

THE
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(14th March to 29th March, 1945)

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION
OF THE
FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1945



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Sardar SANT SINGH, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 22nd March, 1945.

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

MEMBER SWORN

Sir Olaf Caroe, K.C.I.E., C.S.I. (Secretary, External Affairs Department).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

REPRESENTATION RE ADMINISTRATION OF DEFENCE OF INDIA ACT AND RULES

1246. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the Honourable the Defence Member received any representation regarding the administration of the Defence of India Act and the Rules made thereunder?

(b) Is it a fact that when the Defence of India Bill was discussed in the Central Legislative Assembly, Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan, the then Law Member to the Government of India, admitted that the powers were wide and drastic, but expressed the hope that "those who will actually be invested with the carrying of those powers into effect will use them with discretion and will use them humanly and in such a manner as to cause the minimum of inconvenience"?

(c) What sort of instructions do Government propose to give in this matter in order to carry out the letter and spirit of the assurance then given?

Mr. Ram Chandra: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given by Sir Muhammad Zafarullah Khan to parts (b) and (c) of starred question No. 216 on the 21st November 1940.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the Provincial Governments in whom these powers are invested are acting humanly and in such a manner as to cause the minimum inconvenience with regard to the requisitioning of houses from among the civil population in Bombay?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I have no reason to think that they do not abide by the provisions of the Defence of India Act.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the many representations and the agitation in the press which brings facts to the notice of the Government of India, would the Honourable Member consider getting into correspondence with the Government of Bombay on the issue that minimum inconvenience should be caused and humane attitude should be adopted in the application of the Defence of India Act to the requisitioning of Houses in Bombay?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I do not think it is necessary to issue any general instructions of this nature to the Government of Bombay. Section 15 of the Defence of India Act already provides for this.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member if he is aware that the assurance referred to in the question was extracted out of the Government at the time by persistent efforts for Government to make such an effort on lines similar to that given by Parliament in Britain.

Mr. Ram Chandra: The proceedings of the debate will show what happened.

(At this stage Sardar Sant Singh rose in his seat.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Manu Subedar. Next question. This has been fully debated.

REGULATION SIZE BOOT FOR INDIAN SOLDIERS

1247. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state who has selected the regulation size boot for Indian soldiers in the Indian army and is it not a fact that this is the same as in the British Army?

(b) Have Government received complaints from soldiers recruited from villages, particularly the small recruits from Madras and Travancore, who have never worn shoes of any kind before in their life, that the heavy boot involves too great an exertion, and has any difficulty been found in such recruits undertaking long marches?

(c) How many months does it take to the village recruited soldier to get used to the heavy boot, and what percentage of them suffer from cold during these days?

(d) Are Government aware of the inconvenience caused to the civil population by their monopolising all available supply of leather and shoe-making capacity of the country?

(e) What is the average life of an army boot (i) in camp conditions and (ii) in active service, and what arrangements are Government making with regard to the replacement?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) The present pattern of the No. 1 boot has been in use in the India Army since 1911. I am not aware who selected it. It is, however, not the same boot as is used by the British Army.

(b) No complaints have come to my notice.

(c) Three to four weeks approximately. On the assumption that the Honourable Member wishes to know how many recruits suffer from corns, (and not from 'cold' as stated in the question) the answer is 1 per cent.

(d) I cannot subscribe to the view that Government have monopolised all available supply of leather and shoe making capacity of the country.

(e) (i) From 12 to 18 months.

(ii) From 9 to 12 months.

Provision for replacement is made 12 months before hand.

Mr. Manu Subedar: From the point of view of cruelty to human beings, will the Honourable Member consider that the heavy boot on the foot of the villager who has never used any footwear in his life is absolutely inhumane?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not think so, Sir.

Mr. A. C. Inskip: With reference to part (a) of the question, is it not a fact that the last on which the present type of army boot is made, was specifically designed for the Indian type of foot?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I think so.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Isn't it too heavy for the smaller build of human beings from the South as compared with the tall and big men of the North?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not think so.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is a matter of opinion. Next question.

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ON RECRUITING ACTIVITY

1248. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the War Secretary please state the total personnel of the Defence Department engaged in recruiting activity?

(b) Did Government employ any contractors for recruiting work, and, if so, on what basis?

(c) Have Government employed any recruiting agents, and, if so, what was the remuneration given to them per head?

(d) Were recruiting agents given uniforms?

(e) Are they permitted to go to villages and, without any interference from the civil authority, to compel each family to give an adult male?

(f) Have any cases of misdemeanour by recruiting agents been reported to Government?

(g) Have any recruits refused to serve on the excuse that they were brought over by force or by misrepresentation?

(h) Are recruiting agents permitted to handcuff or carry, with a dog's chain in the neck any recruits?

(i) Are absconding recruits permitted to be treated in this manner?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) No personnel of the Defence Department are engaged on recruiting activity. The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the personnel under War Department. On the assumption, the answer is 2,561.

(b) and (e) to (i) No, Sir.

(c) Government have employed technical and non-technical paid recruiters as publicisers and escorts to recruits on maximum salaries of Rs. 50 and Rs. 25 per mensem respectively, plus dearness allowance. In addition, they are also given "bringing in money which is admissible to technical and non-technical recruiters" at rates of Rs. 5 and Rs. 3 per recruit. They are also paid recruiters' allowance which is normally a minimum of Rs. 2. This allowance is intended to cover the expenses of feeding and transporting the recruit and can be increased if it is insufficient to cover actual expenses.

(d) The paid recruiters are granted a free issue of clothing on a modified scale.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether Government are aware that there is a big outcry from rural areas of *jabarjasti* and forceful persuasion for recruits to be taken from the villages?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir. I am not aware of that and I do hope that the Honourable Member, before making such allegations, will substantiate them with facts.

Mr. Badri Dutt Pande: Besides pay, is it a fact that a fee of Rs. 3 is given to the recruiting agent?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have already answered that question. It is called "bringing in money".

Mr. Manu Subedar: With regard to (e) are they permitted to go to villages and without any interference from the civil authority to compel each family to give an adult male.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir.

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

INDIAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN GERMAN AND JAPANESE HANDS

1249. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Defence Member please state:

(a) how many Indian prisoners of war are in German and Japanese hands;

(b) whether any Indian prisoners of war have been freed recently by the recent occupation of German territory by Russia; and

(c) whether Government have satisfied themselves that they are getting fair treatment consistent with the relevant International Conventions?

Mr. Ram Chandra: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to part (a) of his question No. 572 on the 1st March 1945.

(b) Fifteen Indian prisoners are known to have been liberated on the German-Russian Front.

(c) Reports show that Indian Prisoners of War receive fair treatment in Germany. As regards their treatment by the Japanese, the Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to part (b) of question No. 355 on the 19th February 1945. No further information is available.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the source of information of the Government in their saying that there is fair treatment?

Mr. Ram Chandra: We get reports from the International Red Cross. That is one important source of information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the information of the Government whether there is any discrimination shown between Indian Prisoners and non-Indian prisoners?

Mr. Ram Chandra: I must ask for notice of that question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have Government any information from the people who have escaped from those prison camps and does that confirm what they have heard from the Red Cross?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Will the Honourable Member please repeat his question?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they any information from the prisoners who have escaped from the prison camps and whether that confirms the information of the Red Cross?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Government do receive information from prisoners who escape. But I am not in a position to say whether that information tallies in all cases with the information received from the Red Cross.

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

WITNESSES BEFORE ARMY RE-ORGANISATION COMMITTEE

1250. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) whether, in pursuance of his reply, to question No. 842 on the 19th February, 1945, he has considered as to who should be examined as witnesses by the Army Re-organisation Committee;

(b) if so, which categories of persons are going to be examined by the committee; and

(c) when the committee is expected to finish its labours and submit its report?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Committee are at present framing a revised Questionnaire which it is proposed to send to all members of the Provincial legislatures and all non-official members of the Central Legislature. Members of the Legislatures will be asked to send written replies to the Questionnaire and to state whether they would like to give oral evidence as well.

(c) The Committee is not expected to submit its report during the next six months.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that recruitment will be made of women also, may I know whether the Government propose to consult any representative women's organisations?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have already answered that but I will ask the Committee to consider it.

Sardar Sant Singh: By what time this questionnaire is likely to be received by the members of the Central Legislature?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Very shortly, I hope.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will it be possible to examine them when the Assembly is in Session?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: It depends on the programme of the Committee.

Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan: May I ask for an assurance that this Committee will not come to any conclusions without consulting any representative women's organisations with regard to the future of the WACIs and other services?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I have already answered that. I will ask the Committee to consider the desirability of consulting the women's organisations.

INSTRUCTIONS AGAINST COMPULSION IN SELLING NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

1251. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether he has issued instructions to various Provincial Governments particularly the Bihar Government to warn their subordinate officers not to use compulsion on the people of Bihar for the purchase of National Savings Certificates, if so, the contents thereof; and

(b) the total amount of National Savings Certificates purchased during 1944 and January 1945, in various Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) It is proposed to address all Provincial Governments on the matters referred to during the course of the discussions on the adjournment motion of the 10th February last.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing total amount of National Savings Certificates purchased during 1944 and January 1945 in the various provinces.

(In lakhs of Rs.)		(In lakhs of Rs.)	
Ajmer	7	Madras	2,17
Assam	33	North West Frontier Province	16
Baluchistan	7	Orissa	33
Bengal	77	Punjab	3,24
Bihar	3,25	United Provinces	1,03
Bombay	2,91	Sind	66
Central Provinces	1,14	Coorg	1
Delhi	91	Indian States	2,14
		TOTAL	19,19

SALE OF GOLD

1252. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Ohettiar: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state what has been the extent of the sale of gold since last year when the gold sales were begun up to date?

(b) What has been the price at which it was sold?

(c) At what rates is it purchased in South Africa and U. S. A.?

(d) To whom do the profits go?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) I am not prepared to disclose this information.

(b) It has been sold at the market price current from time to time.

(c) I have no information.

(d) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the answer I gave to part (a) of Mr. Krishnamachari's starred question No. 191 on the 8th November, 1944.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know the sources from which the information is obtained in England, information which is withheld in India and which my friend Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari supplied the other day?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not know from what source Mr. Krishnamachari derived his information. He presumably picked up something from the newspapers.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Ohettiar: May I know the reason for withholding the information? Is it because that there is such a difference in the purchase and sale prices and a large amount of profit is made by Great Britain and America?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The reason is the public interest.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that the price of gold is coming down?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The price of gold comes down from time to time and then again sometimes it goes up.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the present tendency?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I should like the Honourable Member to tell me that.

RECRUITMENT TO I. M. S.

1253. *Mr. Frank B. Anthony: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether recruitment to the I.M.S. is still taking place;

(b) whether I.M.S. personnel are being seconded to the I.A.M.C.;

(c) if it is not a fact that I.M.D. (British Cadre) personnel in civil employment are still retained in the I.M.D.;

(d) how many military medical students are now being trained for the I.M.D. (British Cadre);

(e) how will these students, on the completion of their courses, be fitted into the present scheme of medical services;

(f) who was responsible for the discontinuance of recruitment of military medical students for the I.M.D. (British Cadre); and

(g) what objection, if any, was there to new recruits being seconded to the I.A.M.C. on the completion of their courses?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, to the Emergency Cadre.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The fact is as stated by the Honourable Member.

(d) 88.

(e) These military medical students on passing the final qualifying examination will be first gazetted into the Indian Medical Department (British Cadre), then granted commissions in the Indian Medical Service and immediately seconded to the Indian Army Medical Corps.

(f) The Government of India.

(g) As all the military medical students now passing out of the Medical Colleges possess medical graduate qualifications, they are eligible for appointment to Emergency Commissions in the Indian Medical Service and accordingly they are first granted such commissions and then seconded to the Indian Army Medical Corps. Medical Licentiates only are eligible for direct appointment to Emergency Commissions in the Indian Army Medical Corps.

Mr. Frank E. Anthony: The Honourable Member has not really replied to my question. What was the reason for discontinuing the recruitment of military medical pupils?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The reason is that such subsidising of Anglo-Indians for medical education is no longer considered necessary.

Mr. Frank E. Anthony: Will the Honourable Member please convey to the military authorities the feeling throughout my community that it is an unjustified act of discrimination which has been inspired by a person or persons hostile to my community?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: No, Sir. I do not agree with the Honourable Member that this is an act of discrimination at all. It is a question of preferential treatment which is now being withdrawn.

Mr. Frank E. Anthony: Is the Honourable Member aware that in view of the special contribution to the military services made by the Anglo-Indian community, it has never been regarded as preferential treatment but as recognition of the services rendered by the community?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: The Honourable Member is arguing, and expressing an opinion, and not asking a question.

ADVERTISEMENT RE "BANK AND INSURANCE COMPANIES READY TO CHANGE HANDS"

1254. **Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to an advertisement appearing in the issue of *The Calcutta Market*, dated the 11th February, 1945, reading as follows:

"Bank and Insurance Companies ready to change hands.

The authorities of Banks and Insurance Companies may communicate with the undersigned for speedy negotiation on favourable terms if they have Banks or Insurance Companies ready to change hands.—The Commercial Manager, Calcutta Market. (2) Ram Lochon Mullick Street, Calcutta"; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider taking any steps in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government's attention had already been drawn to certain tendencies which are exemplified by the advertisement in question and the matter is under their active consideration.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Will the Honourable Member indicate the kind of steps which Government propose to take in this direction?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I think the Honourable Member had better wait and see what the Government's proposals will be.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Will Government bear in mind in this connection the specially privileged position of Banking and Insurance companies under Schedules I and II of the Excess Profits Tax Act?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Every thing will be taken into account. I am grateful to the Honourable Member for his suggestion and that aspect of the matter will also come under consideration.

GOVERNMENT POSSESSION OF GANDHI CHARITABLE VILLAGE HOSPITAL AT BADARPUR

1255. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member please refer to his reply to starred question No. 677 on November 21, 1944, and state:

(a) if the Gandhi Charitable Village Hospital at Badarpur in the Delhi Province was taken possession of by the police in August, 1942, and what the exact reasons for doing so are;

(b) if the Committee of Management of the hospital consists mostly of non-congressmen and local village residents and that it is in no way connected with or affiliated to the congress organization and is not in receipt of any financial or other help from the congress; and

(c) if any incriminating literature, etc., was ever found on the premises during police searches?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: Sir, with your permission I will answer questions 1255 to 1257 together.

As the Honourable Member knows, the matter of the release of the Gandhi Charitable Village Hospital at Badarpur was raised on 21st November 1944, by Mr. Abdul Qaiyum in his question No. 677. Since then Government have received a letter from the Secretary of the hospital committee asking for Government's intervention in the matter. After considering the Chief Commissioner's report, including all the points raised in these questions Government have decided not to intervene.

The position is that possession was taken of the hospital building in August 1942, on the ground that it was used for the purposes of an unlawful association. Of the managing committee of 23, 11 have previous convictions for political offences, one other was detained most of the rest including a few villagers are also Congressmen. Little secret was made of the fact that one of the objects of the hospital committee was the spread of Congress propaganda, and meetings for that purpose are reported to have been held there.

In November 1943 permission was given to the Committee to use two rooms of the hospital for the treatment of patients subject to the approval of the doctor in charge by the Deputy Commissioner. As the Deputy Commissioner did not approve of the name of Dr. Dalip Chand which was submitted by the Committee, the hospital remains closed. The appointment of a doctor on whom the Deputy Commissioner can rely to see that the building is used solely as a hospital is the only point at issue and it is clearly one in which Government cannot interfere with the discretion of the Deputy Commissioner.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know if there were personal objections to the appointment of Dr. Dalip Chand or the objection was to his medical qualifications?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I believe there is no objection to his medical qualifications.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that the Committee of Management asked the Deputy Commissioner to give them an indication of the qualifications of the doctor that would meet with his approval and that the Deputy Commissioner has not sent any reply and because of that the hospital is closed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Committee are fully aware of the kind of man that the Deputy Commissioner requires—a man whom he could trust to see that the building is used solely for hospital purposes. I do not think there is any doubt about that.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know what harm there was if the Deputy Commissioner had informed the committee as to the exact qualifications of the doctor he would approve of and why no reply even was sent to the communication from the Committee of management?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I imagine the Deputy Commissioner thought that this correspondence had better cease.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member now request the Deputy Commissioner to give to this committee of management some idea as to his requirements, so that the doctor may be appointed with his approval and the work of the hospital begun?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I think I made clear as to what the requirements are. I suggest my Honourable friend should inform the committee.

✓ **GOVERNMENT POSSESSION OF GANDHI CHARITABLE VILLAGE HOSPITAL
AT BADARPUR**

†1256. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please refer to his reply to starred question No. 677 on November 21, 1944, and state:

(a) if any political meetings or functions were ever held in the Gandhi Charitable Village Hospital at Badarpur (Delhi) before the same was taken possession of by the police;

(b) if any person connected with the staff of the hospital was ever convicted or detained in connection with the 1942 Civil Disobedience or any other political movement;

(c) if repeated representations were made to the authorities to permit the re-opening of the Hospital;

(d) if in November, 1943, the Hospital was permitted to be opened under certain conditions which were accepted by the Committee of Management and if one of the conditions was that the doctor-in-charge should be approved of by the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi; and

(e) if the Hospital was opened in December, 1943, and Dr. Dilip Chand was appointed in charge subject to the approval of the Deputy Commissioner?

✓ **GOVERNMENT POSSESSION OF GANDHI CHARITABLE VILLAGE HOSPITAL
AT BADARPUR**

†1257. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please refer to his reply to starred question No. 677 on November 21, 1944, and state:

(a) if in February, 1944, the Secretary of the Gandhi Charitable Village Hospital at Badarpur (Delhi) was informed that the Deputy Commissioner did not approve of Dr. Dilip Chand, appointed by the Committee of Management;

(b) if the Secretary immediately withdrew Dr. Dilip Chand and requested the Deputy Commissioner to inform him about the qualifications of the doctor who would meet the Deputy Commissioner's approval, so that the management may be guided in the matter of their next choice;

(c) if no reply has been received up to date to this representation despite reminders, and that the Hospital is closed entailing much suffering on the surrounding population; and

(d) if the Honourable Member proposes to take steps to get the management of the Gandhi Charitable Hospital at Badarpur informed of the exact wishes of Government in the matter of the appointment of the doctor and thus enable the Hospital to be re-opened?

**RATES OF DISABILITY PENSIONS FOR INDIAN PERSONNEL OF INDIAN FORCES
ON ACTIVE SERVICE**

1258. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that in the case of Indian Personnel of His Majesty's Indian Forces on "active service", rates of disability pensions have been decided with reference to two categories (i) "resulting from Field Service" and (ii) "not resulting from Field Service", in that the former carries the full rate, while the latter category carries 3/4th rate as compared with the category in (i) and that this distinction has not been made in the case of personnel of His Majesty's Forces?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will he please state the statutory authority for the reduction of rates in category (ii) referred to in (a) above?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1255.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) On the assumption that by the term "active service" the Honourable Member means the state of mobilisation in which most of the Indian Forces have been placed for the duration of the war, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (b) of his starred question No. 781 on the 6th March, 1945.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: May I know whether the War Secretary is prepared to see that such distinctions are abolished?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: I do not quite understand what the Honourable Member is referring to, but I will have the matter examined.

POST-WAR PLANS FOR UPLIFT OF SCHEDULED CLASSES

1259. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) whether Government have any post-war plans for the uplift of the scheduled classes, in the provinces or in the centrally administered areas;

(b) whether they have considered the advisability of giving a large number of Harijan boys facilities for technical and higher education in India and foreign countries; and

(c) if so, what their schemes are and when they expect to bring them into force?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to page 3 of the Second Report on Reconstruction Planning.

(b) Yes. Three lacs of rupees per annum for five years from 1944-45, have been sanctioned for scholarships to be given to students belonging to the Scheduled Classes, of which approximately half is intended to be spent on scholarships for study in India, and the other half for study abroad. Any unspent balance in any particular year will be carried forward to the next year. A Special Committee to consider the applications has been set up. It is also intended that adequate representation should be given to minority communities, including the Scheduled Classes, provided that suitable candidates from those communities are forthcoming, in the recently announced scheme for sending approximately five hundred students overseas for technical education.

(c) The scholarship schemes will come into force immediately while the others will take effect as soon as plans are ready for execution.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are Government aware that Rs. 3 lakhs is an infinitesimal sum for the work they have undertaken?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: That is a good beginning, but it is a matter of opinion.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether applications from centrally administered areas only will be entertained, or whether applications from provinces also will be entertained?

The Honourable Sir Ardeshir Dalal: This is not confined to centrally administered areas.

REFUND OF ENHANCED DUTY COLLECTED ON DUTY PAID TOBACCO

1260. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to refund the enhanced duty collected from traders in tobacco on which duty had already been paid on or before the 29th February, 1944; and

(b) whether he is aware that he undertook to look into it in reply to the adjournment motion moved by Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta on the 13th March, 1944; if so, whether any steps have been taken?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). In pursuance of the assurance which I gave to the House on the 13th March 1944, the circumstances of all clearances of tobacco from warehouses immediately prior to Budget Day last year were carefully reviewed. A number of merchants appear to have expected that the rates of duty on tobacco would be raised and sought to clear unusually large quantities of tobacco in order to avoid payment of duty at the

enhanced rates and there was consequently some congestion in clearances. Where, on investigation, it was established that goods sought to be cleared before the 29th February were not cleared until after that date owing to misunderstanding either on the part of the owner or of the warehouse officer, and that, but for such misunderstanding, the owner could reasonably have obtained clearance before the new rates of duty became effective, reassessment was allowed at the old rates.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Maharashtra Peasants Committee has made a representation to the Finance Department requesting them to exempt chewing tobacco from the imposition of this tax in view of the fact that it is used by both peasants and workers?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That may be a fact, but I do not see how it arises out of this question which deals with the point of actual time of clearance of tobacco shortly before a change in the rate of duty.

INDIAN OFFICERS RECRUITED TO INDIAN DEFENCE FORCES

1261. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the number of Indian officers recruited in the Indian army, navy and air force since the beginning of the war;

(b) their proportion according to the various provinces in India; and

(c) whether the old idea of classifying the provinces of India into martial and non-martial has been given up now in view of these facts?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) I regret that in the interests of security I am unable to give the actual numbers, but the percentages of Indians amongst the officers recruited to the three Services since the beginning of the war are as follows:

Royal Indian Navy—46 per cent.

Indian Army—47.3 per cent.

Royal Indian Air Force—100 per cent.

(b) As regards the Royal Indian Navy and the Royal Indian Air Force I lay a statement on the table. Corresponding figures are not available for the Indian Army.

(c) The use of the term 'martial' to distinguish those classes recruited before the war has been discontinued.

Statement showing the percentage composition by provinces of the Indian officers of the Royal Indian Navy on 1st March 1945 and the percentage by provinces of the officer recruitment to the Royal Indian Air Force since the outbreak of War.

Province	Royal Indian Navy *Percent- tage	Royal Indian Air Force Percent- age.
Madras	8.5	12.1
Bombay	29.6	11.7
Bengal	8.2	9.6
United Provinces	8.7	9.4
Punjab	25.2	32.0
Bihar	0.8	1.1
Central Province and Berar	3.3	2.6
Assam	0.7	0.5
North West Frontier Province	1.4	3.0
Sind	3.2	1.6
Orissa	0.2	0.6

* Figures showing the officer recruitment to the R. I. N. since 3rd September 1939 by provinces are not readily available.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what is the reason for the percentages in the Navy and the Army being less than even 50 per cent. It is 46 per cent. and 47.3 per cent.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: There is no definite percentage laid down, and the only limiting factor is the number of Indian officers available.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know whether the percentages include Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans?—

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: They include those who are Indians according to law.

Sardar Mangal Singh: My specific question was whether they include Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: If they are statutory natives of India, they are included in the term 'Indian'.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether Government will keep in view, when demobilisation comes, the need for retaining Indian officers and disbanding the European officers?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: That will be one of the points to be considered at the time of demobilisation.

NEED OF PUBLIC BONDED WARE-HOUSE IN NORTH KANARA DISTRICT

1262. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that tobacco merchants in South Kanara are suffering from want of a public bonded ware-house in the North Kanara district as they have tobacco trade of long standing in that district; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to facilitate the trade?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). I have called for a report and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

WETTING OF TOBACCO BY BONDED WARE-HOUSE KEEPERS IN MANGALORE

1263. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that the bonded ware-house keepers in Mangalore are forced to wet the tobacco meant for eating and then weigh it and charge duty on the tobacco leaves and water absorbed by the leaves; and

(b) if so, whether this procedure is authorised; if so, by whom and under what provisions of law?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) and (b). I have called for a report and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

PROHIBITION ON ROASTING AND POWDERING OF TOBACCO WITHIN BONDED WARE-HOUSE IN MANGALORE

1264. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether he is aware that the Central Board of Revenue have prohibited roasting and powdering of tobacco (not as snuff) within the bonded ware-house in Mangalore, contrary to the liberties contained in the provisions of rules 149, 159 and 173 of the Central Excise Rules? If so, the reasons for the violation of those rights of the ware-house keepers in processing tobacco to any variety of tobacco they like?

(b) Is the Honourable Member not aware that if drying and powdering of tobacco in a bonded ware-house is prohibited, the ware-house keeper would be forced to pay the highest duty even on the sand in the stems of the tobacco?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) Operations on excisable goods stored in a bonded warehouse are governed by rule 143 of the Central Excise Rules, which provides that the owner of such goods "may sort, separate, pack and repack the goods and make such alteration therein as may be necessary for the preservation, sale or disposal thereof". In deciding whether or not a particular operation is permissible in a warehouse, the governing consideration is its necessity or otherwise for the preservation, sale or disposal of the goods. For example, where it is established to the satisfaction of the Collector that the powdering of tobacco is essential for its preservation, sale or disposal, this process may take place in the warehouse, but where it is part of the process of manufacture into snuff, chewing tobacco or *hookah* tobacco it may be conducted

only after removal of the tobacco from the warehouse. The roasting, prior to powdering, of tobacco which is to be converted into snuff is not permissible in a warehouse, since it is a process of manufacture.

(b) Drying of tobacco in warehouses is not prohibited; nor is powdering in the circumstances indicated in my reply to part (a) of the question. The removal of sand from tobacco is always permissible in warehouses.

Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: With reference to reply to (b) that drying of tobacco in warehouses is prohibited, is it not necessary to dry tobacco before sand can be removed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I said drying is not prohibited, and the removal of sand is always permissible.

REDUCING WORKING HOURS OF CLERKS

1265. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Home Member been drawn to an article under the heading 'Clerical Hours' which appeared in the *Dawn* of the 5th March, 1945?

(b) Will he please consider the desirability of reducing the working hours to 10-30 A.M. to 4-30 P.M.; if not, why not, how long do Government intend to continue it?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes.

(b) No. It is proposed to continue the longer hours as long as it is necessary to do so. The present working week of 38 hours is by no means excessive.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether Government propose to pay a wartime allowance for officers who work longer hours?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: No. One of the conditions of employment under Government is that the whole time of the officer is at the disposal of Government.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries as to how it has affected the health of the officers?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have noticed no deterioration whatever.

COMMUNAL PERCENTAGES FOR RECRUITMENT IN THE OFFICE OF ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, PUNJAB.

1266. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the percentage fixed for the recruitment of Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs in the Office of Accountant General, Punjab; on what basis these percentages have been fixed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply given on the 21st November 1944, to Sardar Sant Singh's starred question No. 701. It includes the information now required by the Honourable Member.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What is the reply to the latter part of the question? What is the percentage fixed?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I referred to my reply to Sardar Sant Singh's question No. 701, which includes this information.

FACILITIES FOR HIGHER STUDIES ABROAD TO PERSONNEL OF ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL BRANCH OF M. E. S.

1267. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the War Secretary please state if the personnel of the Electrical and Mechanical Branch of the M. E. S. would be allowed to take advantage of the facilities provided by the Government of India in the Education Department under the scheme for higher studies abroad? If not, why not?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: Not at present, Sir, because of the extreme shortage of experienced personnel to cope with the heavy works programme.

INDIANS WORKING AS CHIEF ENGINEERS, ETC.

1268. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will the War Secretary please state the number of Indians now working as Chief Engineers, Deputy Chief Engineers

and C.R.Es. and whether there has been any increase in each case as compared to the figures of 1943, and, if so, by how much in each category?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: Two appointments of Commander, Royal Engineers are now held by Indians, as against one appointment in 1943. No Indian has so far qualified for appointment as Chief Engineer or Deputy Chief Engineer.

PROMOTION OF LOWER DIVISION CLERKS TO UPPER DIVISION (ENGLISH LINE) IN AJMER-MERWARA

1269. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: (a) Will the Honourable the Home-Member please state if it is a fact that the Upper division clerks of the English-line clerical establishment of Ajmer-Merwara Commission, under the control of the Deputy Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara, are not of Selection Grade?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, will he please lay on the table of the House:

(i) a copy of the relevant rules framed by the Deputy Commissioner, explaining the procedure, according to which a Lower division clerk is promoted to Upper division scale;

(ii) the numerical strength and percentage of Muslim substantive clerks in Upper division scale and Selection grade on 1st January 1945;

(iii) the numerical strength and percentage of Muslim substantive clerks in Upper division scale and Selection grade on 1st May, 1943;

(iv) a list showing the names of Lower division clerks who after passing the Upper division efficiency test, are at present waiting for promotion to Upper division scale, showing against each the year when they passed the said test; and

(v) a list showing the names of Lower division clerks who after being exempted from passing the Upper division test are at present waiting for promotion to Upper division scale, showing against each the year when they were exempted?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: With your permission, Sir, I would like to answer question Nos. 1269 and 1270 together.

The information is not readily available and the advantage to be gained by collecting it would be out of all proportion to the labour and time involved in doing so. If, however, the Honourable Member has in mind any particular case, I will see that it is brought to the notice of the Chief Commissioner, if he will furnish me with the necessary details.

PROMOTION OF LOWER DIVISION CLERKS TO UPPER DIVISION (ENGLISH LINE) IN AJMER-MERWARA

†1270. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: (a) Will the Honourable the Home-Member please state if it is a fact that the Upper division efficiency test is held every year for English line clerical establishment of Ajmer-Merwara Commission under the control of the Deputy Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara? If so how the promotion of Lower division clerks who have already passed the said test and are working as acting Upper division clerk since then are safeguarded in comparison to the new successful candidates (including exempted) who have previously either failed in the said test or never dared to appear at it?

(b) Is it a fact that B. Maunlal of Deoli Internment Camp, who was exempted from the Upper division efficiency test about a year ago, has recently been in succession substantively promoted to Upper division scale in preference to all the Muslim Lower division clerks who have passed the said efficiency test long ago and are already acting as Upper division clerks since then? If so, why?

(c) Is it a fact that from amongst the Lower division clerks one, who passes the Upper division efficiency test or is exempted from it, is only promoted to Upper division scale? If so, why a clerk who has passed the prescribed test or exempted from it first of all is not substantively promoted to Upper division scale prior to all?

(d) Is it a fact that the percentage of Muslim substantive clerks in Upper division scale is very low? If so, how Government propose to remove the

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1269.

paucity, specially when Muslim Lower division clerks duly qualified and approved for promotion are available since long?

**ACCESS TO WATER RESOURCES WITHIN REQUISITIONED LANDS
AT KUMBLA**

1271. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the owners of agricultural lands lying outside the lands requisitioned at Kumbla (South Kanara District) are being denied access to water sources situated within the requisitioned area; if so, why; and

(b) if such access is going to be denied hereafter, whether Government propose to pay compensation or damages to such agriculturists who suffer by such denial policy?

Mr. Ram Chandra: Sir, with your permission I would answer question Nos. 1271, 1272 and 1273 together.

I have called for a report from the Provincial Government and will lay a statement on the table of the House as soon as information is available.

**GRIEVANCES RE COMPENSATION, ETC., OF OCCUPIERS OF REQUISITIONED LANDS
AT KUMBLA**

†1272. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: Will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the occupiers and owners of lands and houses requisitioned at Kumbla were forced to leave their holdings before the 1st February, 1945?

(b) whether it is a fact that most of them were not paid any compensation at least as a part payment of it, while so quitting the premises and lands, because they did not submit to the valuation fixed by Government;

(c) if Government are prepared to pay the compensation without prejudice to the higher claims, before the arbitrator, to be made by the claimants; if not, why not; and

(d) whether Government are prepared to make good any loss of property, houses, trees, etc., in the holdings now requisitioned at the time of releasing them to the owners?

**GRIEVANCES RE COMPENSATION, ETC., OF OCCUPIERS OF REQUISITIONED
LANDS AT KUMBLA**

†1273. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: With reference to requisition proceedings in respect of agricultural lands at Kumbla, South Kanara District, will the Honourable the Defence Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken into consideration the loss of personal labour in respect of small holdings which are personally cultivated by the owner; if so, what the rate of compensation awarded is;

(b) the basis for fixing the rate of compensation for the occupation of the residential houses; and whether it bears any relation to the capital invested in constructing such houses;

(c) the compensation fixed per acre of (i) rice land, and (ii) betelnut garden;

(d) whether it is a fact that most of the occupiers and owners of those lands have not accepted the compensation offered by Government; and

(e) whether any arbitrator has been appointed to determine the compensation; if not, why not?

SUPPLY OF RADIO SETS TO PROVINCES

1274. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a scheme proposed by Government by which radio sets have to be installed in different provinces in India and that the Government of India propose to supply radios for rural broadcasting; if so, the number of radio sets Government propose to give to each of the provinces;

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1271.

(b) if it is a fact that since the aforesaid scheme was inaugurated Government of Bombay were supplied with radio sets and they have installed them and carry on programmes including a variety of subjects that interest the ryots and also music and news; and

(c) whether Government have supplied the Government of Sind any radio sets for the aforesaid purpose; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: (a) The Government of India have no scheme of their own for the installation of radio sets in the provinces. They have, however, supplied some sets to Provincial Governments, etc., who asked for them for the purpose of installation in public places for community listening. This allotment was made out of the sets obtained from U. S. A. under Lease/Lend arrangements and the necessary charges are payable by the allottees. A statement showing the number of sets supplied to the various Provincial Governments, etc., is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Government have no definite information as to whether all the sets supplied to the Bombay Government have been installed and, if so, where and how exactly the sets are being used.

(c) The Sind Government were supplied with 100 sets which was the number for which they themselves had asked. The latter part of the question does not arise.

Statement showing the number of radio sets supplied to the Provincial Governments etc.

Name of Province	Number of battery operated sets supplied.	Number of mains operated radio sets supplied.	Total
Bombay	525	280	805
Bengal	16	22	38
Madras	258	310	568
U. P.	150	375	525
Punjab	220	70	290
Bihar	150	30	180
Orissa	24	6	30
Assam	42	25	67
C. P.	225	150	375
N. W. F. P.	175	35	210
Sind	5	95	100
Deputy Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara	5	15	20
Chief Commissioner, Delhi	1	2	3
Secretary to Agent General to G. G. in Baluchistan, Quetta	2	..	2
Chief Commissioner, Coorg	2	2
TOTAL	1,798	1,417	3,215

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if these radios are given for use in towns or in rural parts?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: That is entirely for the Provincial Governments to decide; some of them are used in towns and some in rural areas. Sets which are operated by battery are supplied to rural areas and those operated by the electric main supply, where there is a main supply, are given to the urban areas.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Can the Honourable Member tell me how many are supplied with batteries and how many of the other sort, to the Sind Government?

The Honourable Sir Sultan Ahmed: Five is the number of battery-operated sets and 95 main-operated radio sets.

(Sirdar Jogendra Singh, the questioner, being absent).

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Salt: May I rise on a point of order on this question. Under the rulings, questions put on behalf of an absentee Member

must be by authority; but still there is this standing order 19 which gives power to allow such questions to be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member want to put this question? If the Government Member wishes to reply I have no objection.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have no objection to answering it, if the House wishes it.

INELIGIBILITY FOR WAR ALLOWANCE OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS ON LONG LEAVE

1275. ***Sirdar Jogendra Singh**: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) if he is aware that under the existing rules Government servants going on leave for more than four months on full or half pay are not eligible for the grant of war allowance for the period of leave in excess of four months; if so, the reason therefor;

(b) if he is aware that leave for more than four months is generally granted on medical grounds;

(c) if he is aware that the expenses of Government servants increase during such leave due to expenditure on their medical treatment;

(d) if he is aware that the cost of living of Government servants during such leave is in no way lessened on account of the high cost of living wherever the Government servants may reside during the period of their leave;

(e) whether it is not a fact that the Provincial Governments grant similar or even more liberal war allowances to their employees; and

(f) if the replies to (b) to (e) above be in the affirmative whether Government propose to amend the rules so as to make the war allowance admissible at full rates during the period of leave on full or half pay for more than four months; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: (a) to (d) and (f). As war allowance is a form of compensatory allowance it would not ordinarily be admissible at all to a Government servant on leave for more than four months or on leave preparatory to retirement for any period. Government, however, decided to relax the relevant rules to the extent that the allowance will be admissible during the first four months of leave (including leave preparatory to retirement) except that it will not be admissible during extraordinary leave or leave out of India, or in cases where the leave salary exceeds the pay limits of eligibility for the allowance. Government consider that no further relaxation would be justifiable in view of the fact that under the ordinary leave rules leave salary itself comes under reduction after the first four months, except when the leave is on medical certificate. It is probably true that leave for more than four months, when taken in India, is in present conditions generally granted only on medical grounds. It should, however, be remembered that those Central Government servants to whom the Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944, apply, continue to be eligible for free medical treatment during their leave in British India to the same extent and under the same conditions as would be applicable to them on duty; also that a Government servant when on leave on medical certificate has the privilege of drawing full pay for more than four months.

(e) Provincial Governments have generally followed the Central Government scheme of war allowances, subject to certain minor local variations.

EXTENSIONS OF SERVICE TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT STAFF

1276. ***Dewan Abdul Basith Choudhury**: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the policy of Government in granting extensions of service to the staff in the Government of India Secretariat on their attaining the age of superannuation?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to paragraphs (a) and (b) of Fundamental Rule 56.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The answers to the next four questions of Mr. Hegde will be laid on the table.

POWER OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO WITHHOLD IN INDIVIDUAL CASES PENSION, ETC., OF INDIAN RANKS

†1277. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde**: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to refer to his answer to starred question No. 731 of 6th March, 1945, and state:

(i) the particular Official Gazette, Royal warrant or Order-in-Council in which the exercise of the Royal Prerogative, referred to by him in his answer, to withhold disability, family, service pensions and children allowances at pleasure, was delegated to the Government of India and to create "deductions" by rules as distinct by a law passed by the Governor-General of India in Council referred to in Section 136 of the Army Act; and

(ii) the reasons which led the Government of India in 1936 to obtain approval of the Secretary of State for India as distinct from the like provisions in previous Regulations of 1928 and 1928?

(b) Does he propose to include the aforesaid prerogative referred to in (a) above in the consolidated law contained in the Indian Army Act and refrain from the exercise of this prerogative pending such an inclusion or its reference in the Indian Army Act? If not, why not?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) (i) The power was delegated to the Government of India by the regulation published as correction slip No. 37 of November 1936, to which I referred in my answer to part (a) of question No. 731. Section 136 of the Army Act applies to pay only and not to pensions.

(ii) I will look into this and will lay a statement on the table in due course.

(b) No Sir, because I see no necessity for this.

DENIAL OF APPLICABILITY OF ARMY ACT AND ROYAL WARRANT PRIVILEGES TO INDIAN FORCES

†1278. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde**: (a) Will the War Secretary please refer to starred question No. 640 of 21st November, 1944, regarding denial of applicability of Army Act and Royal Warrant privileges to Indian Forces, and state if the letter referred to has been called for, and if it has been laid on the table of the House?

(b) Will he please state the practice of the Government of India that has been in vogue so far with regard to the enforcement or otherwise of Royal Warrant, dated 22nd February, 1902, and Section 136 of the Army Act, to Indian personnel of His Majesty's Indian Forces with special reference to Section 180 (2) of the Army Act?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: First part of (a) Yes Sir.

Second part of (a) and (b). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the statement which has since been laid on the table as promised in my reply to starred question No. 640 on the 21st November 1944.

SETTING UP OF INDEPENDENT PENSION APPEAL TRIBUNALS

†1279. ***Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde**: (a) With reference to his answer to Starred question No. 644 of 21st November, 1944, regarding refusal of non-effective pay during war to certain Indian personnel of Indian Forces, will the War Secretary please state when Government propose to set up independent pension Appeal Tribunals, whereas they have been in existence in England since 1920, under the War Pensions Act 1915 to 1920?

(b) what interim measures does he propose in that connection?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) and (b). Every effort is being made to set up the Pension Appeal Tribunals as early as possible, and no interim measures are at present proposed.

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

REVISION OF PENSION CASES OF CERTAIN INDIAN PERSONNEL OF HIS
MAJESTY'S INDIAN FORCES

†1280. *Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the fact that war Pensions for services rendered in the last Great War have been adjudicated with reference to the expression "attributable to Military service" as distinct from "attributable to or aggravated by service during the Great War", as contained in the condition of eligibility for war Pensions recognised by the war Pension Act 1915 to 1920?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, does he propose to order revision of all such cases amongst Indian personnel of His Majesty's Indian Forces in which the phrases "aggravated by service during the war" and "attributable to service during the war" have remained unadjudicated and pensions refused? If so, does he propose to specify the procedure and officials who will undertake revision of these cases? If not, why not?

Mr. O. M. Trivedi: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir. Under the working rules of the Government of India for the grant of disability pensions to personnel of the Indian Army, cases of the type mentioned by the Honourable Member have been held to be "attributable to military service" if justified on merits.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: If you permit Sir, I would like this question to be answered.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot go on asking questions of those who are absent.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait: This is a very important matter, Sir. I am asking only if the Member has no objection.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: These are questions in which we are interested.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: In view of the public interest taken in it, and in view of the importance of the question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Which question is the Honourable Member referring to?

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: 1281, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Government Member wishes to reply he may do so. It is left entirely to him to do so, unless any particular member has been authorised to put the question on behalf of the absent member.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I do not wish to appear to be discourteous, but I think it is a bad practice, if the questioner has not taken the trouble, that we should have to reply. I do not propose to reply.

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh: The Honourable Member's father was ill and he had to leave.

RUSH AT BOOKING WINDOWS AT DELHI CINEMA HOUSES

†1281. *Sirdar Jogendra Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that on the 18th January, 1945, the first day of the release of the picture "Chal Chal Re, Naujawan" at the Jubilee Talkies, Delhi, a boy of about 14 years was crushed to death in the rush at the booking window;

(b) if satisfactory arrangement for the orderly marshalling of persons was made by the local police at the booking windows; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures, if any, taken or proposed to be taken by Government to avoid such loss of human lives under such circumstances at cinema houses; if not, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) No. The death was due to cerebral haemorrhage. No external injuries were found on the body.

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

(b) Police aid was given as soon as the cinema management made a request for it. It is normally the responsibility of the cinema management to make arrangements for the orderly marshalling of persons at the booking windows.

(c) Cinema managements are being instructed to ask for police help during the opening one or two weeks of a new picture and on rush days, if necessary.

INCREASE OF CRIME IN DELHI

†1282. *Sirdar Jogendra Singh: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that crimes in Delhi Province have increased due to an increase in population;

(b) whether it is a fact that an increase in the strength of Delhi Police Force was also made accordingly; and

(c) if the replies to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, (i) the percentage of crimes to population, and (ii) the percentage of increase in the strength against crimes?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: The Honourable Member is referred to my replies given on the 1st March, 1945 to unstarred questions Nos. 36 and 37 asked by Mr. Bâdri Dutt Pande, which contain substantially the information asked for. There has been a considerable increase in the strength of the Delhi Police since the war.

Nothing would be gained by basing an estimate of the extent of crime in Delhi on the percentage which it bears to some assumed population, as the population of Delhi has increased enormously and continuously in the last four years.

OBSERVING MUSLIM RATIO IN NEW APPOINTMENTS OF CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

†1283. *Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether he has issued instructions to Customs authorities of various ports to observe communal ratio for Muslims in the 168 new appointments of temporary establishment and also in the new appointments of 247 Additional temporary establishment as shown on page 3 of the Demands for Grants (Budget) for 1945-46; and

(b) whether he has issued instructions to various Commissioners of Income-tax Department to pay particular regard to the grievances of Muslims and observe communal ratio for Muslims in appointing (i) six Assistant Commissioners, (ii) fifty Additional Income-tax Officers; (iii) nineteen Additional Income-tax Inspectors; and (iv) five hundred and five Additional establishment in various offices as shown on page 7 of the Budget for 1945-46?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, with your permission I answer questions No. 1283 to 1285 together.

The standing orders regarding communal representation apply to all these posts, and no specific instructions are necessary. Annual returns showing the communal proportion in services and in appointments made during the year are, however, obtained from all offices and checked to ensure that the rules are being observed.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: May I know whether the Honourable Member's attention has been drawn to the low percentage of Muslims in all those services under the Finance Department, and if so, whether it is necessary to issue fresh instructions to all the Departments under him?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have said that the position is reviewed at the end of each year and I presume, unless the rules have been observed, the necessary action is taken.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: My question is this: whether the attention of the Honourable Member has been drawn to the low percentage of

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

Muslims in all services in the Department under him and if so whether fresh instruction to all the Departments is necessary or not?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The Honourable Member seems to me to be confusing two matters: one is whether the instructions are actually observed, and I pointed out that there is a procedure for bringing the proportions and the appointments under review in order to ensure that the rules are being observed. Whether the actual proportions at any time are inadequate or not seems to me to be a different matter.

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani: In all new appointments going to be made, provided for in the Budget, whether the Honourable Finance Member think it desirable to issue fresh instructions—that is my question.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I can only say that the matter is regulated by existing rules and instructions and that it does not seem to me necessary to do anything more than to ensure that those rules and instructions are actually observed.

OBSERVING MUSLIM RATIO IN NEW APPOINTMENTS OF SALT AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT

†1284. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether he has issued instructions to various Collectors and Assistant Collectors of Salt and Excise of every circle to observe Muslim ratio in the new appointments of the following officers and establishment as shown on page 18 of the Budget for 1945-46:

- (i) forty Executive Officers,
- (ii) twenty-one Additional Officers (Chemical),
- (iii) 1916 Deputy Superintendents, Inspectors and other executive subordinates,
- (iv) 294 ministerial establishment,
- (v) 27 Marine establishment, and
- (vi) 145 inferior establishment?

OBSERVING MUSLIM RATIO IN NEW APPOINTMENTS OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT

†1285. ***Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) whether he has issued instructions to the Secretary, Finance Department to appoint Muslims in all the new and additional appointments connected with the Finance Department as shown on page 61 of the Budget Estimate for 1945-46;

(b) whether he has asked the Members of the Central Board of Revenue to observe ratio of Muslims in the new appointments under them as shown on page 76 of the Budget Estimate for 1945-46;

(c) whether he has issued fresh instructions to the miscellaneous Departments to observe ratio of Muslims in new services as shown on page 172; and

(d) whether he has issued instructions to the Currency and Mint Department to observe ratio of Muslims in services under them?

TREATMENT TO CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PRISONERS

1286. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please inform this House whether there is any separate status for the political prisoners arrested in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movements? Are they to be kept separately or in the same block with ordinary criminals and considered to be of the same category with ordinary convicts while under trial and even after their conviction?

(b) Why are the Civil Disobedience prisoners, while under trial, taken from place to place and even before the trying Magistrate with both their hands cuffed like ordinary criminals?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that one Mr. Chowdhury, Mohmuddal Hoosein arrested in Delhi for an alleged seditious speech, has been kept with ordinary convicts in judicial lock-up?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) and (b). The classification of under-trials and convicts is provided for in the various Jail Manuals. It usually depends on the social status of the prisoner and has nothing to do with whether his offence is of a political nature or not. The question of handcuffing is also dealt with in the Jail Manuals and depends on the probability of an attempt to escape and not on the nature of the offence. It is not, I am sure, the usual practice to handcuff persons under-trial for offences of a political nature.

(c) No, except possibly for short intervals.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In almost all the provinces political prisoners are treated differently from the ordinary criminals and are kept separately and together.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I really have no information about the jail rules in all the provinces. It is largely a matter of convenience which the Provincial Governments have to settle.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What has been the experience of the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I lack the Honourable Member's experience.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know what the Honourable Member means by social status?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: What is usually meant by social status.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the possession of wealth is a determining element in the interpretation of 'social status'?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: That is generally one of the elements.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that when Dr. Sukh Dev was arrested the other day, he was handcuffed and that his social status required immunity?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I have no information.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member inquire?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: If a question is put down, I will answer it.

DETAINED TRADE UNIONISTS AND LABOUR LEADERS

1287. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please inform this House how many trade unionists and labour leaders were detained without trial under the Defence of India Rules after the August Disturbance of 1942? How many of them were released with restrictions imposed on them?

(b) Why are the trade unionists released two years ago, still restricted to carry on legal trade union activities? Why have the communist trade unionists been given full liberty to create rival unions in labour areas?

(c) Why has Mr. Ajit Das Gupta, a local trade unionist of Delhi, been under restrictions for about two years following his release from detention? When are his restrictions expected to be removed?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) I have no information. No one is restricted or detained merely because of his membership of a Trade Union or status as a labour leader, and there is therefore no reason why such statistics should be kept.

(b) and (c). Detention or Restriction orders are passed to restrain the persons concerned from activities prejudicial to the public order or the prosecution of the war, and not from legitimate trade union activities. Mr. Ajit Das Gupta was restricted because his activities were of the prejudicial type mentioned above and he will continue to be restricted as long as it is considered necessary.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Has the Honourable Member been informed by his Department or by his agents that he is dangerously ill and that he cannot be a danger to public peace?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I cannot give information up to date.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Will the Honourable Member inquire and see if he can be released unconditionally?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I will consider that.

OUTRAGE COMMITTED ON AN INDIAN LADY BY A SOLDIER IN DEHRA EXPRESS

†1283 ***Qari Muhammad Ahmad Kasmi:** (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that a soldier entered the compartment of Mst. Yagesri Devi, daughter-in-law of Mr. Chatter Singh, Vakil, at the Roorkee Railway station while she was travelling by the Dehra Express on the 24th January, 1945?

(b) Is it or is it not a fact that on an objection by Mst. Yagesri Devi, the soldier who wanted to force the lady to yield to him, took out a knife and there was a regular scuffle between him and the lady till fortunately the lady succeeded in over-powering him by snatching the knife, biting in the hands of the soldier and kicking him?

(c) Is it or is it not a fact that as the train slowed down near the next station the soldier jumped out of the train and Mst. Yagesri Devi, followed him but unfortunately became unconscious by the shock and that the soldier ran away?

(d) Is it or is it not a fact that Mst. Yagesri Devi was picked up by the engine driver of a goods train which came after the Dehra Express and was taken to the Roorkee Railway station where she was admitted into the Civil Hospital and a telegram sent to her husband who came down from Bareilly and made a report at the Police Station?

(e) Is it or is it not a fact that the culprit soldier has not yet been traced?

(f) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, have Government considered the advisability of ordering proper enquiries in view of the serious nature of the offence committed?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) to (f). The only information that I have is that contained in the statement of Shrimati Yogeshwari Devi in which she said that her assailant was an I. O. R.—a Sikh. He has not yet been traced but investigations are being carried out by the Railway police and the military authorities in collaboration. I will let the Honourable Member know the final result of the investigation.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

HIGHEST POST REACHED BY INDIANS IN INDIAN NAVY AND AIR FORCE

99. **Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the highest post which any Indian has reached in the Indian Navy;

(b) the highest post which any Indian has reached in the Indian Air Force;

and
(c) when Government expect to Indianise the majority of the officer grades of the Navy and Air Force?

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Officer Commanding one of the largest and most modern of the R. I. N. sloops.

(b) Head of Manning Section, Air Headquarters (India).

(c) As regards the Royal Indian Navy, I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to parts (f) and (g) of starred question No. 886 on the 19th February 1945. The Royal Indian Air Force consists entirely of Indian Officers, though a certain number of Royal Air Force officers are attached to the Royal Indian Air Force.

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

HIGHEST POST REACHED BY INDIANS IN INDIAN ARMY

100. **Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the War Secretary please state:

- (a) the highest post which any Indian has reached in the army;
- (b) how many Indian Brigadiers and Majors there are in the Indian army; and
- (c) what steps Government are taking to completely Indianise the Indian army within the shortest possible time?.

Mr. C. M. Trivedi: (a) Deputy Director Medical Services. Headquarters, North Western Army, which is a Major General's post.

(b) Two Brigadiers and 884 Majors.

(c) It is the policy of Government to have as many suitable Indian Officers as possible in the Indian Army. On the 3rd September 1939 the ratio of British officers in the Indian Army, including British Service officers serving with, or attached to, Indian Army units, to Indian officers was 7, 5: 1. The corresponding ratio on the 1st February 1945 was 2'9: 1. It will be seen that considerable progress has been made in Indianisation, and I can assure the Honourable Member that steps will continue to be taken further to increase the number of Indian officers in the Indian Army.

TRANSFER OF DETAINED CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO THEIR PROVINCES

101. **Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

- (a) whether Government have considered the matter of sending the detained members of the Congress Working Committee to their own Provinces; and
- (b) whether this is done at the instance of the members themselves or at the instance of the Provincial Governments concerned?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to his question No. 1114 on 19th March.

HOME DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR RE UNRESERVED VACANCIES

102. **Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if any circular was sent to the various Departments that all communities are eligible against 'unreserved' vacancies? If so, will he kindly lay on the table of the House a copy of the circular in question?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that in some of the Departments 'Unreserved' is freely interpreted as reserved for Hindus and senior and better qualified candidates of minority communities are ignored on this basis?

(c) Will the Honourable Member please state if any statements are received in the Home Department for scrutiny so that interests of minorities are duly safeguarded? If so, will he kindly lay a copy of such statements on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie: (a) Yes. A copy of the circular is laid on the table

(b) No.

(c) As I have made clear on many occasions, copies of communal returns are received by the Home Department and are placed in the Library of the House.

Memorandum of Supplementary Instructions connected with the orders contained in the Government of India, Home Department, Resolution No. F.-14/17-B/33-Ests., dated the 4th July 1934.

1. *Minority communities.*—Subject to any special orders which may be issued in connection with Section IV of the Resolution, the term "other minority communities" covers the following four communities only, viz., Anglo-Indians including Domiciled Europeans, Indian Christians, Sikhs and Parsis.

2. *Application of orders to inferior posts.*—Subject to any special orders which may be issued regarding any particular class of inferior servants, the orders contained in the Resolution do not apply to inferior posts.

3. (a) *Application of Orders to temporary appointments.*—The orders contained in the Resolution apply to temporary vacancies lasting three months or longer (including vacancies in permanent posts filled temporarily by persons not permanently in Government service). Vacancies for a period of less than three months may, if suitable candidates belonging to

a particular community are not readily forthcoming, be filled without regard to communal considerations. Similarly, vacancies originally sanctioned for a period of less than 3 months and extended thereafter need not necessarily be filled in accordance with the orders contained in the Resolution unless the period of extension is 3 months or more. But special care must be taken to see that the orders are strictly applied in all cases in which posts though originally sanctioned on a temporary basis are likely to become permanent. If any doubtful cases arise they should be referred to the Home Department.

3(b). "A person holding a purely temporary vacancy, who has no substantive post under Government, must, if appointed to a permanent post, be treated as a direct recruit."

4. *Application of orders to paid apprentices.*—As has already been provided in the case of Special Class Apprentices in the Mechanical Engineering and Transportation (Power) Department of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways [vide Railway Department (Railway Board) Notification, No. 2387-E.G., dated the 18th October 1934], the orders contained in the Resolution apply to paid apprentices.

5. *Application of orders to each grade or division of a service, etc.*—(a) The percentages prescribed for minority communities are to be applied to vacancies (as distinct from posts) in each grade or division of a service to be filled by direct recruitment and not to vacancies to be filled by promotion, which will continue as at present to be made solely on merit and seniority. It is not the intention to reserve all future vacancies for Muslims and other minority communities, or to stop or postpone recruitment from the majority community, till the prescribed percentages of posts in a grade, division or service are held by Muslims and members of other minority communities.

(b) A person holding a post to which the orders contained in the Resolution do not apply (e.g., an inferior servant) must, if appointed to a post to which the orders do apply, be treated as a direct recruit.

6. *Minimum standards of qualifications.*—In accordance with rule (v) in para. 7(1) of the Resolution, minimum standards of qualifications applicable to all communities alike should be prescribed for each grade, division or service to which recruitment is made direct. No fresh restrictions in other respects should be introduced except with the previous approval of the Governor General in Council.

7(a). *Procedure for filling vacancies.*—A minimum of 12 vacancies (out of which 3 will go to Muslims and 1 to other minority communities) is required to give proper effect to the rule reserving 25 per cent. of vacancies for Muslims and 8½ per cent. of vacancies for other minority communities. If the number of vacancies in a particular year is less than 12 (or is not a multiple of 12) it will be necessary to keep a running account from year to year as in the model rotation below :—

- 1 Unreserved vacancy.
- 1 Muslim.
- 2 Unreserved vacancies.
- 1 Muslim.
- 1 Schedule Castes.

- 1 unreserved vacancy.
- 1 other minority community
- 2 unreserved vacancies.
- 1 Muslim.
- 1 unreserved vacancy.

It is not necessary to adhere strictly to the rotation as shown in the model rotation above but Muslims or other minority community candidates may be taken at an earlier stage of the rotation if the actual composition of the service at the time suggests that such a course would be desirable. In any case, the filling of the four reserved vacancies in every twelve should not be postponed until the eight unreserved vacancies have been filled.

(b) Unreserved vacancies are open to all communities on their merits, but when a member of a minority community obtains an unreserved vacancy, a corresponding reduction should be made in the number of vacancies reserved for that community. For example, if Muslims are entitled to three vacancies out of twelve and one Muslim obtains an unreserved vacancy on his merits, two more vacancies only should be given to Muslims by reservation; if Muslims obtain on their merits more than the number of vacancies reserved for them, no vacancies should be given to them by reservation. It is open to minority communities to obtain on their merits more than the percentage of vacancies reserved for them.

(c) A vacancy caused by the termination of the services of a probationer should not be treated as a fresh vacancy, but should be treated as (i) unreserved or (ii) reserved for Muslims or the other minority communities, according as the vacancy in which the probationer was originally appointed was treated as unreserved or so reserved."

8. *Steps for securing a supply of suitable candidates from minority communities: Communal Societies.*—So far as services recruited on an All-India basis are concerned, no serious difficulty is anticipated as regards the supply of candidates, but all vacancies in such services should be advertised in the following papers :

- (1) The Madras Mail, Madras.
- (2) The Hindu, Madras.
- (3) The Times of India, Bombay.
- (4) The Statesman, Calcutta.
- (5) The Star of India, Calcutta.
- (6) The Leader, Allahabad.
- (7) The Pioneer, Lucknow.
- (8) The Civil and Military Gazette, Lahore.

- (9) The Eastern Times, Lahore.
- (10) The Indian Nation, Patna.
- (11) The Hitavada, Craddock Town, Nagpur.
- (12) The Khyber Mail, Peshawar.
- (13) The Hindustan Times, Delhi.
- (14) The Tribune, Lahore.
- (15) The Dawn, Delhi.

As regards locally recruited services, the question as to the papers in which vacancies should be advertised is left to the local Head of the Department. If in any area a sufficient number of qualified candidates for a particular service or post are not forthcoming from the minority communities to fill the reserved percentage of vacancies, the local Head of the Department should communicate the deficiency of qualified candidates to the Societies, if any, recognized by the local Government concerned as representative of the minority communities in the locality and should invite the Societies' co-operation in bringing the existence of vacancies to the notice of suitable candidates. It should, however, be made clear to the Societies :—

(1) that their functions are limited to the following matters :

(a) to bring to the notice of suitable candidates any examinations for recruitment to the services for which they could usefully enter and any advertisements of appointments to be made by selection ;

(b) to advise candidates about the examinations for recruitment to the services for which they should enter or the appointments for which they should apply ;

(c) to advise candidates on any matters which might be of assistance to them in preparing for, or applying for admission to, examinations for recruitment to the services ; and

(2) that it will not be their function to press the claims of any individual candidates, who should submit their application direct to the appointing authorities.

9. *Annual returns.*—With reference to paragraph 5 of the Resolution, the Government of India have prescribed two annual returns as in the model form attached. Subject to slight modifications of detail which may be decided upon in connexion with locally recruited services, the form should be suitable for all services to which the orders apply. Particulars in regard to each service should be furnished in this form each year, those due in 1935 being sent as soon as possible, and those due in subsequent years being sent so as to reach the Government of India in the Home Department not later than the 1st April.

10. *Non-observance of orders.*—Any appointment made contrary to the orders contained in the Resolution, read with the foregoing supplementary instructions, should be regarded as null and void and should be cancelled by the Head of the Department concerned as soon as it is brought to his notice through annual returns or otherwise.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTS.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands):

Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects Agriculture and Forests dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands."

This is a new Standing Committee and perhaps I should say a few words by way of introduction of the subject. I should explain that there used to be three Standing Committees connected with the Department of Education, Health and Lands, one dealing with Emigration—what we used generally to call "Indians Overseas",—one dealing with Pilgrimage to the Hejaz and one residuary Standing Committee which dealt with the rest of the Department's activities. It will be recalled that many of the latter were regarded as almost purely provincial matters. Now, the subjects of Indians Overseas and of Haj pilgrimage were matters of perennial interest but I am afraid the residuary committee seems to have found little or nothing to do or to discuss and I find that it was allowed to lapse about 8 years ago. Thereafter, the subjects of Indians Overseas and the Haj pilgrimage have gone to another department. I recognise that a great deal of interest is now taken in this Honourable House in subjects which we used to regard as purely provincial, and we are therefore now coming up for Standing Committees on certain of those subjects. Honourable Members who have plied me with questions from time to time will realise that the Department for which I am the spokesman in this House handles a large number of subjects, not entirely related one to the other and it would, I think, tax the ingenuity even of the Whips in this House to put up a single committee with members who could usefully advise Government and their parties in turn on subjects differing so widely as Health, Agriculture, Survey of India and Education. Therefore I have come before this House with a suggestion that we should have two Standing Committees which will have really homogeneous subjects. The first is the one for which I am moving now on Agriculture and Forests, but I shall presently ask leave to

[Mr. J. D. Tyson.]

have a committee set up for Education. Those two committees, I hope, will deal with single homogeneous groups or subjects and then there will be, as we used to have in the past, a residuary committee, if the House agrees, dealing with the other subjects of which, I should like to warn the House, so that I may not have to take time later on, "Medical and Health" will be the principal. Allied to that, will be "quinine and quinine substitutes" but also, I should inform the House, there will be subjects like Archaeology and the Survey of India which cannot very appropriately be fitted in with the other committees. I should, I think, add at this stage that the Standing Committee for which I am now moving will have to handle certain subjects falling under the head of lands—land tenure systems and land revenue systems. Those are matters very closely connected with agriculture and will be dealt with in that Committee. But certain other subjects which in the Department are treated under the head of lands, such as land acquisition and local self-Government, we propose to put into the residuary sub-committee because they are related undoubtedly more to Health than anything else. With that introduction, which I hope will do for the three committees, I now make the motion in respect of the Committee on Agriculture and Forests.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects Agriculture and Forests dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands."

Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I move:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

Sir, my amendment is proof positive that the House takes much keener interest in the subjects dealt with in this department, about which the Secretary to the Department complained. That interest is not confined to any particular Party. As the notice of amendments will show, all the majority Parties are taking interest in it. So, I hope, Sir, that having regard to the amendments, and his own complaint that not sufficient interest was being taken by the House up till now, the Secretary will be pleased to accept my amendment. There is very strong reason why it should be accepted, and that is, as appeared, from the speech of the Honourable Member in charge, the question that would also be dealt with by this Committee is the revenue system. The revenue system differs in different Provinces. It is very desirable that Members from different Provinces should be on this Committee. So, I have suggested this particular number 'ten'.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I am prepared to accept this amendment.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir I am glad that this Committee is being brought into existence now. For a very long time past, the question of land revenue has been hanging fire and I hope this Committee will take up that matter and see that something is done in order to relieve the distress of the people who are suffering from *isthimirar* system. I hope this Committee will look into this question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): You must leave it to the Committee to decide. You cannot discuss questions like that on this motion. I have given my ruling that no question relating to administration can be discussed on this motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am making only suggestions to this Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have ruled that Members are not entitled to discuss questions relating to administration on a motion for the appointment of a Standing Committee. I have laid that down more than once.

The question is:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on the subjects Agriculture and Forests dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on Education, a subject dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion Moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on Education, a subject dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands."

Mr. T. S. Avinashlingam Oththiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

Mr. J. D. Tyson: Sir, I accept the amendment.

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

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I want to make a suggestion to the Honourable Member. I did not exactly follow him, perhaps he said that archaeology should go into Miscellaneous Department or it should go with Education. My suggestion is that archaeology should be bracketed with education because archaeology is really an educational subject.

Mr. J. D. Tyson: We will consider that suggestion. There are some considerations that work the other way. Administratively for the time being it could suit to have archaeology among the residuary subjects. If my Honourable friend will leave it to me, we will consider that suggestion of his.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on Education, a subject dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands other than those covered by the Standing Committees for Agriculture and Forests and for Education."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five non-official members to serve during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands other than those covered by the Standing Committees for Agriculture and Forests and for Education."

Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Ghani (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

Mr. J. D. Tyson: I gather that the feeling in the House is that it should be ten on all these Committees. I am willing to accept this amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is: "That for the word 'five' the word 'ten' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan): Sir, with regard to this archaeological department, will my Honourable friend tell me whether the board he had constituted last year for Archaeology as an Advisory Board to which members were elected from this House is going to continue separately or is that to be merged in the committee that is going to be elected now?

Mr. J. D. Tyson: That is very largely a technical board which comprises all kinds of people,—like professors. That will go on as a separate body.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): That is a separate Board.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official members to serve during the year 1945-46 on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects dealt with in the Department of Education, Health and Lands other than those covered by the Standing Committees for Agriculture and Forests and for Education."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform Honourable Members that the following dates have been fixed for receiving nominations and holding elections, if necessary, in connection with the following committees, namely:

	Date for nomination.	Date for election.
(1) Standing Committee for Agriculture and Forest	23rd March.	29th March
(2) Standing Committee for Education	23rd March.	29th March
(3) Standing Committee for the Department of Education, Health and Lands	23rd March.	2nd April.

The nominations for all the three Committees will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the holding of elections by means of the single transferable vote, will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room in the Council House, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR HOME DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon of 19th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Home Department nine nominations were received. Subsequently one Member withdrew his candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Khan Bahadur Sheikh Habibur Rahman, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, Mr. Sri Prakasa, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Mr. Piare Lall Kureel, Sardar Mangal Singh and Mr. K. C. Neogy to be duly elected.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon of 19th March, 1945, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee for the Department of Supply seven nominations were received. Subsequently two Members withdrew their candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, I declare Mr. Muhammad Musazzam Sahib Bahadur, Seth Sunder Lall Daga, Sir Henry Richardson, Mr. Hooseinbhoj A. Lalljee and Mr. Govind V. Deshmukh to be duly elected.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, when the House adjourned last evening I was referring to an atrocity committed by the Deputy Commissioner of Palamau district. The case was dismissed by the S. D. O. on the ground that the flogging might have been done but it was done in the course of regular discharge of their duties by the Deputy Commissioner and the Police Superintendent. It is for the House to judge what sort of duty it is. In order to refresh the memory of the House I should like to state again what the allegation was. It was alleged that seven boys of the Garhwa High English School were brought to the bungalow of the Deputy Commissioner at Daltongunj, made almost naked and then made to lie on a raised platform after which each boy was mercilessly flogged on the buttock in the presence of the Deputy Commissioner. As I have said before, a complaint was lodged in the court of the S. D. O. of Daltongunj and he dismissed the complaint. The matter has now been referred to the Judicial Commissioner of Ranchi, and as the case is therefore *sub-judice* I shall not say more on the subject. I shall only tell the House that the whole district of Palamau owing to this outrage is plunged into horror and indignation. Sir, the Congress is under a ban, no protest meeting can be held. The provincial presses have been gagged and there is no way of ventilating the grievances of the people. The worst part of it is that even doctors refused to examine the boys and certify their injuries. Such is the helplessness of the people there and such are the acts of lawlessness committed by the rulers themselves.

Sir, I am one of those who advise people to forget the past; I am not at all inclined to rake up the unpleasant past; but the attitude that Government adopted in 1942 is still continuing. There was a disturbance; I was in jail and I cannot honestly say who was responsible for that disturbance. But from the nature of Government, from the conduct of officials all over the country and from the attitude of Government's representatives in this House, it can very well be presumed that the disturbance was caused by agents provocateur. Sir, I can dismiss this presumption but is there any doubt and is it not a fact that Government took the August Resolution and the August disturbances as a God-sent opportunity to crush the Congress and to kill the freedom movement in the country? The first step that they took was to effect mass arrests of Congress leaders. That was a great provocation; and it was natural that some people got angry and created some mischief. But this might have been quelled with the ordinary police force. But they brought in British soldiers and what these British soldiers did the House must know very well. First of all the people were shot; not only that, an unarmed crowd was twice machine-gunned from the air. One British Deputy Superintendent of Police was heard boasting at Sohspur station that he had killed nineteen Indians and he was sorry that he had no more cartridges. We have also heard—I do not know how far it is true—that a British soldier sucked the blood of a dying zamindar who was shot by him. It is a heart-rending story and I will not dwell on it any more. But, as I have said before, the British soldiers looted the houses of the people and burnt them. They went to villages with petrol tins in their hands and enquired about the houses of Congress people. When the house of a Congressman was found they poured petrol on it and burnt it. This went on for a long time. After that indiscriminate mass arrests of all classes of people took place. Congressmen were arrested and so were non-Congressmen also; even loyalists were arrested, and a large number of people who were able to satisfy the police were let off. There is a report—again I do not know how far it is true—that several sub-inspectors of police made lakhs of rupees by means of bribes. When I was in jail I found quite an innocent man named Ajodhya Prasad. I asked him how he was arrested. He said he did not know, and then added that when he had asked the police Inspector who was arresting him why he was being put under arrest, the Inspector said, "When the people were returning by this road after burning the post office, you were smiling". Sir, under the

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British Raj even a smile is an offence. If a man smiles, he is arrested and put in jail. After that thousands of people have been imprisoned for various terms; some have been imprisoned for 20 to 30 years and one man has been imprisoned for 56 years—he is still in jail. Besides these people, a large number of people have been detained without trial. It was the duty of the Government to maintain their families, but nothing was done in this connection. In some cases allowances have been granted but the amount allowed was ludicrously small. One prominent advocate of the Patna High Court was allowed Rs. 25 a month. All these steps are being taken to kill the Congress. Even the constructive programme chalked out by Mahatma Gandhi is obstructed at every step but I can tell the Government that the Congress cannot be killed; they have tried several times and have failed and I tell them that they will fail this time too. But in a Duel it generally happens that when one party proves immortal the other party goes down. If the Congress cannot be killed, it is certain that Government will be killed—of course by non-violent means.

As everybody knows, justice is the soul of any organisation, especially of a governmental organisation, but so far as this Government is concerned I do not think it has got anything to do with justice. Everybody in the world, everybody in the country, everybody in this House will agree with me when I say that this Government is not founded on justice. The Government is not being carried on according to justice. This means the soul of the Government is gone and hence the Government can be declared as dead. One ceremony still remains: the Government is dead but not buried as yet. The present attitude—obstruction to the constructive programme of Mahatma Gandhi—the national saving drive—all these are some of the steps only meant to bury this Government. I will leave this question here.

Now, Sir, I would like to say something about the mineral policy of Government. The other day when my Honourable friend, Dr. Ambedkar, was talking he said that Government has no mineral policy of its own. This indicates that the Indian Executive Councillors of this Government do not know what is the policy of this Government. I will tell the House what is the mineral policy of this Government. Since the beginning of the British rule in this country there has always been an attempt to create British interests in all mines, so that they may enjoy these interests even after India is free. My constituency—Chota Nagpur—is full of mines; my district of Hazari Bagh is full of coal mines. Coal mines belong to the proprietor of the Ramgarh Raj. Unfortunately the Government managed to keep that Raj under Court of Wards' estate for two generations and what they did during this period it is for this House to know and judge. All the mines—coal mines—have been leased to European concerns—one very famous concern is Bird & Co. And what is the length of the lease? One lease is for 999 years. And what are the terms? These concerns are not to pay anything to the proprietor when the mines are not working, but when the mines begin working, the Raja Sahib of Ramgarh gets only four annas a ton on the coal raised. Again if the mines stop working, he won't get anything. It is quite clear from this how the mineral policy of this Government is carried on.

Now I take the mica industry. In mica industry there is one foreign concern—Christian and Co.—but besides this concern the rest of all the mines belong to Indians and the trade is also in the hands of the Indian people. It is the mica industry which can be called the industry of the common people, but a conspiracy has long been started to oust the Indian people from this industry. There is the Mica Act and several other measures designed to deprive the people of this business. Mica Enquiry Committee has been instituted. During the question hour, when I asked a supplementary question—namely, whether the committee has been appointed at the instance of the Manager of the Christian Company?—the Honourable the Labour Member was surprised, and said 'No'. Here again I would like to tell him that he may

be an Executive Councillor of this Government, but he cannot claim to know the inner working of these people. The thing is this: although the Provincial Governments went on giving ungrudging help to the Christian Company, most likely the Company was not satisfied. Hence Mr. Watson, the present manager, approached the Central Government and now the Central Government has begun dancing at the beck and call of this man. But there is one redeeming feature. Mr. Watson has been singled out and all the Indian capitalists in the trade have also joined the common people.

Sir, I do not want to take up much time of this House, but before I sit down I must raise my protest against the further prosecution of the war. I appeal to this House, and I appeal to the country to approach the warring nations to cry a halt now. No war is ever likely to end wars. The Churchillian principle of unconditional surrender will help neither the victor nor the vanquished. In 1918 the Germans surrendered unconditionally. But what is the result? The result is this war. So if they stick to this sort of attitude I think the world will go on with wars and wars and nothing else. Sir, if peace is to continue for any length of time, it must be a compromise peace. I warn the British people and the British Government and the British agents in this country. They may crush Germany: they may finally defeat Japan but unless they are careful, the Russians alone will come out victorious and not the British. I therefore think, Sir, that this is the time that the people of the world should begin talking against the further prosecution of the war.

With these words I oppose the consideration of the Bill, which must be thrown out.

The Honourable Sir Francis Mudie (Home Member): Interest in this debate has centred mostly on economic matters. But enough has been said about the Home Department to justify I think, my intervention.

I would first like to have a little wrangle with my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa. After some preliminary apology Mr. Sri Prakasa based his charges against Government in the Home Department on a letter written by the late Mr. Luck sometime Superintendent of Police, Gorakhpur, to his wife. I do not approve of the tone of that letter, but I cannot allow the accusations which Mr. Sri Prakasa based on it to pass unchallenged. There is not the least doubt about the authenticity of that letter. But it is somewhat of a mystery. It was never received by Mrs. Luck. It was filed by one Mr. Shibban Lal, to whom Mr. Sri Prakasa referred in his defence in a case in which he and 19 others were tried in the Gorakhpur district for conspiracy. I quote from the judgment:

"Conspiracy to derail and blow up trains carrying military goods: to cut telegraph and telephone wires and destroy railway lines, roads, bridges, and culverts, to blow up and otherwise destroy buildings used for the purpose of Government."

That was how the letter came to light. Mr. Sri Prakasa based two charges on that letter one against the troops acting in aid of the civil power in Gorakhpur and one against Mr. Luck himself. I take first the case against the troops.

Mr. Luck wrote that Trotton and his men had not hesitated to go beyond the scope of their duty. From that Mr. Sri Prakasa asked the House to conclude that British troops in Gorakhpur had been used as "engines of oppression". That is rather a dangerous deduction to make because I made enquiries—and I shall also be able to satisfy the House—and I find that no British troops arrived in Gorakhpur while the disturbances were on or when it was necessary to use troops in aid of the civil power. The troops that were acting in aid of the civil power in Gorakhpur were Indian recruits from the Indian Armoured Corps Training Centre in Lucknow and Major Trotton was one of two or three British officers: the rest were Indians. I have enquired especially for the purpose of this debate whether any allegations were made against the conduct of these troops. I find none that was made and I certainly heard none at the time when I was in Gorakhpur.

What then did Mr. Luck mean by saying that: "These troops had not hesitated to go beyond the scope of their duty". I would like to read a few

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sentences from the judgment to explain what was happening in Gorakhpur. This is what the Judge says:

"Many crimes of violence and sabotage were committed resulting in a great loss of government property. Railway stations, railway lines, telephone and telegraph wires, bridges, culverts, roads and revenue papers were destroyed or seriously damaged. A chart has been filed and approved by a Senior Police officer. . . . It shows that in all 110 cases came to the notice of the authorities. There must have been many which were never reported or investigated. According to the chart there were 96 occurrences in this district in August, three in September, six in October and five in November."

The disturbances started in Gorakhpur on the 12th August. From the 12th to 31st August there were five cases of sabotage or that sort of thing each day. In the next three months there were only 14 cases. The British troops did not arrive till the second week in September. It is quite clear from these figures that there could have been nothing for them to do then in aid of the civil power.

Returning to the case of Major Trouton. That was the situation with which the district authorities, with the aid of the military, had to deal. It is clear that a large number of places, culverts, bridges, kutocheris, tahsils, thanas had to be guarded. Now if Major Trouton had stuck to the letter of his instructions, which were that he was not to use his troops in smaller bodies than one platoon, there would not have been enough troops to go round. What Major Trouton did was to break up his platoons and so guard a larger number of places.

There is another case which I can personally vouch for. It was necessary to restore rail communication between Benares and Gorakhpur, and I asked an officer,—I think it was Major Trouton,—if he would do this and he replied that he was sorry he could not do so as it was contrary to his instructions and would take him outside his area. After a moment's thought he said: "All right. I will do it." Mr. Luck said that the troops went beyond the scope of their duty, not that they exceeded their powers. No one with any detailed knowledge at all of what was happening in Gorakhpur can have the slightest doubt that what he meant was that the troops were ready to go beyond the mere legalistic interpretation of their instructions and against the letter of the orders they had received. No case against the troops can be based on Mr. Luck's letter.

I now turn to the accusation that Mr. Sri Prakasa has made against Mr. Luck himself. Mr. Sri Prakasa quoted two sentences. They do not come together, but I will deal with that later on. Mr. Luck wrote: "I interviewed him from 7-30 to 9-45. I damned near did him to death in his cell." That was a letter to his wife. Now, Sir, if I wrote to a friend of mine and said "I damned nearly told Sri Prakasa what I thought of him" my friend would understand that Mr. Sri Prakasa had said or done something which annoyed me very much and I felt rather inclined to be nasty and rude but that I had refrained. That is also the obvious meaning of what Mr. Luck wrote. He was annoyed and would have liked to have beaten up Shibban Lal but did not do so. To show this I will read some of the things he wrote between the two sentences quoted by Mr. Sri Prakasa:

"I interviewed him from 7-30 till 9-45 this morning. The swine pretended to know nothing about the worst outrages committed by Congress rebels in the U. P. and Bihar. I gave him details of a few of the most revolting cases including burning of police officers alive, and the bloody hypocrite squeezed out a few crocodile tears."

As the Judge says "what raised his ire was Shibban Lal shedding crocodile tears on hearing of police officers being burnt alive by rioters". If Mr. Sri Prakasa is not convinced by the obvious meaning of Mr. Luck's words, I have got other and stronger arguments.

Mr. Shibban Lal's case was that he had been framed by the district officials who disliked him and in proof of that he filed Mr. Luck's letter and

complained of ill-treatment in jail. How did the Judge deal with this? First as to the letter he wrote:

"As to Mr. Luck there can be no doubt that the allegations against him are an after-thought and based entirely on a letter which was sprung as a surprise on Inspector Faizullah during his cross examination. How a personal letter, got into the possession of the accused is a mystery—unless it is assumed that their tentacles are spread far and wide. That it was a most indiscreet production can admit of no doubt. But a reading of it gives one the impression that Mr. Luck was writing more like a braggart than a spiteful man. . . . His inherent honesty of purpose is best evidenced by the fact that he cancelled the charge-sheet against Shibban Lal in two serious crimes."

There is no hint or suggestion of any kind that Mr. Luck had actually beaten up Shibban Lal.

Now as regards Shibban Lal's accusations of ill-treatment in jail. The Judge says:

"Shibban Lal has found it exceedingly difficult to meet this evidence. The best that he could do was to say that they (jail officials) were responsible for the harsh treatment accorded to him in the jail—the reference is to his confinement in the condemned prisoners barracks. This accusation is groundless: no official of the jail can in any way be held responsible for the mode of Shibban Lal's confinement. In cross-examination it has also been brought out that on one occasion the jailor got him forcibly taken from one cell to another."

Is it conceivable—the House must remember that Shibban Lal was being tried for his life and that his defence was that the district officials and particularly Mr. Luck were against him and that he was ill-treated in jail—is it conceivable that if Mr. Luck had really beaten Shibban Lal he would not have said so in his letter? It is absolutely inconceivable. Take the whole position. He was Superintendent of Police of a district where five sabotage outrages per-day were committed. The east of the district was in chaos. The railways were cut. Some of the police posts had to be abandoned. He was a highly strung man working under great strain. The letter is written to his wife. You may admit, as the Judge has said, that the man was a bit of a braggart. In such circumstances if he had really beaten up Shibban Lal and if the troops had really committed atrocities he would have boasted of what he did and what the troops had done. But he did nothing of the kind. No accusation against either the troops or against Mr. Luck himself can be based on that letter, unless it be an accusation of bad taste or some accusation of that type and as I said, there were extenuating circumstances. In particular, the accusations which Mr. Sri Prakasa has made cannot be based on that letter. I believe that Mr. Sri Prakasa is a fair man and I would ask him to withdraw them.

Before leaving Mr. Sri Prakasa's speech, there is one other minor accusation that I would like to ask him to withdraw and that is one against himself. Contravening what I said at question hour during the last Session, Mr. Sri Prakasa still accuses himself of being one of the most dangerous of Congressmen. As proof he told us that four C. I. D. men had taken a house near his own in Benares, the better to watch him and that they were still there. I have made enquiries and I was told that no C. I. D. men live near Mr. Sri Prakasa. That satisfied me and I was quite convinced that Mr. Sri Prakasa's C. I. D. men and their house are a figment of his imagination and not of our fears. But recently Mr. Parkin the head of the C. I. D. in the United Provinces came to see me and I told him casually of Mr. Sri Prakasa's fears who knows Mr. Sri Prakasa very well and whom Mr. Sri Prakasa knows well. Mr. Parkin burst out laughing and said "What, jolly old Sri Prakasa?" That is the opinion of the C. I. D. of our friend.

I now turn to another question that is of particular interest to some Honourable Members of this House, I refer to the question of communal representation in the services. This question was raised by representatives of the Muslims, Sikhs and the Indian Christians. I do not propose to deal with the points raised by these Honourable Members in regard to the representation of these communities or indeed to go in any way into the detail. Details on the subject are very difficult and raise a great deal of heat. But there appears to be an impression in certain quarters that the Home Department objects to such reservation on principle and even if it is forced to accept the

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principle in any case it does its best to evade its obligations in this matter. I dealt with the subject from that aspect in replying to a cut motion of Mr. Kureel, as far as it applied to the Scheduled Castes. But today I would like to take the opportunity of explaining to those Members who are interested what my general attitude to the question is, what my general line of approach is. Although perhaps the distinction is not very clear cut, I mentally divide departments into two categories, those that deal, either directly or indirectly, with people and with human affairs and those who do not. I spent many years as district officer in the United Provinces and I very soon learnt that for good administration it was necessary to have on my staff the representatives of the main communities in the district. If this was not the case then the necessary sympathy and understanding which are essential to all departments that deal with the people at large were wanting. If I had too many Muslims, then I lost touch with the Hindus; if I had too many, say, Brahmins, then I lost touch with other Hindus; and if I had too many British officers then I lost touch with everybody. Those Departments whose work requires sympathy and understanding with the people, must, I think, contain representatives of the main communities, subject always to the demands of what I may call technical efficiency. If they lack that sympathy and understanding, however great their technical efficiency, they cannot really be efficient. Work cannot run really smoothly. I do not wish to press that proposition too far and to allow it to be understood that I would have communal representation for every class or sub-class into which the people of this country might be divided. The case of other Departments, that is, Departments which have no direct touch or indirect touch with the people, is different. Take the case of the Meteorological Department. I do not ask myself, when I see the monsoon forecast, who made this, what are his social or religious sympathies, does he realise the effect of rain or draught on the people of the areas wherein he predicts an excess or deficiency of the monsoon. In such Departments efficiency depends entirely on technical considerations. I am aware, Sir, that there are other considerations, cultural and economic, that enter into this question, but I am discussing it purely from the Home Department and Service point of view. It is not to my mind a controversy between efficiency and jobs though it may degenerate into that. The question I ask myself is—how except in a few purely technical Departments, can you get efficiency, in a Department which deals with people if it is out of sympathy with important sections of the people and is consequently distrusted by them. I hope, Sir, that I have made it clear that I understand and sympathise with them and can press for reservation and that I have not given cause to those who are opposed to communal representation, to think that I am trying to split up the services into a number of water-tight compartments, or that I attach any great importance to any particular mathematical relation between the population ratio and the percentage reserved. The important thing, to my mind, is that the major communities should be adequately represented, so that administration may be in touch with and be trusted by the people.

Finally, Sir, I would like to say something on a subject to which my very old friend, older even than Mr. Sri Prakasa, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar referred. I regret I was not in the House when he was referring to the Home Department, but I understand that he appealed to me, in view of what had happened in the N. W. Province, to release all political prisoners. Well, Sir, I recently dealt in this House at some length with the question of political prisoners, and I do not propose to go over that ground again. But what has happened in Peshawar, I think, fully establishes one point that I then tried to make, and which was doubted in some quarters of the House, and that is, that with the exception of the comparatively small number of prisoners detained by the Centre the question of release or continued detention of prisoners is one for Provincial Governments to decide. The new Government of N. W. F. P. for Provincial Governments to decide. The new Government of N. W. F. P. for Provincial Governments to decide. The new Government of N. W. F. P. for Provincial Governments to decide. They were

perfectly entitled to that opinion, they did not consult the Home Department, we did not expect them to do so and if they had done so, we would have been considerably embarrassed.

Turning to Sir Vithal Chandavarkar's general argument, it was, I think, that as the Congress had resumed office in N. W. F. P., so we might assume that all over the country they had abandoned what I think Sir Vithal called their attitude of 1942. Now, Sir, is that a safe generalisation to make? Is it safe to generalise from a very small area, in the North-West of the country, to the whole country? Is it safe to generalise from a province in which there were practically no disturbances in 1942, to provinces such as Bihar, and U. P., in which there were very serious disturbances indeed. I think, Sir, that, on the evidence before us, it would be a most dangerous generalisation to make. I wish that I could safely make it: I wish that the Government of India and the Provincial Governments could with Sir Vithal and accept such a generalisation. We are not—neither the Government of India, nor the Provincial Governments—as Lord Wavell has made quite clear, asking for repentance in sack cloth and ashes. There is no question of that. But what the Government of India and the Provincial Governments are waiting for and hoping for, is some clear indication that all over the country, in principle as well as in practice, the Congress Party has abandoned their method of attempting to coerce those who do not agree with them and to paralyse the administration of this country. They are waiting for an indication that the Congress realise that if, after the storm of war is over, India is to have a fair passage to the harbour of self-government, what is required of them now is that they will, jointly with other parties, co-operate with, and if possible participate in, this Government.

Yesterday the conclusion of a speech, on which, if I may say so, I would congratulate him, Mr. Ayyangar, made an eloquent appeal for co-operation between this country and Britain on a basis of equal partnership. I would like to endorse that appeal. I personally am sure every one else on this side of this House is fully convinced that the only real solution of the difficulties that will face both this country and Great Britain after the war is such co-operation and on such a basis. I hope that that is now no longer in doubt, but if it is, the lesson which I would like to draw from what has happened in Peshawar is this: that whenever the hand of co-operation, the hand of friendship, is extended, we will not be backward in grasping it.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, in rising to speak this morning, it is difficult to avoid a passing reference to the march of recent events at New Delhi, Lord Wavell's departure for London in dramatic circumstances. I should at the same time warn the country against any optimistic speculation. All that I can say is that we should hope and pray that good sense may yet prevail in quarters which think that they have the destinies of this country in their hands. Whatever else may happen as a result of Lord Wavell's visit to England, I am perfectly sure that it is going to lead to a further intensification of the war effort on the part of India. Warnings to that effect have already been sounded, now and again in different quarters; and we shall therefore have to be prepared to face a further period of intensified misery which is bound to result from the rising tempo of the campaign in south east Asia.

This leads me to examine the present military burden on India, and in doing so, I would briefly refer to the position that the Finance Member plays in maintaining a check upon the rising expenditure on account of the military forces in India. It is no doubt true that according to the formula that obtains at the present moment, India is responsible for financing the defence activities of the country in so far as they may relate to her local defence, or what is called her local defence; and as regards the standard of local defence, it has been made abundantly clear that there is only one man who ultimately is responsible for determining that standard. The Commander-in-Chief, however, high his technical and other authority may be, lays down the law in this matter and

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the rest of the Government of India merely accept his *fatwah*. The Honourable Finance Member speaking last year made it quite clear that the determination of the strength of the forces needed for India's local defence is the responsibility solely of the Commander-in-Chief; and when this determination is made on the military merits of the case, the financial effect of those determinations is to be worked out by the Honourable Member and his department, purely as a consequential matter. The Honourable Finance Member degenerates into a Member for Arithmetic, once His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief fixes the number of troops required, and then he dutifully goes on working out the financial effect of that determination. So, that is the type of control that the Finance Department exercises; and it is a matter of surprise that we do not find this composite Government, the Governor General in Council, functioning at all in this matter. It is also a matter of surprise that even our delegates to San Francisco have no look-in in regard to this question.

The Honourable Member once trotted out the theory that we have an Auditor General as the watch dog to control and check the allocation of expenditure as between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India. Here again, I think the Honourable Member has done less than justice to the Auditor General. In fairness to the Auditor General, the Honourable Member should have given us an idea about the nature of the authority that the Auditor General exercises in this behalf. We have in the latest report—the Audit Report on the Defence Services for 1944, an instance pointed out by the Auditor General which exemplifies his absolute helplessness in this matter. I am referring to page 18 of the Audit Report on the Defence Services for 1944—para. 29. This is what the Auditor General observes:

"Expenditure on measures outside India is ordinarily debitable to His Majesty's Government. As an exception to this rule, early in 1943, sanction was given to the construction from Indian revenues of two air fields outside India, but within reasonable flying distance of the frontier of India, at an estimated cost of Rs. 103.47 lakhs. As these air fields, though outside India, were stated to be for the local defence of India, the allocation of the expenditure to India has been accepted in audit."

In the first place, it is noticeable that expenditure on this particular construction had been sanctioned from the Indian Revenues, obviously with the fullest authority of the Finance Department, if the Finance Department functions at all in this matter

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member): Expenditure in the first instance is sanctioned not from any particular revenues; the question of what revenues it is sanctioned from is a matter of subsequent allocation.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Whatever it is, the fact remains that the Auditor General says that when he was face to face with this question the amount had already been found from the Indian revenues. Under whose authority that was done is a matter which my Honourable friend might explain; but the fact remains that the allocation had already been done before the matter came up to the Auditor General. There must be some one else then, some one other than the Auditor General, who was authorised to sanction the expenditure from the Indian revenues. Then when the matter comes up to the Auditor General, he is told that this was for the local defence of India and he has automatically to accept that *in toto*

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Not automatically.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: What else does it mean? The Honourable Member might read this—or I shall read it out once more for his benefit—"As these air fields, though outside India, were stated to be for the local defence of India"—stated evidently by some one else who has that authority: I should like to know that authority

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The military authorities.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: "the allocation of the expenditure to India has been accepted." That is to say, one has merely to lay down the law for the Auditor General and the Auditor General is helpless. That is the extent of the safeguard that the Auditor General provides against any injustice to India in

the matter of allocation of military expenditure between India and England. I will take the Honourable Member's former estimates regarding the progress of expenditure. Speaking on the budget for 1943-44, the Honourable Member stated that the revised estimates for 1942-43 reflects the completion of the bulk of the programme for aerodrome construction for the air forces in India as well as for the United States Army Corps. That was the Honourable Member's estimate at that time, that perhaps the end in this matter was in sight. I am taking air fields as an illustration. I am not even going to examine the additional expenditure that was incurred later on the air field facilities provided at India's cost for local defence of India. But we find that as much as 26 crores of rupees were, subsequently to this statement, spent on air fields which had been provided to the United States as a matter of reciprocal aid, after the Honourable Member had stated that the year 1942-43 or 1943-44 had witnessed virtually the completion of the construction of the air fields for the United States Air Corps. Now, I find on a reference to the capital account of the air force for the four years that virtually 50 odd crores had been spent on

1 P. M. the provision of air fields for the American authorities, out of which about 26 crores are spent after this statement had been made by the Honourable Member. Now, Sir, that leads me to the question as to whether there is any ceiling in regard to our obligation for a provision of this kind for the benefit of the United States Army. There is a ceiling in regard to India's own defence expenditure, a ceiling which of course is adjusted from time to time by the Commander-in-Chief. It seems to me that although there is a ceiling, whatever it may be, in regard to India's own local defence expenditure, there is absolutely no ceiling to the expenditure that we are to incur for the purpose of carrying out our obligations to the American authorities in India. I should like to know from my Honourable friend what is the limit beyond which India is not expected to go in the matter of provision of services and facilities of this kind to the United States Forces in India.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): May I ask the Honourable Member a question? By this expenditure on behalf of the United States to which he is drawing attention, does he mean lease-lend or is it from our own India's budget?

Mr. K. C. Neogy: So far as the expenditure is concerned, it has to be met from the Indian budget, and that is by way of reverse lease-lend aid to the United States of America. I wanted merely to know this. Although in the matter of local defence our obligation is confined within the geographical limits of India, are we expected to provide facilities of this kind which may be needed by the American forces for the purpose of carrying on their campaign outside India, in Burma, in Malaya and in China? It may be that as a result of the lease-lend understanding India is expected to provide certain facilities. Now, the point that arises further is this—having regard to our understanding with His Majesty's Government in the matter of allocation of expenditure between India and England, whether this is not a matter which could be taken up with His Majesty's Government for adjustment against that Government. Because if we are not expected to find the money needed for military campaigns outside the borders of India ourselves, we cannot in reason be expected to find all the help that American forces may require from us for the purpose of utilising India as the base for their campaign outside the geographical boundaries of India—in Malaya, in Burma and in China. Sir, I would not have made this observation except for the fact that I have found the President of the United States, in more than one of his speeches or reports, making reference to the increasing assistance which India is giving in proportion to the rising tempo of the campaign against China, Malaya and Burma.

Sir, that takes me once again to an examination of India's position under the lend-lease arrangements. I am much obliged to my Honourable friend for having promised to make a comprehensive statement on this particular point. Unfortunately, we have had no comprehensive statement in the form either of a report or communique so far, and whatever knowledge we possess is from occasional hints and occasional and casual observations which the Honourable Member has chosen to make from time to time in the course of his budget

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speeches. Sir, the Honourable Member stated the other day that the reason why India has not concluded a direct agreement with the United States of America in regard to lease-lend activities, is that India is anxious to save her freedom in respect of her own future economic policy, that is to say, he thought that by entering into a direct lease-lend agreement with America, India's freedom in that matter might be jeopardised. Evidently, my Honourable friend had clause 7 of the Master Agreement in mind. Clause 7 is a very lengthy one. It contains a lot of platitude, but it boils down to this—that there should be in future no discrimination in the field of economic and commercial activities of the different countries of the world. This is the policy that is embodied in Article 7; and incidentally it is mentioned in that article that the object is the attainment of all the economic objectives set forth in that rather elusive document known as the Atlantic Charter, and which is referred to as the joint declaration made on 14th August 1941 by the President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Now, Sir, although India has not concluded a direct agreement with the United States of America, there is, I take it, some kind of an "arrangement". I know that that word was used in the House of Commons for the purpose of distinguishing our position from that of the U. K. It was stated that there is an arrangement in this regard between the United States of America and India. I find that among the dominions, Australia and New Zealand have not executed a lease-lend agreement but that they have executed the reciprocal aid agreement which is also related to the lease-lend agreement. As regards Canada, it is stated in an American official publication that Canada has not either executed a lease-lend agreement or a reciprocal agreement, but in an exchange of notes, Canada has accepted the underlying principle of Article 7 of the lease-lend agreement to which I have already made reference, and from the effects of which the Honourable Member is anxious to save India. Now, Sir, it was said the other day that India has entered into an agreement with Canada, and this time it is a formal agreement; and we were taken to task for not being aware that a copy of that agreement had been laid on the table of the House during the beginning of this Session, about the 28rd February. One Honourable Member on the Front Bench there spoke of the placing of that agreement on the table of the House as if it was a spontaneous act; and we were taken to task that we did not take the slightest interest in such matters. But looking up the records of the House I find that an Honourable Member of this House had put a question in the November Session; and it was in response to that question that the agreement was laid on the table of the House. We got a circular, one among many circulars, mentioning the many documents—some of them very interesting—which are from time to time placed on the table, that included this particular document; and may I state that it took me four days to obtain a copy of that agreement? Now, Sir, I proceed to place what I consider to be the most important clause in that agreement. My Honourable friend said he has done a great service to India by not concluding an agreement with the United States of America.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I never said that. I never used any such words.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I thought he tried to make out that it was to India's interest not to

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I merely indicated the reason why India had not been able to conclude a formal agreement with America.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Now I proceed to point out that the Honourable Member has done what he said would have been implied had we concluded an agreement with U. S. A. This is Article X of the Agreement which India has concluded with Canada. The two Governments declare:

"That their guiding purposes include the adoption of measures designed to promote employment, the production and consumption of goods and the expansion of commerce through appropriate international agreements on commercial policy, with the object of contributing to the attainment of the economic objectives set forth in the Declaration of August 14, 1941, known as the Atlantic Charter."

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: There is nothing about tariffs in that Agreement.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: My Honourable friend, I think, would require me to read out the Economic clauses of the Atlantic Charter. These are the clauses:

"They will endeavour with due respect for their existing obligations,"—

These words, I understand, were introduced at the instance of Mr. Churchill, as I find it stated in Sumner Welles book—

"to further the enjoyment by all States, great or small victor or vanquished of access on equal terms to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity."

"They desire to bring about the fullest collaboration between all Nations in the economic field with the object of securing for all improved labour standards, economic advancement and social security."

This is virtually the same thing that is contained in Article VII of the Lease-Lend Agreement. As a matter of fact these particular clauses are referred to in Article VII of the Lease-Lend Agreement as being the objective with which they proceeded to enunciate their policy in that agreement.

Now, Sir, I further want to remind the House that in the first instance, Canada has accepted the principle underlying Article VII of the Lease-Lend Agreement. Next, India has entered into an agreement with that Canada on the basis of the terms that I have just read out to the House which mention the Atlantic Charter as the guiding principle for the future economic and fiscal policy of the two countries. Now, I want to ask the House as to what difference would it have made, supposing a similar exchange of notes had taken place between India and U. S. A., as between Canada and U. S. A.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I do not want to interrupt my Honourable friend. All that I said in regard to Article VII was, all that I meant was that the use of the term 'for removal of tariff barriers' related to the difficulty which led the Government of India to conclude that it would be unwise to accept all the obligations of that Article as they stood. That is all which had been implied, not that the Government of India found difficulty in subscribing to everything in Article VII or to the objects of the Atlantic Charter.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I would now tell my Honourable friend that it was possible to make mental reservations while signing such an Agreement, as was done in the case of Great Britain. I have, Sir, the testimony of Mr. Churchill to that effect. In speaking in the House of Commons on 21st April, 1944, Mr. Churchill said:

"In February 1942, (that is the time when the agreement was signed) I did not agree to Article VII of the Mutual Aid Agreement without having previously obtained from the President a definite assurance that we were no more committed to the policy of imperial preference than the American Government were committed to the policy of their high protective tariff."

Sir, explaining the position further, the Chancellor of the Exchequer in one of his Mansion House speeches declared that the British Government had an obligation under Clause 7 of the Lend-Lease Agreement to work for the elimination of discrimination in all forms, with a saving clause about Imperial preference.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member may stop now and 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. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Sir, before the recess, I pointed out that New Zealand and Australia had entered into a reciprocal aid agreement without concluding a lease-lend agreement, and that in the case of Canada neither of these two agreements had been concluded formally, but that through an exchange of notes Canada had accepted the underlying principle of clause 7 of the lease-lend agreement. Now I should like to know whether an attempt was made by

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the Government of India to execute a reciprocal aid agreement on the lines on which Australia and New Zealand executed it, so as to avoid any difficulty that Government might have felt in having to agree to any principle implicit in clause 7 of the lease-lend agreement. It is true that lease-lend agreement in Art. 7 mentions reduction of tariffs as one of the methods by which the objective laid down in the Atlantic Charter was to be attained; and I pointed out before the recess that by having agreed to the economic clauses of the Atlantic Charter, India in her agreement with Canada had virtually agreed to take whatever steps may be necessary for the purpose of bringing about the result aimed at in these clauses. And if reduction of tariffs is one of the essential steps necessary for the purpose of bringing about the result, then India has by implication committed herself in that matter too.

I will now try to show that India has suffered because of the failure to have a direct agreement with the U. S. A. either of the nature of a lease-lend agreement or of the nature of a reciprocal aid agreement. We do not yet know how we stand in this matter. Are we free to negotiate with the U. S. A. in regard to all matters connected with the administration of the lease-lend arrangement, or have we to depend upon the United Kingdom for the purpose of determining any policy to which we may be expected to give effect?

The lease-lend agreement has been followed by periodical discussions and settlement of the details in regard to the administration of that agreement. I believe, there are annual meetings that take place for the purpose of determining the scope and ambit of lease-lend and reverse lease-lend in the case of United Kingdom. I do not know whether India is independently represented at such discussions, and if so whether these matters come up for deliberation in the Government of India before any instructions are issued to any one who may represent India at such discussions.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Certainly.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I am glad that that is so. Then the next question that arises is whether in the recent past the scope of the lease-lend agreement has or has not been modified to such an extent as to lay a heavier burden upon India, while restricting the scope of assistance which India may obtain from the U. S. A.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No; that part about restricting the scope of assistance is incorrect.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Very well; but my Honourable friend then admits the fact that the scope of the aid to be given to India has been expanded in the past.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: No. What I meant was that it is possible that as a result of the developments of the war what was expected from India may be greater; but that would be counterbalanced by a greater measure of assistance in the form of lend-lease.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I wanted to find out whether all these questions have been considered in all their bearings before any such expansion of the scope of the lease-lend agreement was allowed on our part.

Now, Sir, my Honourable friend in introducing the budget for 1944-45 said something on this subject in paragraph 37 of his speech. There he pointed out the different kinds of assistance that were expected to be rendered to the U. S. A.:

(i) Reciprocal aid to the United States forces in India in the shape of rations, etc.

(ii) Reciprocal aid to the United States shipping using Indian ports, etc.

The next one is the most important.

(iii) Available raw materials and available foodstuffs, such as tea, required by the United States Government directly for war purposes.

Then my Honourable friend added:

"The arrangements for granting reciprocal aid of the first two kinds are working smoothly, but the administrative arrangements governing reciprocal aid for raw material are still being worked out."

It is only administrative arrangements that were being worked out at that moment. There is nothing to indicate in this that it was for the first time then that the obligation to furnish raw materials and available foodstuffs for being exported out of India to the United States had been undertaken. Sir, on this point I have the authority of the President of the United States himself who, in the 13th report that he made to the Congress on the lease-lend operations ending November 30, 1943, made the following observation:

"The Governments of the United Kingdom, New Zealand and India have agreed to provide as reverse lend-lease and without payment by us raw materials, commodities, and foodstuffs previously purchased within their territory by the U. S. Government agencies."

That is to say, for the first time in this period India had undertaken the obligation to furnish to the U. S. A. raw materials and foodstuffs which the U. S. Government were purchasing through their own organisation in India previously.

Sir, certain questions were asked in this House in November, 1943—as far as I recollect—in regard to the purchases made by the U. S. Government of jute and jute products. Then again as a member of a Committee I got a memorandum supplied from the Department of Labour in which certain officers of the Geological Department made an observation that the U. S. A. Government agency, in the shape of the Metals Reserve Corporation, which was really a Government show, had offered to the Geological Department prices for certain rare minerals which were not sufficient to cover the cost of mining. This is an observation made by officers of the Geological Department in a note which was circulated to us. So we have it on the authority of the Geological Department that in November the U. S. A. Government was purchasing certain rare minerals and that the prices offered by them were not remunerative or economic. Immediately after that we find that India has undertaken the obligation of supplying all these rare minerals and other raw materials, such as jute, to the United States of America without any payment at all. I should like to have a statement from the Honourable Member explaining the circumstance in which the scope of the reciprocal aid was extended in this matter. The Honourable Member supplied, in reply to a question asked by my Honourable friend to my right the other day, certain figures showing the export of the various raw materials that have taken place to the United States of America. I take it, Sir, that before the scope of the agreement was extended in this manner, our obligation was limited to supplying the United States forces sanctioned in India with whatever requirements we were in a position to supply to them for local consumption or local use. For the first time we find that we have on a particular date undertaken an obligation to export our raw materials for which we were receiving cash payment in the past and against which our dollar credits were accumulating.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Which date is the Honourable Member referring to? Is he referring to the budget speech of last year which refers back to a decision that had been taken before that?

Mr. K. C. Neogy: We are labouring under a great handicap in carrying on this discussion. The Honourable Member has never cared to supply this House with complete information on any of these matters. We have to work hard and get information from America for the purpose of understanding the situation.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I can assure the Honourable Member that he is not the only person who has to labour under great handicaps to understand the position in respect of lease-lend, but what I do want to know is what statement of mine he is referring to because I have not got with me the last year's budget speech.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I refer to his speech introducing the budget 1944-45. Before that we never knew that our obligation extended to the exportation of raw materials free of cost to the United States of America.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: But it was made quite clear in last year's budget speech and it was referred to in the course of discussions on last year's budget.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Yes, I myself referred to it once in a way, but what I mean is what justification can the Honourable Member put forward for having extended the scope of the reciprocal aid in this manner?—that is the statement which I want from my Honourable friend.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: The justification which one side of any international arrangement has, namely that something is also expected from the other side.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: That is exactly what we want to know: What is the "something" in addition to the "Something" that you were expecting in the past that led to this expansion of the understanding? My Honourable friend would permit me to point out that a statement on this position was made in Parliament, in the House of Commons, where it was said that it was decided to include raw materials within the ambit of the reciprocal aid agreement with Great Britain. Was that decision automatically accepted by the Government of India for the purpose of sending out our raw materials like this without payment? That is the point on which I should like my Honourable friend to give us information. We are tied to the apron strings of the United Kingdom in these matters. I should like to know in regard to which particular matter we have an absolutely free hand for the purpose of dealing with the United States of America, and in regard to which other matters it is His Majesty's Government that takes the decision and we have to carry out those decisions? That is the point on which, again, I should like to have some enlightenment. It is a great pity that no opportunity is given to this House to have a discussion on such important subjects on the basis of any authoritative statement that one expects to get from any decent Government. Sir, in the United States and the United Kingdom, periodical publications are made in the shape of reports and White Papers setting out the details of the working of these arrangements. Then, there are regular debates that are held in the House of Commons in the course of which the position is explained from time to time; but the Honourable Member has failed to give us any comprehensive idea about the arrangements that obtain at the present moment.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I assure my Honourable friend that when I was in America I heard complaints in almost exactly the same words as he is making now, about the lack of information in America.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: That is no justification for my Honourable friend keeping us in a comparative darkness about the arrangements that are now operating.

Apart from anything else, are we or are we not entitled to these reports which are made by the President to the Congress in America from time to time, every three months, in which the President sets out in detail the operations under the Lease-Lend Act? We have to resort to American sources for the purposes of even getting loans of these publications. Will the Honourable Member see to it that in future at least these publications are regularly obtained and placed at our disposal in the Assembly Library?

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): He can give us the information.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: He says he is as much in the dark as some of us are.

Then again in the 15th Report to the Congress ending March 31st, 1944, the President says:

"The volume of reverse Lend-Lease aid provided to the United States forces in India has gone up by leaps and bounds."

Here, again, I pause and enquire whether there is going to be fixed any ceiling to all this? I asked more than once the question as to whether the financial capacity of India has at all been considered before this limitless liability was accepted by the Government of India. My Honourable friend in one of his speeches stated that the financial capacity of a country determines the nature of the aid that is expected to be afforded by way of reverse Lend-Lease, and I have not succeeded in getting a statement from my Honourable friend as to how Government came to the conclusion that the type and the volume of aid that we are giving are definitely within the financial capacity of India.

Then, I will come to the last available Report and that is the 17th Report of the President to the Congress ending with January 30th, 1945, and this is what the President says:

"In India the increased rate of reverse Lend-Lease aid we have received has kept pace with the rising tempo of air, land and sea operations in the Burma, India and China theatres."

Sir, I again want to know whether there is any limit to our obligation in this behalf. As I pointed out in the morning, our obligation in the matter of domestic defence is limited to the geographical boundaries of India, but we find that our obligation to afford reverse Lease-Lend aid to America is not bounded by any geographical limits in the least.

Sir, I think I have taken up too much of the time of the House already in dealing with this rather abstruse subject; and I would just, with your permission, devote a few words to another subject, which, though not of such great importance from the international point of view, has a very great interest to the country as a whole. I refer to the coal position. It is a pity that there has not been any sufficient discussion of the coal position in this House. Here again I must begin by voicing a complaint which I have against the Honourable the Finance Member, in so far as the present demands for grants indicate that certain departments, and branches of departments, which were votable last year are now treated as non-votable, simply because those departments and subjects have been transferred to the control of the Supply Department.

Sir, first of all the organization of the Coal Commissioner's office. It was shown as a votable item under the War Transport Department last year. Now it appears as a non-votable item in the Supply Department budget. Secondly, and that is a much more important point: the railway collieries which belong to a so-called commercial department of the Government of India were so long treated as part of the railway administration and the railway colliery establishment was a wholly voted establishment in the railway budget. That branch of the activity of the railway administration has now, for administrative reasons, been transferred to the Supply Department; and it appears as a non-voted item of expenditure in the present demands for grants. Of course "Pandit" Raisman will explain the financial "Shastra" which enjoins this touch pollution, because if Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar touches any particular department it becomes untouchable for the rest of us in this House.

But, Sir, that apart, there must be something very wrong in the administration of this department—I mean the coal administration because I find that in regard to the question of the improvement that has taken place in the raisings of coal between 1943 and 1944, the Department itself does not seem to be in a position to supply correct information even to the Viceroy. My Honourable friend to my right made a complaint that he did not get correct information in reply to a question of his from the Supply Department. But what right has he to complain, if the Viceroy of India has no right to obtain correct information from the Supply Department? I have in mind a question which I put in this House. Unfortunately it was not reached for oral answer on the very first day of this Session, where I quoted one statement made by Lord Wavell at a meeting at the Associated Chambers of Commerce in Calcutta in which he was advised to say that the "production of coal throughout 1944, though below our target, has been greater, month by month, than the corresponding figures for 1943". Unfortunately for me I obtained a somewhat different answer to this very point from the Honourable Member in charge, in a reply to a question and I quoted that reply and I said: How is the Honourable Member going to reconcile the statement made by the Viceroy and that made by himself, which indicated that during certain months of this period, the raisings were definitely lower and the reply was that "the two statements clearly cannot be reconciled for the all-India figures". The all-India figures indicated that the statement made by the Viceroy was incorrect. Having regard to all known canons of administration, the head of a Government is expected to depend upon the information from the relevant departments for the purpose of making statements of this character, and therefore I say that my Honourable friend has no ground for complaint.

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because the Viceroy himself does not seem to have the right to expect correct information from this Department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: They are political statements.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Yes. The Coal Department has embarked on a very ambitious project. It has set up a huge organisation, a very large number of officers have been appointed—mostly European—on high rates of pay for the purpose of administering the control scheme. Labour welfare schemes have been taken in hand. Labour forces have been specially recruited, and yet we find that the results are not as they should be. As a matter of fact, up to a point all the efforts of the Government in inducing the better class collieries to improve their raisings seem to have had no effect practically. But on the other hand, the collieries producing the inferior grades of coal have succeeded in increasing their raisings. The inducements that are offered mostly operate in the case of the higher grade coal people—concessions by way of excess profits tax, concessions by way of bonuses and things like that. If my Honourable friend were here I should have liked him to explain to the House the reasons why all these heroic measures that have been adopted have failed to produce the desired result in the case of the higher grade collieries and what is the Government's policy in this matter, particularly towards inferior grades of coal.

Apart from giving various inducements to the coal industry, they have fixed tempting prices for coal; and in one instance, to which I am coming, it appears that the price was determined without any serious consideration of the different elements of cost, and that in that particular case the price was determined on the recommendation of a part-time official who was also interested in the collieries. I put several questions on this subject and it appeared that in the case of Assam coal where the prices are fixed at very high figures, no definite principle was observed in the fixation of prices, unlike the Bengal and Bihar areas, and it was stated that prices were fixed on the advice of the "local authorities". When I asked the name of the local authorities I was given the name of the local Deputy Coal Controller who, it was admitted, is a part-time officer of Government and is also financially interested in certain collieries in Assam. In one instance I find that as a result of depending on the judgment of this single semi-official, the price of coal that has been fixed at Rs. 33/8 includes Rs. 11/8 as the transport charge over a ropeway 8½ miles in length. Now, Sir, the price of coal for this particular colliery was Rs. 10, Rs. 11 and Rs. 18 in the years 1941, 1942 and 1943, respectively, inclusive of the transport charge over the ropeway: and under orders of Government Rs. 11/8 has now been fixed as the cost of the ropeway transport alone, bringing up the total price to Rs. 33/8. When I asked for the details of calculations, the Honourable Member said there were no details. When I asked whether any independent officer had gone into the elements of cost he said that nothing of the kind was done. These are admitted facts, admitted on the floor of this House. For this one instance of jobbery, to which we can point, there must be hundreds other where jobbery is taking place without our knowledge in the coal department.

I am afraid, I shall not be justified in taking any more of the time of the House. But I would just conclude by referring to another fact. Everyone is aware of the extreme difficulty which the householders are experiencing for the absence of sufficient supplies of domestic coal. When we ask for information as to what is the normal requirement of the country, they say we have no calculations. I have got the figures for 1942, 1943 and 1944 and also the figures for 1940 and 1941. The supplies of soft coke were of the order of 9 lakh tons a year in 1940 and 1941. These figures are available from the published reports of the Soft Coke Cess Committee, although the Honourable Member said that he had no information about the requirements of the country. Some nine lakh tons of soft coke was supplied to the whole country in the years 1940 and 1941. It dropped to 4 lakhs 81 thousand tons and odd in 1942, 854 thousand and odd tons in 1943, and 443 thousand tons and odd in 1944. We are having less than one half of the total soft coke that used to be supplied

to the country in the years 1940 and 1941, and the Honourable Member is not prepared to give us full details with regard to these matters and we have to depend upon our own efforts for the purpose of finding out how the position stands as compared with the past years. This is a department which requires to be thoroughly looked into; and I am very sorry that my Honourable friend who is in charge of the Department is not here at the present moment. There are other aspects of the coal question which I regret I have no time to deal with on the present occasion.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare (Member for Commonwealth Relations): After having spoken once during this session, I would not have cared to open my lips a second time, but since attacks have been made not only against me personally but against my department also during the course of the debate and since I also heard a whispering campaign that the demand for Emigration External pertaining to my department has been thrown out more on personal grounds than on principle or merit, I deem it my duty to intervene in the debate and give a reply to these various criticisms. The opposition has voted in favour of the refusal of supplies to the Executive Council which amounts to a censure motion against the present Government which clearly means that they do not want the present Government to function any longer; if that is so, it follows as a corollary that they should have voted down all demands for grants, but they have not done so.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Do you want them to do it?

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: They have only thrown out 3 or 4 specific demands and passed the rest of the budget. This position according to me is rather inconsistent.

Now, Sir, I believe that they have joined hands to throw out the Finance Bill also. In so far as they have passed almost all the budget demands with a very few exceptions, it means by implication that this Government can and should function and administer the grants passed by the House. If that is so, how can they now oppose the Finance Bill? It seems to me that they are not going to throw out the Finance Bill on its merits but merely as a political propaganda for which purpose they have joined hands. We see the Muslim League Members walking arm in arm with the Congress Party Members into the lobby, but I am certain that this apparent unity is only a make-believe because while doing so here, the Congress has thrown out the Muslim League Ministry in the N.-W. F. Province, the pivot of Pakistan, and established a Congress Ministry there.

To understand all the implications of the mystery we must take a bird's eye view of some happenings in the past. After the 1942 disorders, complete demoralisation and sense of frustration had set in in the Congress organisation, the stocks of the Muslim League also were going down in the Punjab and the Punjab Premier refused even to see the General Secretary of the League in the spring of last year as will be gathered from the issues of the *Dawn* during that period.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan (Rohinkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): That is absolutely wrong.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: What transpired between them at that time can be summarised in two Urdu couplets:

*"Marta hun tere hijr men aye Khizr khabar lo
League ka lihaz karke, Liquat ko bachalo
- Liquat tu meri arzoo nahak hai kar raha
Jina ke taraf se dil men mere chhala hai pargaya."*

It is after this that the Feuhrers of both the organisations met together in Bombay and tried hard to bring about a rapprochement between the two organisations, but as was expected they miserably failed. There were other indications also for the loss of morale in the Congress organisations in various provinces and the cracking of the League structure, details of which are not germane to the issue at the present moment. Suffice it to say, that it was found necessary by both these Parties to get into power as a means to reinforce

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their structure and raise their prestige. So it is not a common ideology that has brought them together but adversity has done the trick. It is well said that "Adversity makes strange bed-fellows".

Some Honourable Member: It does.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: This is the genesis of the superficial unity which we witness in the House every day. What Hitler failed to achieve is being attempted by Goebbels and Himmlers of the Parties and secret negotiations are going on to achieve it. Since the lips of those who are carrying on the negotiations are sealed, it is necessary to throw some light on these negotiations to bring about unity which is desired by all. My friend Mr. Sri Prakasa, the General Secretary of the Congress Assembly Party, has got a Hindi Daily at Lucknow, which says, "though no finality has been reached, we have learnt from a very reliable source that the Viceroy's Executive Council is going to be reconstituted in which three main portfolios, Finance, Home and External Affairs will remain in the hands of the Viceroy's nominees who will be permanent officials and War Transport in the hands of a non-official European who will belong to the European Group in the Central Assembly and the rest in the hands of Indian Members".

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): On a point of information, Sir, I have no Hindi paper under my control at Lucknow or elsewhere and I know nothing of what the Honourable Member is saying.

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: It does not matter. I have got all this from the *Hindustan Standard*. The Viceroy's power of veto will remain intact. Regarding the composition of the Cabinet the paper further says, "Four elected Members of the Congress and the League Party each and four from other parties in the Assembly will constitute the Viceroy's Executive Council". The paper further adds that when this proposal was brought before Mahatma Gandhi, he is reported to have said that those who will accept office will have to sever their connection from the Congress organisation. By the way this shows the measure of support behind these negotiations. The paper concludes that Nawabzada has given his word on some such lines. If all this is true, it is quite in line with the history of the Congress over two decades: non-co-operation followed by conditional co-operation, non-co-operation followed by unconditional co-operation, surrender after a fight and so on and so forth. Even Hitler and Stalin will yield before this double-handed onslaught. It is no wonder if the British Government also yields. They will get a fine team drawing in opposite directions, because the Leader of the Opposition very recently at the Rotary Club, Delhi, preached *Ahimsa* or non-killing and the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party as was said by him believes in killing and getting killed. The Congress has always refused what has been offered by the British Government. Witness the history of 1919, 1935 and 1942—I mean the Cripps Proposals. If they are now thinking of revising their attitude after the rejection of the Cripps proposals, there is no point in throwing out the Finance Bill. Sir, after I spoke on the last occasion my Congress friends were annoyed with me but the House will be surprised to find that the same sentiments as were expressed by me are expressed recently by a Congress organ, *The Hindustan Times*. It says:

"Boycott of Legislatures and Ministries has a meaning and a purpose as a preliminary to non-violent direct action; by itself it is a mere gesture of protest which may be justified occasionally, but not as a prolonged policy."

There is no ignominy in surrender if it is honest, but hypocrisy is dishonourable. If they want to defeat the Government and occupy these Benches, they should give a decent burial to the corpse of 'Quit India'. 'Quit India' may have been dear to them, but even the corpse of the beloved person stinks. Therefore, they should bury the hatchet and elect to support war efforts as

has been done in the Frontier. This will be the duty of a person who is intellectually honest. Sir, I have always been a firm believer in the war efforts. I have never concealed it from anybody, and I have preached it openly even incurring the odium from the fraternity of friends Opposite. Sir, war is now coming to an end and preliminary conferences for peace are going to be held. Yesterday I read in papers that the Indian Immigration Bill in the U. S. A. has been indefinitely shelved in spite of President Roosevelt's strong support. All honor to him for that. But this shows which way the wind is blowing for coloured people. Indians can fight side by side in this war along with Americans for a common purpose, for freedom and equality, but are denied even a small modicum of citizenship rights in that country. There is no wonder if one begins to doubt whether coloured people are going to be emancipated at all as a result of this war, but one thing is certain that a large proportion of white people are going to be enslaved for a good long time after this war. I have no hesitation, therefore, to support this war still, because to that extent at least the inequality between the white and the coloured will be wiped out. This is my individual view as a coloured man, and I hope that world's statesmen will take a note of it if they want to avoid future conflicts which may be between the coloured and the white people.

Sir, I have come to occupy this office in a straight manner. I never sought after it, never begged before anybody, never conspired for it, never intrigued for it. Yet the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party had the temerity to say that I came here for job and bread, and in support of it quoted some words from a contemptuous reply which I gave to an irresponsible juvenile interjector at a public meeting in Cuttack, which was evidently ironical. If people are so dunces as not to understand irony, nobody can help them: I never thought that the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League would be as obtuse in his intelligence as in his form and figure. Sir, I have followed an independent and honest profession all my life and I have offered whatever little sacrifice I could at the altar of my country for years. I am not a job-hunter; it is those who conspire and intrigue for it, that are job-hunters in my view. I have been called a jester; that only shows that some of my thrusts have gone home. It is natural that when a thrust goes home, people lose their balance and begin to dance like a prima donna. It is no wonder, therefore, that my Honourable friend, Nawabzada, who is proud of his suavity and urbanity, and rightly so, threw down the mask once and defended the League by blurting out, "Mussalmans believe in killing and getting killed". I am sure, in his saner moments, he will repeat for having done so.

Nawabzada Muhammad Liaquat Ali Khan: I still believe in that.

(Interruptions)

The Honourable Dr. N. B. Khare: I have heard you with patience, now listen. Incidentally this throws a flood of light on the genesis of communal riots in this unfortunate country, and, if unfortunately my Honourable friend—the future Home Member, according to the new scheme—still believes in this dictum, then woe to this unfortunate country.

Sir, the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition has said that I do not understand the correct meaning of the word 'job' in the English language. I am not ashamed of it. I have not been an advocate all my life pleading in the English language before even a third class Magistrate. I have followed all my life the profession of giving injections and incisions. English is not the language of my ancestors, and I love my mother more than a paid wet nurse. Had it been possible I would have been proud to speak in my own language, Marathi. Sir, exhausted patience has made my Honourable friend lose his balance and he has compared his attempt to get on the Treasury Benches, with the formation of the Ministry by Prime Minister Churchill. Mr. Churchill is a Prime Minister of an independent country, and he was called by His Majesty the King with honour and dignity to form a Cabinet; he had no occasion to go abegging from door to door and call on even Private Secretaries. The two things are incomparable. *Kahan Raja Bhoj aur Kahan Ganga Teli*. I hope and trust that at all events, now at least, my Honourable friend will realise that he exhibited a severe lack of sense of proportion when he made

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that comparison. If my Honourable friend, the ex-Advocate-General and the future Member for Planning and Development, assumes office in an independent India, I will certainly bow before him hundred times, but so long as there is no advance in the constitutional position of this country, there is no ground for any discrimination between him and me; but his dictum is that whatever he does is patriotic: if he withdraws from the Legislature, it is patriotic; if he re-enters, it is patriotic; if he fights, it is patriotic; if he surrenders, it is patriotic; if he resigns from the Working Committee before the storm, it is patriotic; if he sneezes, it is patriotic; if he yawns, it is patriotic; and thinking that he has got the monopoly of patriotism, he has twitted my Honourable friend, the Supply Member, by saying, "that an impressive declaration of patriotism is the last argument of an unpatriotic person". Sir, we do not parade our patriotism. It is the other side which always parades it. May I, therefore, say that the observation made by him, if reversed, would be equally true of him? Sir, as I said before, there has been no advance in the constitutional position—thanks to the Parties opposite—since I accepted my office, and since my friends by all accounts are eager to step into office under the present constitution, I congratulate them, and I am proud that my erstwhile leader is following in the footsteps of a humble follower like me. I take it that they have realised that, short of achieving independence, the present constitution does offer opportunities for rendering some service to the country, however little that may be. It is exactly in this spirit that I have also accepted office under the present constitution with all its limitations, and I think I should tell the House something of what I was able to do in my own Department from the time I took office. Apart from matters of policy, the Member in charge of a Department can do a great deal towards a more effective enforcement of the Indian point of view, in the administration of his Departments.

My Department is responsible for matters affecting the fate and welfare of a very large Indian population in overseas countries within the British Commonwealth. Until recently the Department was, however, not a section in a big and miscellaneous Department. It was made a separate Department in 1941 under my distinguished predecessor, Mr. Aney. The main problems with which I was concerned, when I first surveyed the Department, were:

- (1) the maintenance of a large number of Indian evacuees;
- (2) dealing with many long-standing problems concerning Indian overseas, and
- (3) the pilgrimage to the Hedjaz.

Taking the last subject first, my Muslim friends will, I am sure, give me credit for arranging—for the first time after three years—in spite of difficult war conditions, for as many as 5,000 Muslim pilgrims proceeding to the Holy Land under full Naval escort. In spite of minor shortcomings and difficulties I have it on the testimony of many educated and distinguished pilgrims that the pilgrimage was a very successful one. The Muslim Members of the Legislature had been asking for better facilities for the pilgrimage for a very long time. I appointed a Haj officer, to be in charge of the arrangements for the pilgrims. I have already taken action to implement a very large number of the recommendations made by the Special Haj Inquiry Officer, and more will be done as soon as exceptional war time conditions disappear. In order to effect further improvement in the facilities for the pilgrimage I have already taken action to resume direct central control of the administration of the Port Haj authorities and have moved for further strengthening of the Haj staff.

I devoted special attention to the proper maintenance of the several lakhs of Indian evacuees, many of whom had to trek to this country in conditions of great hardship. Within a few months after taking over charge I had the rates of allowances increased for the poorest categories of evacuees and provided extra allowances for clothing and medical aid and for the school and university education of the children of evacuees. I have also taken special action

to obtain employment for as many of the evacuees as might be possible. To achieve these ends I did not hesitate to increase the staff. The proper maintenance of these unfortunate persons in their enforced absence from their home of adoption has been a matter of constant care and solicitude to me.

The political and economic grievances of Indians overseas have been, as the House is aware, a running sore for generations. When I first took over charge the most important problems facing us were those connected with Indian interests in South Africa, Ceylon and Burma. During the interregnum between Mr. Aney's departure and my taking over charge the obnoxious Pegging Act had been placed on the South African Statute-book and the House is aware of the strenuous efforts I have made for its withdrawal. I found that the Reciprocity Act which had been passed earlier was defective in several respects and I had an amendment of the Act drafted and passed at the very first opportunity. As the House is aware, this Act was for the first time applied by me against the country which persisted in its indifference to Indian interests and its harassment of our nationals resident therein.

This is the first time in history that the principle of retaliation was adopted and enforced by the Government of India against a fellow member of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Still the Congress organ *Hindustan Times* says in a leading article that Dr. Khare has proved himself weak and inefficient to bear the burden of South Africa and has appealed to His Excellency the Vicaroy to take upon himself this burden. What a strong support to the theory of the White Man's burden from a patriotic and nationalist organ! As regards Ceylon and Burma, the members of the Standing Emigration Committee will bear me out that I have taken them into the fullest confidence in all matters affecting Indian interests in these countries and I believe I can claim that at no time have the Government of India moved so closely in touch with non-official opinion in these matters. As far as possible I have also appointed distinguished non-official Indians as our Representatives to safeguard Indian interests in overseas countries.

With the separation of the Department much greater attention is now devoted to the affairs of Indians overseas and the activities of the Department have been extended to cover all political relations with countries within the commonwealth; hence the change of name of the Department. Soon after taking charge of the Department I realised that unregulated emigration of Indians, particularly of the poorer classes, to Empire countries was likely to worsen the position of Indians overseas. With a view to the protection of emigrants and to placing the regulation of emigration on a sound footing, particularly in relation to post-war possibilities, I have centralised the administration of the Indian Emigration Act and the Protectors of Emigrants, who hitherto used to work under the Provincial Governments as our agents, now work directly under the Central Government. It is my belief that this centralisation of control will direct future emigration into right channels and enable us to stem the deterioration in the position of Indians overseas. I believe that as a result of this policy it is now recognised by all those who take any live interest in these matters that Indian emigration and the safeguarding of the interests of Indians overseas are being conducted much more in consonance with the wishes of the Indian public. If my efforts have not met with greater success, that is not due to any lack of solicitude and exertions on my part. Without the vigilance exercised by an Indian Member the position might have been very much worse. To stem the tide of deterioration and effect a re-orientation in our policy have been quite worth the efforts I have been able to make.

Sir, as I have said before, the Congress technique is to refuse what is offered by the British Government, then to start some sort of a struggle and get beaten and then after enjoying a certain period of demoralisation and frustration, go abegging for something much less than what was offered, accept it and delude the public that they have won. I am afraid there is no departure from this technique this time also. When they come into power, they will

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delude the public by calling it a National Government. I want to know how it will be a national government in the proper sense of the term within the present constitutional limitations, and I also want to know what magic wand they possess which will enable them to extract more good from the present constitution than the present Executive Council. No individual or a group of individuals can dispose of the future of this country. It is not their patrimony to be so disposed of. The whole nation is concerned with it. Such attempts can best be described as treachery against democracy and nationalism. It may be remembered that they refused the Cripps offer when Japan's stars were in the ascendancy; now they are ingratiating themselves in favour of Great Britain as her stars are fortunately in the ascendancy, but I do not blame them. They have a natural desire to get into power and they are angry on account of their failures so far and they are egotists because they maintain that they alone are patriots. Sri Krishna in the *Bhagavat Gita* says that desire and anger in an egotist create hypocrisy and the suppression of truth. They destroy mental peace and substantiate illusion or *Maya*, which overpowers even the sages.

Mr. Mann Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, some friends of the Finance Member told me that in my last budget speech I had given offence by the use of the word 'Jew'. I have very great respect for the Jewish race, who have produced financiers, scientists, artists and great thinkers and writers. I have one of my best friends in life a Jew. All the same, if I have given any offence I have no hesitation in withdrawing the word now, and expressing regret for having used it.

The Finance Member has great abilities; he is a very efficient man; he is a very patriotic Englishman and he does his duty. I am not asking him to give me a certificate either for ability or for efficiency; but I would request him to have imagination and to realise that I also love my country and I am doing my duty in my way and that in the issues which arise in this House, there is nothing personal between me and him: we never had any personal contacts at all of any kind in life and I say there is nothing personal and if there are any hard things which I have to say, they are not addressed to him; they are addressed to H. M. G., i.e., His Majesty's Government.

Mr. Hossainbhoj A. Lalljee (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): No apology is required.

Mr. Mann-Subedar: I thought at one time that it was the general dictum which we have followed all our life, namely, that the control of economic and financial policy of this country is carried on through London, and that is what we have always resented. I thought it was that which upset him. Now, that doctrine is not a new one: it is not original with me: we inherited it from the great thinkers of old time—we inherited it from Romesh Chunder Dutt and W. C. Bonnerjee, from Mr. Ranade and Mr. Gokhale, from G. Subramania Iyer; I learnt it as a child and I have certainly throughout my life advocated that, because it is an indisputable fact. The Government is now making a corner in economists and journalists; but I venture to think that in spite of this cornering of economists, as long as the fact exists of control from London, that doctrine will be upheld in this country; and if there is a ballot vote, I shall get the vote of those economists whom the Government is cornering at present. That is a doctrine which has figured in the speeches of all the chairmen of the Chambers of Commerce all over the country, some of whom were knighted, some of whom became Members of the Executive Council, in Bombay, Bengal and in the Central Government—why, my friend Sir Vithal Chandavarkar himself stressed the other day in speaking on the Finance Bill that English business interests were exercising overwhelming pressure on this Government in regard to the consumer goods policy and there was serious apprehension in the country as to the consequences on established industry.

I want to refer to my friend Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar—I am sorry he is not here. Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, speaking at the plenary session of the second Round Table Conference in 1931 said:

"As a member of the Legislative Assembly, as one who has seen how fast the prestige of the present Government in the centre is being lost, how impossible it is for your Finance Member at Delhi to rise to an emergency which your Chancellor of the Exchequer here has been able to do, I say, it will not be possible for you to delay the idea of responsibility at the centre."

This Dewan Bahadur Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, who at that time, was fighting for the just rights of India, has since then become a hide-bound bureaucrat. He mentioned the other day to me that I was bleating in this House. I am thankful to him for regarding me as innocent as a lamb. I will return the compliment by saying that he looked very much like a roaring lion; but he was a roaring lion only painted on the wall of the bureaucrat's house, incapable of protecting his own kith and kin, incapable of safeguarding the interests of India, incapable of doing anything when financial ruination was being brought to his country. This gentleman is the show-boy of His Majesty's Government. He is being sent to war conferences; he is being sent to represent India because he is a safe man. That reminds me of my most favourite film star, whom I loved, when I was addicted to film going, and this film star was Charley Macarthur: this Charley Macarthur is a wooden doll of a ventriloquist who speaks as his master teaches him. His is most cute and has got ready answers for everything and he is very cheeky, but he speaks with the voice of the master. Similarly, my Honourable friend will go there. I at least was bleating in this House with my own voice and my own sentiments. My Honourable friend will go there and will speak with the voice of His Majesty's Government, the words which His Majesty's Government will put into his mouth. I hope he will be comfortable in his seat between Lord Hailey on one side and General Smuts on the other hand. Sir, we are concerned about the status of our country, we are very sensitive on this question of Status; and if this gentleman can extricate himself—which he cannot do without raising this country from the frustrated and humiliated condition to which it has fallen—we shall be very appreciative and we shall be very glad.

Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar went out of his way to pay a compliment to the Honourable the Finance Member. The cute Editor of *Roy's Weekly* who has seen successive Finance Members and their Indian satellites has detected a note of insincerity in this compliment. Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar said that the Honourable the Finance Member had worked in this country as if it was his own country. Now, Sir, let us get hold of certain fundamental ideas on this subject. The House will remember what was the defence of Warren Hastings when he was impeached. He said 'I served India, I worked in the interests of India'. The great Viceroy Lord Curzon also said that he gave the best years of his life to this country. What did Lord Linlithgow do? With his Sham about bulls and heifers, and cows, which he brought to this country, he produced more Papal Bulls or Ordinances than any tyrant who has ruled in any country. This Lord Linlithgow claimed that he had served India. Coming down to less exalted persons, every professor and every District Superintendent of police also claims that he has given the best years of his life to this country and has served India. There may be a sense in which this service is there but let us understand what that sense is. Sir, I have always relished examples of patriotism from other countries. I have read examples of patriotism from German, Japanese, Russian, Italian, American and other sources but for full blooded, indelible and unchanging patriotism, give me the Englishman every time. He is a cent per cent patriot and I am a very great admirer of their patriotism. The English as a race are highly disciplined and they have a great sense of solidarity and on account of this they have been able to get through many difficult scrapes in their existence but this very trait makes the Englishman in his representative capacity ruthless towards others. He is ruthless wherever he thinks there is a conflict of interest between the interests of England and any other country. It makes the representative Englishman so ruthless. Even the Englishman who is a very good man in private life, even he, when it is a question of conflict of interest between his country and another country, will not do the kind act which is expressed by the English phrase—"helping a lame dog over the stile". Let us understand the service in this light.

[Mr. Manu Subedar.]

I want to speak about the military expenditure and with the pressing limitations of time it is not possible to do very much but I have here an extract from a paper which is owned and controlled by my friend Sir Joseph Kay in Bombay, who holds a position in Bombay similar to that of Sir Henry Richardson in Calcutta. This, is from the *Commerce* of 10th March 1948. The paper says:

"While we do not question the integrity of the Finance Member, we feel that the share of defence expenditure charged to India's account is exceedingly heavy and it can hardly be justified if we apply the fair test propounded by the Finance Member himself in the concluding portion of his Budget speech."

Then he quotes the Finance Member:

"The proportionate distribution of the final burden among partners of widely varying capacity and of entirely different standards of living must be effected as equitably in the international field as modern systems of national taxation aspire to do in the domestic sphere."

Then the paper goes on:

"Considering the low standard of living and the relatively heavy burden of taxation in this country, as compared with other members of the British Commonwealth, there is, we must emphasize once again, little doubt that the load of defence expenditure weighs heavily on India."

This, Sir, is not the saying of an extremist of any kind. It is the considered opinion of a sane European in this country. We have asked for this country a ceiling with regard to the capacity of this country to bear the expenditure. The Honourable the Finance Member showed himself on such subjects as sensitive as a *prima donna*, as a temperamental *prima donna*, if I may use that word. He refuses even to convey to His Majesty's Government what is the view of this House or what is the view held by certain portions of this country and you see the confusion into which the financial administration has fallen merely because Government neglected to take such a precaution with regard to India. May I ask whether it is not true that such a precaution has been taken with regard to Ceylon and that a guarantee is given that beyond a certain fixed amount all excess will be borne by His Majesty's Government. May I ask whether we are getting our money's worth as completely as we should like. The expenditure on the army, navy and the air force in Japan before the war was only twice as much on the depreciated value of the yen and probably only 8 times as much on the normal value of the yen and Japan had an army, navy and air force which enabled it to take on two or three Powers at the same time. Here we have been spending so much for years. We are spending so much today and where are we? There is something fundamentally wrong with this military expenditure. I have got the Auditor General's report and plenty of extracts therefrom which, I am afraid, the limitations of time will not permit me to read. He speaks of waste and corruption, falsification of accounts and irregularities. He says that accounts continue to be in arrears, he speaks of the lowest ebb to which efficiency had fallen, that action was of doubtful constitutional propriety. He speaks of the low level of efficiency in respect of stores, and in respect of the expenditure of 98 crores of rupees on aerodromes. With regard to the denial policy he says: "He was not at all satisfied with the state of the accounts of the expenditure on these measures and feared that it would be impossible ever to get the requirements of audit satisfied". With regard to 8 crores, the sum spent by Bengal, he says "the liability for which the Auditor General had not found himself in a position to accept". Again, it is said that the disclosures made by the Auditor General in the Military Accounts Committee "gave rise to serious doubt that the money was actually spent for the purposes for which it was meant".

Sir, I may tell this Assembly an episode which I have been able to hear of at first hand and that is of a contract for the construction of aerodromes for 6 crores of rupees. This gentleman got a contract for six crores of rupees. He spent a crore and a half. Another crore and a half was distributed amongst all those who were concerned with this contract and he made a profit of 8 crores of rupees. As tax payers and as Members of this Assembly, we express our grave concern at these disclosures. Crores of money are mis-spent. They

are wasted and there is corruption galore. That is what we have heard. Under the circumstances, an apprehension as to the future, an apprehension as to where we are is perfectly legitimate.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Will the Honourable Member furnish me with some more details of the case he referred to?

Mr. Manu Subedar: I shall be able to give him whatever I have got.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I thought he had full details showing the amount of profits.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The amount of profit is three crores, which probably the Honourable the Finance Member will never be able to get at so far as income-tax is concerned.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Not if this House does not help me.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: He must have been a very big military contractor. There are only a few of them.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Mr. Churchill spoke at one time there are more white troops in India than at any time before. Sir, this more or less corresponds to the time of peak of military expenditure reached in this country. We want to know more about what is being done. Under the plea of non-votable, no information is available to us, under the plea that it is not possible for security reasons, information is withheld from us. Under the plea that these measures are still in the course, they are in suspense, they are not brought to book, they are not brought to account. Under any one of these pleas great uncertainties are left, great gaps in the information open to this House, and we are being asked to be credulous beyond a degree. What the Honourable the Finance Member accepts us to do is to accept what he says, to accept it as gospel truth. With perfect faith and with full confidence and with gratitude, we must take what he has done. We must take whatever little crumbs of information he is able to give us and we must not raise any question. This, Sir, is not the proper attitude.

I find, Sir, there are concealed a lot of items of military expenditure. In the atmosphere of corruption and waste which I dealt with now, there are many items which we are not told about at all. There is no finality about the figures which the Honourable the Finance Member has given us. There are many things hanging in the air. For example, I have been chasing round all the books with regard to an item of about 45 crores for military lorries which I am told will fall on the railways. It must fall on His Majesty's Government. I have not been able to find out where it is accounted for.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): What is this item of 45 crores?

Mr. Manu Subedar: In respect of lorries which are not found in several financial statements, which I have not been able to trace as to who will pay and who will receive payment. Sir, there are other troubles with the so-called financial settlement. In speaking on the Budget, I already referred to the financial settlement, that it was all one sided, that it was imposed on us, that it was not with our consent, that it had never been worked out and it was, in its operation, most inequitable. The first terms became principle that was extended, that was deviated, that was distended and misapplied, this was distorted and tortured to suit whatever the Government wanted to make of this financial settlement. In this financial settlement there are four parts. If I had the time, I would have dealt with all the four parts. I shall confine myself by taking up the third part which treats of war measures as purely Indian liabilities by reason of their having been undertaken by India in her own interest. This is a nice formula and it has been improvised for the purpose of including in this financial settlement not only all the things which were intended but all the things which war brought on, but many new things which arose from time to time. Sir, I have got 40 quotations from the Honourable the Finance Member's own words from his own speeches which would conclusively go to show that the suspicions and apprehensions which were entertained with regard to the financial settlement are entirely justified. If I were to read all of them, it would take this House till tomorrow this time. I would therefore content myself with mentioning a few of the salient depar-

[Mr. Manu Subedar.]

tures which I want to bring to the notice of the House. First of all when the Chatvold arrangement was made, it was protested against from all parts of India that it was not satisfactory. What did the Chatfield arrangement do? It imposed upon India the burden for her external defence. In other words, the words used here at that time were that the boundaries of India were now extending from Singapore to El Ammen. This external extension has involved us later on with additional charges in respect of non-effective charges to be borne by India on account of the war. In other words, as the war has come, older arrangements have got to be revised and additional charges have got to be put in and these have been arbitrarily fixed at the figure of £1,800,000 a year and His Majesty's Government felt, why not have a little advance payment in cash and so they took a lump sum of £15,000,000 and agreed to reduce India's liability by £400,000 in consideration of advance payment. In other words, the Honourable the Finance Member calls upon this Assembly, calls upon this country to be grateful to His Majesty's Government for the arrangements which they have offered.

With regard to land troops, it was very clear at one time that only for those regiments which were in India and for Indian defence the cost of recruitment and training should be borne by India. This salutary rule was departed from and it was subsequently provided that all regiments which were raised in India must be regarded as a joint measure. In other words, they are a burden on India. This is very clearly a departure from the original arrangement, even though we assume for the time being that the alleged financial settlement was a sound and equitable one, binding on this country.

With regard to the navy, the departure was to lump further all measures, they are also measures whose *immediate* purposes, says the Finance Member are joint in character. In other words, if the immediate purposes are joint, but if these measures do not permanently lead to any good to us, even then let them be regarded as Indian liability. He himself speaks of difficulties having been experienced in dealing with such joint measures as have been put into force in accordance with the principles of the financial settlement.

With regard to air, it is still worse. The departure from the original understanding here again is to the extent that all the aerodromes charges, all the ground charges have been thrown on India. Charges with regard to maintenance of air craft and air personnel are also thrown on India. I shall read only a small portion:

"It is however, considered essential in India's interest to arrive at an understanding regarding the maximum forces which should be considered as strictly necessary for the defence of India. . . . Pending the determination of this issue an arbitrary amount equivalent to half of the total estimated capital and recurring costs in question has been provisionally included in the revised and budget estimates and the balances taken for the time being to a Suspense Account."

This is what he says in the 1943 Budget statement. In 1944 Budget statement we find that the half which was taken to suspense account was broken up in the proportion of 9 : 1½, that is 8.98 : 1.64 and 8.98 was thrown on India. It was thrown on India according to the arbitrary dictum that the estimated recurring and provisional charges taken under suspense became distributable because the air forces strength eventually prescribed turned out to be less than the estimated strength of air forces for 1943-44. In other words, Sir, a ceiling is put in by the Commander-in-Chief not on the total expenditure as we have been requesting, which would be a fair and proper action, but on the personnel. The Commander-in-Chief was compelled, honest Englishman that he was, he was aghast at the ceiling which he had himself put; and in the following year he was compelled to diminish that ceiling.

Sir, it is not merely in the matter of land, naval and air forces that this settlement has been brought in. It has been brought in with regard to supplies. The first position was that the Eastern Group Council was put down and we were called a 'participating' country on the basis that all the countries will pool their common resources. That arrangement for some mysterious reason—no doubt prejudicial to Indian interests—was done away with after

1941-42. Up to 1942 the Finance Member used to give us figures of total expenditure, including both Capital and supply expenditure, incurred in India; and told us how much was the share of India and how much was the share of England. That salutary practice he abandoned. After 1943, in his budget statements he has not told us what the total outlays are; and he has not told us what is most important, how much money India has laid out which is still being held in suspense against somebody, which is not yet brought to account and which therefore is hanging like a sword of Damocles on this country, in addition to all the formidable military figures which he has given in his Budget.

Sir, His Majesty's Government has to pay for the remainder of all general defence and supply expenditure incurred by India, subject to separate post-war negotiations. In other words, there is a liability which is still hanging on us—concerning the liability for surplus war stores in India acquired in the common interest. We acquire in the common interest. The amount of supply put down in the last year's budget is exceeding 104 crores of rupees. These supplies, like those hundred thousand boots which were capable only of being worn on the left foot, these derelict, out-of-date and broken supplies will be left to India and the liability is still hanging on India as to what it will be; it will be a post-war negotiation!

Sir, this alleged financial settlement has been brought to do duty for many things. The Finance Member says "Expenditure on supply, in its widest sense, the production of guns, ammunition, armoured cars, clothing, and war-like stores of every description, (some sixty thousand items)—was so closely related to direct defence expenditure that it also was covered by the financial settlement". Now, Sir, that was never covered by the financial settlement; but he thinks, where we want to put in something everything is included in the financial settlement and everything is brought in and allotted to India. Nobody is there to ask, they are ignorant and they are poor. Not only that, but with regard to reciprocal aid—a point which my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy has been trying throughout the Session to get cleared—the same issue arises, and I shall read from the Finance Member's own statement in 1943. Mark his words:

"It was first necessary to decide whether the expenditure on reciprocal lease-lend fell within the financial settlement or not, and if so, how it should be allocated in some simple and broadly equitable way."

And then he goes on to say:

"In short, in the absence of a direct mutual aid agreement between India and the United States of America"—(the reasons for which I have never been able to understand)—"the problem of reciprocal aid to the United States forces in India bristles with difficulties."

Then we come to the fine conclusion:

"In the meanwhile reciprocal lease-lend to the United States forces in India has been shown in the defence estimates as a charge to Indian revenues."

Q.E.D. It has been proved that India is liable for this reciprocal aid. May I inquire with whom this reciprocity is? It reminds me again of the partnership and the reciprocity between the Admiral and the stoker down in the engine room or the partnership between the General and the camp follower. Sir, President Roosevelt—and I hope there is somebody in this House somewhere who will convey this as our deep feeling on this subject—would be terribly upset to realise that India has been saddled with what are known as reciprocal charges and reciprocal aid when there is nothing which we receive from the United States directly. With regard to these charges which are thrown on us, they are brought in the settlement. First the question is, are they in the settlement? Well, there is little doubt that the matter is bristling with difficulties, but we are debiting them to Indian revenues. Sir, about 124 crores have been already spent by this country in this reciprocal aid, and we are told that India is receiving lease-lend benefit. But receiving lease-lend benefit from whom? From the United Kingdom; we have no direct arrangement with the U. S. A.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: That is untrue.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I shall be very glad if the Honourable Member will tell us what is the direct arrangement.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have said that we do have direct relations. We may not have a formal agreement but we have direct relations with the United States. It is merely one of a large number of untruths which the Honourable Member has uttered, but I feel that I cannot let that one pass.

Mr. Manu Subedar: We are told that 515 crores of rupées worth of benefit came from America, but these benefits were jointly for India, China and the United Kingdom. The Honourable the Finance Member said to us the other day that the benefit to India was of the order of 150 crores, but he never gave any details; and none in this House, I venture to say, has the slightest idea or information with regard to this.

Then, Sir, who decides this allocation? The Auditor General and his staff. That touch with regard to the staff, which the Finance Member gave in reply to one of our questions, is a very nice touch. The Auditor General and his staff decide how to allocate these crores of rupees of expenditure between England and India. Then, Sir, when we raised this question the Finance Member turned round and said, "Oh, you are not at war; you do not agree with this war." Is that the position that he takes that every man who questions the propriety of any expenditure thrown on this country is not at war, that he has no right to question it unless he accepts all the philosophy and all the implications of the political and other issues involved in this war? If that was the position, there would be no criticism of any kind whatsoever and he would get scot-free. But I hope that is not his position. I hope he is willing to justify what he has done, on its own merits and without the evasion which is involved in raising the question that there is no common ground, and that unless you agree that there is war in which you are involved this matter cannot be discussed.

Sir, I want to raise one very important issue at this stage, and it is this. If everything is in order, then let us be satisfied about it. If everything is in order, then let it be seen. In the name of common humanity, in the name of the coming generations of India who are going to bear these burdens, I appeal to all Members of this House and all Indians here and all Indians outside to press for an inquiry or a commission to go into this matter, to determine first the legality, the propriety and the equity of the so-called financial settlement and to determine whether at each time when new situations arose, new adjustments were made, the system was extended, whether the allocations were made correctly or not. Sir, I want this committee or commission to sit as early as possible, and I am sure that if matters are all right the Finance Member would be able to give them satisfaction. My own idea of the personnel of such a committee is, the three Leaders of the Opposition Parties here and Mr. Husain Imam of the other House. I feel that if things are all right you should not shirk placing before these four representatives all the facts. They are not people of whom you need be afraid on the ground of security. Place all the facts before them and justify what has been done. If not, we are entitled to feel that His Majesty's Government, being unable to get hold of the monies of this country, being at the end of its tether in many directions, has imposed this arbitrary burden on us. My own feeling is that sums of the order of 200 to 500 crores over the last three years are involved and that they could be saved to this country if this matter was carefully and properly looked into. I say even if the money has been already spent away, whether we get the money as money or not, there is the moral side of it. What is your stewardship? Is this trusteeship, is this not what I described last time as 'stealing candy from a child's hand'? Have you not imposed this? We are called 'participating country', we are called 'part of the Allies' . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Nobody makes that mistake about you.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir Olaf Caroe said yesterday that India's position as one of the Allied Nations was undisputed and could not be questioned. If that

is so, then these allocations behind our back, these burdens thrown on India in excessive amounts are unjustified, and are without any justification and without any clarification and information and I say this merits the other description which I gave and that remark is directed against His Majesty's Government. I say that this is no better than "cheating at cards in a club," in a club because you say we are in it, we are one of the participating nations and our status as an Allied Nation is not disputed. If we are then part of this club, there are certain rules of common decency which should be observed by the partners. . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: You don't observe them.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, it is no use appealing to an Englishman's sense of justice. It is always a disappointment. He always blames it on the other man. But may I mention that there are certain permanent interests of England which are also involved. Sir, I have got quotation here from the Chairman of the London Chamber of Commerce and from the Chairman of the Federation of British Industries which, if I had time, I would have read, but I will read a quotation from the *London Times*:

"Anti-British sentiment, if not replaced by a better understanding, may attain a pitch at which it will imperil that close, co-operation between Britain and India in the world after the war upon which the future of both these countries, and indeed of general security, so largely depends."

Sir, if these common interests between these countries now and after the war are imperilled by methods of finance I have pointed out very briefly, then may I appeal, not to the Englishman's sense of justice but to his real and permanent self-interest that there is something wrong here which needs looking into and which needs putting right.

Sir, to illustrate what I have been saying, I would like to give you a series of figures with regard to this item—India's war measures. It has risen from 3 crores in 1939-40 to 855 crores in 1944-45. Apart from that a new capital head—this is concealment of expenditure—was created in 1941-42 and the capital expenditure incurred in 1944-45 was 59 crores. Apart from that there is the rise on civil expenditure—pointed out by my Honourable friends in the European Group—from 37 crores to 127 crores, but in this rise the bulk of it is concealed military expenditure. We have got 'Miscellaneous Expenditure connected with the war'—26 crores; we have got 'Expenditure connected with the war 1939 at 31 crores and schemes connected with the war 1939, 5 crores. In other words, there are charges running into about 541 crores in the year 1944-45 which are loaded on this country, which I maintain are unjustly loaded which this country cannot bear, and if there is not a serious check, a serious enquiry of the kind which I have suggested, I fear that the future is very dark indeed.

Sir, the Finance Member has been in a hurry to pay out when India has to pay it. He paid out the Chatfield debt—a debt is created by some one on India and as soon as somebody settles that India must pay as much, he pays that—and he paid out to the U.N.R.R.A. six crores ninety lakhs of rupees as a contribution. . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I have not paid out six crores and ninety lakhs. I have only made budgetary provision for it. Can't you represent something rightly, and not misrepresent everything?

Sir, the Honourable Member's continuous misdescription of financial transaction is such that it will be quite impossible to traverse them, but the Honourable Member is quite conscious of what he is doing.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, this U.N.R.R.A. which is providing food and medicine for Greece, for France, for Belgium,—to which this country is made to contribute,—this U.N.R.R.A. is not approached by this Government for food and medicine for this country. When I asked. . . .

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Did not the Honourable Member just say that the Finance Member hurried to pay out seven crores—did he not say that? He has changed his ground.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I said that the Finance Member did not object to making heavy payments from this country to other countries, such as the 15 million non-effective grant. He has paid out many other sums, but he has not collected, for example, the ten-and-a-half crores which is clearly a liability of the Allied Governments for the explosion in Bombay. For this ten-and-a-half crores, he has raided the Insurance Fund which has been created, and he has deposited it for the time being into the revenue.

Sir, then, with regard to sterling. . . .

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): On a point of information. Does not the Honourable Member propose to pay to U.N.R.R.A.?

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: Sir, I have made budgetary provision for it. I created a fund amounting to 8 crores because that was the total liability which we expected we would have to meet in the years in which we make any payment. And the Honourable Member knows that.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If I had time, I could have dealt with the question of inflation.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has now spoken for 43 minutes.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I will have two minutes more, Sir.

I will read from my friend, Mr. Yusuf's article which appeared in the *Dawn* on the 18th March 1945:

"The sterling balance which represents the purchases made in this country on account of the British as well as some other Allied Governments have been built up with the sweat and the blood of the poor agriculturist and the ordinary worker who were left with that unreal money in exchange for the fruits of their labour."

I should have explained this statement and dilated on it if there had been time.

Sir, the Finance Member is upset with me, I am very sorry about it. If he will read in cold print what he said on the last occasion, he will realize that there was an element of threat in that speech which was not proper and becoming from the Finance Member to any Member of this House or public. Sir, I would have been unnerved—any non-official Member would have been unnerved—with this attitude of the Finance Member followed up by the attack of Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar; but, Sir, I have seen the hand of death not only outside in India but the shadow of death in this House itself. There is one final price one pays. It is the *Akhri Anjam*—I am willing to pay that when the occasion comes. I say, Sir, that the last word which will be on my mouth when I die will be the demand for financial justice to this country, and the last action which I will take will be to uphold the notions of right and wrong which all the prophets and the moral teachers of mankind have laid down for the common good of humanity.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Laljee: We know very well the position of the Treasury Benches. So many speeches have been made with regard to their position and so much has been said in the country as to how we are placed that I do not propose to go into those things. I propose to go into our position as a business man. I know very well that even though my friends on the other side were on the Treasury Benches under the present constitution they would give very little more satisfaction than what we have been getting and I must say that I do feel that it is but right that we must first and foremost point out quite clearly the position of the Government, of the Treasury Benches and of the future position of this country.

My friend Mr. Neogy and Mr. Krishnamachari brought before the House the position of this country in the international world. I believe, Sir, it is high time that we should study this position very carefully. We all wish and desire that our present position must change and therefore the first care for us should be our international position. In the international position I also include our position with the British Government in England.

My friend Mr. Neogy has pointed out certain agreements to which I do not wish to refer but I only wish to say that it would be better if it was within the knowledge of the Treasury Benches because many things are happening and are being done without their consent or approval. But I would certainly appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to tell us something which he knows, provided he is not restricted from doing so. We are entitled to know the arrangements made with different countries with regard to lease-lend, because the huge sums of money that we are now giving to Americans and even to other countries must be explained.

[At this stage Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Up to now we were under the impression, and rightly too, that the monies that we paid for the requirements of the American troops in India were being given on credit. But it is surprising that the exports that are being made to America for the purpose of business there and for the purpose of that Government are not to be paid for in cash. We would like the Honourable the Finance Member to tell us only the amounts that are involved in these two transactions—one, the amount of money that we spend on their behalf in India for their food and other requirements, aerodromes included; and secondly, the amount of money that we demand for the exports that have been made from this country to that country.

With regard to international agreements I must tell you that some of us who have travelled outside India and have stayed in many of the colonies—all supposed to be backward countries—know a little as to how international matters are arranged. It is seldom that an agreement that is published or made known to the public is the only agreement. Every agreement has a counter-part—confidential arrangements—it has existed and I do not know whether the confidential part of all the agreements that are being made with foreign countries by the British Government as representing the whole British Empire is being sent to India. I remember very well that there was a time when certain arrangements were made to divide the whole of Africa between four important nations with special rights to Belgium. The Italian Somaliland was created. German East Africa was created. British East Africa was created and so was the Belgian Congo. West Africa was formed for British interests. The arrangements were that so far as these people were concerned, goods from those countries to those places were to be on equal lines, but as India and some other countries were not in the pool, they were not treated as equals. This has been the position many a time.

A lot has been said about the League of Nations. A good deal is correct. But, Sir, I happen also to have been a Delegate Member in the International Labour Conference and what have we found there? When I was there in 1935 there were 48 nations at that conference. I believe that was the last labour conference in which Russia, Japan and America were present. We found that every Government had two representatives. That every Government had allowed one delegate for the employer and one for the employees. But every Government, except this Government, had more than four advisers. At times there were as many as fifteen advisers in common not only for the Government delegates but also for the employers' and workers' delegates. It is now ten years that the Indian employers' delegates and the workers' delegates have been begging of our Government to allow them more than one adviser but that has been refused and refused on the score that we cannot afford to pay. If you look at the figure that we contribute to the League of Nations, you will find that we are almost fourth or fifth. But still our Government cannot in the interests of employers or workers allow a delegate more than one adviser.

I will give you one instance. Once it happened that there was an important labour question and there was our worker delegate and his only adviser. I offered as an employer to work as an adviser in two important committees for the workers. In those committees many of the European nations had tried

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to put the workers of Africa on quite a different line from the workers in Europe or in India or for the matter of that even in Japan. There was no rule or regulation about working hours or any benefits whatsoever. The objective was that although slavery was abolished by the British in 1838 (they have done a great act for humanity) here was an occasion when including the Britishers all the other foreign nations tried to get African labour as slave labour and with that labour they produced and dumped many articles in India and elsewhere to the detriment of the workers and Industrialist in India and even of England.

Another instance that occurred was that Indian seamen were to be treated in a different way from the European seamen. Even the Labour Government of the United Kingdom had almost become a party to that and we protested against that. Such important questions do arise and still this Government have never seen fit to send more than one delegate and one adviser so far as the representation of this country was concerned and yet we pay almost 1/4 of what the greatest power pays.

Some time back in 1935 when Aden was being transferred to Colonial office, after 95 years that it had been with Government of India we were told that all the expenses that the Government of India had incurred to make it a great port would be paid back to India. An estimate was made which amounted to about 50 lakhs a year for 95 years but this sum was never paid. I find from records that right from 1839 at Aden in 1841 at Hongkong, in 1886 in Somaliland, in 1845 in Natal and Durban, in 1885 in Mombasa not only Indian troops were stationed there, not only we paid all the costs of it there, but the whole administration charges of those countries and many other places from 50 to 100 years have been borne by this Government. May I ask the Honourable the Finance Member (he is not present here) whether these sums have been collected or they stand as in the case of Aden. The Indians who invited the British to establish an administration there were often and often promised all equal rights there and I ask whether it is not a fact that Indians are being driven out from all these places and whether it is not a fact that in 1917, during the last great war, the Viceroy of India on more than one occasion declared that the position of Indians in those places and all over the Empire would be of equal status. In 1921 when I first led a deputation of East African merchants to Lord Chelmsford on the 23rd July (I have got his reply) His Excellency the Viceroy with the concurrence of the Secretary of State assured us that so far as East Africa, Zanzibar, Uganda and Tanganyika was concerned there will never be any sort of discrimination, in view of the great sacrifices that Indians had made in that Great War and specially in driving out the Germans from German East Africa, which was later on taken over as a mandated territory by the British Government by a treaty. So far as East Africa etc., and South Africa are concerned I find that right from 1920, when the Member in Charge was the Honourable Mr. Muhammad Shafi, the Indian Government have been doing their level best to bring to the notice of His Majesty's Government the injustices that are being undergone by Indians and which prevail even today more. So far the endeavours of the Treasury Benches have been to bring the grievances to the notice of His Majesty's Government. Let us now ask these Treasury Benches as our agents (or as my friends would like me to call them Post Office) to tell His Majesty's Government that we are told the Viceroy has left this country only yesterday for the main object of discussion of making this country a base to fight further in the Pacific and to recover Burma (as had happened before when we recovered it from Burmans for Indians). But now we must have clear pronouncement, and an honest assurance with it that they would carry it out. We do not want an Atlantic Charter with a reservation or a confidential document called arrangement. Be fair to us. His Majesty's Government have not yet been free and frank with us and it is because of that that a large population in this country are justified in suspecting that they will not carry out

the words they give us. Let us make our Treasury Bench to tell in unequivocal terms to His Majesty's Government that unless and until they can tell the people of India that there are no reservations and we will be treated as equals, that is what they mean and they will honestly be carried out, I feel that all the good work of co-operation, making appeal to all the sides in India (and probably by reason of those appeals the other side may also be tempted to come to this Treasury side), etc., will do no good. This is so far as our position outside India and the war is concerned. We now demand before anything else is done, before we are committed further, and wish to see what results we will get for our sacrifices so far made or what they will bring. It is right time that we should now insist upon His Majesty's Government (when with our aid the Germans are being defeated or are almost defeated) to carry out their pledges given to this country, during all these years of war.

Sir, I am usually a little more concerned, as a business man, with the Commerce and Civil Supplies Departments. I have made a little study of that Department. I do not find the Honourable the Commerce Member, but I do not blame him at all. It is nearly four days since I have been getting up from my seat many times. He has been often good enough to ask me when he should expect me, but I had invariably to say I could only get a chance if my friends on the opposite side would allow. I feel, Sir, and feel very bitterly, that individual Members here this side, elected representatives of constituencies which are as big or bigger than the constituencies which many of the Honourable Members on the other side represent, are not shown any regard, because they are not party members. Sir, if this is going to be what we are going to receive in future, let me tell them honestly and sincerely that whatever they may say or preach they will not carry most or a great majority of the intelligentsia with them, leaving aside the most honest people who form a great mass. Let me also tell them I have been too on your side and was also a member of your Congress Party and a member of the other Party the Muslim League for years, and I know all about them.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Why did you desert us?

Mr. Hossainbhoy A. Lalljee: Now, do not pull me further, I know great deal I do not wish to say about it. Let me tell them honestly and sincerely that they should give the same consideration to an elected Member here on this side as they would like to be given themselves, if it is going to be a fair play.

As far as the Commerce Member is concerned, I would only say that our Government has tried its level best recently—I say recently—to see that exports are very well regulated. There was a time, Sir, at the beginning of the war, when people had a lot of complaints. There was a time at the beginning of the war when the country's commerce and industry was not the concern, but the carrying on of the war successfully was all the concern of our Government. But I am sorry to say that that was not the policy of Great Britain or America. Even with regard to food we have come to know that these countries always thought—and perhaps rightly too—of the local need and consumption, and then of the war, or as much of the war as of local essential needs. But here in India it was not so. Anyhow, better late than never, and for the last two to three years I may say that so far as regulation of exports and imports is concerned, it has been very satisfactory. But, Sir, let me tell the Honourable the Commerce Member that very soon the war in the west will end, and that there is no risk whatsoever to our trade and commerce being continued and revived (which is more in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea); as Sir, efforts are being made to conquer those markets, and that now the Commerce Department must buck up; and that they should not carry out all the orders and mandates given by His Majesty's Government without scrutinising and discussing. I cannot say they should challenge; I know their position, their pitiable condition; but I am sure they ought now to take some courage and see that our trade and commerce, our exports and imports through the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Red Sea, are

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restored to us, as they existed before the war; and that when specially not only U. K., but also U. S. A., are endeavouring to capture these markets, no unnecessary handicaps are placed on us, but full encouragement and due help is given.

Sir, there is another very important thing, and it is this. There has been a certain class of monopolies created—of course when I say monopolies, I do not mean that they will not exist hereafter—by which certain persons here, exporters and importers, have been given quotas. Sir, that time also has now passed—that time which was necessary only so long as there was no tonnage available, and restriction was necessary. Now, I will give one instance. A year and a half ago we were shouting in this House for foodstuffs to be brought from Australia or other places, and the only difficulty that was placed before us was shortage of tonnage. That scarcity does not prevail for the last six months. Very recently, Sir, it is a surprising thing that East African Government sent offers to business men to supply *jawar* and *jawari*—not at their ports—c.i.f., i.e., at our ports, arranging their own tonnage. Well, that message came to us in November, and we communicated it to the Honourable Food Member, believing that it was an important piece of news we were giving to the Government of India, and that the Government of India would jump at it. The reply to that, Sir, has only now been given to the public—in the month of March—that they could import these articles of *jawar* and *bajri*. Even now many of the orders with regard to import and export from Red Sea ports and East Africa are based upon orders that were once issued in 1942 and 1943 by the Mid-East Command, when there was real shortage of tonnage. Now steamers are coming in large numbers, they come almost empty and they beg for freight. But upto now our Government has not moved to ask His Majesty's Government to allow them to relax the orders for allowing necessary export as also imports into this country. I am sure, now that the attention of our Government has been drawn to it, they would certainly move in the matter.

I must congratulate the Honourable the Commerce Member since he has come for one very important thing. If I had said it four days ago, I might have been criticised for it, but, Sir, I am now in a position to say that he has been taking action and correct action with regard to what is going on in my city with regard to buying over banking and insurance concerns. So far as banking concerns are concerned, we know very well that they can look after themselves but so far as life insurance companies are concerned, we feel very much that some action must immediately be taken, and I do not know why immediate action is not being taken, why so much delay has taken place, when so many Defence of India Ordinances are every day being passed. It may be that the Honourable the Commerce Member does feel, that he must be careful in dealing with business men, but, Sir, where poor people are concerned, when business men themselves have already realised and agreed that life insurance is a great necessity, I cannot understand why he is not taking action in the shape of ordinances. It may be that action may be a little strict, but when we find so many ordinances being issued for so many things, why is he hesitating to take action against what is going on in Bombay and Calcutta, especially in Bombay, when certain people are buying over life insurance companies, not with the object of promoting life insurance, but with the object of using the 45 per cent. capital which has been accumulated there for the benefit of policyholders, to be used for their own benefit or for their own schemes. I hope and trust that the Honourable Commerce Member will announce to this House that he has already taken some action; but I shall not be satisfied if he says "It is under active consideration". I want him to announce to the House for the protection of all people who have insured, that he will say that he has taken the necessary action to protect them and that action would be declared or has already been declared.

As regards the condition of Indian seamen, it is well known that some endeavours have been made for the better treatment of our Indian soldiers and Indian officers. It has been said and rightly too that our present Commander-in-Chief has given assurances and he is acting in such a manner as to raise the position of the Indian soldier and the officer. There again we have difficulties and those difficulties are that constitutionally we are not our own masters. But the position of Indian seamen has been very pitiable. In 1943 I moved a cut motion requesting the Treasury Benches to take some action. There are not less than nearly 3 lakhs of people for whom nothing has been done. They have fought in the war with the same peril as the soldiers have done; they have undergone the same hardships as the soldiers, and their interests and welfare and salaries ought to have been the care of the Government. I learn—and I hope my friend the Commerce Member will declare to this House that he has been able to get better wages, much better even than the millowners are able to give to their labour, from the great shipping companies who have been making crores of rupees, including the Indian shipping companies and other companies. If you see the balance sheet of these shipping companies, you will find that they have made crores and they are making crores; but up to now nothing was done to increase the wages of the seamen. If, as I hear, my friend the Commerce Member has been successful in getting their pay raised and have got the liners and other conferences of shipping companies to raise their pay, I should like him to make a statement to this House and to assure us that they will be permanent, and that those companies who will not agree to make them permanent—their steamers will not be allowed to touch Indian ports. I must also take this opportunity to mention that so far as the Indian seamen's amenities are concerned, they are nil. It is only since last year that His Excellency the Viceroy from his own fund—that is the War Fund—has given about 20 lakhs of rupees to both Calcutta and Bombay. Let us hope that the Indian Seamen's condition will be improved and that due care and attention is paid to amenities for them; our Governor has also been now at it.

I come to the control orders that my friend the Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies and his department are issuing. It has been the policy of Government, and rightly too, to control the prices and to distribute the goods as required in various provinces. The Food Department has been doing likewise; but we have heard very serious stories with regard to one province. In fact my friend, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, laid before us certain stories—I will not say facts—and I do not know why the Commerce Member will not make bold to make use of directives which are within the power of a Member of the Government of India. The Honourable the Food Member did make use of those directive powers in the case of food in Bengal. If there is any truth in those stories, he must make use of those powers and he must tell us what is the true state of affairs. I do not wish to say that what has been alleged about the position in Bengal is correct; but from what we have heard and from the fact that it is necessary for the Government of India to supply cloth, as much as food, it is right and proper that the Commerce Member must not merely tell us he has been doing his level best to send cloth to every province from the surplus to deficit areas, but what action he has taken. He has invariably been saying that he does not want or it is not advisable that he should interfere with the internal management of the provinces; but that is not the question. It is not a question of interfering with the internal management. If the Government of India undertakes to provide a deficit province at fair and economical rates, surely it is the care of that Government to see that the distribution is fair and equitable; and if they find that smuggling is going on, it is their bounden duty to supply them with the cloth which they need.

One more remark about the Commerce Department, and it is this; we find that there exists in this country since 1923 what is known as the match industry. A Tariff Board inquiry was appointed by the Government of India, and those who have read that Tariff Board report cannot forget that the board

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warned the Government against a very powerful syndicate, a world-known syndicate, a syndicate which has captured no less than eighteen countries' trade, a syndicate which had the monopoly not only of match manufacture or sale but also had cornered all the match machinery, and also the chemical works and the paper works; and in fact in India from 1928 right up to the Tariff Board inquiry, for several years, they did their level best to crush the Indian industry in this country. I do not wish to take up the time of the House, but I would certainly request the Honourable Members on the other side as well as my friend the Commerce Member to kindly read a few of the paragraphs and recommendations of the Tariff Board, and they will be convinced that this is the last thing that ought to exist in India. This is the company on account of whom I was moving the other day an adjournment motion, that this company is having a monopoly in India to the exclusion of Indian manufacturers, that this company is having a factory in Bombay, that Indians having factories in Bombay are stopped from selling their matches in Ahmedabad. You will be surprised, Sir, and I am sure the House will be surprised to know the reason why this foreign syndicate has been having a monopoly in the Bombay Presidency and in a city like Ahmedabad, from where many well known persons on the opposite side come, including probably—I do not know whether that part of the province comes within the constituency of the Leader of the Opposition—in that city the Indian manufacturers are not allowed to sell their matches. And what is the charge against them? That they were charging or they wanted to charge higher prices and to create scarcity. This company for more than six years has a monopoly of 80 per cent. of the consumption of Ahmedabad goods. It controls the Ahmedabad market. Not only that. It has a system of rebate. It binds down the principal merchants, the intermediate merchants, the small dealers and what is more, even the *bidiwalahs* and *panwalahs*. If you see the balance sheet of this company, you will see lakhs of rupees lying as deposit from these poor people. Now, this is the company which has been given the monopoly to sell in Ahmedabad, because the prices are high. Those people, 4 or 5 Indian manufacturers who did not bring in 20 per cent., who have no rebate agreement, whose prices all along have been 2 to 3 annas less per gross, are stopped and even today, throughout India, including Bombay, the prices of the Wimco, which is called the Swedish Syndicate are higher than that of the Indian manufacturer and has never been for the last 15 years lower than any Indian factory. It has always been higher by 2 to 3 annas per gross. Such is the position that I have to place before this House. I am very sorry that the Bombay Presidency is under section 98 and we have to come and appeal to my Honourable friend the Commerce Member who is also in charge of Industries and Civil Supplies. The other day he said that he did not have sufficient information. I am sure he has got it by now but I am prepared to prove it just now the prices of Wimco have never been lower for the last ten years. The Tariff Board has said that they had got 65 per cent. of the trade of India, that they had got the trade of 18 big nations, that they were a danger to India and that they have already captured 80 per cent. And who are these monopolists? They are Swedish people who even up to now have been neutrals and during the greater part of this war, they have been indirectly helping the Germans with their industries. Such foreign companies have been supported in India. They dump their goods as against our own people, against the policy laid down by the Government and against the warning given by the Indian Tariff Board. I was really pained to see my friend, the Commerce Member, when he said that he had no information and that he would get it from the Bombay Government. I say that the Industries Department must keep a watch on what the foreigners do in this country. My Honourable friend the Finance Member knows it more than anybody else, because he collects the match excise duty and he will tell you that although he gets crores by means of the excise duty, the prices are fixed and everything is done by the Wimco Syndicate. Now 90 per cent. of the excise duty

is got from these people. It is not really from these people. Let it be understood it is really from you and me. They charge me two or three annas more than the market price. They pay not only income tax, super-tax and excess profits tax but they have made crores of rupees in the last three years and may I know whether the Director of Civil Supplies has made any inquiries about this. Their shares cannot be had even for Rs. 400. They have built up crores of rupees as reserve fund. This is what is going on in India. Sir, I do not want to speak much but I do wish to say that so far as the Indian match manufacturers are concerned, they do not even get wagons for raw materials, such as wood. They do not even get wagons for sending out their goods to the different parts of India. They have got to wait for 3 to 6 months. So far as exports are concerned, there have been circulars that 5 per cent. or 2 per cent. may be allowed to them but so far as the Wimco is concerned, there is no rule. There is no priority for them, probably because they are paying crores of rupees to the Finance Department by way of excise duty from the money that they get from me and from my poor people. This is the position in India.

There are many industries that have been created by the Supply Department for the purpose of helping the war. I am sorry that the Supply Member is not here but I can point out to him that there are industries which have been created with our monies for producing the requirements of all. The cost price of the materials produced have been the prices charged for war purposes not only in India but also for Eastern Group countries and for overseas. And in those calculations they have not taken into consideration that a large amount of machinery will have to be scrapped after the war and the value of them in crores of rupees would have to be written off. In the consideration of the prices they have charged, they have never taken into consideration this factor. It has been the policy of the Finance Member to keep a financial expert in every department, as my friend pointed out, to check the expenditure I think it was quite fair so far as the requirement of the Indian army in India was concerned. It may be quite fair so far as even the war requirements were concerned but I say it was not justified at all with regard to the supply of the Eastern Group and the world at large in allowing them the goods at prices which were checked by his financial experts to give them 5 per cent. 10 per cent. or 15 per cent. and not more. Even calculating the wear and tear, even calculating that a large part of the machinery will have to be scrapped, I tell my Honourable friend the Finance Member that at the end of the war he will find the disposal value to be less by crores of rupees. On top of that, we have been charged with profiteering. But may I ask those people who lay the charge against us, whether, when the Government of India give orders for purchases of civil amenities or for war purposes or for motor cars or for railway material, there is anybody on behalf of the Government of India to check the prices.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has spoken for nearly 50 minutes.

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Lalljee: Orders for railway materials worth crores of rupees have been placed. Who has placed the order? If the Honourable the War Transport Member were here, I would have said that the orders were placed by the American administration in Assam on their Government on their own prices and terms and we are going to make that payment. If the Railway Department has done that, there would be a question of check. It is not as if a private firm has done that, they can spend crores of rupees.

Now, I come to civil consumption. Who is going to check the prices?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is the Honourable Member concluding his speech?

Mr. Hoosenbhoy A. Lalljee: I will continue my speech tomorrow. There are many points which I should like to refer.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are many Honourable Members who are anxious to speak. I do not think it is fair to other Honourable Members that you should take so much time.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: I shall try my best to be fair to everybody as they have been fair to myself.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are still many Honourable Members who wish to speak.

Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee: I will conclude tomorrow as early as possible. I won't take long.

The Honourable Sir Jeremy Raisman: I understand, Sir, that it is generally agreed that the debate on the motion to take the Finance Bill into consideration should terminate on Monday, that the whole of that day should be reserved for speeches by Party Leaders and the Finance Member's reply and that questions should be dispensed with on that day.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I take it that that will suit the convenience of Honourable Members. I should like to suggest to Honourable Members who have not yet spoken and to Honourable Members generally to come to some sort of arrangement for tomorrow so that as many Honourable Members as possible who wish to speak tomorrow may have a chance. I suggest that no Member should speak for more than half an hour tomorrow so that as large a number of Members as possible can speak. Does this meet with the wishes of the House?

Some Honourable Members: Quite right.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As that is agreed to, the Chair will enforce the time limit.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 28rd March, 1945.