

19th March 1946

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

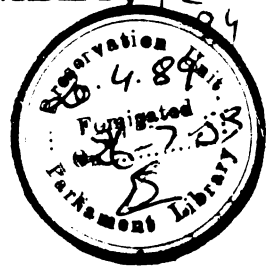
Volume IV, 1946 *81x1/73*

(15th March to 30th March, 1946)

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1946



PUBLISHED BY THE MANAGER OF PUBLICATIONS, DELHI, INDIA
PRINTED BY THE MANAGER GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI, INDIA
1947

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 19th March, 1946.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

Dr. Sir John Philip Sargent, C. I. E., M. L. A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

Mr. President: Mr. Manu Subedar.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I have been authorised by Mr. Manu Subedar to put the questions standing in his name.

Mr. President: May I have the authority?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I gave it to the Secretary.

Mr. President: The questions will be taken up at the end.†

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

GOVERNMENT POLICY *RE* BROADCASTING NEWS, DISCOURSES OR MUSIC IN ENGLISH
1028. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of **Mr. Manu Subedar**):

(a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be pleased to give an idea of progressive increase of licences in connection with broadcasting during the last six years?

(b) Have any cases been detected of working radios without licences?

(c) What percentage of the total time is given for English news, discourses or music in (i) Bombay, (ii) Calcutta and (iii) Delhi?

(d) Have Government any information as to the percentage of non-Indian, *i.e.*, European licence-holders? If so, what is their percentage in the total?

(e) Why do Government give English music and news in English and discourses in English when the bulk of the licence-holders are Indians?

(f) Have Government received any representations on this subject either against the time given to the English language, or in its favour?

(g) What is Government's considered policy in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) I place a statement on the table.

(b) Yes.

(c) (i) Bombay—18 per cent., (ii) Calcutta—21 per cent., (iii) Delhi—22 per cent.

(d) No.

(e) Besides non-Indian listeners, a considerable number of Indians listen to English Talks and Western Music. The majority of those who broadcast talks in English are Indians.

(f) No, but listeners' criticisms and appreciations of these as well as other programmes are duly considered.

(g) The maintenance of the *status quo* modified from time to time in the light of public opinion.

†These questions have, however, been printed in these debates in their serial order.—*Ed. of D.*

Statement showing the number of licences for radio receiving sets

On 31st March 1940	97,537
On 31st March 1941	1,25,347
On 31st March 1942	1,55,733
On 31st March 1943	1,67,123
On 31st March 1944	1,80,633
On 31st March 1945	1,99,510

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the unsettled condition of the world, will Government collect the information asked for in part (d)?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why do you not want to collect this information.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: How can you find out the number of European licence-holders. That will mean an all-India inquiry. Licences change. A man sells his radio. A man hires it from somebody else.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that Government are absolutely indifferent as to the nationality of the licence-holder and also to the probable politics of that gentleman in case there is a war?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: The Government are entirely indifferent because anybody can buy a radio or hire a radio.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the licences of a large number of Congress men were withdrawn in 1942?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I have no knowledge of it, but I will find out.

Seth Govind Das: With reference to clause (d) of the question, the Honourable Member just mentioned a certain percentage of the English news and the broadcast in English, which is, I think, more than 20 per cent. Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state when the percentage of Englishmen in this country is so low, why such a large percentage of English broadcasting is allowed?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: My Honourable friend must be aware that quite a number of Indians do listen to broadcasts in the English language and quite a number also speak on the radio in English.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member know that this percentage of Indian people who listen to English news and English broadcast is only because they are not getting enough Hindustani broadcast and other messages in Hindustani?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: That is a matter of opinion.

HONORARIUM FOR INDIAN MUSIC AT DELHI RADIO STATION

1029. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of **Mr. Manu Subedar**):

(a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state whether Government have got a very powerful transmitter at Delhi?

(b) Have Government considered the issue of relaying good music from Delhi to three or four other centres and are there any technical or other reasons why this scheme should not be tried?

(c) What is the highest honorarium or reward for the Indian music at the Delhi Radio Station?

(d) Are Government aware that musicians or singers of good reputation do not care to come for this standard of reward?

(e) Have Government considered whether it is possible to increase these rewards in certain cases and thus relay the superior music to other stations?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) A certain number of such relays are in fact arranged.

- (c) Information about fees paid to individual artists is confidential and cannot be disclosed.
- (d) I am advised that this is not the case.
- (e) Does not arise.

EXPENDITURE ON BROADCASTING AND AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.

1030. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (on behalf of **Mr. Manu Subedar**):

(a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state from how many stations broadcasting is now taking place, and what the personnel at each station is?

(b) What is the total cost incurred in connection with these stations, and what were the figures of expenditure in connection with each station during the last five years?

(c) Have Government looked into the question of the increased cost?

(d) Who sanctions the extra expenditure, and what steps have been taken to prevent unnecessary increase?

(e) Are the accounts of the Broadcasting Department audited and are the accounts of each station separately audited?

(f) How many officials, besides the Station Director, are at Delhi?

(g) What is the number of the Station Directors, and what are the remunerations given to each of them?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Nine. A statement showing the sanctioned strength of the staff at each Station (excluding inferior staff) is placed on the table.

(b) (1) The total capital cost of these Stations is Rs. 71,33,252.

(2) I place a statement on the table.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Governor General in Council. Proposals involving minor additions to the expenditure in All-India Radio are first examined by the Information and Arts Department and thereafter by the Finance Department. Proposals involving substantial additions to expenditure are placed before the Standing Finance Committee of the Legislature after the Information and Arts and the Finance Departments have examined them.

(e) Yes.

(f) 108 permanent and 35 temporary.

(g) *First part.*—9.

Second part.—A statement containing the required information is placed on the table.

STATEMENT II

Statements showing the (recurring) expenditure of Stations of All-India Radio

Year	Delhi	Bombay	Calcutta	Madras	Lahore	Luoknow	Dacca	Trichinopoly	Peasavar
1940-41	Rs. 4,11,290	Rs. 3,50,857	Rs. 3,61,854	Rs. 2,76,178	Rs. 2,35,785	Rs. 2,26,255	Rs. 1,38,711	Rs. 1,90,595	Rs. 54,837
1941-42	4,51,644	3,82,856	4,05,176	3,00,217	2,44,119	3,36,474	1,53,910	2,15,696	68,352
1942-43	5,58,628	3,82,308	4,00,730	3,51,932	2,58,341	2,51,221	1,73,378	2,45,245	1,36,100
1943-44	5,05,212	4,05,339	4,47,506	4,00,091	2,82,299	2,70,980	1,92,513	2,62,670	1,95,641
1944-45	6,38,400	4,76,000	4,89,200	4,45,790	3,38,200	3,19,100	2,38,700	3,20,300	2,37,900

Statement showing the salaries drawn by the Station Director of All-India Radio

	Rs.
Bombay	1,050 Plus Rs. 100 Special Pay.
Delhi	700 Plus Rs. 150 Special Pay.
Madras	675 Plus Rs. 100 Special Pay.
Calcutta	600 Plus Rs. 100 Special Pay.
Dacca	650
Lahore	600
Trichinopoly	600
Lucknow	600
Peshawar	575

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: With reference to part (c) of the question, may I know with what results?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: The result is stated in the Budget allotment.

REPRESENTATIONS AGAINST INCIDENCE AND OPERATION OF EXCISE DUTY ON TOBACCO.

1031. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (on behalf of **Mr. Manu Subedar**):

(a) Has the Honourable the Finance Member received representations complaining against the incidence and the operation of the excise duty on tobacco?

(b) What is the principal complaint in connection with this levy?

(c) What is the yield of this duty since it was levied, for the period for which the figures are available?

(d) On what class did Government expect this duty to fall, and has it really fallen on that class?

(e) Is it not a fact that the producer of tobacco is penalised, contrary to Government's expectations and assurances?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Yes.

(b) Complaints have been various as was inevitable in the early stages of a new and extensive measure of this kind, and no particular complaint has predominated.

(c) The yield is as follows:

1943-44—Rs. 9,65 lakhs.

1944-45—Rs. 17,28 lakhs.

1945-46—Rs. 17,35 lakhs.

(April-January)

(d) It is rarely possible to determine in advance the exact incidence of a particular tax. By and large, it was expected that this tax would fall on the consumer and this was borne out by the rise in price of the article after the imposition of the duty.

(e) No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that Government have been apprised of the fact that with regard to part (d) of this question the tobacco growers are also being penalised?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir, but every tax-payer claims that he cannot bear the tax.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We have not been able to follow you at all. This is the easiest way of answering a question.

REPRESENTATIONS AGAINST INCIDENCE AND OPERATION OF EXCISE DUTY ON
ARECA NUTS

1032. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (on behalf of Mr. Manu Subedar):

(a) Has the Honourable the Finance Member received representations complaining against the incidence and the operation of the excise duty on areca nuts?

(b) What is the principal complaint in connection with this levy?

(c) What is the yield of this duty since it was levied, for the period for which the figures are available?

(d) On what class did Government expect this duty to fall, and has it really fallen on that class?

(e) Is it not a fact that the producer of areca nuts is penalised, contrary to Government's expectations and assurances?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The chief complaint has been that the burden of the duty has fallen principally on the producer.

(c) The revenue so far realised from this excise is as follows:

1944-45—Rs. 1,32 lakhs.

1945-46—Rs. 1,51 lakhs.

(April-January).

(d) and (e). It is rarely possible to determine in advance the exact incidence of a particular tax. By and large, it was expected that the tax would fall on the consumer. But, owing to the poor bargaining position of the grower *vis-a-vis* the wholesaler and the expectations of large imports of foreign nuts, the probabilities that it would fall on the consumer have not been realised.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not also a fact that due to the carelessness or callousness of the Central Board of Revenue raw areca nut is being made to pay as per weight?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has it been brought to the notice of the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Allegations to that effect have been brought to the notice and the Department have satisfied themselves that the complaint was unfounded.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member order an impartial inquiry into this matter?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I do not know what he means by an impartial inquiry. I have never known my officers to carry out these inquiries improperly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that a suit was filed by the growers themselves and the judgment was given against the Government?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: If the judgment has been delivered as stated, that is the end of it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The suit was on the specific issue that, contrary to the Act, duty was being collected on raw areca nuts instead of collecting it on cured areca nuts?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I think there is a technical difficulty about the cured areca nuts.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are taken by Government to get over this technical difficulty and what answer is being given to the growers?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: As my Honourable friend knows, the Department is always willing to discuss, with the growers or with their very vocal representatives, any legitimate complaints that they may have.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: In view of the fair admission by the Honourable the Finance Member in his Budget speech that the incidence of tax has fallen on the growers, may I know whether the Honourable Member is prepared to give some relief to the growers pending the setting up of a proper marketing arrangement to protect them?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That is one of the matters I am chewing over.

Sri A. Karunakara Menon: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member has admitted in his Budget speech that the grower is unable to pass on the excise duty to consumers and also seeing that he is already paying a land tax, will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of abolishing the excise duty on betel nuts altogether?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have just answered that.

WORKING HOURS OF GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

1033. *Sri N. Narayanamurthy: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the inconvenience caused to the General Headquarters staff and their families as a result of the working hours of the General Headquarters being longer than those of the other Departments of the Government of India;

(b) whether the recent announcement fixing the working hours of all Civil Departments of the Secretariat from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. will apply to the General Headquarters as well; and

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the negative, do Government propose to bring the General Headquarters also in line with the other Civil Departments of the Secretariat in the matter of working hours?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir, Government are conscious of the inconvenience these longer hours of work and no closed holidays or free Saturday afternoons have caused to persons employed in Defence Headquarters. In fact I am very conscious of that myself. At the end of hostilities there was a reduction of work in some branches of the Headquarters but not by any means in all, and in fact in some Directorates work has increased. It was thought therefore preferable in the interest of the tax payer, to reduce personnel where possible and to keep the war-time office hours, except for the introduction of a free Saturday afternoon. These amount to slightly less than 40 hours a week.

(b) and (c). Although the work is still very heavy and there is much to be done, it has now been decided that with effect from 1st March closed holidays will be observed, and with effect from 1st April office hours will be those observed by other Departments. In fact, however, if the work is to be finished, few officers will be able to work to these hours and many clerks will also have to work outside office hours.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In reply to part (a) of the question the Honourable Member has said that persons employed in Defence Headquarters have longer hours of work than those of other Departments. May I know how many hours on an average per day they work at present?

Mr. P. Mason: At present it works out on an average to slightly less than 40 hours, and from the 1st of April it will be slightly less than 35 hours.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When does he propose extending this order to that Department also?

Mr. P. Mason: I have explained that we are coming into line with other Departments with effect from the 1st of April 1946.

SUSPICION AGAINST MR. D. W. FRASER DISCHARGED FROM ARMY

†1034. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether the Government of India have ever entertained any suspicions against Mr. D. W. Fraser who was discharged from the Army (or his parents), that they had at any time been engaged in any activities whatsoever which they considered might be prejudicial to the safety or security of the State?

(b) If so, did these suspicions originate in India, or were they communicated to him through His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom?

(c) Has the Central Government ever entertained any suspicions of any kind against Mr. D. W. Fraser?

Mr. P. Mason: With your permission Sir, I will answer questions 1034 to 1038 together.

The man referred to in these questions was an Emergency Commissioned Officer of the rank of Lieutenant in the Scinde Horse. There has never been any suspicion of any kind against him nor was he ever subjected to surveillance while a serving soldier in the field. He first began to show signs of abnormality in March 1941, and became more and more mentally unstable, until he had to be placed on the sick list in P.A.I. Command in July 1943. His disease was diagnosed as Schizophrenia Paranoia by the Medical Board which examined him on the 23rd of that month. He was accordingly graded in medical category 'E' and returned to India where he arrived in the beginning of October that year. He was again medically boarded in Karachi on the 27th of that month. His medical category 'E' was confirmed but the diagnosis on this occasion was Obsessional Neurosis. The case was then reviewed by the Standing Medical Board at Poona who again confirmed the medical category as 'E' but changed the diagnosis to Schizophrenia Paranoia. I need only explain that Obsessional Neurosis may be said to be a mild form of Schizophrenia Paranoia, which is a disease of the mind that we laymen should call a persecution complex. As he had three times been graded in medical category 'E' he was not considered fit for military service. He was therefore relieved of military duties and asked to relinquish his Commission.

In questions 1034, 1035, 1036, and 1037 (a) to (d), the Honourable Member has asked me 26 separate questions, to every one of which the answer is either "No" or "Does not arise". With regard to 1037 (e) the answer is "Yes", he was discharged as suffering from a form of insanity. (f) Not exactly at variance; the difference is a matter of degree (g) There is no reason to suppose there was a mistake.

1038 (a) to (e). I do not think there would be any point in entering into discussion regarding the regulations with an officer suffering from this form of obsession.

(f) I venture to suggest, Sir, that this is a question which might well have been raised in the first place by a private letter to me; and I would have explained the position privately to the Honourable Member had I received the facts earlier.

SUSPICION AGAINST MR. D. W. FRASER DISCHARGED FROM ARMY.

‡1035. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether the Central Government ever made any request or issued any directive to the Provincial Government to take any action due to their suspicions?

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

‡ For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1034.

- (b) Did the Provincial Government accede to their request and take action?
- (c) Did the action take the form of police surveillance?
- (d) If so, are the police continuing to watch and report his movements or take any other measures to harass and annoy Mr. D. W. Fraser?
- (e) Have the military authorities ever entertained any suspicions of any kind against Mr. D. W. Fraser during his service in the Army?
- (f) If so, what were the suspicions?
- (g) Was he treated as a 'suspect'?
- (h) Were military officers ever used in the guise of *agents provocateurs* in their dealings with Mr. D. W. Fraser?
- (i) Was he ever placed under special surveillance with his correspondence, conversation and all his movements subjected to that system of observation and report which is usually considered as being the monopoly of the German 'gestapo'?

INTERROGATION OF MR. D. W. FRASER BY ADMINISTERING SPECIAL DRUG.

- +1036. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if Government are aware that Mr. D. W. Fraser was sent to hospital at Baghdad in order that the authorities might have an opportunity of either confirming or disproving their suspicions?
- (b) Is it a fact that he was given a drug, known as the 'truth' drug, perhaps Penathol Z, for purposes of interrogation?
- (c) How many times was Mr. D. W. Fraser given this special drug and interrogated in this way?
- (d) Is it a fact that this drug has the effect of overpowering all resistance of the will and compelling a person to speak?
- (e) Was the interrogation of Mr. D. W. Fraser carried out in such a manner as to classify it as 'third degree'?
- (f) Was Mr. D. W. Fraser ever asked to confess whilst he was in hospital?
- (g) Is it a fact that Mr. D. W. Fraser was hypnotized or kept under hypnotic influence during his detention in hospital?
- (h) If so, what was the object?
- (i) How many times was he subjected to hypnosis?
- (j) Will the Honourable Member please state the method of inducing Hypnosis that was employed?

INTERROGATION OF MR. D. W. FRASER BY ADMINISTERING SPECIAL DRUG

- +1037. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether any information was extracted from Mr. D. W. Fraser whilst he was in the hypnotic state?
- (b) Was Mr. D. W. Fraser ever psycho-analysed in hospital?
- (c) If so, will the Honourable Member please state the psycho-analytical method employed?
- (d) Did the authorities make a calculated use of terror in an attempt to break his spirit whilst in hospital?
- (e) Is it a fact that he was discharged from the military hospital, Poona, as well as from the Army as suffering from a form of insanity?
- (f) Is this at variance with a diagnosis by a previous Medical Board?

*For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1034.

(g) Does the Honourable Member think it possible that the Standing Medical Board at Poona might also have made a mistake?

TREATMENT GIVEN TO MR. D. W. FRASER IN HOSPITAL.

†1033. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether he proposes to make available a detailed report of the treatment given to Mr. D. W. Fraser during the six months that he was detained in hospital including all the factors which led the Army Medical authorities to diagnose the case as one of 'Schizophrenia Paranoia'?

(b) Was there any collusion or connivance on the part of the military medical authorities in deliberately arriving at a diagnosis which they must have known was false?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. D. W. Fraser soon after his return to Karachi from Poona, called at the office of the Assistant Director of Medical Services to inquire what the Regulations under which he was discharged might mean and that the then Assistant Director of Medical Services refused to give him any information?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that Mr. D. W. Fraser still does not know what is meant by those Regulations?

(e) Does he propose to ask the Director of Medical Services in India to furnish Mr. D. W. Fraser with a copy of the extracts from Regulations M. S. A. (i) 442 and Appendix 13?

(f) What further action, if any, has been taken or is contemplated with reference to Mr. D. W. Fraser since his invalidment from the Army by either the Civil, Military or Medical authorities?

EXPENDITURE ON PUBLICITY AND BROADCASTING

1039. *Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state:

(a) the expenditure in various constituents of the Information and Arts Department in Matters of publicity and broadcasting, etc., as between the English Section and Indian Languages Section, separately (i) in 1939 (ii) in 1942, and (iii) at present;

(b) the strength of the staff both officers and clerical as between the English Section and Indian Languages Section, separately (i) in 1939 (ii) in 1942, and (iii) at present;

(c) the expenditure allocated for (i) Research and Reference Division, (ii) the Field Publicity Organization, and (iii) Publications Division;

(d) the nature of the work that the Field Publicity Organization is doing; and

(e) if it is a fact that the Field Publicity Organization is carrying on anti-Indian propaganda?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) I lay a statement on the table:

(b) It is not possible to divide the staff according to Indian and English Languages as most of it works jointly for both the languages.

(c) (i) Rs. 3,58,700; (ii) Rs. 27,11,600; (iii) Rs. 2,97,200.

This is the probable expenditure during 1945-46.

(d) and (e). I would refer the Honourable Member to my speech on the cut motion in respect of this grant on March 12th.

*For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1034.

Statement showing the expenditure on various constituents of Information and Arts Department in matters of publicity and broadcasting as between the Indian and English Languages Section.

	1939		1942		1945	
	Indian	English	Indian	English	Indian	English
All-India Radio	5,45,703	1,34,686	9,11,775	1,65,294	24,77,234	2,47,178
Press Information Bureau	15,500	42,100	92,100	1,21,800	1,56,200	2,20,500
Publications Division		...	38,000	...	1,65,500	1,33,700

There are no sections on linguistic basis in the other constituents of the Department.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the person in charge of the Field Publicity Organisation was the man who was in charge of the National War Fund?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: For some time he was.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know if it is a fact that one or two officers, who are in charge of the Field Publicity Organisation, are now going about from Member to Member of the Legislative Assembly trying to persuade them to restore this grant again?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I have no information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government take steps to see that these gentlemen are not allowed to carry on this sort of propaganda?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Not merely propaganda.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: As servants of Government they have no business to go round making any sort of propaganda of this nature.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member make enquiries whether they are carrying on such propaganda, or not?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Certainly.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does the Honourable Member propose giving effect the cut motion that has already been passed so far as this Department is concerned?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I have given effect to it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has he already disbanded any portion of his Department?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: No, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable Member said that the person in charge of the National War Front was for some time in charge of the Field Publicity Organization. Was he in charge of the Field Publicity Organisation for some time only, and he is not there now?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: As I said in my speech the National War Front was converted into the Field Publicity Organization and the officer in charge of the National War Front became in charge of the Field Publicity Organization.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What are the qualifications of that man? May I know if he is a graduate at least, or is he well-versed in Economics or Rural Uplift work? What special qualifications that gentleman has?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I have to mention his name because, I think, if I do Members opposite will know his qualifications. He is Mr. Rashid Ali Beg. He has good educational qualifications, was sheriff of Bombay and took a notable part in the city's municipal life.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that he is not even a matriculate?

(No reply was given.)

Mr. President: Next question.

1040. Withdrawn

GRANT OF PRIORITIES FOR PASSAGES ABROAD

1041. ***Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

- (a) the present basis of granting priorities for passages abroad;
- (b) whether Government are aware that there is favouritism practised in the granting of these passages;
- (c) if it is a fact that Government grant priority passages without any discrimination between persons who propose to go abroad for a first-hand knowledge of industrial technique and others; and
- (d) whether Government propose to give an assurance that priority will be given for such passages to such industrialists who propose to go abroad for a first-hand knowledge of industrial technique?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Passage priorities are granted in accordance with the schedule of priorities, a copy of which is placed on the table of the House.

(b) No.

(c) No; persons who wish to travel to the United Kingdom in order to obtain first-hand knowledge of industrial technique are eligible for priority III or priority V-e if so recommended by the Department concerned—either the Industries and Supplies Department or the Commerce Department.

(d) Does not arise.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORM A.

Note i.—Ref. item 1 (a).—The applicant is the person responsible to the shipping or Travel Agent for the passage money of the party, either in the form of cash or certificate. See note vi below. Surname in Block Capitals.

Note ii.—Ref. item 1 (b).—If you are likely to leave your present address before you receive orders to embark, it is better to have correspondence addressed to your Travel or Shipping Agent.

Note iv.—Ref. item 2.—Priorities are not allotted to young persons under 18 years of age but to their guardians.

Note v.—Ref. item 4.—Against this item is required information as to the target date by which the applicant must leave India or reach the U. K., as the case may be.

Note vi.—Ref. item 5.—(a) If the cost of your passage is to be defrayed by Government (other than on Lee Commission a/c) a certificate from the authority concerned, accepting responsibility, must be obtained and sent to your Travel Agent/Shipping Company's Agent.

(b) If you are a Lee Commission passenger, the necessary Form of authority must be obtained from your Financial Controller and sent to your Travel Agent/Shipping Company's Agent.

(c) You will not be allowed to embark without a passage ticket obtained from your Travel/Shipping Agent.

Note vii.—If you wish to be certain of a return passage, you are advised to apply to the local National Service Advisory Committee for a Key Leave vacancy. Families are not given return passage.

Officials should apply throughout the normal official channels. Non-Officials should apply to the National Service Advisory Committee of their area. Families of persons granted Key leave, whether by sea or air are entitled to sea passage on the same priority. Families can sail in advance if desired and if shipping is available.

Note viii.—Sea passages cannot be allotted to women who are more than 5 months pregnant.

Note iv.—Children's attendants must be of Non-Asiatic domicile.

Note x.—In addition to this application you should register with a Travel Agent, or Shipping Company's Agent. Agents issue passage tickets, labels, etc., and call passengers to port of embarkation.

Note xi.—Passages for Defence Services personnel and their families are dealt with by G. H. Q., A. H. Q., or N. H. Q., as the case may be. Applications for these should NOT be submitted to the Home Department.

Note xii.—Persons making false statements on Form A, render themselves liable to prosecution under Sec. 182, Indian Penal Code.

General.—The chain of responsibility in the allotment of sea passage to the United Kingdom is as follows:—

The Civil Passage Controller allots priority. He formulates and presents shipping demands before the Sea Passages Board which is a joint civilian services organisation, and in relation to the shipping availability the basis of allocation is agreed. Detailed allocation to individual ships is finalised by War/Sea Transport and Deputy Civil Passage Controller, Bombay. The latter nominates individual civilian passengers from his waiting lists. Shipping Agents then issue directly or through Travel Agents embarkation orders and allot cabins/berths. Normally 10 days' embarkation notice is given to passengers.

Inquiries regarding the allotment of priority should be addressed to the Civil Passage Controller. All other inquiries should be addressed to Travel Agents, who by close liaison with Deputy Civil Passage Controller in Bombay are aware of your position on the waiting list. As your name progresses towards the head thereof, they can indicate in general terms when your embarkation orders are likely to be issued.

Applications for Air Passage *ex-India* (other than Key Leave) for business reasons should be made to the Civil Secretary, Air Priorities Board (India), New Delhi, through the Commerce Department or Department of Industries and Supplies. Others may apply direct.

Applications from the families of Service personnel should be made to Naval, Military or Air Force Headquarters.

If you find it necessary to postpone your date of sailing you are requested to inform the Deputy Civil Passage Controller, Bombay as early as possible. Last minute cancellations cause considerable inconvenience to substitutes who must frequently be offered berths at very short notice.

APPLICATION FOR PRIORITY PASSAGES TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

PARTICULARS

Before completing this form, read carefully the instructions inside.

1. (a) Name of applicant.
(see note i)

[Surname in Block Capitals]

- (b) Full postal address in India, with telegraphic address (if any), to which information and instructions are to be sent.
(see note ii).

2. Names of all individuals for whom passages are required showing age, sex and relationship. (See note iv).

3. Month in which passage is preferred. (See note v).

4. Responsibility for payment of passage money.
(See note vi).

5. Any special reasons not covered by the schedule of priorities.

6. Name of Travel Agent employed.

7. Whether prepared to accept troop deck accommodation if this ensures earlier passage (applicable to European males below 30 only).

8. Any preference as to port of embarkation:

I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the above statements are correct.

Date.....

Station.....

Signature.....

On completion, this form should be submitted to:

The Civil Passage Controller,
Government of India;
Home Department,
New Delhi.

SCHEDULE OF PASSAGE PRIORITIES

Although the schedule of priorities for passage to the United Kingdom as published on 12th February 1945 remains substantially unaltered it has been found necessary in the light of experience to subdivide certain priorities and to add instructions to others.

Key Leave has been included in the schedule as Priority V (b) and the whole has been divided into two main Groups, viz., Group A—those for whom it is expected that accommodation will always be available each month and Group B—those who, until the shipping situation improves, must remain on the waiting list.

The amended schedule is given below:—

GROUP A.

PRIORITY I

Government servants on duty and non-official travelling on Government business or certified by Government to be travelling for a purpose essential to the war effort.

Applications under this category must be supported by a certificate from the Government Department concerned stating the latest months by which the applicant must leave India if the purpose of the journey is to be achieved.

Families cannot travel under this priority unless the head thereof is to be out of India for at least 8 months.

PRIORITY II

Persons on whose behalf it is certified by a Provincial Medical Board that early passage is essential to save life or reason.

PRIORITY III

Persons certified by Government to be travelling in the national interest or for furtherance of the war effort or persons travelling to join certified appointments in the United Kingdom.

Applications under this category will state the month in which the applicant must leave India if the purpose of the journey is to be achieved.

Families cannot travel under this priority unless the head thereof is to be out of India for at least 8 months.

Applications must be submitted through the Government Department concerned or the National Service Advisory Committee as the case may be.

PRIORITY IV

Persons on whose behalf it is certified by a Provincial Medical Board that early passage is essential to save permanent impairment of health.

This priority is divided as under:—

- (a) Those certified as most urgent.
- (b) Those certified as very urgent.
- (c) Those certified as normal.

PRIORITY V

(a) Government servants and their families recruited from the United Kingdom on contract guaranteeing repatriation whose contracts have expired or been terminated and who do not qualify for Priority I or III.

(b) Key Leave Officials and Non-officials and their accompanying families.

- (c) Compassionate cases (higher). Unaccompanied Key Leave families.
 (d) Retiring civilians (Official or Non-official) and their families who are recommended by Provincial Governments/National Service Advisory Committees for this priority.
 (e) Persons travelling on urgent business whose application is supported by a Government Department.

GROUP B.

PRIORITY VI

- (a) Children between 12 and 16 with their guardians going to the United Kingdom for education and who normally have secured vacancies in educational institutions.
 (b) Children between 8 and 12 with their guardians going to the United Kingdom for education.
 (c) Adults going to United Kingdom for higher education. Applications must be supported by proof on admission to a University, Technical Institution, etc.
 (d) Children between 6 and 8 with their guardians going to United Kingdom for education.
 (e) Compassionate cases who do not qualify for V (c).
 (See note IV.)

PRIORITY VII

Retiring civilians (Official or Non-Official) and their families who do not qualify for priority V (d).

PRIORITY VIII

Those applicants who do not qualify for a higher priority.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Is it a fact that many technicians have not been given priority passages?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: There are a great number of people of all classes who have not been given priorities high enough to get them away, but if technicians are eligible under either of the priorities I have mentioned they have a very good chance of getting a passage.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: What is the position of the Government scholarship-holders who want to go abroad for technical training in the list of priorities?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I believe Sir, subject to correction, that a number of them get priority III, which is a very high priority.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Will the Honourable Member look into the matter if instances are brought to him?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Certainly.

Mr. President: Next question.

DACOITIES COMMITTED IN AJMER-MERWARA

†1042. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) how many dacoities have been committed in Ajmer-Merwara within the last two years, the names of the villages in which they were committed, and the loss of men and money occasioned in each case;

(b) how many such dacoities have been traced and the culprits brought to book;

(c) the strength of the Dacoity Forces maintained, the work so far done by them, and the amount of money expended on their maintenance;

(d) if any of the dacoities have thus far remained untraced, and the reasons therefore;

(e) pursuant to recent dacoities and on the failure of Government to effectively prevent the same, how many applications were received for grant of gun licences for self-defence; how many such applications were either refused or granted;

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

(f) in the cases where the licences were refused, what are the reasons for the same; and

(g) whether Government propose to relax their policy for the issue of gun licences under the present circumstances of dacoities prevailing in Ajmer-Merwara; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Seven. A statement is laid on the table.

(b) No case has yet resulted in the conviction of the culprits. Five cases are still under investigation. In two of these, arrests have recently been made and arms and some stolen property recovered. It is hoped that they will end in conviction.

(c) No special dacoity forces were employed.

(d) The investigation of two dacoities [Nos. (1) and (2) shown in the statement] have been closed as untraced. In the first of these absconding *sansis* were strongly suspected but when arrested they were not identified by the complainant. In the second case a number of absconders some of whom have since been killed in encounters with the police, were strongly suspected to have been responsible. Investigation will be resumed should any of the suspected absconders be arrested.

(e) Six. Licences were granted to five applicants.

(f) Because the applicant did not satisfy the licensing authority that his possession of arms would further the purpose for which he made his application.

(g) The policy in this respect is already liberal and licences are freely granted to respectable and resourceful persons in villages, who can be trusted to use their arms in protection of their own and their neighbours' houses.

Statement showing the year number of dacoities committed in several villages in Ajmer-Merwara and the loss of men and money involved

1 Year	2 Number of dacoities	3 Names of villages in which committed	4 Loss of men	5 Loss of money
				Rs. A. P.
1944 . . .	Nil	(1) Road dacoity near village Paranga, Police Station—Bhinai.	Nil	15 0 0
1945 . . .	6	(2) Village Rawatmal, Police Station—Jawaja.	Nil	82,693 7 0
1946 to date .	1	(3) Village Ararka, Police Station—Gegal.	Nil	625 0 0
		(4) Village Bhagwanpura, Police Station—Pushkar.	Nil	550 0 0
		(5) Village Morajhari, Police Station—Nasirabad.	Nil	7,958 12 0
		(6) Village Karel, Police Station—Pushkar.	Nil	9,573 2 0
		(7) Road dacoity near village Bandanvara, Police Station—Bhinai, Makarwali and Picholian.	Nil	11 12 0
Total .	7			101,427 0

EXPULSION ORDER PROHIBITING MR. SRI RAM AGAR TO ENTER MHOW CANTT.

†1043. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that Mr. Sri Ram Agar, son of Moti Lal Maheshwari, is a resident of Mhow Cantonment, where he holds house property and where his family has been residing for a very long time?

(b) Is it a fact that in connection with the disturbances of August, 1942, the Commander, Mhow Area, by his order No. 3169-S., dated the 7th September 1943, expelled Mr. Sri Ram Agar from, and has forbidden his entry into, Mhow?

(c) Is it a fact that this expulsion order has not so far been cancelled?

(d) In view of the altered political situation in the country, do Government now propose to take steps to cancel this order against Mr. Sri Ram Agar's entry into Mhow?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes Sir; but he himself holds no immovable property in Mhow Cantonment.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The order has now been cancelled.

TEST FOR MINISTERIAL STAFF IN INCOME-TAX OFFICES IN SIND

1044. ***Seth Sukhdev:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Income Tax Commissioner, Bombay, introduced a test for ministerial staff in Income Tax Offices in Sind?

(b) Is it a fact that clerks in the lower grade irrespective of age or service were required to appear for the test?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that under the Government of India, Home Department Office Order No. 44-2-5-S. T. S.(s), dated the 21st June 1945, clerks below the age of twenty-five only may be required to appear for a test? If so, why were these orders ignored by the Income Tax Commissioner, Bombay?

(d) Is it a fact that papers in the test consisted of (i) English—Essay and Precis-writing, etc., (ii) Arithmetic, and (iii) Office routine procedure?

(e) If the reply to part (d) above be in the affirmative, why were the first two subjects included, since the employees satisfied the minimum educational qualifications?

(f) Do Government propose to afford relief to the affected staff by cancellation of the results of the tests so held? If not, why not?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) Yes.

(b) No; permanent Lower Division clerks officiating in the Upper Division only were so required. Other permanent clerks desirous of being considered for promotion were also permitted to sit.

(c) No such order would appear to have been issued by the Government of India, Home Department. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(d) Yes.

(e) As indicated in my reply to part (b) of the question, the test was held with a view to selecting clerks suitable for promotion or retention in the higher grade and a test in these subjects will give a good indication as to such suitability.

(f) No. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply to part (f) of his question No. 940, on the 13th March, 1946.

CERTAIN POSTS FILLED BY MUSLIMS THROUGH FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

†1045. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the total number of posts in Class I and II Services of the Government of India and other such posts that have been filled by the Muslims through the Federal Public Service Commission without a written competitive examination during the past one decade, and the qualifications of the persons selected for each such post as compared with those candidates that have not been selected by the Commission?

(b) Will Government kindly lay on the table a full and complete list of all the candidates that applied from time to time for all such posts with the qualifications against each name and a separate list of those selected for each of the vacancy that has been filled?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) and (b). To compile this information would mean an immense amount of labour for the Federal Public Service Commission and I do not think the value of the results would justify my asking the Commission to undertake it.

MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

†1046. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the total number of officers in the Finance Department, Civil, Military, Supply, Food, etc., showing, separately, the number of Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Superintendents, Financial Advisers, etc., and indicate clearly the number of Muslims in each cadre?

(b) How far and since when Government have been making efforts, if any, to send up the Muslim ratio to the statutory figure as required to be maintained by the Communal Award in the Constitution of India?

(c) What is the ratio of Muslims in the Ministerial Establishment of the Home, External Affairs, Political, Commerce and Finance Departments of the Government of India now, and how far does it fall short of the statutory minimum?

(d) Will the Honourable Member please state when and how he proposes to make up this deficiency in the strength of the Muslim officers of the Government of India as a whole, generally, and in the Finance Department particularly?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) A statement giving the required information is placed on the table of the house.

(b) As these posts are filled by promotion, the communal ratio rules do not apply: but I would assure the Honourable Member that every opportunity is taken of according adequate representation to minority communities in these grades.

(c) A statement giving the information as regards the Finance Department is placed on the table of the House. The percentage of Muslims in the Ministerial Establishment in the Finance Department and its Divisions as a whole is 22.83. As regards other Departments of the Government of India the question may be put to the Honourable the Home Member.

(d) The question regarding the Muslim Officers of the Government of India as a whole may kindly be put to the Honourable the Home Member. As regards the Finance Department, every endeavour is being made to make up the small deficiency in the recruitment of the Muslims to the Ministerial Establishment.

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

STATEMENT I
Statement showing the number of Gazetted Officers in the Finance Department and its various Branches and also showing the number of Muslims

Branche of F. D.	Principal Secretary	Secy.	Addl. Secy.	Jt. Secys.	Dy. Secys.	Under Secys.	Asstt. Secys.	F. As.	Addl. F. As.	Jt. F. As.	Dy. F. As.	Addl. D. F. As.	Asstt. F. As.	Supdts.	Other Officers	Total
1. F. D. (O. B.) & F. A. C.	1	1	1	4	7	6	6	1	...	...	2	...	3	19	4	55
2. Food Financ	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	1	...	5
3. Supply Financ	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	9	...	18	3	19	53
4. Military Financ	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	1	9	4	27	16	7	69
5. C. B. R.	...	...	1	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	35	44
Total	1	1	2	6	9	8	6	2	4	5	22	4	49	42	65	226
No. of Muslims in each cadre	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	...	1	3	...	6	5	10	30

(STATEMENT II)

Statement showing the percentage of Muslims in the Ministerial Establishment of the Finance Department and its various Branches

Branches of the Finance Department 1	Total strength 2	No. 66 Muslims 3	Percentage 4
1. Finance Department (O. B.) and Financial Adviser (Communications)	283	65	22.96%
2. Food Finance	26	9	34.6%
3. Supply Finance	224	51	22.76%
4. Military Finance	400	93	23.3%
5. Central Board of Revenue	188	38	20.21%
Total	1,121	256	22.83%
Percentage required		...	25.00%
Shortage	...	...	2.87%

SECRET CIRCULAR RE TURNING OUT FROM ARMY POLITICALLY-MINDED INDIANS

†1047. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the War Secretary kindly state if it is a fact that Doctor Major General O. Buen of the Indian Army or any other Army Officer has issued a secret circular with the object of turning out from the Army politically-minded or patriotic Indians or shadowing them while in the Army?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the front page of *Tej*, dated the 2nd March, 1946, where such a piece of news has appeared?

(c) Will Government kindly lay the circular, if any, on the table of the House?

(d) Are Government aware that the Army Officers consider political-mindedness or patriotism in an Indian to be a crime?

(e) Have any persons serving in the Army been penalised or turned out for being patriotic or for entertaining particular views on politics?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The letter to which the Honourable Member presumably refers is a confidential document, the object of which is to exclude from the fighting services those subversive elements of the population which exist in every country. I do not agree, Sir, with the implication that the words "Subversive" and "patriotic" are synonymous.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. It does not appear to be necessary.

(d) No, Sir. The view of the Army to-day is that: "Every Indian worth the name is a nationalist". On the other hand service personnel are not permitted to take an active part in politics, nor to attempt to seduce their comrades from their duty. An extract from the Regulations on the subject is placed on the table.

(e) No, Sir.

Extract from the Regulations for the Army in India.

No person subject to military law or any member of the nursing or women's services while serving in India or with the Armed Forces of the Crown in the field is permitted to speak or appear on the platform at, or take any active part in, any meeting or demonstration held for party or political purposes, or act as a member on a candidate's election committee or in any way actively to prosecute a candidate's interest, or to belong to or

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

subscribe in aid of any political association or movement, until he or she has retired or been discharged, or in the case of a field marshal, until he has relinquished, any appointment which he may be holding.

No person subject to military law or any member of the nursing or women's service may, while serving in India or with the Armed Forces of the Crown in the field, issue an address to electors or in other manner publicly announce himself/herself or allow himself/herself to be publicly announced as a candidate or as a prospective candidate for election to any legislature, legislative assembly, municipality or other public body.

This rule shall apply to officers and soldiers, of the A. F. (I), I.T.F., A.I.R.O., and Indian Supplementary Reserve only when they are embodied or called up for service in war.

No election agent or any representative, whether paid or unpaid, of any candidate, or prospective candidate for election to any legislature, legislative assembly, municipality or other public body shall be allowed into any regimental lines, barracks, military establishment or other place where persons subject to military law are living or working for the purpose of holding a meeting or debate, making an election address or distributing electioneering literature.

PROMINENCE TO CONGRESS MEMBERS OF CENTRAL ASSEMBLY ON CINEMA SCREENS

1048. *Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Information and Arts aware of a letter under the heading "censorship" published on page 4 in the *Dawn*, dated the 28th February 1946?

(b) Is it a fact that only Congress Members of the Central Assembly, as alleged in the letter, were photographed and flashed on Cinema screens? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, BTHAR

1049. *Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the ratio fixed for Muslims in the Office of the Accountant General, Bihar?

(b) Why was this ratio not revised after the separation of Orissa, when there was a consequential increase in the percentage of Muslim population in Bihar?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) The ratio fixed for Muslims in the Office of the Accountant General, Bihar is 10 per cent.

(b) After the separation of Orissa, the percentage of the Muslim population to the total population in Bihar increased from 11.3 to 12.9 only. As the increase was small, it was not considered necessary to make any change in the existing ratio.

REPEAL OF ARMS ACT

†1050. *Mr. Debendra Lal Khan: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware of a long-standing demand by the public for the repeal of the Arms Act;

(b) the attitude of Government to such demand; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for according increased facilities for the use of firearms by the adult population of the country?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) The matter has from time to time been brought up in the Legislature but I am not aware that there is any great public interest in it.

(b) Government are not prepared to remove from the Statute Book all provisions for the regulation of arms and ammunition.

(c) None, Sir.

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

INDIANIZATION OF ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCES

1051. *Mr. Madan Dhari Singh: (a) What steps has the War Secretary taken to Indianise the Army, Navy and Air Forces?

(b) Do Government propose to give a time-limit by which the Army, Navy and Air Forces will be fully Indianised?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) I invite attention of the Honourable Member to press communiqué on the subject issued on the 22nd October 1945 a copy of which is laid on the table.

(b) The R.I.A.F. is a purely Indian Service. As regards the R.I.N. and the Indian Army, it is impossible at this stage to quote any definite date. The progress of nationalisation will depend on the number of young Indian cadets coming forward and the views of the Government of the future.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTORATE,
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, INDIA
New Delhi, October 22, 1945.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

New Delhi, Oct. 22—The Government of India have had under consideration for some time the policy to be followed in the future officering of the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Army and the Royal Indian Air Force, and in agreement with His Majesty's Government have made the following decisions.

The grant of permanent commissions in the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Army will, in future, be restricted to Indians and to other persons domiciled in India who are subjects of His Majesty's or of a Prince or Chief in India.

The recruitment of officers to the Royal Indian Air Force is already subject to this restriction. As a temporary expedient, however, and in order to meet immediate needs, it has been decided to offer 40 regular commissions to European officers of the R. I. N. Reserves. This will enable the R. I. N. to obtain officers of intermediate seniority with war experience a category to fill which, a sufficient number of Indian officers is not at present available.

It will be generally recognised that the three Indian Services will still require a quota of British officers until such time as there is an adequate supply of qualified Indian officers completely to fill all grades in the officer cadre. It has been decided therefore that British officers for service in the three Indian Services shall hereafter be obtained by secondment or attachment from the Royal Navy, the British Army and the Royal Air Force respectively for so long as may be found necessary.

The quota of seconded or attached British officers of the three Indian services will be systematically and progressively reduced as Indian officers become available.

Certain matters arising out of these decisions such as the duration of periods of secondment or attachment of British officers from British Services, and the terms and conditions under which such officers will serve are being examined by the Government of India in conjunction with His Majesty's Government.

These decisions do not affect the position of regular British Officers already holding permanent commissions in the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Army.

AERODROMES CONSTRUCTED DURING THE WAR

1052. *Mr. Madan Dhari Singh: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state—

(a) the number of aerodromes constructed during the war; and

(b) the number of aerodromes to be maintained, and also their locations?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) 240.

(b) The number of airfields to be maintained post-war and their location has not yet been definitely decided.

RETIRING PENSION OF MEMBERS OF I. M. D. GRANTED EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

1053. *Mr. Madan Dhari Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state the provision regarding retiring pension of those members of the I. M. D., who were granted emergency commission in the I. A. M. C.?

(b) What is the basis of computation of their retiring pension?

(c) Will it be the same as for Allied Branches of fighting services where people were commissioned from the ranks or like I. A. M. C. of the different section, viz., Ambulance Section, Nursing and Clerical Section?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the negative, what are the grounds for the differential treatment?

(e) Is it a fact that I. M. D. of the Indian Cadre and I. M. D. of the British Cadre were amalgamated on the basis of the same pay, allowances, etc., and both the cadres were named as combined cadres (Special Medical Section)?

(f) Is there any difference of pay between the Indian Cadre and the British Cadre of the combined cadre holding the same length of services? If so, what are the grounds for the differential treatment?

(g) Is it a fact that this old I. M. D. (Special Medical Section) is going to be abolished in the Post-war Reorganisation Scheme of the Army Medical Department?

(h) What will be the pension rate of the Indian and Anglo-Indian Members of the same length of service?

Mr. P. Mason: (a), (b) and (c). The question of retiring pensions for members of the I.M.D. granted emergency commissions in the I.A.M.C. is being examined in detail, and until this matter is decided, it will not be possible to provide the information which the Honourable Member requires. It is hoped that a decision in the matter will be reached shortly.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) There is some difference between the pay of the two cadres at corresponding years of service which has arisen through the amalgamation of two different cadres with different terms of service and different qualifications before amalgamation.

(g) The future of the Army Medical Services is not yet decided.

(h) The matter is being considered as I have stated above. I may however add that Indian members may elect to draw pension under the British Cadre rules.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In regard to part (c) how long will Government take to decide this question?

Mr. P. Mason: I am afraid I cannot see into the future.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government considering this matter?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: For how long have they been considering this?

Mr. P. Mason: Since the end of hostilities.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Will it go on till the beginning of another war?

Mr. President: Next question.

FACT BETWEEN SIR REGINALD MAXWELL AND MR. P. C. JOSHI FOR ANTI-CONGRESS PROPAGANDA

1054. *Srijnt Seth Damodar Swroop: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that some understanding was arrived at or some written or unwritten pact was made between the Ex-Home Member Sir Reginald Maxwell and Mr. P. C. Joshi to carry on anti-Congress propoganda in the garb of helping the war efforts?

(b) Is it also a fact that large sums of money were placed at the disposal of the Communist Party for this purpose? If so, what amount was so placed, and in what manner was it spent?

The Honourable Sir Joan Thorne: (a) and (b). No.

Mr. M. R. Masani: Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to a statement by S. S. Batliwalla given to the *National Herald* of February 22nd referring to the correspondence between Mr. P. C. Joshi and Sir Reginald Maxwell in their capacities respectively of General Secretary of the Communist Party and the Home Member of the Government of India, in the course of which Mr. Joshi offered to put at the disposal of the Government of India the services of his party for the war and showing that the various drives undertaken by the party were part of the understanding embodied in the correspondence?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have glanced through the article.

Mr. M. R. Masani: Will the Honourable Member say whether the allegations made by Mr. Batliwalla are true and to what extent?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Most of them are incorrect.

Mr. M. R. Masani: In that event will the Honourable Member publish the correspondence between Mr. P. C. Joshi and Sir Reginald Maxwell?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot undertake to do that without the consent of the writers of the letters.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Which portions of the allegations were correct?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not remember the details of the articles.

Mr. M. R. Masani: Will the Honourable Member say whether it is correct as alleged by Mr. Batliwalla, that Mr. Joshi also maintained confidential contact with the Intelligence Department of the General Headquarters of the Army in India?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot answer that. I am not responsible for the Intelligence Department of General Headquarters.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who is responsible?

Mr. President: Order, order. Mr. Masani.

Mr. M. R. Masani: Is it correct as alleged by Mr. Batliwalla that part of this contact was devoted to the apprehension, with the support of Communist Party members, of people working underground in the 1942 movement and the agents of the Azad Hind Government in India?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I believe that is quite incorrect.

APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL INFORMATION OFFICER

1055. ***Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state the qualifications of the newly appointed Principal Information Officer for this post?

(b) Why was not the appointment made through the agency of the Federal Public Service Commission?

(c) Why has no Muslim been so far appointed substantively to this post?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Experience of over 30 years in journalism with news agencies and news papers.

(b) This post is exempt from the purview of the Federal Public Service Commission.

(c) This post is exempt from the scope of the orders regarding communal representation and appointments are made solely on the basis of personal suitability.

COMPOSITION OF THE PAY CODE COMMITTEE

1056. ***Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia:** (a) Will the War Secretary kindly state the composition of the Pay Code Committee now sitting in India?

- (b) When was it formed?
 (c) How many times has it met since its formation?
 (d) What is the number of Indians on that Committee?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The Post-War Pay Committee is composed of representatives of those Branches of Naval Headquarters, General Headquarters and Air Headquarters which deal with pay, allowances and pension problems and of the Military Finance Department, meeting under the Chairmanship of an officer of the War Department. The representatives of Naval Headquarters and Air Headquarters are part-time members only; the Chairman and the representatives of General Headquarters and Military Finance Department are full-time members.

(b) *The constitution of the Committee* was sanctioned with effect from the 25th January, 1946, but the first full meeting was held on the 5th February, 1946.

(c) The full-time members of the Committee meet every day and are joined by the representatives of Naval Headquarters and Air Headquarters as business requires.

(d) One of the three full-time members is an Indian. I must however explain that the work of the Committee is extremely complicated and highly technical and therefore purely official.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about the other sections of the Committee? How many of them are Indian?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not think either of them are. I am not quite sure.

Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: Could I get some information whether this Committee is considering the pay code of the Indian personnel also?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir. Of course it is.

Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: What have they done about it?

Mr. P. Mason: They are making enquiries and will eventually submit a report, which will be considered by the Government of India.

Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: When do the Government of India expect the report?

Mr. P. Mason: I think they will probably report sometime during this summer.

SPECIAL INDIAN AND COLONIAL ALLOWANCES TO BRITISHERS

1057. ***Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia:** Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether it is a fact that British officers serving in India get a special Indian Allowance in addition to the Colonial Allowance?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir. The existing rates of pay of British officers (both British and Indian Services) were fixed in 1925 on the basis of the U.K. rates of pay of rank, ration allowance, fuel and light allowance which were converted at the concessional rate of exchange of 1s. 4d. to the rupee. To these were added a servant allowance at Rs. 30 p. m. and an 'Indian Allowance' at varying rates according to rank. The object of the Indian allowance was to bring the pay calculated as above to a certain level considered sufficient for the maintenance of the British officer in India.

These rates are now admissible to I.C.Os (*See AII 282/45*).

In addition to the rates referred to above Indian Service officers receive an 'Indian Army Allowance' which may be deemed to be an overseas allowance. The equivalent of the Indian Army allowance is paid to I.C.Os when they are serving ex-India under the name of 'Expatriation Allowance' (*See AII 282 of 1945*).

The only British officers who received Colonial Allowance while in India are those temporarily detained. In this case they continue to draw their U.K. rates of pay which, of course, contain no Indian Allowance.

PARITY IN PAY OF BRITISH AND INDIAN OFFICERS IN INDIAN ARMY

1058. *Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: Will the War Secretary kindly state the difference in technical rates of pay between British and Indian Officers of the Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Branch of the Indian Army?

Mr. P. Mason: I place on the table of the House a statement giving the required information. It will be observed that there is no difference in the rates of technical (corps) pay between the British officers commissioned in or posted to the I.E.M.E. after the 1st December 1942 and Indian officers after the 19th April 1943:

Statement

The following are the rates of corps pay in the I. E. M. E.

British officers commissioned in or posted to the I. E. M. E. prior to 1st December 1942

	Rs.
Lt. Col.	300 p. m.
Major	200 p. m.
Captain	125 p. m.
Lieut.	100 p. m.

British officers commissioned in or posted to the I. E. M. E. after 1st December 1942.

Lt. Col.	160 p. m.
Major	115 p. m.
Captain	70 p. m.
Lieut.	45 p. m.

Indian officers irrespective of the date of commission or posting.

Prior to 19th April 1943.

Lt. Col.	130 p. m.
Major	100 p. m.
Captain	60 p. m.
Lieut.	40 p. m.

From 19th April 1943.

Lt. Col.	160 p. m.
Major	115 p. m.
Captain	70 p. m.
Lieut.	45 p. m.

NOTE:—British officers commissioned prior to 1st December 1942 are entitled to draw old and higher rates of corps pay as a reserved right. As Indian officers never drew higher rates of corps pay the question of giving them these rates as a vested right does not arise.

FAMILY ALLOWANCE TO INDIAN OTHER RANKS OF R. I. A. F.

1059. *Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: Will the War Secretary please state whether Indian other Ranks of the R. I. A. F. get any family allowance? If not, why not?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir. This question is being investigated by the special committee now considering the post-war pay code for India.

DISMISSALS OF V. C. O's ON ACTIVE SERVICE

1060. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please refer to the words "Punishments may be inflicted in respect of offences committed by persons subject to this Act and convicted by Court Martial according to the scale following" occurring in Section 43 of the Indian Army Act and state whether he is aware of cases in which—

(i) punishments specified in the scale in (a) have been inflicted in the absence of a conviction by Court Martial,

(ii) punishments prescribed in the scale in (a) have been exceeded, not only by a sentence of Court Martial, but also by an order of an authority other than Court Martial,

(iii) punishments more than one specified in the scale in (a) have been inflicted by an order of a non-judicial body, and

(iv) appeals against the infliction of punishment in excess of the scale in (a) by an authority other than Court Martial have either been withheld or the punishment upheld as valid?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the negative, will he please take the cases of the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers mentioned in the India Army Order No. 816 of the 26th October, 1920, as instances and see that the decisions under which punishments were inflicted in 1920 and which are still in force are revised?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) I am not aware of any such cases.

(b) The V. C. O.'s mentioned in India Army Order No. 816 of 26th October, 1920, were dismissed from the service by order of the Commander-in-Chief under section 13 of the Indian Army Act and the connection between these cases and those referred to in (a) is not apparent to me.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member please state how convictions are awarded to Indian personnel in the army?

Mr. P. Mason: I am sorry I cannot follow the question.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: There are certain acts according to which punishments are inflicted but in practice is it not a fact that punishments are inflicted on V. C. Os. and Indian soldiers even without the sanction of a court martial?

Mr. P. Mason: I am afraid I am unable to follow the question.

Mr. President: I think the Honourable Member's question is whether it is competent for any authority to award punishments without a court martial.

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir. The Commander-in-Chief can under Sec. 13 of the Indian Army Act.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Is it not a fact that the Commander-in-Chief can give only minor punishments and not major punishments?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir. He can dismiss.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Can the Commander-in-Chief inflict major punishments?

Mr. P. Mason: He has powers of dismissal.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Commander-in-Chief cannot be expected to know personally every one of these officers and other ranks, with whose help does he come to these judgments whether a particular officer or a member of other ranks should be punished and, if so, to what extent?

Mr. P. Mason: As in all other matters he listens to his advisers and then he forms an independent judgment.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Can the court martial give a man punishment of imprisonment as well as forfeiture of pay and allowances?

Mr. P. Mason: I had better have notice of that question. It is rather a technical point.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know whether the Honourable Member will take into consideration if particular instances are brought to his notice?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly, Sir.

DISCRIMINATION IN DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF SOLDIERS AFFECTING THEIR PENSIONS

1061. ***Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the fact that the maximum term for which an Indian soldier gets enrolled in the Army is fifteen years, while it is only twelve years in the case of a soldier of regular Forces, and both these aforesaid soldiers are re-engaged on the expiration of the aforesaid original terms of engagement, and while serving on re-engagement terms, if they are dismissed by Court Martial or otherwise, the former forfeits his pension earned in respect of the full term of his previous engagement of fifteen years, whereas the latter's previous term of engagement is not at all affected for the purpose of his pension?

(b) What are the reasons for the discrimination referred to in (a) with reference to his reply to starred question No. 641 of the 21st November, 1944?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The Honourable Member presumably means 'British soldiers' when he refers to the 'Regular Forces'. British soldiers are enlisted for a period of 12 years with the prospect of re-engagement. Indian soldiers are normally enrolled for 15 years also with the prospect of re-engagement.

British soldiers discharged with ignominy forfeit all past service qualifying for pension or gratuity under the provisions of the Royal Warrant for Pay, 1940, Article 1104(d) read with Article 1105. The Army Council may relax these rules in deserving cases.

Indian soldiers dismissed from the service similarly forfeit all past service qualifying for pension or gratuity under Pension Regulations, Part II, Rule 195. The Government of India may relax this rule in deserving cases.

(b) There is, therefore, no discriminatory treatment between British and Indian soldiers in this respect.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that in regard to this question of relaxation of punishments the British personnel in the army are more frequently shown this concession than is done in the case of Indians.

Mr. P. Mason: I should require notice of that question for an answer.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Since the Honourable Member has been given notice of that now, will he kindly look into it and place the answer later on the table?

Mr. P. Mason: If the question is put down I shall answer on the floor of the House, or lay the information on the table of the House. Or if the Honourable Member would rather have a reply privately, I shall be glad to give it to him without a question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I do not want private information.

STOPPAGES AND FORFEITURES OF PAY OF INDIAN OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS

1062. ***Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Will the War Secretary please refer to the Preamble to Pension Regulations for the Army in India, Part II, 1923, 1928 and 1940 Editions and state if, in embodying rules in these regulations relating to the stoppages of pay, non-effective pay and all other emoluments payable to an Indian officer or soldier, reference has been had to the Royal Commands:

(i) "We deem it expedient that like provisions shall extend to our Indian Empire wherein the provisions of the above Warrant as regards the full pay and allowances and other pecuniary benefits are not in force"; and

(ii) "We do hereby command that the pay, non-effective pay and all other emoluments payable under the Army Regulations, India, to an officer, soldier or other person shall be held liable to be stopped upon the general or special orders of the Governor-General of India in Council to meet any public claim that may be against him, any regimental debt that may be due from him or any regimental claim, which the Governor-General of India in Council may direct him to pay"?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, will he please state the reasons for stoppages and forfeitures as per Government's view expressed in reply to starred question No. 731 of the 6th March, 1945, which was placed on the table of the House on the 7th March, 1945?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The terms of the Royal Warrant have been borne in mind in framing the Regulations.

(b) The reply to starred question No. 731 explained that pensions may be withheld at the Royal pleasure. The Royal Warrant printed as part of the preamble to Pension Regulations for the Army in India, Part II, 1940, empowers the Governor General of India in Council to make certain stoppages in certain circumstances. But it in no way debars the Crown from making or authorising stoppages in other circumstances if the Crown sees fit.

HALAL MEAT FOR MUSLIMS IN R. I. N.

†1063. ***Mr. Ali Asghar Khan:** Will the War Secretary please state what arrangements exist in the Royal Indian Navy to ensure that Muslim Officers and other Ranks are provided with *halal* meat and are not served with non-*halal* meat?

Mr. P. Mason: *Ratings.*—All meat supplied for Ratings is *Halal*.

Officers can (i) Obtain *Halal* Meat on payment from Service sources, or (ii) purchase their requirements privately in the Market.

No case has been reported of any Muslim officer requiring *Halal* Meat and not being able to obtain it.

MUSLIMS IN NAVAL HEADQUARTERS (INDIA)

†1064. ***Mr. Ali Asghar Khan:** Will the War Secretary please state the total strength by ranks, stating in each case the number of Muslims on the strength of the Naval Headquarters (India)?

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, I lay a statement on the table. Although the figures for Muslims among the members of the R.I.N. serving in Naval Headquarters are given, I should say that in this service as in the Royal Indian Air Force

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

there is no class composition and no distinction is made between the different communities for the purposes of appointments.

Statement

Ranks	Total strength	Muslims
<i>Services Personnel—</i>		
Vice-Admiral	1	...
Commodores	3	...
Captains	7	...
Commanders	16	...
Lieut.-Commanders	22	...
Lieutenants	42	5
Sub-Lieutenants	5	3
Ratings	82	24
<i>Civilians—</i>		
Officer Supervisors	25	3
Superintendents	13	1
Upper Division Clerks	139	20
Lower Division Clerks	129	17
Stenographers	23	5

MUSLIMS IN R. I. N.

†1065. ***Mr. Ali Asghar Khan:** Will the War Secretary please state the total Indian strength of other ranks, tradewise, for each trade of the Royal Indian Navy, stating the number of Muslims in each case?

Mr. P. Mason: The total strength of ratings in the Royal Indian Navy on the 1st of February, 1946, by religions is made up from the following totals:

Hindus	9,050
Muslims	8,542
Christians	4,242
Others	770
Total	22,604

There are a large number of different trades and rates in the Naval Service. A general statement is laid on the table of the house giving the details of the totals given.

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

Statement

	Hindus	Muslims	Christians	Others	Totals
Seamen	2,771	3,751	1,129	183	7,834
Communications	1,536	596	812	142	3,086
Engine Room Artificers	223	626	70	51	975
Stokers	1,052	1,146	489	61	2,748
Artificers/Artizans	399	309	316	114	1,138
Writers/Store Assts.	740	191	268	33	1,232
Cooks & Stewards	564	1,305	669	10	2,548
Topasses	950	29	139	1	1,119
Sick Berth Attendants	290	111	120	12	533
Schoolmasters	83	47	26	8	164
Coders	9		...	2	11
Cinema Operators	33	8	14		55
Bandsmen	6	13	8	6	33
Photographers	4		3	2	9
Apprentices	59	10	48	19	136
Boys	326	400	131	126	983
Total	9,050	8,542	4,242	770	22,604

(NOTE—Included in the above are 2834 ratings under release orders but not written off.)

MUSLIMS IN INDIAN ARMY

†1066. *Mr. Ali Asghar Khan: Will the War Secretary please state the total Indian Officers' strength of the Indian Army as on the 1st March, 1946, stating also the total number of Muslims?

Mr. P. Mason: The number of Indian Officers in the Indian Army on the 1st February 1946 (the date on which the latest statistics are available) were: Combatant—8,941; Medical—5,540.

Statistics of officers are not maintained by communities.

MUSLIMS IN GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

†1067. *Mr. Ali Asghar Khan: Will the War Secretary please state the total strength by ranks, of officers, civilian officers, other ranks and civilians below the ranks of officers, giving the total number of Muslims in each case on the strength of the General Headquarters (India)?

Mr. P. Mason: A statement is laid on the table.

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

Statement

Actual Strength—G. H. Q.—March 1946

	Nos.	No. of Muslims
(a) OFFICERS		
(i) Military		
Lt.-Generals	8	} Information not available.
Major Generals	28	
Brigadiers	72	
Colonels	111	
Lt.-Colonels	286	
Majors	545	
Captains	684	
Lieutenants	39	
W. A. C. (I)	145	
R. A. F.	6	
R. I. A. F.	14	
Total	1,938	
(ii) Civilians		
With the status of 1st grade officer	1	...
2nd grade officer	46	3
Officer Supervisors	125	7
C. G. Os. and others	42	4
J. C. As. (Women Officers)	10	...
Total	224	14
(b) OTHER RANKS BELOW THE RANKS OF OFFICERS		
(i) Military		
B. O. Rs.	890	} Information not available.
W. A. C. (I)	213	
V. C. Os., I. O. Rs. and clerks of various arms of services.	263	
Total	1,366	
(ii) Civilians		
Superintendents	183	21
Assistants-in-Charge	267	60
Lady Clerks	89	...
Clerks	4,983	889
Stenographers	251	28
Miscellaneous about 25 grades such as Draughtsmen, Tracers, etc.	285	76
Total	6,058	1,074

MUSLIMS IN R. I. A. F.

1068. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the War Secretary please state the total officers' strength, by ranks, giving the number of muslims in each case, as on the 1st March, 1946, in the following Branches of the Royal Indian Air Force:

- (i) General Duties Branch—(a) Pilots, (b) Air Gunners, and (c) Air Observers;
- (ii) Technical Branch—(a) Engineering, (b) Electricians, and (c) Signals;
- (iii) Administrative and Special Duties Branch;
- (iv) Legal Branch;
- (v) Balloons Branch;
- (vi) Equipment Branch;
- (vii) Education Branch;
- (viii) Medical Branch;
- (ix) Special Commissions I. A. T. C. Duties;
- (x) Unemployed List; and
- (xi) The Total in Office Ranks of the Service?

Mr. P. Mason: A statement is laid on the table, but it does not give the number of Muslims in each category of officer as this information is not available and I do not propose to collect it. The declared object of Government is, and has always been, to develop the R.I.A.F. as an Indian Service, recruited on an all-India basis and to eliminate as far as possible all communal differentiation within it as far as this can be done without offending the religious susceptibilities of any class. Statistics are not, therefore, maintained on a communal basis.

Statement

	W/Cdr.	S/Ldr.	F/Lt.	F/O.	P/O.	A/P/O.	Total
<i>General Duties Branch—</i>							
(a) Pilots	3	10	35	287	84	93	512
(b) Air Gunners				6	...	...	6
(c) Air Observers	4	47	...	...	51
<i>Technical Branch—</i>							
(a) Engineering		4	19	1	3	27
(b) Electricians	8	5	2	15
(c) Signals	1	39	7	1	48
Administrative and Special Duties Branch	...	1	22	407	40	...	470
Legal Branch	1	...	...	1
Balloons Branch	1	22	...	...	23
Equipment Branch	2	64	10	...	76
Education Branch	1	42	6	...	49
Medical Branch	56	...	...	...	56
Special Commissions, I.A.T.C. Duties.	5	...	9	14
Unemployment List	1	3	7	1	...	12
Total	3	12	130*	990*	168*	108	1,411*

*Includes officers of Accounts, Armament and Meteorological Branches.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Does the Honourable Member mean that Muslims as a class are altogether ignored?

Mr. P. Mason: All classes are ignored as such but it does not mean that individual Muslims are ignored.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Does the Honourable Member know that representation has been given to Muslims in different services and all the Government Departments do keep statistics?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir: but we are in advance of the others.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: You are going backwards rather than advancing.

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

MUSLIMS IN R. I. A. F.

1069. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** Will the War Secretary please state: (a) the total R. I. A. F. personnel strength, by ranks, including civilians as on the 1st March, 1946, stating in each case the number of Muslims on the strength of—

(i) the Air Headquarters, India,

(ii) the Air Command, South East Asia,

(iii) the H. Q. Base Air Forces, India, and

(iv) the G. H. Q. India in vacancies filled by the Air Force Officers; and

(b) the total strength as above in the manning, personnel and resettlement sections, respectively, of the above formations?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table.

The number of Muslims in each category is not available and I do not propose to collect such information. The declared object of Government is, and has always been, to develop the R. I. A. F. as an Indian Service, recruited on an all-India basis and to eliminate as far as possible all communal differentiation within it. Statistics, therefore, are not maintained on a communal basis.

STATEMENT

(a) (i) *Air headquarters, India.*

R. I. A. F.

W/Cdr.	S/Ldr.	F/Lt.	F/O.	P/O.	Total	W/O.	F/S.	Sgt.	Cpl.	AC.	Total
1	8	24	67	..	90	1	3	11	14	68	97

Civilians

Officers	Supdts.	Assts. i/c.	Clerks/Stenos.	Misc.	Total
16	9	6	172	5	208

(ii) *Air Command South East Asia.*

Total No. of R.I.A.F. Officers as at 31-1-46 in ACSEA 10

Total No. of R.I.A.F. Airmen as at 31-1-46 in ACSEA 375

Figures by ranks for R.I.A.F. personnel and civilians not available.

(iii) *HQ. Base Air Forces, India.*

R.I.A.F.

W/Cdr.	S/Ldr.	F/Lt.	F/O.	P/O.	Total	W/O.	F/S.	Sgt.	Cpl.	AC.	Total
..	3	4	18	3	28	..	..	1	4	245	250

Civilians

Officers	Supdts.	Assts. i/c.	Clerks/Stenos.	Misc.	Total
6	17	11	537	68	639

(iv) *General Headquarters, India.*

R.I.A.F.

W/Cdr.	S/Ldr.	F/Lt.	F/O.	Total	Other ranks
2	4	9	1	16	Nil.

(b) (i) *Air Headquarters, India.*

Manning Section—

W/C.	S/L.	F/Lt.	Sgt.	Civ. Clerks.	Cpl.	AC.
1	2	2	1	3	2	7

Personnel Section.—

I.O. Rs.	Civ. Supdts.	Civ. Clerks
8	4	34

[Civilians employed are not on the strength of Air H. Qrs. (I).]

(ii) *H.Q. Base Air Forces, India.*

Personnel Section.—

F/Lt.	Civilian Clerk
1	1

There are no Manning and Resettlement Sections in H.Q., B.A.F.S.E.A.

(iii) Information in respect of Air Command, S.E.A. is not available.

(iv) *General Headquarters, India.*

	W/C.	S/Ldr.	F/Lts.	Total
Manning	..	2	..	2
Personnel	2	2	3	7
Resettlement	..	2	1	3
			Total	12

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I know the reasons why the Honourable Member does not propose to collect the information? Will it involve time or trouble or money?

Mr. P. Mason: No. I explained—because we feel that the wider the basis and the less the differentiation that is accorded within the service, the better.

MUSLIMS IN R. I. A. F.

1070. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the War Secretary please state the total number at present of Indian other ranks as on the 1st March, 1946, stating, separately, in each case the total number of Muslims, tradewise, in each trade of the Royal Indian Air Force, giving also the totals for all trades combined?

Mr. P. Mason: The total number of Indian other ranks in the Royal Indian Air Force on 15th February, 1946, was 22,832. The figures for the 1st of March are not yet available.

The number of Muslims, in each trade, is not readily available nor do I propose to collect this information. The declared object of Government is, and has always been, to develop the R.I.A.F. as an Indian Service, recruited on an All-India basis. But I have said all this before.

Jhatka MEAT SERVED IN INDIAN AIR FORCE OTHER RANKS' MESSSES

1071. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Air Force other Ranks' messing is joint;

(b) what arrangements have been made to ensure that Muslims airmen are not given *Jhatka*;

(c) whether it is a fact that complaints recently arose at the Royal Air Force Station, Drigh Road, that Muslim I. O. R. were being served with *Jhatka*;

(d) whether it is a fact that the same complaint has arisen at a large number of other Air Force stations; and

(e) what steps are being taken to prevent a recurrence of the complaint?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All meat for R. I. A. F. airmen is drawn from the R. I. A. S. C. who supply only *halal* meat to the R. I. A. F.

(c) No, Sir, and I deprecate a suggestion which might tend to rouse communal feeling in the forces.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is it not a fact that the R. I. A. S. C. contractors supply both *halal* and *jhatka* meat in the same mess.

Mr. P. Mason: My information is that they do not, in the R. I. A. F.

MUSLIMS IN R. I. N.

1072. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** Will the War Secretary please state the total officers' strength, stating in each case the number of (i) Indians, and (ii) Muslims for each Branch of the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. P. Mason: I lay a statement on the table.

Statement

On the 1st of March 1946 R.I.N. officers and Reserve officers were divided as follows :—

Branch	(1) Total number of officers borne on 1st March 1946 (including R.I.N. and Reserves)	(2) Number of officers of Asiatic domicile borne on 1st March 1946 (included in column 1)	(3) Number of Muslim officers borne on 1st March 1946 (included in Column 2)
Executive	1,154	749	158
Engineer	232	65	5
Supply & Secretariat	217	166	19
Electrical	51	31	1
Headmaster	3	3	2
Instructor	9	8	Nil
Special	214	144	31
Medical	88	80	13
Totals	1,968	1,246	229

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Has their number been reduced after the Bombay mutiny?

Mr. P. Mason: Only by the casualties that have been already announced.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Not by way of punishment?

Mr. P. Mason: Not yet.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is there any likelihood of any reduction?

Mr. P. Mason: A small one.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Are there any communal proportions laid down for these officers in the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. P. Mason: No.

MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN CENTRAL EXCISE SERVICE UNDER CALCUTTA COLLECTORATE.

1073. ***Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if he has seen the article headed "Jobbery, Nepotism and Co." which appeared in the *Morning News*, Calcutta, dated the 19th January, 1946, and the article headed "Persecution of Muslims" which appeared in the same paper, dated the 20th January, 1946?

(b) With reference to the points stressed in the first article referred to in (a) will the Honourable Member be pleased to state:

(i) the total number of Superintendents serving under the Calcutta Collectorate, and how many of them are Muslims,

(ii) the total number of Deputy Superintendents in the said Collectorate, and how many of them are Muslims

(iii) the total number of Inspectors in the said Collectorate, and how many of them are Muslims,

(iv) whether it is a fact that Muslim officers appointed during the period 1939 to 1943 have received no promotion while caste Hindu officers were promoted within six months or one year after their appointment,

(v) whether Government propose to institute an enquiry into the allegations contained in the said articles and to give *Morning News* an opportunity to substantiate the allegations by proving specific cases, and

(vi) what steps Government propose to take to ensure fair and adequate representation for Muslims in the various grades of the Central Excise service under the Calcutta Collectorate?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) There are 41 Superintendents in the Calcutta Collectorate out of whom 8 are Muslims; but the Superintendents in the Calcutta, Allahabad and Delhi Collectorates form a single cadre and the true position is that out of 100 posts in the combined cadre 30 posts are held by Muslims.

(ii) and (iii). The required information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House as soon as it is received.

(iv) It is not true that Muslim officers appointed in the Calcutta Collectorate during the period 1939-43 have not been promoted. On the contrary, no less than 18 officers appointed within this period have been promoted at least once and three of them have received two promotions.

(v) If any specific instance of discrimination against Muslims is brought to the notice of Government, they will certainly enquire into the matter.

(vi) I assure the Honourable Member that all possible steps accordant with the policy laid down in the 1934 Resolution are, and will be taken to ensure fair and adequate representation for Muslims in the Central Excise establishment, both in this and other Collectorates.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: On a point of order, Sir. The question has been addressed to the Honourable Finance Member and I find that though the Honourable Finance Member is present in the House, the question is being replied by the Secretary.

Mr. President: What is the point of order? He is the Secretary and therefore he should not reply?

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: When the Finance Member is present in the House and the question is addressed to him, I would like to have your ruling as to whether a reply by his Secretary is permissible.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member knows that so far as Bills are concerned the Member-in-Charge, so far as Government Members are concerned, means any member who is authorised. Similarly here too, the Finance Member would mean the Finance Member himself or any other person authorised by him to reply on his behalf.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I submit that the Honourable Finance Member is a Member of this House and while he is present in the House it has been the practice that the Member-in-Charge of the question always replies?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will it not act as a precedent to his other colleagues and they may import their secretaries into this House to reply?

Mr. President: I do not think it is a bad precedent. If anything, it is a good precedent—it would mean that more Government men are trained for the purposes of the business of this House; and it will be necessary to train them, if the business is to be attended to with efficiency. It is not possible for one man to carry all burdens; and just as in the recent discussion on the Budget and cut motions, though the Finance Member was present and moved the demands, the necessary explanations were given by the Members of the Departments concerned, similarly here also I see no objection.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Why not have all the secretaries on the Treasury Benches?

Mr. President: If they so choose, they can do so.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: With the greatest respect to the observations you have made, may I suggest that Honourable Members in charge of the portfolios might, as a matter of courtesy to the House, answer these questions? It is not a question of a rule. If they are absent, then of course any one else on their behalf might reply; but when they are present I think they ought to reply, if only as a matter of courtesy, to questions that are addressed to them?

Mr. President: With due respect, I would differ from the Honourable Member. I do not think any considerations of courtesy really arise in a case like this. All that the Members want is information and the particular Member of the Government who has studied that particular subject and is competent to reply will be the best person to reply. That will be more courteous rather than that a person who has not studied the matter should get up and reply.

MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN CENTRAL EXCISE DEPARTMENT

1074. ***Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Collectors in the Central Excise Department and how many of them are Muslims;

(b) the total number of Assistant Collectors in the said Department, collectoratewise, and how many of them are Muslims;

(c) the total number of Assistant Collectors on special duty in the Central Board of Revenue, and how many of them are Muslims; and

(d) the total number, collectoratewise, of Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents and Inspectors in the whole Central Excise Department, and how many of each class of these officers are Muslims?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a), (b) and (d). So far as the gazetted ranks are concerned, namely, Collectors, Deputy Collectors, Assistant Collectors and Superintendents, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the statement which I laid on the table of the House in reply to Starred Question No. 323, by Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, on 18th February 1946. As regards the non-gazetted ranks, namely, Deputy Superintendents and Inspectors, a statement is laid on the table showing the total number of these posts in the Delhi and Allahabad Collectorates, and the number of Muslims in each of these grades. Similar information with regard to the remaining three Collectorates is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House as soon as it becomes available.

(c) There are six Assistant Collectors on special duty under the Central Board of Revenue of whom one is a Muslim.

Statement showing the total number of posts in the grades of Deputy Superintendents and Inspectors in the Central Excise Collectorates and the number held by Muslims on 1st January 1946

Serial No.	Collectorate	Deputy Superintendents		Inspectors	
		Total number of posts	Number of posts held by Muslims	Total number of posts	Number held by Muslims
1	Delhi	59	32 (54·2%)	547	265 (48·5%)
2	Allahabad	66	33 (50%)	623	314 (50·4)

BLACK FLAG DEMONSTRATIONS AT LUCKNOW BROADCASTING HOUSE

1075. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Information and Arts aware of the black flag demonstrations made at the Lucknow Station of the All-India Radio?

(b) How many such demonstrations have so far taken place?

(c) What steps, if any, have been taken by him to meet the demands of the demonstrators?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) Two.

(c) I understand that these demonstrations were against Hindi poets who had come to All-India Radio Lucknow to take part in the *Kavi Sammelans* broadcast by All-India Radio.

HINDI ITEMS BROADCAST BY ALL-INDIA RADIO

1076. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state who guides the policy of Hindi items broadcast by the All-India Radio under its Hindustani programmes at the Headquarters?

(b) What is his (i) designation, (ii) present salary, (iii) knowledge of the Hindi language and its literature, and (iv) standing in the Hindi literary world?

(c) In case there is no experienced Hindi scholar at the Headquarters of the All-India Radio, why is it so, and how is the work of guiding policy of Hindi items carried on? Who does this work in the absence of a Hindi scholar?

(d) How is this work to be carried on in the future?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) and (b). The general policy of programmes broadcast by All-India Radio is guided by Director General, All-India Radio, assisted by other officers at Headquarters and subject to instructions issued by the Government of India from time to time.

As questions of general policy do not normally require an intimate knowledge of the various languages in which programmes are broadcast or of their literatures, appointments at headquarters are not made on a linguistic basis. The details of the programmes are entrusted to the Station Directors and to the programme staff at the stations.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It is proposed to appoint a Standing Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of the *Anjuman-e-Taraqqi-e-Urdu*, the *All-India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan* and the *Hindustani Prachar Sabha* to advise Director General, All-India Radio on linguistic questions.

MOLESTATION OF GIRLS AT LUCKNOW BROADCASTING HOUSE

1077. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state if Government are aware of the incident which happened at the Lucknow Station of the All-India Radio in which it is said, as has appeared in the press, that some girls were molested by some intoxicated All-India Radio official and that these girls abandoned the programme and thereupon the gap had to be filled by the recorded music?

(b) Who was this official, and what action has been taken against him? Is he still working on the same post at the Lucknow Station?

(c) What steps, if any, have been taken by the authorities to check such recurrences in the future?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) The Press Report referred to by the Honourable Member is incorrect. A full investigation has been held and it has been established that no official of All-India Radio was intoxicated and no girls were molested. The facts are that a woman artist, left her infant sister unattended at the studios. She was reprimanded by the Programme Executive. This was resented by the lady in question. The Station Director received an anonymous telephone call that the Programme Executive was drunk and the artist also complained to the Station Director. The former was not drunk and all that happened was that there was an unpleasant exchange of words between him and the artist.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

NUMBER OF INDIAN SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS BEFORE AND AFTER WAR

1078. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the number of Indian soldiers and officers in the Indian Army before the War which has just ended;

(b) the number of Indian soldiers and officers recruited during the last war,

(c) the number of Indian soldiers and officers who are to be demobilized; and

(d) the number of Indian soldiers and officers to be retained as the Standing Indian Army?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The number of Indian Officers and soldiers (including non-combatants enrolled) in the Indian Army on the 1st October, 1939 was respectively 532 and 154,060.

(b) The number of Indian Officers and soldiers (including non-combatants enrolled) recruited during the period 3rd September, 1939 to 31st August, 1945, was 15,460 and 2,499,909 respectively.

(c) and (d). The total number of Indian officers and soldiers who are to be demobilized will depend on the size of the post-war Indian Army, which is still

under consideration. As I have said before however it is anticipated that by the 1st of April next year, approximately 32,000 British Officers, 7,000 Indian Officers, 180,000 B. O. Rs., and 1,540,000 V. C. Os., I. O. Rs. and Enrolled Non-Combatants will have been demobilised.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What was the reply to part (d)?

Mr. P. Mason: I have replied to parts (c) and (d) together.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: As regards part (c), the Honourable Member says the matter is under consideration, and under part (d), he gives certain numbers. May I take it that the number of those who are to be retained has been fixed, and the rest will be demobilised?

Mr. P. Mason: No. That would not be a correct assumption, if I understood the Honourable Member correctly. There has been a certain amount of wastage and a certain number of casualties; so that the figure to be retained will be considerably smaller than the difference between the total recruitment and the total demobilised.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: What are the conditions attached to the retention of Indian soldiers?

Mr. P. Mason: They continue to serve on the terms on which they were recruited.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Some of them have been retained and others demobilised?

Mr. P. Mason: I have already pointed out that they continue to serve on the terms on which they have been recruited.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know if the report of the Indian Army Re-organisation Committee is available?

Mr. P. Mason: It is not available to the public, because it is really a staff study. As I have already explained, the report was made to the Commander-in-Chief.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made to officer the Indian army completely by Indians?

Mr. P. Mason: Does that arise?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the declared policy of the Government of India, as I understand it from the recent declaration of the Commander-in-Chief to completely Indianise the army, will Government consider the advisability of demobilising only that portion of the Indian officers' ranks who will be found to be surplus after completely Indianising the officer ranks of the Indian army?

Mr. P. Mason: May I draw your attention, Sir, to the rule which says that supplementary questions are intended to elucidate the facts given? I submit that this question goes beyond the terms of the original question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My questions arise out of the main question. May I seek your protection?

Mr. President: It is not a question of protection. The question appears to me to be this: "Whether in demobilising, they (Government) will proceed in such a manner that the British ranks will be demobilised before Indians are demobilised."

Mr. P. Mason: The demobilisation of the British army and the demobilisation of the Indian army proceed entirely separately. Both proceed on the same grounds, according to the age and service groups.

Seth Govind Das: In the interests of the country, will it not be proper that British officers should be demobilised?

Mr. President: That is a matter of opinion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is this demobilisation, so far as the Indian officers are concerned, to be carried on even irrespective of the need for Indian officers of

the Indian army, so that the Indian army may be completely officers by Indian officers?

Mr. P. Mason: I respectfully submit that the rule lays down that supplementary questions shall relate to the elucidation of the facts given and this question asks me a number of facts about Indian soldiers and their number. Another Honourable Member did put down questions for question which deal with this subject, but he does not present to put them. These questions seem to me to go beyond the terms of the original question. I respectfully submit that these do not arise out of the original question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My point is this. If they are thinking of officering the Indian army with Indian officers, then the demobilisation of Indian officers should be very much less. Therefore I want to know whether the Government will demobilise Indian officers only to the extent they are surplus.

Mr. P. Mason: I have no objection to answering these questions but I take my stand on this point of order. I respectfully submit that I have supplied the information asked for regarding the number of Indian soldiers and I cannot see how this question of Prof. Ranga elucidates the figures I have given.

Mr. President: When the Honourable Member gets the numbers he is entitled to know the reasons as to how the numbers are to be arrived at.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: In that case, the Honourable Member should have asked for the reasons when he put the question.

Mr. President: The question was not clear.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether it is the policy of Government to discharge Indian officers to such an extent that there will be no Indian officer left to take high command?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly not, as the Honourable Member is well aware.

Diwan Chaman Lall: The policy which my Honourable friend is pursuing will lead to that very result.

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly not.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: On what grounds are Indian officers being demobilised?

Mr. P. Mason: Is that in order, Sir?

Mr. President: That question does not arise.

INDIAN CASUALTIES IN DIFFERENT THEATRES OF WAR

1079. ***Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the names of countries where the Indian soldiers were deputed to fight the Italians, Germans and Japanese;

(b) the number of Indian soldiers and officers (i) killed (ii) wounded, and (iii) taken as prisoners of war;

(c) the number of Indian soldiers and officers (i) who went over to the sides of the enemies, and (ii) who joined the Indian National Army to Free India;

(d) whether all the Indian officers and soldiers who joined either the enemies or the Indian National Army have been brought under the British Control; if so, whether they are all in India; and

(e) the number of Indian soldiers and officers (i) who are still in the custody of Government, and (ii) who have been released?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Abyssinia, British and Italian Somalilands, Burma, the Dodecanese Islands, the East Indies, Eritrea, France, Greece, Italy, Malaya and North Africa.

(b) 28,048 were killed, 64,837 wounded and 82,786 were taken prisoner.

(c) The number of soldiers who, having been taken prisoner, took up arms against their former comrades, were approximately 25,000 of whom 22,000 were members of the I. N. A.

(d) All the Indian soldiers who fought for the Germans have now been discovered and brought back to India except for about 250 who are still untraced; two of these have very recently been found and are now in England. 19,586 of the members of the Indian Army who joined the I. N. A. have been accounted for, of whom 16,839 have been brought to India.

(e) 4,462 of those 16,839 are still held in India; the remainder (12,377) have been released. Of the 2,745 men who have been brought back to India, having fought against their former comrades in Europe, 875 are still held and the remainder (1,870) have been released.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How soon do the Government propose to release the 875 still in their custody?

Mr. P. Mason: I hope early in May.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about the others, about 4 thousand?

Mr. P. Mason: They will be released early in May or in the middle of May.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are there still Indian officers and soldiers in occupied Europe?

Mr. P. Mason: If the Honourable Member means those who have fought against us and not those who are part of our army, there are 250 who are still untraced. Presumably most of these are dead but some may be still untraced in Europe.

BIHAREES IN INDIAN ARMY

†1080. ***Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the War Secretary please state:

- (a) the number of Biharee soldiers and officers in the Indian Army today;
- (b) the number of Biharee soldiers and officers killed, wounded and made prisoners of war; and
- (c) the number of Biharee soldiers and officers who joined the Indian National Army, and their whereabouts?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The number of officers from Bihar at present serving in the Indian Army is estimated to be 300 and the number of V.C.Os., I.O.Rs. and Enrolled Non-Combatants is 58,900.

(b) Battle casualty figures of Biharees are not available.

(c) One V.C.O. and 43 I.O.Rs. are known to have joined the I.N.A. None of these is in detention.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WITHDRAWAL OF CONTROLS

139. **Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state, with reference to his remarks in the Budget Speech regarding the withdrawal of 150 controls:

(a) the number of staff employed in connection with (i) controls that are withdrawn, and (ii) controls that are still in force from 1939 onwards, year by year;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on account of (i) controls that are withdrawn; and (ii) controls that are still in force from 1939 onwards, year by year; and

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

(c) (i) the number of staff discharged so far, and (ii) the reduction in total expenditure owing to withdrawal of the said controls?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: The question has been transferred to the Industries and Supplies Department and a reply will be given by the Honourable Member in charge on a later date.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF DEARNESS AND WAR ALLOWANCES PAID TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF WAR

140. Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the total amount of salaries paid to the Central Government employees (excluding all allowances) from 1939 onwards, year by year;

(b) the total amount of dearness and war allowances paid to Central Government employees from 1939 onwards, year by year;

(c) the percentage of the total amount of dearness and war allowances to the total amount of the salaries of the Central Government employees for the above years; and

(d) the number of officers of the Central Government, separately, under the following categories for each of the above years:

(i)	drawing salary of over	Rs. 5,000 per month,
(ii)	" " "	{ Rs. 4,000 and below Rs. 5,000 per month,
(iii)	" " "	{ Rs. 3,000 and below Rs. 4,000 per month,
(iv)	" " "	{ Rs. 2,000 and below Rs. 3,000 per month,
(v)	" " "	{ Rs. 1,000 and below Rs. 2,000 per month,
(vi)	" " "	{ Rs. 500 and below Rs. 1,000 per month

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) to (d). The information is not readily available and its collection would involve time and labour which would hardly be commensurate with the results obtained.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Information promised in reply to part (b) of starred question No. 1197, asked by Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan on the 21st March, 1945.

EXAMINATION HELD IN LAHORE FOR LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS

It has been ascertained from the authorities of the Punjab University that the examination of the students of the Lady Hardinge Medical College was held at Delhi in 1943 and 1944 as a result of the decision of the Syndicate of that University that for the duration of the war these students should be examined in Delhi. For the examination held in January, 1945, the Syndicate, however, decided that the students should go to Lahore as the number of candidates to be examined was very small.

Information promised in reply to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 1331 and parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 1332, asked by Mr. Ananya Mohan Das, on the 26th March, 1945.

CERTAIN FAILED STUDENTS REJOINING SCHOOLS IN DELHI.

No. 1331.—(a) 544; 204.

(b) (i) 526, 17.

(ii) 397.

(iii) 112.

REQUISITE QUALIFICATIONS OF PRINCIPAL AND HIGHER SECONDARY DEPARTMENT TEACHER IN A SCHOOL IN DELHI.

No. 1332.—(a) The minimum requisite qualifications of Principals and Teachers in Higher Secondary Department of Schools in Delhi are as follows:—

Name of post	Minimum qualifications.
(1) Principal	(1) A Master's Degree or an equivalent qualification; or an Honour's Degree of a British or an Indian University and (2) experience as below : (a) At least 3 years' experience of administrative charge of an Intermediate College, or (b) At least 5 years' experience of administrative charge of a High School, or (c) Teaching experience of five years in an Intermediate college, or (d) Teaching experience of 8 years in a recognised High School.
(2) Teachers of English Mathematics, History, Economics, Physics and Chemistry— (Up to X Class)	Graduate in the subject with a training degree or a recognised training diploma. Master's Degree in the subject with either, (a) Degree or a recognised diploma in Education, or (b) 3 year's teaching experience of Intermediate or Higher Classes.
(3) Teachers of Modern Indian Languages, viz., Urdu, Hindi, Bengali or Punjabi— (Up to X Class)	(1) B.A. with the Modern Indian Language concerned as an optional subject and a recognised Diploma/or Certificate in Education, or (2) Honours in the Modern Indian Language concerned and Matriculation in English, or (3) Matric S. V. if his departmental certificate entitles him to teach in the High Department.
(Up to XI Class)	(1) M.A. in the subject or in the allied Classical Language, or (2) Honours in the Language and Intermediate in English.
(4) Teachers of Classical languages, viz., Arabic, Persian or Sanskrit— (Up to X Class)	(1) Honours in the Classical Language concerned and Matriculation in English or (2) B.A., with the Classical Language concerned as an optional subject and degree or a recognised diploma in Education.
(Up to XI Class)	(1) M.A., in the subject concerned, or (2) Honours in the language and Intermediate in English.
(5) Teachers of Geography— (Up to X Class)	A University degree in the subject or specialisation in the subject in a Training College course.
(Up to XI Class)	(1) M.A., or M.Sc., in Geography, with a teaching degree, or (2) M.A., in Economics with Commercial Geography and B.A., with Geography with either, (a) a Degree or recognised diploma in Education, or (b) Three years' experience of teaching Intermediate classes.

Name of post.	Minimum qualifications.
(6) Teachers of Civics— (Up to X Class)	Graduate in political Science or History or Politics and a degree of a recognised diploma in Education.
(Up to XI Class)	(1) A Master's Degree in Political Science (Politics) or History either with (a) A degree of a recognised diploma, or (b) Three years' teaching experience of Intermediate Classes. (2) An M.A. in Economics who had taken up Political Science as one of the papers for his M.A. Degree and Political Science as one of the elective subjects for the B.A. Degree either with (a) A Degree or a recognised Diploma, or (b) Three years' teaching experience or Intermediate Classes.

Note.—In addition to the qualifications given above an M.A. in Political Science who had offered for his M.A. degree, Principles of Economics as one of the papers and had taken Economics as one of the elective subjects for the B.A. Degree, is also qualified to teach Economics upto the XI Class.

(7) Teacher of Drawing and Painting—	
(Up to XI Class)	(a) Teachers' Training Diploma or Certificate of the Mayo School of Art, Lahore, or (b) Drawing Teachers' Training certificate of the Government School of Arts and Crafts, Lucknow, or (c) Drawing Teachers' Training Certificate of the Maharaja's School of Arts and Crafts, Jaipur or (d) Intermediate Grade Examination of Sir J. J. School of Arts Bombay, (Provided that such a candidate should have taken a regular course of study at the Sir. J. J. School of Arts, Bombay ; or failing this, should have passed a Higher Examination of the same school), or (e) Drawing Teachers' Training Certificate Examination, Calcutta.

(8) Teacher of Music—	
(Up to X Class)	Any of the following examinations— (1) A University degree in Hindustani Music. (2) Highest Examination of the Madhava Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, Laskar, Gwalior. (3) Highest Examination of the Baroda State School of Music. (4) Entrance Music Examination of the Holkar State. (5) Alankar Examination of the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, Mandal. (6) Diploma Examination in Vocal and Instrumental Music (both) held by the Allahabad University.
(Up to XI Class)	(1) The Highest Examination of:— (a) The All India Marris College of Hindustani Music, Lucknow, or (b) The Madhava Sangeet Vidyalaya, Laskar (Gwalior State), or (2) Sangeet Pravin Examination of the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal. A musician or a teacher of music may be granted exemption from the minimum qualifications stated above on the grounds of his or her reputation or achievement as a musician.

Name of post.	Minimum qualifications.
(9) Teacher of Domestic Science— (Up to X Class)	(1) A graduate in Medicine; or (2) A graduate with a recognised diploma of education who has passed in Domestic Science at the High School and Intermediate examination of an Education Board or a University; or (3) A Diploma holder of three years' course of Lady Irwin College, New Delhi, provided the teacher is a Matriculate of a recognised Board or University.
(Up to XI Class)	The above, but in the case of No. 3 above with an additional qualification of an Intermediate Certificate from a University established by Law.
(10) Teachers of Physiology and Hygiene, and of Biology.—	
(Up to Class X)	(1) A graduate in Medicine. (2) A B.Sc. with Botany and Zoology.
(Up to Class XI)	(1) An M.Sc. in Zoology, or (2) A graduate in Medicine.
(11) Teachers in Agriculture	(1) A B.Sc. in Agriculture with a teaching degree or Diploma.
(12) Teachers in Commerce—	
(Up to X Class)	Graduate in Commerce with a recognised training Certificate or a Degree;
(Up to XI Class)	(1) M.A., (Economics) or (2) B. Com. with either. (a) training degree or a recognised diploma, or (b) three years' training experience of Intermediate Classes.
(13) Teachers of Technological subject	The minimum qualification will be recommended by the Technological Committee.
(14) Demonstrator of XI Class	A B.Sc.
(15) Physical Instructor	Higher Grade Government Certificate of the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education, Saidapet, Madras or the Diploma of the Punjab College of Physical Education (one year course) or an equivalent qualification.

Note.—A teacher including the Headmasters who is serving in a recognised institution but does not possess the minimum qualification prescribed in the subject he teaches, may be granted exemption provided that (1) he has been continuously in the service of the institution recognised by the Board at least for 5 years in the case of trained graduates and 3 years in the case of persons holding a Masters Degree (2) he has 8 years teaching experience in a particular subject or subjects in a High School or an Intermediate College and (3) his work has been reported to be uniformly satisfactory.

Exemption may also be given to first class M.A.'s provided such teachers get the necessary training within a period of first 3 years of their employment in a Higher Secondary School.

Note. 2.—Persons teaching in the High Department of a School, before it was recognised as Higher Secondary School, can be permitted to continue, as a very special case, to teach those very subjects only to the 9th and 10 Classes in the Higher Secondary Department of a School. No relaxation shall be allowed in case of new entrants.

- (b) (i) Principals 10 for long Administrative and teaching experience.
(ii) Teachers 43 for exemptions granted on the merits of each case.

Information promised in reply to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 1364, asked by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, on the 27th March, 1945

PROSECUTIONS AGAINST ARMY MISCREANTS

(a) 35.

(b) A list giving the particulars of the incidents and the nature of punishments awarded by courts is attached.

List of cases of assaults and affrays, involving military personnel.

A. PROVINCE OF ASSAM (OCCURRED UNDER A.L.F., S.E.A. COMMAND).

Particulars of Incident.	Punishment awarded.
1. Sapper RAM CHANDRA MANLIKER outraged modesty of ASEULA KHATUA at DOHAZARI on 11 April 1946	6 months rigorous imprisonment.
2. Sepoy Butcher ALLAH MIHR of 116 Ind Sup Coy arrested by RAMU Police on 11 May 44 on charge of attempted rape.	Case dismissed.
3. Pioneer LUIS HEM BROMI in outrage of modesty upon female in house at UMALAPLONG on 10/11 Jun 44.	Sentenced to 6 months R. I. under each of secs. 451/354 I.P.C.
4. One Naik, two IORs of 334 Rec Coy in case of attempted rape at SILCHAR MEHERPUR, on 2-7-44.	Accused convicted in court of Sub Deputy Judge SILCHAR under Secs. 456 and 324 I.P.C. and awarded 1 year and 3 months R.I.
5. Sapper RAISINGH alleged to have murdered a woman and child on 12 Jul 44 near HATHAZARI.	Transportation for life.
6. Sepoy NIAJ ALI of 4/14 Punjab entered house of ABDUL KASHAN AT KATALGANJ on 14 Aug to seek women.	Awarded 7 days F. P. No. 2 by Summary disposal.
7. Girl OMEMAUN assaulted in her boat on 6 Sep by two Bengali soldiers on the KALI RIVER at Cox's Bazaar.	Case dismissed.
8. NK MOHD AKHAR and Sepoy KHODA BUX alleged to have chased women with designs on her near FAUDZERHAT on 18 Sep 44. Unit 499 Ind. Sup Sec. I	Trial of Sepoy Khoda Bux concluded on 4 Sep 45 and the accused was found guilty under Section 435 I.P.C. and sentenced to 4 months' R.I.
9. Khasi women of MONGTHYAMMAL, KA MARTIMA by name, murdered and KA KRIMON seriously injured by IORs in stabbing affray at SHILLONG on 4 Nov 44.	Mess Waiter MOHD AKBAR & Ward Servant SANT RAM were sentenced to transportation for life by the Additional Sessions Judge SHILLONG.
10. Alleged house trespass, theft and outrage modesty committed by BORs. Charges preferred by Supdt Civil Police SHILLONG. Incident occurred Dec. 44.	Fus. Mc Ghee P, was awarded 72 hours detention on a charge of being out of bounds. As regards the other B.O.R. case considered closed by the Civil Police owing to lack of evidence.
11. Alleged assaults on coolie women by 2 soldiers at CHIKAMPANDI on 14 Jan 45.	As a result of investigations No. 193776 Sepoy KALIYA & SSD MOHAMMED NIWAS were tried by SGCM, the former received punishments of 6 months R. I. and dismissal, later commuted by Sub Area Comd. to 2 months R.I. SSD MOHAMMED NIWAS Was honourably acquitted.
12. 84958 Sepoy Driver ANTHONY 4 Corps Ordnance Field Park Company. Committed Rape on the person of HTOOMAY the wife of MAUNGSAT of Chinsai Village District, on 6 Jan 45.	3 years R. I. and dismissal by Court Martial.
13. Six or seven IORs in assault upon two women in CHITTAGONG on 13 Jul.	Unit disciplinary action taken.
14. Four IORS molest women at PAHARTALI, on 1-8-44	28 days Field Punishment.
15. Pnr molests a girl aged 9. Unit 1506 IPC and suspect Pnr ABDUL MANNAH. The girl was raped. Incident occurred in Nov 44.	Case dismissed because of lack of evidence.
16. AOR THOMAS KWAKU of 81 East African Recce Regt. in outrage of modesty upon ASIA BIBI on 27 Sep 44.	Summary Trial—28 days Field Punishment
17. Hav Clerk HARVAHS LAL of 175 IROC alleged to have assaulted wife of HARA BANDHU on 17 Sep at CHITTAGONG.	Summary award—severe reprimand.
18. IOR of 2 MWCU molests woman on 17 Oct 44 by dragging her from house at JAMALKHAN village.	Summary award—28 days R.I.

Particulars of Incident.	Punishment awarded.
19. Pnr ANJIT MULLAH alleged by villagers of BUDH-AIR village to have interfered with one of their women on 25 Oct 44.	Summary awarded—7 days R.I. under Sec. 39(4) for being out of bounds.
20. East Africans of 121 Inf. Tpt W/Shop in interference with Manipuri women. Two IORs and 5 Manipuris wounded. Native hut burnt down. Incident occurred on 23-10-44.	Cfn GAITERERA and L/Cpl. KAGWI the accused in this case were dealt with summarily by Comd 202 L of C Area on the charge of breaking bounds. Major charges were dropped on account of insufficient identification evidence.
21. Naga woman HONALIE assaulted by Sepoy on 27 Oct 44, in KHUZANA village.	Tried by SGCM and awarded 28 days Field Punishment.
22. Sepoy JAM MOHD of 14 Punjab Attd HQ 114 Ind Inf. Bde arrested for abduction of a male and female on 5 Nov 44.	Tried by SCM and awarded 2 months R.I.
23. 2 AORs, KAFI TITRIKA and NATHANIEL EDIK-PAN alleged to have molested school girls in Nov 44.	Both accused acquitted by F.G. C.M.
24. Attempted assault on wife of civilian by IOR at IMPHAL, on 13-12-44.	Tried by SGCM and awarded 6 months R.I.
25. 7 Africans entered compound at SHUEBO, threaten civilians and rape woman, on 15-1-45.	Pte. JONAS S/o LUPAMGA, 3 IB Coy., EAASC sentenced by FGCM to 5 years' IHL and discharged.
26. Dvr AMATAO of 892 Coy WAASC in attempted rape of girl KUMUDAHI BALAN DE of RAMU on 4 Feb 45.	Driver O. Amartifo, 892 Coy. W.A.A.S.C. convicted by F.G. C.M. of attempted rape and sentenced 2 years I.H.L.
27. Dhobi BADAR UDDIN accused by civil police of murder of woman in TEIPURA STATE, in Feb 45.	GURUDAYAL SINGH AND BADAR UDDIN were convicted of the offence of abetment of murder, GURDAYAL SINGH who took the leading part in connection with this offence was sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for six years and BADAR UDDIN was sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for 4 years. The case is now closed.
28. Gnr PILKINGTON of 32 Rft Camp with 2 BORs entered civilian house at MAJHIRAGAS near PALAS-BARI and when refused a woman, set fire to the house, 10-2-45.	Tried by S.G.C.M. Bdr. EBDON and Gnr. PILKINGTON each awarded 6 months detention. EBDON reduced to ranks.
29. Pte. SAKA alleged to have attempted rape on native woman at FATEKHARNUL. This WAOR beaten up by civilians on 4 Feb. 45.	Pte. SAKA tried by FGCM and awarded 2 years IHL and dismissal.
30. Sepoy SAKHI Mohd. of 5/16 punjabis assaults upon woman at GARJANIA on 17 Aug. 44	Sepoy sakhi mohd. discharged from service under I.A.A. rule 13B(III)(V)
31. Two women from West of MANGALDAI kidnapped and violated by American Negroes on 23 Apr 44.	The matter was put into the hands of U. S. Authorities who undertook to investigate and take steps to prevent recurrence of similar incidents. No further report necessary
32. Woman assaulted by IORs at HI-JILI KHARAGPUR (early May 44).	Acquitted.
33. IORS of 25/8th Punjab Regt. accused of rape in Dunka District, SANTHAL PARGANAS (early May 44).	All acquitted of rape. Havildar sentenced to 6 months R.I. on charge of wrongful confinement and rioting: four sepoy sentenced to 4 months R. I. on similar charges. 3 acquitted.
34. Affray between Sepoys of 78 Ind. Anti-Malarial Unit and civilians at Ishrude, at prostitute quarters on 25 Jul 44.	Tried by SCM and conviction set aside.
35. Two IORs tried to molest a beggar woman on 29 Jul 44 at KANCHRAPARA.	IORs sentenced to 14 and 7 days R. I. respectively (Summary award).

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 1718, asked by Hajee Chaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan, on the 9th April, 1945

LICENCES FOR FISHING AT OKHLA

The issue of the licences is at the discretion of the Executive engineer who issues them to amateur anglers after satisfying himself of their bonafides, and a few professional fishermen. The same procedure was followed in 1943-44.

Some applications for annual licences from previous holders were refused in the succeeding year as it was considered necessary to reduce the number of licences in that year. There were no complaints against any of them and no intention of not recognising them as bonafide amateur anglers.

Information promised in reply to a supplementary to starred question No. 1800, asked by Mr. Badri Dutt Pande on the 12th April, 1945

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION

Accounts of the Indian Federation of Labour for the monthly grant of Rs. 12,000 for Labour propaganda.

Month	Pay of Propagandists	Travelling expenses	Printing charges	Meeting and demonstrations	Dissemination of news	Total
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
June 1944	4,769 2 0	779 7 0	3,291 3 0	3,328 1 0	879 0 0	13,046 13 0
July 1944	5,003 6 0	569 7 0	2,915 2 0	3,690 2 0	1,074 4 0	13,252 5 0
August 1944	4,944 6 0	872 0 6	3,126 0 0	2,998 14 6	1,048 14 0	12,990 3 0
September 1944	3,914 6 0	817 6 6	2,985 0 0	3,136 15 0	944 0 0	12,797 11 6
October 1944	4,669 6 0	522 8 0	3,252 8 0	3,394 9 0	992 0 0	12,830 15 0
November 1944	4,754 6 0	1,054 9 0	3,451 8 0	3,046 9 0	1,008 11 0	13,315 11 0
December 1944	4,669 6 0	1,035 6 0	3,992 8 9	3,165 2 0	1,130 7 0	13,992 13 9
January 1945	4,789 6 0	942 14 0	3,104 9 4	2,718 2 0	1,066 0 0	12,640 15 4
February 1945	4,589 6 0	878 4 0	3,236 5 6	2,601 6 6	1,226 0 0	12,531 6 0
March 1945	4,815 0 0	658 1 0	3,139 0 0	3,090 13 0	1,286 0 0	12,988 14 0
April 1945	3,550 0 0	681 10 0	2,728 8 0	4,238 3 0	1,113 0 0	12,311 5 0
May 1945	1,780 0 0	897 11 0	2,308 0 0	3,633 2 0	3,941 10 0	12,560 7 0
June 1945	1,780 0 0	777 3 0	2,281 9 3	3,265 13 0	4,414 0 0	12,519 9 3
July 1945	1,790 0 0	1,148 14 0	2,001 8 0	4,032 6 0	4,213 6 0	13,186 2 0

Details of expenditure incurred during the months of August to December 1945 will be placed on the table of the House as soon as they become available.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 35, asked by Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, on the 5th February, 1946

CHAIRMANSHIP OF BEAWAR MUNICIPALITY

(a) and (b) Yes.

(c) The newly elected committee will be permitted to elect its own chairman.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 33, asked by Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, on the 12th February, 1946

PROSCRIBED PUBLICATIONS

Books and Publications proscribed by the Central Government and the Chief Commissioners since January, 1942

1. Ravaged India. (Anonymous).
2. The Revolution of 1905 by Lenin. (This book is not now under ban).
3. Arya Satyagraha by Satya Dev Vidyalankar.
4. Shahri Azadi by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya.
5. Jang (Urdu Daily) dated the 19th July, 1943. (One copy forfeited under Defence of India Rules).
6. Jai Hind by Satya Dev Vidyalankar.
7. Nau (9th) August by Shri Hari.
8. Jai Hind by Sri Ram.
9. Tarikh Azad Hind Fauj by Maulana Imdad Sabri.
10. Sangharsh Kyon (Hindi pamphlet). (Published by the Dictator Marwar Lok Parishad, Jodhpur, and printed by Pannalal Gupta Anant at the Adarsh Press, Ajmer).
11. Scented Garden by Dr. Bernhard Stern and Translated into English by David Bergen.

Presses from which security was demanded in Chief Commissioner's Provinces since January, 1942

1. Kodagu Press, Coorg.
2. Ambike Press, Coorg.
3. Arjun Press, Delhi.
4. Hindustan Times Press, New Delhi.
5. Rooprani Printing House, Delhi.
6. Raj Hans, Delhi.
7. Parkash Printing Works, Delhi.
8. Saraswati Press, Delhi.
9. Rajasthan Press, Ajmer.
10. Adarsh Printing Press, Ajmer.
11. Narain Printing Press, Beawar.
12. Shree Narain Printing Press, Beawar.
13. Ram Krisana Printing Press, Ajmer.

News-papers from which security was demanded

Delhi

1. Tej (Urdu Daily).
2. Aj (Urdu Daily).
3. Hindustan Times (English Weekly).
4. Vir Arjun (Hindi Weekly).
5. Riyasat (Urdu Weekly).
6. Mahshir-i-Khayal (Urdu Monthly).
7. Tej (Urdu Daily).
8. Hindustan (Hindi Daily).
9. Sachitra Darbar (Hindi Weekly), published by Pandit Prabhat Vidyarthi.
10. Sachitra Darbar (Hindi Weekly), published by Lala Shankar Lal Gupta Vindu.

Ajmer

11. Navajyoti, Ajmer.
12. Prakratik Chikitsak, Ajmer.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 281, asked by Shri Sri Prakasa, on the 14th February, 1946.

PURCHASE OF WHEAT BY UNITED PROVINCES GOVERNMENT

	Tons
(a) (i) Within the province	98,325
(ii) From outside the province	1,95,059
Total	2,93,384

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) In the beginning of the year, the U. P. Government were subsidising the sale of pure wheat on the ration. Subsequently they decided to stop this and to subsidise the sale of coarser grains instead. The discontinuance of the subsidy naturally led to an increase in the price of wheat.

(d) The U. P. Government suffered a net loss of Rs. 5,000 on wheat, over and above the cost of administration.

Retail selling price of Wheat on Government ration shops in the U.P.

Date	Lucknow Region Seers Chhattanks per rupee	Moradabad Region Seers Chhattanks per rupee	Cawnpore Region Seers Chhattanks per rupee	Benares Region Seers Chhattanks per rupee	Meerut Region Seers Chhattanks per rupee
1	2	3	4	5	6
1-1-45 to 28-2-45	4 0 Bareilly and Shah- jahanpur 3 12 Rest of Lucknow Region.	4 4 (plains)	3 12 Cawnpore and Allahabad Dis- tricts. 4 4 Rest of Cawnpore Region.	3 8	3 12 Dehra Dun Dis- trict. 4 4 Saharanpur Dis- trict., (except Hardwar and Roorkee Regu- lated Towns) 4 0 Hardwar and Roorkee towns. 4 4 Rest of Meerut Division. 4 0 Agra Division. 3 8 Dehradun District and Agra Dis- trict. 3 12 Rest of Meerut Region.
1-3-45 to 31-5-45	3 8	3 12 (plains)	3 8	3 8	

Date	Lucknow Region Seers Chattanks per rupee	Moradabad Region Seers Chattanks per rupee	Cawnpore Region Seers Chattanks per rupee	Benares Region Seers Chattanks per rupee	Meerut Region Seers Chattanks per rupee
1	2	3	4	5	6
1-6-45 to 16-6-45	<p>3 8 Fyzabad, Shahjehanpur and Bareilly Districts.</p> <p>3 12 Hardoi, Sitapur, Barabanki, Pilibhit and Budaun Districts.</p> <p>3 4 Rest of Lucknow Region.</p>	<p>3 12 Moradabad District.</p> <p>3 8 Bijnor District.</p> <p>3 0 Nainital and Lansdowne Towns. (Hill).</p> <p>2 4 Pauri Town (Hill).</p> <p>2 14 Almora and Ranikhet Town (Hill).</p>	<p>3 4 Cawnpore and Allahabad Districts.</p> <p>3 10 Farrukhabad, Fatehpur and Etawah Districts</p> <p>3 8 Jhansi District.</p> <p>3 12 Rest of Cawnpore Region.</p>	<p>3 12 Gonda and Bahraich Districts.</p> <p>3 8 Basti District.</p> <p>3 4 The rest of Benares Region.</p>	<p>2 14 Mussoorie Town.</p> <p>3 4 Rest of Dehra Dun district.</p> <p>3 8 Hardwar Town and Muthra District.</p> <p>3 10 Muzaffarnagar and Meerut Districts.</p> <p>3 12 Bulandshahr District.</p> <p>3 6 Agra District and Hathras town.</p> <p>3 8 Aligarh District (excluding Hathras.)</p> <p>3 12 Rest of Meerut Region.</p> <p>3 6 Aligarh District including Hathras.</p> <p>No change—Rest of the Region.</p>
16-6-45 to 31-7-45	<p>3 4 Fyzabad District</p> <p>No change—Rest of the Region.</p>	<p>No change.</p>	<p>3 6 Farrukhabad and Etawah Districts.</p> <p>No change—Rest of the Region.</p>	<p>No change.</p>	<p>No change—Rest of the Region.</p>

1-8-45 to 31-8-45	No change.	No change.	No change.	No change.	3 8 Meerut district, Saharanpur and Roorkee towns.
1-9-45 to 30-9-45	3 6 Shahjahanpur and Bareilly Districts No change—Rest of the Region.	3 8 Moradabad District. No change—Rest of the Region.	3 4 Jhansi District. 3 6 Fatehpur District. No change—Rest of the Region.	No change.	3 6 Mainpuri and Etah Districts. No change—Rest of the Region.
1-10-45 to 1-12-45	No change.	3 12 Moradabad. No change—Rest of the Region.	No change.	No change.	No change.

The above shows detailed price changes for the whole Province. The following four towns are typical examples of how the price increased throughout the year 1945.

1. Bareilly . 4 srs. 0 ch. (January 1—February 28), 3 srs. 8 chs. (March 1—August 31).
3 srs. 6 chs. (September 30—December 31).
2. Cawnpore . 3 srs. 12 chs. (January 1—February 28), 3 srs. 8 chs. (March 1—May 31).
3 srs. 4 chs. (June 1—December 31).
3. Benares . 3 srs. 8 chs. (January 1—May 31), 3 srs. 4 chs. (June 1—December 31).
4. Meerut . 4 srs. 4 chs. (January 1—February 28), 3 srs. 12 chs. (March 1—May 31).
3 srs. 10 chs. (June 1—July 31), 3 srs. 8 chs. (August 1—December 31).

Information promised in reply to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 566, asked by Srijut Dharendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury, on the 27th February, 1946.

TICKETS TRAVEL

(a) and (b). The figures "more than 2,000" as given in the news item are correct and relate to the whole month of January 1946, during which many trains at different stations were subjected to special checks.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ADMISSIONS OF STUDENTS IN FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS

Sri E. Venkatasubba Reddier: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to a message by the Free Press of India reported in the *Free Press Journal* dated the 9th March, 1946, entitled "Training in U. K. A Big Scandal";

(b) if it is a fact that as stated therein by a student from England that many Indian students were shoved into a third rate polytechnic school without regard to their qualifications;

(c) if it is a fact that the India Office were not informed of the qualifications and requirements of the students;

(d) the colleges or schools in United Kingdom into which Indian students have obtained admission, how many yet remain to be admitted and how many have been forced into institutions entirely unsuited to them;

(e) if any of them were admitted into Matriculation class of Cardiff when their qualifications were far higher than that class; and

(f) if the Government propose to reconsider their decision of sending further batches of students before proper arrangements are made for their studies in the United Kingdom?

Dr. Sir John Sargent: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir. The majority of the scholars have been admitted to Universities. The Polytechnics selected for some are the leading ones in the country which provide courses of a type not available in Universities. A point to be borne in mind in regard to the scholars selected for certain subjects is that although they may have very good science degree of the ordinary kind their qualifications do not provide an adequate background for advanced studies in the special subjects for which they were selected. In the case of a number of subjects regarded as of great importance for India's post-war development the facilities in this country have hitherto been either non-existent or of an elementary character. Students of these must therefore begin more or less at the beginning. For some of these subjects, e.g., Plastics the best training is provided in Polytechnics which only offer Diploma courses. These are not familiar to and therefore not appreciated by some of our students who are inclined to consider a Doctorate or a Masters degree as always a better qualification than a Diploma. In a few cases genuine mistakes have been made which are now being rectified.

(c) Full information was in all cases furnished to the High Commissioner regarding the present attainments of the students and the subjects which they were to study abroad. The India Office are not concerned.

(d) A statement showing the institutions in the U. K. in which places have been secured for the Government sponsored students is placed on the table. Only 18 out of the 182 students sponsored by the Government of India now remain to be placed in educational institutions in the U. K. 143 students have secured admission and have already left. 15 have secured admission and will proceed shortly. Six Central Government scholars declined the scholarship. Out of the 151 students sponsored by the Provincial Governments and intended for the U. K., 112 have been placed in educational institutions and places have still to be secured for 39. No figures are yet available as to how many of these have been placed unsatisfactorily; but this matter is being looked into.

(e) So far as our records show, no student has been admitted to any institution in Cardiff.

(f) No Sir. The difficulties experienced last year were partly due to the fact that owing to unavoidable causes, the final selections could not be made till July when it was rather late for securing admissions to institutions abroad and partly to the fact that owing to passages difficulties some students did not arrive in time to take up reservations already secured and had to be fitted in elsewhere. This year, however, efforts are being made to complete the selections by the middle of April in order that there may be ample time in which to secure places.

List of Institutions where admissions have been secured for Central Scholars, 1945

Edinburgh University.

Ministry of Agriculture Laboratory, Weybridge.

Cambridge University.

King's College, New Castle-on-Tyne.

King's College, London.

Manchester University and College of Tech.

Glasgow University.

Liverpool University.

Tory Research Institute (for Fisheries).

Huddersfield Technical College.

Scientific and Industrial Research Lab. Teddington.

University College, London.

Plymouth Marine Biology Station.

Leeds University.

Princes Risborough Agriculture College.

Hannah Dairy Research Instt.

Stoke-on-Trent Technical College.

Meteorological Office.

University College, South Wales.

University College, North Wales.

Birmingham University.

Sheffield University.

Automobile Engg. Training College.

Loughborough College.

Chelmsford Technical College.

Marconi Technical Institute.

B. B. C.

Borough Polytechnic.

Faraday House.

Central Electricity Board (Edmunds, Elec. Corporation, Ltd.).

City of Birmingham Central Tech. College.

City of Oxford School of Technology.

Woolwich Polytechnic.

Derby Technical College.

Battersea Polytechnic.

Imperial Institute.

Imperial College of Science.

Pharmaceutical College.

Imperial Forestry Institute, Oxford.

Rothamstead Agricultural Research Institute.

Aberystwyth, University College.

London School of Economics.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: May I know the machinery and the authority which actually decides upon the particular institutions to which the students are to be admitted when they reach there?

Dr. Sir John Sargent: When the students appeared before the Central Selection Board, they were all asked—I myself was present all the time—whether they had any particular institution which they would like to go to. Where they had a definite preference, that was put down as the place selected. In other cases, the Technical Members of the Board discussed the matter with the students and if the students agreed, then the institution recommended was put down. Failing any particular desire on the part of the students or any recommendation by the Board, the question was referred to our Educational Liaison officers in U.K., and in U.S.A.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Does it mean that the final decision in the matter rests with the Educational officer in U.K. or U.S.A., and if so, do the Government consider that it will meet with the needs of the situation much better than there should be a committee of two or three persons here in India who should decide upon each candidate's case with specific relation to the accommodation which is available there and the institution to which he should be sent.

Dr. Sir John Sargent: The difficulties as I explained, last year were these. When we embarked on this ambitious scheme, we did not overlook certain serious difficulties, but there was one problem which turned up afterwards and which very much complicated the position and that was the unexpectedly early termination of the War in the East. It not only added to the pressure on institutions, but also caused very serious transport and passage problems, which have meant in a number of cases that students who were ready to go have been held up in this country some for a few months and some are still here. Another result was that certain reservations which we had been able to procure in institutions abroad could not be kept open after a certain date owing to the fact that the institutions, having so many students clamouring for places, did not think it fair to keep these places reserved indefinitely in the hope of Indian students turning up sooner or later. In those cases, they have offered sympathetic consideration for places next year. I am afraid the machinery which my Honourable friend suggests would not have relieved us in that particular difficulty which we had last year. As I said, we hope this year with more time and much better machinery, to overcome these difficulties. There were some cases of bad placing, but the last report I have received from my Educational Liaison officer in U.K. states quite definitely that these have now been satisfactorily settled.

Sri. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: What arrangements have been made for sending those students selected last year and who are still waiting here for whatever reason they have not been sent till now?

Dr. Sir John Sargent: We have done two things. Where there is any probability that a student will have to wait probably until the opening of the next academic year, we have tried to arrange that he should continue his studies in some research institution in this country and I hope that will at any rate prevent the wasting of his time while waiting for passage. We hope of course that the passage position may improve at any moment, in which case we shall get more students away. With regard to the question of looking after them, we have made, I think, reasonably liberal arrangements for their maintenance until such time as they are able to go and take up their scholarships.

Seth Govind Das: May I know how much time of these students have been already wasted?

Dr. Sir John Sargent: I think it is inevitable that one or two months—and in some cases perhaps more—have been wasted, and for the reasons I have explained. I am afraid we could not help that, and we have done what we could to mitigate the effects of it.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Othttiar: Will those persons who were selected last year be given preference over those to be selected this year?

Dr. Sir John Sargent: Yes, I can safely say that.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Notwithstanding the difficulties, will Government realise that instead of these students going to the United Kingdom merely for the purpose of going there, the object of these students being sent should be that they should receive certain instructions, and that therefore a proper machinery should be created to ensure that they go to the proper institution and get the proper training and they should themselves feel satisfied? Will Government consider that it may after all be better not to send them for the time being and detain them here rather than send them there to take admission into any institution, good, bad or indifferent?

Dr. Sir John Sargent: My Honourable friend is quite correct. It is our intention and it has been our intention that students should be sent to study a specific subject for which they have the necessary background and which subject will be of definite and known use in the postwar reconstruction plans. And I can assure my Honourable friend that we shall not spend money on sending students abroad either to waste their time or ours by not placing them in satisfactory institutions. I may inform him that the few cases which have come to our attention were cases of genuine mistake. And the mistakes have been quite curious in some cases. For instance, there have been mutilations in original telegrams, where students wanting to study Physiology were reported in London to be wanting to study Physics, etc. We have cleared up these things and I hope they will not occur again. But certainly it is our intention that as every student is selected for a specific technical subject—so far as we can possibly manage it—to see that that student studies that subject when he goes there and not some other subject.

Seth Govind Das: Are we to take it that before they are sent out from here proper arrangements for their admission to various institutions abroad will be made?

Dr. Sir John Sargent: Yes. But, as I have explained, owing to this delay in passage, some of the institutions in which we got admission had to say reluctantly that they could not keep them open any longer and therefore alternative arrangements had to be made in the United Kingdom for these students.

HUNGER STRIKE BY R.I.N. RATINGS IN MULUND CAMP

Mr. M. R. Masani: Will the War Secretary kindly state:

(a) Whether it is true that, as reported in the *Free Press Journal* of March 14, 300 R.I.N. ratings, segregated in the Mulund Camp as a result of action taken in connection with the incidents of last month, have been on hunger strike since the morning of March 12;

(b) whether this step has been taken by the ratings as a protest against the insufficiency of food and the insult and maltreatment by an officer to one of them who carried a message complaining of the inadequacy of the food supplied on the morning of March 12;

(c) whether the Flag Officer Commanding, Bombay, Rear Admiral Rattray and an Army Brigadier visited the Camp on the morning of March 12 and that, after listening to the complaints of the ratings, the Flag Officer Commanding told them that he would consider the matter and communicate his decision to them later; and

(d) whether the Government will take immediate steps to have matters put right at the Mulund Camp so as to enable the hunger strike to be terminated?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). At about 1 P.M. on Tuesday, the 12th March, a rating in Mulund camp complained to an officer that the food allotted to him for his mess was insufficient. The rating alleges that the officer then pushed him; the officer alleges that the rating first used insulting language to

him and threatened him with a stick. Actually the report is that the officer says he told the man to go to the cookhouse and get some more food, and the man replied that he was asking his officer for food and he was not going to the cookhouse for that. The truth of that will come out in the inquiry. The officer has been removed from the camp, and a Board of Enquiry into the incident sat at 1400 on the 13th. Its report is awaited.

At the midday meal on the 12th (*i.e.*, immediately after the incident first referred to), certain ratings refused their food, and started a general agitation for a hunger strike.

On the 13th, the bulk of the ratings at Mulund camp would not eat the rations provided for them; a small number, however, asked the officer-in-charge to be allowed to eat their food under protection, and rations were furnished to them, and protection given to enable them to eat.

On the evening of the 13th, about 100 ratings in the camp asked for protection as they were being intimidated into refusing their food. Protection was given by placing a special guard round their barracks.

Early in the morning of the 14th, about 40 of the ratings who were suspected of intimidating the rest were taken out of Mulund camp and moved temporarily to a hutted building some little distance away, under military guard. The 300 ratings then remaining in Mulund camp thereupon sat down to their breakfasts. While they were eating, an uproar arose in the hutted building, owing to a difference of opinion among the 40 extremists as to whether they too should resume eating. On this, 28 men in the Mulund camp started a further agitation, and only about 180 of the Mulund ratings ate their midday meal on the 14th. At supper-time, about 240 ate their meal.

In the evening of that day (the 14th), the original 40 extremists were removed to another camp at Kalyan, and the 28 who had started the agitation on the morning of the 14th were segregated at Mulund. All the ratings in the main Mulund camp and all those at Kalyan have eaten their normal meals since the morning of the 15th, and the 28 segregated ratings at Mulund have eaten their normal meals since the evening of the 15th.

(c) This is incorrect. At no stage has Rear Admiral Rattray visited the camp. The officer-in-charge of the camp, whose duty it was to do so, heard all complaints and representations which were put forward, and dealt with them in the normal Service manner.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Did the Honourable Member receive my telegram on the 12th about this very incident and did he take any steps in pursuance of what I suggested there?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir, I received the Honourable Member's telegram about the same time as I received the other Honourable Member's short notice question, and by that time it appeared that the matter was already in hand.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Is it a fact that, apart from the incident to which the Honourable Member has referred, the main grievance of these people in Mulund camp was insufficiency and unsatisfactory nature of the food that was being given?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir, that is not my information. My information is that apart from this one incident there was no general complaint. I have got the officer's story and I have got the man's story, and I do not know which is true. But according to the officer's story this man came with a *degchee* and said that he should be given more food in it. The officer asked him to go to the cookhouse and he said, "I am asking you for food, I am not going to the cookhouse."

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Is the Honourable Member aware that the real complaint in Mulund camp was that Lieut. Singh who was the officer on duty on that day really behaved rather badly towards one of these ratings? The story that the Honourable Member has given here may be the account given by the officer against whom this complaint was lodged. I am not aware of one or the other and so I do not know which of the two stories is correct. But all that I am wanting to know is whether it has been brought to the knowledge of the authorities that the actual grievance was about the insufficiency and unsatisfactory nature of the food given to them, which led to some kind of complaint from one of the ratings to Lieut. Singh and he behaved rather badly towards this person, with the result that others joined in the protest. Have all these facts been brought to the notice of the authorities yet?

Mr. P. Mason: My information is not quite the same. As I have stated with regard to the particular incident about the officer, I think both sides have been fully represented; and my information is that there was no general complaint about the food. But I will have further inquiries made to make certain that that is so.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Will the Honourable Member take it from me that the complaint about food is general even now, not merely in Mulund camp but elsewhere too, and the sooner this is looked into the better?

(No reply was given)

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I know whether this food is supplied by contract?

Mr. P. Mason: It is supplied by the R.I.A.S.C. in the same way as to other members of the armed forces.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Is it a fact that the food is being supplied by some department or other and this complaint about food has been going on for a long time, not for a day or two but for weeks and months together? The *dal* supplied has stones in it, and the rice is uneatable, and so on; and the same *dal* is supplied from day to day for weeks and months together. These stories go about and I see no reason why these complaints cannot be remedied straightaway.

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, I should like to answer that. I rather welcome the opportunity of answering that because, as I say, all the Armed Forces are supplied by the R.I.A.S.C. The rations are considerably more than those given to the civil population—rather less than 50 per cent. more—and Members on the other side of the House were suggesting to me the other day that they should be reduced. They are, as I say, already considerably in excess of those supplied to the civil population. In the case of the R.I.N. they are also rather in excess of those supplied to the Army. It is perfectly true that from time to time reports are received that the quality of *dal*, or the quality of rice, or sometimes the quality of *atta*, is not what it should be. . . .

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Also it is badly cooked.

Mr. P. Mason: Cooking is another point. But when the quality of the actual stuff supplied is questioned, it is generally found that there is a good reason for that, and steps are taken to put it right, but it takes some time before the old stock is used up. For example, there was a general complaint, I know about the quality of *atta* some months ago. It transpired that that was due to the landing of large shipments of wheat in Calcutta as a result of which the great deal of hoarded wheat which had been kept against the rise of prices had been brought out and had weevils in it and as a result a good deal of not very good *atta* came into circulation. But I cannot suppose that in the present conditions of food any of my friends on the opposite side would suggest that we should throw that stuff away.

With regard to cooking, there is always a continuous improvement and the Army School of Cookery is putting through and training people as quickly as possible.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is common knowledge in Bombay that about the time when these grievances were talked about no less than 150 sacks of the finest atta that you could imagine was being sold in the blackmarket and people were purchasing this. This atta had been supplied to the blackmarket by certain Army authorities—God alone knows who they were; contractors or somebody—but it was being sold in the blackmarket everybody knows it. When it is said that the stock ought not to be thrown away, I agree, but surely good stock which is held by the authorities should not be thrown into the blackmarket, and these people supplied the rotten stuff.

Mr. P. Mason: I entirely agree, but it has been my experience that matters of common knowledge do not in effect always prove to be correct.

Mr. M. R. Masani: In order to end such unpleasant incidents, will Government act on the spirit of their assurance against victimisation by introducing an Amnesty Bill in this Assembly?

Mr. P. Mason: There is no necessity for putting through an Amnesty Bill, but I don't think my friend will have any complaint when they examine our conclusions in this matter.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Since this matter has been raised, I would like to put one other question. I have heard a number of things about demobilization. The Selection Board that is now dealing with the question is not paying any attention to the fact that certain age rules, etc., are to be tackled first and a number of persons who are perfectly eligible for retention for permanent Commissions are being sacked. The main grievance, as far as I could judge, was that out of 2,500 officers only about 66 are likely to be retained, and all the others are being demobilized. This is apart from ratings. This was the real grievance which was in the background many months ago which went on maturing until the particular incident which brought about the strike; it was the last straw on the camel's back. To my mind the policy of demobilization in the R.I.N. needs to be overhauled completely in view of the fact that we would like to expand our Navy rather than contract it, and therefore the demobilization of these persons, who are really able to continue working at this amazing rate, is entirely wrong.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may answer if he likes, but I am afraid it is outside the scope of the question.

(No reply was given.)

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

INABILITY OF PEASANTS IN JUBBULPORE TO HARVEST THEIR WINTER FOOD GRAIN CROPS OWING TO RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY FOOD GRAIN CONTROL ORDER

Mr. President: I have received notice of an adjournment motion "to consider a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the inability of the peasants in Jubbulpore area to harvest their winter food grain crops caused by the working of the Food Grains Control Order which prohibits agricultural labourers from taking grains paid to them as wages in kind to their homes situated in villages, other than those where they work and also the inability of the peasants who own lands to pay adequate wages to local labourers in order to attract them away from *biri* factories." The notice is by the Honourable Members Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Prof. Ranga, Mr. Venkatasubba Reddiar.

In the first place, it relates to two different matters.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): In regard to the first question, I would like the Honourable Member to give any information that he has to the House because that is a sort of complaint which is generally prevailing. We got that news in the press.

Mr. President: I understand that, but as the motion stands it relates to two different matters. I take it the Honourable Member agrees that one part of it must be cut out.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Yes, Sir. The latter portion goes out.

Mr. President: The only portion that remains then is about the Jubbulpore area. How is the matter of sufficient importance? What does he mean by 'Jubbulpore area'?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is how we got the information. The news emanated from Jubbulpore. Specific information is given that so much area of land and crops thereon are lying there ready to be harvested, but there are no workers to harvest it, because workers are suffering under that particular difficulty.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Ripe but no reaper!

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): There are four Tehsils in Jubbulpore District—Jubbulpore, Pitan, Sinora, Murwara. In all these four Tehsils there is *Rabi* crops generally and the position there is that the crop is ripe for reaping. Until now the labourers were paid in kind. Now according to the new rules they are paid in cash. There are very few labourers in that district and labourers come there from Rewa and Narsinghpur, the adjoining two places. Because they are not getting anything in kind, they are not coming there, and, if these rules are not changed, I am afraid the *Rabi* crop will not be reaped and there will be a big famine in that area.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): May I rise to a point of order. I submit it is for the Chair to decide the admissibility of this motion, the urgency of it, and whether it cannot form part of the general discussion on the Finance Bill, or whether it is so urgent that it should be admitted as an adjournment motion. It is for you to decide first before the Food Member answers.

Mr. President: That is why I put the question to the Honourable Member as to what he meant by the words 'Jubbulpore area'. I wanted to be clear. . . (Interruption by Seth Govind Das) Order, order. No interruptions. I wanted to be clear about the extent of the area. If the area is sufficiently large, then the matter would stand differently. If it really affects a very small area and it is a matter of administrative convenience, the matter will stand differently and need not be taken up on an adjournment motion. That is why I wanted to know from the Honourable Member what the facts were. I did not want to go into the merits.

Seth Govind Das: The area is sufficiently long.

Mr. President: Order, order. I have heard sufficient on the question of area.

Seth Govind Das: I wanted to say something about the population.

Mr. President: Order, order.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I can understand my Honourable friend's anxiety because he comes from that place. I have given notice of the adjournment. When the harvest is ripe there is no reaper: this is the substance of the news in the "*Hindustan Times*" dated 16th March. We have sent our best men to load ships with grains for U.S.A. but here when the harvest is ripe there is no reaper. This is due to the orders passed by the Central Government and not by the Local Government. The persons who reap have no food. It is for the benefit of others they work. This is a large area. I am giving the symptom in a particular part of the country. Therefore, it is urgent. I do not want to censure the Government. I would like to know what the truth is. If the answer is not proper, then it is a case for censure.

Mr. President: What does the Food Secretary have to say?

Mr. B. B. Sen (Secretary Food Department): On receiving notice of this adjournment motion I sent a telegram to the Central Provinces Government and I got a reply this morning which I sent over to the Whip of the Opposi-

tion to see. I thought that after reading that reply they would not press this adjournment motion. That reply makes clear the circumstances in which a certain order under the Foodgrains Export Control Order, which has been in force in the Central Provinces for some time; *bona fide* travellers are allowed to take 2½ maunds of rice when they go out of the Province. But last week they amended that order and have laid down that *bona fide* travellers could take only ten seers of rice. This they have done in order to prevent smuggling. This particular incident had not come to the notice of the Central Provinces Government but as soon as they heard of this adjournment motion, they said they would institute enquiries and if they found any genuine hardships being caused they would re-examine the case. So there is no reason for the apprehension which is in the minds of the Members.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhamadan Rural): By what time will we get the information?

Mr. B. R. Sen: No crop will remain unharvested for this reason. As soon as this matter is investigated, necessary permits will be issued.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am satisfied. I do not press the motion.

Mr. President: Very well, the matter then ends. Sir Archibald Rowlands.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir I move:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April 1946 be taken into consideration."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April 1946 be taken into consideration."

Mr. President: I understand that all sections of the House have arrived at a general agreement on the question of the time-table for the Finance Bill and the Supplementary Grants, Railways as well as General. The time-table will be as under:

Commencing from Tuesday, that is today, the 19th instant, all stages of the Finance Bill will be completed by 5 P.M. on Thursday the 28th, and all questions then outstanding in regard to the Finance Bill will be put to the vote of the Assembly without any further discussion on any question.

The Railways and General Supplementary Demands will be taken up on the 29th instant and continued on Saturday the 30th instant, which will be a working day. The Assembly will similarly dispose of, on that day, all the outstanding Supplementary Demands by 5 P.M.

It is understood that if the consideration motion in respect of the Finance Bill is not finished before 5 P.M. on Tuesday, the 26th instant; the closure may be moved in respect of the consideration motion on Wednesday, the 27th March at the commencement of the Legislative business that day. If closure is moved and carried and subsequently the consideration motion is carried, the House will then proceed to consider the Finance Bill clause by clause.

During all these days, the question hour will ordinarily not be suspended, unless exigencies of the situation require the suspension on account of the time of the House being up by any adjournment motion.

It is further understood that while spokesmen of various parties and groups may have about forty-five minutes as time limit for speeches, the ordinary time limit will be twenty minutes for each speaker, but in any case not exceeding about thirty minutes.

I trust the arrangements being the result of agreement of all parties, Honourable Members will co-operate with the Chair in giving effect to it.

stood that the House must necessarily adjourn at 5 o'clock every day, because
Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhamadan Rural): Is it under-

if my recollection serves me right, there had been occasions in the past when the House sat for longer hours for the purpose of disposing of such business.

Mr. President: I cannot say what was passing in the minds of the Honourable Members of the House, in preparing the time-table but at any rate, my impression has been that we do not sit beyond 5 P.M.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadan): Forty minutes of our time have been taken up. Cannot we sit so many minutes after 5 P.M.

Mr. President: We may sit if the House so desires. But the time that is taken up every day is entirely in the hands of the House. If there are lesser number of questions and points of order and so on, we shall be saving time. If short notice questions are also disposed of more quickly than what we have done today, we can save time.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): This time should be cut from the Congress Party.

Mr. President: I am not concerned with the Congress, Muslim League or the Government. I am speaking for the whole House.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): He was saying that this half hour be taken from the Congress.

Mr. President: We shall see to that. If necessary, it may be done, for doing even justice between the parties. But that is a different matter.

Another aspect which I would like to point out to the Honourable Members is that sitting for longer hours does mean a lot of strain on the staff. If Honourable Members have certain points to make, they are entitled to speak them out. If they can help to relieve the staff of the trouble of overstrain of work, I shall be happy. It is not on their representation that I am saying something but the strain really becomes unbearable and I am saying this from my experience of some other House and not this House. It does really become a strain. But if necessary, we shall certainly sit, if the House agrees.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): May I make the point that sitting late also means an intolerable strain upon the front bench and the Officials of Government who have to carry on the administration of the country after the House rises. I strongly object to sitting after 5 P.M.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): I would like to submit. . . .

Mr. President: Let us not take more time.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: It has been suggested that except in the case of the people speaking on behalf of parties, the time limit should be twenty minutes. I do not know how that agreement was arrived at but in the case of unattached members, twenty minutes is far too small and if you would kindly, either on your own indulgence or by not looking at the time too meticulously give the unattached members time to speak for half an hour, it would be appreciated.

Mr. President: Perhaps the Honourable Member did not follow what I said. This is what I said: "It is further understood that while spokesmen of various parties and groups may have about forty-five minutes as time-limit for speeches, the ordinary time-limit will be twenty minutes for each speaker, but in any case, not exceeding about thirty minutes."

Therefore, if any Honourable Member is making out a point which has not been made before in the House, if he is not repeating what has been said, I may say that I shall make the best possible effort to give him more time. I cannot go beyond that.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): He is an unattached Member.

Mr. President: Yes. There is another general agreement among Parties which has just come to my hands. The time apportioned is:

Congress Party—12 hours and 30 minutes, Muslim League Party—6 hours and 30 minutes, European Group—2 hours and 45 minutes, Unattached Members including Nominated non-official 2 hours and 30 minutes and Government Members 4 hours in all.

These are approximate time limits.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Sir, if the time allotted has been arrived at by the number in each party, the European Group which contains about ten members are given 2 hours and 45 minutes and the unattached Members who are at least 20 are given about the same time, which is rather unfair.

Mr. President: It would save time if we proceed with the business of the House now. If members will take care to see that they do not repeat what has been said by other members, the time allotted would be adequate.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): In allotting the time there should be some sense of proportion. The time allotted to the European Group should not be equal to the time allotted to the Unattached Members who number 20.

Mr. President: The time allotted is the maximum limit but it does not mean that that amount of time must necessarily be taken by each party. I shall see that other parties do save some of their time, so that the unattached members are able to get some extra time.

I have also to inform Honourable Members that on account of the continuance of the strike in the Government Press it will not be possible to get more copies of the Finance Bill printed. Honourable Members are, therefore, requested to preserve the copies of the Bill which have been placed on their tables today and to bring them to the Chamber for use during the progress of the Finance Bill.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Sir, on behalf of my Party, the Indian National Congress as represented on the floor of this House, I rise to oppose the consideration of the Indian Finance Bill.

Sir, today we stand on the threshold of a new era. Whether we shall enter the mansion of the new age with the banners of peace flying or with the dust and noise of turmoil and the clamour of strife I cannot tell. But I can say this that during a quarter of a century of public life in this country I have never known the situation in India to assume so explosive an aspect as it has done today. No doubt we welcome the statement made by the British Prime Minister in this situation. I have known a Prime Minister or two in my time, Mr. President, and I can say quite frankly that this is the first occasion on which a British Prime Minister has spoken frankly and with realism. But it is not enough to have statements. Hope does not lie in statements. Hope lies in quick effective immediate and final action, if we are to weather the storm that hangs over us and if we are not to be found without shelter when the storm breaks.

It is, Mr. President, in this situation, tense as it is, that we have been considering the budget and let me say that this budget too marks the end of an era. It seems to me that the old order is ended not only for India but it has ended for the rest of the world. What was the old order? It was an order in which the foreign capitalist, as far as my country is concerned, was given the pick of the loot in exploiting this rich and noble land, while his Indian counterpart was left with the leavings. It was an order in which death, hunger, famine and disease stalked the land. It was an order in which the foreign capitalist earned his 90 per cent dividend while the miserable Indian worker obtained a very small modicum of the profits earned by the capitalist and lived on a starvation diet and was housed in tenements or huts which have been aptly described as "the ant-heaps of pestilence." It was an order in which my Honourable friends over there grouped themselves into a self-appointed but unlawful association for purposes of the preservation of law and order and in which association my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, was merely a tax-gatherer. It

was an order which I hope with this budget is now ended but I have no doubt in my mind that if the order does not die an unhonoured death, we shall face such chaos and revolution in this country, as will shake the very foundations of peace, prosperity and security not only in India but throughout the East. It is in this light, Mr. President, that I would like to face the financial aspects of the Budget presented by my Honourable friend and it is in this light that those aspects must be lifted from the old morass into something new, from the sphere of muddle and hand-to-mouth existence to the sphere of conscious and determined planning, purposeful planning, in the interests of the people of India, the people of India conscious of their own power and determined to achieve their own freedom.

The emphasis in regard to this Budget has been laid on what has been stated to be post-war reconstruction, a phrase which I do not like, because it is a phrase that does not tell the truth. Post-war reconstruction is valid, if it can be established that there was any construction in the previous period, either *ante-bellum* or *intra-bellum* but there was no such construction. We have actually to start from scratch. Therefore it should mean not the reconstruction of a battered old tenement unable even to support its own walls but the building of a well conceived structure with dynamic ideas and on sure and secure foundations. In short it should mean national development, and national development I want my Honourable friends, to remember, is linked with the question of national freedom. You cannot in this country have national development with my Honourable friends sitting over there, sitting upon the dying body of this nation. You must have national freedom. Let me therefore, Mr. President, look at these problems from the point of view of this reconstruction of the nation with dynamic ideas.

It will be admitted, let me say quite frankly, by those who are well versed in these matters that the Budget has done something akin to what I may call streamlining, in that it has integrated the surcharges into taxation and it has made the structure certainly simpler. It has further done two other things. It has extended the principle of relief for earned income. Instead of 1/10 of the total income subject to a maximum of Rs. 2,000, relief hereafter will be 1/5 subject to a maximum of Rs. 4,000. It has done another thing. The corporation tax has been reduced by two annas. But while these things have been done and the structure simplified, my Honourable friend has done something which to my mind, looking at the interests of India, appears to be exceedingly objectionable. He has at one stroke removed the Excess Profits Tax and the cost to the nation by that action of his is about 75 crores of rupees. It has no doubt resulted in the market soaring, and no doubt it has given a fillip to the profits of those who were in a position to pay this Excess Profits Tax. But what about those poverty stricken masses for whose benefit this money might have been utilised? What about over a million people on the railways and 2,00,000 workers in the Posts and Telegraphs and the various centralised services for whose benefit this large sum could have been utilised and for whose relief this could have been spent?

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What about the peasants themselves?

Diwan Chaman Lall: I am coming to the peasants as my Honourable friend has reminded. Do I take it that the rich were so indigent that they could not afford to part with this sum of 75 crores from this Excess Profits Tax? Already we have, as my Honourable friend has shown, a deficit of 44 crores. But that is not really the true picture. There is a sum of Rs. 26 crores, which is available to us in 1946-47 from the two War Risk Insurance funds which hereafter will not be available to us. So, when we are considering the deficit, we have to look upon it not merely as a deficit of 44 crores but a deficit of 70 crores. Add to this 70 crores this drop in the national income of 75 crores through the Excess Profits Tax being removed. I say to the Finance Member, what have you done? Here

[Diwan Chaman Lall]

is a gap, a tremendous gap that you have to fill. How are you going to fill this gap

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: By reducing the defence expenditure.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend reminds me of the defence expenditure. Does not my Honourable friend know that *pari passu* with the decrease in defence expenditure there is going to be mounting expenditure in the matter of planning which you are going to pay out to the Provinces. At the present moment you have made provision for about 35 crores for financing this planning. Is my Honourable friend going to remain at that figure? Is he not going to extend his generous hand to the Provinces? What happens to them? I do agree that there may be some slight decrease in defence expenditure; but is my Honourable friend going to wait until that decrease takes place to fill in this yawning gap or is he leaving this problem for his successor? Let me ask him now if he is not going to do it and he had instruments to his hand, why did he not utilise those instruments which were in his hand? Is it a fact that the budget should be looked at more from the point of view of the things he has not said than from the point of view of the things that have been stated on the floor of the House? One of the most important things that have not been said is this: my Honourable friend has not shown to the nation how he could fill this gap, not only by reducing the defence expenditure but by some positive action. Let me ask him whether it is not a fact that the question of death duties has been investigated by my Honourable friend's Department. Is it not a fact that a special officer was deputed to go into the matter of death duties? Is it not a fact that this question of death duties was solved by the preparation of an actual measure which the Government intended to place on the floor of this House? What has happened to that measure?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: If the Honourable Member will wait two days he will have a copy of it on the table of the House.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend is bringing it in at the tail end of this session, with no intention whatever of getting the measure through this session, leaving this problem to be solved not by him but by his successor. It is not as if this idea has struck my Honourable friend just at the present moment. He knows perfectly well that it will not be available for the benefit of the nation at this stage

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: If the Honourable Members on the other side will accept the Bill without further argument, we will arrange to get it through this session.

Diwan Chaman Lall: It is a most improper proposition that we should accept a Bill without having seen the Bill and without finding out if it is an acceptable measure—we do not even know what the name of the Bill is going to be—I do not know whether the Finance Member is going to give it the name that I have given to it. I ask my Honourable friend whether he is aware that out of this measure alone—I dare say the official figures are different, but the economists are agreed that the national Government when it comes into power will be able to receive the sum of nearly Rs. 300 crores a year out of these death duties. Here was a source, which we shall certainly examine with due care. I ask my Honourable friend the Finance Member whether it is not a fact that one of his predecessors made a very important observation when he said that not sufficient attention had been paid to the question of state owning and state management of industry with a view to the augmentation of central revenues. This was not merely a random shot in the dark. It was a suggestion made with the purpose of implementing it. I ask my Honourable friend whether he has considered and if he has not, why he has not considered that suggestion? Should he have any qualms, should he have any hesitation in regard to this matter? Let me declare on the floor of the House on behalf of the Indian National Congress that we are

weded to the proposition of state ownership and state management of industry

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Socialism.

Diwan Chaman Lall: The time has gone by when my Honourable friends sitting over there can run industry for private benefit. (Interruption.) The time has gone by—and if the cap fits my Honourable friend he is welcome to it—when these resources can be handed over to the private individual when the need of the country is a dire one.

May I make a suggestion to my Honourable friend and may I ask him whether that suggestion has been considered? Is he aware that there are two very simple industries—the Food Member need not get nervous, Mr. President, I am not referring to his industries for the moment—but is my Honourable friend aware that there are two industries of a very simple character that could be nationalised and should have been by now nationalised? I refer to the match industry and I refer to the tobacco industry. Many countries in Europe for a long number of years after the last war went in for nationalisation and have been reaping a very rich harvest. Here the problem is a simple one. We draw from the tobacco excise duty something like 22 crores revenue. We draw about 6 crores from matches. But if you were to nationalise these industries, I will hazard the guess that the national revenues would gain something like 70 crores from tobacco and 30 crores from matches. That money is sorely needed for the amelioration of the condition of the peasants and kisans whom my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga represents. Why has it not been done? It has not been done because these two industries are not even Indian industries

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj (Nominated: Non-Official): Nationalise insurance.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Yes; my Honourable friend may rest assured that we shall actually nationalise him and insure him as well under the new scheme. The match industry is an industry which is completely under the control of a Swedish concern. The profits it makes do not even remain in this country.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Nominated: Non-Official): Not all; that is not correct.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend might be a shareholder and can bag some portion of its profits himself. Perfectly true. But is it or is it not a Swedish concern? Let my Honourable friend deny that. It is a Swedish concern; the combine is a Swedish combine. The tobacco industry is also practically a single monopoly of the Imperial Tobacco Company. Why has my Honourable friend not considered the nationalisation of these two industries? I suggest their nationalisation because in the future in the time that is coming immediately before us, it is necessary to husband every resource that we possess in order to put India on the path of prosperity. I concede that the step taken by my Honourable friend with reference to the high denomination currency ordinance has probably resulted in a windfall to the treasury of about 25 crores—I speak subject to correction. The Indian National Congress is determined to uproot the evil of bribery and corruption. Let my Honourable friend not run away with this fact that we are going to have a tender spot for any one, high or low. We desire to set in motion such machinery as will secure that in future there will be none of this bribery, none of this corruption but at the same time

1 P. M. we should find some way or means, as my Honourable friend should have done, to discover the hundreds of crores that are lying there as tax evasion money. I daresay if suitable methods were adopted a matter of about 6 to 7 hundred crores would be available for my Honourable friend—another windfall which I make a present of to my Honourable friend. But for all this it is necessary that the tax collection department must be strengthened as the first step. I notice that the appropriation for this year for the tax collection department is one crore 30 lakhs as against one crore 27 lakhs last year. What is needed is a complete overhaul of the machinery for this purpose in order that no one who is guilty of evasion of taxation, to be utilised for the benefit of the people of this country, should be capable of getting away with it.

[Diwan Chaman Lall]

Now, Sir, let me come to the main problem of planning. This budget, as I have already stated, provides for 35 crores for the Provinces.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Plus 15.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Total 50 crores. I ask my Honourable friend what was the result of the unplanned expenditure of 7 hundred to 8 hundred crores a year on behalf of Indian and Allied Governments? Is it not a fact that though it was unplanned it was an emergency expenditure, the result was the stabilisation of wages? The result was more or less the high margin of return of primary produce. The result was the disappearance of unemployment. Now, I ask my Honourable friend if this expenditure is suddenly to cease, if the tap is going to be turned off immediately, how is he going to shape the economy which he has in view? How is he going to shape the entire system of taxation, of raising loans and his financial structure if he is going to turn off the tap suddenly in this manner? I do not want him to turn off the tap in this manner. Had there been an opportunity to consider this matter on the floor of the House, I daresay he would have got a consensus of opinion that *pari passu* with the decrease of this expenditure there should be mounting expenditure on development and I want to see, Mr. President, this mounting expenditure reaching its zenith within the next two or three years until we are in a position to spend no less than a thousand crores a year on planning and thus improve the fabric of our nation.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Start from the bottom.

Diwan Chaman Lall: When you start looking at it from the bottom as my Honourable friend wants, you have to look to the worker and the peasant. I want to suggest to my Honourable friend that all these sources of revenue should be tapped, by the institution of State owned and State managed factories, the taking over of monopolies and the collection of tax evasion money and other similar steps. I would ask him whether he could not give us a charter for the masses of this country. Where is the Beveridge plan for the masses of this country? Where is your plan to civilise every village, bringing to it and its inhabitants all the security and the amenities of civilised existence? Where do I find it in the Budget, in the plans of the Government, in the conception of the future which my Honourable friends have for this country? We must make an aggressive start. We must, as I said, keep on mounting this development expenditure until it reaches the peak figure which I have mentioned.

Of course some of this expenditure for development will not be productive expenditure, from the commercial point of view. It will be spent on education and health but I must confess that in reality there is no more productive expenditure than expenditure on these beneficent Departments, because they increase the tax paying capacity of those whom they benefit, because they raise the morale of the nation.

Let me, Mr. President, at this stage say a word or two about certain fetishes that people have in regard to this concept of planning. The old fetish was to balance the budget from year to year. The new concept is not that. The new concept is balance the budget over a certain number of years and that is the new concept so universally accepted and therefore there should be no difficulty for my Honourable friend in raising all the necessary loans that he wants for the purpose of the planning that we have in view. Again it is said, it was said in the past, that the more you borrow the more you are at the mercy of the lender. That situation has completely altered. You don't have to go to the lender. The lender comes to you. That is the change that has taken place in this country and in most countries but the essential condition is necessarily that you must have a Government in which the people have confidence, not a Government of a few despots sitting there, hand picked men who are today running the Government of this country, the most colossal despotism that has ever been known in history. Let us not forget that this war has proved that for a war which was a

war of destruction it was easy enough for my Honourable friend to raise 300 crores a year in the way of loans and is it doubted, Mr. President that for purposes which are productive, which are constructive, which are going to benefit the nation there should be any difficulty in raising yearly loans to the extent of 300 to 500 crores.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: We are doing it.

Diwan Chaman Lall: All this money will supplement the revenue of the Central Government. Of this money, 50 crores that is to be handed over to the provinces will supplement the revenues of the provinces which must necessarily now take the same steps in the matter of nationalising industry and nationalising finance in their own particular areas.

Then, Mr. President, is the question linked with all this. Our resources have been mortgaged and are lying in London as a book entry. I refer to the question of the sterling balances. I want my British friends, not only the very few of them here on these benches, to realise that it is not we who exacted immediate payment but it is they who have been suggesting the partial repudiation of this loan. When the Indian National Congress 12 years ago suggested that we should go into the question of our foreign debt immediately there was a hue and cry raised because we wanted to examine whether the debt had been incurred for the purposes of India or not and it was said that there was an attempt made by the Indian National Congress to repudiate that debt. This charge came strangely from a country which having taken a loan from America repudiated, after the last war the entire loan that they had taken from America. My Honourable friend knows that a bitter controversy is raging and has been raging all over this country over this issue and I advise him to find a quick and final solution of this problem.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: What is the problem?

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend has just awakened to the problem. The problem is the return of the sterling debt and it is a very serious problem. If my Honourable friend finds a quick solution of this problem, I am certain it will have a great psychological effect upon Indo-British relations. I have no reason to doubt that we have paid for this debt in hunger and starvation and with the blood of our people. But I am also certain that if a great leader, a generous-hearted leader, like Mahatma Gandhi were approached and all the facts placed before him, I am quite certain that he will deal with the matter in a most generous manner, but by postponing a decision and by behaving as if you were the creditors and not we, my Honourable friends are embittering the feelings in this country. Do not forget that when you were the creditors and we owed you money, you asked for guarantees and safeguards and got them. We are the creditors now five to six times over and we have not been given any guarantee or any safeguards.

It has been suggested that expropriation is one of the methods whereby a settlement could be arrived at of a portion of the sterling debt. I am quite certain that my Honourable friend's Fascist step children, the South Africans did not let my Honourable friends have credit without impounding their assets. I think it is a fact that when they wanted a similar state of affairs in South Africa, South Africa impounded British assets in that country. They were the Fascist children of my Honourable friend, but a large portion unfortunately of British assets here in India today have been liquidated. I think that man would be very bold who suggested that the Yules and the Sassoons and the Scottish jute owners and the Scottish and British tea-planters have assets in this country which are more than two hundred million sterling. As a gesture, of goodwill, why did not this Government expropriate those assets and pay the owners in sterling that is locked up in London? What was the justification for not taking this step? My Honourable friend should not forget that many shares of these concerns have been bought over by Indians.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Nobody knows.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I agree, nobody knows but it is worth while finding out, and whatever is left over should be handed over to us.

Then, Sir, I am amazed, indeed, at the irresponsible manner of this Government in dealing with the connected problem of retrenchment. Today, even before we have known what stupendous personnel would be needed when planning is stepped up and how many more men will be employed or will be necessary, blindly in the dark without any plan whatsoever my Honourable friends have started discharging men. Does not my Honourable friend realise the serious significance of this? The very basis of the budget, the very estimates of revenue the Government has made, the loan programme of the Government, all these things depend upon the maintenance and continuance of full employment. If unemployment grows with retrenchment, a fatal blow would have been struck at the national fabric, a fatal blow would have been struck at the national economy and I cannot understand why my Honourable friend is not prepared to spend a crore or two in keeping these extra hands until schemes are laid rather than by putting men on the market and creating unemployment, thereby, in the end, losing hundreds and crores of national money.

Mr. President: The House will now adjourn for Lunch and the Honourable Member may resume his speech after Lunch.

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

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (the Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar), in the Chair.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Sir, this is the over all picture that I have been painting with regard to this matter. I was saying in reference to retrenchment that it must not be confused with economy. Retrenchment does not mean the same thing as economy. If I may use a very homely simile, economy means getting sixteen annas in the rupee, whereas retrenchment means getting eight annas where you should be getting sixteen annas. I ask my Honourable friend to remember that if retrenchment leads on to unemployment, the very basis of the budget which he has presented, the loan programme that he has outlined, all the taxation proposals will all be jeopardised. All these depend, as he knows full well, upon the maintenance of full employment in the country. Any danger to that means danger to the economic fabric of the country. If unemployment grows, that danger grows. I submit to my Honourable friend that in the context of world conditions, and our entry into the new era of planning that we have in view this new era will itself be jeopardised if retrenchment continues leading on to unemployment. I say to my Honourable friend, suspend retrenchment, raise the standard of life of the working classes, create a charter for the masses, remember that the past belonged to the classes and that the future belongs to the masses. The past ethics of work give way to the ethics of planned leisure, leisure enough for 98 per cent, of our population, leisure not only to cultivate their patch of land but leisure to cultivate their minds and resources enough to enable them to do so. Sir the wealth of the country lies not in rupees, annas and pies, but in the man power of the country. Do not let us be penny wise and pound foolish. A predecessor of my Honourable friend on the floor of the House paraphrased that item by relating the story of a Jewish gentleman, who in order to save candle light went to bed early with the result that he had a large family. Let us not imitate the example of that Jewish gentleman. The international sky as well as the national sky are darkening with hovering clouds. We have been treated like helots in this land, we are treated worse than helots in the British Empire. Prejudice, racial arrogance, incompetence, inefficiency unequal treatment have nearly brought our armed forces to the verge of collapse. The hand of the imperialist today is a dead hand, unfortunately it is still gripping the wheel of our destiny. I say to my Honourable friends opposite, the time has come when you should quit and quit with grace. We are ready to welcome you as the servants of the people, but no longer, can we welcome

you as the masters of this country. A stupendous revolution is now in the offing in India, indeed throughout the East. You can guide that revolution so that it may leave behind it not the story of suffering but peace and prosperity. We want leaders of world wide reputation, free leaders in a free land. The prophets of the past believed in the ethics of scarcity, the prophets of the future will believe in the ethics of plenty. Our friends over there believe in work for the few, unemployment for the many. We now have to find work for all, leisure for all, prosperity for all. Our friends believe in *laissez faire*, and the profit motive. We believe in the good of the common man. That is the new hope. You cannot give it to us. That is the new future, you cannot provide for us. That is the new idea we are looking forward to: the common man of India coming into his own. Let us both work towards that end, both nations, so that we may live in peace and friendship and let the unfriendly sword rest in its scabbard.

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal: European): Mr. President, Sir, I listened with great interest and appreciation to the speech which has just fallen from my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall. With him, Sir, I also feel a deep consciousness of the effect of the political situation on the Finance Bill that we are now discussing. The question of the revenues of the country is after all a matter of administration and it would be unwise, indeed absurd to pretend that that administration is not vitally affected by the general political situation. I am conscious too of the enormous effect of a nationalist spirit behind the administration of the country and I hope most sincerely that that nationalist spirit will pervade the administration and actuate it fully. But, Sir, while I appreciate the effect of politics on administration and in particular upon the Honourable the Finance Member's proposals, there is a spectre at our feast which will not be denied. That spectre will not be denied whatever your politics dictate. It is the spectre of famine. We on this side are by no means happy about the situation. We are told that we are facing a shortage of some six million tons of food grains which I calculate to be something like a year's food for 40 million people. In the face of that situation I cannot feel that there is at present being shown in any side of the House a proper appreciation of the seriousness of the situation. I feel, Sir, that the matter is still being considered as academic and almost as if it was a danger to come and not a present danger. We are being treated largely still to gestures, the gesture of Government hostels being told that they must have two pieces of bread with a meal, the gesture of private gardens being ploughed up for vegetables, the possibility of the vista being ploughed up, bad though the ground may be, to grow vegetables. Now, Sir, I in no way object to gestures but I like them to be linked to reality. I like, for instance, to think that what you are doing is either going to be an outstanding example which is going to bring something definite and substantial by its example or that it is a specific saving which is going to matter that is going to result. Otherwise I feel that we are still rather playing with the subject instead of doing something really vital and really effective. I am reminded of the story of the Chinese gentleman who was taken to lunch at a quick lunch place in New York. He was rushed here and there and given a quite substantial meal, and his host said to him afterwards, "There now, was not that magnificent? You had a four-course lunch and it was all concluded in ten minutes!" The Chinese gentleman replied, "Yes, I agree, but how now shall we more profitably spend the time that we have saved?" I feel rather the same way about these gestures to which we are at present being treated. If we have a definite cut in rations all-round I am very glad that it should be so; let us meet the emergency that way. But I am still wondering what will be the result of arbitrary gestures of this sort,—two bits of bread here, and so on. And at the same time I wonder what will happen to your various vegetables grown under private auspices unless there is some methodical method of marketing their produce. But what I am really after, Sir, is less gestures and more real stuff. We are up against an emergency and, as far as I can see, that emergency is being tackled very largely by the Agriculture Secretary Sir Pheroze Kharegat and by the Food

[Mr. C. P. Lawson]

Member when he is here or, when he is ill, by the Food Secretary Mr. Sen. I cannot help feeling that this is a matter which has got to be tackled not departmentally but by Government as a whole. I have been much impressed by the Finance Member's methods of dealing with black markets by his demonetisation ordinances, and the like. Now, Sir, it would be idle to pretend that there are no black markets in food, and I would hate to put a figure on the amount of food that may be underground. I do not know where it is; it may be underground in the villages, it may be in godowns, it may be in private houses. As I said on a previous occasion, if everybody in this country were to put aside a month's food, five million tons of grain would be taken from the market. I am going to suggest to Government that they should tackle this matter as a matter of first-class emergency upon which not merely the efforts of two departments shall be focussed but every department should focus its full attention and think out a plan to meet this situation. I am quite convinced that by taking the powers which they can take they can do a lot to deal with the whole situation as it stands. I am perfectly convinced that something can be done in the way of registration of stocks just as the Finance Member forced the registration of high denomination notes. I do not quite know how it is to be done—I am not in the administration—but I feel that something can and something should be done.

And, now, Sir, I am afraid, I must come back again to my old hobby-horse of fish. I will not pretend that either I or my party are in any way satisfied with the explanations that we have received. I am going to quote to you a relevant portion of Sir Pheroze Kharegat's speech, and I apologise to him in advance for what I fear will be perhaps a little bit of rough treatment. He said:

"A great deal has been said about fish, and here I would like to place before the House the difficulties that we have encountered. I too had thought in the beginning when we started that all we had to do was to go to the sea or to the rivers and catch the fish. They were just waiting there to be caught and brought in. We approached the fishermen; they turned round on us and said, 'Where are the boats?' So we started building boats for them. Having got the boats they said, 'Where are the nets?' We asked, 'Can you make the nets?' They said, 'Give us the twine'. And so we went to the mills and got them the type of twine that they required and supplied them. Then they said, 'We want hooks'. So we had hooks made in the country. They were used exactly for one day and the fishermen came back and said, 'Your hooks are of no use to us'."

Now, Sir, would anybody in the world take that account to indicate dynamic energy? (*Several voices*: "No.") I do not need to come to this House to be told that fishermen require boats and nets and hooks. I quote it because here you have an enormous inexhaustible source of supply. If we think that we are going to get six million tons of grain from abroad we are barking up the wrong tree; we will never get it or anything like it. So, for Heaven's sake, let us use to the greatest possible advantage such sources of food as are available to us. I refuse to believe that it is impossible, if necessary, to get from abroad trawlers and folks to go out into the sea with sufficient ice and ice machinery to bring the fish in. I refuse to believe that plans cannot be produced by folks even in this country who know the fishing industry and can bring the stuff in. The tanks can be stocked, the rivers can be fished and the seas can produce an infinity of food. I would like to know whether any scheme, for instance, of technical trawler fishermen's systems from abroad has been contemplated, if there is any difficulty of producing it in this country. Sir, we must not leave this question to the academic mind of what I may call the head of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. This is not a problem for him; it is a problem for a keen dynamic business type of mind which wants to get the stuff and wants to make it available to the people. It should not be left even to Provincial Governments. This Government have got powers if they like to take them and they can see that things are done. I do most earnestly hope that this matter will be taken up

rather more dynamically than it is taken up now. We do not want gestures, we want big ideas and a big job done. Now, Sir, that deals largely with the matters that I wish to raise in respect of food. It has been debated before and so I do not want to waste too much time on it, but I raise it in this position in my speech because I feel it is one of the things which may turn the country upside down. If there is a bad famine, if forty million people in this country lose a year's food, God knows what the result may be.

And now Sir, I want to spend a very little time doing what for my Group is a most unusual thing, and that is to make a rather political utterance as it affects my community. The House is not used to hearing political utterances from this side of the House. Our reasons are of course that, to a large extent, there are problems which might be said to be hardly our business but equally it might be considered that this was due to the fact that we were not interested, or it might be thought that we preferred rather more quiet methods of negotiations, not in the public eye. Both of those suggestions would be incorrect. In the first place, we are most vitally interested and in the past twenty-five years in every step of the reforms we have combined to make those reforms a success. We have sat now together with our Indian friends in this House and in other Houses for a long time; we have made friendships that I hope will last longer perhaps than we shall. Sir, we shall go on co-operating in these reform steps; we shall combine in the next step, and we shall do all in our power to help in producing in this country what we consider to be a very important thing not merely for us, but for everybody, and that is stability. We in this Group are mainly concerned with commerce and industry and frequently we come under the lash of the other side on these grounds. Exploitation as far as I can see becomes largely a matter of colour. You may be an exploiter on the one hand or you may be a captain of industry developing the resources of the country on the other. But let me leave that point. The fact of the matter is that it is to our benefit and to everybody's benefit that there should be in this country a workable and a stable constitution, and that, Sir, is the aim that we have in mind and an end towards which we will do whatever we are permitted to do to help.

Now, Sir, in these discussions which are coming we shall play our part on that basis. We shall ask for no special concessions for ourselves as a community. We shall ask only for those forms of protection which will protect everybody without sufficient voice in the legislatures to protect themselves, or indeed those who have no voice at all. We shall ask only a fair field, and no favour, and we shall ask that there shall be no expropriation to deprive us of our livelihood in this country.

Sir, I hope most sincerely that we have seen the back now of the hatred and the bitterness that appeared in the press and on the platform at the end of the war. I hope that is a bad dream which is now behind us but I must mention it because people of my community have been attacked; people wearing European dress have been attacked for that reason alone. I cannot believe that that is the form of freedom for which this country is seeking, and I know that my friends opposite condemn it as much as I condemn it myself. But I must point to the result; the result of such happenings as have occurred cannot but make more difficult the unavoidable issues which will shortly come up for solution, issues which concern Great Britain and India. It is by that means that the atmosphere will be vitiated and indeed civil disorder on its own can do no more than put the clock back. I am hoping most sincerely that the moderate and wise utterances that have come from political leaders in respect of these disturbances will be most carefully headed and that the disorderly elements, who perhaps are seeking disorder for disorder's sake, may be kept in check by the nationalist leaders of the people themselves.

[Mr. C. P. Lawson]

Now, Sir, I have mentioned the possibility that it may be thought that we were working perhaps with one party, perhaps with His Majesty's Government privately, for special terms. I wish here also to lay that ghost to ever. It has been made perfectly clear by Sir Stafford Cripps that our possessions, indeed, our future in this country would not be made a constitutional prerequisite to a constitutional change. Also, Sir, it has been some times suggested that by allying ourselves with one or another party we might secure from that party certain guarantees of protection to ourselves in the future. I ask this House to acknowledge in all truth that we have never sought such alliances. We have sought stability wherever we have been represented and as long as the Government was stable and was just we have supported that type of Government. We have never asked for office and we have never asked for the loaves and fishes of office, but we have served in these legislatures, and I hope that we have served well. How long we shall go on serving is a matter for India to decide, but I hope that this House and the country will realize that our assistance is here for the asking if it is wanted.

Sir, we have sometimes been asked to interest ourselves in the partition issue in this country. We have not done so for obvious reasons, but when the time comes we shall do all we can to assist in the settlement of that issue too. I will content myself at the moment with saying this only that a solution will not lie in the complete and full achievement of the policy of any one party. It will come only by a mutual giving way on either side. Sir, that is all I am going to say about the partition issue that a complete realization will I think show us no path to solution but when the time comes, if we are able to do so, we shall do all we can to see that this issue is settled so that this country may realize a stable form of Government which is what we are out to produce if we can.

Now, Sir, as I have said before I do not know how much longer we shall be here to assist in the Legislatures of the country. We are not
3 P. M. ashamed of the part we played in this country as traders and honest traders. We have opened up the resources of this country, we have supplied employment for the people and taxation to the State and I at any rate will never attempt to apologise for this part. We hope we shall be able to continue to serve this country in the future

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Surely you are not going to quit India?

Mr. C. P. Lawson: as we have served it in the past. Sir, we are on the brink of big events. Today the Cabinet Mission leaves for India and events are crowding upon us at a speed with which is almost frightening. We can only hope that the corner which is ahead of us will be turned successfully and it is the most vital issue that confronts us. Around that corner there is a path to complete freedom in its best sense, a freedom of compromise and a freedom of progress. There is also round that corner another path to failure and chaos. I cannot do better, Sir, than conclude my speech with the earnest hope that the leaders of this country will be given wisdom to turn that corner and to take the path which will lead them to happiness and freedom and not to chaos.

Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, this budget which the Finance Member thinks is a socialist budget is not a poor man's budget. It will benefit only the industrialists with whom the Government want to have an alliance for trade purposes. Now when the British Government has declared the self-liquidation of their power in India, the best they want is to keep their trade interests intact and this is reflected in the budget. Sir, I do not know if the Finance Member knows or has got the means to know the views of the man in the street. But I may

tell him that the masses in general are hard hit with direct and indirect taxes. The statement at pages 65 and 66 of the Explanatory Memorandum on the budget exhibits the relief given to the income-tax payers. I would not mind if the relief given to the income-tax payer was upto the level of 18,000 or even 20,000. But when it is raised to the level of 60,000 and beyond, it is something which I cannot contemplate with happiness, especially when it is proposed to partly recoup this loss by raising the tax on betel-nuts. I may say here that this will fall mostly on the poor. The relief afforded to the poor people on kerosene oil is so small that instead of benefiting the consumers it will benefit the sellers and their agents. If, however, railway freight is reduced then this along with the reduction proposed could give some relief to the consumers. As it is in the villages, the people have to pay for one bottle of kerosene oil more often than not twice or thrice the control price. Therefore, the proposed relief on kerosene oil instead of benefiting the consumers would go to fill the pockets of the agents and the black-marketeters.

Now when the war is over, everybody had hoped that the prices on post-cards and envelopes would be reduced. This would have been a welcome change and would have benefited the public in general and would have added more to the comforts of the poor especially.

Owing to a number of circumstances, there has been large migration of population and a very large number of the poor has been living away far from their families. They cannot write or hear from their families regularly because of the high price of postcards and envelopes.

Now that Rs. 93 lakhs have been sliced off from the Information Department, I hope the Government will use this saving for lightening the burden of taxes on the poor.

Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma (Meerut Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The budget has been discussed for a fairly long time and practically every item and every aspect of it has been debated on. Taken as a whole, it may be said to the credit of the present Finance Member that it is certainly an improvement over the pre-war budgets. It goes further than the pre-war method of static equilibrium but it falls short of that economic dynamism of social purposes necessary to meet the situation. It is not a bold and expansionist budget. Looking at the transition period, war has ended now eight or nine months back. The United Kingdom and the United States of America have done a great deal to provide employment to the demobilized soldiers, and to those people who were working in the war industries and they are meeting the situation bravely. But in India they have not only failed to meet the situation but they let more difficult problems to crop up and are facing now more critical situation. New problems are arising and Government incapable as they are do not seem to move at all. This is an alarming situation. Compare the performance of this Government with that of other countries. If honesty is necessary in the personal life of an individual it is much more necessary in matters of public administration. Therefore the honest course open to my friends on the other side is to quit the office and leave the job to those who can do better and meet the situation boldly. It is no use making pretences. They cannot do the job, they are incapable of doing it and it is no fault of theirs either. They are creatures of circumstances and hence cannot face boldly the facts as they are today. The other day my friend Sir Edward Benthall showered encomiums on his Indian colleagues. He called them loyal, courageous and complimented them for having won the war. But he failed to see what the Indian people on whose behalf they are said to have won the war thought of them. They may be loyal to you, not to us. They had had our copper but they went away to fill their pockets with gold. Do you think we can believe in them. Can anyone who has any brain think even for a moment that such men, in the history of any country, in any clime or at any stage in a nation's history,

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can meet the situation boldly. They are incapable of meeting the situation and their remaining any longer in office is a dishonesty, dishonesty to themselves and dishonesty to the country. Loyal they may be to you but they are guilty of treason to the people on whose behalf they are sitting there.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Leave it to history.

Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: Sir, the history has given its verdict and now the only course open to my friends, who the Honourable Member said were so loyal and courageous, the gentlemen who have won the war for him, is to quit office.

Two essentials arise for consideration. The first is the liberty of the individual. If you cannot ensure liberty for what are you here? In the life of a nation as in the life of an individual there comes a crucial moment and it is the decision at that time which makes or mars the future of either the individual or the nation. This was the time when war was declared on our behalf against the wishes of our people. Our men, our resources were called in aid to help a war which to our mind was meant for strengthening the chains of slavery. The Congress on behalf of the people of this land demanded a declaration about the aims and objects of that war. We were, frankly speaking, suspicious, as rightly we should be, of the intentions and motives of our rulers, because the only light for a mortal being is the lamp of experience. We fought the first Great War for them and sweet promises were made to us. What was the result? Jallianwala Bagh, murders, inhuman humiliations which India had never experienced in her whole history. Our children were made to crawl on their bellies in Amritsar. This was a wrong which India could not forget and no country could forget and we have not forgotten after so many years. With that experience we demanded a clear and unequivocal declaration of the aims of this war. "War was to be won" was the only answer. Instead of standing by our side, instead of playing an honourable part and adding their voice, however feeble it may be, they went straightaway to our rulers. They had had our copper and we had only copper but they wanted gold. They are now loyal people, they have won the war. This is the crux of the situation. We cannot willingly supply them the wherewithal to carry on the administration. The situation is difficult but only bold people can face it bravely. It is not a situation which the present members of Government can meet but the representatives of the people, the people who came at the call of the country, who bravely fought its battle, who gave it the stature, who brought this country to the place which she occupies today, it is they who can solve the problem. It is men with the sanction of the people, men with courage and popular support who can solve these difficult problems, not the people who change sides and weigh the copper and gold. Such men have never solved great problems in the history of the world. They will never do in the history of any nation, human nature being what it is. It is idle to think that this personnel will ever be able to do anything. They failed because they were bound to fail and they would ever fail. So the only course open to them, as I pointed out, is to quit office.

The people at a critical time react and take a stand. What did they do then? India had its own stand which was different from what the Englishman said. We would not have been a nation had we been silent. We would have had no place in history or in the world if we had remained silent after war had been declared on our behalf. We raised our voice and said to the world "What the Englishman says is not what we say. 'Our stand is different'." And for this, our friends, those loyal and courageous friends sent us to prison. They misrepresented us; they made huge false propaganda against us in foreign countries. But great as the issues were, and having strong feelings as the country had and the awakening we had, the country could not be silenced by sending a number of people to jail. Two years passed and the country rose in revolt. It was in revolt against what the

Englishman was doing on behalf of the country against its will. The country rose in revolt and our friends, instead of having wiser counsel, embarked on an era of repression. What was the result? There was a reign of terror feasted of blood and orgy of *loot*, raging throughout the country, and India experienced things which probably no country in the world has ever experienced. Much is talked about German atrocities. But if you go to Ballia and Azamgarh these German atrocities pale into insignificance . . .

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member come to the present administration and the Finance Bill?

Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: Very well, Sir. I am referring to these things merely to point out that the only course open to these gentlemen is to leave office here because they cannot inspire confidence in the people.

Mr. President: That point is already made.

Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: So my respectful submission is that they will not be able to inspire confidence in the people; and if they have no sanction behind them, they cannot meet the situation as it ought to be met.

Having said all this, I now come to the problem of food. As far back as 1942, there was a Food Production Conference and this conference recommended an increase in the area under food crops and fodder crops, by bringing new land, including fallow land, under cultivation, double cropping, diverting land from non-food crops to food crops and increase in the supply of water for irrigation by the improvement and extension of existing irrigation canals and the construction of additional wells, the extended use of manure and fertilisers resulting in increase in the supply of food yielded. This was in 1942. If they had the will and the courage they could have done a lot. It was known to them that Burma had gone out of their hands, and that the Bengal famine was a possibility. But they slept, they did not meet the situation; they did not take courage in their hands and they did not move. They made lame excuses as at page 12 of the report. The result was that 35 lakhs of our people died in the Bengal famine. Now, three years have passed, and the position is worse than it was before. There is a shortage of food, as my friend said, to the extent of about 6 million tons of grain. Import to that extent is an impossibility. You have to meet the situation from the resources at our command. I dare say a bold man who can inspire confidence in the people and has the courage to face the situation boldly can meet it. What is there? Such vast lands are there. In the U. P. and in Bihar and in Bengal; and even in Madras; the water level is not very deep. In U. P. I know that in the three days three people can dig a *kutch*a well and they can get irrigation for the crops. Of course you cannot have cereals in such a short time, but you can have substitute foods, you can have vegetables; you can have many other things that can reduce the quantity of cereals to half the necessary quantity for consumption; and with a systematic well organised propaganda it can be brought home to the people that it is not necessary that they should take so much of cereals; and with that propaganda and with that procurement of food, whatever is available by paying higher prices to the people who are expected to have some grain and selling it cheaper to the people, the situation can very well be met in no time. There are short term crops which can be grown in six weeks, in two months; but a bold move is required. I submit, Sir, this present Government is incapable of moving boldly and quickly. I therefore submit the only course open to them is to quit office; this is the only straight and honest course and men who have the courage and who have the confidence of the people and who have stood beside the nation—they only should take up the job and do the needful. Sir. I have done.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Mr. President, I feel that speaking on a day like this I labour under two serious handicaps. The first is that I am a nominated member and the longer one goes on this House, the more one feels what a terrible handicap that is. Sir, a nominated member is neither good fish nor fowl. If he supports Government and then pleads, as he often can, that he

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has done so because government were right or that His Majesty's Government must be carried on, then, he is made the object of ridicule both by Honourable friends opposite and in the press. If, on the other hand, he opposes Government and votes with the opposition, then in some quarters it is felt that he is not playing the game. After all he does owe a duty to his electorate or in this case to his nominators. That is my position. That is my first great handicap and my second great handicap, which, I think, is an even greater handicap is that I should have to represent here a religious minority, that I should have to speak in the name of 7 millions, or according to our computation 8 millions of people and be the only one here to speak for and watch the interests of those 7 or 8 millions of people spread all over India.

Sir, I have always refrained, as you may have noticed, from asking questions on anything which gives a communal tinge or asking questions about the interests of my own community in the public services of the land, but I feel that on an occasion like this it is up to me to state what their view point is. I do not think I should waste any time in trying to persuade you to believe whether I really represent the Indian Christian Community. I fully believe that I am voicing the majority opinion of my own community. I claim that I am an average member of my community, one of them, and thinking alike with the thinking part of my community, I feel that today we stand on the threshold of great events and I believe it would be of some use if I ask for your indulgence to give to the House and to you, Sir, a full expression of our point of view, of our hopes and fears in the new India which we hope is beginning. The question of minorities in this country or in any other country is one of the thorniest of problems which face Governments. It is also a position of the greatest difficulty and of serious handicap to minority communities themselves. In the very first place, I would like to say this, that so far as my community are concerned, humble or poor or weak or scattered though they may be, we have not the smallest desire to stand in the way of the progress of our nation. We welcome that progress and we are entirely at one with them and we have always been at one with them. Now, if I say anything about our own viewpoint, it is, as I say, unfortunately the viewpoint of a minority labelled under a religious label, a label which I very much deplore and which the majority of my community would also deplore in the field of politics and in matters of national importance. I am not referring at all to my Muslim brethren because they claim that they are a nation and therefore not a minority. Sir, I am a believer in self-determination. If a particular community wishes to be a separate nation, it is up to them and whatever I say does not apply to them in the least, I only wish to state our own position. As I have already stated, our position is that we wish to march with our country. We want to be and we have always felt that we are completely identified with the rest of the country. We ask for no safeguards, we ask for no special reservations either in education or in any other sphere of public life.

Now I come to the two or three main problems which face every community in this country. The first question is the representation of a minority on the new legislatures which are coming into being and which I trust will come into being very soon. We stand and we have always stood for joint electorates. We do not desire either nominations or reservations. We do not want that we should be given so many seats as Indian Christians. Nobody can realise more than I can during the several years that I have been here, the futility of trying to protect the interests of any community, if you separate them from the body politic. If one or two or even ten members were here, representing the interests of my community, what good would that do as compared to the good they would receive if they had the good will of the nation as a whole. That is the position which we take, that is the position which we have always taken and even now I hope that such position would be taken up in a united India namely that a man would be elected by a joint electorate. If it is not practicable, if that

is pure idealism as most people here would say, then I would say let us make a beginning in that direction. Let us have reservation of seats for particular interests in elections to be held by joint electorates. May I ask my friends who will probably soon be here, whether they are prepared to begin with a panel which may be elected by the particular community concerned which seeks representation and from that panel the joint electorates should elect their representatives. That surely is not very much to ask but I hope the day will soon come when none of these reservations and none of these panels will be necessary.

Next I come to the question of representation in the services. So far as my community is concerned I wish to say most emphatically that we wish to stand on merit and merit alone as the test for entry into the public services of the country. I have urged it before and I urge it again here that the public services of this country should be selected from the best material available. As regards the Civil Service which may not be very highly thought of these days, I feel that even for the Civil Service when there was open competition we got far better men than we do now. I mean no disparagement to the men already here but that is the general opinion. As one who has spent all his life in education, I feel that there should always be a fair field and no favour. You may prescribe whatever test you like. You may add a number of marks for the assessment of character if you can so assess character. You may add marks for personality, if you can assess personality in a short interview. But let me say that so far as the public services of the country are concerned, they should be recruited as a result of open competition. That is what we ask. I have said before and I say again that very often appointments are given either because of a man's colour or because he belongs to a religious community and in proportion to the nuisance value of his religious community. We would like to have no reservation. We realise under what handicaps the minorities have to work. Take all the high offices of the State. Take the Municipal Chairmanship in Delhi which is nearest from the place. The Senior Vice-President and the Junior Vice-President hold office for three years and they have to be alternately a Hindu and a Muslim and nobody else can have a look in. In the same way take the high offices of this land. We have to admit that there is always a member of the majority community elected or appointed. I do not say that they are not able or they are not abler than members of minority communities like mine but it is a sad thing that a man should know that while being a national of a country the greatest offices in the land are denied to him because he does not belong to a particular faith. We may have a high or a low opinion of a person but the fact remains that the high offices in the land are closed to all except members of the majority communities. I am making no grievance of this. These are some of the handicaps which minorities have to suffer from, but I hope that a day will dawn when a man will be appointed to an office or elected to a legislature, without any regard to his religious denomination, or to the religion he professes. To have any other test in the field of politics or in the field of public services is entirely wrong, entirely incorrect and if that mentality does not disappear, minorities will always be a thorn in the side of the Government of the day and the nation.

Now, I ask for no safeguards. I believe a safeguard written down in a constitution is not worth the paper on which it is written down. The only safeguards which minorities can have, the only safeguards which are worth having are the good will, the trust and the confidence of the nation, and though I fully realise the truth of this I am going to speak on one point, in talking of safeguards, I wish to present to you a serious fear which is in the minds of some members of my community. That is, Sir, their fear that a time may come when their religious liberty, and by that I mean the liberty to profess their religion and to worship in the way that religion enjoins them to do, may become difficult. That is, Sir, what I should like to put to you, as one of our greatest fears and we hope that the nation will rise, and that those who will shortly be

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in power will rise to that height to ensure that no man in this country shall suffer or be prevented from exercising his religion in the way he has learnt to do and for performing the observances and rites and sacraments of his religion in the manner in which he has been taught and has been brought up. Sir, we have heard with great grief in some places of the burning of Churches. One in Calcutta, another of the burning of the Salvation Army home in Bombay. Not for a moment, do I ascribe these tragedies, these most unhappy things to any thinking man of any other majority community. Do I, Sir, ascribe it for a single moment to leaders of public opinion who have already condemned such things. But such tragic events which mob violence produces, create a sense of fear in the minds of minorities. These outrages which I referred to have been condemned by the President of the Indian National Congress, all honour to him. They have been condemned by Muslim leaders, all honour to them, but I would have liked, my people would have liked a wider condemnation. I would have very much liked to have seen a condemnation from the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition in the matter of the burning of the Church at Calcutta. It would have carried much greater force because he is an eminent and a leading citizen of Calcutta. Do I blame my Honourable friend Mr. Asaf Ali for these things. Not at all. Nobody has ever suspected him of any kind of any tinge of communal feeling. But I should have liked a public statement from him declaring that he emphatically condemned these acts. This is the only safeguard which we very much desire. I have tried to make the position of my community clear on important matters, in the matter of election to legislatures, in the matter of public service, in the matter of religious safeguards. It might be said that I have probably changed or that my community now realising who is going to get into power have begun to express views quite different or that we have altered overnight. At the risk of a personal reference I should like to read a few lines which appeared in a leading article dated so far back as 28th December 1928 in the *Hindu* of Madras. The *Hindu* was commenting on my presidential address which I delivered at the all-India Conference of Indian Christians held at Madras, the day before. This is what the *Hindu* says:

"It is only fair to say that while defending co-operation with the Commission, (that is the Simon Commission,) Mr. Chatterjee has emphatically endorsed and supported the wise and patriotic attitude of his Federation in setting himself against communal electorates and nominations. Mr. Chatterjee strikes the right note when he says, 'we fully realise that till such a time as religion or what goes by the name of religion continues to dominate Indian politics, the Indian Christians have little chance of securing any adequate representation through joint electorates either on the legislature or local bodies'. But in all humility we are prepared to face this handicap for a time. So far as our particular community is concerned, in response to a higher duty to the nation as a whole and in the full hope that if we are called upon to make a sacrifice it will not be in vain."

Now, Sir, when the Simon Commission came here, a number of important organisations and communities refused to co-operate with the commission. Sir, in our politics we are what are called responsivists, that is we believe in responsive co-operation. I was then a Member of this Assembly and I took a small delegation to the Simon Commission, to meet Sir John Simon and his colleagues. There again I want to show what our demands were, not in any words of mine but through the columns of the *Hindustan Times*. The *Hindustan Times* can never be suspected of any special partiality to myself. This is what the *Hindustan Times* wrote in a leading article on 29th November 1928 under the caption. "A study in contrasts". They said:

"A delightful study in contrasts is presented by the memorandum presented by the Anglo-Indian and Indian Christian communities to the Joint Free conference. . . . The Indian Christian memorandum is characterised by a breadth of vision, a nobility of outlook which deserves the unstinted praise of all patriotic Indians. It is a pleasure to see such an exhibition of moderation on the part of a minority community when most minorities are setting up such a plaintive howl for communal privileges and perquisites. The Indian Christians have adopted a truly patriotic attitude, and have said that whatever disabilities such a step may impose on them, they are quite prepared to scrap communal electorates and

the pernicious principle of nomination. By their courageous stand on these two points, the Indian Christians have set a conspicuous example of self-sacrificing patriotism which has evoked a mead of praise from even Sir John Simon."

Now, Sir, I have tried to put before the House, before you and before my like one's own trumpet. My only object was to show that the opinions which I save today expressed were held by my community and by myself as their only representative in this Assembly so far back as 1928.

Now, Sir, I have tried to put before the House before you and before my Honourable friends opposite the position which my community desires to stand by. As I said earlier, we all believe in responsive co-operation, and I give him the fullest assurance that not only our co-operation, but also our steadfast loyalty and our best services are at the command of our nation, at the command of any Government which will be by law and constitution established in this country.

Finally, Sir, before I sit down, I should just like to say one word about the Finance Bill itself. What I desire to say refers to what I just now said namely that we believe in responsive co-operation. I believe that this is the highest ideal which any man or any community can adopt in political, national or even in religious matters, in other words that we should be prepared to co-operate with all men of good will. Wherever and whenever there is good will forthcoming we should not turn it down merely because we are sore over the past or because the past has left us an unhappy legacy. I plead, Sir, today not that my pleading has any great value. I am fully aware of my humble station in this House and in outside life, I do not presume to advise my Honourable friends opposite. Far be it from me to do that. But I would submit that we have a Finance Bill here on this occasion which to my mind is a very good improvement, in fact a transformation over former Finance Bills that I have seen here. Here is a Finance Member, I have got nothing to gain from him, but I do feel this that we have a Finance Member here who has not grown rich at the expense of India, he has not been here long enough to be called a sun dried bureaucrat. He has been here for a very short time. We also probably should not forget that his predecessor was getting Rs. 6,666-6-6 and the present Finance Member is getting Rs. 5,000 a month. We therefore cannot accuse him of wanting to make money out of India. He has never asked for dearness allowance, as far as I know. He pays income-tax as an honest citizen. I feel that when he comes to us extending his right hand of friendship, since he has been responsive to our criticism of his Bill and has done his utmost to bring it up to what popular opinion desires, since he has in all these matters taken popular element in the House into his confidence and has done his best, I feel, Sir, that it would be a sad thing if the Finance Bill were to be thrown out. It may be said by my Honourable friends opposite that it has become a custom for the last few years. I shall refer them to Tennyson and say that they should realise that one good custom corrupts the world. We have now entered into a new order of things let us change this custom on the threshold of new things.

An Honourable Member: From next year.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I think it should be this year. There is no time so good as the present and I think it would be fair and graceful that we should pass this Finance Bill because I believe it has been framed in the best interests of the largest number of people of this country, and that it is an honest effort on the part of my Honourable friend to solve the financial problems of India. I therefore support the Bill.

Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan (Bakarganj cum Faridpur: Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President: I am no financier dabbling in high finance nor an industrialist interested in import and export quotas nor even an abstract economist, who can with incisive insight analyse and expose the implications of the Finance Bill and its effect on the economy of the country. I am a layman, a man in the street, and as such the outlook I can bring to bear on the financial proposals for the ensuing year are those of the average citizen, a very poor citizen, and how he reacts to them.

[Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan]

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan).]

Sir, a few days ago, over the Income-tax Bill, there was an exchange of bouquets as between the Honourable the Finance Member and a front bench Member of the Opposition. The latter was complimenting the other on his wisdom and foresight in giving a grant of 25 per cent. (half from the Central Government and the other half from the Provincial Government) to the encouragement of building activities. Though this concession was meant according to the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member "to enable suitable houses to be constructed for the poorer classes of workers who are not in a position to pay a full economic rent" a construction was brought to bear upon the proposal which would not enthuse very much the poorer classes for whose benefit the concession was intended. It was thought that the grant would encourage 'enterprising capital' to become more enterprising. Such a prospect is not very reassuring for the poor man, who knows too well that enterprising capital becomes very enterprising only where the returns involved are what it considers 'adequate' and profitable. I would therefore warn the Honourable the Finance Member that if this tendency is not checked the purpose of the grant which he has proposed would be defeated and the poorer classes would be left as helpless as they were.

Sir, I hail from a rural constituency of Bengal and as such my primary concern is the economic condition, welfare and amenities of the villager or the peasant. "India" the Honourable the Finance Member has said in the opening paragraphs of his budget speech "is still confronted with a whole array of dangerous and enduring enemies—poverty, squalor, ill-health, illiteracy, under-nourishment and under-employment and of these the most formidable is poverty." Yes, India's poverty is the keystone of the arch of misery under the shadow of which we live and breed. Has the Honourable Member's tax proposals done anything to alleviate the poor man's misery, though I know no Finance Member can wield the magic wand and eliminate poverty overnight. Looked at from this point of view I must express my keen disappointment. The villager's primary concern are his food, his clothes and a few other necessities like kerosene, cheap postcard, salt and last but not least, betel nut, the poor man's luxury. In regard to every one of these items his condition is as pathetic and unrelieved as it has always been. His food and clothes are daily problem, not so much due to lack of purchasing power as due to their unavailability. His postcard still costs him as much as before, though this House has been clamouring for its reduction for near two decades. His kerosene is as scarce as it has been during the war and its price has had an inconsiderable reduction, salt stands where it has always been and his betel nut, the least considerable luxury, is subject to an excise duty. Where, I ask, has the poor men had any consideration in the Honourable Member's Finance Bill? The higher income levels have had their relief in income-tax and in other ways but the poor man is the neglected and unconsidered under-dog that he has always been.

Let me now, Sir, turn to the subject, 'Food', which engrosses now all our attention to the exclusion of anything else. From all that we have heard from His Excellency the Viceroy, from all that is said by international statesmen and the press in and outside this country and from our daily experience too we understand that a scarcity and famine of unprecedented magnitude is staring the country in the face, before which the Bengal famine of 1942 would appear as mere picnic. One of the causes attributed, at any rate, to Indian famine, is the growth of population and the inadequate food-growing resources of the country. But may I ask the powers that be whether population has grown only in India and in no other part of the world? Has not Russia grown in population all these years (though of course there has been depletion due to war) and if so, how is that despite all the ravages and destruction of war she has an exportable surplus of foodgrains, in regard to which the other day we

requested the Government to make representations to His Majesty's Government, so that India might get at least a moiety of it. Ours has been a sad tale of neglect, despite all the propaganda that has been made in regard to Grow More Food and the committees and conferences that have been held. As in politics so in every other sphere of this Government's administration the words "TOO LATE" are writ large on its activities. I only pray that the frantic last moment efforts that are being made to obtain foodgrains from abroad will bear fruition and the threatened disaster will yet be averted. But in the meantime Government's long term plans for the avoidance of similar catastrophies should be prosecuted with feverish vigour, for there is bound to be a continuously growing population in the country as in any other country and every time scarcity or famine is threatened to plead the growth of population as being the cause or to attribute it to the vagaries of the rains would betray a bankruptcy of foresight and wisdom and apathy towards the interest of the people on the part of the Government which would in time create a deluge that would sweep them root and branch. Cultivable land which is lying waste at present is not lacking in the country. Man power is not short in a country subject to chronic unemployment among the rural population. As to co-operation from the public on no other question has there been such absolute, unconditional and unanimous support from among all parties as on this question of food. Granting the honest will, an earnest drive, an uncorrupt and incorruptible administration of measures designed in this regard together with the unreserved and wholehearted co-operation that all parties are prepared to extend, I see no reason why India could not tide over the crisis with confidence.

Sir, closely connected with the problem of food is nutrition and health and India is the country most woefully deficient and neglected in either respects. It required a war to ginger up the authorities to appoint a Health Survey Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Joseph Bhole, to invite experts from abroad and to produce a report suggesting measures for tackling a problem, in attention to which all these years has been eating into the vitals of the nation. The Bhole Committee report is an excellent report but however good a report might be its utility and success depend upon the working of it. It is to be earnestly hoped that both the Central and Provincial Governments will implement the proposals with vigour and see that nothing stands in the way of the early fruition of the results expected out of them.

Next only in importance to the problem of food is the cloth famine and in this matter, I believe, there is no part of the country which can be called a surplus area and another a deficit area, though of course the scarcity varies in degree from place to place. My part of the country is perhaps the most afflicted in this matter and has been so for a very long time without even the proverbial silver lining to the cloud. I am aware that the grim spectre of the impending food famine has overshadowed this problem for the present but it is none the less urgent. In our helpless state in regard to food I learn that some of the countries from which we have to import foodgrains stipulate in return an export of cloth from this country at a time when the country can least afford to part with even a yard of cloth. Hunger added to nakedness is the cruellest fate that can befall a country. I hope Government is sparing no endeavour to increase the production of cloth by all means possible, whether through mills or hand-loom and also are trying to import as much cloth as possible at least to tide over the present crisis. For long term plans in this connection import of capital machinery, and replacement of over-worked and aged machinery in the country are the primary needs and I hope Government is giving first priority to this matter.

Talking of industrial development, Sir, I would like to bring to the earnest consideration of Government one submission. As the House is aware many industries have developed in this country during the stress of war and lack of

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imports. There is a tremendous drive in England for the export of consumer goods to other countries, particularly to India and, in fact, export is a matter of life and death to the United Kingdom. In any import programme of this country care should be taken to see that only such articles are imported as would not prove deleterious to the interests of the nascent indigenous industries. The first duty of the Government should be the preservation, consolidation and stabilisation of those industries which are useful as much in peace as they were in war. Even in regard to the import of other consumer goods the country's long term industrial expansion programme must be kept in view and wherever possible import of capital goods should have priority and every effort should be made to see to the installation of capital machinery for the manufacture of consumer goods in India to make the country self-sufficient as early as possible, at least in regard to such articles as are necessary for the population's normal existence. This war has taught India, if anything, how helpless she is in regard to some of the essentials of human existence if imports from outside countries were cut off. Such a situation should not be allowed to occur on any future occasion and the country's preparation towards self-sufficiency should begin in right earnest immediately.

So far I have talked about subjects of all-India importance but before concluding let me touch on some of the problems peculiar to my own community. First in importance is of course the adequate representation of Muslims in the services. This, some Honourable Members may say, is a hardy annual. But it is bound to be a hardy annual until such time as the community is satisfied that they have had their legitimate and adequate share in the services of the country. The other day on the cut motion moved by my Party the Honourable the Home Member acknowledged that if he were a member of my community he would certainly feel dissatisfied with the rate of progress achieved so far in securing the proper representation of Muslims in the services. He therefore assured the House that he meant business this time and that he was trying to evolve a system of running check to see that the representation of minorities in the services does not suffer for avoidable or untenable reasons. I hope he would be able to announce his plan to the House before this session concludes, although at the time he was not sure that he would be in a position to do so. But the members of my party would feel reassured before they return to their homes that something worthwhile has been done by them during this session of the Assembly.

In this connection may I make bold to voice the grievance of my province, I mean the Muslims of Bengal. It is said to reflect that the Bengal Muslim's case has always gone by default in the services of the Central Government for what reason I cannot imagine. I do not know whether it is because Bengal is a far cry from Delhi or because she is less clamant than others. Bengal was the first to come into contact with English education, she was the first to have English colleges, she was the pioneer in all the services of the Government and in fact she has been the pioneer in all the forward movements of this country. Her Muslim boys are not whit inferior in education, aptitudes, attainments and skill to their brethren in any other province. But despite all his tradition, his history and attainments he seems to be the 'Harijan' in the Central Government service. Among the Muslim Executive Councillors at the Centre my friend the Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque is the first Bengalee Muslim to hold the post and perhaps he is there because Government could not get a Muslim nearer home. I am sure my Muslim friends from other provinces will support me in my plea on behalf of the Bengalee Muslim. It is a claim based on justice, and equity and well deserving of recognition at the hands of Government by virtue of our young men's education, intelligence and ability in all walks of life.

Another hardy annual, Sir, which is peculiarly the concern of my community is the Haj pilgrimage. This has been the subject of a full length speech by the Deputy Leader of my party last year and several questions both last year and

this year. I understand that the number of pilgrims this time is going to be the largest for several years, perhaps because peace conditions have come and there is a little superfluous money available in the country. I do not want to talk at length on this subject. Government is not unaware of the difficulties and grievances of the pilgrims. I earnestly hope that this year the Government will do their utmost to see that every facility in regard to shipping accommodation, embarkation, exchange and other conveniences are secured to them with foresight and sympathy. In addition I strongly urge that Haj Pilgrims should now be enabled to embark from the port of Calcutta.

This year, 1946, is said to be a momentous year which will be full of outstanding and epoch-making events. The deliberations of this House are carried on under the shadow of the Cabinet Mission that is shortly visiting India to settle, we hope, finally the problems that mean life and death to the millions of this country. It is not for me to express opinions on the great problems that are going to be discussed and solved. It is for my leader to give us the guidance and the lead. All that I can do as a humble follower is to pray that in the eventful weeks of discussion, negotiation and decisions that are to follow justice, wisdom, sagacity and statesmanship will inspire the deliberations conducted and the decisions arrived at.

Sri Bhagirathi Mahapatra (Cuttack cum Puri: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, in connection with the proposals made in course of the budgetary provisions of the Central Government for the year 1946-47 I shall, with your indulgence and that of the House for this my first attempt to speak out, make the following observations:—

4 P.M.

Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member refers to the transformation of International and domestic scenes through the utter destruction of the Fascist forces in the course of the last year—1945—after a protracted and worldwide conflagration of six long years. None would deny the change for better in other countries which are favoured with their own Governments and specially in Britain, where the end of the war witnessed the fall of the Churchillian Government at the first crush of the new thought-currents and the establishment of a Labour Government. But what is the change for better here? Is there any transformation in the domestic scene here? If any, the change is for worse and far worse than what it was when the war was on. True that during the war years, millions in our country knew only miseries, hunger and destitution, quite apart from the millions that met their ends through famine—man-made famine of 1943—and pestilences caused by the war and apart from those hundreds and thousands of Indians who gallantly sacrificed their lives in various theatres of war in the Near, Middle and Far East and on the Italian and German soils with no other results than prolongation of the slavery of India and her millions had to go through innumerable sufferings and hardships to no purpose. In spite of all fond hopes the termination of the war has not brought India her freedom so solemnly promised by the powers that still want to hold on. Other countries of the world which have been more or less affected by the war have settled down to occupy themselves in reconstruction and recuperation. They had neither to suffer from the pangs of hunger when the war was on nor when the war was over because they have their own national and responsible governments. But here in India after the war was over a famine hundred fold intense and acute, in comparison to that of 1943, stares us. Sir, this is the most burning problem that absorbs a common man's thought—this is the most vital problem—the food problem—which we will have to face with all its grimness and rigor.

Sir, let me briefly touch the various causes of food shortage—famine euphemistically and administratively called. The increase of our population at rapid strides has been regarded as the first of all other causes. Sir, true it is that the population of India has increased by 32 per cent. in half a century. But in Britain specially during the same period the increase is by 54 per cent, and in other countries generally the increase of population is far greater than that of

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India. Britain could check the soaring of prices of commodities and of food-stuff and the increase was only 25 per cent. whereas in India the increase of prices of necessary commodities was 3 to 4 hundred per cent. So there is no ground to infer that the increase in prices is due to increase in population. Experts like Kale, Mitchell and others hold that "there is every reason to believe that by making full use of her resources India could support a far larger population than at present".

Sir, India is still an agricultural country despite all tall talks of industrialisation and have got immense possibilities in the direction of expansion of agricultural field by well recognised methods of cultivation. But in the words of the Woodhead Commission:

"These can be developed only by the efforts of human beings—by the Government and the people of India."

"A great responsibility rests on the Governments and the Government servants of all grades in organising and stimulating the work of nation building. The duties of modern Government extend far beyond the maintenance of law and order; they include within their compass social and economic development in all its aspects."

But, Sir, to take into account what really happens, one must say that the much advertised Grow More Food Campaign has been carried on as a half-hearted and face-saving measure in which, in the words of the Woodhead Commission, "the results achieved by the Grow More Food Campaign during 1942-43 and 1943-44 have not been spectacular." A campaign for Grow More Food had been adopted by all other countries at the very start of the war, but in India it was started after the war was on for three years. The reason for all this is not far to seek and that is nothing but the stern fact that India is governed by an irresponsible, impersonal and consequently heartless and inefficient bureaucratic system, both in the Central and Provincial administration.

Sir, so far as the campaign for Grow More Food is concerned, there are some essential matters to deserve notice. The present land system should be revised and improved and the agricultural labour is to be encouraged to proudly devote their whole attention and energy to large scale production of foodgrains and foodcrops. The producer should always get the remunerative price for his produce. Material resources, say availability of land and of skilled agricultural labour are there, the State must take proper and adequate steps and effective measures in time to give them facilities and in no time India can be made self-sufficient in her food supply. But at present the State is apathetic in making plans and still more halting and ineffective in carrying them out. The people have no confidence either in their plans or in the method the State suggests. Thus a government enjoying the confidence of the people can only stimulate the process.

Next comes the baffling question of irrigation, manuring and availability of agricultural tools and implements. Irrigation is the most important part of the plan. Sir, in I refer to my own province which is widely known to be a place of chronic flood and famine, I can make bold to say that the problem of irrigation and consequent control of flood against annual damages to crops through inundation have not received the attention that it deserves either of the Central or of the Provincial Government. Lands covered by sand deposited on them through annual floods have been paying rents although they have been rendered unproductive for years. In this there is no uniform policy. I mean an All-India policy. Thousands of acres of land bordering the rivers of the "Mahanadi", "Bramhani" and "Baitarani" have become sandy and unproductive due to heavy floods year after year, but no effective remedy in the direction of controlling the floods and utilising the water in well-planned projects of irrigation has been adopted, though flood expert committees have been appointed by the Government of India since 1927. This is by way of illustration. It is well known that every province suffers from this havoc of constant

and annual flood and overflow of water and droughts and consequent scarcity of water causing damage to agriculture and to any regular yield of crops. For this up till now nothing substantial has been done on an All-India basis.

The necessity of exporting foodgrains outside India, which had to be resorted to during the war years under the specious plea of provision of foodgrains to Far East and Middle East, does not now exist and it is now obligatory upon the Government to see that all-out sincere efforts are made to stop export of foodgrains from India for years to come. But it is futile to believe that this will be complied with unless the Government at the Centre changes its colour. Even before the war India was not self-sufficient in her requirements of foodgrains which had therefore to be imported to a small extent. During the war years there were shipping difficulties. Secondly the loss of imports from Burma caused by Japanese occupation of Burma had been also regarded as a direct cause of the Bengal famine and general food shortage. But these difficulties are now non-existent. To meet the present requirements of foodgrains for the Indian people, the Government have to seriously move for sufficient import of foodgrains from other countries. Requirements of foodgrains for the increase in defence services and of the influx of population on that score, which still continues, are also to be taken into account. Normally, India, should import one and a half million tons of foodgrains net every year in the terms of the Report of the Gregory Commission. According to present calculation of experts, the deficit of foodgrains in India stands to be near about two million tons. Therefore it is now imperative upon the Government to discontinue export and to facilitate imports of foodgrains.

Sir, here I may incidentally raise the question of national shipping industry. The absence of a national mercantile marine has also been felt during the Bengal famine of 1943 so fresh in our memory. The lack of proper and prompt shipping arrangements was then used to be regarded as a cause of delay in affording facilities for transportation and importation of foodgrains from abroad. Had India possessed a mercantile marine, Government of India could have easily stood up against a corporation like the U. K. C. C. which, supported by British vested interests, had monopolised the normal channels of trade usually controlled by Indians themselves. In connection with this important industry of shipbuilding, the Government of India, under instructions from "Home" made a definite declaration before the Council of State in April 1941 that they had no intention of encouraging shipbuilding industry even as a part of the war efforts. We have seen during the war years that America could build four ships a day, dominions of Australia and Canada developed their shipbuilding industries, but we were not encouraged by the powers that rule our destiny to build even one ship during these many years of war. The underlying reason is the helplessness of the Government of India which is always dominated by the Home Government. The then Commerce Member to the Government of India, Mr. N. R. Sircar said in this connection:

"One cannot help feeling that had adequate steps been taken to promote the development of an Indian mercantile marine and an Indian Navy our country would have been in a position to play a larger and more effective part in overcoming Axis aggression. . . ."

I hope the lessons of this war will not be lost upon us and that every effort will be made to help to develop Indian shipping and shipbuilding industry. One can very well conclude from this that the Government itself is utterly helpless and anti-national in character and is bound by the dictation of the Home Government anxious to safeguard the British vested interests in India.

Sir, due to corrupt and inefficient administration, the last world war of 1939-45 has been, so far as India is concerned the cause of enriching the rich and impoverishing the poor. Against one thousand and one ordinances and rules under the Defence of India Act, black-marketing and profiteering are openly indulged in and the present Government are not only incompetent and inefficient to check the anti-social activities but betray stolid indifference in dealing with their own men held to be widely participating in all such activities as bribery

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and corruption and thereby encouraging all anti-social elements in their nefarious methods. Controls and procurements are not effective. They lead to profiteering and all sorts of corruption and they help only those who have got enough and trouble those who do not have anything. The system of control that now prevails in so far as foodgrains are concerned can never succeed unless the popular co-operation is secured and unless the Government remain alert to check black methods aided and encouraged by the officials concerned and unless the outlook of the Government changes and the Government becomes a responsible government instead of a government not enjoying the confidence of the people at large.

The last but not the least important of the causes that have brought about this famine condition and a general food shortage in our country is the indiscriminate expansion of currency and the consequent inflation. The currency circulated rose abnormally. The figures show an increase of 1,000 crores in quantity between the 1st September 1939 and September 1945. It was 170 crores in September 1939 and it rose to 1,151 crores in September 1945. This produced its natural economic effect on the prices of the commodities and specially led to the high prices and unavailability of food stuffs.

Pethic Lawrence, the present Secretary of State for India, has opined in the course of a parliamentary debate "The main cause of the increase in price was inflation and for that inflation the Government of India and nobody else could be held responsible." The money increased in quantity and the volume of goods remains stationary thus leading to the fall in the value of the money and an abnormal rise in the prices of materials. Money became cheap and goods are dear. There is therefore a necessity for adopting methods for contraction of currency in such a way as will not harm the production. The steps may be gradual but needs to be taken. There is certainly no move on the part of the present Government in that direction.

Sir, with regard to the next important need of the people, let us briefly examine the Government's policy. During the first few years of the war there was rise in production of cloth by 20 per cent. The annual output before the war was 4,269 million yards and in the year 1941-42 the output went up to 4,493 million yards. But the civilian and military needs also increased abnormally. The stocks that had accumulated with Indian mills in pre-war days met the preliminary and immediate demands, but when the war continued, the cloth shortage came into existence towards the end of 1942 and onwards up till now.

In spite of bringing into being the Cotton Textile Advisory panel and other allied committees and introduction of "standard cloth" and rationing system, the Indian mills could not meet the demands of increasing population caused by the influx of large contingents of military personnel from abroad here and the same increase has been continuing up till now and consequently there is a terrible cloth shortage. At the time of the Bengal famine millions of semi-starved beggars roamed about in the open streets of Calcutta either semi-clothed or completely naked. In this matter also the present administration has miserably failed.

Sir, turning our attention to the direction of industries we find that India has not been made to take advantage of the war time exigencies, which other interested countries have been able to take. It is a fact that industries have been neglected in India for many generations. In the United Kingdom the annual *per capita* income from industries is about 600 out of the total *per capita* annual income of about 1,000, in the United States the corresponding figures are Rs. 830 out of Rs. 1,187. But here the income is only Rs. 65. The reason is not far to seek and it is this: that the Government of the country have never tried to encourage indigenous industries. During the war years a number of industrial missions from England and America visited India. The report of the Roger Mission was not shown to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce. The Grady Mission from America demonstrated more frankness in their

dealings with business people of the country but their report still remains unpublished.

But what the investigation carried on by these missions led to? So far as India is concerned, with all her natural resources, unlimited man-power, she remained where she was, simply due to her political dependency, while all the self-governing countries and dominions made incredible progress in their industries through the joint efforts of their governments and peoples. The Indian industrialists were helpless, they had high hopes of expansion of Indian industries during war, but their hopes were shattered and they were convinced that only a national government will be able to help them and help industries of all types—small or heavy—to thrive. India, the ancient land of civilisation, with all her natural wealth, men and material can restore to her large population of 400 millions a decent life above want, if resources of modern scientific methods are utilised in all departments, health, agriculture, industry and communications and that is not possible without a real national government and without wresting of real and effective political power from our foreign masters.

Sir, side by side with this grim spectre of starvation and nakedness, this want of food and cloth—the two barest necessities of life, there is the appalling darkness of illiteracy. One, in every three villages, has got a primary school and in every 100 square miles there is a middle school. In very few selected areas—*e.g.*, some municipal or contiguous areas—one finds compulsory elementary education. Ten persons at the most in every hundred can read and write. This is the boon of over 150 years of British rule. So far as collegiate and higher education go, that has made the recipients forget the link with their own culture and genius and has made them so many blotting-sheets of western modes and ways of life.

After the war was over for over six months and in spite of a Labour Government at "home" and with all their advocacy of freedom for India, the same old policy of the Churchillian and pre-Churchillian days is being followed.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member must conclude. He has already had two minutes more.

Sri Bhagirathi Mahapatra: Just two more minutes, Sir. Our tried patriots like Jai Prakash Narayan, Lohia, Bakshi, Jaglal Choudhuri and Surendra Dwivedi are still behind the bars. The representatives of this Labour Government ruling over India have been insisting on putting the men and officers of the Indian National Army to trial in the name of law and discipline. Their crime was their love of this country and their attempt at throwing off the yoke of foreign domination and defending and protecting their people against the then Japanese aggression. These trials are being carried on for the last three months in spite of the countrywide strong and vocal opinion against these trials and for a general amnesty to the I.N.A. men and officers.

During the first Great War big hopes were aroused in the minds of the Indians by the August Declaration of 1917 which still forms the Preamble of the Government of India Act of 1935, *vis.*, "the gradual development of self-governing institutions with a view to progressive realisation of responsible government in India." But after the treaty of Versailles India had been rewarded with the Rowlatt Act and all that followed in its wake. The needs of the Far East and of India were all forgotten; nor was any solution of the political and economic problem of the people made during the thirty years that passed. So far as political status is concerned, India stands where it stood in 1917. During the second Great War one recollects the faint-hearted and humiliating declaration of 1940 and of the much-vaunted Cripps Proposal of 1942 leading to a strong sense of desperation and nation-wide frustration which found its outlet in the unprecedented mass uprising of August 1942 and in the sacrifice and untold sufferings of millions of people. Only a foreign rule has retarded all national progress in India, despite the opportunities that were offered by war time exigencies. It is admitted that the entire social and economic structure of our country has received

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- a terrible shock, which can only be undone by an intensive and extensive programme of rehabilitation. To achieve all this, we urgently require our own national government instead of this alien government, and complete freedom of India.

With these observations, I conclude my speech.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I get up to oppose the consideration of the Finance Bill. Before I begin my speech, I repeat the protest which is so repeatedly made in this House against the absence of Government members. Sir, the Finance Bill does not concern the Finance Member only. During its discussion of this Bill all Government activities throughout the country come under examination. Members will speak sometimes on this subject and sometimes on that and it is for the Government to reply to all those points. But if they are absent they cannot do it.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The clerk is taking notes!

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: I think the other members and secretaries also should be present all along in the House when the discussion is going on.

Sir, in view of the coming events the tone and tenor of the speeches have been naturally tempered. When we find and hear that something great is going to happen in this country in the near future, it is difficult to talk as we used to talk about the Finance Bill. In today's morning paper I find that the Archbishop of Canterbury and 9 Bishops have issued an appeal to all classes of people in Britain for prayers for the success of the British Cabinet Mission to this country. I also wish them God-speed and I think all lovers of the country wish them God-speed; but they must remember one thing. If they are really sincere to make the country free, it is not difficult. They may leave the country any day. They will find no difficulty whatsoever in doing so. Whatever difficulties they point out, they must remember are their own creations. I take it as a fact that there are disunions and disunities in the country; but everybody knows and I think the Cabinet Mission in their heart of hearts also must be knowing that all these disunions and disunities are the creations of the British Government in this land. I therefore give a word of warning to the ministers coming that if they really want to free India they can do it easily and they should do it even at the risk of a probable civil war in this country

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Why do you not do it?

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: It is altogether foolish and unpatriotic to talk of civil war in this country after the British will go. But supposing if there be any

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: You forget that Mr. Patel said the same thing.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: But if there be an any, I think it will be in the process of there being a permanent good to the country. I therefore repeat again the only course for the good of India is that the British should leave the country. The Finance Member has submitted the Finance Bill to this House for our consideration. I object to his very right and title to do so. All pundits of constitutional law and experts on political philosophy agree that existence of a government presupposes certain laws according to which any government can claim to have been established. This so-called government also claims to have been established by law. But the world knows that there is no such law in this land according to which this government has been established and in which law the will of the people has been expressed. According to all political jurisprudence law is defined as nothing else but the will of the people expressed in terms of law. As I have said before, there is no such thing in this country. Similarly, it can very well be said that there can be no government in this country. Let them be called anything, but not the government. In the absence of a government, the submission of a Finance Bill in the constitutional method by a Finance Member does not arise. It is better for him and this will be a practical thing.

to withdraw the Bill. They are strong enough, they are powerful enough, they can realise any amount of money for their purposes from the people of this country. They have been looting the country, they have been extorting money from all classes of people in any manner they like. Then what is the use of this farce? As we find, this kind of government is something not only unlawful and illegal, but it is also unnatural. The result is miseries all over the country, misfortune all over the country. Everybody is suffering from the tyranny of this government. Only the other day Mr. Churchill said in his speech in America that it was the British people who first placed the government in their proper place as the servants of the people, and not their masters. Yes. This was done long ago in England, in the British isles. But what is happening here? What to speak of the people on the Treasury Benches, they are big people. In the mufassil what do we find? Even the lowest servants of government, even constables and police sub-inspectors consider themselves as the masters of the people. They never think in their mind that they are the servants of the people and that they should discharge their duty accordingly. They always think in terms of masters and nothing else. The result is that they cannot even arrange for the food and clothes for the people of the country. There has been a hue and cry all over the country that there is no food and no clothes. The Government ask for our co-operation. This also is a foolish talk. Why do they want co-operation. Is there any co-operation between a cattle and its owner possible. Government consider the people of this country as property belonging to them. They never consider the people as their equals or masters whom they have to serve. Co-operation is possible between equals who are working for a common object but here the Government want something quite different. There should be no talk of co-operation any more in this country. Either obey or be obeyed. There is no half way house. In my own province of Bihar the paddy crop has failed. There is a shortage of food everywhere. The import quota of the province has also not been received for the last three or four months. The result is that people are suffering from want of food. I have been receiving letters almost every day that such and such a place is in utter want of food but helpless as we are we cannot do anything and above all there is one thing, and that is the realisation of the National Savings Certificates which is going on. Can there be anything more inhuman than this. For that, I think Sir Archibald Rowlands, the Finance Member is directly responsible for the mischief which is being done there. People are starving. There is no food and no clothes and still the realisation of the national certificates is going on. In his speech the Honourable the Finance Member said that the purchasing power in the hands of the people had enormously increased and that the consuming public had been anxious to make effective use of its spending capacity. He said that in other words there were still pockets of inflationary forces which required to be closely watched and controlled. This is a wrong belief which is at the root of this trouble in the province. He feels that the purchasing power of the people has increased. I therefore say that at the helm of affairs in any country should be those who know the country perfectly well. My Honourable friend does not know the country. I am a Congress worker. I move from one place to another. Where is the purchasing power of the people. People are starving and suffering for want of clothes and the Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands says that the purchasing power of the people has increased. I asked him in private—please explain to me this and I request him again to explain to the House how he considers that the purchasing power has increased? I know during wars some people have got more money. Their purchasing power has increased no doubt. For instance war contractors have got more money and along with them Government officials who were connected with them also got money for they shared half the profit. Their purchasing power has increased. Along with them some labourers have got some money and their purchasing power may be said to have increased. Besides these people; it is possible that some cultivators who grow more than what is necessary may have got something which may have increased their purchasing power but their number is so small that it is negligible and it

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may not be counted. There are people who have not more corn in their houses but they need to purchase many other necessary things and hence they sell but it cannot be said that their purchasing power has increased. In the same way if we examine the question in detail, we shall find that a very small number of people may have got more money but the Finance Member said that the purchasing power of the people in general has increased and it has to be controlled. I think this is altogether wrong and it is rather dangerous. We know how money is realised from the people. They are asked to mortgage their land and to sell their land and their cattle and other belongings and thereby to pay to the Government by way of National Savings Certificates. In fact the money is extorted.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I hope that is out of date. If you can give me recent examples, I will investigate them personally.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: I am stating this as a fact. In my constituency of Chota Nagpur, in the area of Hazaribagh in the Chatar sub-division about six lakhs of money were realised by extortion.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Not in the last 12 months. It has been stopped now.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: I am talking of the last year. People are suffering in all possible ways but the money is extorted from them and I think this has got to be stopped. When we think of the coming events, we feel pleased and proud but when we see all these things as to how the present Government is working, our heart is full of dismay and disappointments. This is not the way to help the people. Sir, I am an old member of the House.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member has only two minutes left.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Only ten minutes are left. I do not think any other Member would like to speak now.

Mr. Deputy President: If the Honourable Member takes any extra time, it will be debited to his party.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: All right, Sir, I shall finish it now. As regards the Finance Bill I will only say that the principles of taxation ought to be direct. Tax people as much as you like but let people know what you tax them, why they pay, what amount they have to pay and so on. That is the principle of direct taxation. But indirect taxation is something like stealing. People do not know what is taken from them as tax. Take salt tax for instance. Salt tax is a blot on the British financial policy. By salt tax you tax every morsel of a beggar's food. This salt tax reminds me of a proverb:

Andher Nagri Chaupat Raja; Take ser Bhaji, take ser Khaja.

Chaotic town, idiot King, two pice per seer vegetables, two pice per seer sweets.

If the Honourable the Finance Member says that he is an expert in principles of taxation, I think, he is not. He does not know whom he should tax. So far as indirect taxation goes, only luxuries should be taxed. Tax motor car, tax many other things which are matters of luxury. But do not tax every morsel of the beggars food. It is inhuman. I request the House to make all possible attempts to remove this salt tax altogether and come to any terms possible with the Finance Member, we may even allow the Finance Bill to be passed, only let the salt tax go. I think the Finance Member will agree to this. With these words, I oppose the Finance Bill.

Seta Yusuf Abdoola Maroon: Mr. Deputy President, this morning I listened with great admiration to the speech of my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lal, but I am sorry to say that he tried to ignore the Muslim League organisation. He tried to argue that the Congress was the only organisation which can deliver the goods.

Some Honourable Member: Did he say so, Sir? Question.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I will explain presently, if only my Honourable friends have the patience. My Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall tried to force the hands of the Government and asked them to come to a settlement with the Congress, ignoring all other parties in India.

Some Honourable Members: No, no.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Diwan Chaman Lall in his speech this morning said that the Congress was the only party which can afford to cross the floor and take the reins of Government.

Some Honourable Members: He never said that. You have misunderstood him.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I listened to his speech carefully, with great attention.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Mis-statement of facts.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: No. The Congress party today in this House has decided to throw out the Finance Bill. Great publicity has been given to that in the Press and it was stated on the floor of the House that it was being thrown out because of political reasons. The Congress party has decided to do so because the Indian National Congress has decided so. It means that the Congress party in this House has given no consideration to the merits of the Finance Bill. As far as I am concerned, I may say it should be considered on its merits. I am not here to say what the attitude of the Muslim League party will be. I would request the Finance Member to see his way to understand the point of view of the Muslim League Party. After all this Government has got to be carried on. It may be that this Government is an interim Government for the period till my Honourable friends to my right who are anxious to cross the floor take the reins of office into their hands without coming to an understanding with any other party in India and who are now trying to force the hands of the British Government, with all the force at their command, but I am sure it will not be so easy for them to do so. May I then suggest to the Finance Member that this Government is to be carried on and if it is to be carried on, why not have the goodwill of those members of this House who try to put forward arguments, who try to put forward their ideas and suggestion before him.

As far as the Planning and Development Department is concerned, it was after 18 months struggle that 29 panels were created. When Sir Ardeshir Dalal took charge of that Department, the people in India felt confident that as a businessman he would do his utmost to see to the reconstruction and development of India. The men in the panels were nominated by the Government without consulting or approaching any organisations or industries which were interested. Some of the Members who were put on the panel do not even know the A, B, C of the Department or the industry in which they were serving. However, we have not seen the reports of these panels. They have not even been placed before the House. The Honourable the Member for Planning and Development who is new to his Department said the other day, please wait and then judge me. But he has not yet placed the report of any panel before the House for judgement. I feel that it is high time that the Members of the Assembly are taken into confidence. We should be told what steps the Government are going to take to carry on the plans which are being put forward through this Department. I notice that the Government are trying to lay down the location of all these industries. Textile mills, vegetable ghee plant—all these are being located without reference to the province and without reference to the different centres where these will be wanted, without deciding whether these will be suitable at those centres. This is altogether absurd. A businessman who has studied a particular area in which that industry should be located should be allowed to proceed normally. Even without giving him a

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definite data, whether raw material will be available, simply because a particular area has no textile mill or that it has no vegetable ghee plant, he should not be forced to open mills there. I must say that the Planning Member does not even know the programme and the policy which different Departments are going ahead with. He is today acting simply as a post office.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order. The Honourable Member may continue his speech tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 20th March, 1946