of producers

5.62. (a) Every producer fitted to a Motor Vehicle on or after the 1st July, 1943, shall be of a Model approved by the Registering Authority. Every such producer shall exhibit in a conspicuous place on the generator a plate showing, in addition to the manufacturer's name and serial number, the mark as may be prescribed and assigned to the model by the Registering Authority.

(b) *Approval of model.*—Every manufacturer seeking approval for a producer model shall submit in duplicate to the Registering Authority, specifications and drawings (which should be blue prints or photostat copies) of the model he proposes to manufacture, together with a copy of the instructions for operating the producer. The thickness of the metal sheets used in the construction of the various parts of the producer shall be stated in the specifications. The manufacturer shall also give an undertaking in writing that he will submit a producer of that model to a board consisting of the Inspector of boilers, factories and electrical installation in Baluchistan, the S. O. M. E., Quetta Arsenal and the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Traffic, Quetta and also to produce a bus or lorry fitted with a producer of that model at such time and place and for such tests including a road test of not less than fifty miles continuous run as may be determined by the board. No modification shall be made by any one in an approved model except with the approval of the board. The board may subject the modification to such test as it thinks necessary before approving it.

5.63. *Specifications.—General.*—No producer model shall be approved unless it satisfies the provisions of these rules and every producer fitted on or after the 1st September 1943, shall be fitted in accordance with these rules.

5.64. *Material of construction.*—All materials used in the construction of the producer, except any component parts thereof that may be expressly excluded by the manufacturer in his guarantee, shall be suited to the load of the vehicle in which it may be installed and the temperature, chemical and other conditions under which it may be used and shall be such as will last under reasonable conditions of operation and maintenance for not less than two years.

5.65. *Design.—General.*—The producer shall be of simple design and construction and shall be capable of being installed in a vehicle in such manner as :—

(I) Not to interfere with the steering and road safety of the vehicle, or with the driver's range of vision including his view to the rear through the driving mirror or with any signals or signalling devices required under the provisions of the Act and these rules; and

(II) Not unduly to impair, the pay load space and the weight distribution of the vehicles.

5.66. *Weight.*—The weight of the producer shall be the minimum having regard to the requirements of strength, rigidity, resistance to high temperature and corrosion, and to the type of the vehicle to which it is to be fitted.

5.67. *Hopper capacity.*—The effective capacity of fuel hopper shall give the vehicle an operating distance of not less than 50 miles without recharging.

5.68. *Accessibility.*—The producer shall be designed with a view to accessibility and ease of maintenance, cleaning, charging and ash removal. Provision for drainage shall be made where necessary.

5.69. *Fitting.*—All installations connected with the producer shall be securely fixed. The installations shall not form a single inflexible unit but shall be connected with flexible couplings at appropriate points to relieve intermediate stresses.

5.70. (a) *Safety.*—The manufacturer shall take precautions in the manufacture of producers to ensure safety with special regard to risk from fire, gas poisoning and blow back of hot charcoal.

(b) All equipment and piping shall be free from gas or Air leaks.

Covers of the furnace and gas filters and cocks and packings shall be air tight. If a generator vent pipe is fitted, the pipe shall be connected directly to the furnace or shall branch from a pipe as near as possible to the furnace. If an escape funnel is provided for use during the air-blowing operations, the pipe shall exhaust above the roof level.

(c) Exposed surfaces at high temperatures shall be screened against accidental contact.

(d) The compartment containing the generator shall be lined with asbestos or other heat-resisting material not less than a quarter inch thick.

5.71. *Capacity of cleaners.*—The generator and the cleaning system shall be so designed that they will operate for not less than 40 miles without requiring attention or cleaning.

5.72. (a) *Piping.*—All piping shall be of substantial and gas tight construction and provided with such joints as are necessary for the effective maintenance and repair of the vehicle. Every joint or weld shall be strong.

(b) Pipe fittings shall be made of mild steel iron or copper sheet having a thickness not less than 18-BC (0.049 in.) or of 22 gauge G.I. piping and shall be of gas tight construction. Flanges for piping shall be constructed from metal plate of minimum thickness 1/4 in. Cooling piping for the tuyere shall be 3/8 in. internal diameter.

5.73. *Painting.*—All parts of a producer, except those exposed to high temperatures shall be suitably painted, and parts exposed to high temperatures shall be painted with a satisfactory heat resisting paint.

5.74. (a) *Lay-out.*—The whole of the producer shall be installed either outside or underneath the body of a vehicle. If the construction of the body of the vehicle is such that some part of the producer should be inside the body of the vehicle such part shall be covered so as to prevent any ill effect from gas leakage or inconvenience due to excessive heat.

(b) A public service vehicle may draw a trailer used solely for the carriage of gas containers supplying, or plant or materials producing gas for the propulsion of the engine of the drawing vehicle.

5.75. (a) *Location of generator.*—In the case of Stage Carriages the generator of the producer shall be located at the rear in such a position as to cause as little interference as possible with the weight distribution. In the case of a goods vehicle, the generator of the producer may be located either at the rear, as prescribed for Stage Carriages, or at the front. If the generator is located at the front, it shall be fitted beside the driver's seat, inside the driver's canopy in such a position as not to interfere with visibility or signalling.

(b) The generator may be stayed or strapped to the body to provide rigidity but shall be kept away from any part of the body by at least three inches.

5.76. *Location of fuel tank.*—If the generator of the producer is fitted at the front of the vehicle:—

(i) The generator shall be mounted in such a position that it shall be at a minimum distance of 2 feet from any petrol tank or piping, if the tank is located inside the body of the vehicle, it shall be effectively insulated, and

(ii) the filling spout and any other opening shall be located on the opposite side of the vehicle to the generator and not less than 4 feet away from the generator; and

(iii) where an auxiliary fuel tank with gravity feed is fitted the capacity of such tank shall not exceed one gallon and it shall be located in the front portion of the vehicle as far away from the generator as practicable.

5.77. *Dimensions.*—The overall dimensions of the vehicle with the producer installed, shall not exceed those permitted under the rules.

5.78. *Cleaners.—Installation.*—Cleaners using solid filter material shall be installed on the vehicle in such a manner as to allow efficient and convenient packing of the filter material.

5.79. *Clearance.*—The road clearance at the bottom of the furnace shall be not less than 12 inches when the vehicle is unladen with the hopper full.

5.80. (a) *Performance.—Starting test.*—The vehicle shall be capable of moving on gas alone in not more than thirty minutes from the commencement of the starting process. For the purpose of test, the engine and the producer shall be cold at the beginning of the process.

(b) *Speed.*—The vehicle shall be capable of maintaining the following speed, when running on gas alone, on level roads:—

(i) Stage Carriages, loaded—25 miles per hour.

(ii) Goods vehicle not being a heavy transport vehicle. Loaded—22 miles per hour.

5.81. (a) *Inspection.*—When a vehicle which has already been registered is fitted with a producer, it shall invariably be inspected and tested according to these rules before the alteration is recorded in the certificate of registration under section 32 of the Act.

(b) All public service and goods motor vehicles fitted with gas producers shall be liable to an inspection quarterly by the Motor Vehicle Sergeant including a road test of not less than 25 miles.

5.82. *General provisions.*—All producers including those fitted to vehicles before the 1st September 1943, shall be of such construction and so fitted as to provide adequate satisfactory protection against danger of damage or injury arising from fire, gas poisoning or contact with exposed surface at high temperature.

By order,

H. D. RUSHTON,

Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, in British Baluchistan.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, for the remainder of the financial year 1944-45, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Member of the Standing Finance Committee in place of Mr. S. C. Chatterji, who has ceased to be a member of the Assembly."

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, for the remainder of the financial year 1944-45, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Member of the Standing Finance Committee in place of Mr. S. C. Chatterji, who has ceased to be a member of the Assembly."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ARCHÆOLOGY.

Mr. J. D. Tyson—(Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I move:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own number to be members of the Advisory Board of Archæology in India constituted by the Government of India."

The Government Resolution, to implement which I am making this motion, is self-explanatory and no doubt Honourable Members saw it when it appeared recently in the Gazette: but as this marks a new departure I think the House will wish me to say a few words in amplification. In his report Sir Leonard Woolley was of the view that archæology could and should play a far more important part than it does in the life of the Indian people: and he went on to stress particularly the need for co-operation between the Archæological Survey and the Universities. From the point of view of the Survey the need is evident and urgent. The Survey relies on the Universities for its recruits and it must, in turn, be ready and able to provide the experience and facilities necessary for their training. On the other side, the Universities have much to gain from a link with the Survey in the sphere of field-training for their archæological students and for advanced scholars of Indian history. Apart from the Universities, there are the Indian States which have organised archæological departments and there are the learned societies of India, upon whose sympathy and activity the Survey must depend in no small measure for popular understanding and support. We wish to have a link, therefore, between the Survey of India and these various bodies.

The composition of the Board reflects the nature of its functions. The official members include 9 senior-members of the Department of Archæology and the 14 non-official members include 6 representatives of Indian Universities and 5 nominees of learned societies likely to be interested in archæology.

This Honourable House has repeatedly shown an interest in archæology for the services it can render in preserving India's architectural heritage and for the light it may throw on India's remote past: and it has therefore seemed to us right to invite the House to associate itself with the new Board.

I hope, Sir, I have said enough to convince the House that the principal object of this body will be to evoke interest in Archæology and connected subjects and to bring the department and the interested public into close and friendly relationship for the inter-change of views and advice on all matters of mutual concern.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own number to be members of the Advisory Board of Archæology in India constituted by the Government of India."

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): May I, Sir, make a remark more in the nature of an enquiry? I should like to know whether this Board will take early steps for the repatriation and restoration to India of a great many valuable archæological treasures belonging to this country, which have been looted in the past and are now lying in the public museums and private collections in the United Kingdom. I should also like to know, if these things could not be handed over to us, as they really belong to the people of this country, whether the sterling balances, which some English people do not desire to repay to this country, could not be used to make a legitimate purchase of these archæological treasures which have been taken away from here by force against the wish and sentiment of the people of this country and which are lying in the public museums and private collections in the United Kingdom. I am Sir, only hoping that this Board will have the power to make such recommendations.

Sir Syed Raza Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I am glad that after all the Government of India have realised the necessity of forming an Advisory Board of Archæology with, I take it, unfortunately, advisory functions only to help the Department, the activities of which have decreased very considerably of late years. We all agree that the archæological Department is one of the most important departments: it is one of the few civilising departments that are in the hands of the present Government of India. The department has been meted out a stepmotherly treatment by the Government of India and I am afraid that those who wish in this House to help the Government of India with reference to this Department have been mostly non-officials. In spite of the keenness of my friend, Mr. Tyson, in this subject, I do not think any well considered plans have been laid before this House either now or at any time. A desire has been expressed by the Department that its budget should be expanded and that new recruits should be obtained from those sources which have not been tapped, either in this country or outside. This conciliation measure has been brought now. I wish it had a more far-reaching effect than its present moderate size indicates. All the same, never too late either to repent or to take action. Half-hearted though the measure is, I would like to give my support to it. I was almost going to say that I wished to give my half-hearted support but I do not think that it would be a wise thing on this occasion to follow in the footsteps of the Government of India. However small and ineffective the proposal may be, I accord it my support.

From the speech that the Honourable Mr. Tyson delivered it appeared that the total strength of this Advisory Board would be 23. It would consist of nine members of the Department and 14 others, among whom, I take it, would be some non-officials. Some of them would be gentlemen associated with our Indian Universities. I do not know what their number would be. I thought Mr. Tyson mentioned five. I do not know whether five of these fourteen would be members associated with Indian Universities.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Six from the Universities.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: There are two notes of warning that I must sound before we vote on this motion. One is that the advisory functions of this Board should be clearly laid down by the Government of India and secondly that position should not be assigned to this Advisory Board which is enjoyed by or which is thrust upon the Assessors helping a sessions judge in a criminal sessions trial. There should be some definite plan behind this measure.

I am very glad that the Honourable Member in charge of this Department is here in this House, where it is very seldom that we hear his voice. It is still more rare to hear his voice raised in support of those measures which should be introduced with a view to strengthening and augmenting the

[Sir Syed Raza Ali.]

Archæological Department, if that department is to do any good to this country in the future. So, the first need is that there should be a well laid plan behind the proposal which has been disclosed this morning and moved by the Honourable Member.

The next question is still more important than the first. This is a large body of 23 on which it is proposed that this House should be represented in all by two members. I take it that these two would be in addition to 23 and if I am right in this, would they be

Mr. J. D. Tyson: There will be 36, of whom two will be from this House, we hope and one from another place.

Sir Syed Raza Ali: There would be a body of 23 and there will be three representatives of the Legislature, two from this House and one from the other. I must say at once that having regard to the importance of the subject, the number which it is proposed to assign to the Legislature is very inadequate indeed. I am very glad that the Government of India propose to associate members of the Universities with this Advisory Board but it is very important indeed that the Legislature, especially this House, should be strongly represented on this Advisory Board, if this Advisory Board is going to render any service of real value to the country. I do not propose to go into what has been done by the Archæological Department during the last five or six years. The history is a painful history and I do not propose to go into that. I believe the reasons are well known to this House. In spite of the vigilance exercised by the Honourable Member and the Secretary of the Department, this Department has been run along lines that are applicable, I am tempted to say, to a trade union. It is high time really that the Government of India looked into the Department and saw that this Department exercises the same civilising and humanizing influence that it exerts in every other country. Fortunately, there is a new Director General, of Archæology, a gentleman whom I met some time ago and whose enthusiasm for the Department, I found, was unbounded. He has very large experience of archæology. Not only has he rendered valuable service in connection with the present war but he possesses very valuable knowledge of archæology. I hope the Government of India will encourage him to embark on new schemes which are useful to the department and they will expand the department. I wish him every success and I hope that he will throw himself heart and soul into the work of the department.

Before I finish my speech, I would impress on the Government of India not to insist on taking a vote today. It is a friendly advice. I am one of those who take some little interest in this department. I know most of the archæological buildings and centres of archæological interest, both in India and Burma. I have visited those places and I happen to know something about those places. This is my friendly suggestion to the Government of India. Let them be ready with a scheme, lay down the functions of this Advisory Board. Let them not insist on taking the vote today. Let this motion stand over and let it be tabled before this House after sometime in the current Session and let the Government of India formulate a carefully prepared scheme in which larger representation should be assigned to this Legislature. I would again say that the subject touches a matter which interests a number of members of this House and the other House as well, but I am speaking for this House now, who by reason of their past experience, training and opportunities for work, would be in a real position to help the Government of India with useful suggestions and advice.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, as one interested in this subject, I should like to say a few words on the present occasion. It cannot be denied by anybody that Archæology is one of the most important cultural subjects which interests the whole people of the country. Previous speakers have pointed out that the development of this subject has been neglected very badly during the last ten or twenty years. Now, the Government have come forward with a proposal to create an Advisory

Board. Let this be the starting point for a great development in the field of Archæology. If that is done, their past neglect would be excused.

As regards the representation of the Legislature on this Advisory Board, it has been suggested that the proposed representation is inadequate. I agree with this view, and I would request the Honourable Member in charge of this motion to expand the number to six for the Legislature,—four for this House and two for the other. If he does that, a great deal of the complaint will cease to exist.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai. (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I will say a word on this. I would like to be enlightened as to how many members there will be on this body. Is it a fact that there will be about six from the Universities and nine officials and only two from here and one from the Council of State? In that case, I submit that two is too little representation of this House and I suggest that the number from this House should be at least four.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): Is it intended that the representatives from the Universities should be nominated by Government or that the Inter-Universities Board should elect the representatives? I suggest that it would be very much in the fitness of things that the representatives of the Universities are not nominated but elected by the individual Universities.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am very glad that the idea of a Board for this purpose has commended itself to the House. I am also glad to have the sincere if qualified support of my Honourable friend Sir Syed Raza Ali, whose interest in archæology—the cultural side of archæology—is well known.

As questions have been raised here about the personnel of the Board, I had better say what it is. I thought that Honourable Members would have seen it in their copies of the Gazette. The Honourable Member in charge of the Department will be the Chairman. There will be nine senior members of the Archæological Survey,—the Director General himself, the Deputy Director General, the Epigraphist and six Circle Superintendents. That is what you might call the official element of the Government of India. Then we hope

to have four representatives of Indian States and we hope they will come at a very high level because unless this Board is of a high level, it will not be of any help. Then, we hope to have six nominees of the Inter-University Board and that answers the Reverend Dr. Chatterjee. These are the six representatives of Universities who will be of professorial rank and will be nominated by the Inter-University Board. There will be five nominees of learned societies and three representatives of the Central Legislature. In case there are any gaps to be filled up, we have retained the right to have eight nominated members by the Government of India. We are asking Universities, for example, to send us only members of professorial rank and it might well happen that some wellknown archæologist or historian did not happen in his own University to have professorial rank but was on his own merits a person whom we should very much desire to have on this Advisory Board; we have retained power to secure his membership by nomination.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: What is meant by the "professorial rank"? A Vice-Chancellor of a University might not come in that category.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We shall have to look into that. We meant University Professors. I suppose the Vice-Chancellor is above professorial rank. What we really want to get is people who are experts in the subjects concerned. If there were any difficulty about a Vice-Chancellor, we could get him as a nominated member.

I would ask this Honourable House not to press for an increase in the number of Members from the Legislature. The position is that the constitution of this Board has already been announced in a Government Notification and I have not the power on the floor of the House to accept any suggestion that it should be four instead of two. Let us not upset the plan of our Board. We are very anxious to get this Board set up and if the Board itself, when it

[Mr. J. D. Tyson.]

meets, gives advice as to its composition, we shall consider it. That is certainly one of the things that they can advise us about.

In answer to Mr. Manu Subedar, I should like to say that while the Board is not an executive body and will not therefore be able to bring back by its executive order the treasures to which he has referred, it can certainly make recommendations on any matter of the kind that it may wish.

As regards planning the business of the meetings of the Board, there is as yet no definite plan for their work. They have a very free hand as to what they will discuss and what they will recommend. The phraseology of the Resolution is:—

"It will be the function of the Board to advise on matters related to archæology in India referred to it by the Government or by members of the Board and to make suggestions to Government on any such matters to which the Board considers the Government's attention should be drawn."

So, the members will have an initiative of their own if they so wish and they will have a very wide field. I would, therefore, ask the House to co-operate with us in getting this Board set up on the present basis. We think that we have tapped all the sources from which we are likely to get really useful advice for the purpose we have in view.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Sir, I would like to know which is the other way of getting the number of members of this House and the Council of State increased? We want to press for this increase because we were not consulted by the Government when the constitution of the Board was made.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot make a second speech.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Sonthal Parganas: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, may I ask the Honourable Member if he has taken into consideration the fact that the importance of Bihar in the domain of archæology requires some representation from the Bihar Government or from the elected members of the Bihar Assembly in order to have the representation of that province on this archæological Board?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I do not dispute the importance of Bihar in the domain of archæology, but we have not made any territorial allocation at all.

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

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own number to be members of the Advisory Board of Archæology in India constituted by the Government of India."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of a Member to the Standing Finance Committee in place of Mr. S. C. Chatterji, and of two Members for the Advisory Board of Archæology in India, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations up to 12 Noon on Friday, the 3rd November, 1944, and that the elections, if necessary, will be held on Tuesday, the 7th November. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

THE INDIAN RICE COMMITTEE BILL.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I introduce the Bill to provide for the creation of a fund to be expended by a Committee specially constituted for the improvement and development of the cultivation, production and marketing of rice and rice products.

THE INDIAN PATENTS AND DESIGNS (TEMPORARY AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill temporarily to amend the Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill temporarily to amend the Indian Patents and Designs Act, 1911."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE PUBLIC DEBT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government be continued."

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

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government be continued."

The motion was adopted.

THE PAYMENT OF WAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Payment of Wages Act, 1936.

THE COFFEE MARKET EXPANSION (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Coffee Market Expansion Act, 1942, (*Second Amendment*).

THE INSURANCE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir M. Azizul Huque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies): Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, (*Second Amendment*).

THE DELHI JOINT WATER AND SEWAGE BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I introduce the Bill further to amend the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act, 1926.

THE PUBLIC DEBT (CENTRAL GOVERNMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad Shahban, Khan Bahadur Sheikh Habibur Rahman, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal, Mr. D. P. Sethna and the Mover and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Honourable Members will recall that this Bill was circulated on a motion which I moved on 25th August 1943. The opinions since received have disclosed a general approval of the principles of the Bill. There has been a certain amount of concern at the fact that the carrying out of certain amendments and improvements in the law relating to the Central public debt will, for the first time, mean that the law regulating the public debt of the Centre will be different from the law regulating the public debt of the Provinces. But that fact flows from the constitutional position and that constitutional position is, I suggest, quite reasonable. The position under the constitution is that the Central Legislature has power to legislate for the public debt of the Central Government and the Provincial Legislatures have power to legislate regarding their own public debt. The only thing I can say with regard to that is that it is for us to go ahead with our own legislation and to hope that the Provincial Governments will in due course follow suit.

[Sir Jeremy Raisman.]

I will not detain the House with points of detail which I think can most conveniently be dealt with by the Select Committee. There is one feature of the Bill which I might perhaps mention and that is, what is known as the vesting order, namely, the right which it is proposed to confer on the Reserve Bank to make an order determining the person who shall so far as the Bank is concerned be deemed to be the person entitled to a security, where there are two or more rival claimants. Honourable Members will have noticed that this provision is so drafted that the interested parties will not suffer in case the determination made by the Bank as to the person entitled to the security should in the end prove to be incorrect. Before the Bank can under section 12 of the Bill make an order vesting the security in a particular person, it has to give notice in writing to each claimant stating the names of all the other claimants and the time when and the Officer of the Bank by whom the determination will be made. The result of such determination will also be notified to the parties concerned.

One other point, before I sit down: my Honourable friend Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani drew attention to two or three detailed features of the Bill on the occasion when it was last before the House. In the course of circulation, some support has been expressed for the points which he put forward and I have no doubt that the Select Committee will take these points into consideration. Sir, I do not think I need take up any more time of the House. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad Shahban, Khan Bahadur Sheikh Habibur Rahman, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal, Mr. D. P. Sethna and the Mover and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

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

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, this is a Bill which tries to enact and consolidate the law about Government securities. The Act of 1920 applies both to the centre and to the provinces and they want to separate the law as regards the centre. In this matter I have only a few observations to make. I wish the Honourable the Finance Member had circulated to us all the opinions which he says he has received. These opinions have not been circulated to us.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I understand they have been circulated. The previous motion was made only in August 1943 and after circulation the opinions must have been received fairly recently and circulated to Members of the House quite recently.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: As far as I remember—I am open to correction—we have not received the opinions. The proper time to circulate them is shortly before the Bills come up for discussion in the House. If they are circulated years or months ahead they do not serve any purpose. Therefore I request that copies may again be circulated to us, at least to those who may require them.

Coming to the details I will refer to clauses 9, 10 and 12. Clause 9 refers to summary procedure on death of holder of Government securities not exceeding five thousand rupees face value, and clause 10 deals with Government securities not exceeding five thousand rupees face value belonging to minor or insane person. What they seek to do under the summary procedure is that the bank straightaway comes to a decision as to the person to whom these securities should go. What he said about notice being given to actual claimants is not being followed here. And then in summary determination, by the bank,

of title to Government securities in cases of dispute they take evidence and they give notice under clause 12. I do not like that the bank should be made the final authority to determine the claims in cases of dispute. My own submission will be that even in cases of less than five thousand rupees,—which after all is a big sum according to the general standard of this country,—and as regards minors and insane persons where we have no people to look after their rights, the bank should never take upon itself the duty of determining the claims and making a summary order. I think that would be a real hardship upon the middle and the poorer classes.

Then I come to clause 24 which limits the time of limitation to six years, where no shorter period of limitation is fixed by any law for the time being in force. If there is a shorter period that period of limitation will hold good; otherwise it will be six years. So that, if there is a minor of two years whose father has died leaving some Government securities for the minor son, some one gets an order on his behalf and the minor's case goes by default. He is unable to represent the matter. According to the ordinary law he has got a different right. But today that right of the minor is curtailed and the period of limitation is six years from the date it is made final. This works hardship on the minors of this country. We know that people here, even educated people, are not well acquainted with the law, and the law of securities is surely not known to many people in this country; even among investors it is not known very well. In these circumstances I think the provisions of this Bill are too drastic, and I think the Bill requires amendments to this and other clauses. With these remarks I support the motion for sending the Bill to a Select Committee.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Laljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, on this occasion I feel very much the absence of our friend, Maulvi Abdul Rashid Chaudhury, to whom tributes were rightly paid this morning and who always studied almost all the Bills and more particularly Bills of this kind with care and thoroughness but who unfortunately was never put on by Government on any select committees. Sir, I generally agree with the remarks of Honourable the Finance Member just made. I think this is a very important Bill. In the first place certain powers are given to the Reserve Bank. We know that bank is guided by its Directors and things left to them are to be adjusted according to their directions. Here is a property right which Government desire to give to some extent to the Reserve Bank; and I ask what powers do Government keep for themselves to see whether the justice that is supposed to be done by the officers of the Reserve Bank is done correctly? They are to some extent taking away the powers even of the court. Why should they do that at this stage when people are freely buying Government paper to an extent that never happened before? Only last year nearly 240 crores of loans were subscribed, and it is now that we are told that these powers may be given to the Reserve Bank.

With regard to the notice that has to be given to claimants, we find that a letter is to be written by the Bank to each claimant of whom the Bank has knowledge. The Bank is supposed to know or has to find out—I do not know through what agency—who are the claimants. They would perhaps send a notice to the heirs of the deceased—by ordinary post not by registered letter—at the last station at which the owner of the loan was supposed to have been residing, or in the Circle in which the loan was issued. The most wonderful part of it is that it would be advertised in the Government Gazette. I assure you, Sir, that a majority of my Honourable friends here, and, if I may be permitted to say, a good number in the Treasury Benches, do not go through all the pages of the Government Gazette. Then it is to be printed in the English language when we know full well that a vast majority of the people of this country are ignorant and illiterate. Courts have often made remarks that many orders in the Defence of India Act are published in the Government Gazette in English with the result that poor people do not know anything about those. I urge that this is an important thing and due care and attention should

[Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee.]

be given to this point. When matters go before the Court, it will issue subpoenas, etc., and will see that the claimants appear before the Court.

Then, Sir, we find that the Reserve Bank may appoint any one of its officers to adjudicate the claim. What is to be status and qualifications of the officer it is not stated. He may be an officer put in position by the Board of Directors owing to certain circumstances and he may be even called a 'senior' officer, but there is no grade by which we can judge. Sir, in even small criminal cases—we have Inspector of Police, or Sub-Inspector of Police, or, as the Honourable the Finance Member would always like to say, Inspector of Excise or Inspector of Income-tax. But for this purpose the Bank may, in their sweet will, appoint any of their officers to adjudicate these claims. What do we find next? This officer will take such evidence as he may like or may take such either on oath or on an affidavit. And that is all that is provided. It is very essential, Sir, that when a claimant puts in his claim he should be put on oath, his evidence should be taken according to the provisions laid down in the Evidence Act. Nothing of that sort is provided. Even when the Bank wants a Magistrate or some other officer to take any evidence, he may do it as he likes—either just record the evidence, or, if he likes, put him on oath. But what is very important to note is, that procedure will remain when the other party is not there and yet the case will be decided on this evidence. It sounds something like a summary Court Martial on field. No provision whatsoever has been made to safeguard the interests of the claimant, or to safeguard the interests of a minor or a widow or insane.

Then, Sir, we find that a limit of six years has been laid down. After that the man can whistle! The fact about disposal may or may not be known to all the claimants. Of course, six months' notice is to be given, but how is he to know that it has been disposed of. I know—and I am very glad to see my Honourable friend, Mr. Sethna here—that even with regard to litigation in court the litigation goes on for years together and many a time it so happens that all the parties do not know what is going on. People living in districts and in far off places will have much less chances to know whether an enquiry in Reserve Bank has taken place or is going on and that it is to be disposed of or has been disposed of within six months.

With regard to a minor or insane person, here again authority has been given to the Bank Officer to give it to a person whom he thinks fit, this is very serious. But, on the other hand, great care has been taken that if the matter was taken before the Court, the Reserve Bank will place those securities with the official trustee. If a case goes to the Court, when parties concerned are summoned and lawyers appear on behalf of the various parties, then in that case, in order not to be involved in the litigation, as they put it, the Reserve Bank will apply to the court and put the securities of the minor, insane, etc., with the Court official—known, I think, as the Court Receiver or Trustee or Administrator. But so long as there is no litigation, the officer of the Bank can appoint anybody and hand the securities over to him. Then, Sir, we find that if there is a *bona fide* claimant and if he is called upon to take the securities, what conditions have been imposed upon him:

"... the Bank may require the person in whose favour the order is to be made to execute a bond with one or more sureties in such form as may be prescribed or to furnish security not exceeding twice the value of the subject-matter of the order. . . ."

If a poor man has got Rs. 3,000 left to him, he must find Rs. 6,000 in order to satisfy the Bank and get that money—i.e., twice the sum.

Coming to the clause regarding penalty. I do not know how my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, can treat any officer of the Reserve Bank—in whose appointment he has no voice whatsoever—as public officer. The penalty clause reads thus:

"Penalty.—(1) If any person, for the purpose of obtaining for himself or for any other person any title to a Government security, makes to any authority under this Act in any application made under this Act or in the course of any inquiry undertaken in pursuance of this Act any statement which is false and which he either knows to be false or does not believe to be true, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine or with both."

(2) No Court shall take cognisance of any offence under sub-section (1) except on the complaint of the Bank."

Which means if I find that somebody has made a false claim I cannot proceed against him. The Bank must do that. Further if it chooses, the Bank may make any complaint and where a public officer makes a complaint, whatever the result, he is not responsible for the consequences.

We may be induced to give these powers to Government officials because we have power to bring their actions before the Legislature, but with regard to the officers of the Reserve Bank, I am sure the reply will be similar to what the War Transport Member said about the Port Trust being an independent body. Constitutionally Port Trust is an independent body. Still the Chairman is appointed by the Government, the funds are under Government control. If any such thing should happen with regard to any of the Security Duty Officers of Reserve Bank I wonder whether the President will be satisfied if the Honourable the Finance Member said that the matter had nothing to do with us. The Reserve Bank is an independent body: it is a shareholders' body, and the Directors are elected, but we know how their elections take place. Coteries are formed. Proxies are collected and if you scrutinise fairly, some Directors have made a monopoly of getting into that body. It is a fact that Government have not been able to put that right. They have tried to divide the votes but it is a fact as clear as daylight that coteries are formed. Thousands of rupees are spent, a lot of influence of every kind is used to get proxies and they can get in and they appoint, nominate and suggest officers, including even the Governor and the Deputy Governor.

In these circumstances I do feel that Government is not rendering a service to the large number of people who are now subscribing to the Government paper. My friend, the Honourable the Finance Member, could not have got the Rs. 240 crores only from the rich. The poor also have subscribed. He may have got expert opinion from Banks and Chambers of Commerce and the rich people. But Government is not all for those people.

I do admit that this Bill has been brought up with all good intention to help the commercial community and the large dealers but as it is, it is against the interests of the people and especially a large number of the poor people. Besides, the middle class people have not received sufficient protection. I can say that I did not receive any intimation about this Bill coming up today and if this Bill has been circularised for opinion and opinions have come in then they are very old and probably only from bankers, Chambers of Commerce and capitalists. When you want the poorer people to subscribe, surely much more is needed. Many people now know that investment in Government paper is good. They have come by this through friends and even by the advice of officials. It is for their interest that I do not see the point in all this haste of giving this power to the Reserve Bank. There is only one apparent reason—and that is that the Bank and the Secretary of State may not be taken to the Courts. At the moment, they are in fact being taken to the Court as necessary parties. I do not know whether the Bank and the Secretary of State are paid the cost from the other side ultimately because there is something like security there. The question of lawyers' cost and the privilege of obtaining such cost come before everything else and the mighty lawyers have made it quite clear that the cost must be taken first, whether the parties become beggars or are starving. Of course, the only trouble would be that one of the officers of the Reserve Bank may have to go and ask some solicitor to help. To avoid this little trouble all this does not justify the introduction of this Bill. Neither does it justify to help the capitalists. Well-to-do people will immediately go to the Court and take letters of succession, probate, and obtain them. It is only poor who are slow and who require to be protected. I think the intention is to facilitate matters. As such I do appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to take that important point of view of the poor of giving them sufficient notice by Registered post and by advertisement in the vernacular papers in the districts and towns and furthermore to make it compulsory that the evidence should be taken on oath according to Evidence Act and that by a proper and fit person.

[Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee.]

Furthermore, in all the Acts we pass, the rules and regulations are placed before the House. I should like to know whether the rules that are to be framed by the Reserve Bank or the Governor or the Directors will be placed before the Government for sanction, and if so, will those regulations be placed before this House for information and will this House be given an opportunity to bring their views to the notice of the Government. I am afraid,

3 P.M. Sir, constituted as the Reserve Bank is, probably it will not be possible to make such a provision. If that is so, Sir, I say that no power should be given to the Reserve Bank, howsoever great it may be, howsoever great the people who are its Directors may be. You have got to consider that the rights of the individual cannot be entrusted so lightly to anybody but to a proper officer of the Government whose conduct can be looked into by the highest judiciary and also by this Legislature.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, when at first I heard that this bill was going to come up for discussion, I felt that a man like me would have very little interest in it but as I listened to this discussion I found that even that class of people whose interest I have been trying specially to make my own are also interested in it and their interests are likely to be jeopardised if these two sections, Sec. 9 and 10, were to be passed as they are here. If, as my friend, Mr. Hooseinbhoy Lalljee, said only rich people, very rich people, are involved and are interested in this matter, they may be expected possibly to know their own business, lodge their claims within the particular prescribed period of six months, get their claims registered properly and thus safeguard their interests. But as it is now, whether we like it or not, millions and millions of peasants in different provinces have become obliged to purchase these Government Bonds since the beginning of this war. We know under what obnoxious circumstances large numbers of these people have been obliged to purchase these bonds. I should not like to say that the peasants have "purchased" them. They were simply forced upon them. I know for a fact that even today things are going on in villages in different parts of the country which cannot bear description in this House. Government officials, from the highest down to the ordinary policeman are going about forcing peasants to purchase these bonds and if they do not, very often unpleasant results follow. There was one case within my own knowledge where the day after the peasant concerned refused to purchase these bonds he was visited by the police with an order to show cause why he should not be bound over for good conduct and our people had to carry on a strenuous agitation before the peasant concerned could be helped to get out of the clutches of the police. Such things happen in different parts of the country. It is under such circumstances that peasants are obliged to purchase these bonds. Even grain purchasing officers are going about the villages forcing peasants to sell their grain, even when they do not have enough for themselves and for their own family consumption. They insist that a particular percentage of the price that is likely to be paid for the grains must be accepted only in terms of Government Bonds. What is to happen to these people who, whether they like it or not, are forced to possess these Government Bonds. Are they expected to know the intricacies of this law, are they expected to know where and how they are to lodge their claims and make sure that they get their money? Is it seriously argued by the Honourable the Finance Member that our ordinary peasants are so capable of looking after their own interests as to be able to take advantage of this particular provision which provides only for summary procedure and which does not leave any room at all for the Evidence Act to come in or the ordinary law of the land to take its own course to protect the interests of these people. It may be that a peasant holds bonds worth one, two or three hundred rupees but that is a big sum for him. He certainly cannot afford to allow his claim on these small bonds to be dismissed summarily by the Reserve Bank of India. After

all what is this Reserve Bank of India. It is not a representative body of the people. This house anyhow has no control over it. Is it at least a quasi judicial body. Was this house given that assurance when it was constituted?—a quasi judicial body with powers to exercise its judicial functions. Is there any sort of control to see that the Reserve Bank exercises these quasi judicial functions in a really judicial manner? None at all. Under these circumstances, I think, it is inadvisable on the part of the Government that they should come forward with this sort of Bill proposing to give summary powers to the Reserve Bank of India, especially when they, of their own accord, have been forcing millions and millions of peasant to become holders of Government bonds. Therefore, Sir, I very strongly oppose these two sections and I trust that the Honourable the Finance Member will see the force of our arguments and try to make the necessary amendments so that it would be possible for the holders of these Government bonds to get proper justice if and when any of them were to die and leave his minors or others to claim the benefit from these bonds.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): A glance at this Bill and its perusal does not make clear to me certain points, which I would like to mention and which I trust the Select Committee will take into account in finally shaping this Bill.

There was a practice for many years, a very salutary practice, which Government interfered with some years ago, *vis.*, that when a holder of a Government security wanted to have a new certificate issued, such a new certificate was issued. It was presumed by these holders that in future it was a clean document unaffected by any error in the transfer by the previous holders and the cancelled document need not involve any loss to him. This very salutary protection to the holders of Government securities was interfered with and scaled down with the result (and the Government, I maintain, acted against their own interests in this) that small holders of Government securities, who had invested in Government bonds the small savings which they had made, had not thought of any question being raised with regard to the previous holders and the validity of the transfers made to them. This was an absolute necessity and I urge that this also is a necessity now. I understand that in certain loans new issues are preferred by the public, because of this that a new issue is a clean document and there will be no question of flaws in any transfers or as to their validity. As I said, this is a facility which the public enjoyed. It is possible that Government occasionally may have had losses on account of some isolated cases arising. The Government's contention was "we cannot pay the same money twice over" but here was a *bonafide* holder who, in response to your own appeals, to save and put in Government paper, purchased this Government paper. He belongs to a class which deserves protection. He belongs to a class which can least scrutinise one of the old instruments or promissory notes on which there are a dozen endorsements. He is not in a position to go into the validity of each of these endorsements. Such a man must be saved and I say that even if it costs something to the Government, it is in their own interest to provide facilities by which such a holder can get a clean and a new certificate and no liability with regard to the past endorsements. What machinery Government should then set up in order to safeguard themselves against fraud or genuine legal difficulties in previous transfers, it is for the Government themselves to devise and I should like to know as a matter of information from the Honourable the Finance Member whether in this Bill the power intended to be given to the Reserve Bank covers this particular point also.

Mr G. Rangiah Naidu (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. Deputy President, as my friend, Mr. Ranga, said "Who is this bank?" Has it got any representation from the people who purchase war bonds of ten rupees or twenty rupees or fifty rupees or hundred rupees? No. The rich

[Mr. G. Rangish Naidu.]

people are represented in the Bank—the directors are rich people: the Governor is a rich man. But the man who takes small war bonds, the agriculturist and the poor traders are not represented at all. I have seen in the country, if you go to the villages and see, how the agriculturists and the petty people are forced to purchase these war bonds. These poor people represent 95 per cent. of the persons purchasing war bonds: only 5 per cent. are rich and they are ruling over this Bank and over the destinies of the remaining 95 per cent. who are still continuing to take these bonds. The rich people are not bothered and worried to purchase these bonds. For instance, I may say that when I was here last November my son was asked to purchase these war bonds. He does not hold any property: he is a medical man working in a village, helping villagers where there is no medical aid; he was asked to contribute money and he said "It is impossible; I am not a holder of any property; I am a petty doctor and have been helping the poor people in this village. How can I contribute money to war bond? If I am pressed to buy them, my father is there in the Central Assembly and you please write to him. If he asks me to pay money, I will be prepared to pay, however I can manage". Then they told him "Mr. Ramchandra Naidu, if you do not buy war bonds, we do not care; but do not spoil others who are buying: do not do any propaganda against us". Such is the case in the country and such are the people who hold these securities and who must be helped. These two sections in the Bill must be eliminated; and unless they are entirely removed there will be no salvation for the people who are paying money against these security bonds.

Mr. D. P. Sethna (Government of India; Nominated Official): Sir, I crave your indulgence as I am addressing this august Assembly for the first time. Before I proceed to speak on the provisions of the Bill which have been impugned by some of the previous speakers, may I make a brief personal reference? It was in February 1942, when I was appointed to report on this Bill that I went to Calcutta and saw Sir James Taylor and Mr. Deshmukh, as he then was, and had discussions with them. I went to the office of the Central Debt section and had an insight into the way in which the securities were renewed; after the Central Debt section came to Bombay, I went and worked at the Reserve Bank Office for weeks and weeks, going through files of cases which had given trouble in the past to the Reserve Bank and the Controller of the Currency in administering the public debt. I had various long discussions with Sir James Taylor on the subject, and it is a matter of great regret to me, as I am sure it must be to the Members of this House, that Sir James Taylor is not with us today to hear the discussion on a Bill which was so near to his heart and to which he had contributed so much.

As to the provisions of the Bill which have been impugned by some of the previous speakers, sections 9 and 10 relate to the summary adjudication by the Reserve Bank in case of holders of securities not exceeding five thousand rupees in value, and in cases of minors and lunatics, I am astonished that the criticism should have been made, when sections 19 and 20 of the Indian Securities Act, 1920, which is the law of the land, expressly deal with these contingencies in a similar manner.

The other criticism which has been levelled against the provisions of this Bill is that the Bill is intended for the protection of the rich people. Nothing of the kind. It is primarily intended for the protection of the poor people who have not the means to enforce their legal rights and who have been deprived of their securities and the interest on their securities for years and years under vague notices and stop orders which have not been followed upon. The result has been, as I have seen from the files which I have gone through, that the original holders have died, their children have died, and it is after ten or fifteen years when the High Court or the Privy Council has decided the case that the securities have again come into the hands of the rightful person. It was in order to provide for cases like these

that Sir James Taylor had it in mind that the Reserve Bank should have the power, in the same way as the revenue courts now have, of summarily deciding as between the rival claimants to Government securities to whom the security belongs, leaving it to the aggrieved party to go to the court if he is so advised. I am surprised that section 12 has been pointed out to this House without referring to sections 19 and 20 which are in the Bill and which provide that no recognition by the Reserve Bank of a person as the holder of a Government security, and no order made by the Bank under this Act shall deprive any person of his right to go to the court. As the Finance Member has pointed out, when he introduced the Bill today and asked for its reference to the Select Committee, the decision of the Reserve Bank is hedged round with various safeguards and if you will please refer to sections 12, 13, 14 and 16, you will see that section 12 provides that if the Bank is of opinion that a doubt exists as to the title to a Government security, it may proceed to determine the person who shall for the purposes of the Bank be deemed to be the person entitled thereto. It presupposes that a claim has been made to the Reserve Bank by X or Y against Z or A and that he is entitled to the bond and not somebody else. It is on this that the Reserve Bank gives notice to all the persons concerned to appear before it. The Bank shall give notice in writing to each claimant of whom it has knowledge, and the Bank shall give notice in writing to each claimant of the result of the determination so made and it is only on the expiry of six months from the issue of the last notice that the Bank may make an order vesting in the person, found by the Bank to be entitled to the security, the security and any unpaid interest thereon. After this any party who is disgruntled or who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Reserve Bank has got a perfect right to go to a court of law and to apply that he is the holder of the security and not somebody else. A further provision has been made in order that the security may not remain for years and years with the Reserve Bank earning no interest. The Bank has the right to give the security to the Official Trustee of the Province so that the Court dealing with the case could direct that the interest on the security could, for the time being when the suit is pending, be utilised in favour of the party whom the court would consider to be *prima facie* entitled to the security.

As to Mr. Lalljee's point about the service of the notices, that is a matter which the Select Committee will certainly consider. This, however, will not entail any real difficulty because the notice will only be given to those persons who have written to the Bank and who *prima facie* would seem to be concerned with the security.

As to the officer of the Reserve Bank who is to adjudicate on the matter, that also is a matter for the Select Committee to consider. If the honourable gentlemen had cared to read the opinions which have been circulated, they would have seen that the opinions disclose a wide approval to the principles underlying the Bill. (*An Honourable Member*: They have not been circulated). I am told that they have been circulated after 1943. It was in August, 1943, that the Finance Member introduced the Bill and I am told that the opinions which have been received, Nos. 1, 14, 22 and 23, have been circulated. If they have not been read by the Members, it is their own look-out.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Come with us to the jail and you will know.

Mr. D. P. Sethna: As I have stated, the whole object of the vesting order is to protect the poor holder of Government securities and not the rich banks. It is they who will be benefited by a summary adjudication by the Reserve Bank of matters with which the Bank is not concerned at all, as between claimants A and B.

As regards sections 26 and 27, it has been rightly provided that if the Bank feels that it has been cheated by any party it should apply to the Criminal Court for the prosecution of the offender.

[Mr. D. P. Sethna.]

Another point made by Mr. Hooseinbhoj Lalljee is that before the Bank adjudicates in the matter, the Bank may require the execution of a bond with one or two sureties to be held at the disposal of the Bank, for an amount twice the value of the security. Surely, Sir, that is merely signing the bond and not furnishing the security. Even if a man has Rs. 3,000, as Mr. Hooseinbhoj has said, he can surely give a bond for six thousand.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: Will the Bank accept that?

Mr. D. P. Sethna: The man has to show that he is worth six thousand or whatever the amount may be.

The most surprising part of the criticism was that the Bank decides the matter and that there is no appeal. I submit once again that that criticism has proceeded from not reading the Bill carefully apart from the opinions. Section 19 points out the legal effect of orders made by the Bank. I would draw attention to the words "subject only to a personal liability to the rightful owner of the security for money had and received on his account."

As to the criticism of Mr. Manu Subedar and his reference to the Privy Council judgment, the Privy Council judgment is in favour of Government and the Act does not make any change in the situation. As I understand, the Government is not prepared to give up the indemnity which is implied according to the Privy Council judgment.

If you look at the opinions received, they show a wide approval of the principles of the Bill. There are criticisms as to details which it is the province of the Select Committee to go into and the Select Committee, I would assure this House, will carefully consider every point that has been raised in the opinions received.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The last speaker has traversed most of the points which were raised in the course of the debate and I do not think that there is much that I can add to that.

As my Honourable friend, Mr. Sethna, just now pointed out in his very competent maiden speech, this is not a matter of hasty or ill-considered action on the part of the Government. It is a measure which has been under very long and careful consideration in consultation with the Bank and on which competent legal opinion has been availed of. There is no desire on the part of the Government to make any drastic or unnecessary changes in the law but I am sure my Honourable friend, Mr. Hooseinbhoj Lalljee, will recognise that if you leave things as they are, you are not really serving the interests which he claims to be anxious to protect. The present position is favourable to the indefinite continuance of disputes in regard to Government securities. That means either that the interest is not paid out at all or that it may be paid out to the person who at the moment is most skilful in mobilizing legal assistance. The object of this Bill is to secure a prompt and reasonable adjustment of these matters pending their final settlement by the competent courts. There is nothing here to oust the courts of law. No right is being taken from anybody which he has at present. What is being done, as the last speaker has pointed out, is to assist the small man who cannot afford to go all the way to the High Court or the Privy Council, to assist him to get a ready decision by the Bank. After all it is the bank that has the administration of the public debt. It is the bank which has to pay the interest. As I said, the small man will now be able to go to the bank and tell his story. The bank arranges for a rapid decision of the point and enables him to draw his interest. If you do not provide this kind of remedy, then we think that you are actually weighting the scales in favour of the wealthier and the man with the greater legal advice.

Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee: To whom do you entrust? That is the question.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: It has always been my bitter experience to find that when we proposed that Government officials should do a thing, there was the utmost suspicion and it was suggested that the only virtue and wisdom lay anywhere than in the minds and in the possession of Government officials. I am surprised to find it is now suggested that the only real

repository of justice and wisdom is a Government official. The reason why the Reserve Bank is mentioned is that the Reserve Bank is the machinery through which the public debt is administered. The Reserve Bank is the person who actually pays the interest.

Mr. Hooseinhoy A. Lalljee: They are cashiers and there is a great difference between being cashiers and administrators.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Oh no; the Reserve Bank is more than a cashier. The point is this. Why should you create any further machinery in between your Public Debt Administrator and your courts? What you want to do is to provide a simple and summary adjudication or settlement of issues pending references to a court. You therefore provide that the organisation which is in daily contact with these matters, which has most experience, which is continually engaged in these things and which has, as a matter of fact, to make the payment, you provide that that organisation shall conduct a provisional inquiry into the matter and shall make a vesting order until such time as the matter may be threshed out in the courts. I do not see how that lends itself to any of the criticisms or suspicions to which Mr. Hooseinhoy Lalljee has given voice. But in any case, I understand it to be the feeling of the House that this Bill should go to the Select Committee. The principle of the Bill has been widely accepted and we can leave these matters to be discussed by the Select Committee who will, I have no doubt, do full justice to them.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Government securities issued by the Central Government and to the management by the Reserve Bank of India of the public debt of the Central Government be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Muhammad Shahban, Khan Bahadur Sheikh Habibur Rahman, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw Dalal, Mr. D. P. Sethna and the Mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

THE FACTORIES (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934, (*Second Amendment*) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Mr. R. R. Gupta, Mr. A. C. Inskip, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. D. S. Joshi and the Mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The provisions of the Bill fall into two parts and I think it will be desirable from the point of view of simplicity in the matter of presentation if I explained to the House the provisions of the Bill in two separate forms.

Part I of the Bill deals with compensatory holidays for the loss of compulsory holidays. Members will realise that in section 35 of the Factories Act it is obligatory upon the owner or manager of the factory to give one compulsory holiday to every adult worker in the factory. This provision which is contained in section 35 is subject to the provisions contained in sections 43 and 44. Sections 43 and 44 provide that the Inspector of Factories may permit exemptions being granted to the manager of the factory or factory owner from the obligations imposed by section 35. The view that is taken is this that when such exemptions should be granted, they ought to be compensated by other holidays, equivalent in number. Health and efficiency of the worker requires that he should have the requisite number of holidays which are prescribed by law. The Act, as it stands, makes no such provisions for compensatory holidays. Consequently, clause 2 of the Bill has been introduced for the purpose of removing this lacuna. It will now be open for the Provincial Governments to make rules subject to certain adjustments that wherever exemptions have been granted under section 35, compensatory holidays of the equivalent amount shall be granted to the workmen. This is the first part of the provisions of the Bill.

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.]

Coming to the second part of the Bill, the provisions contained therein deal with the question of holidays with pay. It might be desirable at the outset to state to the House the origin of this part of the Bill. Many members of the House will recall that in 1936 the International Labour Conference passed a convention relating to the holidays with pay. The Government of India, which was represented at that International Labour Conference, was not prepared to accept the convention and to ratify it. A Government Resolution was moved in the Assembly on the 26th July, 1937, proposing the non-acceptance of the convention. The Resolution was carried. But while the Government did not find itself in a position to ratify the convention, the Member in charge of the Resolution said that the Government would explore and examine the possibilities of giving effect to the convention, if not wholly, at any rate, in part and undertook to have consultation with the Provincial Governments and all the Associations representing the employers and employees to find out to what extent there was a general agreement in the matter of this convention. Part II of the provisions which relate to holidays with pay are the result of this examination and exchange of views which have been going on over a considerable number of years.

Turning to the Bill itself, it will be seen that the Bill applies to factories and it applies not to all the factories, but to perennial factories only. The Bill undoubtedly is limited in its scope as compared to the provisions contained in the convention which was adopted in 1936. While it is limited, I think it is a beginning which should be welcome. With regard to the other provisions, I think it will be better if I divide my observations in four parts so as to cover separately the four points which legislation concerning holidays with pay must necessarily deal with.

1. Length of holiday. 2. Qualifying conditions for a right to a holiday. 3. Limiting conditions. 4. Pay during holiday. With regard to the first point, namely, length of a holiday, this is a matter which is dealt with in the new section 49-B which the Bill proposes to add to the Factories Act. According to this section, the total holiday is to be on seven consecutive days for a worker who has put in a continuous service for one year. It might be asked as to why we have taken seven days and not more. The reply to that is that in fixing this period of seven days, we have followed the provisions contained in the Geneva convention of 1936 which laid down six days as the limit of the holiday. To that we have added a seventh day which is a compulsory weekly rest granted to a worker under section 35 of the Factories Act. With regard to the question of qualifying conditions laying down as to when a worker will be entitled to claim a seven days holiday, the provisions contained in the Bill are as follows. As a matter of fact, there is really only one condition and that is that the worker must have put in a period of twelve months continuous service. There is no other condition. With regard to the question as to what is continuous service of twelve months, the Bill provides for what are called interruptions and declares that certain interruptions shall not invalidate the claim for holidays with pay. The interruptions which are mentioned in the Bill are interruptions arising out of sickness, accident, authorised leave, lock-out period and a strike period provided the strike is legal. There is also another provision in the Bill which relates to the same subject and that is the question of involuntary unemployment caused by the desire of the factory owner to close the factory. We have limited that to a period of 30 days. If the involuntary unemployment caused by the factory manager does not extend beyond 30 days, then that would not invalidate the claim of the worker for his right to holidays with pay. It might be necessary perhaps to mention why we have prescribed only 30 days. The explanation is this. Holidays with pay must necessarily take into account the ability of the manager or the factory owner to pay and the view that is taken in the Bill is that if the manager or the factory owner is obliged to close his factory for more than 30 days, then I think it is legitimate to presume that he has really not been prospering as well as he ought to and that he is, therefore, not in a position to pay the cost for holidays with pay. But if the involuntary period does not exceed 30 days,

then the presumption is that he is still able to bear the cost and should bear. The Bill also provides for limited condition with regard to holidays with pay and that limited condition relates to the question of accumulation of holidays. The Bill provides that a worker who has been qualified to earn his holidays may be entitled to accumulate holidays for two years and that is for a total period of 14 days.

Coming to the question of pay during holidays, there are several points to which I should like to draw the attention of the House. The first is that although the total period of the holiday is seven, only six are declared to be paid holidays. The seventh, as I said, is really a day of weekly rest provided under section 35. With regard to the seventh day, the Bill does not make it obligatory upon the employer to pay for it. But at the same time the Bill does not take away the right of the employee to demand payment, if as a result of his contract of service that holiday was due to him as a paid holiday. It is really left to be governed by the contract of service.

The third point is with regard to the payment to be made for these six holidays. The rule that we have adopted in the Bill is a rough, and I believe, an equitable rule and it is this: that a worker is to be paid at a rate equivalent to the average of his earnings during the three preceding months barring overtime. I believe that is an equitable principle. The Bill also provides that in order to enable a workman to take his holiday, some facilities should be given him in order to have some cash with him on the day on which he proposes to start on his holiday. Consequently provision is made in the Bill that half the dues which are to be paid to the workman going on holiday shall be paid to him at the start.

Another matter which is relevant to this, and is also important, is this. The Bill proposes to exempt certain factories from its operation if it is found that a factory has a system of holidays with pay which is substantially similar to the one provided in the Bill and about whose satisfactory character the Provincial Government is able to certify. The object underlying this clause is that if there is a voluntary arrangement between the employer and the worker whereby the worker is given the same privileges which we are providing in the law, the view taken by the Bill is that in so amicable an arrangement it is unnecessary for the law to enter.

Sir, these are the main provisions of the Bill. There are two other matters to which I should like to make a reference before I sit down. The first is the question of a discharge of a workman by the employer to prevent him from earning his holiday. The second question is the employer inducing a workman not to take his holiday although he has earned it. These are questions which I frankly admit are not being provided for in the Bill. Not that Government are not aware that such questions may arise, but the view of Government is that at the present stage, at any rate, there is no reason to suppose that such contingencies will arise. If experience shows that such cases do become usual it would be time then to amend the Act to stop their recurrence. For the moment the view I hold is that the provisions of the Bill are sufficient for the purposes which it has in view, namely, to grant holidays with pay to factory workers.

Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934, (*Second Amendment*) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Shaikh Fazli-Haq Piracha, Mr. R. R. Gupta, Mr. A. C. Inskip, Sir Vithal N. Chandavarkar, Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. D. S. Joshi and the Mover and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. C. C. Miller (Bengal: European): Sir, this Group supports the motion for Select Committee and the principle of holidays with pay. But there are two comments which I should like to make at this stage, following the lines of the Honourable Member, the first being on the question of the compensatory holiday. The present position under the Factories Act is that if a worker is ordered to work on a Sunday he is entitled to a compensatory holiday in the three days preceding or in the three days following that Sunday, except under the

[Mr. C. C. Miller.]

very exceptional circumstances which are conditioned by sections 43 and 44 of the Act. The effect of this amendment of the Act will be to say to the workman, "Well, you shall have your compensatory holiday, but when you will get that compensatory holiday is a matter of convenience. You will not get it necessarily at any particular time". And I venture to think that the Act as it stands is a much more realistic approach to this problem and that the amendment does not place any worker in a better position than he was before. And I suggest, therefore, that that part of the Bill might well be omitted.

I now turn to the more important question of holidays with pay. As I have said, we support the principle of holidays with pay but we do not support the principle of consecutive holidays with pay in every district throughout India. There may be parts of India in which consecutive holidays are appropriate for labour, but they are certainly not appropriate to all parts of India, and in particular to eastern India. The situation in eastern India is that our labour is very largely immigrant labour from other provinces and that labour remains very largely agricultural. It is a factor which goes right through Indian industrial life and it is a very big factor which cannot be overlooked. Now, regularly every year or two, labour seeks to return to its village for village work, village ceremonies and agricultural work; and that custom has grown up and is accepted both by the workers and by the employers. That is leave, and I would suggest that a differentiation should be drawn between leave and holidays. Now, again in eastern India there are a considerable number of holidays throughout the year, religious holidays for both communities, and it is very customary that on these holidays factories are closed down and labour has a day off. And, moreover, in my part of the world, there has grown a custom of paying labour for certain holidays. I should like to impress that on the Honourable Member because there are now a considerable number of holidays with pay, but they are not consecutive; they are staggered. In many cases these holidays exceed the number of six suggested in this Bill and in some cases substantially exceed them. Therefore if the Labour Department is going to insist on consecutive holidays, then you are putting your employer in a position where he must say to his workmen, "I am very sorry, but I must abandon my previous principle of giving you holidays with pay, because the Labour Department in its wisdom has decreed otherwise. So, instead of getting six or eight or even twelve holidays with pay staggered in a year you must in future have six consecutive holidays with pay. Moreover, most or all of these holidays which I have given have been unconditional, your six consecutive holidays are going to be conditional". In fact, the new deal which the Labour Department is proposing in these circumstances will be very much worse than the deal which labour has been getting in the past. And I do very earnestly request the Honourable Member to consider that where custom has established a certain practice which is in no way inferior to the practice which he is now seeking to institute and which is very often a far better practice both from the point of view of labour and of employers of labour, he will not introduce measures which upset it. Because, I am perfectly certain that if this system is introduced in certain parts of Bengal and as a necessary corollary the old system is withdrawn there will be a very considerable labour unrest and resentment at the innovation.

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

I, therefore, hope that staggered holidays and consecutive holidays will be treated on an equal basis in the Bill when it has passed through the hands of the Select Committee.

(It was Four of the Clock.)

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

MISUSE OF THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT ORGANIZATION BY MALIK KHIZAR HAYAT KHAN TIWANA, LEADER OF THE PUNJAB BRANCH

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the failure of the Governor

General in Council to prevent and stop the misuse of the National War Front organisation by the Provincial Leader of the Punjab Branch, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, who has been utilizing the National War Front Organization for propaganda in favour of and collection of funds for a political party—"the Zamindara League"—thereby creating a great deal of hostility amongst a large section of people against the National War Front.

Sir, there are three allegations which are made in this adjournment motion: firstly, that the National War Front organization is not being used for the purpose for which it was intended; secondly, that it is being utilized by the leader of the National War Front in the Punjab for political purposes of his own party; and, thirdly, that this has eliminated the sympathy and the support of a large section of people in the Punjab from the National War Front organisation.

Sir, this organization was inaugurated by the then Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, in March 1942. This organisation, according to him, was to be 'non-political and non-communal' in the sense that no propaganda in favour of any particular political party was to be done from the platform of the National War Front organisation, and all persons who were willing to strengthen the home front and help in the war effort, irrespective of caste or creed or their political views, were entitled to join this organisation. Sir, unfortunately, now that the war is coming to a close, there are not people wanting in this country who are making this organisation into a political party machine and those people are those who have the support and the blessings of the bureaucracy in this country. Sir, I submit that to prostitute this organisation for political purposes of a particular party, an organization which is financed and supported by public money, is a very great offence and I am sorry to relate that the Government of India have failed in their duty in stopping the misuse of this organisation.

Here I have a number of cuttings from the various newspapers of Punjab. I will not take the time of the House by reading out from newspaper reports at great length because there is very limited time at my disposal, but by giving some quotations from the speeches of Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana and others at the meetings of the National War Front, I think I will succeed in showing that the National War Front is being misused and is being used for purposes other than for which it was intended.

An Honourable Member: What about Bengal?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, in Montgomery, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan while addressing a big conference in the Cinema Hall said:

"When I told Mr. Jinnah that the only alternative to the changing of the label of the present Ministry would be the promulgation of the Governor's Rule under Section 93 in the Punjab because as a result of the change of label no stable ministry would be possible in the province, Mr. Jinnah was adamant and the League Leader while insisting upon the change of the label said that the promulgation of Section 93 would not matter. But as I feel that going back to the Governor's rule would not be good for the Punjab, nor for the Muslims or the minorities I did not agree with Mr. Jinnah."

The statements are absolutely false. But any how I will not take up the time of the House by arguing that. What I want to show is that from this platform political speeches against a party and in favour of a particular party or a particular group of people are being made. It may be said that this was held at a Cinema Hall; it does not say what this conference was. But, Sir, it is stated here "that the Conference over which the Premier presided had been organised by the District National War Front, Montgomery". Later on it says that "two addresses were presented to the Premier at this Conference". Further, it says "A purse of Rs. 50,000 was presented to the Premier for the Zamindara League on behalf of the district at this conference".

At this very conference of the National War Front, Sir Chhottu Ram also spoke and he said:

"The door of the Zamindara League has been made more wide and any one who agreed with the aims and objects of the Zamindara League, even though not what he called a 'Taxali Zamindars' could become a member of the League."

While thanking for the sum of Rs. 50,000 for a party which had served the Zamindars, Sir Chhottu Ram said that he treated the amount only as a first instalment of Rs. three lakhs he expected from Montgomery, a rich district. On behalf of the Premier, he expressed

[Nawabzadr Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan.]

his appreciation of the support which the M. L. As. from that district in general and the Muslim M. L. As. in particular had given to the Ministry."

This is one conference. There was another conference held at Gujrat where a purse of Rs. 65,000 was presented to the Premier and this conference was also held by the National War Front organisation. In the course of his speech at this conference he said :

"Despite my complete agreement with the Muslim League ideals I was not allowed to remain in the League. The responsibility for the present conflict and dissensions amongst Muslims lay not with me but with those who instigated the League High Command to take this action."

Again, at the meeting which was held at Ludhiana, a similar thing happened. Malik Khizar Hayat Khan presided over the National War Front conference. A purse was presented on behalf of the Zamindara League and "the Premier was complimented on having steered clear through recent difficulties, which had resulted 'in only a few young plants having been removed from the garden of the Unionist Party' of which the Premier was described as the gardener".

An Honourable Member: Is this money shared by the M.L.As.?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: At this conference, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan "while declaring that he was absolutely justified in refusing to accept what Mr. Jinnah wanted him to do, the Premier reiterated that the rule under Section 93 was the only alternative to the present Ministry in the Punjab". And here I would like to invite the attention of our new Honourable the Home Member, who has come fresh after administering a province under Section 93,— this is the view of the National War Front leader of the Punjab about this rule .—

" And if that happened all their schemes for the betterment of the Province and of providing facilities to those who were to return from the theatres of the war would have been thrown overboard."

I do not know what my honourable friend, Sir Francis Mudie, thinks of such meetings.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): In the Punjab!

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: There was a conference at Lyallpur. This was under the National War Front. I can go on repeating *ad nauseam* all these speeches that the Honourable Minister has made. There are certain other things. This money for the Zemindara League is being collected in the name of the National War Front. Here I have a statement from Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Saheb, pleader, President, District Gujar Committee and General Secretary, Anjuman Zamindaran, Ludhiana. This is published in the *Zamindar* of Lahore of the 14th October".

"*Wo Raqmen is ke samne presh ki jati hain woh hechare aksar kis tareh public se wasul karte hain? Is ko chande ke lafz se zahir karna apne ap ko dhoka dena hai. Humare zile men aise waqat aksar hote hain keh intiqal arazi ki manzoori ke liye Zamindara League ka Chandla adā karne ki qaid laga di gai hai aur is tareh se ropayah ikattha kar ke Wasir-i-Azam Saheb ko Sath hazar ki theli de kar khush kiya gaya.*"

Now, Sir, here is another gentleman, Mr. Abdul Ghani, B.A., from Jullundur who also makes these allegations.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member): What does all that mean?

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: It means that all the money that is being collected is being collected by force from the people by the permanent officials of the Government and all this money is presented in the name of the Zemindara League at the meetings of the National War Front to the Premier of the Punjab who happens to be the leader of the Provincial National War Front.

There is another gentleman here who says the same thing and he makes a definite allegation that this money is being collected in the name of the National War Front. Here is a cutting from the leading article of a Urdu paper of Delhi *Tegh*. It says:

"*Is ropayeh ki farqhami Zamindara League ke nam per nahin balkeh Hokumat-i-Hind ke National War Front ke dar men ki ja rahi hai. National War Front ke jalse munafiq hote hain aur apne qarar aur Hokumat ke dabao se jabraon logon se ropayah wasul kiya ja raha hai.*"

I have so many newspaper cuttings and so many statements from various respectable persons that if I were to relate them it would take hours.

The Muslim League of Sheikhpura passed a resolution condemning the methods of the officials of the district adopted of extorting contributions from the zamindars of the district for the funds of the Zemindara League and saying that the drama of the Zemindara League that is being staged in the name of the National War Front would be sure to demoralize the people of the province. What happens? Those who have rendered valuable services to the National War Front if they do not agree to the misuse of the National War Front by the Premier or the leader of the Provincial War Front of Punjab are turned out of the organisation. Here is a case

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has one minute more.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Khan Bahadur Nazir Ahmad Khan was dismissed from the leadership of the District War Front, Montgomery. In a press statement he said :

"If Malik Khizr Hayat can continue as Provincial Leader of the National War Front in the presence of his pronouncement, why should a district leader professing the same faith be dealt with otherwise. I shall continue to perform the duty even after my removal from the leadership of the National War Front. But I am also of the opinion that the present methods of the Unionists are no less Fascist in outlook, there being no scope for the expression of even honest opinion."

It is really not possible within fifteen minutes to say much more but I think I have succeeded in showing that the platform of the National War Front is being misused, money is being collected by force from the people and in the name of the National War Front, and is presented to the Premier, who is the leader of the National War Front, at the meetings that are arranged and held under the auspices of and by the National War Front of the Punjab.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved :-
"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin (Punjab: Landholders): Mr. President, I have a few observations to make before the House. First of all, I must congratulate the National War Front movement that it has won a great supporter in the person of the Honourable the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League. This is an achievement for which the National War Front in this country deserves to be congratulated, because if I correctly heard the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party he said that he wanted to eradicate corruption from the ranks of the National War Front movement and that he wanted to bring it on a proper level so that people may not turn against that movement.

Well, Sir, that shows that the Honourable Nawabzada Saheb has after all become a great well-wisher of this movement. This was not the attitude of the Muslim League a few years ago when the National War Front movement was struggling to gain a foothold among the people. If I remember correctly, the Nawab of Mamdot, who is the President of the Muslim League in the Punjab, was offered the leadership of the National War Front of his district and he refused it. It was something *infra dig* for him and I hope that this motion of adjournment is outcome of sincere wish to improve National War Front movement.

Here I will say that the position of the Punjab in this respect is a peculiar one. For one thing the Legislature of the Province passed a resolution giving the fullest support to the war effort of the Allies. So, in that respect, we can say that the Punjab is at war with the Axis Powers because its Legislature wanted it to be so. Now, what is the Premier of the Punjab? He is a servant of the people and a servant of the Legislature and he has to carry out the orders given by the people of his province through the channel of the Punjab Legislative Assembly. Furthermore, I would say that the present leader of the National War Front movement also happens to be the Premier of the Punjab. Well, he is Premier because he enjoys the confidence of his people. They put him there and by God's grace he is going to remain there so long as he enjoys that

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confidence, and, therefore, he has to do propaganda work for that purpose. Sir, I was sorry to hear Nawabzada Saheb impute motives to a public man who, at least, is of the same eminence as Nawabzada Saheb himself. Now it is not very difficult to impute motives to anybody, especially if the person happens to hold more than one office. For instance, one can say that Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan holds two offices. He was a judge not so long ago over Malik Khizar Hayat Khan and he condemned him. Now he holds another office, that is, he is a member of this House and I will be the last person to impute any motives to anybody. I am sure the Nawabzada when he comes here with this motion of adjournment, he has only one thing in his heart and that is that public money should not be wasted and that the National War Front movement should not be corrupted. But if there was any uncharitable person he might impute motives to the Nawabzada Saheb, by saying that he had already condemned Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana outside the House and so he wishes to condemn him inside the House also. That is what a less charitable person would say. I would not dream of thinking any such uncharitable thought. But I would say this that our public life in this country will go to dogs if public men of great eminence started imputing motives to each other.

What is it that actually happens? As I said before, the Honourable the leader of the National War Front movement in the Punjab happens to hold more than one post: he is the leader of the National War Front and he is also the Premier of the Punjab. He may be the President of many other bodies. What happens is that he goes on tour when naturally those bodies of which he is the President or Chairman, etc., all come to him and present him with addresses and so on. So, what he does really is that at the meetings of the Zamindara League he does his propaganda for the National War Front. I am not holding any brief for him but I think that such propaganda can be done at the meeting of the Zamindara League.

The Nawabzada Saheb also quoted extracts from various newspapers but he did not think fit to mention their names. All I can say is that most of the newspapers speak in favour of their own parties. If the selfsame act were done by a member of their own party it is something very honourable but when done by another person belonging to an opposite school of thought, it becomes something reprehensible.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: It was the *Tribune* of Lahore from which I quoted and it is by no means the friend of the Muslim League.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: Neither it is a friend of the Unionist Party.

The Nawabzada quoted from a gentleman who was very recently removed from the leadership of the National War Front movement. Now, that gentleman says that he was removed, because he obstructed Major Khizar Hayat Khan from carrying on his party propaganda from that front, but I am sure Major Khizar Hayat Khan has another story to tell. They say that that gentleman was removed, because he was not taking sufficient interest in the work and therefore his removal was considered necessary. So, if an honourable member of this House is to come forward with statements of those people who have been removed from a certain organisation and quote them, I would request other Honourable Members of this House to attach very little importance to such statements.

On the positive side I would say what the National War Front movement has done in the Punjab. It is something of which any province in this country can be proud. Nay, it is more than that. I think it is something for which any Allied country can take pride. Half the recruits of the Indian Army have been supplied from this province, and these men came forward to serve their country because of the appeal of men like Lt. Col. Malik Khizar Hayat Khan and his predecessor Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan. Punjab has taken a lead in procuring recruits. Therefore, I would say that if any province or provincial leader has shown results, it is the province of the Punjab and the provincial leader of the Punjab who deserves every commendation of this House.

Sardar Bahadur Captain Jaipal Singh (nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, I rise to oppose the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan. I would refrain from going into details but shall speak freely and clearly.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Ghiasuddin, has already explained every thing that is going in the National War Front in the Punjab and I quite agree with him. I am a district leader of the National War Front in the Rohtak District and I have attended several meetings of the movement in the Ambala Division. The Nawabzada is wrong when he says that the money is collected in the name of the National War Front. We the Zamindars collect the money and present the money at our meetings to the Honourable the Premier of the Punjab and the National War Front organisation is quite free from any outside influence. The National War Front organisation is interested in helping the soldiers who are fighting outside India, in the Grow More Food Campaign and generally to help the war effort in every way. In Rohtak I presented an address and the Zamindara League presented their address and a sum of Rs. 6,000 to the Honourable the Premier. What was wrong in it? This is a quarrel between the Unionist Party and the Muslim League and the same quarrel is being fought here. Our National War Front Leader, Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, is a very popular leader. We are all helping him. He is a great leader. We have every confidence in his leadership and he is doing every thing. He is not misusing any money. The big zamindars collect the money and they are supporting the Unionist Government. With these words, I again strongly oppose the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): I have no desire to keep the House very long on this issue. I only just want to reply to my Honourable friend, Mr. Ghiasuddin, who has tried to give a wrong interpretation to the subject of the motion. Mr. Ghiasuddin has introduced the story of Punjab Assembly's attitude towards war efforts and Punjab Premier's duties in that capacity. We have no quarrel with that. We do not want to hear it. The point brought out by the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party is that the National War Front is a Central Government organisation the expenses of which are being paid by the taxpayers of the whole country, and it cannot be used for any purpose other than that for which it was brought into being. No question arises, as Mr. Ghiasuddin probably wanted to imply, whether we did give sanction for the setting up of National War Front organisation or not. We merely want to impress on this House that the organisation as it stands should not have been used for any purpose other than the purpose for which it has been made to exist, and our claim is, and the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party has made the case very clear, that the Premier of the Punjab is utilising this organisation for purposes foreign to its purpose. I would impress on this House that in every organisation there should be some code of morality about the activities, and the Premier of the Punjab, though he may be the leader of the National War Front, cannot and should not have done what he is alleged to have been doing. Even if Mr. Churchill has an organisation of a National War Front in England, he is not expected to utilise that for the benefit of the Conservative Party in England: if he does so, he will be condemned by all the people there. So, I would like to impress upon my friend, Mr. Ghiasuddin, that he should not try to interpret this adjournment motion in the way he did. The position is clear: we want only to impress on this House and through you, Sir, on the Government that the purpose of the National War Front is not being served in the Punjab and the taxpayers' money is being spent on activities other than what was originally intended, and on subjects which can never serve the purpose of the National War Front. This is the point which I want to bring out and nothing more. With these words, I support the motion.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, my friend, Mr. Ghiasuddin, has returned after a long tour of Europe, and

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America and we expected a speech of the kind from him; he said he did not want to be uncharitable to my friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party and I do not want to be uncharitable to my friend, Mr. Ghiasuddin and say that he was influenced in his speech by the vote of censure which was passed on the Government because they deputed Mr. Ghiasuddin to represent India . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not go into all that.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I am saying that I hope he will not take me to be uncharitable for saying this. He comes and says that the National War Front was looking forward for help to the people for a long time and they could not find any supporters, and he said that Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan speaks today in this strain that he has become a supporter of the National War Front. But may I ask him—though the memory of the people is not very strong sometimes but I hope he will not forget that stalwarts like Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan, who never said that he did not belong to the Muslim League—was he not a member of the National War Front? What is Mr. Ghiasuddin compared to Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should not indulge in such comparisons.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Khizar Hayat Khan was not a member of the Zamindara League up to the time of few months back; he was a member of the Muslim League even up to a few months ago, and still he says that he sticks to the ideals of the Muslim League and that he was still helping it. Many members of the Muslim League were helping the National War Front. So I think Mr. Ghiasuddin cannot side-track the issue by saying this and throwing dust in this manner on the issue before the House. The issue before the House is only one, and it is this, that the National War Front organisation which is financed by the Government of India is being utilised by a leader, however eminent he may be, for the benefit of his own political party. A meeting is convened in the name of the National War Front, under the protection of the permanent officials who are the paid servants of the Government because they can come to help the National War Front organisation, and at this meeting, which is thus convened, speeches are made, under the protection of the officials, by a gentleman who dare not make that speech if the officials left the meeting. My friend, Mr. Ghiasuddin, may say anything he likes, but I challenge that let Khizar Hayat Khan and Mr. Ghiasuddin come and make that speech in the Chandni Chowk or in any other place in the Punjab, even in Shahpur district, a speech of the kind he made there, if he is not protected by the official block there, and I will be glad to see that his clothes remain on him in the same clean condition in which he happened to go there; if those clothes will be covered by cowdung all over, I suppose it will be because rotten eggs cannot be found in the villages, easily . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must remember that the gentleman is not here to answer any attacks on him.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Mr. Ghiasuddin introduced his personality, though I did not like it. We wanted the debate to be confined to the matter before the House; but he introduced the subject and threw dust on the Muslim League and on our Deputy Leader by saying that there was only one champion who wants to fight against the Nazis, and that everybody else is not wanting to fight against the Nazis. These implications are absolutely wrong, because every one of us wants to fight against Nazism; we have declared that openly on the floor of this House many times and this implication was the most unjust that could be made: it was only meant to influence and bias the vote on this issue. The issue is clear, whether this organisation is being prostituted by the men in authority. He happens to be a man who enjoys two positions—
 • One as the premier; of course he is quite at liberty to form a party of his own in any manner he likes: we have no objection to that. But he cannot use his position as the leader of the National War Front in which he enjoys my confidence and the confidence of many others also—he cannot use that position

and that money for the purposes of bolstering up his own party, where I am not interested. That is the position before this House and I hope that the House will calmly and quietly see this and I think my friend, Mr. Nauman, has put it very rightly that even my friends, my English friends in this House, who know the constitution very well, will not allow in their own country—that even Mr. Churchill cannot make use of the National War Front for the purpose of the betterment of the Conservative Party. He cannot. It is an unheard of thing in the politics of any democratic country. You cannot run one institution in one name and utilise it for other purposes. If you are using this organisation for only National War Front work, we have no objection. The Muslim Leaguers were not opposed to the National War Front. Thousands of Muslim Leaguers have joined the National War Front. They not only subscribed but gave recruits also. If the meeting was convened for the purpose of the war front, it must be confined to that one purpose alone. You cannot make propaganda there for another organisation which you want to start. That should be condemned. We want to know why the Government of India have not stopped this. Either they have been keeping quiet deliberately or they do not know. I cannot say that they do not know, because the papers have been printing this and the Government is expected to know everything that is happening in the country.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: A telegram was sent to them about this.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Government has got no excuse to say that they do not know. If they say that, they condemn themselves. They know everything that is happening in the country and it is the duty of the Government to know. If they knew this and they deliberately kept quiet, then it means that they are deliberately encouraging this. If this is happening deliberately with the help of the Government, then what does the Government deserve. Will they themselves tell me?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting): I will.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: If the Government deliberately encouraged this organisation of the National War Front to be utilised for the purpose of political propaganda of a political party and for the purpose of collection of funds in the same meeting, then don't they deserve the censure of this House? If that is true, they do deserve censure. If my friend says it is not true, that is a different thing. My friend can convince me that it is not true. But if it is true, then my friend will certainly admit that he deserves the censure of this House.

My friend the Nawabzada has shown that these facts have appeared in the Press and they have been given out in the whole of the Punjab. It does not matter what my friend the Nawabzada has said in some place in a semi-judicial capacity. It should not be said on that account that this condemnation should not be taken notice of. Here is a paper which has been quoted, which has been criticising the Muslim League from day to day, which has no sympathy with the Muslim League and which is not very friendly to the Muslim League and this paper comes from Lahore. If these things were wrongly printed in the paper, then it was the duty of a man like Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, who is the Premier of the Punjab and who has the machinery behind him, to contradict it and say this is all rubbish and something untrue has been published. If the National War Front meeting and the Zamindara League meetings had been held in different places with an interval of two hours and there were no officials present in the Zamindara League meeting, we could understand it but that has not been done and no contradiction has been made. If the facts that have been mentioned are true, then for the sake of public morality, for the sake of keeping the politics of the country clean, it is necessary that the permanent officials should not take part in politics one way or the other. Otherwise you will have in the political sphere the condition of things that you find in municipalities and district boards. One party comes into power.

[Sir Muhammad Yamin-Khan.]

It turns out all the permanent officials who are not friendly to it. It brings in new officials. Then another party comes into power. They turn out those officials and appoint others. The result will be that there will be no security for the permanent officials and there will be no public morality in the country and the whole thing will turn into chaos.

If you are following the example of political institutions in England, then it is necessary to enforce the same principles of public morality that you find in English institutions. If the working of these institutions is found to be defective, then it is the duty of every one of us to rise to the occasion and condemn it. Unless you condemn it, this practice will continue and public morality will be allowed to degenerate by the action or the inaction of the Government. If three addresses were presented in the same meeting because the man happens to work in three different capacities, it does not mean that he can act in three different ways in the same place at the same time. I think this is not right. If the Premier is holding a National War Front meeting he must hold it at one time and one place and if a meeting is held for other purposes, it must be held after some lapse of time. If he wants to get an address from the Municipal Committee or the District Board, it must be separate from the National War Front meeting. If a third meeting is held for the purpose of collecting funds for making propaganda for the Zamindara League, it should be held at least two or three hours later on, in which no permanent official should be allowed to come in. If this had been going on, nobody would object.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I support the motion moved by my Honourable friend Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan.

Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Southal Parganas: Non-Muhammadan): I had no mind to speak on this motion but as the debate proceeded I saw that some points ought to be made clear.

In the first instance, in my opinion, I do not think that the Governor General in Council has much to do with this National Front matter. (*An Honourable Member:* "No".) I am told that the Governor General has got connection with its administration, and the Governor General in Council has not. I want this point to be made clear. This is a constitutional point.

So far as the misapplication or misuse of the National War Front is concerned, I am at one with the Muslim League. I am prepared to support their contention that there should be no misuse or misapplication of the National War Front money or platform. One thing which strikes me is that the Muslim League Party has no soft corner for the Premier of the Punjab. If it is a fact and if the Premier of the Punjab belongs to the Unionist Party and wields influence in his capacity as Leader of the National War Front and uses that influence in favour of the Unionist Party and if the Muslim League Party want to hound him out from every sphere, then that position does not sound logical to our ears. They might have had differences with the Unionist Party and they might not be liking the ways of the Prime Minister of the Punjab because he has differed from them. But, then, the Prime Minister of the Punjab might have his own point of view of the administration. And so far as this aspect is concerned, I think the House must think over the question dispassionately. They should not take the side of the Muslim League because the Muslim League has got a quarrel with the Prime Minister of the Punjab or the Unionist Party in the Punjab. I think my friends of the Muslim League will also be charitable and just in this regard because it will be unjust if it once enters into their mind that so-and-so has differed from the Muslim League and therefore he must pay the penalty and he must be hounded out from every platform and everywhere and even the Central Assembly must be utilised to inflict some punishment upon him. So, looking from that point of view, I felt an urge that I should make it clear that we should not be a party, if this be the lurking intention on the part of the Muslim League Party, namely, to inflict some

punishment on the Prime Minister because he belongs to the Unionist Party or because he had the audacity to differ from Mr. Jinnah or had a quarrel with Mr. Jinnah. If that be their attitude, then they must not expect any help from this House. So far as the misuse of the National War Front is concerned, I felt that no case has been made out against the Prime Minister and so far as the misuse of the platform is concerned, I have got my own suspicion. They say that the man could not have separated his personality while he was acting as the Prime Minister or acting as the Leader of the Unionist Party or acting as the Leader of the National War Front and therefore he might have gained some influence and he might have helped the cause of the Unionist Party in the Punjab. If that be the fault, then that also falls to the ground. It is from that point of view that I want the Muslim League Party to throw more light as to how there has been the misapplication of the National War Front money or the misuse of the National War Front platform.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, I have just come from the Punjab and I have been touring in that province. I went to Khanewal where there was a mass meeting of about 15,000 people. Then, I went to Ludhiana where there was a meeting of 20,000 people. Their united verdict was that Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, in view of the attitude that he has taken up in politics, is a renegade and he has betrayed his community.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order: that is not the question before the House.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Well, Sir, it has been declared from the house-tops of the Unionist Ministry, and Sir Chotū Ram is one of them, that they will crush the life out of the Muslim League Party.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All that does not arise. Honourable Member must not go into Punjab politics.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: The National War Front is the common property of the people of India; everybody can stand on that platform. The money that is collected there is not intended for the purpose of the Zamindara League. Rs. 20 lakhs have already been collected and they say they will raise up to 50 lakhs in order to give support to their party, although they know that the real power that stands behind them are the voters by millions who will have nothing to do with them.

My friend, Mr. Ghiasuddin, gave a certificate to Malik Khizar Hayat Khan from America. May I tell him that the Mussalmans of the Punjab, which is looked upon as the sword arm of the Empire, are no whit less anxious for the successful prosecution of the war than Malik Khizar Hayat Khan and Mr. Ghiasuddin himself are? Even Mr. Gandhi, who is at daggers drawn with the Britishers, has pointed out that he is a pro-Britisher so far as the achievement of the great object is concerned, and that object is to have nothing to do with Fascism or Nazism and to defeat Germany and Japan. Anybody who puts a spoke in this wheel or who places an obstacle in the achievement of this end, is an enemy of the country. The National War Front was intended to be used for raising money and for collecting men and material for the successful prosecution of the war. But in the Punjab this money is being collected for a purpose for which it was never intended, namely, the strengthening of the Unionist Party. Even the material is collected for the purpose of helping the Zamindara League. The Zamindara League is a rival political institution and Malik Khizar Hayat Khan by using its platform, in the name of the National War Front is doing harm to the cause of the war.

Our opponents say that the Mussalmans are against the war and against taking the part in the successful prosecution of the war. There is nothing more untrue than this. We declare here on the floor of the House that we want the success of the Britishers as against Germany and Japan. Our differences with the British Government are in the nature of a home affair. We do not want America or Russia to help us in solving our problems because we are able to help ourselves. Our differences will go on. If after the war is over the promise that the Britishers have made to us of extending to us the right of self-determination is not fulfilled, then we will carry on our fight

[Maulana Zafar Ali Khan.]

against them in this country, but we will never look to America or any other country to help us. With these words I support the motion moved by Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan. I trust the Government will open its eyes and see how things are going on merrily in the Punjab.

Captain Thakur Singh (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, I do not want to take up the time of the House. All that I wish to say is that I quite agree with my friends Sardar Dalpat Singh and Mr. Ghiasuddin.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I may assure the House that I restrained myself very much from entering into this fight which, I may say, is not gracefully done. There are motives expressed against each other and they have even suggested that these things are done out of personal spite. I had thought that I should not enter into this discussion and leave the matter to be decided in the manner they liked the best. On the one side, I see a party representing the Premier of the Punjab and on the other side I see some Members, especially the Mover of the motion, siding the Muslim League. Indeed, I never wanted to enter into this debate from that angle

because in deciding this matter, it should be done solely on merits, and not because one party has a spite that it should have brought the motion and another party that may be in the wrong should come forward and say it is in the right. My object in rising to take part in the discussion is to place before the House certain issues which arise in this case. The first issue is whether this House has constitutionally got the power to go into this debate and the second issue is whether on merits, it is proved that defalcation took place.

An Honourable Member: Is it defalcation?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I meant the use of money for some other purpose. What is the constitutional position involved?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have allowed this motion to be discussed.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I bow to your ruling and I want that the same ruling should hold good for all times. I myself brought to the notice of the House one or two cases of a similar nature and the ruling on those occasions was different. My point is this, the motion wants to censure. Censure whom? Not the Governor General in Council, but the Governor General, because section 54 that has been quoted

An Honourable Member: This motion has nothing to do with that section. (Interruptions.)

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am a disinterested speaker and I hope I will be allowed to have my say without these interruptions. It was said that the Governor General failed in not exercising

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order, this motion has nothing to do with that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it not the contention that the Governor General did not use his discretion

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The motion refers to the Government of India.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: If the motion is against the Government of India, then the Governor General as part of the Government of India comes in

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not bring in the Governor General. This motion does not concern him.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: My submission is that if this is a motion against the Government of India and it is in respect of National War Front of which they have jurisdiction, then it is all right. I understood it the other way. I understood that it was the Governor General's discretion that was being questioned and therefore I was arguing that this House has no jurisdiction.

Coming to the merits, I wish to say only a few words. Certain extracts from newspapers have been read to support the doings of the Premier. On the other hand it was urged that those newspapers were being published by

persons who were interested. I should like to know one thing. Has it been proved up to this time that the money that was actually collected as earmarked for the National War Front was being utilised for the Zamindara League?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not the allegation at all.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I say that should be the allegation and then only on proper proof could the Premier of the Punjab be made responsible.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That has not been alleged by anybody.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The misuse of National War Front money is alleged in this way: that at the time when the Premier addresses as the Leader of the National War Front, he realises some money. At the same time, there is another meeting of the Zamindara League and money is taken for both the organisations. Because the two meetings take place close upon one another, it may be argued that it leads to some suspicion that the money collected for the National War Front was being utilised for the Zamindara League. I submit that that suspicion alone is not enough to censure the Government and I do hope this motion will not be pursued any further.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Sir, I will be very brief in my reply. The Honourable the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party started by saying that there were three points raised in this Motion for Adjournment. The first was that the National War Front was not doing its legitimate business; secondly, that the National War Front was being misused for a certain purpose and thirdly, that this action has created hostility amongst a large section of the people. Now, Sir, as regards the first, that the National War Front is not doing its legitimate work, I do not find one word of it in the Adjournment Motion itself. Then we come to the misuse. I submit it is purely a question of fact. I will deal with that later. As regards the allegation that it has created hostility amongst a large section, I do not see much evidence of that from the Punjab Members of this House, at any rate. Therefore the main point to be considered is this: whether the National War Front Organisation has been misused for the purpose of propaganda in favour of or for collection of funds for a political party, namely, the Zamindara League. Sir, when I came to know of an allegation of this kind sometime ago, about a couple of months ago, I got into touch with the Provincial Leader and I got his assurance at that time there was no such misuse at all, and having been satisfied on that point, no further action was taken or could be taken. Sir, there has been a certain amount of, call it squabble, call it controversy, call it by any name you like, but undoubtedly there has been a violent difference of opinion between the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, the Premier, who is also the National War Front Leader and the Muslim League Party in the Punjab. Therefore, I beg of the House to consider this question from an absolutely disinterested point of view. I have got a categorical denial of this allegation from the Government of the Punjab and also from the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana and I feel happy that in this House that denial has been supported by at least three Punjab Members of this House, one of them being the District Leader himself present at certain meetings and he has given us what I submit convincing reasons for supposing that the National War Front organisation was not being misused at all. Unless and until this House has got some more clear and more cogent evidence before it, I feel confident that this Motion for Adjournment will not be accepted. The National War Front, I have been assured, has nothing to do with the Unionist party or the Zamindara League, and no funds of the National War Front have been used for the Zamindara League and no funds of the Zamindara League or the Unionist Party have been used for the National War Front organisation. The practice has been long before the present Premier came to office, since the time of Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan, that when the premier used to go about the province various addresses used to be presented to him by public bodies, for instance, the local bodies or the Khalsa Defence League or the Soldiers' Board and so on.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: Were any addresses presented on behalf of any political party?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: If there was any political party, addresses must have been presented; and if there was none, no address was presented. But it is well known that under the auspices of the National War Front organisation no purses were received by him as leader of the National War Front. The fact is that a National War Front meeting was held, addresses were presented to him by the different leaders of the different subdivisions or districts if held in the divisional headquarters, and then after that was over his reply was given. Another address was then presented to him on behalf of the District League or the Khalsa League or the Defence League or, for the matter of that, the Zamindara League; and after one meeting was over the other meeting was held, and so on. But it is not correct to say that any National War Front platform was utilised for the purpose of collecting any funds for the Zamindara League or for promoting its interests. In fact I am assured that no funds are actually collected in the meetings of the National War Front at all.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I did not say that.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I say that, and it is for the House to consider the effect of my submission, that no funds were collected at any meeting of the National War Front either for the Zamindara League or any other League; nothing was done which would in any way show the connection of the two. But it is true that the Premier happens to be the provincial Leader also and therefore an address must be presented to him as such on behalf of the National War Front. But I do not see how it can be suggested for a moment that the National War Front organisation was being utilised for purposes of propaganda in favour of or for the collection of funds for the Zamindara League. Certain quotations have been cited by my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League party. I could also come with hundreds of quotations of that kind from paper supporting a different organisation. There is such a controversy going on between the different sections of the people there that I think the House would be well advised not to attach the slightest importance to these quotations. Quotations from the *Zamindar*, I say with great respect to my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader and also to the owner of that paper when he comes to support this motion, cannot be of much value as there are other people who know the position of that particular paper. It is a party paper and as such is bound to support that party and the party will support it. I have no doubt that the language which has been used here by my Honourable friend Maulana Zafar Ali Khan might have been used in some of the articles there; but that will not in any way influence the Members of this House to accept this motion.

Now, it is true that the Unionist Party is entirely for war efforts; and the Zamindara League also is entirely for war efforts.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Sir, on a point of personal explanation . . .

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: I am not giving way, the time at my disposal is short.

The National War Front is of course cent per cent for war efforts but there are other things in the Zamindara League and the other Leagues which do not find a place in the National War Front organisation. And therefore it has been pointed out to me on the authority of the Punjab Government that some people who were members of the National War Front left it and went over to the Zamindara League. That shows that the two bodies are absolutely separate and one has nothing to do with the other except that the aims and objects, so far as the war efforts go, are the same. But there are so many other things which you find in the other organisations which are not covered by the National War Front. I submit, Sir, that the fact that addresses from different organisations were presented to him at a meeting where an address was presented to him as Leader of the National War Front will not in any way militate against his acting as Premier so far as the other organisations are concerned. I therefore submit to the House that the House will take a dispassionate view of this

matter and not be influenced by the party troubles that have unfortunately arisen in that province, and I do submit that the House will answer this motion by rejecting it.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-official): Sir, I have listened to the debate very attentively. The Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party had made a statement that at a meeting called under the auspices of the National War Front the Premier of the Punjab made a speech, of which some quotations were given. This speech has been characterised, in my judgment very rightly, as a partisan speech and not a speech which should be made from the platform of the National War Front. The Honourable the Leader of the House seemed to me to admit that several meetings were held at the same place one after another for different purposes,—first a meeting under the auspices of the National War Front was held and when it finished its work another meeting was held at the same place under the auspices of some other organisation, and when that was over a third meeting was held under the auspices of a third organisation. I feel that at the best every Member of the Legislature will admit that this is a procedure of questionable wisdom. To hold meetings under the auspices of three organisations consecutively at the same place one after another is surely in my judgment a step of questionable wisdom. I am sure the Leader of the House will admit it.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: He does not.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: He ought to. I say that if the Government of India want to keep the National War Front a non-party organisation they should avoid occasions of this kind. If meetings are held at the same place consecutively under the auspices of three or four organisations for different purposes, there is bound to be a misunderstanding in the mind of the public.

There is also another mistake on the part of the National War Front, namely, to appoint as its leaders people who have to take part in partisan controversies and partisan politics. If the Government of India want the National War Front to be considered a national organisation and not a party organisation, then again to appoint party leaders as leaders of National War Front is a policy of questionable wisdom.

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: The Government of India do not appoint provincial leaders.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: If they do not appoint them they are in any case responsible for the whole of the National War Front and the Government of India should see that when leaders are appointed for the National War Front they are not drawn from the classes of people who are bound to take part in partisan politics. I therefore feel, Sir, that the effect on my mind of this discussion is that the Government of India is not taking sufficient care to see that the National War Front is kept as a non-partisan body and I would suggest to the Government to change this policy. At least let them be more careful and see that the National War Front is not tainted with partisanship.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): I have listened to the debate with great interest and with a great deal of attention. There is no doubt that the occasion has been taken by the supporters as well as opponents of this motion to plead their loyalty to a particular individual or condemn his actions. To my mind the motion did not relate to the issue of this sort. The issue is pregnant with a greater evil than probably has been realised by most of the speakers in this House. The issue is this: whether such contributions which I term as 'forced levies' under different names—and one of those 'forced levies' was the contributions to the War Purposes Fund which was stopped by the orders of the Government of India some times back—will end in maintaining peace in the country? Before I proceed further I may remind my Honourable friends that in the last war, as it is being done in this war, forced levies were made. The result was that as soon as the Defence Rules were withdrawn or relaxed and the country reverted to normal times after the Armistice, there burst out unprecedented violence in the country which resulted in the imposition of Martial Law, and so many brutal slaughters and massacres in the

[Sardar Sant Singh.]

Punjab. May I remind the Government of India that though under the Defence of India Rules we are becoming . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): We have not got anything to do with the Defence of India Rules in this matter.

Sardar Sant Singh: I only wish to say . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should not go into the application of the Defence of India Rules. I know it is a favourite subject of the Honourable Member.

Sardar Sant Singh: It is, Sir, but I am only pressing this point that these collections for the Zamindara Fund and their presentation to the Premier of the Province on a National War Front platform is merely a camouflage. The real object is something different and it forebodes dire consequences for the future. Sir, I am conscious of the fact that the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party has raised this motion because of the rebuff Muslim League received from the Unionist Party. I have great respect for my Honourable friend's abilities. But the fact remains that he did not raise similar motions, with regard to Bengal when Mr. Fazlul Huque was made to resign forcibly, he did not raise the question when in the North-West Frontier Province the Ministry was changed. Either when similar undemocratic actions were taken in Assam and in Sind. I wish his constitutional conscience should have been touched. There is, therefore, no doubt that motive behind this motion is of a questionable value. Yet the fact remains that the motion on its merit is a sound one. The Government of India should do well to turn their attention to the merits of the motion. Sir, I may relate one case which happened recently and which the press has not published. In the town of Gojra, about 30 miles from Lyallpur, a similar meeting was convened where people were asked to make contributions. The conduct of the conveners exasperated one man to such a degree that he became mad over this 'forcible levy', and made a murderous assault upon the organiser of the meeting. He was pursued by the Police and was shot dead. The reason that led to such unfortunate results was that his father was asked to contribute Rs. 100 to one of such funds. His old father did not have that much as his whole capital. The humiliation of his father upset the youngman leading to tragic consequences. This has happened recently. May I ask whether the Government of India will not rise to the occasion and stop these forced levies. There are so many contributions to be made and so many funds are started—Zamindara Fund, Saving Schemes and War loans—that it has become hard for the people to live.

The second point, to which my Honourable friend Sir Muhammad Yamin has drawn attention, requires serious consideration, and that is the utilization of the civil services for the purposes of party propaganda and for the collection of funds. This is being done every day and probably in every province. There is no dearth of it in the Punjab. Meetings are organised, the headmen of villages are required to bring people to these meetings and to contribute forcibly. I do not think the National War Front was intended for that purpose. The object of the National War Front was to keep up the morale of the civil population during the war and to help in the war effort. It is very doubtful whether war effort is helped by such conduct of civil servants. The Leader of the House may say that he has received a clear denial. It may be true that he received a complete denial; but the fact remains that all the facts stated by the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party are correct word for word. These things are done, we know it, we see it; we are witnessing it daily. For the purpose of debate you may say anything to win this point or lose that point—that is not the question. The question is that the country is passing through terrible times. If people are silent, it is because of the Defence of India Rules. Therefore don't you judge the silence of people, the want of people being vocal by the fact that there is no such complaint in the country. Press cannot publish such incidents; people cannot speak about them; they are bearing it all quietly. But I am afraid that when this suppression ends there will be a ter-

rible reaction to the disadvantage of any established Government. I give this warning to the Government before it is too late.

Some Honourable Members: Question may be put.

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

"That the question be now put."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—50.

Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab Sir.
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
 Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
 Azizul Huqè, The Honourable Sir M.
 Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
 Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
 Caroe, Sir. Olaf.
 Chandavarkar, Sir Vithal N.
 Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
 Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
 Daga, Seth Sunder Lall.
 Dalal, Dr. Sir Ratanji Dinshaw.
 Dalal, The Honourable Sir Ardeshir.
 Dalpat Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
 Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
 Gwilt, Mr. E. L. C.
 Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur Sheikh.
 Haidar, Khan Bahadur Shamsuddin.
 Imam, Mr. Saiyid Haidar.
 Inskip, Mr. A. C.
 Ismaiel Alikhan, Kunwer Hajee.
 James, Sir F. E.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
 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.
 Lawson, Mr. C. P.
 Mehta, Mr. Jammadas M.
 Miller, Mr. C. C.
 Muazzam, Sahib Bahadur, Mr. Muhammad.
 Mudaliar, The Honourable Dewan Bahadur
 Sir A. Ramaswami.
 Mudie, The Honourable Sir Francis.
 Piere Lall Kureal, Mr.
 Raisman, The Honourable Sir Jeremy.
 Rao, Dr. V. K. R. V.
 Richardson, Sir Henry.
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
 Sethna, Mr. D. P.
 Shahban, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir
 Muhammad.
 Shoobert, Mr. W. H.
 Siva Raj, Rao, Bahadur N.
 Spence, Sir George.
 Srivastava, The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad.
 Stokes, Mr. H. G.
 Sultan Ahmed, The Honourable Sir.
 Thakur Singh, Capt.
 Trivedi, Mr. C. M.
 Tyson, Mr. J. D.

NOES—38.

Abdul Ghani, Maulvi Muhammad.
 Abdul Qaiyum, Mr.
 Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
 Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
 Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
 Chattonadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
 Choudhury, Mr. Muhammad Hussain.
 Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
 Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
 Deshmukh, Mr. Govind V.
 Easak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
 Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh
 Gauri Shankar Singh, Mr.
 Gupta, Mr. K. S.
 Joshi, Mr. N. M.
 Kailash Bihari Lall, Mr.
 Krishnamachari, Mr. T. T.
 Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
 Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.

Lalljee, Mr. Hooseinbhoy A.
 Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada Muhammad.
 Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.
 Manu Subedar, Mr.
 Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
 Naidu, Mr. G. Rangiah.
 Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
 Neogy, Mr. K. C.
 Raza Ali, Sir Syed.
 Sant Singh, Sardar.
 Satvanarayana Moorty, Mr. A.
 Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
 Sinha, Mr. Satva Narayan.
 Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
 Vamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
 Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
 Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
 Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

The motion was adopted.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I am indeed sorry that some of the Honourable Members have considered it fit to drag in the political quarrel between the Muslim League and the Premier of the Punjab. I am more sorry that the Leader of the House should have lent his support to it. I have not brought forward this motion because there is a quarrel between the Premier of the Punjab and the Muslim League. Let me assure the Honourable the Leader of the House and the other Honourable Members of this House that the Muslim League, thank God, today does not need the support of the Members of this House to fight its political quarrels with others. The Muslim League has through the strength which it enjoys brought down bigger men than Malik Khizar Havât Khan Tiwana. I am indeed very sorry that this Government of India should have a Member for Information who is so misinformed and so ill-informed. He said that I have failed to show that any political speeches have

[Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan].
 been made from the National War Front platform. I thought I had given quotations from more than one speech of the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana. I had given quotations from speeches which were published in the *Tribune* of Lahore and which up to to-day have not been contradicted that the Honourable Malik did not make those speeches.

Now let me educate the Honourable Member for Information by giving a quotation of another speech. It is definitely stated that this was a meeting at Lyallpur:

"Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, while speaking at the National War Front Conference held at Lyallpur last evening (*this is quoted in the "Tribune" of the 31st July, dak edition*) criticised the Muslim League for its refusal to co-operate with and work on the various Post-war reconstruction committees appointed by the Government and referred to the treatment accorded to Sir Sultan Ahmed and some distinguished Punjabees by expelling them from the League for having refused to withdraw from the Government committee."

Now I understand the tender feeling which the Honourable Member has for the Leader of the Punjab National War Front!

Further on, the Honourable Member says that Malik Khizar Hayat Khan never made any speech in support of the Zamindara League from the platform of the National War Front. "This was a conference held by the National War Front. It is not a question of replying to the address of the Zamindara League: I will deal with that in a moment:

"While replying to the charge that the activities of the Zamindara League were opposed to the interests of the rural and backward classes, the Premier declared that he and his party would continue to serve the poor and work for the uplift of the backward classes, a majority of whom happened to be Muslims."

Sir, there are really so many quotations from his speeches published in the papers that I think it would be brazen-faced on the part of any Honourable Member of this House to say that the Honourable Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana has not made political speeches from the National War Front platform and I challenge anybody to deny that or ask the Punjab Premier to deny that all these reports which have been published in the papers during the last four or five months are untrue. On the contrary, my information is that before the Honourable the Premier goes to any place he sends an advance copy of his speech to these papers and they publish it under his authority. It is not a question of publishing anything that he has said and which has been reported by some correspondent.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend said and some other Members are also confused, that I said that the funds of the National War Front were being utilised for other purposes. I never said that. What I said was this: that the National War Front organisation was being misused and that funds were being collected and I have definite information and if the Honourable Member for Misinformation is willing to appoint a committee of enquiry, I shall be glad to furnish him with such unimpeachable evidence that he will really be surprised, although I do not think he is so ignorant as he pretends to be. What I said was that all this money was being collected in the name of the people who are supposed to work for the National War Front organisation. All this money is being presented to deceive the people from whom the money has been collected at these meetings of the National War Front, so that they may not doubt that this money was being collected for other purposes.

I am sorry that the Honourable Member referred to the late Sir Sikandar Hayat Khan. I do not remember that on any single occasion he had made at any meeting of the National War Front a political speech, criticising any political party. He made speeches in support of the war effort. He made speeches in support of strengthening the home front and the purses that were presented to the late Sir Sikandar were all presented for purposes of the war. I challenge my Honourable friend, the Member for Misinformation, to prove that on a single occasion any purse was presented to the late Sir Sikandar, which was meant for propagating any political party's creed. It is absolutely wrong to say that the attitude of the present leader of the National War Front is exactly the same as that of his predecessor.

Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Ghiasuddin said that the Punjab is a peculiar province. After his speech I am inclined to agree with him, because the arguments which he gave were most peculiar. I never charged the Zamindara League. My objection is that the platform which was meant and intended and which is declared to be non-political and non-communal and only for the purpose of fighting this war should not be used for any other purpose and I think I have succeeded in showing that that is what is actually happening now.

My Honourable friend, the Member for Misinformation, stated that he was very happy to see that at least three members from the Punjab had stood up for the attitude which has been taken up by the Leader of the National War Front in the Punjab. I do not mean any disrespect to any of the Honourable Members of this House but I think five Members have spoken on this motion from the Punjab. Two of them are Nominated Members. One is a Member who represents a special constituency of a few individuals. I am referring to my Honourable friend Mr. Ghiasuddin. The two Members who represent the people of the Punjab, my Honourable friend Sardar Sant Singh and my Honourable friend Mr. Zafar Ali Khan have supported me in this motion which I have placed before this Honourable House.

Sir, it was I think very unfortunate that my Honourable friend the Leader of the House should have referred to the *Zamindar* in the terms in which he did. I did not read out any leading article from that paper. Let me tell him that the *Zamindar* is not a party paper in the sense in which he intended it to be. I did not read out any leading article from the *Zamindar*. I was only reading out statements issued by responsible members of the public in the Punjab. They have issued those statements and they have been published in the paper. I do not know how he can really put this matter aside by saying that "the *Zamindar* is a party paper. Party papers have to do this". I think that it is the duty of every newspaper to publish every matter which is of common interest and of public interest to the people. The *Zamindar* only did this duty by publishing the statements which were issued by these responsible men.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Ghiasuddin stated that the gentleman who was removed from the District leadership of the National War Front of Montgomery was not showing sufficient interest in the organisation. Well, it is very strange that this very gentleman was praised to the skies by the Leader of the National War Front till the beginning of 1944. It was only after the Leader of the National War Front started misusing the platform of this organisation for his political purposes that he discovered that this Honourable Member was not doing his duty by the National War Front.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: I suppose till then the National War Front Leader was an angel!

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: As far as my Honourable friend Mr. Kailash Bihari Lall is concerned, I am sorry that he has committed the same fallacy; that I had brought forward this motion on the floor of this House, because of our quarrel with Malik Khizar Hayat Khan. That is not the fact. I brought this on the floor of this House because I felt that this was a matter which was going to affect the public life and the working of democratic parliamentary system of government in this country very seriously. The intention of the Government is to continue this organisation even after the war. I shall deal with that on another occasion; and if this organisation is going to be used for such purposes as I have described, then I say that it will indeed be a sad day for this country and for the future of this country that the Government money and the Government officials and the Government influence should be used for propping up any particular political party. I was expecting really a better answer from the Honourable Leader of the House; and I would request him to devote a little more time and read the speeches which have been made by Malik Khizar Hayat Khan, not at Zamindara League meetings, not at district board meetings but at meetings held by the National War Front Organisation of the Punjab. I want him to read those speeches. Why should you

depend on what the Government of the Punjab has written and assured you saying "Oh, no; we are not doing this"? God has given you intelligence; God has given you sense; you can read the speeches yourself and find out for yourself whether it is really propagating the political views of any particular political party from the platform of the National War Front Organisation or not. It is not a secret; it is open; everybody knows it; everybody in the Punjab who reads the papers knows it; and those who do not read the papers also know it because money is extracted from them by force. So, it is really not a matter on which secret or confidential opinion of the Punjab Government was to be considered as final. I again repeat and I submit to my Honourable friend who is in charge of this organisation to really consider this matter seriously. If you are going to allow that an organisation like that should be used by political parties for private purposes, then it will create a very serious situation. It is one party in power today—it may be another party tomorrow and there will be so much demoralisation

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has got one minute more.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: of the services and of the people that the future of this country would indeed be very dark.

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

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 2nd November, 1944.